Master, the Tempest Is Raging...
The winds and the waves shall obey thy will...
They all shall sweetly obey thy will:
Peace, peace, be still.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Edify One Another
page 3

Monthly Sermon
page 4

One God or Three?
page 6

Palm Grove Missions
page 6

Encouragement for the Caregiver page 8

Nurturing Growth in Ourselves and Others as Believers page 52

Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage
page 70

The Light of Hope
page 71
Why worry, when we can pray?

Worry seems to be an equal opportunity employer. We can worry about the past, the present, and the future. Many times, we are exhorted to “not worry” … Good advice, but not always easy to follow. Yet, as we look at the Bible, we find that God’s Word actually gives us the same instruction. What makes this more powerful is the fact that the author is God (who knows what we are facing, as well as what the outcome will be) and His words are backed with a wonderful alternative to worrying. Philippians 4:6 says, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” God says we don’t have to be filled with cares and anxiety, but instead, we can make it a point of prayer. What a wonderful reminder that He said, “in everything,” we could make our requests known. Everything… family worries, economic worries, health worries, church worries! God has it covered.

Next time we are tempted to worry - let’s remember to take it to the Father!

In Christ,

Rick Plattner and Jeff Grimm, Counseling Elders

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches:

Alto
Athens
Iowa City
Ft. Myers
Washington

Suggested donation:
$18/subscription.

SEND ALL PAYMENTS to:
Apostolic Christian Publications
P.O. Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530

Front Cover: Fall in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada
Back Cover: Low tide at Peggy’s Cove, Nova Scotia, Canada
Edify One Another

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 another’s” in the Bible.

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

1 Edify is usually defined as promoting another’s growth in Christian virtues such as wisdom, faith, holiness, and joy. Edifying one another will necessitate some activity on our part. Indeed, the literal meaning of the word ‘edify’ as used in the New Testament is “to build up.” Applying this important teaching to one another will require us to pay less attention to ourselves and to think more about the needs of others: “Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.”

2 As Christians, we are walking together on the path to Zion and to sincerely seek to edify each other along the way is one of the most positive things we can do.

For us to be successful in edification, this building process must begin with a foundation built upon a firm faith in Christ, and not in the contemporary ideals of society, “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

3 Examples abound in the scriptures of people who were exemplary patterns of edification for us. In terms of edifying others, Jonathan and his father, King Saul, provide one of the best and worst illustrations respectively. Out of jealousy, Saul was intent on slaying David. Jonathan sought not only to defend David, but tried to promote him before his father, even when doing so cost him the kingship.

And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. And Jonathan Saul’s son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.”

4 In the New Testament, the Apostles gave much of themselves in building and establishing the new church, even under threat of death. “And he (Paul) spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”

5 Reading and meditating on the Word of God will be very uplifting to ourselves and ultimately will profit others as well. “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”

6 This should involve an active contemplation of God’s Word, making a deliberate effort to avoid distractions, “Mine eyes prevent (anticipate) the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.”

7 Prayer is another important factor of edification. When someone expresses a deep need to us, the simple words, “I will pray for you” can be very encouraging. Checking in with them from time to time to see how they are doing shows the sincerity of our feelings for them. “And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren...”
I greet you all in the name of our precious Savior Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to be here in Tremont tonight. The story of Jonah is a great story, and it naturally is a story that has intrigue in it. How many stories have big fish swallowing people, or tell a prophet to go to a place that is terrible, wicked and nasty, and to preach to them there? Then, there was the rebellion of the prophet against what God wanted him to do, but through God’s goading Jonah went through the fire to get to where he needed to be. When we look at the story of Jonah, we see that he made it through to Nineveh and he preached, but Jonah is the not hero of this story. Because of the way he fought until the end, we may think Jonah is the hero of the story, but he is not.

We don’t know much about Jonah, but we do know he was a prophet in the Northern kingdom. He grew up in a little town that was very close to the far northern regions of the ten tribes of Israel. Jonah was living in the time of a king by the name of Jeroboam. Not the original Jeroboam that started and split off from Rehoboam, but Jeroboam II, who was there around 750-760 B.C. Keep that date in mind. It is not a big deal to know the date of something, but before we get done tonight it will become a minor point that we will want to consider.

Jonah also was living in a time where there was some stability in both Judah and Israel. It was a time when Assyria was the coming big power to the East, which would be followed by the Babylonians, then the Meads, the Persians and the Greeks, until we get to the time of Jesus where the Romans dominated that area. The Assyrians were the first ones to really gather up in the Iraq/Iran/Turkey area as a great power. The capital of Assyria was Nineveh, and it was situated on the Tigris River, on the northern part of modern-day Iraq. It was on the west bank of the Tigris River. Now that gets pretty picky, but we will find out later that maybe it isn’t so picky.

The kings of that time had made a little peace with Jeroboam. They had fought some battles with Egypt, and some places to the east and north of them, and their kingdom was mounting. One thing Assyria had was its character. Assyria was not a conquering nation that peacefully came. That would have been Rome. Rome had something they called Pax Romana, or the peace of Rome. When Rome overtook a nation, they tried to leave in place as much as possible their sociology and the things they formerly did. For example, even though there were restrictions, they allowed the Jews to continue to worship their God. In contrast the Assyrians, when they displaced a country, would erect their own gods. It was their way or the highway. They were wicked and mean. There are caves they have found where the Assyrians had drawings of all the terrible things they had done to those they had subverted. It was such a wicked place, and it scared the children of Israel to death, because stories travel. News travels. The brute of life, the news of life came down, and everybody worried about Nineveh, but nobody wanted to deal with it. Then God called Jonah and He said, ‘Go over there and tell them about Me, or I am going to destroy their city.’ And, from the beginning to the end of Jonah, Jonah’s mind was thinking ‘Please Lord, destroy Nineveh. Please destroy those guys.’ But, God had a different idea. Maybe the Ninevites could be won with sugar, instead of spice. So, once Jonah got his mind right and he got out of the weeds of the fish’s stomach, he was thinking a little clearer. You might say God kind of got his attention, and Jonah realizes he shouldn’t have run away from God and agrees to go.
At this point you might think that Jonah is thinking straight and has been converted, but I think he may be a little scared. Look what happened the last time he was running the wrong way, away from God. The tempest of the sea and three days in the belly of a fish was not all that pleasant. So, he goes to Nineveh and he tells the people. And, by what you read in the story books, you get a half notion that Jonah is somebody pretty good. I don’t want to dash to pieces the story books, because they are written for a reason. They are an introduction to Jonah, but you get this half notion that Jonah is somebody pretty good. Once he got his mind sort of straightened out, but it really wasn’t all straightened out was it? Because when Jonah went to Nineveh his sermon was like this, ‘Repent, or in forty days God is going to blow this place up.’ And underneath Jonah was thinking, ‘Man, I hope they don’t repent.’ That is why he went outside the city. He didn’t walk outside the city to wait out there for everyone to begin building temples to start worshiping God. Or, for them to start making gardens, begin making families, love each other, and become people and followers of God. Jonah wasn’t waiting for that, he was waiting for it to blow up. He set his booth up just far enough away so that the dirt and the rocks wouldn’t hit him when the place went in the air.

And God said, “Doest thou well to be angry?” (Jonah 4:4), and Jonah implies, ‘Yes, it is ok that I am angry. The people of Nineveh are awful and terrible, and I know according to Deuteronomy that you are a God that is longsuffering, loving and kind, but I didn’t know that it would be this good? Where is justice when it is needed? Aren’t you also a just God?’ Jonah doesn’t actually come out and say that here, but you can hear him saying it. He is thinking, ‘When something is this bad, why don’t you just blow it up? I mean, how bad does it have to get?’ Jonah was angry.

When you look at this story, God is the hero of it. God was nice to the sailors. He let them go, and he gave Jonah a pass to sit there and see what would happen in comfort, because God made Jonah a gourd, a vine, that grew up fast and shaded him. After two Iraq wars, some of the stories of the sun in Iraq bring home the story of Jonah, because it would have been pretty miserable to sit out there for forty days waiting for the city to be destroyed without any shade. It is pretty bitterly hot in that country, and Jonah really liked the shade.

God is a god that can control everything. We hear that woven through the story. He made the tempest on the sea. He sent the fish. He made the fish vomit up Jonah. He grew the vine, and he sent the worm. When you wonder what happens in nature. All its machinations and all its changes, what’s behind it all? God’s a god of everything. He is not just the God of our lives, the One who focuses on where you go to school, where you run, how you jump and what you do, He cares about the worm that is sitting under the ground, and He knows where it is traveling to. He knows everything and He controls everything. He is a loving God. He is a caring God. And, He is also a just God. You see, Jonah was struggling with this balance of justice and mercy, the same way the whole world struggles with, where is justice and where is mercy? When should mercy be applied, and when should justice be applied? We ask that in our own lives. Jonah was asking that of God.

So, God said to Jonah, ‘Don’t you know that there are 120,000 people in Nineveh that don’t know their left hand from their right hand?’ That would be a lot of dead people. Do you know the
One God or Three?
Kairos Committee

“Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord”
Mark 12:29

Have you ever taken the time to think deeply about the God we serve? Oh, the amazing mystery and glory we find in God! Article 2 of our statement of faith says the following, “There is one eternal God, the Creator of all things, who exists in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”. Similarly, the Nicene Creed, one of the earliest statements about Christianity, begins with the following, “We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible”. We stand with Christians who for 2,000 years have declared God is One, but also believe that this singular God manifested Himself in three “persons”. Men have tried many times to find analogies on earth (most of them unsuccessful) to describe the Trinity. God is, in many ways, outside of human understanding, but we are reminded in Scripture that one day we will know, even as we are known.

We may not ever fully comprehend the Trinity, but the Word of God gives us insight. The first commandment to the children of Israel was to remember that the Lord their God was one God. Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven but thought it not robbery to be equal with God. He taught that God is a spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Jesus needed to depart in order to send the Comforter. The Gospel of John provides a basis for serving one another in the beautiful relationship between the Son serving and honoring the Father and the Father glorifying His Son, all through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, when all things have been subjected to Jesus – the Son Himself will be subjected to the Father so that God may be all in all. Clearly there are three persons, but one God who will remain and be all in all.

So, what does this have to do with Islam? Unlike Hindus who worship thousands of gods, or Buddhists who follow a path to nirvana, or secular humanists who claim there is no God, Muslims believe God is one, just like we do. There is a common basis for truth in this. However, Muslims have also been taught

Palm Grove Missions
Caribbean Committee

To the passerby, Puit Sales appears to be a small community, nestled among native trees and shrubs near the southern coast of Haiti. This secluded spot has been a welcome sight to many weary work team members for over three decades.

A gated campus is the hub. Every Sunday and several times during the week, many come from miles around to faithfully worship God and study His Word. School buildings on the campus house more than 400 students, many who are sponsored so they can attend.

Since the 1980’s, ACCA teams have traveled to Puit Sales, to construct new and rebuild existing school and church roofs. Hundreds of school desks, tables and benches have also been built to furnish classrooms for students of all ages.
to believe that Christians worship multiple gods. One passage from the Quran (Surah 4:171), says the following regarding Christianity:

"People of the Book, do not go excess in your religion, and do not say anything about God except the truth: the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was nothing more than a messenger of God, His word directed to Mary, and a spirit of Him. So believe in God and His messengers and do not speak of a 'Trinity' — stop [this], that is better for you — God is only one God, He is far above having a son, everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him and He is the best one to trust."

We can agree with this passage in several points: 1) God is one God 2) everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him and 3) He is the best one to trust. However, we can most confidently say that Jesus, son of Mary, is much more than a messenger of God. He is God's only begotten son. For Jesus was flesh, not spirit. (Luke 24:39) Though human, He was able to defeat death and rise from the grave. (Mark 16) The Holy Spirit intercedes for us today. (Romans 8:26-27) The Father knows all our daily needs. (Mat. 6:32) In God's great love He substituted His Son (Emmanuel — God with us) in our place and did not spare him on the cross for our sins. We hold these gospel truths close to our hearts and rejoice that God has made Himself known in three persons.

So, we hold fast to the worship of one God but also acknowledge that He exists in three persons. When reaching out to Muslims, understand that the term 'Son of God' may mean something completely different to a Muslim than it does to you. We believe in the triune nature of God and Muslims disagree. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. (2Ti 2:24-25) Be patient. Build a relationship, open your home, ask about their family and most of all, pray for them.

Kairos seeks to serve the Apostolic Christian Church by providing wisdom and education to members on how to best understand and reach Muslims. We send bi-monthly emails on various topics like what you have read above. To receive emails contact Kairos at kairos@harvestcall.org.

-- by Drew Martin

The campus guesthouse has improved over the years. Early teams experienced meals cooked over charcoal fires, taking “bucket showers” and doing daily devotions by candlelight. A large generator now brings welcome power. The construction work is directed by Eris Labady, a pastor born and raised near Puit Sales. He has been dedicated to establishing churches and schools, training leaders, and overseeing church and school administration for over forty years. His work was originated through a Mennonite congregation in Sarasota, FL, the home church of Eris’s wife, Miriam. She was a missionary in Haiti when she and Eris met in the 70’s and thus began what is now called Palm Grove Missions.

Puit Sales is a strong community with an obvious faith and trust in God. Teams working together with the native people brings mutual blessings. It’s a wonderful opportunity and special privilege to glorify God through this ministry! Teams typically travel once or twice a year during the winter months. Anyone interested in joining a team, please contact Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle at jraberle@hotmail.com or 785-459-2423.2423.

-- by John and Cornelia Aberle
2 Cor. 1:3-4, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

Is caregiving a burden or an opportunity? The frame of mind of a caregiver will certainly change how they respond to this question. Without doubt, it can be a thankless job. A caregiver is asked to wear many hats- from encourager to physical support to logistics- all the while attempting to remain stable themselves! From meeting the needs of small children, nurturing a sick spouse or caring for aging parents, the demands of caregiving can hit a person at any age and stage of life. Often the role of a caregiver is anticipated, such as a couple preparing for their first child. At other times, the role can come upon someone quite unexpectedly. A medical diagnosis or an accident can change a person’s life in a heartbeat and in turn, affect those closest to them on a deep level, changing their lives as well.

What can never be fully anticipated is the weight and level of emotional and physical strain a caregiver can feel, especially in the more difficult circumstances. Physically, caregiving may require long hours with little sleep. Relationally, the bond between the caregiver and person receiving care is continually evolving. While the caregiver may feel the need to remain strong, under the surface they may be grieving an impending loss or managing fears regarding the future unknowns. At the same time, they are a firsthand witness to the rollercoaster of emotions felt by the one receiving care and often can absorb some of these feelings. If not guarded against, this strain can accumulate over time- perhaps even to a level that can hinder functioning in a caregiver. To guard against this accumulation of emotions, consider the following advice:

1. **As a caregiver, consider your own legitimate needs.** On an airplane when the flight attendant reviews the procedures for crisis, everyone is told to put their own oxygen mask on first. Once a passenger has secured their own safety, they can then help the person next to them. This order is well-recognized as standard procedure to ensure everyone’s well-being on a flight, however, this order is often overlooked in caregiving. Caregivers should ask themselves, what is my “oxygen mask” and how can I integrate these needs into my life so my caregiving is sustainable? If you try to help others but neglect your own lifelines, you will not only hinder yourself but also your ability to help anyone else.

2. **Build in a daily activity you look forward to.** Discouragement and hopelessness can begin to set in when someone does not have something enjoyable to anticipate. Even if this activity
October 2018   SILVER LINING  

which offers a comforting promise in the midst of challenges. As caregivers try to pass along grace and comfort to others, they will quickly run dry if they only pull from their own strength. It is imperative to renew yourself daily in the Lord. The Lord is the only lasting source of strength and power, for He is the only one who “fainteth not, neither is weary.”

Whether the situation was anticipated or unexpected, caregiving can be an opportunity for personal refinement and growth. These circumstances can take a person deeper to the Lord or can cause them to push away in bitterness and discouragement. As a church family, consider those within your congregation in caregiving roles. How can you best come alongside caregivers during this time? They need the love, prayers, and often, tangible support of others as they travel on their caregiving journey.

One final encouragement to the caregiver: “Be strong and of good courage,” for the source of true strength is at your side. In the midst of dark days, Jesus sees your toils and strains and will continually sustain you. He knows your circumstances and will redeem it in His time. Great is His faithfulness.

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

4. Evaluate your pace. Is there an end in sight or is the stage of caregiving you find yourself in unknown or lengthy? Many times, caregiving begins with a rush of adrenaline that soon wears off. Make sure you are preserving energy for the demands ahead of you. By answering the question “Am I running a sprint?” (caregiving needs will be short-lived) or “Is it a marathon?” (needs will exist for months/years) better helps you set proper boundaries and realistic expectations.

5. Renew your Strength. Isaiah 40 states, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,”
Ashlyn Gramm

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6

As we approach the topic of our Public Health survey once again, we must first thank God for providing us with the powerful avenue of prayer and for promising to hear and respond to our prayers. We also want to thank all those who joined with us in praying over LifePoints prior to and during this year’s Illinois Department of Public Health survey of Timber Ridge to determine our Medicaid reimbursement rate. The time spent waiting for the surveyor to actually arrive was much longer than anticipated, but we were grateful for the daily reminder to be constant in prayer.

The surveyor did finally arrive to complete the inspection of care in mid-September, and praise be to God, the outcome is positive. The surveyor reviewed our requests for the highest care rates for our residents and gave us all but two. This is encouraging because not only did the surveyor recognize the existing high care rates, but she also gave us the highest care rate for an additional resident at Timber Ridge. These results increase the likelihood that we will be given similar high care reimbursement rates in the future. The longer the higher medical needs of our residents are recognized, the less likely the surveyors are to break this pattern and undo the level of Medicaid reimbursement we receive.

Overall, our Medicaid rate is lower than that of the previous year, mainly due to the moving and passing of residents. However, it is still a high enough rate that we are able to use a significant part of the donations we have received as planned – for refurbishing, capital projects, funding for retirement, and a yearly raise for employees. We want to thank you once again for your prayers during this time of waiting, as well as for your constant support. May we all remember this time of fervent prayer for LifePoints and be encouraged to always make our requests known to God.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Chet Baumgartner — Former English Teacher

Every now and then, God blinds us. He blinds us to this temporal reality – a broken mixture of matter and man’s will fighting against the curse to hold on to God’s original “very good” – and gives us eyes to see.

With my mortal eyes, I saw about six students, each focused on a piece of paper, their pens or pencils wavering and swirling as they completed a writing prompt. But I also saw shards of broken beauty now back in the Potter’s hands. I could see the souls who withered and cracked from addictions and abuse now overflow with the abundant life God pours out from His throne through the cross and tomb. They could go to school and learn without worrying about their next meal – or their next bruise. They could think; they could wonder; they could explore the minds and talents God gave them.

I recently ended a four-year career teaching at Gateway Woods School. In those four years, I saw students threaten one another; I saw students cheat on homework; I saw a student demand of God why He would let a trusted adult abuse her. But I also saw them heal, some powerfully, some gradually, some seemingly permanently, some seemingly temporarily. I saw them laugh; I saw them conquer a difficult text passage; I saw them earn passing grades – excellent grades – when they previously earned primarily Fs. I saw them ponder the message of the Gospel, all the way from Genesis to Revelation, in devotions class.
I saw them learn to trust that God does indeed work all things together for good, even when they can’t see it.

And when I saw with spiritual eyes, I saw that too.

I also saw me. I saw my pride; I saw my anger; I saw my anxiety – not as quirks or habits, but as real spiritual monsters that warred against God’s very good plan. And when I saw that, I could better see God’s heart, not just for me, but for all those who come to Gateway. All have sinned, but Christ can redeem all.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called Children of God,” John writes in his first epistle. “... Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

I can’t wait to see in Heaven my former students who trusted in Christ. I can’t wait to see how God redeemed them after our paths crossed for four short years. I can’t wait to see not the end, but the beginning.

**News:**

We host our third Hog & Jog 5k run on October 20. Thanks for all who supported this event.

We are thankful to announce the hiring of Sis. Cordin Gerber (Bluffton). She will be joining the Maple House team with Todd & Kara Strahm and Lucas & Andrea Gerber.

November is Adoption awareness month. Join us in prayer for all of the families and children we are working with in our Adoption Program.

We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, English Teacher, Math Teacher, Houseparent Couple and a Foster Care Case Manager. For more information, please see our ad in this month’s issue 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’.

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**

**Marg Lindenbaum**

“... And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:44-47

It is hard to imagine how things must have been in the days of the very beginning of the church. The power of the Holy Spirit was surely at work, as these fishermen, tax collectors, and even some of Jesus’ siblings were able to organize and carry the Gospel message to all the world. Not only carry it, but to turn the world upside down with it (Acts 17:6). They gathered from different cities, met in houses and synagogues, and worshiped and prayed and brought the Word to
find our technology promotes corporate prayer in a unique way. We can send a request for prayer and have a response immediately from all corners of the world. It is amazing to consider hundreds or thousands of saints the world over praying simultaneously in the name of Jesus and the power of His Spirit! Having been a recipient of the benefit of such prayer, I can say with confidence that God is pleased with this and hears and answers. Still, I believe we should come together physically when possible, to pray for each other and for God’s Kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. That church drew thousands to it and set the bar for those of us to come, even thousands of years later, and by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit, His Church continues to be His witness.

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31

It has been a quiet month in the desert. We sorrow with the family of Sis. Leona Siegle, and rejoice in her achieving the ultimate victory in Jesus. She was a delight, and a good witness throughout her time in our congregation. She was 97 years old.

Our Active program is back up and running, with a theme of God’s amazing love. We trust our young folks will have their own hearts touched as they consider the magnitude of His love and help to demonstrate it in the community service projects. By the time this goes to publication, it should be cooling down and getting to the best time to come for a visit!

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

Prescott is thrilled to announce the engagement of Sis. Devan Cargill (Bro. Dan & Sis. Stephanie) to Bro. Kyle Grimm (Bro. Don & Sis. Tricia) from Taylor, MO. We pray for God’s many blessings as they start this new journey in serving the Lord as a couple.

We enjoyed setting aside time this past month to continue looking at our church’s strengths and weaknesses in the church bolstering process. Ministering Bro. Arlan Miller (Gridley), Bro. Jim Meiss (Austin-Bastrop) and Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Phoenix), as well as Bro. Don Fletcher (Bluffton), joined with us as a church to look at our spiritual gifts and church assessment. Paul reminds us that we are called as a church to let our “conversation be as the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27.

Please pray with us as we seek to create a local church vision and practical ways to live out the gospel and pillars of our church.

Thankful for Ministering Bro. Keith Hinrichsen from Phoenix for also supporting our church this past month.
Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) was here to share a summary of the conference and to assist on the pulpit. Also, Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie) from Morris, MN graciously shared the word with our small congregation. We are grateful to both of them.

We want to welcome Paul and Caley Koehl and Zach Wulf from Morris, MN who are here for job opportunities. We are thankful for all our visitors both short and long term as it helps the small group who gathers here in the sunny southwest.

Please know that you are welcome to visit us here and enjoy some of the sunny days we’re having as well as experience our day of worship which includes our attendees from the Grace and Promise house. We have many opportunities to spread the gospel and be a light and example to some who are less fortunate. Our membership of 16 hosts about 30 of the homeless each Sunday and it truly is a blessing. Once again we ask for prayers for our small congregation and encourage anyone who is interested in relocating and supporting our efforts here to seek God’s will and follow His leading.

We have a two bedroom townhouse available for use if you are visiting the Tucson area. Please contact Bro. Dean Knobloch for information. (309-231-8428)

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

Always a blessed weekend of fellowship and friendship, we hosted ACYF and welcomed a large group of kids from Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott, San Diego, and even a few from Denver. Especially in a small church such as ours, it takes all of us working together to pull off hosting a group doubling our size, and, as always, the blessings abundantly repay the extra effort. We were all encouraged to consider life’s big questions throughout the weekend: about the universe, our place in it, and God’s sovereign role.

At the sad news of her father’s passing, we pray for Sis. Lisa Steiner as she navigates this difficult time.

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Cor. 1:9

California, San Diego
Lillian Wagenbach

Our Bible class enjoyed ACYF with the western churches in Altadena. With such long distances from each other, it’s always a time of sweet fellowship.

We always enjoy visits from our Elder John Wiegand and his dear wife Jane. They are such a blessing to our church. John had the Installation Service for Bro. Mike Grimm. We appreciate Mike’s willingness to help our church on the pulpit. Our prayers are with his wife, Amber, and children: Jayden, Andrew, Macy and Mariah.

Our other visiting ministers were Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Kurt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ). We thank these brothers for their willingness to minister to our small congregation. God has been faithful and we can feel His blessings.

It’s fun to see our children excited to start Sunday School again. “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”. Matthew 6:33

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman

Greetings because of Jesus!

Fall has graced our state and it seems especially real in the mountains where aspen trees begin to jitter their glowing yellow leaves toward the sky. I’m amazed every year that somehow those leaves really do seem to glow, particularly at dusk, when sunlight begins to fade and darkness approaches. As the world around us grows darker let’s not forget to reflect the light of Jesus to those around us “…that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

With sadness we said “goodbye” to Bro. Danny & Sis. Carolyn Andrej as they moved to Ohio. We know this has been on their hearts for some time and we pray that as the time has come, that they would find the Lord a faithful and changeless God during this time of change and transition. They are missed!

Our high school Sunday School class was able to spend a focused
weekend near Colorado Spring with fellow high schoolers from our Kansas churches, Garden Grove, IA, and Kansas City, MO. Their topic was “Ye Must Be Born Again” spoken on by Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA). Who makes the rules that we follow in our daily actions? Us? Or God? Being born again means to be renewed and transformed by our Lord’s definitions, not our own. Thank you, Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue, for sharing your love with our church.

We also wish to thank Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL) for sharing God’s word.

We have more wonderful news! Loren Fehr (Bro. Matt & Sis. Rachel) as well as Taylor Kening have begun their walk with the Lord in repentance. We rejoice and praise God for His unfailing love and pursuit of mankind! Godspeed on your route to Zion!

“We now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”
Heb. 13:20-21

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Amanda Virkler

We are thankful for the gift of new life as we rejoice in the birth of two new babies. Kohen Steven was born to Bro. Josh & Sis. Carole Bahler. Kohen’s older siblings are Jaiden, Joelle & Morgan. His grandparents are Bro. Steve & Sis. Lori Bahler and Bro. Arlo & Sis. Lynn Hoffman. Alan & Katie Hoffman, along with Madilyn and Logan, welcomed Weston James Hoffman to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Steve & Sis. Joan Hoffman and Mike & Jean Gagne.

We are thankful for Sis. Nora Hany (Bro. Paul & Sis. Betsy Hany), Sis. Rhonda Schneider (Bro. Doug & Sis. Jane Schneider), and Sis. Naomi Schneider (Bro. Dave & Sis. Kim Schneider) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of August 18 & 19. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) with us for the weekend.

We also enjoyed the service and fellowship of Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia, PA).

Devon Schneider (Bro. Phil & Sis. Jen Schneider), Tessa Gerber (Steve & Cecilia Gerber) and Evan Gerber (Bro. Ronnie & Sis. Sheila Gerber) recently underwent surgery. Our prayers are with them for a complete recovery.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

This month we welcomed back our returning caretaker Bro. Dennis Steidinger from Gridley, 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. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH), Bro. Jeremy Frauhiger (Sis. Sally, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Kole Meyer (Sis. Amy, Bluffton, IN). Our visitors this month were from Smithville, OH, Philadelphia, PA, Bluffton, IN and Iowa City, IA. We are thankful for visitors and for them letting us know they are coming.

While Bro. Ben was here we were able to partake of Holy Communion. What a blessed and solemn time.

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 grateful to have several visiting ministers this past month. The visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb) Bluffton, IN; Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo) Leo, IN; Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen) Sarasota, FL and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri) West Lafayette, IN. We pray for a blessing on those that come and share God’s word.

Bro. Mark Gerber led a Sunday afternoon Bible Study on Philippians 4. Everyone participated in sharing a special verse or impact that chapter has had in their lives. Several expressed that it was their favorite chapter while others shared how it helped them through difficult times.

Bro. Kirk Plattner led a Sunday afternoon sharing of HarvestCall challenges and opportunities. We appreciated his transparency and passion for the work of the Kingdom.

Both Sunday afternoons with Bro. Mark Gerber’s Bible study and Bro. Kirk Plattner’s informative talk on HarvestCall, because we are small in number especially during the summer, there is a blessing to be had where anyone that wants to speak up and participate has that opportunity. Though being a small church can be challenging, it’s good to remember the positive side, too, and for that we are thankful.

Florida, Fort Myers  
**Mary Masters**  
We have once again enjoyed visitors to add to our sparse numbers at church. Before we know it, we will be seeing our snowbirds come to join us. We always look forward to adding to our small congregation.

We enjoyed having Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie Indianapolis, IN) minister to us. We want to thank him and Sis. Edie for lending themselves for our edification.

We are continuing to study the book of Titus and were once again reminded to do good to all people and that the older should be diligent to teach the younger.

**The New Beginnings**  
We have given many tours of our facility this past month and on one occasion had over thirty people at one time. We continue to be quite busy with supplying the needs of 4 women and 6 children currently.

We are very blessed to have a new addition to serve in our office area. Monica lives in Cape Coral with her two daughters. She has a gentle, winning personality and relates to our residents wonderfully.

Have you ever asked yourself, “How do I relate to those who have different personalities, upbringing, or race?” I know that I have a way to go in that area. Working in this ministry of The New Beginnings for over 7 years, we have learned a lot in that area, but also realize that our own upbringing is deeply engraved in our thinking. Often, we find ourselves judging according to how WE think things should be and not being merciful as Christ would want us to be. There is a mighty thin line between helping and enabling. We find ourselves asking God for wisdom and mercy as He would want us to act. The residents that we serve usually have a background of intense dysfunction, abuse, and rejection. It is a great challenge to facilitate the breaking of those bonds that Satan has instilled in those families generation after generation. That being said, please pray for our staff that deals with the actions that Satan has embedded.

We welcome visitors to our area and love to give tours of our facilities. If you are in the area, please call for a tour.

Florida, Sarasota  
**Sandra Kaeb**  
Again, we were reminded about the gift that was given to us by Christ’s death. Our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter along with our two ministers, Bro. Virgil Kaeb and Bro. Matt Koehl, pondered on Matthew 26 and 27 for our Communion service. We pray that God may bless them for their labors on our behalf.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Marge Knapp from the Eureka Home, wife of Bro. Fritz Knapp and sister to Clara Bodager.

Sis. Pearl Bozzay spent some time in the hospital and we are thankful that she is back home and able to worship with us again.
We uphold in prayer Sis. Debbie Sauder and Bro. Stephen Roscher as they travel to Mexico for a mission trip.

How Smart?
“I like innovation for all it can do. It helps in our work and that is really true. But I’m bothered a lot by a syndrome I see; It’s supposed to be “cool,” but it gets next to me. Each day we see children, big people and teens. Two thumbs on the keypad, eyes glued to the screens. It seems all-important that they be connected. To whom and to what I have not yet detected. But it’s not to reality, I’m sure in my heart. Though it’s modern and “in,” it doesn’t seem smart. With an app on their phone and the phone in their hand. They wander unseeing through fantasy land; Quite blind and unheedng with plugs in their ears. It’s nearly enough to bring one to tears. Our smart phones have ceased to perform as smart tools. I’m afraid they have made us a bunch of smart fools.” – By Gary Miller

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta

Lexi Knapp
We have been blessed with a wonderful month and all the small moments that make up everyday life. We take a break for Sunday school during the summer and started it back up this month. It’s always special to see the excitement of the kids as they go back to Sunday school and to watch them soak up learning about the Bible. How blessed we are to live in a place where we have the freedom to teach and learn the Scripture!

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
This past month we were blessed to hold services in Bonne Fin with other missionaries and visitors from Les Cayes. Brother Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Elder Brother Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and his wife, Sister Nancy, shared the day with us. We are always thankful to be able to hold services and hear the word in our native language. In August, we also were thankful for a visit from brothers with leadership roles in HarvestCall.

Sister Patricia Banwart spent some time in the United States last month. We were thankful to welcome her back in September. With the month of October upon us, our minds go back to the year 2016 when south Haiti experienced Hurricane Matthew. As we see how God has restored the trees here in Bonne Fin, it gives us opportunity to remember how He also restores the soul who comes to Him in repentance. Please continue to pray that those who come to Bonne Fin in need of a Savior can hear the message of repentance and salvation.

Haiti, Les Cayes

Mike & Susie Walder
We are very thankful to welcome a new couple to Haiti and to Les Cayes for a few months! Bro. Daryl & Sis. Debbie Knobloch have moved here from Bradford, IL, to fill the role of Assistant Farm Manager at the Good Vision Dairy Farm in nearby Torbeck. They are taking language lessons for a few months in Cayes before their home will be ready at the farm later this Fall. We pray they will soon feel at home here as they settle into their new roles and eventually their new home in Haiti.

Sis. Leah Kaeb has been a special blessing to everyone here the last six years as she has served so efficiently and so faithfully as the Construction Department bookkeeper. Now we are rejoicing with Sis. Leah as Bro. Graham League from Bradford, IL, has asked for her hand in marriage! God has again blessed Bro. Les & Sis. Christine Kaeb (Torbeck, Haiti and Francesville, IN) with another son. Bro. Graham's parents are Richard & Vanessa League of Tucson, AZ.

We have appreciated Bro. Graham’s visits and sharing his testimony with us. We pray that God would bless this new couple's step in faith as they look forward to serving the Lord together. We all shared a special farewell meal
on a Friday night at the Sanders’ home in honor of Leah before she returned home to prepare for her November wedding.

We appreciated the recent visit and spiritual support provided by Elder Bro. Marvin & Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), followed by HarvestCall support by Bro. John Huber (West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Rick Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). The weekend they were here, Bro. Marvin and Bro. Jon served us in the Word in Bonne Fin for a Sunday service and meal. A Child Sponsorship work team was also here the same week and over that weekend, so we were thankful to be able to fellowship with them for most of the day in Bonne Fin.

**Illinois, Belvidere**

**Amy Hanson**

Loving Greetings from Belvidere!

There have been some unknown technology mishaps as well as a tardy submitter once as well so Belvidere’s information here is in catch up mode. Aren’t we blessed to have a loving God who is never tardy and will never have technology issues?! Our communication lines to Him are always waiting for us; we never need to verify whether our prayers arrived!

1 John 5:14 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.”

We are always blessed to have visiting ministers! In the last few weeks we have enjoyed many, many ministers from afar in Belvidere and are appreciative of all their efforts, travel and sharing of our Lord’s Word.

Paul 103:21 “Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”

Wedding blessings showered over Belvidere for Sis. Krista Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg) to Bro. Evan Wieland (Bro. Nate & Sis. Suzanne) of Congerville, IL. 1 Corinthians 11:12 “For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things in God.”

Perhaps the greatest earthly “gift” we who are His, who have already welcomed Him into our hearts, repenting and submitting our lives to Him, is also welcoming into the fold those dear to us. Two such gifts were bestowed upon the Belvidere Congregation with the baptisms of Coby Steffen (Bro. Dean & Sis. Carol) and Derek Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg). We welcome the young men as brothers in Christ and are grateful for all they have done and will do while walking the narrow path with us.

Ephesians 4:5 “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Harvest is in full swing as many gather the fruits of their summer labors. Let us be mindful of those who have none. Let us remember always to help those we can with what the Lord has blessed us with, whether it is from our fields or coops or hearts.

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

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**

**Jenae Herrmann,**

**Wendy Zimmerman**

“Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whate’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.”

Hymns of Zion #21

In writing to record the recent news of what is happening in our church family, there is a consistent theme that seems to occur each time, a swinging between the spectrum of mountaintops and valleys. There are things we are rejoicing and things we are mourning. We welcome new life and we say good-bye in death. We have things that we look forward to or completed events that blessed us, and though not necessarily recorded, things that were challenging such as illnesses, surgeries, or other stressful situations we are praying for. It is so comforting to be able to dwell in Christ by faith and to rest in knowing that whatever befalls us, Jesus does all things well!

We are thankful to welcome two new babies this month! Corin Alexander was born to Bro. Wesley and Sis. Kinsey Dotterer on August 18. Corin’s big sister is Evangeline. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. lavonne Teubel and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart both of Forrest. Bro. Dustin, Sis.
Elizabeth, Dominic, and Deanna Rabe welcomed Atticus Isai into their family on August 28. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe and Marcela Martinez. Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp are also very thankful for the addition of a new grandbaby into their family. Forest Dawson was born to Ryan and Rachel Knapp on August 17.

We praise God for how He continues to move in hearts! We are thankful that Hope Metz has decided to make a public profession of her faith in Christ. Hope’s parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Metz.

This month we mourned with our Sis. Barb Young (Bro. Dave, dec.) at the passing of her mother, Sis. Edith Stadeli of Silverton, OR. We also extend our prayers and sympathy to our Sis. Mary Knapp and her daughter, Sis. Barb Knapp, at the passing of Mary’s brother, Bill D. Gholson, Sr.

In the next few weeks, we will begin our all-church Bible Study for the Fall semester. We are doing a study entitled “Drawn to Jesus – Our Identity in Him.” We look forward to deepening our relationship with Christ as well as learning and sharing together about our identity as followers of Jesus.

Illinois, Bradford

Becky Endress, Lana Wiegand

We would like to thank several visiting ministers for sharing the Word: Bros. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA); Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA); Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL); Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA); Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL); Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN); and Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL).

Congratulations to Bro. Andrew, Sis. Rachel and big brother Aden Klumpp who welcomed a new baby girl, Ava Mae, into their family! Grandparents are David and Barbara Klumpp of Wyoming, IL, and Wayne and Becky Snodgrass of Harper, IA.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Stoller as she has recently spent time in the hospital. We are thankful that she has recovered and is doing well again! We also remember Bro. Ed Ehle, who is recovering at Skylines Home after a hospital stay. For all who bear health-related burdens, may we find comfort in the Psalmist’s expression, “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust.” Psalm 18:2

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos, and to Sis. Rebecca Joos as they grieve the loss of Bro. Ron Joos of Bloomfield, IA. He was a brother to Ralph and a brother-in-law to Jenny and Rebecca.

Welcome to Bro. Zach and Sis. Claire Sinn who moved to Bradford from Latty, OH. We are looking forward to their fellowship as they settle into their family farm. Sis. Claire is the granddaughter of Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch who were a special part of our church for many years before relocating to Eureka. What a treat to welcome the next generation!

Illinois, Champaign

Brent Young

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

We were excited to welcome our students and their parents for the fall semester with our traditional New Student Picnic. Once they are settled in, we gather again with the students for our Illini Grove Fall Picnic, this time hosted by the student officers. We extend our prayers and heart-felt support to our UI Young Group officers this year: Trenton Edelman, Zach Romersberger, Timothy Rassi, and Kirsten Finch. Our University of Illinois and Parkland students are such a vital part of our congregation and it always brings such life when they return!

Also exciting is a new program for our Sunday school-aged children and young adults taking place once a month on Wednesday evenings. The most recent era of the Champaign church includes many young children. We are grateful for our brothers and sisters with talent and willingness to invest in our youth. Also helpful was the assistance that many churches provided as we organized the new ‘Youth Night’ program. We are especially enthusiastic about the scripture memory
portion of the program and the long-term positive effect it will have on our children’s lives.

Our congregation is grateful for several visiting ministers this past month, including Bros. Wayne Grimm, Chad Leman, and Ted Witzig, Jr.

**Illinois, Chicago**

**Diana Eisenmann**

We thank our visiting ministers Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

We welcome Sis. Rachel Sauder (originally from Roanoke, IL) who has moved to Chicago for schooling. We are excited to have her as a part of our church family, and we pray for God’s blessing on her education.

In September we enjoyed an all-church potluck hosted by our neighboring Elgin, IL church. We thank them for their hospitality and fellowship.

Our annual visioning workshop was held in September as well as our Fall WoW Moms devotion.

**Illinois, Congerville**

**Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen**

“I’ve been thru the lonesome valleys, I’ve climbed the highest hills.
I’ve known the joy of living in the center of God’s will.
I’ve watched the angels come and take my loved ones home to stay;
I’ve got more to go to heaven for than I had yesterday.”

*I’ve Got More to Go to Heaven For*

Having a loved one pass on to eternity truly makes us long for heaven more. We grieve with the families of two dear ones that have been called home.

Art Currier, the husband of our Sis. Mary, passed away on August 25, after battling cancer. We extend our sympathy to his children: Tim (Diana) Currier, Ben (Rachel) Currier, Rachel (Chet) Rinkenberger, Bro. Daniel Currier, David (Maria) Currier and Sis. Elisabeth Currier. As they miss the presence of their earthly father, may they rely on the comfort and guidance of their Heavenly Father.

Our Bro. Frederick Knapp bid farewell to his wife of nearly 68 years, Sis. Marjorie. She was called home on September 9. Grieving the loss of a loving mother are her children: Bro. Rick Knapp (Sis. Kathy, Goodfield), Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Bro. Clarence), Peggy Selvey (Randy), Sis. Lori Wiegand (Bro. Larry, Goodfield), Sis. Karen Leman (Dennis, Roanoke), Sis. Lisa Leman (Bro. Clark, Roanoke), and Sis. Susie (Bro. Mike) Zobrist. 35 grandchildren and 106 great-grandchildren are also missing this example of faithfulness in their lives. May this dear family feel God’s comfort in the coming days. Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park) conducted Sis. Marj’s funeral service. Their encouragement and comfort was greatly appreciated.

We rejoice with Molly Steffen (Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda) as she has professed peace with God and man. She looks forward to bringing her testimony before the church on November 24 with baptism following, Lord willing.

After a 7 week stay in Texas, Bro. Craig and Sis. Camille Steffen were finally able to bring home their precious little bundle, Annesley Rose. She has adjusted very well, and they are thankful to be settling into a new normal with their sweet baby.

“I know not how this saving faith to me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word, brought peace within my heart.”
I Know Whom I Have Believed,  
Hymns of Zion #109

On September 16, we were blessed to host young people from Champaign, Forrest, Bloomington, and Princeville for the annual ACYF day. What a joy it was to see them standing before the church, blending their young voices in song. Lord willing, someday, they can all experience the ‘saving faith’ they sang about. We pray God will bless the teachers of these young adults as well as ministering Bros. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville), Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest), and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign) for their tireless efforts in planting the seed.

Illinois, Elgin  
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzy, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago) for ministering during the past month. Special thanks also to Bro. Greg Schambach, who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, August 29, entitled “The Israel of God.”

The annual Sunday School Pancake Breakfast was held on Saturday, September 8, at the Fellowship Center. It was hosted by our Bible Class students to raise money for their ACYF bus trips and other Sunday School activities. We thank them for their efforts.

Sis. Libby (Bro. Keith) Leman suffered a broken arm in a car accident recently. We are thankful that she is recovering.

We extend sympathy to the family of Anne Madeen, who passed away on September 5. Survivors include her sisters: Sis. Lyla Schock, Beth (Robert) Hoppe of Bethel Park, PA, and Sis. Carolyn Haas; two brothers, Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Carol) Kellenberger of Gainesville, FL and Stanley (Cheryl) Kellenberger of Appleton, WI, and other family members.

On September 15-16, we gathered to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Katlin Schambach (Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee). We rejoice with her and thank Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy) and Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy), both from Roanoke, for coming to assist Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) and Bro. Dan Moser with the services. We were also blessed with visiting Bros. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere).

“Now it is accomplished! I’m no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine, For Thou hast created and purchased me too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.”

Now It Is Done,  
Zion’s Harp #209, vs. 1

Illinois, Eureka  
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

In this time of harvest all around us in central Illinois, we are reminded of the spiritual harvest that God will make someday – and perhaps soon. We want to be helpers in that most important harvest of souls, both as faithful examples as servants of the Lord and “instant in prayer,” always remembering those who have yet to seek their soul’s salvation. Yet another way we can do that is to allow God to grow the Fruit of the Spirit in our souls. Are we showing the harvest He desires, of “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance”? (Gal. 5:22-23) How much we need God’s amazing grace to serve Him always, whether in sowing or in harvest.

We are so thankful for those who sowed the good seed through preaching God’s Word, and thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA). Through the service of all our ministers, God stirs up our hearts to desire to grow closer to Christ, for which we are so thankful.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp on the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Marge (Bro. Fritz) Knapp of Congerville, IL. In addition, our sympathy goes out to Elder Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss, and to Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman. Their sister-in-law, Sis. Diane (Bro. Myron) Kuenzi of Silverton, OR, also passed away recently.

We think, too, of many with physical trials. Sis. Eleanor (Otto, dec.) Baer and Allan (Nathalia) Getz were hospitalized, but are recovering. We continue to pray for them and for many others, that God can grant
healing and patience.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger*

Our congregation was privileged to host the Cissna Park, Eureka, Chicago and Belvidere Sunday School Bible Classes for ACYF Day on Sunday, September 16. Ministering Bros. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) and Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) were also a part of this special day. Thanks to these brothers for their service to the Sunday School students and to the congregation. We all enjoyed the students’ beautiful singing following our afternoon service. We pray that friendships were made that will last a lifetime!

On September 17, Bro. Reuben Huber (the late Sis. Marie) was laid to rest. We have fond memories of the many years Bro. Rube and Sis. Marie lived here in Fairbury and were an active part of our congregation. In the funeral service, it was mentioned that Bro. Rube had a lot of “character” and that God can use the character He created us with for His glory. We thank Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) for conducting Bro. Rube’s funeral service. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Rube’s ten children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May the Lord bless them with many fond memories.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Becky Kieser (Bro. Carl) in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Diane Kuenzi (Bro. Myron) of Silverton, OR.

Hospital patients this month have been Dick Koehl and Bro. Jerry Kaisner (Sis. Donna). We continue to keep Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna in our prayers as they navigate the hills and valleys of their journey. May the Lord strengthen their faith and hold them in His arms of love and compassion. We also think of Bro. Ben and Sis. Tessa Herr as their young son, Colton, is experiencing some health issues and has been going through some testing for a diagnosis. We lift them up to the Lord in love and with many prayers. How thankful we can be that our great God knows and sees all!

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL), Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) and Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve.

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz*

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

As we enter the season when we reap the bounty of the fields, fruit trees and gardens, may we be reminded of the spiritual reaping also taking place. As our pantry shelves and grain bins fill, let our hearts and minds be turned to the Lord’s harvest, where what we reap will have eternal value.

We thank our visiting ministers Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO) for being willing to plant the seed of God’s Word in our hearts. May we allow our Heavenly Father to prune us where needed to bring a bountiful harvest someday.

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:8

Our hearts were with our Sis. Laura Ricketts and Bro. Miguel Aviña as they exchanged wedding vows in Magdalena, Mexico. May they continue to nurture the tender seed of love planted in their hearts for each other and God.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Gladys Koehl in the passing of her sister, Sis. Wilma Honegger of Peoria. We apologize for not being timely, as we were not aware of her passing until after last month’s submission. May our love and prayers still be felt, knowing that the grief of parting does not pass swiftly.

**Note of Thanks:**

Thank you for the many cards, gifts and best wishes I received for my 90th birthday. May God bless you for your love. In Christ, Bro. David Wiegand.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

*Judy Knapp, Amy Hinrichsen*

“Seeds of goodness we are sowing…”

We are very thankful that Jonas Wiegand has surrendered his heart to the Lord in repentance.
Jonas is the son of Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand. We know their hearts are full of gratitude as their family is transitioning back to the states from the mission field in Zambia.

Sabrina Glueck (niece of Bro. Herman and Sis. Sarah Glueck) has confessed peace with God and man and is anxiously awaiting baptism later this month. We rejoice with her and pray for continued grace and peace in her life.

“And ere long, beloved brethren, It will be your harvest time…”

Several families have said farewell to their earthly mothers and we lift them up in prayer. Bro. Ted (Sis. Kenda) Taufer and Sis. Ree (Bro. Jim) Hartman said goodbye to their mother, Sis. Marie Taufer from Morton. Bro. Rick (Sis. Kathy) Knapp and Sis. Lori (Bro. Larry) Wiegand watched their mother, Sis. Marjorie Knapp from Congerville, exchange her cross for a crown. Our love and sympathies go to both families as many of the grandchildren attend our church as well.

“For if we should stand here idle, who would bring the sheaves of grain?..."

We are so thankful that we have loving brothers who do not stand idle, but are constantly working toward a bountiful harvest of souls. Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) shared the message on Sunday, September 2. The following Sunday, we were blessed with the ministry of Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Rhonda, Bluffton, IN) as he helped with the wedding of our dear Sis. Kendahl Evans (Jake and Shari Evans) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber) from Bluffton. Also visiting us that day was Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA). We thank these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

“Now the field is ripe for harvest; let us then all garner in....”

Our church family welcomes Sis. Amber Ehnle, who has moved to the area and is making Goodfield her home church. Sis. Amber is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb Ehnle from Princeville.

“Hasten gladly to the labor, Consecrate to God your heart. Say this day unto your Saviour, ‘Lord, I’ll gladly do my part.”

After much prayer, we have decided to move forward in the process of choosing another minister. Please pray with us as we take this most important decision to the Lord in prayer. If we each do our part and prayerfully submit our will to that of the Father, we know He will bless the process whatever the outcome.

As we begin the Fall season, we see the fields ripe for harvest and we pray for safety throughout the harvest time. And once again, we offer prayers for those who are suffering with physical, spiritual, or mental crosses and pray that our loving Father will heal as He sees fit.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

The marriage engagement of Sis. Miranda Schlipf to Bro. Tyler Haerr, Taylor, MO was announced. She is the daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf. His parents are Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg Haerr, of Taylor. We are happy for this couple as they sought the will of God, and can rest in His guidance.

Coming into the fold recently were Bro. Mason Ringger, Sis. Maddie Schlipf, and Sis. Kaylynn Schlipf. In their youth, they have sought the Lord, and we surely wish them the ongoing grace of God as He directs and empowers them to live anew in these perilous times.

I was privileged to attend a birthday get-together for a brother in faith who had turned 80 years of age. We enjoyed singing several hymns. One of the hymns was entitled, “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour.” To me, the lyrics were very meaningful, especially the phrases, “Hear my humble cry,” and also “Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief.” Surely at the time of repentance, those phrases were of deep meaning. For me, I feel I still need to plead to God to hear my daily prayers. I am very glad for the vivid reminders in that hymn.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

We thank the many visiting brothers who shared God’s Word on several special occasions. Bro.
Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan, Roanoke, IL) all joined us for Sunday services.

August 29, Bro. Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette, IN), outreach manager for HarvestCall, led the sending service for our Bro. Scott Kieser who has been called to serve at CVE in Magdalena, Mexico. Bro. Ted Hirstein, Bro. Jon Zeller and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. also spoke words of encouragement to Bro. Scott and his family: Bro. Jeff, Sis. Jane and Trent Kieser. We will miss Bro. Scott in our Morton congregation, but know he will be a blessing to all those he works with at CVE.

Isaiah 6:8 “Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me.”

September 5, Bro. Matthew Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL) spoke at our Family Worship Night. We are beginning a new series entitled “Created in God’s Image” - “His Workmanship”. Bro. Matthew spoke on “Our Worth in Christ”. Everyone has self-worth because Christ purchased all mankind with His shed blood.

“Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee, Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee, Take my voice, and let me sing Always, only for my King.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine Take my heart, it is thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.”

Hymns of Zion #106

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Corey West whose grandmother Cheryl Mumm passed away.

Also saying farewell to their loved one is the family of Sis. Marie Tauerf (late Bro. Robert). Surviving are her four children: Bro. Dana (Sis. Kris) Tauerf, Morton; Sis. Gail (Bro. Bill) Mayo, Morton; Bro. Ted (Sis. Kenda) Tauerf, Goodfield; Sis. Dee (Bro. Jim) Hartman, Congerville and one sister Sis. Joyce Domnick, Morton.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk welcome a new granddaughter, Evelyn Mae born on August 28 to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Heather Plattner, Princeville, IL. Enjoying their new sister are Lena and Elise. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner, Princeville, IL.

As we enjoy this harvest season, let us all prepare our hearts and minds for the harvest of souls to come.

Matthew 10:37 & 38 “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Bro. David (Sis. Cathy) Obergfel had some health issues.

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Wettstein, Bonnie Bach

We rejoice with Bro. Philip Huette (Morton, IL) and Sis. Whitney Stickling as they became one on August 19. Parents are Bro. Doug & Sis Jill Huette (Morton, IL) and Bro. Craig & Jacki Stickling. Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO). Another wedding was held in Magdalena, Mexico on September 9. Bro. Miguel Avina and Sis. Laura Ricketts (Bro. Gary & Sis. Marie Unsicker, Peoria, IL) were united in marriage. We wish these new couples God’s richest blessings!

We also greatly rejoice with 2 new converts. Jaclyn Hoerr is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Lisa Hoerr. Sadie Rumbold is the daughter of Bro. Gregg & Sis. Heather Rumbold. The angels in heaven are rejoicing also!

Bro. Jess & Sis. Joanna Hoerr have welcomed little Archer to their family. Aiden has started to learn his new role as big brother.

We mourn with our Sis. Jo Ann (Bro. Tom) Ricker as her brother, Ronald Plattner, recently passed away. The father of our Bro. Jim Huber (Sis. Jean), Bro. Reuben Huber (Fairbury, IL), has passed away also. We pray the Father can comfort these families as they say goodbye to their loved ones.

Bro. Dave (Sis. Kathy) Obergfel had some health issues.
lately and spent time in the hospital. He has certainly been in our prayers and we know God is all-powerful.

The Midwest Food Bank of Peoria & Morton had a benefit dinner and auction in August. The Light House Academy had an open house and dedication in their new location. Berean Prison Ministry had a speaker from Romania about the Gypsy church and had a benefit dinner in September. We are thankful for the work being done through these ministries to our local communities and far beyond in the world.

Sunday School has restarted after a summer break. We pray for all the teachers and students, that His Word could fall on tender ears and have a life-long impact! The Young Group had an ice cream social after church lately as a fundraiser for their activities throughout the year and have been interviewing older people as an oral history to record the experiences of the older generations in our church. A clothing drive was recently held to donate toward HarvestCall.

Monthly services continue at the Peoria Rescue Mission and South Side Mission. Midwest Food Bank has load-out days monthly. Our church has started the Bible Study on Hope. Jail ministries are occurring weekly. This is just a very small example of things going on around us. We can be very thankful there are so many ways to stay involved and engaged in our church body!

“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” Psalm 27:14.

Illinois, Princeville

Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

We appreciated the blessing of visiting ministers Bro. Brian Wabel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Matt Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL). What a wonderful privilege we have to receive God’s Word freely expounded to us.

Joshua Feucht (son of Mark and Sis. Paula) and Jensen Roe (daughter of Mark and Susan) were united in marriage on September 1. We pray that God will direct them as they establish a new home and seek direction from Him.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Heather Plattner welcomed a new daughter, Evelyn Mae on August 28. She joins big sisters Lena and Elise at home. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk, Morton, IL. We wish them God’s grace as they teach these little ones to love and live for Jesus.

We have had numerous people requiring hospitalization this month. They are Peyton Martin (son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany), Sophie Berchtold (daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Leann), Alaina Kieser (daughter of Bro. Seth and Sis. Samantha), Ron Satzler (Mary), and Bro. Gerald “Pooch” Martin (Sis. Louise). Please pray for the continued healing of these loved ones.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann at the passing of Sis. Mary’s grandmother, Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Bro. Frederick, Congerville, IL).

We welcome Miriam Luginbuhl from Rockville, CT to worship with us as she attends college in central IL. She is the niece of Bro. Craig and Sis. Cherie White. We wish Miriam success in her studies.

After a short summer break, our Sunday school has begun again. We are thankful for the teachers who willingly give of themselves to plant seeds in the children’s minds. We pray that they will one day bring forth fruit for God’s kingdom.

An all-church wiener roast and hymn sing was held at Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah Martin’s home. We ask that God will bless them for their hospitality. It was an enjoyable evening for those who were able to attend.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

Matt. 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) led a Bible Study on “A Biblical Approach to Non-Resistance” on August 22. We thank him for his thought-provoking and informative message.

1 Tim. 5:17 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of
double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.”

Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) was ordained as our elder on August 26. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this service. Other visiting ministers on the pulpit were Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda, Japan), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Makato Inoue (Sis. Anna, Tokyo, Japan). It was a blessed day of worship. We are so thankful for God’s gracious provision in a smooth transition of church leadership. We pray for our Lord’s blessing and provision for Bro. Frank & Sis. Kathy as they assume these new responsibilities.

On September 9, a supper and singing were held in thanksgiving to Bro. Tom & Sis. Kathy Hoffman for their 22 years of service to our congregation as our elder and wife. Words can scarcely convey our deep appreciation and gratitude to Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy for their humble submission to God’s plan for their lives as they selflessly cared for the needs of our church for these many years. May our Lord be their rich rewarder.

Our nursing home benefit “Homecoming Days” was held August 25-26. It is always a blessed weekend which includes food, an auction, children’s activities, music, a farmer’s market, bake sale and other activities to raise needed funds for our nursing home. We thank all those who helped in any way to make it a successful and productive weekend.

Sara Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy & Sis. Kim) was united in marriage to Jordan Grusy (John & Sue) of Goodfield, IL on August 24. We ask for God’s blessings on this dear couple as they begin married life.

We recently said farewell for a season to Bro. Fred & Sis. Jodi Leman and their four children. They will be travelling to North Carolina for more training as they prepare to go to Papua, New Guinea where Bro. Fred will serve as a helicopter pilot.

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

Sis. Margaret Fehr went to be with the Lord on September 8. Her survivors include a daughter Debra Greenway of Eureka, IL; three sons: Dennis (Mary) of Houston, TX, Terry (Zanna) of Glendale, AZ and Bro. Jay (Sis. Jay) Fehr (Rockville, CT); 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Also surviving are three brothers: Bro. Earl (Sis. Esther) Gerber (Forrest, IL), Melvin (Millie) Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Everett (Sis. Nancy) Gerber (Rockville, CT) and two sisters: Rosetta Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Betty Enserink of California. Sis. Marge and her husband, the late Bro. Gene, had moved to our area a number of years ago. They have been a blessing to our church family.

Also, Sis. Marge (Bro. Fred) Knapp (Congerville, IL) went to her eternal home on Sept. 9. She was the mother of Sis. Karen (Dennis) Leman and Sis. Lisa (Bro. Clark) Leman from our Roanoke church. We ask for our Lord’s comfort on these dear families in their loss.

We are thankful that Ben Mangold was able to worship with us before he is deployed to Germany to reunite with his wife, Nelly, who is also stationed there. We pray for God’s protection and provision in their lives.

Acts 4:32, 34 “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: Neither was there any among them that lacked:”

On September 12, Bro. Matt (Sis. Jennifer) Feucht led a Bible Study “Your Gifts in His Body”. He discussed using our spiritual gifts and talents to better serve the body of Christ. We thank him for his timely and informative message and look forward to serving each other with our various gifts.

Katlin Schambach, who has been worshipping with us for some time, gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on Sept. 15-16 at the Elgin, IL church. We are so thankful and rejoice with Sis. Katlin and pray for God’s continued blessing on her as she continues in her walk of faith.

We are thankful and blessed to welcome new families to our church! Lynne Martin has moved back to Roanoke and will be making this her church home. And Bro. Eric, Sis. Gina, Ethan, Kara & Ty Hodel are also
planning to regularly worship with us. They had formerly been attending the Bloomington church. We look forward to getting to know them better and hope they feel “at home” here!

On September 16 we were privileged to host young people from the Goodfield, IL, Morton, IL, and Tremont, IL churches for ACYF Day. After church the students sang some beautiful song selections for us.

Bro. Brian & Sis. Rebekah Schwind welcomed Blair River into their family on August 30. Her older brother and sister are Jordan and Riley and her thankful grandparents are Bro. Fedi & Sis. Ruth Davidovics (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Dan & Sis Donna Schwind. Bro. Mike & Sis. Nancy Hoffman became grandparents again with the birth of Layla Grace who was born to Josh & Jenny Hoffman of Normal, IL on August 22. And Lettie was born to Bro. Josh & Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier of the Dominican Republic on August 28. Bro. Rich Isaia is rejoicing over his new granddaughter. We pray for God’s blessings on these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

We have recently completed a basement remodeling project in our church. We thank all those who gave of their time, talents and resources to make our basement more useful in meeting the needs of our Sunday School and Bible Class youth and our church in general.

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch, Janice Sauder

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” Isaiah 61:10

We rejoice with our new brothers in Christ, Bro. Patrick Simms (Sis. Inga Lelm), Bro. Jacob Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna), and Bro. Trevor Sauder (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jenni), as they have been clothed with the garments of salvation. Visiting ministers that weekend were Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna) and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy) both of Princeville, IL.

We also thank Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL) and Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) for their recent visits. May God richly bless these brothers and their families!

We are listening to the 2018 General Conference individually at home, with a summary given of one topic on recent Sunday afternoons. We have so many reasons to thank God first, and then our faithful elder brothers for their prayerful time spent preparing these messages. May we apply these lessons in our lives!

We congratulate Nathan and Laura Johnsen on their marriage of August 25. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Sauder, and Rich and Robin Johnsen of Princeton, IL. May they stay close to the Lord and each other.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently: Bro. Marty and Sis. Karla Rollins and family, at the passing of a dear father and grandfather, Kenny Rollins; and Bro. David and Sis. Eunice Beutel and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel at the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Margaret Fehr (Roanoke, IL). May God comfort them with precious memories.

There are three births to announce! Bro. Trent and Sis. Emily Stuber have a daughter, Tessa Cheyenne. Her brother is Maverick. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber. Bro. Rich and Sis. Carol Sauder welcome another granddaughter, little Annesley Rose. She is the daughter of Bro. Craig and Sis. Camille Steffen (Congerville, IL). Finally, Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Suzanne Aberle have a new son, August Jay. Ava, Wyatt, and Bristol welcome Auggie home; along with grandparents, Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle. God give these parents grace as they nurture and teach their little ones, and someday may they each one serve the Lord also!

For those who are going through the valleys of life, may we all remember where to turn for help in need!

“I will life up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.” Psalm 121:1-3

Illinois, Washington

Lily Pfaffmann, Michelle Braker

We rejoiced this month with Sis. Hannah Hoffstetter and Sis. Sarah Hoffstetter (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Ann Hoffstetter) as they were baptized on September 9. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary; Tremont, IL) assisted with testimonies and baptisms.

Lewis Brooks was born to Warren (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier; Goodfield, IL) and Heather Blunier. He is welcomed by big brothers Henry and Russell.

Our prayers are with those facing loss and health issues. Sis. Kay Monagle’s brother, Ron Plattner, passed away. Bro. Byron Schrock (Sis. Mary) is currently recovering from a stroke he had in August. Bro. Lloyd Moser (Sis. Martha) is also recovering from a stroke he had in early September. Sis. Sophie Huber received a cancer diagnosis. We are prayerful for peace and comfort for her. Bro. Andy Mogler was recently hospitalized and we are praying for his recovery.

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” Psalm 133:1

Our annual church picnic was held on September 9. This was our theme verse for the evening of food and fellowship. It was an appropriate verse to summarize the events that happened that weekend. On that Saturday morning, Bro. Chris Pulver gave an interesting presentation of the history of our original church cemetery. It was a blessing for all who attended. That evening was our annual Chicken BBQ fundraising dinner. The church picnic on Sunday was a great way to conclude the weekend united as a church body.

Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Moser are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Gretchen, to Bro. Aaron Steffen. His parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne. Bro. Dakota Crankshaw (Nathan and Connie Bultemeier) is looking forward to his union with Sis. Paige Markley (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa, Bluffton North). Also, Bro. Drew Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina) is engaged to Sis. Annie Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan) from Silverton, OR. Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda Bertsch welcomed Bro. Tadd Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Suzie) into their family as he married their daughter, Sis. Jessica, on August 12.

We are prayerful for several families who are grieving. Sis. Sarah Reinhard passed away peacefully. She leaves behind a daughter, Sis. Marcia (Bro. Bob) Steffen, and a son, Doyle (Rachel), along with several grandchildren. Bro. Eric Tonner, Sr. met his Lord after a short battle with cancer.

Our sympathy is with his dear wife, Sis. Rhonda, and children, Bro. Eric (Sis. Lanae) and Sis. Beth, as well as the extended family. Our prayers are also with the family of Bro. Ralph Steffen as he passed away recently. His children are Sis. Marlene (Bro. Dean) Vanhorn, Gary (Jodi), Ron (Natalie), Karen (Jeff) Bailey.

We would also like to remember Bro. Clarren Gehring (Sis. Joyce) as he has continuing health struggles.

We extend our thanks to Bro. Leland (Sis. Mary) Plattner of Zapata, TX for travelling and sharing the Word.


The blessing of having a united brotherhood is that we can support one another through both trials and triumphs! To God be the Glory!

Indiana, Bluffton North

Tiffani Schladenhauffen, Corinne Stettner

“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.” Psalms 27:4

Joyfully, Carlos Slater, who has been attending our church services with Bro. Gene Reinhard, made a beginning in his walk with the Lord. Please be prayerful for him on this new journey.
Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Markley announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Paige, to Bro. Dakota Crankshaw. We wish them God’s many blessings together.

Many Sunday School events took place over the last month. Christian Endeavor was held in Leo, IN, this year. Our High School class was so blessed.

Our Kindergarten through 4th grade classes enjoyed their annual picnic at the Fellowship Hall. The children had dinner followed by an exciting evening of outdoor games with their teachers.

We had a wonderful turnout this past Sunday, as our church, along with Bluffton Country, hosted Jr. High ACYF. Bro. John Reinhard spoke on “Standing for Christ”, while Bro. Ryan Bertsch talked about “Resisting the Devil.” Thanks to all who participated and shared the day with us for the sake of our kids.

This year our annual church picnic was moved indoors to Kingdom Academy due to the rain. Despite the weather, the evening was still a success and we were all able to enjoy a wonderful potluck meal, games in the gym, worship, and fellowship together.

For the past seven years, several brothers from our Country and North congregations have been leading a 10-week Discipleship Training Class, which began again in September. They have found this format of sharing and studying scripture, combined with worship, to be effective in becoming a more dedicated Disciple of Christ.

Our prayers are with the Schladenauffen family as our dear Sis. Luella passed away on August 21, at Christian Care Retirement Center. She is survived by three sons: Bro. Gary (Sis. Nancy) of Craigville, IN, Mark (Sue) of South Africa, and Bro. Keith (Sis. Delores) of Francesville, IN.

After a five-month stay at Christian Care, Sis. Phyllis (Bro. Nile) is, thankfully, now at home. Please continue in prayer for her as she works to regain her strength and stability.

Indiana, Francesville
Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber

Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Our dear Sister Maxine (Gutwein) Novotny (Bro. Art) recently went home to be with the Lord. We will miss her gracious and sweet presence, but we rejoice that she is now with Jesus. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Art, who tenderly cared for her, as well as to their three children, Cathy (Jose) Cervantes, Tecate, Mexico, Mark (Kristel) Novotny and Mary Lyn (Bob) Milford, both of Fishers, IN. We also extend sympathy to her large extended family.

Our prayers have been with the following loved ones who have been in the hospital, and have undergone surgeries, treatments or have had other health concerns: Bro. Bob Wuethrich (Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Mildred Clauss, Maxine (Stanley) Boehning and Jennifer Ping (daughter of Virgil and Sharon VonTobel).

The Bible Class, along with teachers, enjoyed a beautiful day of worship and enjoying God’s creation at Turkey Run State Park on a recent Sunday. We pray that these special times will draw each one nearer to our precious Savior!

On a recent Sunday evening, Bro. John Huber shared an informative and inspirational HarvestCall update with all who were able to attend. A warm supper was served, followed by the meeting. We thank Bro. John and Sis. Bev for sharing the day with us.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier

We want to extend our sympathy to Brian, Deann and their girls, Katie and Kara Mustard, on the passing of Brian’s mother, Nancy Pariso (North Judson, IN).

On August 5, a special family dedication service was held to recognize the call and importance of raising our children in truth. The parents and families of the babies born this past year were asked to take responsibility for raising their children in the nurture of a Christian home. The church was asked to be the extended family and adopt each other in the goal of raising our children together in the Lord.

We want to thank Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette) for visiting on August 12 and serving in the ministry.
On August 12, our annual Sunday school picnic was hosted at the home of Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer. The whole church looks forward to an exciting afternoon of fellowship and gearing up for the next school year.

We want to congratulate parents, Mark and Grace Zeller, and siblings, Emmett and Lizzie, on the arrival of a healthy baby girl Elsie Grace Zeller born on August 12. Grandparents are Russel and Debra Moulton (Atlanta, GA) and Sis. Ginny Zeller (late Eric Zeller).

We were blessed to have Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) during the month of August. Bro. Makoto shared the Word on August 19. It was encouraging to hear from both Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna about life and the church in Tokyo on August 29. From what they shared, it was apparent that in spite of cultural differences God is at work there and over all the nations. It was a blessing to spend time with Bro. Makoto, Sis. Anna and their children and in this time realizing the need to pray for one another.

Through the month of August the church has been walking through the book of Nehemiah. It has been encouraging to see how God used Nehemiah to do a great work. He can use each of us if we are willing to be used.

Indiana, LaCrosse

Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank

“No, but he that watereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;” 2 Corinthians 9:10

With harvest coming on quickly, and no doubt in full swing by publishing time, it’s on many of our minds. In looking up some verses about harvest, this one caught my attention. The phrase “increase the fruits of your righteousness” can be translated “increase the harvest of your righteousness”. It is an incredibly encouraging verse, because it states that God provides us everything we need up to and including blessing the fruits of our labors. How many times do we wonder if some good deed or word that we sow will bring forth any spiritual fruit?

Recently, our congregation was blessed with an opportunity to serve a widow in the community who desired to move nearer to her son. It was not an easy task and sometimes it was as hard emotionally as it was physically, as many years of accumulated belongings needed to be sorted through and packed up or discarded. Even after the physical work was done and the truck was loaded, we still recognize that our prayers are needed as we desire her to find Christ as her Savior. This is where 2 Cor. 9:10 comes in. We can and will depend on God to further the work of which He allowed us to be a part, and we know that He is able to bring her to know and serve Him.

A few weeks ago, we enjoyed the annual Stone Soup Supper at Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel’s farm. It was a beautiful evening, and despite weather reports of potential rain, not a drop fell. It was a wonderful gathering of loved ones and acquaintances from not only our own congregation, but from other congregations and the community as well. After a very filling supper, a number of people gathered inside and outside of an empty grain bin to sing hymns. As if that wasn’t enough, when we finished singing, we stepped outside and there was a full rainbow in the east! What a stunning reminder that God keeps His promises.

We continue to hold several of our loved ones up in prayer for healing and strength. Sis. Connie Knobloch spent a few days in the hospital and is back home now. Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary) has also been dealing with an extra health issue. We pray that each of them and each of you can feel God’s nearness and grace in whatever part of the journey you find yourself. His grace is sufficient for every need.

Indiana, Leo

Jan Beer

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also
which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

After a brief illness, Bro. Eric Tonner of Bluffton now “sleeps in Jesus”. He is the father of our Sis. Beth Tonner, who has made Leo her church home for several years. Though it is difficult to part with a parent, Beth wrote, “We are at peace that Dad received his ultimate healing in heaven. As a family, we would appreciate continued prayers as we adjust to our loss.” It is our privilege to pray for this family.

“Marriage is honourable in all ...” Hebrews 13:4

Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier celebrated the marriage of their daughter Carrie to Nathan Pulley on Saturday, September 15. We rejoice that another Christ-centered home is being established! May God bless this dear couple as they serve the Lord together.

“For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 3:13

We trust that our Bro. Jeff Waibel will feel the encouragement of this verse and know that we lift him up to the Father to fulfill the duty of Ordained Deacon. Jeff’s father, Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and his brother-in-law, Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) were in Leo on September 16 for the ordination service. Also serving us on the pulpit that day, were Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI). Our love and prayers are also lifted up for Sis. Margo as she is a support to Jeff and shares in the sacrifice of this work for the Lord. We are thankful for Bro. Lynn Stieglitz to be able to share the load with Jeff. Our prayers continue for these brothers as they feed and care for the flock.

One Wednesday evening a month, we have Family Night. A pizza supper is served from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., then, after quick cleanup, we worship together from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This format allows school-age children and their parents to be able to attend. For the Family Night on September 19, Bro. Jeff Schumacher and Sis. Danielle Sauder gave us a presentation of their trip to Indonesia. AC HarvestCall has had a presence in that area for quite some time, but no medical team has visited in the past decade. Danielle’s sister, Sis. Debbie Sauder from FL, is a medical doctor, so she was also a part of the team that went to the island of Telos. Jeff was charged with surveying the operation of the mission there, and Debbie led a medical team. Danielle was a support to both of them! The report from Jeff and Danielle was very encouraging as far as the mission work being done, but it opened our eyes as to the remoteness of the area, the great effort needed to travel there and the loyalty of the Indonesian people to their own community. We appreciate Danielle and Jeff making our world a bit smaller with their great presentation. We now have another group of people for whom to pray!

If there is anyone who does not believe in modern-day miracles, please come visit us in Leo, IN! There are three men here who have received miracles from the Great Physician. On June 16, these men were hit by a speeding car as they changed a flat tire on a van en route home from the High School Mission Trip. Today these men are walking among us. Yes, they are still in therapy for their injuries, but God has done miracles in their healing. Bro. Jason Kilgus is walking without even a cane! The doctor thinks Jason will need to wait for the plate and screws in his leg to heal for about a year before they can do surgery on his torn knee ligament. That is discouraging news, but Jason has been able to visit some of the job sites of his electrical business and even prepare some estimates. Bro. Mike Klopfenstein is still in a leg brace following his knee surgery, so he relies on crutches to help him walk; but he is no longer in a wheelchair! The knee surgery was deemed successful. I hear he was planning to go back part time to his “computer whiz” job mid-September! Bro. Joe Beer is
still trying to comprehend the miracle of his knee being healed. When he went to the surgeon to schedule the surgery for the various torn ligaments, the doctor examined the injured knee, then he examined the uninjured knee. He was utterly amazed: they were BOTH strong! No knee surgery is needed! At this time, the success of the complicated surgery on his right hand and wrist is not fully known. Therapy is going well, and we trust the Lord to restore as He sees fit. Please, please continue to pray for these men and their families that they can finish strong, that the spirit of discouragement will not overtake them as they endure the painful therapy and the drudgery of it. Even with the miracles witnessed, Satan still tries to tempt them with doubts about their future, their ability to care for their families, etc. We all can come alongside them, lifting them up to the Heavenly Father to nurture unshakeable trust in Him, and give them peace and comfort. Thank you so much for your prayers. God hears and answers. We are humbled.

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel

We have been blessed with many visitors and our church pews were filled on several occasions. A heartfelt thank you goes to Bro. Seth Gerber (Sis. Jodi, Magdalena, MX) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis Jessica, Bluffton North, IN) for their willingness to share God’s message.

On August 26, many responded to invitations for our invite-a-friend weekend. What a pleasure to worship with friends of our friends and witness the interaction. This weekend included Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Jane, Leo, IN) who shared the Word.

On September 2, family gatherings brought visitors to our area. The Manz family from Ohio worshipped with us along with two members of their family serving on the pulpit. Bro. Matt Manz, (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jennifer, Toledo, OH) shared the pulpit with Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Daron Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) who were visiting family here.

On September 9, the Fort Sam Army Reunion was held at Milford. This brought many visitors and four ministers to assist with services. They were Elder Bro. David Graf, (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Frederick Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Mark, Steiner, (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). Bro. Ron Isch, (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) visited family and ministered to us also. This reunion is a special occasion as we remember those of our own who sacrificed and served our country. There is a bond among these brothers that is special and something we will not see repeated now that most of our membership does not serve our county in the military.

A warm welcome goes out to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Alyssa Beer. They moved here in July from Eureka, IL. We are delighted to have them and pray they feel our love. May God’s blessings surround them.

Sis. Nikola Gramm returned after spending time helping in CVE in Magdalena, MX this summer. We are thankful for her safe return and prayerfully wish her a blessed sophomore year at Purdue.

Bro. Abe and Sis. Julie Habegger were blessed with the addition of a girl, Eliana Grace, in September, 2017. It is wonderful to see this family expand as she joins big sister, Brooklyn.

We are pleased to have Sis. Ann Troup (Bro. Bill) feeling well enough to worship with us again. We will continue to keep her in our prayers as she faces more decisions on the pain in her knees.

Our hearts rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman upon hearing the wonderful news of their youngest son, Jake, beginning his repentance. Jake’s home church is West Lafayette, IN, but we still “claim” him as one of our own because he was raised here. May he feel our love and prayerful support as he builds a firm foundation on our Lord Jesus Christ.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth) from Wolcott to help with baptisms this past
month. Also visiting that blessed weekend were ministering Bro. Todd Graff (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN). Many thanks to each one for his and her contributions to our worship and fellowship!

As a result of that baptism weekend, we are thankful to add two new brothers to our church family – Bro. Austin Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Brendan Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise)! May the Lord continue to guide and bless these two young men as they strive to walk closely with Him all the days of their lives.

As we watch the farmers gear up for another harvest, it reminds me of what a brother in Sunday School taught recently. He said that each harvest season truly is a miracle. We almost take it for granted that if we put one “good seed” in the ground, it will just naturally bring forth an ear of corn with hundreds of seeds. How can just one seed multiply like that? Only because it first dies can it bring forth such abundant fruit. Now that “fall is in the air” let’s remember that a bounteous harvest can only happen if we are all first willing to die to ourselves and offer our lives to Christ.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.” Psalm 55:14

May the Lord bless our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) who shared Words of Truth and Life with us from the pulpit this month.

On August 25-26, we enjoyed a Young Group Invite Weekend with greetings from 17 different churches. Our entire church family cheerfully helped to make a blessed time for all.

On September 1, we enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship at the home of Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer. The gathering included some unique horse illustrations given by Dr. Lew Sterrett, The Sermon on the Mount, a meal and singing.

On September 9, we had several couples, including grandchildren, fellowship with us as part of a Ft. Sam Army Reunion. May the Lord bless Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL) for sharing the Good News on that day.

We continue to pray for Sterling Goins, who is on a month-long National Guard deployment to Japan.

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

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

We thank the visitors we have had this past month. We send our greetings to you and your churches. We look forward to fellowship and service with our like-minded brothers and sisters.

Bro. Tim Bucher came up with a great idea. He asked our congregation to start doing a memory verse each month. He gives us a verse to memorize and each Sunday we recite it together. Our memory verse for this month is 2 Thessalonians 3:5, “And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

We had our annual church picnic which was also an invite-a-guest weekend. It was held in Kouts at Drazer Park under the north shelter. Many brought a dish of either vegetables, potatoes or a dessert. The meat and drinks were furnished along with good fellowship, fun and games. Thank you Bro. Kyle and Sis. Lindsey Isch so very much for putting this together.

Congratulations to Bro. Dennis Weiss on his retirement, after 33 years at Kankakee Valley REMC as Chief Executive Officer. May God bless you and keep you on this new adventure He has planned for you.

The ladies sewing group meets once a month. They have been working very hard. Right now they have 2 dozen quilts ready to send to Haiti. Thank you Sis. Sharon Pratt and all the ladies for your service helping others in need.

Continue to pray for Sis. Dawn Ailes. Her heart just can’t seem to stay in rhythm. She will undergo another procedure. Her Mother, Carol Ailes, sure could use some extra prayer dealing with this as well. Don’t forget our Sis. Marguerite and Bro. Bob Hoerr, Bro. Mike Thomas, Bro. Dennis
Weiss and Dale Bucher. Please, it is just as important to pray for one another as well.

**Indiana, West Lafayette**  
**Libby Wahl**

Greetings! After a brief glance at the news, I am relaxing in a quiet place, hunger satisfied and sun beaming. Simple joys are the best. Less can be more.

Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) and Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN) gave us healthy spiritual nourishment this past month.

Our expanding, active Sunday school has moved into new positions after their annual summer picnic.

Hospital patients were Sis. Jan Furrer (Bro. Vernon) and Levi Furrer, son of Mark and Heather. In the valleys, He is able to restore our souls.

We welcome ten new college students. Our current total is down a bit close to 40. A large part of our local fellowship happenings continue to support this group. We also welcome local visitors to our church, some of whom are continuing to worship with us.

Our Sunday afternoon services this school year will be a walk through Galatians and Ephesians.

“I have sent the Lord before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” Ps. 16:8

God knows your situation - whatever you face today, He is not shocked by it. He is not scared or intimidated by it. He is (more than) big enough. - N. Backues

**Indiana, Wolcott**  
**Erica Blume, Teresa Earney**

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) joined our own faithful servants on the pulpit this past month. God will reward them in ways we cannot.

We are thrilled to welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany Drayer and their growing family, formerly from the Bluffton, IN area, to our church congregation! We pray God will bless the transition and our fellowship with them.

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;” Ecclesiastes 12:1

We are thankful to report that Rachel Blume (Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica) has found peace with God and man. Our hearts also continually reach out for all the lost ones who have not yet arrived at this point! May the Spirit ever keep moving in the hearts of men!

In August, our Sunday School invited the church to enjoy a picnic a nearby state park. On September 9, our church was blessed with many visitors for our annual invite-a-guest weekend. Thanks to each one who worshipped with us for that Sunday.

**Iowa, Bloomfield**  
**Kendra Schlatter**

It’s with sadness we laid Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy) to rest. Our prayers are with his dear wife and his family: Bro. Gene (Sis. Lana) Joos, Tammy (Charles) Lucic, Jennifer (Brian) Clifton, Bro. Andy (Sis. Stacy) Joos, and Bro. Jacob (Sis. Sara) Joos.

Ministers present at the funeral were Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), and Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). We thank them for their labors on behalf of the funeral.

We also appreciated having Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) sharing the Word as they were here for the Zapata reunion that was hosted here this month.

We are happy for Heidi Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) who was recently married to Morgan White. May God bless their marriage.

We have been thankful to gather together to hear the conference recordings. We are appreciative of the efforts of our elders.

**Iowa, Burlington**  
**Elaine Eisenmann, Marilyn Anderson**

We wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Bro. Dick) and Bro. Lloyd Massner (Sis. Mary) in the passing of their brother, Bro. Virgil Massner (Sis. Barbara, Mediapolis). May they cherish their precious memories.

We were privileged to have Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis) share the word recently. May God bless him for his service.

The members of our church and Mediapolis church, who are
age 70+, were blessed to attend a delicious dinner served at the Oakville Fellowship Center the evening of September 9 by the single members of both churches. It was such a blessing of the blending of the elderly and the youth. May they be richly blessed for their efforts.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz are blessed with a new granddaughter, Adrienne Rose, born September 7, to Laurie Schulz Dotterer and husband Tim of Bloomfield.

Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart’s niece, Ashley Anderson and her two children, Ayanna and Isaiah, have relocated here from Florida. She will continue her classes on-line. We are happy to have them worshipping with us.

We always pray for those who have health issues at this time.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

*Laura Funk*

We are enjoying early fall weather. Some crops have been harvested. The Garden Grove area suffered some rather severe weather. Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser lost part of the roof of their house. Several buildings on their farm were damaged. Some of the corn in the area was blown down making harvest a challenge. We are thankful nobody suffered injuries.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Lowell Moser (Morris, MN), Bro. Tyler Joos (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL). Many loved ones accompanied these brothers. We enjoyed fellowship, food (pizza) and games. We are thankful for traveling mercies for all our visitors.

“Be gone, unbelief, my Saviour is near,
And for my relief will shortly appear
By faith let me wrestle, and He will perform;
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.”

*Zion’s Harp #87 vs. 2*

**Iowa, Elgin**

*Maria Rocke*

We hosted our annual Invite-a-Guest weekend in September. It was a blessing to our small church having visitors come and fellowship for the weekend.

Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN) were here this month. We thank each one for coming and sharing.

**Iowa, Iowa City**

*Diana Butikofer*

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL). May these brothers be blessed for their service.

Also, Bro. Chad Heiniger visited on a Wednesday evening to give a presentation on Gateway Woods. He not only explained the various services offered, but also shared some stories about some of the residents and others impacted by the work there. We appreciated his willingness to come and inform us about the ongoing challenges and blessings at Gateway Woods.

**Iowa, Lester**

*Audrey Metzger, Kristi Knobloch*

A son, Grant David, has brought excitement to the home of Bro. Michael and Ashley Leuthold on August 21. Big sisters, Elizabeth & Alexis, along with grandparents Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold eagerly welcomed him home.

Once again God sent His servants to us as visiting ministers. Elder Bro Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cisnna Park, IL) spent a Sunday with us. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha KS) also ministered to us as he was here spending time with family. How precious it is to be able to hear the same gospel spoken from multiple servants. God has truly blessed us as His people. Bro. Bruce reminded us that we are raised to know God’s commandments, but that doesn’t keep Satan away from us and that we need to recognize the will of God and the sanctification of purification in our lives which enables us to overcome Satan.

Our congregation was blessed with fellowship when families from Latty, Junction and IL spent
Labor Day weekend with us. We were encouraged with friendships renewed and new ones created. Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) shared God's word on Sunday.

“There’s a tie of noble kinship In a soul who loves the Lord, There’s a friendship warm and lasting If he heeds the Master’s Word, There is mutual understanding And a sympathy so kind In the tie of Christian friendship, As on earth we oft-times find.” Christian Friendship, Hymns of Zion #91

Sis. Pat Banwart (Hospital Lumiere, Haiti and West Bend, IA), along with Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Marti and Kary Ann Knoblock told of their experiences while serving on work teams in Haiti. We pray that Sis. Pat feels God’s direction and nearness as she continues to serve at Hospital Lumiere along with many others who had dedicated their time and talents there in that ministry to the Haitian people. We also lift up in prayer, those who faithfully serve in other missionaries across the lands that they may show God’s love through their unselfish service to the poor and needy.

Josh and Cali Metzger were united in marriage on September 15. His parents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn Metzger, are happy to welcome another daughter into their family. Morgan Klostergaard has announced her engagement to Jake Newborg. Her parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Linda Klostergaard. May God watch over these two couples’ lives and homes.

Surgical patients who spent time in the hospital were Bro. Marv Metzger (Jolene), Chase TerWee (Chad and Sandy) and Sis. Kathy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch). There are many others who continue to battle body ailments and the treatments and procedures that go along with it. Our prayers continue to go before God for each of them.

**Iowa, Mediapolis**

Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz

“Now the field is ripe for harvest; Let us then all garner in.”

Who can refrain from humming a few notes of The Golden Harvest from the Hymns of Zion as we view the beauty of nature this time of the year? We surely can see the handiwork of God as the world around us turns the lovely shades of autumn.

Our Sis. Luanne Beyer is relocating to the Sabetha, KS to be close to her family. We will miss Sis. Luanne who has been such a steadfast and faithful sister in her journey of life here. We know God will continue to be with her as she makes the adjustment to a new church family and community.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary Larson in the passing of Mark’s brother, Jim. May special memories be a comfort to him in the days ahead.

Our church gathered together on Saturday, September 8 to lay to rest a dear brother in church, Bro. Virgil Massner. We will miss Bro. Virg who never knew a stranger and always looked at life on the bright side. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Barbara, and 4 children: Sis. Kathryn (Bro. Rob, Morris, MN), Todd (Kim, Morris, MN), Bro. Troy (Sis. Joni) and son Taylor as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We were thankful to have Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) visit our pulpit this past month. May God bless him for being a willing servant.

**Iowa, West Bend**

Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart

We remember Jonah Fehr (Sis. Emma) and Sis. Marvella Wickman (Bro. Larry) in our prayers as they have recently spent time in the hospital.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) for being here and ministering God’s Word.

As I write this, the conditions outside are wet and the earthly harvest has been put on hold. Are we ready and waiting for that Heavenly harvest or are we praying God will put His return or our life’s end on hold?

**Japan, Tokyo**

Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

After a very warm and humid summer we appreciate cooler evenings and signs of the fall season.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1.
As we could listen to the deliberations of the 2018 Brotherhood Conference we were thankful for all the teachings given in every message and song, and the Gridley church for providing for such a large group.

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki, who is one of our shut-ins, remains the same as he is lovingly cared for at the Salvation Army Nursing Home.

We enjoyed a day of church cleaning on a holiday this month. Our lunch that day was grilled sanma, a fish that is in season at this time. We were very thankful all who helped with the cleaning jobs.

Bro. Akihiro Ito shared about Jesus’ eternal nature at our monthly ladies meeting. We continue to pray for the seeds sown.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

Our congregation thanks the visiting ministers who shared with us this past month. Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS).

Kansas, Fort Scott
Maria Bahr

“There shall be showers of blessing; This is the promise of love; There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above.”

Although lyricist Daniel Webster Whittle (1840-1901) penned the words to “There Shall be Showers of Blessings,” Whittle’s journey to becoming a Christian was marked with personal difficulty. As a Union soldier during the Civil War, Whittle was wounded and captured during the battle of Vicksburg, and, as a result of his injuries, lost his right arm above the elbow. During his recovery, Whittle found the New Testament his mother had packed in his rucksack, and he began reading daily. When a dying young soldier asked an orderly for Whittle to pray for him, Whittle’s first thought was, “How can I pray for him when I’m not a Christian?” Nevertheless, Whittle complied and found his own showers of blessing. Whittle explained, “I dropped on my knees, and held the boy’s hand in mine. In a few broken words, I confessed my sins, and asked Christ to forgive me. I believe then and there that He forgave me of my sins. I then prayed earnestly for the boy. He became quiet and pressed my hand as I prayed for him, and he pleaded for God to save him. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God, who used him to bring me to the Savior, used me to lead him to trust Christ’s precious blood, and find pardon. I hope to meet him in heaven.” This experience marked the beginning of Whittle’s evangelistic efforts that culminated in the production of over 200 beloved hymns (Source: Shiver, “There Shall be Showers of Blessing”).

On July 28 and July 29, our small congregation experienced those promised showers of blessing from our Savior with the testimonies and baptisms of Ben Fischer (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Gloria) and Benjamin Banwart (Bro. Trent & Sis. Kristi). Assisting with the testimonies and baptisms were Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and visiting Elder Bros. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. John Lehman (Kiowa, KS). Bros. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA), and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jody, Wichita, KS) were also with us for the weekend. We appreciated the messages they brought to our congregation, and we welcome our two new brothers in faith.

We pray for the Holy Spirit’s peace and comfort upon Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick) and family in the recent loss of Sis. Karen’s beloved mother, Sis. Hazel Geyer (Peoria, IL). Our congregation enjoyed many visits from Sis. Hazel over the years. We were refreshed by the blessings of her lively, encouraging presence, unswerving faith, and engaging smile. Like Daniel Webster Whittle, we hope someday to meet Sis. Hazel and other loved ones in heaven.

“There shall be showers of blessing, if we but trust and obey; There shall be seasons refreshing, if we let God have His way.”

Kansas, Kiowa
Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

I came across a prayer a while back, and read it often to start my day, so decided to share:
Prayer of Relinquishment
“Today, O Lord, I yield myself to you. May your will be my delight today. May your way have perfect sway in me. May your love be the pattern of my living. I surrender to you my hopes, my dreams, my ambition. Do with them what you will, when you will, as you will. I place into your loving care my family, my friends, my future. Care for them with a care that I can never give. I release into your hands my need to control, my craving for status, my fear of obscurity. Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish your kingdom on earth. For Jesus sake Amen.” -author unknown

As our precious children head back to school, we do pray for God’s care, keeping, guidance and protection from the temptations they may face every day. This includes our college students as the pressures are even greater for them at this higher level.

We are so thankful that Sis. Gay Farney is again with us after her heart procedure. Little Emma Schupbach (Bro. Matt and Sis. Courtney) is finally doing better after her surgery. We are grateful that God (our great Physician) gives healing hands to our doctors and nurses, that they may help so many helpless. We are a truly blessed generation.

Our High School Bible Class traveled to the Fort Scott, KS area to share in the Youth Fellowship get together. Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri churches are all invited to share in this yearly weekend as different churches from those areas act as sponsors. We are thankful for their safe travels.

We had the privilege of having several elder brothers this month. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was with us twice. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was with us as was Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Gridley/Lamont, KS). May God bless them for giving of their time to come and share God’s Word and fellowship with our small congregation.

“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne. Hymns of Zion #106

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley

Dorene Metzger

Our church was blessed with a good amount of guests for Labor Day weekend. Among them were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis, Jodi, Wichita, KS).

Bro. Cory read Ezra 1 where King Cyrus is told by God to build a house for God in Jerusalem. This was a labor of Love and Obedience. Bro. Roger read Isaiah 55 describing how we are to love God with obedience. He reminded us “To LOVE, you must have TIME”.

We have been having grey; rainy (but needed) days and sometimes we are ungrateful and moody during this kind of weather. During a recent sermon we were asked the question, “When I don’t work well and am ungrateful, am I solar powered?” These were good takeaways for us to ponder and work on.

Arlan Stoller has peace as is evidenced by his peaceful smiling look. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in November.

Our High School SS students and Bro. Michael and Sis. Julie Luthi joined other Kansas church kids for a bus trip to Denver, CO for a weekend of fellowship. Thank you, Denver church, for your kind efforts.

I hope you will bear with me a bit as I write the following. The editors of the Silver Lining asked for ways of grieving. This is somewhat connected to that request.

September 18 my son would have been 55 yrs. old. This was one of numerous “First’s” for our family. Grief comes differently for each of us—but it comes—sometimes softly and creeping up on us and sometimes it’s a storm of weeping and real sadness. Remembering special times spent together—favorite songs and scriptures—favorite foods and activities can bring sadness close...
to those of us who remain here. But solace comes thru the Word as well as thru families and friends who share memories with us. Some scriptures that have (and had) affected our family during the time of illness and grieving are 11 Samuel 12:22-23, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 6:19, and Rev. 22:1-5.

Don’t be afraid to call or write to us who are sad about your memories and your caring. Sadness still can come, but knowing others have special memories is very healing, at least to me, especially when you share God’s Word.

Having heard from my son of his peace with God and his readiness to meet his Maker was a supreme gift. So, we rest in the redemptive power of the Blood of Christ and the grace and mercy of our Supreme God and Heavenly Father—greatly comforted when memories and loss visit us once again.

Kansas, Sabetha

Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter

“Behold Jesus, He was humble; He exalted not Himself; He was gracious, loving, gentle, Asked no honor and no wealth; In Him dwelt no vain ambition, Nor a boasting disposition; So He calls to me and thee: ‘Learn humility from Me!’”

Zion’s Harp #186, vs. 2

Greetings of love from the Sabetha brethren!

We were thankful to have one visiting minister this month, Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL). We always appreciate those who are willing to stand and speak from God’s Holy Word.

On September 2, we were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jacob Hartter (Bro. David & Sis. Beth) to Sis. Rachel Fehr (Bro. Todd & Sis. Cynthia). We know they appreciate the prayers of the church as they take this step of faith into the first chapter of their life together.

We were blessed to come together the weekend of September 8 & 9 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Brother Mark Metzger (Bro. Doug & Sis. Betty). Since Bro. Mark is deaf, we were able to hear him speak his heart to the church through some dear sisters who were willing to sign and translate. What a blessing to be reminded of God’s goodness through the eyes of a man who cannot hear. We were thankful to have Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) with us Saturday evening to assist with this.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Florence Meyer and her family as her brother, Lyle Steiner of Pasadena, CA, passed away. May she feel the love and prayers of the church in this time of her loss.

We are always encouraged to hear of converts who have found peace with God and man. May we remember our convert Ashely Grimm (Bro. Darin & Sis. Marci) in our prayers as she looks forward to becoming a sister in Christ.

México, Barra Vieja

Alisha Ramirez

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

Matias Angelito has been fighting illness this month. At the beginning of the month she was in the hospital with kidney failure and underwent multiple dialysis treatments. She is home recovering now, but is still very weak.

We ask for continued prayers for Areli Ramirez as she is in rehab. Her family was able to visit with her this month, and she seems to be in good spirits. It is our prayer that Areli would turn to the Lord and let Him lead and guide her.

“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” Isaiah 64:8

It is with heavy hearts we bid farewell to Sis. Alisha Ramirez and her children, Juana and Tim. They have made the difficult decision to move back to Illinois at this time. Please be prayerful for their family as they leave behind husband/dad, Endi Ramirez. They hope to be reunited as a family state side in January 2019.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the
swelling thereof. Selah.” Psalm 46:1-3

**México, Magdalena**  
*Laura Ricketts Aviña*

Judah Lee James arrived on September 3 and was welcomed by his parents, Bro. Adam and Sis. Jenna Leman, two older sisters, Violet and Willow and foster siblings: Fernanda, Perla, Leo, and Mili. May God bless their family with great joy and many special times together!

On September 9, we rejoiced with Sis. Laura Ricketts and Bro. Miguel Aviña as they became one in the Lord. We were blessed with many visitors for the weekend and thank Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest) for sharing God’s word.

We are thankful to welcome Bro. Scott Kieser (Morton, IL) into our fellowship. May he feel God’s strength as he adjusts to the community here and travels to language school later this year.

When we face failure and temptation, we often decide to “try harder” in the struggle. Recently in a sermon, we were challenged to ask ourselves, “Why is this such a strong temptation to me?” Often we will discover at the root of our struggle a lie that must be replaced with truth. Replacing the lie of “I need this [the idol] to be happy” with “God is sufficient for complete joy and fulfillment” will destroy Satan’s attack against us.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth…” Ephesians 6:14

**Michigan, Alto**  
*Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb*

An elderly sister watched a young father take his two-year-old son out of church a few times one Sunday morning. This sister had to think back to the number of times she too made that same walk while hearing the child yell “No, No, No!” After lunch she saw that little boy running around and stopped to ask him, “What happened this morning honey?” His sad reply was, “I made some bad choices.”

“Do we always make the right choices?  
Do we seek to know God’s will?  
Do we think about the consequences when our own way we want or fill?  
Do we give excuses or justify the choices we oft times make?  
Do we take into consideration how our choices affect another’s sake?  
Do we start out taking little liberties thinking they aren’t that big a deal?  
Do we think about our life’s end result and how we might then feel?  
Let us be willing to love one another while to our own convictions stay true.  
No matter the choices we choose to make, know you’ll answer for only YOU.” -ibG.res

We were blessed and inspired to hear two mission-based presentations. Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders brought us up-to-date on what is happening where they serve in Haiti. It was wonderful to have them home for a few months. Bro. Matt and Sis. Janelle Steidinger and their oldest daughter Mariah showed us what they are being led to do in Brazil. Both evenings were special and we learned a bit about how others do without what we think is necessary. May these missionaries and so many more who are serving those in need and sharing the gospel in foreign lands know that we love you and continue to pray for you.

Our prayers and condolences go out to Sis. Joan Schrenk (Bro. Tom) as her sister Nina Likens passed away. We also extend these prayers and condolences to Laurie Blough (Gary) as her mother Glenda Young was laid to rest.

What a blessing it was to host Michigan Youth Day this year. Our slim group of teens greatly enjoyed many more joining them for soup packing and various fun activities. We are thankful for the two visiting ministers who taught the truth of God’s Word for this special weekend: Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN) and Bro. Josh Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN). We also thank Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH) for visiting and bringing forth the Word as he was led by the Holy Spirit.

Farewells are never easy and it certainly wasn’t when we said our goodbyes to Bro. Dustin Isch who finished his schooling here and moved back home to Bluffton. We pray he will continue to seek guidance through the Holy Spirit as he follows the path God has for him. It seems our hearts break...
a little bit each time Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie head back to Haiti, but we know they are being led and guided through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Quite a few were hospitalized or ill this past month and our prayers have been lifted on their behalf. May our loving Father continue to touch and heal not only those with physical ailments, but also those with a broken spirit.

**Michigan, Bay City**

*Sarah Knochel*

At the end of August, we hosted an Invite-a-Friend weekend in conjunction with our Sunday School Picnic. Weekends like this are special for Bay City as we have many visitors and are able to renew friendships with brothers and sisters from near and far. We are thankful that Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larissa, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) were able to minister on Sunday.

September 22-23, we had a beautiful weekend sharing in the testimony and baptism of Jeanette Waibel. We are thankful that Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) was able to participate in the weekend with us.

As the effects of autumn start to show, we are reminded of the many changes we encounter throughout our life. We know and can praise God that in the end, Jesus love and promises remain the same.

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”* Heb. 13:8

**Michigan, Detroit**

*Carrie Ramseyer*

Darkness settled in the forest as the travelers prepared for their journey. Flashlights in hand, they wandered down the uneven dirt path. Stealth was not the aim of the journey - conversation was upbeat and loud. Considering the group was comprised mostly of children, this did not come as a surprise. The walk through the woods was part of the annual Father/Child Camp Out, a night where fathers and children from the Detroit congregation spend a night out in the woods of Michigan. With a campfire, games, s'mores, and a devotion, the Camp Out is one of the favorite Detroit activities of the fall.

This month was particularly busy for the Detroit Sunday School. As stated above, the annual Father/Child Camp Out took place. Students from 7th-12th grades travelled to our congregation in Alto, MI, to partake in Michigan Youth Day, a weekend of activity and unity of the AC Michigan Sunday Schools. At the end of September, the annual Sunday School picnic was held at a local park. To the disappointment of a few, the waterscape is not open past Labor Day.

During Wednesday night services, the congregation has been lead through the Bible Study by ACCFS entitled “Resilience”. Consisting of 3 lessons, we learned how to be resilient in our Christian walk, even if the circumstances are mundane or challenging. Praise God that His strength is made perfect in our weakness, and that we can be renewed daily by Him (2 Cor. 12:9, 2 Cor. 4:16).

We would like to thank Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) of Bay City, MI, for hosting church services at Woodhaven.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Our blessed group of brothers and sisters were able to hear the testimony of John and Debbie Berglund on Saturday evening, August 25. Our congregation witnessed John's baptism and a consecration prayer for both of them on Sunday. We are so thankful that God lead Bro. John and Sis. Debbie to our church and for their desire to be part of our Family.

We are so thankful that Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Julie, Mediapolis, IA) was here with us to assist in the testimony and baptisms for Bro. John and Sis. Debbie and to bring us God’s message at the pulpit. We appreciated Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie’s loving kindness.

Our precious children and students are back in Sunday school for the year. We are so thankful for our Sunday school teachers, Bro. Matt Saurer, Bro. Ben Dill, Bro. Kent Mogler, Sis. Connie Bergstrom, and Sis. Claire Dill for their dedication to teaching our children the Word of God.

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf*

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) worship with
us. We are thankful for his continued willingness helping shepherd our congregation.

We pray for the elderly and those suffering in our congregation. Please say a special prayer for Bro. Chris Moser and his health issues.

Our dear Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall has passed from this life to eternity. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) was here for the funeral service. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family.

“Precious memories, unseen angels, Sent from somewhere to my soul; How they linger, ever near me, And the sacred past unfold. Precious memories, how they linger, How they ever flood my soul. In the stillness of the midnight, Precious, sacred scenes unfold.” Gospel Hymns #408a

Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger

Our summer has sped by quickly and we are, once again, immersed in the sights, sounds, and activities of fall. Our annual Sunday School kickoff was held September 9. The children, young adults, and teachers have begun their new year of Sunday School. We are praying for the teachers and the students, that much learning and spiritual growth will take place this year.

Our prayers and praise are lifted to God, that Noell Scheiler has found peace and is looking forward to baptism. Also, that Blake Hengten has surrendered his life to God and is allowing Him to make it new.

Our thanks go out to our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) for sharing the Word. We are grateful for the effort on our congregation's behalf. We have started listening to the Conference recordings and, once again, are grateful for the many elders that labor tirelessly for us.

Our prayers continue for our Bro. Brian Moser as he battles pancreatic cancer. May God bless him with comfort and strengthen as those of us around him offer to be hands and feet of Jesus for him.

Acts 16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:” This verse is so remarkable to me in that Paul and Silas were in a terribly hard spot and they prayed, but they also sang praises. A fellow believer recently shared that our praises become a conduit for God’s grace to pour down upon us. Prayer quickly becomes a refuge for us in the hard spots of life. Let’s remember to praise Him too.

Minnesota, Winthrop
Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt

“Jesus loves me! He who died.
Heaven’s gate to open wide!
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Jesus, take this heart of mine;
Make it pure, and wholly Thine;
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for Thee.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!”
Hymns of Zion #176 vs. 3 & 4

We are so thankful to welcome our new Sis. Sierra Schmidt (Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena) as she was baptized on August 26. We appreciate Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) who came to assist our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) with this joyous occasion. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Todd Graff (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) who also lent themselves on the pulpit that weekend.

Sunday School once again has started and the teachers and children went on a bike ride and had pizza Sunday afternoon in New Ulm to start the year. Bro. Jerry Messner (Sis. Brenda) was also given the responsibility of teaching. Superintendent responsibilities fell on Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) for this school year. Our prayers and support are with the teachers as they strive to plant the seeds of truth in these young and tender hearts.

Our prayers for Thomas Stoll (Bro. Ed & Sis. Ginny) and Maddy Elder (Bro. John and Sis. Joleen) as they enter their freshman year at college and start the next chapter of their lives. May they allow God to guide their paths.

“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me, A sinner condemn’d, unclean.
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be;
How marvelous! How wonderful
Is my Saviour’s love for me!”
Hymns of Zion #174 vs. 1
We rejoice when a soul expresses the need for repentance. Betty Milam (Bro. Ed Stoll’s mom) and Stephanie Ann Stoll (Trey, Sarasota, FL) have started on their journey of walking with the Lord.

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”
Numbers 6:24-26

Our prayers are with Michael Stoll (Bro. Ed & Sis Ginny) as he has started basic training for the Army in OK. We pray for his safe return.

Hospital patients this month are Sis. Dorothy Jacobson, Wayne Waugh (Colleen) and Bro. Darrell Schmidt (Darlene). Bro. Darrell had an accident which involved losing and reattaching a few of his fingers. We pray for their continued healing.

Missouri, Kansas City

Julie Webel
This past month we have enjoyed a few pot luck suppers with many visitors which included our annual Sunday School picnic with the Fort Scott congregation. It was a blessed evening of fun and fellowship for all who attended. We had a farewell singing for Kaitlyn Donahue who is now attending school in California for her senior year of high school. We are sad to see her go, but pray for God’s protection and that this coming school year will be a blessing in her life.

Missouri, Lamar

Mindy Wettstein
Once again, we were blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers this month! Special thanks to Bro. Josh Johnson (Sis. Bethany and family, Wichita, KS), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea and family, Remington, IN), Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS), Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT).

Ten singles made the effort to join us for an invite September 15-16. With the extra youthful willingness, we were able to hold work projects to give two individuals in our community a “hand up”. We trust that the name of Jesus was glorified, and are thankful for the sweet fellowship of believers.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti celebrated a milestone event, celebrating 70 years of marriage! With the help of his children, Bro. Dale visits his wife multiple times a week, as she resides in a nursing home. Thank you for demonstrating such a testimony of faithfulness to each other and to God!

Missouri, Taylor

Lori Marquart
Sunday, August 26, Taylor was blessed with the opportunity to host the wedding of Bro. Landon Wuethrich & Sis. Hannah Walker of the St. Louis congregation. Greetings were extended by many guests who attended including those who also served on the pulpit: Bro. Landon’s uncle, Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis), and Bro. Landon’s father, Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago).

Love was in the air on this day as two engagements were made known! Bro. Tyler Haerr (Bro. Shon & Sis. Peg) is engaged to Sis.
Miranda Schlipf (Bro. Jake & Sis. Amy, Gridley). A wedding date of December 2 is planned. Also announced was the engagement of Bro. Kyle Grimm (Bro. Don & Sis. Tricia) to Sis. Devan Cargill (Bro. Dan & Sis. Stephanie, Prescott). Their wedding date is yet to be determined. “...for they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24. Be prayerful that these God-honoring marriages will allow this oneness to so envelop their hearts and lives, that Satan cannot find any room to come between them.

Thank you Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington) who traveled to be with us on Wednesday, September 5, to speak on the topic of “A Dying Man’s Last Words.” It was a beautiful reminder of our Savior’s love for us as He gave His all on the cross.

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

Brendan Massner (Bro. Chad & Sis. Lisa) has confessed his belief and has expressed that he has peace and desires baptism. October 20 is reserved for his testimony of the change that Jesus has made in his life. Austin & Joanna Yackley will also give their testimony on that date.

Kyle Melroy, who is a special friend and former foster child to Bro. Jim & Sis. Kris Sutter, had thyroid surgery to remove cancer. We are thankful he is on the road to recovery!

“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.”

Hymns of Zion, #156

Farewell to Sis. Ariel Libmann who has moved to be with her family in the Columbia, TN area.

Sympathy is extended to these, who lost a loved one recently: Tom Young (Sis. Jolene) whose grandfather Elmer Stoller passed; Bro. Allen Massner (Sis. Rosie) who said farewell to his brother, Bro. Virgil (Sis. Barb, Mediapolis); and Bro. Ron Joos passed away (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA). We mourn with this family who lived in Taylor previously and especially with their children who still make Taylor their home church, Chuck & Tammy Lucie, Sierra, Alexis, and Courtney.

Reed Jacob Lindberg entered this world on September 11. Reed’s parents are Bro. Ben & Sis. Anneliese. Grandparents are Richard & Julie Lindberg, Roanoke, and Jacob & Wanda Hoerr, Phoenix.

“A baby fills a place in your heart that you never knew was empty.” –Unknown

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Karen Farney

“Rest from your labors on this holy day, And give thanks to God, He is the ruler of the earth and sea, Is our mighty God, He will shield you from all danger, Therefore will we trust in Him.”

Rest From Your Labors, Hymns of Zion #293

August 26, Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus from Remington, IN was with us and shared the message that our mighty God had for us for the day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Celia Virkler in the loss of her brother-in-law.

Also our prayers were with Sis. Lois Virkler who was hospitalized for a few days. We are thankful she is back in her home.

Aren’t we so thankful for this avenue of prayer. That we can bow our heads, close our eyes and fold our hands and pray to our almighty God for whatever reason. Then we later can see the answer.

We had three evenings of being together and listening to the conference exhortations. We thank the brothers who brought the message of Hope of the Gospel, The Good News of Jesus Christ. All were truly inspired by His Spirit.

You can slowly see the changing of the seasons here. Summer is coming to an end and fall is starting to show its beauty. Oh, just to set and take the time to see the handy work of our Lord and Savior.

“All things bright and beautiful, All Creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful The Lord God made them all.” Creation, Hymns of Zion, #207

Ohio, Akron

Joelle Indermuhle

Rejoicing with the angels in heaven, we would like to share that Sanyi Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi) has begun his repentance.

Bro. Aaron Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), Bro.
Nathan Botosan (Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy) and Sis. Bethany Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona) were baptized into the fold. Visiting ministers sharing in this joyous occasion include Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman), and Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman).

Matthew Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) and Nathan Graf (Bro. Dan and Sis. Rosanne) were announced for peace.

Bro. Christopher and Sis. Joelle Indermuhle are thankful for the safe arrival of Titus Lee on September 17. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle and Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois Maibach (Rittman).

Ohio, Columbus

Nancy Banks

May God richly bless each minister who visited us this month. We are thankful for Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We thank you for preaching the Word.

September 9 was our College Welcome Day and for the first time we were faced with inclement weather for our picnic. However, the decision was made to hold it at our church and everyone was thankful to be inside and dry! We especially enjoy meeting our new students and their families. This year we welcome: Scott Wenninger, Kalin Gerber and Leah Sinn from Latty; Clint Gasser, Riley Steiner, Chase Gasser, Leah Tieche, and Tyler Atanasov from Rittman; Mason Indermuhle, Sardis; Zach Steiner, Smithville; Margie Dawson, Mansfield and Karl Rassi, Chicago, IL. We welcome each one, whether you are a new or returning student, and pray for God’s blessings as you continue your schooling!

With joy and thankfulness, we were invited to Rittman to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Riley Steiner, currently an OSU student. What a wonderful way to start his final year of college.

Ohio, Latty

Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

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

Our church was blessed to be able to partake of Holy Communion this month. As we spent time in preparation, we were exhorted to look three ways: backward - to the cross and Jesus’ suffering for us, forward - to the time when we can share it anew with Him in Heaven, and inward - to examine ourselves in the light of the Bible and ensure that we are walking righteously with God. It is so worth it to be in tune with Him, to be free from the world and sin, and to be ready to go at any point when He would call. We were thankful for the willingness of Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria) to share this special weekend.

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and their family as their son Arlen has peace by big sisters, Rebeka and Natalie, along with her grandparents Sis. Verginia Manz and Mike and Deb Mericle of Paulding. Aaron and Jerickah Manz were thankful for the safe arrival of Arabella Ruth Marie, born on September 18. Her grandmother is Sis. Verginia Manz. We pray that God will bless these young families with wisdom as they raise their children.
We bid farewell to Bro. Zach and Sis. Claire Sinn as they move to Bradford, IL. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they fellowship there.

Tyler Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane) has begun his repentance. We rejoice with Tyler and lift him up in prayer as He allows God to work His work of conversion.

Our church had many opportunities for fellowship this month. We were visited by ministering Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ). We extend our heartfelt thanks to them and to God. Our brethren in Lester, IA, invited Latty and Junction churches to come for Labor Day weekend. Two bus loads enjoyed safe travels, fellowship, singing, and encouragement. Later in the month, we enjoyed our Sunday School Picnic. Brothers and sisters gathered from Latty, Junction, and Leo for a Zion’s Harp recording. We are so richly blessed!

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

We are excited for Quinton and Makenzie Foss as they welcome Natalie Renee into their lives. Thankful grandparents are Brian and Danyelle Sauder and Rick and Sis. Susan Foss. It is a wonderful blessing to experience new life. May each one find the grace to care for and diligently raise this gift from God!

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Jerry Robson, brother of our Sis. Joy Sauder (Bro. Dave). We keep Sis. Joy and her family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God comfort each heart.

We appreciated a recent visit from several traveling couples, including Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol) from Belvidere, IL. May God richly bless him for his willingness to serve us over the pulpit. It is always uplifting to enjoy the fellowship of brethren from near and far.

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

Today is an era of good feelings, as folks seek comfort from food, homes, health, and happiness. These are certainly things to be thankful for…but have we considered the life of the Apostle Paul? Besides his pain and imprisonment, notice how he allowed God to use the tough parts of life. In Corinth, Paul used the “speaking in tongues” controversy to lead into writing the Love Chapter (1 Corinthians 13). In Galatia, Paul used the debate over the Jewish law, to record for us the Fruit of the Spirit. Then, after years of service, while facing a painful death, Paul provides us with a confident conclusion each one of us can strive toward, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim. 4:7).

We rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Bailey Stoller to Bro. David Brummitt (Bastrop, TX). Her parents are Bro. Tony & Sis. Cherie. His parents are Bro. David & Sis. Shella Brummitt. As this journey unfolds, we pray they may use this new relationship for God’s glory.

Baby Will Isaac Kipfer was born on September 4 to Bro. David & Sis. Roxanne Kipfer. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jon & Sis. Suzanne Kipfer, and Bro. Joe & Sis. Ann Gerber. Welcoming a new grandson are Bro. Eric & Sis. Melanie Stoller, as baby Daxon James Stoller (August 31) joined the family of Bro. Joel & Sis. Haley Stoller (Smithville) and big brother Zayden. Bro. Glen & Sis. Lois Maibach rejoice with the safe arrival of their first grandson on September 17, Titus Lee Indermuhle, along with his parents Bro. Christopher & Sis. Joelle Indermuhle (Akron, OH). We cannot see the path ahead of these young children, but we have confidence in the Lord’s ability to provide wisdom to their parents.

It was a special weekend for our congregation when we welcomed five new souls into the fold through baptism: Bro. Baylor Hartzler (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Sue), Bro. Brandon Luginbuhl (Ted & Stephanie), Bro. Riley Steiner (Bro. Rod & Sis. Jill), Bro. Reed Steiner (Bro. Rod & Sis. Jill), and Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Nate & Sis. Anita). We give God the honor for calling and converting these precious souls. Hard times will face all believers, but grace is promised to the humble.

The final battle has been won
by two souls who both were in their 90s. Bro. Andy Maibach passed away on August 27, and will be missed by many, including his children: Shirley (Thomas) Simonson, Sis. Peggy (Greg) Tieche, Gerry Maibach, and Ivan Maibach, and many descendants. On September 5, Sis. Ellen Hess entered eternity, leaving behind sons: Jerry Hess, Dan (Pat) Hess; and daughters: Debbie (Terry) Boreman, and Sandi Watson. This final battle is painful for those left behind, but we can rejoice with their victories gained.

For many, trials come to our physical health, or the health of those we love. We offer prayers for Sis. Doris Stoller, who has spent time in the hospital this past month. May we give earnest prayer for those hurting, that God would grant them peace in the midst of trial.

We are so grateful for willing brothers who visited us this past month, sharing in the spoken Word. We thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Bro. Nathan Rassi (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Joel Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). As trials come, may the believer continue to find faith by the hearing of the Word.

Ohio, Sardis
Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle

We are rejoicing as Kaitlyn Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) has professed a desire to make a change in her life and serve the Lord. We are humbled and thankful to see those in their youth still desiring to live for Christ. We praise Him for continuing to extend His grace to all.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier are thankful for the safe arrival of grandchild Lettie Ramsier, daughter of Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier, currently living in the Dominican Republic. Big siblings Oliver and Elana are thrilled to have a little sister!

We thank Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) for preaching the Word during a visit on a Sunday afternoon. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

“Awake, the soul’s first inspiration; Let watchmen stand before the temple door! With constant zeal and firm devotion, Against the enemy they do implore. Their pealing calls throughout the world resound; Salvation, Lord, in Thee alone is found. The promise of true pastors given; Hearts like Thine own do Thou in them instill. Thy holy Word was never broken; We know that Thou this promise wilt fulfill. The enemies before Thy hand shall fall; Thou art forever King and Lord of all.” Zion’s Harp #111

In September our congregation hosted a special weekend that many of us had never experienced before. Our elder brother and his wife, Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle, have served us faithfully for almost 24 years. Words cannot express our gratitude for the time, energies and personal sacrifice they have invested in the work of guiding souls for the glory of Christ. So now, possibly for the first time in the Sardis church’s history, we have had a succession of elders as an ordination service was held for Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer. We fervently pray for the strength of God’s guiding hand upon them and their family as Bro. Bob takes this position of service and leadership.

We are thankful for all those who made the effort to travel to support us for the ordination weekend. We want to especially remember those who helped with the exhortation. Elder Bros. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) spoke of the responsibilities of not just the church elder, but also of his family, and of the other ministers, and of the entire congregation to all help and support each other. Also helping with the weekend was Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Phil Stettnern (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). May God bless the work and the words of this special service and event.
Ohio, Smithville
Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich

Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy Dotterer were blessed twice this month with the birth of two new grandchildren. Bro. Warren and Sis. Erica Stoller welcomed Kori Lynn into their home. Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller are thankful for another grandchild. Daxon James was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Hailey Stoller. His big brother Zayden is happy for a future playmate. Grandparents Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman, OH) also welcome this little one.

We are prayerful for Sis. Janet Indermuhle, Sis Carol Miller and Deanna Gold who each spent time in the hospital this month. Our congregation also has loved ones with serious medical issues and we pray for them and their families as they receive treatment.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
Psalm 46:1

Ohio, Toledo
Brooke Harmon, Alisia Schlatter

“Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” Hebrews 1:3-5.

Visiting minister Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) recently read these verses. He also issued a challenge to research the Seraphim and Cherubim to eliminate any misconceptions and gain a deeper appreciation for these magnificent, heavenly beings.

The Seraphim, or Seraphs, mean burning ones and they fly above God’s throne. “Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isaiah 6:2-3. Their duty appears to be to offer continual glory and praise to the King of Kings.

The cherubim, or cherub, are often inaccurately portrayed as cute little baby angels. This is far from the truth as these angels are in fact mighty guardians. “So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Genesis 3:24. Ezekiel witnessed these creatures in a vision and gives an account. He described the cherubim as living creatures with four faces: man, lion, ox (replaced by cherub in chapter 10), and eagle (Ezekiel 1:10). They each possessed the figure and hands of men (Ezekiel 1:5,8) and had four wings. Two of these wings covered their bodies, two extended upward (Ezekiel 1:11), and the sound of their wings was like many waters or the sound of a great host (Ezekiel 1:24). The appearance of these beings was like burning coals of fire and they moved with great speed, like a flash of lightning (Ezekiel 1:13-14). The cherubim did not turn as they changed directions, but always went straight forward (Ezekiel 1:9,17; 10:11). They traveled on what Ezekiel described as a wheel in the middle of a wheel (1:16). These wheels, in addition to the bodies, backs, hands, and wings, were full of eyes (Ezekiel 10:12).

While this account seems strange and hard to understand, I truly believe it is just one of the many things we can’t fully comprehend until we get to heaven. What is so humbling is that God has chosen us to be His children, something He never offered to these incredible beings. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” Romans 8:14-17

We have truly been given a priceless gift and are so loved.

For the Toledo news, Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager were returning home from vacation,
but were forced to stop in Jackson, WY where Bro. Walt was hospitalized for pneumonia. He was admitted for five days before being released to continue their trip home. We were all so thankful when they made it home safe and sound. Additionally, Bro. John Breitwieser and his wife, Karen, have both undergone surgery and are currently recovering. Our thoughts and prayers have been with them as they’ve been enduring numerous health issues.

Finally, we want to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning college students. Their presence in Toledo is greatly appreciated. We enjoy making new connections with them and their families.

**Ontario, Kitchener**

*RoseLynn Metzger*

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

Greetings from Kitchener! During these busy summer months, many of us have been travelling to various places on the globe! Mexico, Ohio, Illinois and Vermont are some of the places people from our congregation have traveled to this month! We are very thankful for God’s travelling mercies!

We extend a hearty thank you to our visiting ministers this month. Those who made the trip to be with us were Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri) from Princeville IL, Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. May-Lou) from Rockville CT, Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry) from Bluffton North IN, and Bro. Lucas Frank from Detroit.

On September 8-9 weekend the Akron, OH Young Group came and helped us with cleaning and repairing the church rental house. Needless to say it was quite a task and we could have never done it without their help! In the evening we all gathered at Bro. Murray (Sis. Esther) Metzger’s for dinner, a singing and a bonfire.

Thank you to all who help support our small congregation. We appreciate it very much! “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10

**Oregon, Portland**

*Louisa Gallup*

We appreciated having the following ministers support us this last month: Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), all from Silverton, OR. The ongoing song leader rotation from Silverton is also a real blessing to us.

Those who traveled this summer are all safely home and for this we are thankful.

**Oregon, Silverton**

*Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett*

On August 19, we were blessed to witness the wedding of Bro. Paul Tribbett (Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie) to Sis. Brianna Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa). Through the words in Isaiah 40, Bro. Jim encouraged us to wait on the Lord and look to Him for our strength.

Thank you to Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, OR who offered himself to preach the Word Wednesday evening August 22.

With joy we announce the engagement of Sis. Annie Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan) to Bro. Drew Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina) from Bluffton, IN. We are prayerful that God will draw them close to Him and to each other through this exciting time in their lives.

The Single Group hosted an invite Labor Day weekend. Many out-of-state guests, including Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia Koch from Washington, IL, spent the weekend hiking at the coast and sharing in sweet fellowship together. In addition to sharing the gospel message during the church services, Bro. Justin gave a presentation to the Single Group encouraging them to “look up!” for that is where our help and healing comes from.

Our beloved Sis. Diane Kuenzi passed away September 3 due to complications from liver cancer. We are filled with sorrow at the loss we feel, but rejoice in the hope of seeing her again when we reach our mansion in heaven! A viewing and services were held in Silverton on September 7 & 8. Sis. Diane leaves behind her husband, Bro. Myron and children: Sis. Sara, Sis. Tamara, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Rick) Metzger, Zachary (Rachel), Melanie, and Josh. Grandchildren
include Lee, Trisha, Wyatt, Serena, and Ty Metzger and Courtney, Tiffany, and Claire Kuenzi.

Clinton and Ellie Kuenzi along with Royce, welcomed Wesley James into their family September 8. Grandparents include Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Stuart and Phyllis Martin.

Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille) from Eureka, IL shared the gospel with us September 9. He reminded us that love is a choice and we should choose to love our Savior who gave His life for our salvation.

Bro. Virgil Massner (Sis. Barbara), grandfather to Sis. Kendra Sinn (Bro. Jordan) and Sis. Erika Sinn (Bro. Cameron) from Mediapolis, IA, recently passed away. May God provide comfort to the family during this time of grief.

Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy) joined us for a weekend of testimonies and baptisms September 15 & 16. We lovingly welcomed Bro. James and Sis. Shari Klopfenstein into the family of God and were encouraged by their testimonies of faith in the Lord Jesus. Our prayers will continue with them as they begin this lifelong journey.

We are blessed to have Bro. Evan and Sis. Emily Schmidgall along with their children Brielle, Britton, and Dallas make their new home here in Oregon. While this is exciting for us as a congregation, we recognize change comes with a cost and we are prayerful that God will bless them during this transition.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“So I’ll strive to be more humble,
Evermore be meek and kind;
Humbleness shall rule my actions,
Meekness dwell in heart and mind.
In my manner and my being
All my neighbors may be seeing
That it is God’s Spirit’s might
Leading me in truth and right.”
Humility, Zion’s Harp, #186

We recently sang this hymn in church on a Wednesday evening. We know that pride is such a daily battle, and we need many reminders to seek humility. It is always good to be reminded to look to Jesus as the perfect example of meekness. We know the blessings that come from God when we humble ourselves before Him. May we seek to strive daily for His blessing!

We appreciated Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) visiting our congregation and sharing the Word. May God bless them for their efforts and willingness to be used.

Tennessee, Nashville
Cynde Stoller

“Upon the hills the giant trees
with color were ablaze,
Like smoke from smoldering embers
rose the late October haze.
All silent and magnificent
I fancied I could see
The Master Artist touching
up some solitary tree,
But the glory of the landscape
was a flash of crimson flame
At the bottom of the picture where
the painter signs his name.
Now I cannot speak the language
of the men who paint and draw,
And with technical precision
can’t describe the scene I saw.
All I know is that a picture
was unrolled for me to see,
And the high lights and the shadows
seemed just what they ought to be,
But that gorgeous burst of color in
the foreground caught my eye;
And I knew it made the landscape,
though I couldn’t say just why.
It struck me as peculiar, where
an earthly painter signs,
The Master Artist splashed His
name in tangled shrubs and vines.
And as I stepped up closer I
discovered and was glad
He had given that touch of splendor
to the poorest stuff He had.
To the common things in summer
which man scarcely sees at all
He had given the place of honor
and the glory of the Fall.”

We were edified by the Word brought from the following ministers: Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget & family, Chicago), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury) and Bro. Jeff Fischer, Fort Scott, KS. We were encouraged by visitors from West Bend, IA; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, IL; Fairbury, IL; Forrest, IL; and Fort Scott, KS.

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his
countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Numbers 6:23-26

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 to confirm our schedule. Contacts: Bro. Jordan & Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com

Texas, Austin/Bastrop
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin!

It is a peaceful morning as I sit quietly in His presence. Outside our kitchen window the leaves sway gently in the breeze under a cloudy sky. I am so thankful for God’s presence. Do you daily draw nigh to God?

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:3

We have been blessed from the Word by the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL).

Our prayers go with our Bro. Garret Ball as he moves to Ohio where he will be closer to his dear family. While he will certainly be missed here, we wish him God’s blessings and grace in his new phase of life.

It is with joy that on August 26 we heard the announcement of Bro. David Brummit (Bro. David and Sis. Shella) to Sis. Bailey Stoller (Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie). We rejoice with them and wish them God’s richest blessing as their future unfolds.

God is everywhere! Can you feel His presence? “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace, I can hear the brush of angel’s wings I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in the place”

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us! Please refer to our minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Sheena Pelsy

As believers, we are blessed beyond measure to have a hope and a refuge in Jesus Christ. This month the Dallas church was ministered by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Bro. Wayne’s message was a reminder that Jesus Christ is our refuge and strength and that God is always in control. Reading from Numbers, Bro. Wayne related how the cities of refuge in the Old Testament represent Jesus Christ today and how He spares us from death and provides a place of comfort. The theme of knowing God is in control was also threaded through both services. Throughout the Bible, God takes what seems to be a hopeless situation and turns it into something beautiful. Even today He continues to provide and lead us through the toughest situations.

Along with Bro. Wayne, we also had visitors from Indiana. Bro. Rodney Pelsy’s (Sis. Sheena, Dallas, TX) parents, Bro. Roger Pelsy (Sis. Lily, Francesville, IN), took part in our blessed Sunday worship.

We are always thankful for our visitors. Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, call Bro. Adam Graf (330-590-7086).

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

Where do you go when life is hard, when the daily obligations cumber you so that you almost fall to the ground, when temptations threaten to overwhelm your soul, when you feel isolated to the point of feeling nobody understands nor will understand? The man Job suffered all this and more. He realized that friends in a time of trial and distress are often miserable comforters. Job turned away from them to himself, as is so common for the human condition. What was God’s response to Job’s self-justification? Gird up now thy loins like a man. In other words, bear the burden I am allowing in your life. Look to me for spiritual
strength to overcome temptation. I am your Friend and will never fail you. Rejoice in the promises I have provided in my Word. I need to change some attitudes to come into line with these exhortations. Do you?

It was nice to begin listening to the annual brotherhood conference in Gridley, IL this past week. It is a refreshing experience to at least listen, since we could not be there, to the encouragement given to the gathered brotherhood. The teachings were given to all of us to profit thereby. I am thankful there are those who are willing to sound the true Word.

Ministers came to our garrison outpost also to sound the Word in the mountains. We appreciate their diligence in keeping us fed and helping our home minister. They were as follows: Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Jon Zahner (Sis. Amy, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Brad (Sis. Deanna Wiegand, Rockville, CT).

We also enjoyed our annual Sunday school picnic this past month. It was an enjoyable time at the lake. We enjoyed hearing some of the conversion experiences of the brethren at the picnic. It was refreshing to hear how God works in people’s lives to bring them to him.

May God bless you in the coming month.

Part of the Story Behind...
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by Isaac Watts

A generation gap back in the 17th century? It seemed that way when teenage Isaac Watts complained to his father about the monotonous way Christians in England sang the Old Testament Psalms. To him, the singing of God’s praise was the form of worship nearest to heaven. And he went on to argue, “Its performance among us is the worst on earth!”

“All right young man,” snapped his father, a leading deacon. “Give us something better!”

Isaac accepted the challenge, eventually writing a total of more than six hundred hymns earning him the title, “father of English hymnody.”

Even in childhood, Isaac had shown a passion for poetry, rhyming even everyday conversation. His serious-minded father, after several warnings, decided to spank the rhyming nonsense out of his son. Imagine his chagrin when he heard a tearful Isaac plead, “O father, do some pity take, And I will no more verses make.”

Choirs and congregations rejoice that he did not keep this impromptu promise or else they would not have had the thrill of singing such favorites as “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”, “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”, “Joy to the World” and a host of other hymns bearing the name of Isaac Watts.

This classic hymn of Isaac Watts has often been called the greatest hymn in the English language. Watts, using only sixteen lines, paints a soul-stirring picture of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross coupled with the wholehearted response of the believer to such amazing love. Another contemporary of Isaac Watts said of it, “There may be a few others equally great, but there is none greater.” All one needs to do to realize the truth of this statement is to sing this majestic hymn. Isaac Watts based this hymn on the Scriptural reference of Galatians 6:14. “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” The original title was “Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ.” Later the title was changed to “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.”
Nurturing Growth in Ourselves and Others as Believers

In MANY OF His parables, Jesus used plants, fruit, and grain as earthly examples to illuminate spiritual truths. In a similar way, we can use an understanding of plant functions to fertilize our spiritual growth. As we consider these few parallels, we welcome God to inspire further examples beyond this article’s content.

For some initial groundwork, let’s cover several key questions to develop a fertile seedbed for the Word’s seed to flourish. How can we grow in spiritual things? Which godly characteristics do we want to increase? What can we do to help others and ourselves grow?

To realize growth, plants require several key factors to develop from a dormant seed into a thriving fruit-bearer. The seed sprouts and begins to grow when exposed to moisture. We can compare this moisture to God’s call to repent. Our response to God’s Spirit may be in prayer, sorrow for our sins, desire to change, and asking forgiveness from God and other people. When we are redeemed from sin and become Christians, we desire to grow spiritually in obedience to God. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” (John 12:24)

The small, fragile seedling sprouts when placed in fertile soil, left undisturbed, watered, and given sunlight. It is a blessing for a new believer to be part of a loving church family. The seeking soul benefits from fellowship, encouragement from experienced believers, and companionship from faithful peers. A supportive natural or adoptive family is a wonderful blessing as well. Parents often have the opportunity to plant the seeds of truth in children’s hearts. These families provide a sheltered environment that protects from the evil adversary, who may move through, snip off, and devour the young faith and trust in our Lord Jesus. “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

The air contains the carbon dioxide that plants need. Spiritually, we can compare the air to prayer. As others pray for us, the prayers to God may result in Him breathing life into our sagging spirits. In turn, we may breathe our own prayers as pleas for God’s help. “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” (Daniel 6:10)

The nutrients in the soil provide the plant with life-sustaining food. We may compare these nutrients to the truth recorded in the Bible. Its precepts nourish us through daily reading of the Word, listening to teaching and preaching, seeing examples of other believers, study, and prayer. Using a term from the lawn care industry, we believers can absorb “10-10-10” as a simple formula for spiritual fertilizer. Each day, endeavor to pray for 10 minutes, read the Bible for 10 minutes, and study that reading for 10 minutes. Some ways to study the Bible include looking up cross-references for verses, looking up definitions to words, and thinking about how the verses apply to our lives. “Thy Word O Lord forever is, the mirror where we
see, our faults and duties as they are, our likeness unto Thee.” (Zion’s Harp #142 “Obedience to the Word” – verse 1)

We may equate the watering of plants to God’s Holy presence and Spirit, which nurture our lives and provide gentle promptings. Jesus revealed how He gives living water in His conversation with the woman at the well. “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” (John 4:10)

Our life experiences are spiritually comparable to variable weather, which may or may not include direct sunshine at any given time. The weather may fluctuate between balmy, pleasant, hot, humid, scorching, stormy, windy, cold, snowy, freezing, and dry. Regardless of our external conditions, God desires us to grow in obedience and good works as maturing believers. In both the plant world and our spiritual realm, “mild weather” encourages steady growth with water, sunshine, soil, and nutrients. During “dry periods” of being tempted with doubt, we’re wise to extend our roots to be further grounded and bolster our belief and trust in God. While the storms of life bring needed rain, they also involve unfamiliar situations. These times impel us to seek help, to search the scriptures, and to trust in God through the trials. The cold may be the bitter sharp winds of ridicule and persecution from the enemy, Satan. The hot weather ripens the fruit of “… love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: …” (Galatians 5:22 & 23)

God gives us daily opportunities to practice these fruits in our interactions with other people and through the situations we encounter. As we follow God’s Spirit, He helps us benefit those we meet through bearing fruit for His glory. Along with flowers, a plant’s fruit is the beautiful and desirable part that attracts bees, birds, and other animals. Likewise for believers, our godly example, speech, and compassion can nourish other saints and draw people to Jesus. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

In opposition to fruit-bearing plants, weeds can grow quickly and try to overtake nearby plants. From a spiritual perspective, such tares may represent the works of the flesh. We need to continually root these elements out of our heart, spray them to kill, and allow them to die in our life. By doing so, the good plants can grow and produce fruit.

God has a plan for each of us. Like a tree is pruned and cared for, God shapes and guides our lives. We are encouraged to use the spiritual gifts and talents to carry out His mission. It is beautiful to see a tree filled with fruit, and we want our lives to be full in God’s service. “…Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that in may bring forth more fruit.” “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; …” (John 15: 2 & 8)

Working with other believers, we ripen together as a field producing much fruit. Growing in true fellowship, we support each other in the wind and rain while shading the ground to hinder the weeds. May God bless us with growth and abundant, loving service to God, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, neighbors, friends, and other people we meet!

“For their faith takes root, is grounded deep in God’s true Word and light, Where its life’s support is founded and loves flame becomes more bright, Where their hope does bloom and grow and the light of life does glow.” (Zion’s Harp #82 “Happiness of the Godly” – verse 4)

Bro. Matthew Brake - Sardis, Ohio
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

Come to the Hospital Lumiere Benefit Auction

Your bids can provide medical care to needy Haitians

HarvestCall is renovating and managing a mission hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti. The annual benefit auction is an important part of Hospital Lumiere’s annual funding. Please consider attending the auction and enjoy a time of fellowship, food, music and giving.

Available items
Toys • Gift Baskets • Electronics
Vacation Packages • Tools • Gift Certificates
Recreational Equipment • Dinners

Friday, Nov. 9, 2018
Five Points Washington
360 N Wilmor Rd, Washington, IL 61571
4:30 – Food Court & Silent Auction
6:15 – Musical Entertainment
7:00 – Live Auction

To learn more or donate
harvestcall.org/benefit-auction
Rich Bertschi
309/467-2351
hospitalumiere@harvestcall.org

Bible Distribution: Sharing His Word in Love

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

Together we can provide Bibles for seeking people. This may be someone you attend school with, someone you work with, or someone God has shown you at a gas station. Bibles and approved Bible story Books are available. Carrying a New Testament to distribute can help you remember what our real task is. To order, contact:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street, Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141 Email: bibledistribution@acpublications.org
**SPONSORSHIP**: Giving Children Hope for the Future

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, they desire to learn, and they have an undying soul.

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

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

_Isaiah 54:13_

**To Sponsor a Child or School**

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

Name _________________________

- Mr.  
- Mrs.  
- Miss

Spouse _________________________

Address _________________________

City ____________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _________________________

Cell Ph _________________________

Email _________________________

**Please check preference:**

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

*If possible, I prefer:*

- Boy – Age ______
- Girl – Age ______
- No Preference

**Send to:**

HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
Email: childsponsorship@harvestcall.org

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

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

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

651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
### Haiti Teams - Les Cayes

#### YEAR 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9-16 Les Cayes - Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-242-7020 Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9-16 Les Cayes - Haiti Trade Schools</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 574-870-5046 Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14-19 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-266-9009 Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30-Dec 7 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane Gerber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 260-241-4099 Email: <a href="mailto:lane.gerber@gmail.com">lane.gerber@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### YEAR 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4-11 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Palitto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 330-336-5373 Email: <a href="mailto:Ronp@palittoconsulting.com">Ronp@palittoconsulting.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11-18 Les Cayes - Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-242-7020 Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11-18 Les Cayes - Haiti Trade Schools</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 574-870-5046 Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18-25 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Steffen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 616-308-6621 Email: <a href="mailto:nds235@gmail.com">nds235@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1-8 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Kuenzi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 503-932-3128 Email: <a href="mailto:hkloanoak@msn.com">hkloanoak@msn.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15-22 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Hodel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-361-5031 Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.hodel@gmail.com">jonathan.hodel@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22 - Mar 1 Les Cayes/Torbeck - Haiti Ag/Seed &amp; HDP</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Hodel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-231-7467 Email: htf@<a href="mailto:94@gmail.com">94@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1-8 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Leuthold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-645-2208 Email: <a href="mailto:sleuth@speerbank.com">sleuth@speerbank.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8-15 Les Cayes - Haiti Trade Schools</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 574-870-5046 Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8-15 Les Cayes - Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-242-7020 Email: <a href="mailto:lukenal@live.com">lukenal@live.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27-Apr 1 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-266-9009 Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1-8 Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 309-266-9009 Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Haiti Teams - Dumay / Lifeline

#### YEAR 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8-15 Dumay - Medical</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben Stork</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 217-898-3436 Email: <a href="mailto:rdstork_85@yahoo.com">rdstork_85@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15-22 Dumay - Masonry</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Schaffer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 815-848-3976 Email: <a href="mailto:kmschaffer85@hotmail.com">kmschaffer85@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22-29 Dumay - Masonry/Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 815-848-2173 Email: <a href="mailto:pallan2@frontier.com">pallan2@frontier.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29 - Feb 5 Dumay - Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Moser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 815-848-3942 Email: <a href="mailto:moser@maxwire.net">moser@maxwire.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 5-12 Dumay - Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Kinsinger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone: 847-774-4015 Email: <a href="mailto:mjkinsinger@gmail.com">mjkinsinger@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Haiti Medical / Dental Teams

#### YEAR 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 27 - Nov 3 Dental Team</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1-8 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8-15 Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### YEAR 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19-26 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9-16 Eye Vision</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 9-16 Dental</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16-23 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4-11 Continuing Nurse Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18-25 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-20 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10-17 OPEN for Medical Team</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 14-21 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12-19 Continuing Nurse Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26 - Nov 2 SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7-14 Cervical Cancer Screening</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:**

Komari Aberle
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net | Phone: 785.284.2950
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 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 ministries in southern Haiti. The 2019 Awareness Tours are scheduled for March 23-27 and Sept. 21-25.

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

Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

YEAR 2019  PROJECT  CAPACITY
Mar 9-15  Juarez  21
Todd & Teresa Earney  260-273-9528  Email: tearney@adamswells.com

Mexico Construction Teams

YEAR 2018  PROJECT  COORDINATOR
Nov 17 - 24  Magdalena  Rod Schmidt
Construction  Phone: 303-718-1432  Email: rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com

YEAR 2019  PROJECT  CAPACITY
June 7-14  Magdalena  Mike Zobrist
Construction  Email: zobfam@gmail.com

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

Jamaica Teams

YEAR 2019  PROJECT  CAPACITY
Jan 7 - 14  CCCD - Kingston  25
Rodger Stoller  309-275-5722  Email: rstoller@gridcom.net
Jan 17 - 21  Awareness Trip  15
Kent Mogler  612-360-4361  Email: moglerkent@gmail.com
May 31 - June 8  CCCD - JDV  40
Mark Lindberg  815-641-9065  Email: lindma@hotmail.com

QUESTIONS FOR JAMAICA TEAMS:
If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lmddettwyler@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 worshiping with a deaf congregation. The next Awareness Tour is scheduled for Jan. 17-21, 2019.

To learn more, Email or Call: Kent Mogler at 612-360-4361 or moglerkent@gmail.com

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

PROCLAIM CHRIST & SERVE OTHERS
PROFESSIONALS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD
Short Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere

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

If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for any of the listed positions, please contact us. While the above positions are needed, there is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job description(s). Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of the applicant.

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

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
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now Available
Missionary Support Card Packs
A Resource Tool to Stay Connected with our Missionaries

The past decade has seen tremendous growth in brethren serving full time in the cross-cultural ministries of Apostolic Christian Church. Supporting those the church sends as missionaries is our responsibility and an example given us by the early church. We can support them in prayer, in fellowship, and financially.*

Idea for Use
- Communication via
  - E-mail & Texting
  - Letters
  - Care Packages

Contact your Local HarvestCall Representative for Availability

Adapted Bible Studies

**Acts** [1620]
This instructive Bible study from the NavPress Life Change series has been adapted with permission by ACCFS. The study consists of 20 lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Topics included in this study: What is Acts, Preparation, Pentecost, Miracle, Confrontation, Community, First Martyr, Philip’s Journeys, Saul Appointment, Peter Moves Out, To Asia Minor, Gentile Christians, Paul and Silas, Athens and Corinth, Ephesus, Paul’s Farewells, Arrest in Jerusalem, Prisoner in Caesarea, Journey to Rome and Review. *Price: $10.00

**Old Testament Characters** [1618]
This interesting Bible study from InterVarsity Press has been adapted with permission by ACCFS. The study consists of 12 lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Character studies included in this Bible study: Jonah: Running from God, Hannah: Praying in Pain, Samuel: Hearing God’s Voice, Abraham: Following God’s Call, Caleb & Joshua: Overcoming the Impossible, Elijah: Knowing God’s Power, Achan: Sin in the Community, King Saul: Doing Almost All of God’s Will, Daniel: Tempted to Compromise, Esther: Saying Yes to God, David: Loving Your Enemy, Moses: Seeking Justice. *Price: $8.50

**Additional Topics**
- **Faith: Depending on God** [1601] *Price: $8.50*
- **Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past** [1602] *Price: $8.50*
- **Four Great Loves** [1603] *Price: $8.50*
- **Friendship** [1604] *Price: $8.50*
- **Fruit of the Spirit** [1605] *Price: $8.50*
- **God’s Comfort** [1606] *Price: $8.50*
- **Grief** [1607] *Price: $8.50*
- **Hope** [1608] *Price: $8.50*
- **Images of God** [1609] *Price: $8.50*
- **Integrity** [1610] *Price: $8.50*
- **James** [1611] *Price: $10.00*
- **Prayer** [1612] *Price: $8.50*

*View Complete List at apublications.org*

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

Apostolic Christian Publications
651 East Peoria St., Goodfield, IL 61742
Store Hours: Monday - Friday  8:30am - 11:30am (Central Time)
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 brokeness 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 Assistant Houseparent, Foster Care Case Manager, Houseparent Couple, Math Teacher, and English Teacher. 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
Edify One Another
— Continued from pg. 3

in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.” 8 Virtually all of us experience difficulties in life and when we humbly share our experiences of answered prayer it is very helpful for others. This should be done in a way that others who are struggling will be able to relate, without making them feel unworthy. David was quick to acknowledge his faults and gave the glory to God when deliverance was achieved. “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” 9

Christian fellowship is intended to be an important encouragement to one another, but can easily be taken for granted. The goal of true fellowship is to edify one another and to nurture our relationship with the Lord. Chatting about current events or common interests of everyday life has its place, but true edification only occurs when the conversation centers on spiritual matters. Again, we have the early church as a good example: “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” 10 Fellowship can begin at a young age when parents encourage their children’s participation in organized Sunday school activities. Families will be blessed by visiting other Apostolic Christian congregations when vacationing or visiting relatives.

The psalmist reminds us of how singing has long been a wonderful blessing for our Apostolic Christian brotherhood. “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” 11 We can encourage one another’s participation, regardless of our level of expertise in this area! The result not only brings praise to God, but it will edify all who participate, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” 12

The scriptures also warn us of those things that create a hindrance to edification. We must avoid a carnal or worldly spirit which causes envy, strife, and division. 13 Another such danger is becoming spiritually lukewarm. This can come about from becoming lax in church attendance, reading, and praying; or trusting too much in our own strength or even our wealth. The outcome is misery, blindness, and leanness to our soul. 14 In contrast, the early church as portrayed in the book of Acts provides a wonderful example of edifying one another. Nowhere else do we read of such tremendous growth in the church. The Christians were zealous in worship, in reading the Word, and in fervent prayer with fasting. They had a genuine and sacrificial love for one another. The result being that God was praised and the Christians were viewed favorably by all the people. 15 Most importantly, “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Endnotes
1 Romans 14:19
2 Romans 15:2
3 Colossians 2:7-8
4 1 Samuel 23:15-17
5 Acts 9:29-31
6 1 Timothy 4:13-15
7 Psalms 119:148
8 Acts 15:36
9 Psalms 34:6-8
10 Acts 2:42
11 Psalms 95:1
12 Colossians 3:16
13 1 Corinthians 3:1-4
14 Revelation 3:15-17
15 Acts 2:47
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

Are you wanting to make a difference in other’s lives?
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.

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?
To order, contact: Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

Light from the Word

*Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acpublications.org*
After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download *(June 1987 to current).*
left hand from your right hand? I always used to think that people who didn’t know their left hand from their right hand were little bitty kids. The way the Hebrew is here, the vernacular is saying people who don’t know their left hand from their right hand are people who don’t know right from wrong. They don’t know what morally is correct or incorrect. So, God was saying to Jonah, ‘Those people in Nineveh do not really understand the law. They grew up pagans, and were a law unto themselves. They just looked at the world around them and thought it was all through nature somehow that there were some things that seemed right to them, and some things that didn’t seem right to them. But you, Jonah, are privileged. You have the law.’ God had given it to them back on Sinai. They were privileged people because they knew the law. But, the Ninevites did not know the law. God asks, ‘Shouldn’t I have mercy on a person that doesn’t even understand whether killing is right or not?’

Jonah doesn’t answer the question. Because the question isn’t just for Jonah. The question is for everyone that reads this book. Shouldn’t God have mercy on a world that doesn’t know right from wrong? When I look at it close enough, the finger comes back at me. You see, on the east bank of Iraq on the Tigris River in Northern Iraq, is a town of about a million and a half people called Mosul. Until recently it was the center of ISIS captivity. Before that it was the center of the forces that we fought against in the Iraq War. Either way it is populated by a bunch of people who don’t share our views about who Jesus Christ is. Some of them are peace loving, and some of them would like to have us gone. Wouldn’t that be a million and a half people that don’t know their left hand from their right hand? But let’s not get so audacious, or so risky. Let’s not take ourselves and transplant ourselves into a place where our own lives would be threatened by what we said. Just step outside your back door. You are living civilization where Christianity is declining. We live in a world where there is a large part of Western civilization that would like to see the destruction of the idea of a triumvirate God, where one part of the tribe was on earth, died and was resurrected that all of us might have eternal life. And, it doesn’t mean that they just want to not include us. They want to get rid of us.

Our reaction could easily be Jonah’s reaction to the Ninevites, but I am not sure that is God’s reaction. I am not sure that is what God wants us to be. If we look at it carefully, and we take it as a pointed finger at us, there is a lot of Nineveh not very far away, and we are His messengers. I don’t know what God has appointed for you, or will appoint for you when you get older if you are a young child, but God wants to be known in this world, and He would really like to be known in places that have never heard of Him and don’t know Him at all. That stretches me. I don’t want you to forget the question of Jonah at the end, and I want to impress upon you that the question is for you and me, not necessarily for Jonah.

I did go a little deeper into the Bible, and when I get done with this I will sit down. After Jonah, there is the book of Micah. After Micah there is the book of Nahum. The book of Nahum was written by the prophet Nahum, and it was written in maybe 625 B.C. I told you to remember 750-760 B.C. Now, let’s jump ahead a hundred to a hundred and sixty years. In the amount of time that has expired, a lot has changed. Kings changed, and generations came and went. I don’t know what all happened in Nineveh, I am not a Ninevite scholar, but it had to be different because it was around a hundred years later. God told Nahum a little different story, and
this is where it gets a little cloudy. If you will read with me, let’s start in chapter one of Nahum.

“The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.” (Nahum 1:1-3)

Now, let’s turn to chapter three. We could read all three chapters, but in the interest of time I would just encourage you to read them all on your own at some point, because it is all about Nineveh.

“Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not; The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots. The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcases; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses: Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts. Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame. And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock. And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? Whence shall I seek comforters for thee?” (Nah 3:1-7)

There is a logical question that comes out of this, isn’t there. We talked about the timing of God’s mercy and God’s justice. I spent a little time trying to figure that out. I looked at the time, and if you read a little bit of history, it shows that Judah and the ten tribes were attacked and conquered by the Assyrians in between this time. So, maybe God shifted from mercy to judgment mode because of His people? But, wait a minute, I thought God set up nations to destroy Israel because of their misdeeds? So, if God set them up, why would He judge them? Well, maybe they were really, really bad. In Jonah we read that they were wicked, and maybe wicked means kind of bad. But in Nahum, around a hundred and forty years later, maybe they were really, really bad. They had corpses all over the streets, and they were murdering people and torturing them. They were doing all of these evil and wicked things, and it was so bad that maybe it was time to wipe them out.

If you commit one little sin, do you need to repent? Yes. If you commit a really big, bad sin, do you need to repent? Yes. I don’t know what is big enough for destruction, or what is little enough, and I struggled to get my mind around that idea. The idea that it must be worse, or it must be because they were Israel. So, I asked some friends, what is behind that? What is with God and Nineveh? They told me that maybe it was a worse place than we thought. Then I had a young convert that came over, and I asked him that question too. He said, maybe there is something in Romans 9 that speaks to it, so I went and looked there. I admit I was already headed down a path toward there, and now there are three scriptures that I want to read to you and make some comments.

The first one is in Job chapter 40, because I thought maybe the answer was in Job. In a sense, I think it hints at it, because Job wondered why he was judged, so to speak. Really, Job was an exemplary person. Everything that Job did we hold him in the highest

— Please turn to pg. 68
estem for. The quality of his life, his goodness and his value in the world. And yet, it appeared that God punished him. God allowed all these terrible things to happen to him. God did not quite destroy him, but like Jonah, Job wanted to die too. His wife actually said, “Curse God and die.” (Job 2:9) And Job said, ‘It would be better if I was never born.’ Job was so mad at God that he said he wanted to be dead. That is a despairing person. After that, God talked to Job directly. He kind of set him up in a chair and said ‘Listen to Me.’

“Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.” (Job 40:1-2) This is after God had told Job all of the wonderful things that He had done, that Job had no idea about. Like, how God set the stars in the sky. And Job answered the Lord and said “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.” (Job 40:4-5) Job understood who He was.

In Deuteronomy the children of Israel where about to go across the Jordan River to take the promise land. This is on the other side of it. This was a group of people that were getting their reward so to speak. They were about to enter into the promise land. It was a happy day! This was the crowning moment. Forty years in the wilderness. All of that wandering, and everything else they dealt with, and they were going to have their own country. In Deuteronomy it says starting in the first verse:

“Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself; cities great and fenced up to heaven, A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak! Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee. Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (Deut. 9:1-5)

That’s a long story, and we will come back to that story in just a bit.

Finally, I want to read out of Romans 9, where the young man pointed me, starting with verse 13. Remember while we are reading this that we are wrestling with the idea of God’s mercy and God’s justice. We are wrestling with timing. In my little narrow mind, I am trying to see what is the depth of sin where God finally boils over? What is it that causes Him to have mercy on you? Why did He call you out of darkness, and into His glorious light? What have we done to earn that respect? And, how are we so special that it happened? Or, how are we so bad that we go to our grave without Christ?

“As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised
thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” (Rom 9:13-17, 33)

It is not for us to know. 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 where His mercy ends. Because He is God and we are His creation. For you see in the end of the chapter in Deuteronomy it says, “that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” What did He swear unto the fathers of the children of Israel? He said, “In your seed I will bless the world.” And he repeated it to all three of them. None of them saw the blessing that would come from their seed, or from their lineage. But in their lineage one day came the Rock of Offense, the Stone of Stumbling and His name is Jesus Christ. And this much we know for sure, that sin has to be judged by God, and all sin will be judged. But, this much we know for sure, that God’s mercy is never as visible except in the cross of Christ. Also, this much I know for sure, that if we believe in Him and repent for our sins, He is just to ignore our sin on judgment day. I don’t know if this church will blow up tomorrow. I don’t know if I will live to see another week. I don’t know if you will get cancer in a week, but I know that sin will be judged and God’s mercy is seen in His son. If we believe in Him and repent, we will have life everlasting with Him.
According to Rex Beyer, the dozen or so families who came to the area initially held services in a two-story home located six miles east of what is now Diamond on the east edge of a now-defunct settlement called Park, MO. In 1880, these families built a small church on the east bank of Jones Creek in Park. It was built with pine lumber hauled up from Eureka Springs, AR. At that time it was the only church in the area.

The church was headed by “Old” Pete Farney. He is not to be confused with another Pete Farney who moved back to New York. Old Pete Farney was very likely the church’s minister, or if he was not, he was considered the leader of the congregation. He was one of the best and most progressive farmers in the area.

As the church became established, it soon met with difficulties. With the exception of a couple of sisters who remained faithful until their deaths in the 1950s, the flame of faith here was virtually extinguished by 1892.

In the early 1980s, the old church cemetery, ramshackle and weedy, still existed three and one-half miles east and one mile north of Diamond. Sixty-five persons were buried in the cemetery; the most recent, as noted in 1980, was Joseph Oyer, who was buried in 1910. Legible family names on tombstones in 1980 were Beyer, Farney, Oyer, Boehning, and Clapper. The tombstone of Peter Farney was very clear (Born April 28, 1822, died October 10, 1889). Some of the families later moved to Kansas, while others quit going to church altogether. Diamond, MO, is only a few miles from the birthplace and early home of George Washington Carver, a noted agronomist and agricultural chemist.

-By Perry Klopfenstein

Diamond, Missouri
This church formerly existed in the area of Diamond, MO. Formerly known as Diamond Grove, this little village is located on Route 71 approximately thirty miles south of Lamar and ten miles south of Carthage, MO.

Several families who were associated with the Evangelical Baptist Church (the church name used in Europe and in the New York churches) in the Lewis County and Watertown, NY, area later migrated to Missouri. The first families came here in 1874. Most of them settled on farms in a triangular area formed by the small communities of Diamond, Park, and Ritchey.

One of the families was that of Martin Beyer and his wife, Elizabeth Schiffer Beyer. This couple arrived in 1874 with their children, one of which was a son, Martin N. Beyer, 23. His marriage to Virginia Slane bore nine children. The youngest, Leamon Rex Beyer — known locally as “Rex” Beyer — was born in 1899 at Diamond where he was still residing in 1981. Although not a member of the Apostolic Christian Church, he attended services as a young boy at Lamar.
Marks of a Righteous Life

Does a righteous life matter? The N.T. Scriptures make it clear that we are not saved by works of righteousness which we have done, but by God’s mercy (Titus 3:5). Was righteousness only a requirement in the Old Testament? Psalm 15, for instance, presents an O.T. picture of the marks of a righteous life. Is this relevant today? Yes. These standards, when complemented with NT teachings, show us evidences of a life transformed by the Gospel. These marks can assure us of Christ’s work already in our lives and call us to pursue more grace. Let me share some verses that challenged me.

“He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness... (v.2)” The Apostle John explains that living a righteous life is the result of having been born again (1 John 2:29). Does this mean Christians never mess up? No. If I have any illusions about perfection, I need only ask my wife and children if they see any flaws in me! But consistently practicing godly conduct should be the goal of every Christian. Does it mark my life?

“And speaketh the truth in his heart.” Paul writes that believers are to put on the old man and put on the new, putting away lying and speaking truth (Ephesians 4:20-25). Does this mean Christians never slip into dishonest speech? No. I remember with shame when someone asked me a question, and afraid of being unkind, I responded with a lie. It happened so quickly I couldn’t believe I said it! But I was instantly convicted. Consistently speaking the truth should be the goal of every Christian. Does it mark my life?

“He that backbiteth not... nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach... (v.3)” Does that mean Christians never gossip or hurt others? No. I can think of a conversation recently in which I just listened. But the Holy Spirit made me uncomfortable that I hadn’t stopped the person who was talking. Love stops gossip. Consistently growing in love should be the goal of every Christian (Rom. 13:10). Does it mark my life?

“...he honoureth them that fear the Lord (v.4).” Romans 12:10, 16 exhorts us to honor fellow believers, regardless of status. Do Christians always do this? No. One week as I walked into church, a sister who struggles financially asked me to make some copies she needed. I reluctantly agreed, upset that I was going to be late. But then I thought about what Jesus said—“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Mt. 25:40). Consistently honoring Christ’s brethren should be the goal of every Christian. Does it mark my life?

“He that doeth these things shall never be moved (v.5)” (see 2 Pet. 1:10-11). These marks are not a way to earn salvation. But they are useful benchmarks for growing in Christ. Do they mark your life?

-By Matt Gerber
And the waters returned from off the earth … And the ark rested…

Genesis 8:3-4