In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Proverbs 12:28
Get them to ask and be ready with an answer

Mission work truly does begin at home. If we aren’t effectively sharing and living Christ in our homes and with our friends and neighbors, we can’t expect to be effective going to the ends of the earth to evangelize. Both are important, but in this issue we focus on the former as readers shared a number of insightful and practical ways to show people we care and cause them to ask us for the “reason of the hope that is in” us. Thanks to all who contributed. It takes a participating brotherhood to encourage and provoke one another unto good works as we endeavor to do in the pages of each Silver Lining issue.

In this time of Thanksgiving, we are thankful to our great God for his many blessings, chiefly that he saw fit to call us to himself and grant us eternal life through Jesus.

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders
Greet 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: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.¹

A young Mexican man grew up in a small farming village helping his father raise corn and edible beans on a tiny acreage. Rainfall is sparse in those high plains, more than 7000 feet above sea level, and many years there was little or no harvest. His family lived in a two-room adobe house with no running water. His mother was blind and suffered from advanced diabetes. This young man was willing to risk his life to get to America to find work to help his family. He knew it would be years until he could see them again. He went anyway.

The time came, years later, when he had opportunity to go home, traveling with an American family which had befriended him. As they pulled up in the courtyard of the adobe house, a small thin man was waiting. His dark, crevassed, weather-beaten face was crisscrossed with the hills and valleys of a difficult life and appeared to be much older than his seventy years. While his traveling companions watched, the son stiffly exited the vehicle and slowly advanced toward his now-widower father. His father stepped toward him and they embraced with an indescribable intensity. The father sobbed loudly, “Mi hijo! Mi hijo!” – “My son! My son!” His words were barely intelligible, but his passion and joy in seeing his son again was unforgettable.

Greetings speak volumes about how we feel about one another.

Whom do you greet with joy and passion?

In the days of the Apostles, persecution was understood to be the lot of most believers. When a soul repented and began to follow the way of Jesus, it was with the full knowledge that it could cost his life and often included ostracization from one’s own family.² This shared risk cemented the bond between believers and prompted joyful and somber greetings when meeting another fellow-sufferer. For many believers, the church became their family, as they were rejected by their parents and siblings. We can sense these powerful links in Paul’s extended list of greetings to the believers that he knew in the church at Rome.³ This was his family and he wanted to maintain that deep connection.

The word translated as “greet” or “salute” in the New Testament carries with it a sense of enfolding or embracing one another and intimates a meaningful greeting in and of itself. It’s not just a physical embrace, but rather a heartfelt spiritual and emotional embrace that can be conveyed in Christians’ greetings. It seems unlikely that the persecuted church greeted each other with a mere, “What’s up?” Rather, the bond of love founded in the death and resurrection of Jesus recognized fellow believers as family and fellow pilgrims – willing to suffer for the name of Christ and willing to share all with their brethren.⁴ Inevitably, the shared bond of faith, hope, suffering, love, and joy fosters close relationships. And inevitably, we rejoice when we meet someone with whom we share a close relationship.⁵ ⁶

Is it different today? Although in our North American and Japanese churches we do not currently suffer the specter of death because of our faith, do we comprehend that such is our commitment? Do we understand and appreciate that commitment in each other? Are we fostering and investing in our

— Please turn to pg. 64
I would also like to great each of you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Certainly, as it was just said, we do have much to be thankful for. Sometimes when we sing, the words are coming out or we are following the melody, and our thoughts might be elsewhere. But, in the second to last song we sang, it talked about gratitude for God’s atonement and sacrifice through Jesus Christ. Gratitude for His word. I would like to open to Psalm 119. For those of you who may not be familiar with the 119th Psalm, it really is a lengthy Psalm of praise to God for His Word as we understand it, or as we would say it, the Bible. There are different words used. His precepts, His Law and those all point back to the Word. We will start at the ninth verse and read a section here.

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.” (v. 9-14)

Let’s stop and think about that verse for a second. Is this the way we approach God’s word? We spend our work week, those of us who work, pursuing riches. Do we pursue God’s word in the same way we pursue riches? Do we rejoice more in the pursuit of riches? “I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” (v. 15-18)

This eighteenth verse is somewhat of a marvel to me, because it speaks to an attitude towards the scripture, and to a perspective and an expectation. Maybe some of you don’t think of God’s word one way or the other very much. Maybe there are those of you here who read it and are very regiment. Your personality is so that you like your day to go in a certain way. You accomplish things, and mentally check them off. And then, when you get to reading the Bible, you do it and you check it off. But, I would suggest to you that as you come to God’s word, inspect your heart. Do you expect to behold wonderous things? Because if you don’t, I would offer that you may just be missing a miracle. If you do expect to behold wonderous things, then I would say to my own experience, but much more to the promises of Almighty God, He will be faithful to expose those wonderous things to you. Let’s sing a song together. Song #142 in the Zions Harp has opened. “Obedience to the Word.”

I mentioned that song we were singing talked about atonement. I was thinking about being in Latty for Thanksgiving, and I suspected I would be having the service, and I was thinking about what I could preach about. I felt the Spirit speaking to me about God’s word and about Jesus Christ. What should we be more thankful for than those two things?

For the New Testament reading, let’s turn to chapter nine in book of Hebrews. There are a lot of thoughts on Hebrews. Maybe more than any other book of the Bible. It is hard to take one chapter of this book, because it is really a continuous narrative. Also, probably more than any other book in the new testament, it certainly needs to be understood in context. Many of the epistles and letters were written to Gentile churches who were struggling with human things, or Gentile common things. Issues
that are related to human nature. Issues that deal with interpersonal relationships and core doctrinal concepts. The book of Hebrews was written to, and needs to be understood, from the perspective of a 1st century Jewish person who had come to faith in Jesus Christ. In the tenth chapter the author talks about that time of the conversion and how they had gone through suffering and trial. They had seen their loved ones killed. They had suffered great loss. If you remember what had happened in the gospels with Christ followers, the blind man who said, “Yes, Jesus came and healed me.” They threw him out of the synagogue, and that act was more than a dismissal from the church. It was a dismissal from the fellowship of their congregation. Throughout the Roman Empire there were Jewish communities and the Christians would be cast out of their community, and in many cases, they would lose their families. They would lose their business. No one would associate with them. It was hard. It was at that point that the author of the book of Hebrews reaches out to those Jewish believers, and his message to summarize is to hang in there. Because while you may be tempted to go back to Judaism, because it is easier, or because you can go back to fellowship with your kin, or because you can go back and have a business, there is no salvation in Judaism.

He uses the Old Testament, chapter after chapter, verse after verse. They had a Levitical priesthood. They were used to the priest and to the sacrifice, so what need was there for Jesus? The author lays that out beautifully when he talks about a better priest. There is a better priest to come. Foretold by the prophets. Foretold by God in the Psalms. There is a better priest coming. They had an old covenant, but God said to Jeremiah, “There is a day coming when a new covenant will be here. You had sacrifices (referencing Psalms).” God was disgusted with the sacrifices. He was no longer interested in them. And Christ said, “Thou has given me a body. I will come to do Thy will.” So it is in that context, the context of, there is no other way to the Father. There is no way to turn back to Judaism. There are no more sacrifices or priests. It is in that context, right in the middle of it all, Hebrews chapter nine comes. I am looking at chapter eight, and in the first verse the author happily summarizes his message.

Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. (Heb. 8:1-2)

So, he is starting out saying, this is what I am here to tell you about 1st century Jewish Christian. As Christians today in the United States, we don’t think of a temple sanctuary, and we certainly don’t think of a high priest, but we ought to because God demands them. We will read about that in chapter nine. There is a sanctuary in heaven. There is a priest in heaven. There is a sacrifice in heaven and we cannot come to God without that intercession. Are you thankful for that today? Is there anything greater that we could be thankful for?

So, concluding chapter eight, it references back to Jeremiah where God promises a new covenant. “In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” (v. 13) Again, there is no return to Judaism.

Let’s read Hebrews chapter nine. In the first verse and throughout, there is going to be a comparison between the old and new. It would be a horrible circumstance if this chapter ended after verse ten. Praise God that it doesn’t! I just want to look through this. In chapter eight it talks about God speaking to Moses and it is interesting. God says “Here are

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Ministry Program Updates

A Day in the Life of a Student
Child Sponsorship Committee

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

Parents everywhere want a better life for their children. Education is a key factor in alleviating poverty. Even, more importantly, knowledge of the truth is imperative for deliverance from spiritual poverty. Neither are easy to come by in some countries. That’s why Child Sponsorship is needed.

While there are significant differences between the countries we serve through our HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program, there are several striking similarities. Primarily, the opportunity to receive an education is a privilege, especially at a well-regarded private Christian school. Secondarily, most students come from an impoverished background, where generations of their families have battled for daily sustenance and survival. And finally, most of these students have a thirst to learn that will enhance their opportunity for a brighter future, built on the foundation of a strong education.

HarvestCall recently chronicled the lives of two Haitian students in a video, which has been posted to the HarvestCall/Child Sponsorship website (enter www.harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship to watch the 6-minute video). These two students have an obvious advantage – they already have a sponsor whose monthly contribution helps offset the cost of their school tuition, books, and uniforms. If not for Child Sponsorship, they would have to attend a much inferior public school, or may not attend school at all.

Meet Holly. She lives in the country in a one-room house with six family members and attends a rural school. Often up at dawn, Holly eats breakfast, reads from her Bible, and completes her morning chores before preparing for school. After school, Holly helps her mother with household chores before starting the fire to prepare the evening meal. After dishes, she works on her homework until it gets too dark. She finishes the day the way it started . . . in prayer beside her bed.

Answered Prayers in India
Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India

The Apostolic Christian Church of America has been providing support and oversight of the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India since 1980.

At that time, the founder of the mission, Mr. B.B. Bhagwat, passed away and his will directed that assets and control of the mission be administered by the Apostolic Christian Church. Currently seven board members from our church meet regularly to assess the needs of the mission and determine how to best fulfill those needs. They also make periodic trips to India to provide first-hand oversight and direction.

The next trip is planned January, 2019.

In the rural areas that RGMMI serves, women form the major membership of these churches and are the backbone of the families as their husbands are away for seasonal employment. Some are the wives of small landholders who cultivate government land. There is a need for learning newer agricultural practices. Male evangelists have challenges in serving these areas because of cultural issues. Please pray that God will give them wisdom to serve these indigenous people amid discrimination from the local government.

Faithful ministers of the gospel share God’s word while laboring in challenging conditions. Last month 13
Meet Frantz. He lives in a modest home in a large city, where he shares a bedroom with his sister. Waking early, Frantz prepares himself for school, eats breakfast, and joins his family in prayer and Bible reading. He is fortunate . . . HarvestCall provides a lunch of rice and beans in his school, which is the exception and not the rule. After school, Frantz enjoys playing soccer with his friends, even if the “ball” is a ball of rags or a pop bottle.

Since electricity can’t be depended on in the evenings, Frantz completes his homework by lamplight. The day ends with a family dinner and devotions.

**Sponsorship Matters**
A good Christian education is very important to a Haitian family, but quite cost-prohibitive without the help of sponsors. Many schools are operated by a local church, with the pastor often serving as the school administrator. Most schools are only funded by what the parents can afford to pay, so it can be very difficult to keep schools open and teachers paid.

HarvestCall’s Child Sponsorship Committee gratefully thanks each sponsor for their generous support of this program. We will never be able to measure the impact of a Christian education in a child’s life. However, one child at a time, you can make a difference, in Haiti and in other countries . . . helping them receive an education that will provide an opportunity for a better life and ensuring that they hear the gospel message of eternal salvation.

**Prayer Request**
The need is great. As students move through the program and graduate, new students are starting out in first grade every year. Please prayerfully consider becoming a sponsor or sponsoring more children (www.harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship or call 309-266-6080). God has blessed this ministry which directly shares the gospel message with young souls who need to hear and embrace the Truth.
– by Ken Rinkenberger

souls were baptized after bringing their confession of faith and how they have grown in their new walk with the Lord. In November, two long-term evangelists will be given the responsibility of pastor (elder). Representatives of the USA Board plan to attend this ordination service.

The Khardi grade school has an attendance of over 300 students. After several years of red tape, an additional class is now expected to be added in the coming school year. Pray that as additional teachers are sought, qualified Christian teachers will apply.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers for the work of RGMMI. At times situations have seemed insurmountable and tested our faith, but the Lord has always been there. Certainly this is a demonstration of answered prayers by many of you.
– by John Lehman
A COMMON FIRST question when getting to know someone might be, “what do you do?” This is a helpful way to determine what stage of life someone is in and what fills a majority of their day. What we do tells a lot about our circumstances and what is important to us. Often our circumstances such as health, stage of life, and so on are outside of our control. On the other hand, what we deem as most important is a choice.

Parenting is one of the many places in life where we can experience the clash between what we want to do and what is most important to us. Even when we know what we should do, it can be difficult to find the strength and energy to follow through. Parents know we are to teach their children of the Lord and His commandments. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9) We know we are to care for our children. (1 Timothy 5:8) We try not to provoke our children to wrath. (Ephesians 6:4) While we know these truths, it is difficult to remember them and live accordingly when we are exhausted, angry, or overwhelmed in the midst of life.

To make things even more challenging, we don’t always know what we should do. The scriptures give guiding principles but not many specific “dos” and “don’ts”. We are left to sort through big decisions such as homeschool, public school, or private school. Or how many and what type of chores are appropriate for a child? Most of us struggle to know when we should be lenient and when we need to draw a hard line in the sand. In our best moments, we try to honor the Lord and seek to follow the Spirit’s direction. At our worst, we forget we are a child of God and the calling to represent Him to our children.

The parenting journey can feel like a roller coaster. One minute it is exhilarating and the next you wonder if you are going to survive. There are times when you see God work out amazing things in young hearts and times when it is scary. Amid parenting uncertainties, one of the grounding truths to remember is the realization that the Lord has given us the privilege to engage in the role of parenting. It may not always feel like a privilege yet being entrusted with the nurturing of young hearts surely is a privilege. It is also worth remembering we have not been given this privilege because of some ability or skill we possess but because a merciful God faithfully equips us for tasks far beyond our ability.

While we are to take the task of parenting seriously and seek to faithfully engage the task, we must guard against making our role of parenting into our sole identity. Being a parent is a place to live out our identity in Christ, but it is a fatal place to put our identity. Identity is what defines a person. It is the platform from which an individual views themselves and the world around them. It is what gives an individual worth, value and purpose. Most of us quickly agree with the idea that our worth and purpose are found through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Yet this truth is hard to hold onto when challenges, failures and disappointments arise. Our natural tendency is to define ourselves by the roles we engage in and how well those roles seem to be going.

In the case of parenting, this leads to taking too much responsibility for our children’s actions. It can lead to being ruled by fear with each decision that
The parenting journey can feel like a roller coaster. One minute it is exhilarating and the next you wonder if you are going to survive. kind of faith which believes the Lord can bring about fruit and life in our children’s hearts in spite of us.

When children are young, we are to teach them truth and help them learn to walk in righteousness. When they violate God’s law, we are to engage these moments as best we can with either mercy, discipline or some combination of the two. As they grow older, we continue to teach, instruct and exhort yet also realizing that they are becoming more and more responsible for their beliefs and behaviors. It is easy to second-guess decisions made, and there will certainly be times you will look back and wish you would have taken different action. Satan wants us to get lost in these mistakes whereas the Lord desires for us to acknowledge mistakes and then live according to who we are in Christ rather than according to past mistakes or accomplishments.

When our view of ourselves lies in our accomplishments, our children’s behavior or activities, or what others think about decisions we have made, we find ourselves continually discouraged. The Lord calls us to faithfulness to Him and to bear the fruit of being His child in the different roles we are given. One of the ways we can do this is through modeling what it looks like to live as a Child of God who has embraced their Christ-given identity. As you step back to evaluate your week, be willing to acknowledge both the joys and sorrows experienced while remembering you are not defined by your mistakes or successes. Fight to keep in mind that you are a beloved child of God.

Parenting is a wonderful role to be sanctified, and it is a role that will continually humble us and remind us of our inadequacies. Try to shift away from evaluating your week as either good or bad based on how you performed as a parent. Try to focus on God’s continual pursuit of you both in the mercy and correction you experience. Keep turning toward Him and receiving what He has for you. The Lord does not scowl at you when you blow it as a parent nor does He love you more when by His grace you do well. The Lord rejoices with you in the successes and patiently corrects and pours out His grace on you amid failures. Let us live in the light of these truths.

ACCFS has a host of resources available to encourage parents in their responsibilities. We continue to conduct Parenting with a Purpose seminars and other presentations as requested. In addition, we develop and refer to many other helpful resources on our website at www.accounseling.org/parenting. If you have requests or would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Pause. Take a moment to read those verses again. Dwell on them, and let their message fill your mind before reading the rest of this article. Do so before reading the rest of The Silver Lining for that matter.

These were not the verses I originally anticipated the Lord bringing to light as I sought to sum up the heart behind LifePoints’ newest venture into the world of Social Media. However, these are the words which the Lord used to stop me in my tracks as I thought about LifePoints and our desire to use Facebook and Instagram as another way to connect the church more deeply with this ministry – this good work that the church began and continues to support.

We are blessed to be a part of the Apostolic Christian Church, with congregations spanning across the country! When reading the verses above about assembling together, your mind probably turned only to your local congregation. However, there are also opportunities for our church to come together as a whole and encourage each other across congregations. What you are reading right now is one of them! Have you stopped to think how awesome it is that an individual from our church in Prescott, AZ can connect with the lessons that members in our church in Clarendon, VT, are learning and writing about in The Silver Lining?

This publication offers us a great opportunity to learn about one another, encourage the body, and pray specifically for the ministries we support. We have started LifePoints’ Facebook and Instagram as another way for you to connect with the work we are doing. These are God’s children we are serving, and through social media you have the opportunity to learn about their lives, rejoice in their victories, and love them deeply. As the faces and stories of our residents come up in your news feeds, we hope that you are encouraged and that God is glorified.

If, as you read this you think; “But I absolutely do not want to be on social media,” that is fine! However, it is more than likely that there are many people you interact with at church (even your kids) who do have their own accounts, but do not already know about LifePoints. Encourage them to connect with us and learn about the individuals we serve. Encourage and be encouraged to pray for LifePoints.

To plug into this LifePoints community online, be sure to like and follow us @aclifepoints on both Facebook and Instagram. Praise be to God that He has given us these opportunities to come together in new ways and encourage one another to love and do good works.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Tim & Geri — Adoptive Parents

My husband and I felt called to adoption after no longer being able to have children of our own. As we researched options that also called to our spiritual needs to serve, Gateway Woods was presented to us as an agency. We could not have been more pleased with Luci Koch and the team at Gateway Woods. They really took the time to get to know us, and to help us. They approached every situation with a servant heart. It was in their help that we reached out to two other agencies that really matched our desire of a Christian, God-filled adoption journey.

A social worker at one of these agencies connected us with
our birthmother directly, and we began the process of a private placement adoption. We could not have gotten through this process without our faith in God, and the wonderful people at both agencies who were such a tremendous resource for us. In less than a year from when we were adoption certified, we welcomed home a healthy and very happy baby boy, named Ben. Our daughter helped us pick out the name as Ben is derived from the Latin translation, gift from God.

It is often that people tell us how lucky that Ben is, but we don’t feel that way at all, in fact, we very much feel like the lucky ones to have Ben in our lives. The process of adoption was life changing for Tim and I and we have not only a greater sense of purpose after adopting, but also great respect for how God’s plan unfolds in each of our lives. Our birthmother had such a heartbreaking story, and we realized how being born to a family that loves us and also realizing God’s love for us can make all the difference in someone’s life.

There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t pray for our birthmother, or think of her. She will forever be a part of our lives and our hearts. We stay in touch, I send cards and pictures, and we recently met for dinner with Ben. When Luci explained the benefits of an open adoption, I was skeptical, but I will say our open adoption has been good for both of our hearts. Jesus says we should “be the light”, and it has given us great opportunity to do just that.

We couldn’t imagine life without our dear, sweet, Ben, or this experience to meet and walk in faith with a complete stranger with a shared interest of providing the best life possible for a child of God. Our hearts are full, and this is an experience we wouldn’t have had without the help of so many and our faith that God had a plan for us, even though it didn’t match our own plan for our lives. Our story has a happy ending, but also a beautiful beginning in finding ways to share our own experience, share in the need to trust the Lord, and to live a life of compassion, humility, and grace.

News:

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

We are thankful for Todd & Kara Strahm and the four years they gave to Gateway Woods. Please join us in thanking and praying for them as they make this transition out of Gateway.

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, and a Houseparent Couple. For more information, please see our ad in this 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.
Chicago. We thank them for their service and especially for the time and effort they are putting into the Vision project.

We rejoice that our Bro. Bob Farney can worship with us again after being disabled for a brief time. We also welcome Bro. Larry LaBudde as he is able to physically return to worship after completing his treatment for leukemia. Please continue to pray for full recovery and ongoing good health.

Our ACTIVE program is under way and we have several community service projects to complete before the Holidays. We are so thankful for our youth – our future church.

Our winter visitors are returning. We are thankful for the many blessings of their presence with us.

“Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”
Psalm 100:3-5

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.”
Psalm 95:1-2

Are we thankful to the Rock of our salvation? Personally, I don’t feel like I tell Jesus often enough how much I appreciate all He does for me. Just the fact that He wants to have a relationship with me is remarkable. Consider Hebrews 12:2, “for the joy that was set before him (Jesus) endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” The joy it speaks of is His gift of reconciliation with us. With me. With you. He took on flesh – that alone is an act of astounding measure. God, Creator of the universe and all that is in it, Perfect and Holy, became a helpless baby, completely vulnerable to and dependent upon the occupants of a fallen world. Then, He endured the cross, along with the complete rejection and continual rebuke and cursing by His created (and beloved) beings. He despised the shame. He was untroubled about being vilified, because of the joy that was set before him! The joy of satisfying the requirements of a righteous God to restore sinners to relationship with Him. THAT was his joy! The joy of regaining his brothers and sisters. The joy of being set down at the right hand of the Throne, to mediate on behalf of those who rejected Him. If you have ever been betrayed; if you have been shamed; if you have been injured – physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually; if you have been unjustly accused or mistreated; then you have an idea of what He endured. We may never comprehend the enormity of the gift we were given – certainly not on earth. When I try and comprehend it, I can only look forward to praising Him and thanking Him for all eternity! The chapter goes on to outline the difference between the patriarchs of old and their fearful interactions with God, and the peace Jesus was able to mediate for us, the “church of the firstborn.” As we spend time this month enjoying and giving thanks for our material blessings – and they are many – and for being citizens of this country and the freedoms we are granted by that citizenship, let’s focus our appreciation on the stunning spiritual blessings we enjoy because of our citizenship in the “general assembly and church of the firstborn”. We have access by Jesus Christ, our mediator, to the very throne of God!

“Oh what a Savior! Isn’t He wonderful? Sing hallelujah…”
(Elevation Worship, “O Come to the Altar”)

Our congregation was recently blessed by a visit from Elder Bro. Ben (Sis. Michelle) Wiegand of Philadelphia and Elder Bro. Brad (Sis. Cindy) Eisenmann of Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

Monday mornings have a different meaning to each person. To some it’s a school rush, to some it’s jumping back into meetings and emails or catch up from a busy weekend. The day before was Sunday, our day of rest, but did
we really let it refresh us? Did you step away from the to-do lists to rest in Jesus, to spend time with your family and refocus on your foundation in Christ? If we head into Monday frazzled before we look at our to-do list and how to prioritize better, maybe we really need to look at our day of rest and draw strength from the true source of life.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28-29.

We are thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Jim Meiss from Austin/Bastrop and Bro. Jerry (Sis. Martha) Bauman from Rittman.

California, San Diego
Sarah Fulop

Greetings from San Diego! Despite the absence of colorful leaves and crisp weather, we have fully embraced fall with emerald hue fashion and pumpkin spice lattes. Midterms are in full swing and our prayers go out to our hardworking students. The kitchen project is also well underway and the end is in sight!

October also means it’s time for the biannual San Diego/Altadena picnic. Complete with grilled hot dogs, a ridiculous amount of sweets, and nice strolls through the beautiful Orange County park, we enjoyed time spent in fellowship and worship with our fellow brothers and sisters from Altadena.

This month we also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker as well as Bro. Brent Wagenbach, Sis. Alisha and their two children.

On the weekend of September 29-30, Bro. Sebastian Wiegand (Bro. Charlie & Sis. Naomi) gave his testimony of how the Lord personally reached down and saved his soul and was then baptized. Weekends like these remind us all of God’s amazing grace “to save a wretch like me”! Praise the Lord that his faithfulness continues.

On that same weekend, Elder Bros. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) took time out of their busy schedules to interview nearly every brother and sister in our church. The information gathered will assist us as we consider another brother for the ministry. Thank you for your time and sincere care, brothers!

Love is blossoming here! Sis. Bonnie Lackey has announced her engagement to Bro. Tim Troxel of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. While we ache at the pending departure of Sis. Bonnie, we rejoice at the Lord’s faithfulness in bringing these two souls together! The couple plans an early December wedding and plans to reside in Florida.

Also, Loren Fehr (Bro. Matt & Sis. Rachel) and Taylor Krening have announced their engagement. It has been a joy to watch their love for the Lord grow and we trust that He will be the One who draws their hearts closer together in this special time of engagement!

We thank Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) for spending a weekend sharing the Memorandum. We appreciated...
the open communication and communion with you! May the Lord be your great reward!

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.” Psalm 37:23

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Amanda Virkler

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” 1 Cor. 13:13

We rejoice with Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Ron & Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Myron Kaeb (Bro. Morris Kaeb & Brenda Mueller) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on October 14. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their new life together in the Forrest congregation.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us this past month, including Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL). We are thankful that they were willing to be here and to share God’s Word.

Florida, Fort Myers
Mary Masters

We are already enjoying our increased numbers with more snow birds arriving each week. It is so wonderful to renew acquaintances and enjoy sweet fellowship.

We were saddened to hear that our sweet Sis. Dottie Beer (Bro. Vic) spent some time in the hospital and in rehab. We pray that she is feeling better.

We are thankful for the visit from our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn). It is always a pleasure to have them come for a visit.

The New Beginnings

We have had calls from individuals and agencies asking if we could take in more women. We are currently full with adding our fifth single mom tomorrow. We will introduce her and her child in our next article.

When I was outside working in the back yard recently, one of our moms came to ask me a question. The question was: “Since
I have a child out of wedlock, can I ever be pure?” (in God’s eyes) I was so thankful to be able to tell her with a joyful YES, you can be pure if you take Jesus as your Lord and Savior, believing that He shed His innocent blood on the cross for you and live with Him as your Lord. I further explained that if Jesus is Lord of your life, then good fruits will be evident in your life. What a wonderful Lord we serve, that was willing to leave the glory of heaven to come to this sin-sick earth only to suffer and die for us!

Last Sunday in church two of our residents were listening intently to Bro. Karl as he was expounding the word. When they were talking to me later, they both told me that it was very impressive when Bro. Karl pointed out that if you are running FROM something, then you must also be running TO something. What a privilege to be able to run TO God and feel His everlasting arms around us.

It is such a privilege to be able to share the good news to those who have never heard this great account of God’s love for mankind. Sister Becky Funk from Gridley, IL came recently and had supper with us at The New Beginnings. She shared her testimony of God’s grace in her life. The women sat and eagerly listened to this present-day account of the many kindnesses and workings in Becky’s life. Accounts like this, give such encouragement and hope to these young women who have encountered many hardships and battles in life. We thank Becky for taking time to come and share her evening with us.

I will close with the scripture from Philippians 2:14-15. “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation.” Are you and I like the Israelites that grumbled and complained their way through life in the desert? I must confess that I am guilty of complaining at times. Complaining opens the door to self-pity. I need to remember that when I’m tempted to complain that I need to take it to God and not to others. We can safely take our troubles to God, our Creator because He understands us better than we understand ourselves and will help us think more clearly about our concerns from His perspective.

**Florida, Sarasota**

**Sandra Kaeb**

We were blessed by Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) and Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Tricia, South Bend) as they shared God’s word.

We are thankful that the surgeries went well for Sis. Aldine Martin and Bro. Art Keller. Both of them are recuperating very well.

We had a hot summer and are looking forward to some cooler weather. Our winter residents as they slowly are starting to return to Florida.

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease.”

Genesis 8:22

**Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta**

**Lexi Knapp**

“My Lord, an offering do I bring; my heart I give to Thee. I gladly give this heart of mine, Which Thou dost ask of me.”

The Covenant of Grace, Zion’s Harp #163

The rich words of this hymn echo in my heart as I reflect on some of the joys we’ve had this past month. Every time it is sung, I find myself reflecting on my own baptism weekend and the goodness of God since then. Likewise, we rejoiced with Bro. Micah Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) and Sis. Chloe Steidinger and Bro. Rudy Steidinger (Bro. Phillipe and Sis. Lana) as they were able to give their testimonies and be baptized. We are so exceedingly thankful for the work God has done in their lives and are looking forward to having them fit into their roles as members of our local body. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) here to assist Bro. Tom with the weekend.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) from ACCFS to present a marriage seminar to our church couples. It was a time of learning,
strengthening, and growing for all. We also were thankful to have them minister to us on Sunday. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) ministered to us as well this past month.

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*

Greetings of Love from Bonne Fin, Haiti! The brothers and sisters at Hospital Lumiere have been blessed beyond measure by restoring rains in the area. We are thankful, as the replenishing rains are important to many of those in the community around us, as well as to the hospital.

In the months of September and October we were served by a South Carolina Orthopedic team and an Orthopedic team from Pennsylvania and Florida. In addition, several brothers and sisters visited the HarvestCall missions and work in Haiti as part of a bi-annual Awareness trip. Bro. Jim Meiss and his wife, Sister Candy (Austin/Bastrop, TX), as well as Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) shared the word of God with us on Sunday.

“We Also 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.” Isaiah 6:8

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

*Mike & Susie Walder*

For those of us not quite used to hot and humid every day, it has been a welcome relief to experience several weeks of unusually cool and rainy weather recently. We really don’t get seasonal changes here like back home, so it was almost as if Fall had arrived! Recorded in Matthew, Jesus explained that God sends the rain on the just and the unjust alike. He is truly merciful to all and His goodness is over all the earth! We are so often in need of that mercy. It makes me think of the lyrics we sing in the chorus of “There Shall Be Showers of Blessing”: “mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.”

We have enjoyed visitors from far and wide this past month as an Awareness Team led by Bros. Rich Bertschi (Roanoke, IL) and Rick Wuehrich (Francesville, IN) came to view all of the current HarvestCall ministries in southern Haiti. Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Bastrop, TX) also shared from the Word on the weekend the team was here. Brethren from Bonne Fin and many local missionaries were also here for our first service held at the newly-remodeled Child Sponsorship building. It was a blessing to hear the Word and then to share a meal and more fellowship at the Walders’ afterward.

Before the team left, we also spent an evening sharing several testimonies how God leads a family into missionary service. If you are interested in taking a future Awareness Tour you can view the upcoming tour dates in the back of the Silver Lining or view the calendar at harvestcall.org.

All the current HarvestCall missionaries in South Haiti were invited to a meal and a singing a few weeks later at the dairy farm in Torbeck when Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) was here to help at the farm. Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Tom Hitz (Detroit, MI) were visiting simultaneously at Hospital Lumiere. It was a blessing to have Bros. Tom S. and Ron share some thoughts and encouragement from the Word after the singing.

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Amy Hanson, Krista Anliker*

Greetings from Belvidere! We thank each one who came to worship with us this month. Although we did not have any visiting ministers, we thank each one, visitors and those from our home congregation, (ministers and each and every individual) for their special part in our congregation.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or
Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

God has a plan and a purpose for each one of us. May we “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Illinois, Bloomington-
Normal
Jenae Herrmann,
Wendy Zimmerman

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

As the days shorten and the trees drop their leaves, we are reminded that the world around us quickly changes. However, we can rejoice that our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Testimonies and baptisms are always a joyous occasion and a reminder of the miracles that God continues to work! We were blessed to hear the testimonies of how God has worked in their lives and witness the baptisms of Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller, who recently laid to rest Steve’s mother, Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka.

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lana Wiegand

We would like to thank several visiting ministers for sharing the Word: Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. LuAnn, Princeville, IL); Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Mediapolis, IA); and Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL).

We are thankful that Bro. Ed Ehnle is back home again after his recovery at Skylines Home. It was a blessing to see him back in church, as well!

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller, who recently laid to rest Steve’s mother, Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka.

Robb and Kelly Kieser joyfully welcomed their first grandson, Andrew (Drew) Seaby, on October 10. Little Drew is the son of Andy and Megan Kieser. His maternal grandparents are Kim DeRose and Seaby Bess. It sounds as though he is already making his way deep into the hearts of the Kieser family!

On October 14, the 3rd-12th grade Sunday School classes each gathered for their annual wiener roasts with their respective teachers. The children played a variety of games and gathered around warm bonfires, a welcome addition to a chilly night. It was with pleasure that we watched our precious youth mingle and create special memories with each other!

Illinois, Champaign

Brent Young

“Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Thanks are in order for our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Greg Lehman, Jason Dotterer, Mark Roth, and Matthew Kaisner.

We are rejoicing with new parents, Seth & Adrienne Waibel, upon the arrival of their baby girl, Lizah Beth.

We sorrow with Lois Vogel (Bro. Jerry) in the loss of her sister, Velma Meyer.

We are very thankful that Kirbi Eckerty has decided to continue her walk of faith with us and seek membership here in Champaign!

The three statements above include a birth, a death, and a re-birth. Recently, I attended the funeral of my wife’s great-aunt and when they read the obituary, I was struck with the question: If I wrote my own obituary, what would I include? What would merit being read off the pulpit while my body waits in the box? Naturally, that evening after the house was quiet, I gave it a try.

Obituaries follow a few conventions, so the organization isn’t challenging. The first real
pause was how to pick a date and time. I decided to pick a time in the past, so to avoid predicting my own demise. Survivors included my wife and children, parents, siblings, and their spouses. There are too many nieces and nephews to include names, and you pay by the column-inch.

My statistics included dates and a few details for when I was born, born again, engaged, and married. At this point I was beginning to feel the real weight of the exercise, but I highly recommend it. I have no way of knowing if I’ll update this draft, or if editing will be necessary.

I included only a couple more items and selected a couple places for memorial funds, but those details are for me alone, and maybe you, should you inquire.

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We extend thanks to Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) for visiting in October to help Bro. Brad with Fall Communion.

September was full of activities. We had a WoW Moms event, a Centre Lumiere Sale, and a HarvestCall day where we assembled school kits and spent some focused time in small prayer groups.

Sis. Kyann Wuethrich has agreed to serve as a Sunday School teacher. We pray for God’s blessing and appreciate her willingness to serve our children.

We welcome Bro. Brett and Sis. Elizabeth Gerber and their young daughter, Audrey. They were previously in the Nashville, TN area and have moved to the Chicago suburbs for employment. We are excited to have them in our church family!

We rejoice to announce the engagement of our Sis. Abbie Kuntz (previously from Gridley) to Bro. Alec Gramm (West Lafayette, IN). Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. RaeJean Kuntz (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Brad (dec.) and Sis. Luann Gramm (Bloomington, IL).

Our dear Sis. Lucille Koehl passed away on October 11, shortly after she reached her 100th birthday on October 1. We mourn with her family, but we rejoice for the hope that she had in Christ and look forward to a glad reunion in heaven.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder

It is always with praise when an individual desires to serve the Lord. Please pray for our convert, David Miller, in his repentance with the Lord.

Among other visitors, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) was able to join us for worship. We thank him for being willing to share the Gospel and are always thankful when visitors choose to spend their day in Cissna Park.

We pray our Father can comfort Bro. Stan Maul as he was hospitalized for a recent farm accident. We pray for strength for Stan, and any who have suffered from pain and pray for complete healing where it is God’s will.

Our church enjoyed the blessing of a baptism weekend for Abbi Kaeb (Bro. Todd & Sis. Val Kaeb). We were thankful Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) was able to be here for the testimony and baptism. We enjoyed the others that were able to join us for the day as well.

Children and grandchildren are such a blessing. Bro. Bill & Sis. Wanda Maul have a new grandson, William Charles Decker, born to Justin & Sarah Decker.

Illinois, Congerville

Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

Invite-a-Guest weekend is always a blessed time of fellowship with our brethren from other churches, who come to be with us for the day. I always intend to keep track of the number of churches that are represented on this day, but alas, I didn’t! What is more important is the bond we feel as brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter how far apart physically we may live. Bros. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford), and Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury) joined us for the weekend. We appreciate them giving of themselves to preach the Word.

Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City) also visited our church this month and shared the Word of Life. We pray that they would continue to feel the Spirit’s nearness.
We are thankful that Josh Wiegand (Bro. Joe and Sis. Myra) and Simon Wiegand (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb) have professed peace with God and man. Lord willing, they will bring their testimonies of what the Lord has done in their lives and be baptized November 24 and 25. May they feel the Spirit’s nearness as they continue preparing their hearts and minds to bury the old man and rise to newness of life in Christ!

Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka), mother to our Sis. Gloria Walder (Elder Bro. Bob, dec.) and grandmother to our Bro. Brad Walder (Sis. Carla), passed away peacefully at the age of 97. Although such a death brings a sense of relief another soul is at rest, the hole that is left in a family when a dear parent goes Home is certainly felt by all. May the comfort of the Holy Spirit touch each one who remains.

This past year has had me thinking a lot about how much can change in just one year. Last year at this time, my husband and I each had two grandparents left. Now there is only one between us. At this time last year our youngest hadn’t had her first birthday, and this year she is a running, talking, and full of personality! There have been weddings, births, deaths, pregnancy losses, and milestones reached all within our own family in this past year. One year was all it took for so much change. But in all the excitement, disappointment and hope that one year brings, I’m reminded that the earthly events of our life are as the Bible describes, as a vapor. Seasons come and go, circumstances change, and our lives change right along with them. The abiding peace of knowing this world is not our home and Heaven is a reality for the believer, keeps us hoping and coping, praying and watching as our lives, families and world change around us. Sometimes we despair of life itself, as Paul did of the trouble which befell the believers in Asia. (2 Corinthians 1:8) In the very next verse Paul provides the remedy for the despairing believer then and for all time--trust in God. (2 Corinthians 1:9) When we place our trust in God, “the things of earth will grow strangely dim” and we hope expectantly for the life to come.

“Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!” Hymns of Zion, #147

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont) for ministering during the past month.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Lyla Schock passed away on September 30. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) conducted her funeral service on October 4. Survivors include her six children: Sue (Doug) Kellenberger (Fort Wayne, IN), Richard Schock II (Peoria, IL), Sis. Jeanne (Bro. Bob) Schambach, Laurie Schock, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Steve) Fischer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ted (Sis. Heidi) Schock (Belvidere). Also surviving are two sisters: Beth (Robert) Hoppe (Bethel Park, PA), Sis. Carolyn Haas; two brothers: Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Carol) of Gainesville, FL, and Stan (Cheryl) Kellenberger of Appleton, WI, and other family members. Lyle Steiner passed away on September 1 in Los Angeles. He was the brother of Eleanor (Bob) Weiss. His funeral was in Sabetha, KS.

Sis. Libbie Ann Moser recently broke her hip and had surgery. Bro. Greg Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie) underwent another eye surgery.

A sweet baby girl, Emmie Mae, was born to Scott and Darline Krueger on September 21. Her big brothers are Collin and James. Her grandmothers are Lanong Panyasiri and Mary Krueger.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

“…and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:14-15

The Lord is faithful, and we have been blessed with two new brothers to assist in the ministry. They are Bro. Mark Dotterer (Sis. Kate) and Bro. Brad Stoller (Sis. Amanda). May we all continue in fervent prayer for them and all of our ministers that the wonderful
truth of the Word may continue to be preached.

We have also been blessed with visiting ministers this month: Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL). A heartfelt thanks goes to each one of them.

It’s always exciting to welcome a new baby. Emmet John Cottrell was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Jodi Cottrell on October 13, joining his big sister, Elsie. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann Blunier and Bro. John and Sis. Gloria Cottrell.

Bro. Dave (Sis. Beulah, dec.) Ehnle has been suffering from ill health. We pray he and his family will feel God’s nearness and peace in this difficult time.

A dear one has gone on to her reward. We will miss Sis. Clara (Bro. Leroy, dec.) Huber who passed away on 10/8. Our sympathy is extended to her family. Sons are: Bro. Steve (Sis. Anna Marie) of Bradford, Gary Huber of Eureka, Stanley (Lola) Stoller of Eureka, James (Sharon) Stoller of Eureka, and Robert (Janice) Stoller of Liberal, MO. Daughters are: Sis. Gloria (Bro. Bob, dec.) Walder of Congerville, Twylla (Floran) Streitmatter of Brimfield, Jane (Kurt) Ehne of Edelstein, Ila (Roger) Bradle of Secor, and Carol (Jerry) Braker of Liberal, MO. We also remember her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Note of Thanks:**
We wish to thank everyone for your love and prayers of support during Merle’s recent six week hospital stay and ongoing therapy. We are humbled and eternally grateful for God’s mercy and peace. We love you all! Bro. Merle & Sis. Bev Rocke

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger**

On September 20, our congregation gained a sweet little boy. Bro. Timothy and Sis. Jenna Hartman welcomed their firstborn, Grey Titus. His grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman and the late Bro. Eldon and late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb (Forrest, IL).

On the same day Jane Bahler ended her battle with cancer. May God comfort her husband, Marvin, and children: Sis. Julie Drayer (Bro. Herman, Bluffton, IN), Sis. Connie Bahler, and Steve Bahler (Darlene). Also surviving Jane are her sister, Lois Lemna (North Manchester, IN); a brother, Bill Helmers (Darlene, Cropsey, IL); and one brother-in-law, Kenny Broquard. We give thanks to God that she expressed a desire to change her life in her final weeks.

Bro. Caleb and Sis. Abby Larson were united in holy matrimony on September 30. Their parents are Doug and Beth Rinkenberger and Mark and Sis. Rosemary Larson (Mediapolis, IA). We wish them God’s blessings as they make their home in Mediapolis.

The engagement of Sis. Renae Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth) to Bro. Josiah Koch (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sandy, Tremont, IL) was made known on September 30. We wish them much grace and blessings as they prepare for their life together.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr added a little grandson to their family on September 30.

Remington Wayne was born to Kyann Henry and welcomed by siblings Justin, Hunter, Neveah and Gunnar.


Patrick Lyle was born October 12 to Bro. Blake and Sis. Kristin Zehr. He is sure to get much love from his older brothers, Garrett and Kenton, and grandparents, Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan Zehr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall.

May God grant each of these families much grace and wisdom to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Sis. Lorene Boner spent a short time in the hospital and is now making her home at Fairview Haven. May God strengthen and comfort her through this transition. Our prayers have also been with Bro.
Glenn Fehr through his surgery and hospitalization.

One of our retired ministers, Bro. Merle Kaisner, passed away October 16. We extend our sympathy to his children: Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid (Bro. Al, Forrest, IL), Robert Kaisner (Cherie), Bro. Jerry Kaisner (Sis. Donna), Don Kaisner (Leona), Gwen Knapp, and Sis. LeAnn Kaeb. We also remember Bro. Merle’s surviving siblings: Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Bro. Leon Kaisner (Sis. Eunice, Peoria, IL), Larry Kaisner (Cynthia, Forrest, IL), Helen Vollmer (Newberry Park, CA), Sis. Janet Farney (Bro. Roger, Bloomington, IL), and Sis. Lou Ida Steffen (Bro. Richard, Forrest, IL) and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren during this time of their loss.

May God bless the brothers who visited and ministered to us: Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin-Bastrop, TX), Elder Bro. John Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Medapolis, IA), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Medapolis, IA) and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ).

We also extend a sincere thanks and appreciation to Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for coming on a Friday evening and speaking to us on using our senses for God’s glory.

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz**

“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

1 Corinthians 12:26

As a church family, we shared many emotions together this month.

There was much rejoicing as we heard the testimonies of six dear souls: Wade Mueller, Erin Mueller, (children of Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen), Beth Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Carson Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette), and Mark and Nicole Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami Bahler, Fairbury, and Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen Mueller). What an encouragement to witness their baptism and rejoice with the angels in heaven.

We extend heartfelt thanks for the labors of Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) during the baptism weekend. We also appreciated the services of Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, Ft. Myers, FL) and Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL).

We rejoiced with Bro. Trent and Sis. Tiffany Schmidgall, as they welcomed sweet Macy Claire into their home. Also excited are siblings: Brock, Kyleigh and Laynie. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman (Bloomington, IL). Eli Jeffrey joined the home of Bro. Philip and Sis. Katie Zimmerman, making Amos a big brother. Happy grandparents are Jeff and Steph Zimmerman and Lynn and Becky Schaffer.

Prayers were sent on behalf of those spending time in the hospital this month: our convert Marge Stephens, Bro. Ted Bachtold (Sis. Teresa), Bro. Mel & Sis. Leon Steffen, and Lorene Boner. May they continue to feel God’s nearness during their time of recuperation.

Our hearts sorrow with those who have said good-bye to loved ones this month. Bro. Henry Friedman (Sis. Marge) laid to rest his brother, Richard. William Metz of Texas, brother of Sis. Ruth Metz and Sis. Esther Gerber (Bro. Earl) passed away. Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Sis. Kathy and Bro. Dan Banwart and families said farewell to their father and grandfather, Ivan Steidinger. Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury) also passed away, leaving his daughter, Sis. Wanda and Bro. Al Kupferschmid, and sister, Sis. Lou Ida and Bro. Richard Steffen, as well as grandchildren and many other relatives in our congregation.

There were also tears of joy as two dear couples joined hand and heart. Kristi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudi Rudin) wed Brian Reed. Bro. Myron Kaeb (Bro. Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller)
exchanged vows with Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). May God be with them as they start their new lives together.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

**Judy Knapp, Amy Hinrichsen**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of 3 dear souls the weekend of September 29 and 30. Sis. Marisa Herrmann, daughter of Sis. Kitty and Bro. Ross; Sis. Brooke Wiegand, daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen; and Sis. Sabrina Glueck, daughter of George and Pauline are welcomed into our church family. Brother Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) helped with the baptismal weekend. It was very good to be reminded of what truly matters most in life, our soul salvation, and just how faithful our Father in Heaven is.

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus and to take Him at His word. Just to rest upon His promise; Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

We are very thankful to announce that Toby Plattner and Sydney Swords are at peace with God and man and desire baptism. Toby is the son of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan. Sydney is the daughter of Bro. Kris and Sis. Heather. We are planning for their testimonies and baptisms on October 27 and 28. We are so thankful that God is still patient and calling souls to repentance and conversion.

Goodfield is excited and thankful to announce the confirmation of our new minister Bro. Kurt Plattner and his wife, Sis. Joan. Kurt and Joan have recently returned from being missionaries in Haiti (beginning of July) with their four children: Reggie, Toby, Hadley, and Brenna. We were blessed to have Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Trent Miess (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) partake in the minister installation service on October 14. We were reminded of how important it is for us to be praying as a church for our ministers. It is our duty as brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for our ministers and it is something we should not take lightly.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Eph. 6:18

Also recently, Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber) was installed in the ministry in San Diego. We are praying for them and their family with this new transition.

Other visiting ministers for this month were: Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, Fort Meyers, FL) and Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jody, Indianapolis, IN).

We continue to lift up our Bro. Herman Glueck in prayer as he battles cancer and all those others battling illnesses.

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

The Phoenix, AZ choir was in Gridley during the weekend of October 20/21. They sang on Saturday night in the Fellowship Hall during the annual Harvest meal. On Sunday following the afternoon service, they performed in the assembly. Visiting ministers from Phoenix preached on Sunday: Elder Bro. Herbert Knochel and Bro. Brian Katich. Bro. Roy Zimmerman has been in therapy following his knee replacement, and is now home in Gridley again. Kenneth Burgess also had a knee replacement, and is taking therapy in a nursing home. Bro. Perry Klopfenstein fell on September 25, and sustained a broken hip. He is convalescing and recovering at home. He, too, is taking therapy.

In my experience as a Silver Lining reporter, I must admit it is far different reporting on injuries to others than to me. Experiencing a broken hip (September 25) has taught me one thing. Any blessing we have can be taken in an instant. In my case, the blessing was walking, freely. Now, as I recover, I am limited in mobility and must use a walker for several weeks. But I have hope to recover my walking patterns, thanks to God’s mercy. There are many who lose blessings and cannot recover them, such as losing a spouse or sustaining a severe illness. I am personally thankful to God for the kindnesses shown me as I recover. I especially thank the ministers who came to
visit me and prayed. To me, visiting the sick is among the noblest acts of Christian ministry.

Sis. Rachel Kaeb was announced to marry Bro. Logan Slagel, both from Gridley. Her parents are Elder Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb. His parents are Dennis and Lorene Slagel of rural Fairbury.

Harvest time has been completed, with bountiful crops, generally. It is a marvel to witness the growing crops, and to watch them grow into maturity. All the hard work and attention to detail has helped contribute to a big crop, thanks to God. It is His work. Man can plant, but it is the Lord that gives the increase.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

Our month here in Morton has been filled with many spiritually uplifting activities.

September 21 we enjoyed our annual wiener roast and singing around the fire. After much very hot weather, the Lord blessed us with a beautiful cool evening to enjoy food, fellowship and singing praises to our God.

October 3, Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Kati, Gridley, IL) joined us for our Family Worship Night continuing our topic “Created in God’s Image” - “His Workmanship”. Bro. Arlan spoke on “His Masterpiece”. God creates us as He pleases for His purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

We are happy to welcome Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn Wiegdand and their daughters, Sis. Ellen and Sis. Leah, who have moved from Phoenix, AZ and are making Morton their home church. We pray this dear family feels our love for them, as we feel their love for us.

Two sets of grandparents have welcomed new babies into their families. September 13, Jude Yaechan was born to Sae Han and Summer Park of Urbana, IL. His siblings are Abigail, Daniel and Ezra. Happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn Roeschley. Bro. Billy and Sis. Sheri Daniel are excited to have a new granddaughter. Poppy LeeAnn was born September 14 to Casey and Kaycee Daniel. Poppy has a big brother Finley.

We extend our sympathy to three families who have said farewell to their loved ones. September 30, Ralph Zeigler entered his heavenly home. He is survived by his wife, Karen; two daughters, Jane Ellen (Richard) Tapp and Judith Ann (Charles) Downes; and four grandchildren. He was the son-in-law of our late Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Belsley. October 8, Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka passed away. Surviving in our Morton congregation are her brothers, Bro. Solomon (Sis. Sharilyn) Rassi and Robert Rassi; and her sister, Leah Warren.

October 16, Gene Gasper of Tremont, IL also passed away. He is the brother of our Sis. Jackie Babin (late Bro. Ken).

The week end of September 29 and 30 was a special one for our Morton church as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Coreena and Julia Witzig. We welcome these two young ladies as our Sisters-in-Faith and wish them God’s blessings as they continue to follow His direction for their lives. May their lights shine brightly wherever He may lead them. It was an extra special time for Sis. Coreena and Sis. Julia and for our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. as he had the blessing of baptizing his twin granddaughters.

Third John 1:4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

We thank Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL); Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL); Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Kati, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angi, Washington, IL) for serving us on the pulpit the day of the baptisms. We also thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) for serving us this month.

Sunday, October 7, we enjoyed our fall hymn sing with a pizza supper followed by an evening of singing. We were especially inspired by the enthusiasm of our three-year-old through third grade students as they sang their Sunday School songs for us.

The evening of October 17 we were richly blessed to hear
the testimony of Joe Gomez. We welcome him as our new Brother-in-Christ. He is a special addition to our Morton church family, and we look forward to having him serve the Lord with us.

*Zion’s Harp 220 “To me is given boundless mercy, A gift that I did not deserve; Such wondrous love, it is so marv’lous, That such for me should be reserved. But since I know, I will rejoice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice.”*

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and thanking God for the many blessings of the past year, let us remember to pray for those who have heavy crosses to bear as we enter into the Christmas season.

**Illinois, Peoria**

*Crystal Wettstein, Bonnie Bach*

Recently we were reminded of the blessing we have to come out of the noisy turmoil of the world into the Lord’s house. There we find peace, love, and unity! Let’s remember to be grateful!

One beautiful Saturday evening in September, our church enjoyed an outdoor gospel singing at the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr. We appreciate all they have done to host this for the third year!

Sis. Shirley Triplett and Bro. Ray Ringger of Bloomington, IL were united in marriage. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger assisted Elder Bro. Tim Funk in performing the ceremony. We welcome Bro. Ray to our church. Bro. Karl Weyneth (Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary) married Sis. Janet Rocke (Sis. Kathy and late Bro. Nelson) in Tremont, IL on September 30. We look forward to having Sis. Janet in our congregation. May God bless these two couples!

Thoughts and prayers of sympathy are with those who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Jeremy Calame’s (Sis. Elizabeth) grandmother, Elaine Troyer, passed away. Although she lived some distance away, he was able to spend some time with her at the end of her life. Our hearts are grieved in the unexpected passing of Michael Herman, age 44. He enjoyed singing in the church choir and attending church and Bible studies. His mother Mary Ann Herman and his siblings and fiancée will be in our prayers.

As we say goodbye to some, we welcome new babies into our lives. Chris and Jenna Oedewalt along with big brother Knox welcomed home baby boy, Brooks Jackson. Grandparents from our church are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Rieker. Bowen William was born to Bro. Devon and Sis. Leah Knobloch of Princeville. He has two big sisters, Paisley and Tatum. His Peoria church grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie Stickling. May God guide the steps of these little ones and provide wisdom to the parents and grandparents as they raise such innocent ones!

We feel blest that Bro. Dave Oberfel (Sis. Kathy) has recovered and is again able to serve in the ministry. Bro. Fedi Davidovics (Sis. Ruth) is battling health problems. We pray for his recovery!

“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

*John 16:33.*

**Illinois, Princeville**

*Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ*

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

We have been blessed with many precious babies in our congregation this month. Caleb Michael Schick was born to Kevin and Abbie Schick at home on September 17 joining big brother Lucas. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick. Baby Caleb remains in the hospital. He has had multiple surgeries and more to come in the future. Jayden Rose joined the family of Shawn and Tanya Puckett on September 19. Her big sister Rylee welcomes her home. Grandparents are Curt and Mary Beth Wagenbach.

Bowen William joined the family of Bro. Devon and Sis. Leah Knobloch on September 20. His two big sisters, Paisley and Tatum, are happy to have a baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch and Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacqueline Stickling. Peoria, IL. Alexis Rose was born on September 25 to Ashley and Adam Gilbert. Big
brothers, Ashton and Adrian, are happy to welcome their baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb Ehnle. Clay Lewis arrived on October 12. Happy parents are Bro. Landon and Sis. Katie Isaia, Roanoke, IL. Happy grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick. Bro. Neil and Sis. Luann Stoller were blessed with a baby girl, Eden Joy on October 14. Three big brothers, Logan, Simon and Carter are very happy to welcome home their baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller of Bradford, IL and Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Martin.

Our visiting ministers this month included Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, Ohio) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO). We extend our thanks for these brothers for sharing the Word.

Those experiencing the afflictions of the body are Sis. Janice Martin (Bro. Alan), Sis. Cheryl Herrmann, Sis. Frances Knobloch. May God be near as they recover.

On Sunday, October 14, after the family hymn sing, the Bible Class shared their work team experience from this past summer of their trip to Reynosa, Mexico.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones. Randy (Janet) Pomeranke’s mother, Evelyn Pomeranke of Toluca, IL passed away on September 18. Bro. Merle Kaisner of Fairbury, brother-in-law of Sis. Betty Hodel, died October 16.

On September 26, Bro. Byron Gerber gave a talk at the fellowship hall on using the church website.


September 29 was Ladies Day at the fellowship hall. The theme was “Bountiful Grace”. Two sisters spoke on sufficient grace and sharing grace and a panel of sisters shared how they had been touched by grace in their lives. Table discussion followed the talks. We thank the sisters who shared and the organizers of this inspiring event.

The dedication of the newly-remodeled Sunday School in the church basement was on September 30. We thank all who helped with this project. We are so thankful for the youth in our church!

October 10 was the annual nursing home meeting at the fellowship hall. Bro. Nate Hoffman shared the home’s vision, information about the financial status of the nursing home and other noteworthy events there in the past year.

October 14 was the wedding day of Sis. Jenna Moser (Bro. Brian & Sis. Beth) and Bro. Nick Sizemore (Barb Jones).

Brett Janssen (Bro. Fred & Sis. Cheri) is engaged to Shannon Kildow (John & Lisa) all of Denver, CO. We wish these young couples many blessings.

We thank visiting minister Bro. Ben Lindberg (Sis. Anneliese, Taylor, MO) for joining us on October 14.
We pray for those who are recovering from surgery: Sis. Faye (Bro. Wally) Blunier, Bro. Bob (Sis. Chris) Hartter, Sis. Denise (Bro. Curt) Knepp, Sis. Annie (Bro. Jim) Leman, Sis. Cindy Leman, Bro. Larry (Sis. Sharon) Neukomm, Bro. Les (Sis. Judy) Luginbuhl and Sis. Pat Sauder. Soon Thanksgiving will be here - a time when we count our blessings. In Roanoke church we are studying the Sermon on the Mount. In the first lesson we had to define blessed. My definition of blessed: A saved person, who is in close communion with God, overflowing with fruit of the Spirit, sharing life with those he/she loves and who loves them. Abundantly blessed would also include having a family who serves Jesus. Our group talked about how we equate blessing with being prosperous - spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, and or with rich relationships. My Bible study group was amazed at how the Lord views those who are blessed (Matthew 5:1-12): the poor in spirit, those that mourn, the meek, those that hunger after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those that are persecuted for righteousness, those that are reviled, persecuted, and lied about for Jesus’ sake. As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, may we look through the events of the year with spiritual eyes - knowing the experiences that God has allowed in our lives are to bring us eternal blessings.

**Blessings**

“We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family,
protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things.
'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise
We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe
When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life

**The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise.**

-by Laura Story

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch**

We appreciated Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) coming and talking about Hospital Lumiere in Haiti, our mission there, and the current needs. We were thankful that he and Sis. Sue stayed for Sunday and served us once again. Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) served us on a Wednesday night. Joining us for the Rocke/Weyeneth wedding was Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Buffton North, IN), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL), and Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL). Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) spent a Sunday with us also. We certainly are blessed to have willing brothers to share God’s Word.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” 1 John 4:7

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Josiah Koch (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi) and Sis Renae Steffen (Cory and Sis. Beth, Fairbury, IL) as their engagement was announced.

Bro. Russ and Sis. Terrie Ehnle rejoiced as their son Cody was united in marriage with Carly Twedell.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” 1 Cor. 13:13.
Our congregation rejoiced at the wedding of Sis. Janet Rocke (Sis. Kathy and Bro. Nelson, dec.) to Bro. Karl Weyeneth (Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary, Peoria, IL). May your marriages grow in the beauty of God’s love, and may your lives always be touched by His blessings!

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Erika (Bro. Dirk) Koch at the sudden death of her brother in Hungary, Tibi Molnar. Sis. Leann (Bro. Eric) Rocke said goodbye to her grandmother, Sis. Clara (Rassi) Stoller Huber, Eureka, IL. Clara was also an aunt to Bro. Curt (Sis. Kathy) Rassi, Sis. Loretta (Bro. Bruce) Schafer, and Sis. Debbie (Bro. Pete) Aberle. Our prayers continue for Sis. Carol (Bro. Alvin) Beutel and Bro. Vernon (Sis. Ruth) Koch who have spent time in the hospital. May our love and prayers be felt and may God bless you with His comfort.

“Every child is a unique creation of God.” Sis. Kathy Rocke is rejoicing in the birth of another grandson, Warren Alan Rocke (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tricia, Elgin, IA.) Warren is also welcomed by siblings: Eli, Emma, Nelson, Lena, and Noah.

We wish to thank Sis. Janice Sauder for her many years as reporter, and welcome Sis. Anita Koch in her new responsibility.

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lily Pfaffmann, Michelle Braker**

God has blesst Nathan and Michelle Braker with a new family addition! Their daughter, Aurelia Rose, was welcomed home by her big brother, Gideon (2).

Two of our Washington brothers, Bob Prather and Andy Mogler, were hospitalized this month.

We are thankful for answered prayers as both are now home recuperating.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN), who had an afternoon service, and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL), a Bible study on “the name of Jesus”.

We were shocked to hear that Stan Wenger, 70, who attended Washington church, died at home. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Sister Sophie Huber, 92, went to meet her Lord on October 14, after a short battle with cancer. She is the mother of our Sis. Charla Huber and Sis. Cheryl (Jon) Ricketts. Our prayer is that the families will feel our prayers as they sense the void she has left.

“No parting words shall e’er be spoken
In yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness,
We’ll sing forever there.
We’ll never say goodbye in heav’n…” *Hymns of Zion #122*

**Indiana, Bluffton**

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

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a federal holiday, Thanksgiving. Days of thanksgiving had already been established in American history since the time of the Pilgrims in 1621, and further carried on by President George Washington in 1789. But since 1863, Thanksgiving has been an official American holiday. For followers of Christ, every day is a day of thanksgiving. Even in times of suffering, we praise Him for His goodness, faithfulness and grace. He is glorified and blessed through our praises of thanksgiving! What an amazing thought – that we could actually bless our Father when we praise Him!

“Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me” *Psalms 50:23*

We are praising God that John Snider is seeking the Lord in repentance! We welcome three souls as our new brother and sisters in Christ: Riley Tonner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Rochelle), Lilly Pfister (Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy) and Birch Tonner (Bro. Eric and Sis. LaNae).

Many from Akron, OH blessed us with their visit, including ministering Bros. Todd (Sis. Lydia) Graf and George (Sis. Tina) Gal. We also thank Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN) for feeding us with the Word.

Bro. Mark Gerber (Bro. Al and Sis. Joli) was married to Sis. Kendahl Evans (Jake and Shari). We celebrated their union with a Bluffton reception and wish them God’s blessings as they establish their home in Goodfield.
Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch are rejoicing with the births of two grandchildren: Elliot James was born to Bro. Aaron, Sis. Cassie, Corrie and Claire Gerber; and Tucker Joseph was gifted to Bro. Danny, Sis. Sarah, Summer and Sawyer Bertsch. Elliot’s paternal grandparents are Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny Gerber. Tucker’s maternal grandparents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel of Roanoke. Bro. Adam, Sis. April, Grant, Allison, James and Brock McAfee welcome little Violet Anne into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee and Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter. Violet was named after her great grandma, Sis. Violet (Bro. Harold) Meyer!

Our love and prayers are with Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer on the passing of her mother, Jane Bahler of Fairbury. Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Herring entered eternity on October 7. His children are Bobbi (Mike) Studebaker, Beth (Rick) Davis, Bevin (Tina) Herring and Brenna (Barry) Banter. After 94 full and active years, Bro. Harry W. Gerber went to be with His Lord. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ada; and children, Bro. Rex (Sis. Cheryl) Gerber, Tim (Sheryl) Gerber, Sis. Joni (Dale) Schwartz, and Sis. Cathy (Bro. Rick, dec.) Stucky.

Sis. Cordin Gerber (Bro. Ked and Sis. Joann) has accepted a position at Gateway Woods and moved to our Leo, IN congregation. We will miss seeing her sweet face each Sunday, but pray God will use her and sustain her!

Our prayers are with Bro. John (Sis. Etta) Steffen, as he has been hospitalized. There are many others with health concerns, some known and some unknown to us. But our Heavenly Father sees and holds each one in His loving arms.

We were privileged to experience a “Global Missionary Adventure” at our Fellowship Hall. Ten missionary families, for whom we regularly pray, were represented by huge interactive displays. We learned about many aspects of their lives, from ethnic foods to translation work. We can now see them in our mind’s eye as we pray for them!

Our young group and widows and widowers enjoyed interacting at our bi-annual “Love One Another” supper and singing. We are blessed to participate in HarvestCall’s Disaster Box Packing. Thank you to Bro. Mark and Sis. Angie Reinhard for presenting “The Community’s View of the Church”.

“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.” Hebrews 13:15

Indiana, Bluffton North
Tiffani Schladenhauffen,
Corinne Stettner

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19-20

We had the opportunity to see how the Great Commission is being lived out in different ways by attending the Global Missionary Adventure that was held in October at the Bluffton Fellowship Hall. This afternoon gave families a chance to look into the lives of 9 families that our local congregations pray for in the mission field and get a taste of the their cultures. This event gave us a better understanding of how to pray and serve these missionary families. We thank the many hands that made this event possible.

We were excited to hear about the birth of Judah Lee James Leman, the new son of Bro. Adam and Sis. Jenna Leman of Magdalena, MX. He joins siblings: Violet, Willow, Fernanda, Leo, Pearle, and Mili. As their sending church, we are thankful to have Bro. Adam, Sis. Jenna, and some of their children back visiting Bluffton durin October.

Pray for our Sis. Joyce (Bro. Steve) Fischer in the passing of her mother, Sis. Lyla Schock of Elgin, IL. What a comfort to know that if we place our trust in Jesus we will see our loved ones again.

For the 10th year, our Bluffton Churches have provided a lunch and a time of fellowship for the workers of Poor Jack’s Amusement Rides, which come every year to the Bluffton community for the annual Bluffton Street Fair. It is a
great opportunity to share a meal and to share God’s love with some that know very little about Jesus. It is always greatly appreciated by the workers, and all that attend are blessed by it.

**Indiana, Francesville**

*Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber*

“Now thank we all our God, With heart and hand and voices Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His word rejoices”.

*Catherine Winkworth*

“In everything give thanks: for this the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thess. 5:18

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed time together on a Sunday evening when the JOY GROUP served a lovely Appreciation Dinner, followed by singing hymns.

The Bible Class sponsored a Pancake Breakfast on a recent Saturday morning, complete with sausage and a variety of toppings. The students and their parents work together on this project to raise funds for their Mission Trip.

Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki) was in the hospital for a procedure. We are indeed thankful he has been blessed with a good recovery.

**Note of Thanks:**

The family of Sis. Maxine Novotny wants to thank each one of you for your wonderful support, and prayers during the time of her illness and going home with the Lord. We are overwhelmed by the loving care of our family in Christ. Your prayers, cards, encouraging words, food, visits, and so many acts of kindness have helped us in this time. May the Lord bless you as you have encouraged us.

**Indiana, Indianapolis**

*Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier*

We would like to thank all of our visiting ministers for the months of September and October. On September 16, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington) shared in the Word in the afternoon. On September 23, Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington) visited and shared the Word. It was a blessing to have our former Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart share the gospel to many young people on September 30, Indy Outreach Sunday. On October 7, Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend) shared the Word. We are so blessed by all of our visiting ministers and their service to the Indy pulpit, but we do not forget all of our home ministers and their dedication and service to us every Sunday. The church concluded our study of Nehemiah in September and will begin studying Galatians in October.

We celebrate the arrival of Adrian Jeremiah Justin Lichtle with thankful parents, Justin and Olivia Lichtle, and grandparents Bro. John and Sis. Sandy Lichtle. We praise the Lord for a healthy arrival of Adrian on his father’s birthday, September 17.

On September 28-30, the Indianapolis Young Group hosted another Fall Indy Outreach. There were about 100 visiting high school and college students that came to volunteer their time to various service projects in Indianapolis. The theme this fall was Never Forsaken. Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North) spoke to the students Saturday evening. He shared some personal examples, as well as Biblical examples of how God does not forsake his people. It is always a joy to host so many young people on fire for Christ and seeking to further His kingdom.

**Indiana, Leo**

*Jan Beer*

We talk about it with folks we meet, we complain, we groan, we grumble; but we truly do love the changing seasons here in northeast Indiana! It seems we are not ever ready for glorious Autumn to change to Winter, especially when the temperatures drop so quickly. But God orchestrates all of it! The change in seasons is just another reminder of His power. Rejoice and be glad to worship the One True God who is in control of everything!

Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon (Toledo, OH) came to visit their daughter and her family (Lucas & Shari Tucker) in September. Bro. Doug served us from the pulpit on September 23. Thank you for taking time from your family visit to share the Gospel.

A few couples from Leo were able to attend the ACCFS Marriage Conference held September 28 & 29 at the West
Lafayette church. It was time well invested in keeping the connection strong in marriage. The ACCCS staff did a great job with presenting the material in a very understandable manner. Our heartfelt thanks go to the W. Lafayette fellowship, not only for the use of their lovely facility, but for all the work they did to make us feel comfortable, well fed and loved. The farewell gift for each couple was the “cherry on the top” of an excellent experience. God Bless.

October 7 we gathered at the Fellowship Center as a church family to show our appreciation to our ministering brothers and their wives. The weather was a little less than desirable for outdoor activities, but it cleared enough to allow for a hayride after a very tasty meal. A fun game helped us become a little better acquainted with our minister’s wives! We are blessed to have these men serve on the Leo pulpit and the wives who support them in this work: Lynn & Leonda Stieglitz (Elder), Jeff & Margo Waibel (Ordained Deacon), Brace & Brenda Wieland, Steve & Jane Stieglitz, Tim & Christa Wiegand. We trust they feel our appreciation, love and prayers.

Our Sis. Danielle Sauder participated in a HarvestCall medical mission trip to Telo Island, Indonesia at the end of April. She was the one person of that team who spent the most time with the children. After arrival back to the States, she began experiencing abdominal distress. Too much time had passed to be able to detect what could be causing the problem. Ever since that time, she has struggled with digestion issues, abdominal pain, etc. This past week she was sent to the Emergency Room by her physician. The likely diagnosis is pancreatitis, but the cause is unknown. It is also unknown whether it will be an acute or chronic issue. She asked for continued prayers that God will reveal the cause and He will guide her care team as a treatment plan is developed. Her hope is that Jesus’ name be glorified in this! Your prayers for her are welcome.

Another dear soul who would appreciate our prayers is wheelchair bound Joel Pfister, son of Bro. Dan & Sis. Karen. Joel has lived victoriously with spina bifida for over three decades. His positive attitude has been challenged the last several months by a sore that refuses to heal. He is now confined to bed for long periods of time with only an occasional one hour period allowed out of bed. Joel’s faith has sustained him, but he stands in need of our prayers for encouragement.

Tonight, October 20, three young souls gave testimony of God’s amazing grace for repentance and a new life in Him. Nathan, son of Mike & Denise Klopfenstein; Sierra, daughter of Nate & Stef Young; and Reed, son of Mark & Julie Maibach, each told us of the journey they took to exchange their will for God’s will for their life. Tomorrow we look forward to witnessing their baptism and welcoming them as valuable, contributing members of the Apostolic Christian Church. Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) assisted Bro. Lynn Stieglitz, our Elder and Bro. Jeff Waibel, our Ordained Deacon, in this important work. We especially appreciate Randy & Deb making the hour-plus trip since they cannot be with us for tomorrow’s service.

Remember, the weather changes, but God NEVER changes!

This report would not be complete without an update on our brothers injured in the Mission Trip accident! Mike Klopfenstein had another surgery this past week, but was able to be with his son, Nathan, at his testimony tonight. Jason and Joe continue with weekly therapy sessions in hopes of obtaining more mobility. God knows the plans He has for these men.

Note of Thanks:

To our national church family: Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for the way you have loved, cared and supported our families in the days since the accident in June. We have been overwhelmed by the cards, emails, texts, prayers, and financial support you have offered! God has brought all of us peace in the midst of our storm, and His healing has been nothing less than miraculous. While recovery continues on various levels for Jason, Mike and Joe, we are grateful for the many ways God has protected, comforted and provided for us. We do not take this for granted. While we have encountered obstacles, God has led us through the storm. Your prayers for our brothers and families are deeply appreciated. Keep them in your prayers.

Remember, the weather changes... but God NEVER changes!
for our families. God is GOOD! Thank you for being Christ’s hands and feet as you helped us carry our earthly burden during this time. May you receive as much of a blessing as you have given to us! With love and gratefulness, the families of Jason & Joy Kilgus, Mike & Denise Klopfenstein and Joe & Heather Beer.”

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel
Visiting ministers are such a blessing! Thank you to Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzy, Rittman, OH), Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) for sharing God’s word.

We were blessed to have a group of young people from Akron, Smithville, and Rittman, OH churches one weekend this month. It was a joy to fellowship together.

Sis. Carol Hurd (Bro. John) and Jequita Davis have had surgical procedures. We are thankful both are now recuperating at home and we pray God’s blessings on them.

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. It’s often a busy time preparing for all the festivities and spending time with family and friends. While it is nice to have a special day designated as “Thanksgiving Day,” let us remember to give thanks every day for all the blessings God bestows on us.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler
We are thankful to our visiting ministers this month.

Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL), and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) all shared the Word this past month. We are grateful for each one’s efforts and hope they will come back again soon!

We are thankful to welcome Sis. Kedron Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) and Bro. Corey and Sis. Abby Honegger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni) as sisters- and brother-in-faith after their testimonies and baptisms this month. It is always an encouragement and a joy for the church to hear how God has been at work in loved ones’ hearts and lives! We pray that Sis. Kedron, Bro. Corey, and Sis. Abby will continue to strive for a closer walk with our heavenly Father throughout their lives and to be a blessing to the church.

We are thankful to announce that convert Kenny Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) is at peace with God and man and wishes to be baptized! Please be prayerful for Kenny as he prepares to take this next step in faith.

Sis. Diane Isabell (Bro. Phil) had surgery recently. Please pray for her speedy recovery. Bro. Ron Clark (Sis. Brenda) has not been in church several Sundays recently due to health issues. It was a blessing to see him feeling well enough to attend this past week, and we ask you to pray for him as his health challenges continue.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez
“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) for sharing Words of Truth and Life from the pulpit.

Our prayers are with Sis. Arlene Kaehr as she battles health issues. We also pray for our friends Joe and Megan Frepan, serving in the U.S. Navy and Chip and Kasha Iacob, serving the Lord in Romania, as they seek clarity and direction for the future. May God’s will be done in their lives and in all of ours.

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

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss
How we are blessed with the visitors of friends, couples, young brothers, children and grandchildren. Thank you all for spending your time in fellowship and service to our great Lord and Savior.

Our Wednesday night church Bible study is on 1 Timothy now in chapter 5, verse 16. At the Avalon service last month there were 12 from our church and 19 residents in attendance. On the 5th Wednesday of the month we will plan on having a singing service. I can’t wait to see who will be hosting this.
The donations in September were for Lifesong for Orphans and October are for the Humanitarian Distribution Center.

Ted Hitz is a new great grandparent. His daughter and son-in-law, Nancy & Doug Wood’s son, Chris and wife Sabrina Wood gave birth to a beautiful gift from God. Camille Paige Wood was born on September 29. Congratulations to them all.

On October 12, the son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha Weiss, Logan Weiss was wed to Jennifer Petsche in Omaha, NE. A post on Jen’s facebook page read, therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. Blessing to you both on your new journey together.

Sis. Carol Bucher had a fall and injured her back. She is in Avalon Nursing Home for therapy and welcomes visitors.

Joe Kimerer, Jr. had surgery to remove his gall bladder last month.

Keep Sis. Dawn Ailes in your prayers. May God, the great physician get the doctors together on scheduling her an appointment and keeping it, so they can put her heart back into rhythm and keep it there.

A very dear friend of Sis. Claudia Thomas has been diagnosed with brain cancer. Deborah Wold has the same type of cancer that John McCain had. The plan is for radiation, chemotherapy and surgery to remove the tumor. Deb’s faith in God is very strong and she continues to draw from prayer and trusting in God’s will for the outcome. She has also let the surgeons know not to be surprised if they go to remove the tumor and it’s already gone. Her strength and trust in the Lord is an example to us all.

Our memory verse for the month is, 1 Peter 5:6-7. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you."

May God continue to stir our hearts in His love.

Indiana, West Lafayette

Libby Wahl

Our appreciation goes to Bros. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN) and John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) who shared midweek services with us.

Jessie Melinda arrived in all her infant glory on October 16 - the first fruits - to brighten the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Alissa (Maibach) Gerber. We share their excitement.

A very special thank you goes to the Mueller family (Bluffton, IN) for stirring our thoughts with a powerful travelogue of their ongoing mission life in Papua, New Guinea. Overseas missions are not a calling for most of us, but it is a reminder that ‘something’ should be our calling.

The sunrise this morning was spectacular … a broad, diverse spray of vivid color extending into the early, light clouds. I so wanted to just sit and absorb. Too often I am weighted with duty and miss His created splendor.

I pray that God’s grace, peace and joy are with you all at Thanksgiving. It is, for the believer, not only a season for thanksgiving, but a time for thanks-Living. Like not just my tongue, but my attitude, actions and thoughts.

Indiana, Wolcott

Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

The Wolcott church benefits from Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) coming to visit his parents. Once again, he willingly preached the word of God.

Our Bible Class traveled to Eureka for a Sunday invite. They planned a full day of spiritual learning and a variety of activities for us. It was a very blessed day!

Lizah Beth was born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Adrienne Waibel from Champaign, IL. Local grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth Lehman.

One of our recent mid-week services was on 1 Timothy 2. The sermon focused on how much we need each other’s love, prayers and support. We were reminded and encouraged not to judge others, but to focus on the fact that each person has a soul.

“I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1 Timothy 2:1. I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up hold hands, without wrath and doubting.” 1 Timothy 2:8
Iowa, Bloomfield
*Kendra Schlatter*

Our prayers are with Bro. Joel Wuthrich and Sis. MaryJane Knapp as they both underwent surgery. May God’s healing hand be with them.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris, MN), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA).

Iowa, Burlington
*Elaine Eisenmann, Marilyn Anderson*

Many of us enjoyed the lovely weather and fellowship at our annual wiener roast at Starr’s Cave on September 23.

We were privileged again to hear the annual conference recordings this past month. They gave us a lot of food for thought!

On October 14, Bro. Andrew Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody and the late Sis. Karen Lanz Schulz) was engaged to Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Michael and Sis. Ivy). We wish them God’s blessings!

Iowa, Elgin
*Maria Rocke*

Ministering Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) was with us one Sunday this month. We appreciate his labors of love.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Rocke welcomed little Warren Alan into this world on September 13. His siblings: Eli, Emma, Nelson, Lena and Noah were happy to welcome Warren into their family! His grandparents are Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson Rocke of Tremont, IL and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger of Bradford, IL.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Sue Schneider as she was recently diagnosed with cancer. We are thankful surgery is behind her, but will continue to be prayerful for her as she undergoes more treatment.

“My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips; when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night watches. Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:5-7

Take comfort dear ones, wherever you are in life. Rest and rejoice in the comfort of His love!

Iowa, Garden Grove
*Laura Funk*

I was privileged to attend a Sunday School gathering. The questions were posed to the students, “Have you made preparation to die? “Are you prepared to Live?” The Speaker went ahead to explain that his earthly father had passed away unexpectedly and had not made physical preparations to die. But his father had made preparation to live in Eternity with His Heavenly Father. Your earthly family can make the decisions for your funeral, only YOU can make the preparations to live Eternally.

“Well, the delightful day will come When my dear Lord will bring me home, And I shall see His face; Then with my Savior, Brother, Friend, A bést eternity I’ll spend, Triumphant in His grace, Triumphant in His grace.” Tabernacle Hymns #1 vs. 4

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA). What a blessing to know the truth will be spoken when a visiting minister delivers The Message.

We are enjoying God’s beautiful fall weather and outdoor fall tapestry! Come enjoy with us!

Iowa, Iowa City
*Diana Butikofer*

“Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, Sing, Sing, Sing unto the Lord, And at the remembrance of His holiness, O give thanks unto the Lord.” Gospel Hymns #497

The Lord deserves our thanksgiving, so let's make a special effort to celebrate our day of Thanksgiving this year.

We are thankful for the many who serve within our church. We recently elected Bro. Brad Eland (Sis. Joyce) to serve as a trustee, and Sis. Joyce Eland (Bro. Brad) to serve on the Women’s Committee.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL), Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Kristi, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA). It has been
such a blessing to have so many visiting ministers since Bro. Joe Gerst started his treatments and during his recovery from surgery. We are very thankful for all those who made a special effort to travel to minister from the pulpit or otherwise encourage us with your visit. We are also thankful for those who invited and hosted our many visitors!

**Note of Thanks:**

We sincerely say “thank you” for the support and prayers on our behalf as Joe journeyed through chemotherapy and major surgery to treat his bladder cancer. We are happy to report Joe’s recent PET scan showed good results and his recovery continues in a positive direction. May God bless you all.

Joe and Connie Gerst

**Iowa, Lester**

_Audrey Metzger, Kristi Knobloch_

We welcome Axel Wulf (Bro. Duane & Sis. Ann, Magdalena, Mexico) to our Lester church. He is living with his grandparents in our area, while he completes school. We hope he feels right at home here. We are glad to have part of the Wulf family back in our midst!

Sis. Joyce Metzger (Bro. Glen) spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful she seems to be recovering well. We are mindful of and prayerful for, her and many others in our home church and across the land who suffer from bodily afflictions. We know that God gives us “grace sufficient for the day,” and we trust that is enough.

Sis. Addie Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) is engaged to Bro. Carson Wirtz (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela) from West Bend, IA. We rejoice with them in God’s plan for their lives, and wish them His continued blessings as they prepare for their December 9 wedding.

We were blessed to have God’s word shared when Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) visited us on October 7. Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS) also spent a Sunday ministering to us. We thank both of them for their efforts.

Little Kenna Jo came into the hearts and home of Bro. Alvie and Sis. Alice Meyer on October 16. Her older siblings, Kasha and Brayden, are excited for her to join them. Grandparents also welcoming Kenna are Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda Meyer and Bro. Mike & Sis. Mavis Schmidt. Congratulations and God’s blessings to all!

Congratulations to Bro. Blair & Sis. Julie Metzger on the marriage of their son, Brendan, to Paige Meester on October 20. We wish this couple God’s blessings on their union, and on the entire family circle.

**Iowa, Mediapolis**

_Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz_

It seems this past month our church has experienced many ups and downs emotionally. We have loved ones with health issues, both big and small, and those who have experienced loss and heartache. We also have rejoiced with those who are experiencing joy and happiness. Whatever the season we are going through in each of our lives, may we draw close to the Lord through it and remember “the God on the mountain is still God in the valley.”

We rejoice with Bro. Caleb Larson (Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Abby Rinkenberger (Doug and Beth) as they were united in marriage September 30. Sis. Abby has moved here from her home church in Fairbury, IL, and we welcome her and wish them God’s blessings in their life together.

Our sympathy is extended to Bay and Logan Lanz at the passing of Bay’s father, Aaron Boysen, after a long battle with cancer. May God speak peace to their hearts as they grieve their loss.

Our church family is so happy for our Sis. Amanda Massner as she is engaged to Bro. Tyler Banwart (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie, Fort Scott, KS). May God bless and provide for Sis. Amanda and her two daughters and Bro. Tyler and his three daughters as they take this step of faith.

**Iowa, West Bend**

_Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart_

Dylan and Ashleigh Zaugg have been blessed with a little daughter, Ellisyn Larae. Camden is now big brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. David & Sis. Melissa Zaugg and Brian and Jackie Gambell.

Special prayers have ascended to God for those who have spent time
in medical facilities. This month has included Sis. Evelyn Schmidt, Bro. Denton (Sis. Rose) Knobloch, Sis. Betty Wirtz, and Sis. Rose (Elder Bro. Wayne) Grimm. What a privilege we have to carry everything to God in prayer.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela Wirtz and their family. Sis. Trela's father, Gene Marti, has been called from his earthly dwelling in Sabetha, KS to his eternal reward.

Sharing Words of Life with our congregation has included visiting ministers: Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL). We thank God for His continual provision.

“These souls betrothed before Thee stand, Thy blessing we implore.” Hymns of Zion #286.

Bro. Trevor Fehr and Sis. Brooke Schmidt were united in marriage on September 23. Their parents are Bro. Mark & Sis. Janet Fehr and Bro. Wendell & Sis. Karen Schmidt. On September 29, Ethan Fehr and Kelsey Hurley were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Dennis & Sis. Judy Fehr and Rick & Johney Hurley. We also look forward to another marriage as Bro. Carson Wirtz is engaged to Sis. Addie Meyer from Lester, IA. Parents are Bro. Chuck & Sis. Trela Wirtz and Bro. Dennis & Sis. Jill Meyer.

We rejoice with all and ask God to bless each couple and sustain them by His grace.

May God’s arm of comfort be with the family of Lowell Fehr as he has passed from this life. We especially remember his wife, Gladys; his children: Lynette, Lisa, Lachelle, Judd, Lorelei, Jeremy, Joshua and Jonathan. His siblings are Bro. Larry (Sis. Carole), Bro. Marvin (Sis. Charlotte), Melvin (Glenagene), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Judy), and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Leland) Metzger.

Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

In September we were blessed with a visiting minister and his wife, Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk from St. Louis. They came here as a part of our minister rotation. Their visit was a rich blessing for all of us. They spent two Sundays here plus attended our fall fellowship meeting held on a holiday at a park near the Shioda church. We spent Sunday evening with a meal and singing altogether. The next day Bro. Loren gave a talk about the early beginnings of the St. Louis church until the present day. May God continue to bless them as they faithfully serve Him.

Our church is always encouraged when new people come to church. Our prayers continue with those who came (some for the first time) this month and listened to the truth of the Word. May His Word continue to work mightily.

At our monthly ladies’ meeting, a friend commented on the beauty of God’s Word in Colossians 3:14, “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” In Japanese the description is that of putting on a belt, which holds everything together.

We often wonder what we can do to bring cheer to our shut-ins wherever they reside. Recently the church received three short letters to be translated and delivered to our own three shut-ins. What an encouragement to have prayer support and love from our brothers and sisters in Christ. It reminds us of a modern-day Good Samaritan. Luke 10:30-37, ending with Jesus words, “Go, and do thou likewise.”

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

Our congregation rejoices with our new Brother in Christ, Brandon Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita Rokey). We enjoyed hearing his testimony of faith and witnessing his baptism on September 29 and 30. Visiting ministers with us that weekend were Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, KS).

We are also happy to have a new baby join our church family! Lettie Ann is welcomed into this world by her parents, Bro. Hans and Sis. Rachel Strahm, and her two big sisters, Grace and Ruth. Thankful Grandparents are Bro.
Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm, and Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

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

**Kansas, Kiowa**

*Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr*

As we draw near to the “Holiday Season”, we remember to not only give thanks at Thanksgiving, but to be in a thankful state every day of the year. The Christmas season is not about presents and parties, but rather the Celebration of the birth of our Divine Lord and Savior. May we always strive to be spiritually minded and not carnally minded, as is the world.

Great joy and love was the theme of the celebration of the 90th birthday of our dear Sis. Helen Farney! Many of her family and friends attended her Celebration of Life in the church Fellowship Hall. Sis. Helen has been a dedicated Believer in the Lord Jesus for many years.

We had cause to rejoice with two couples this month who exchanged vows of marriage. Our church Fellowship Hall was the venue for both bridal showers, one for Justin and Rebecca Milledge, daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura Wagenbach; and the second one for Tyson and Audrey Tucker, son of Judy Tucker and Stan and Kadee Tucker and grandson of Sis. Marie Tucker. We wish both of these new couples God’s blessings as they begin their lives together.

We want to thank Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Susan) of Altadena, CA for expounding the Word of God this month. Bro. Joe and Sis. Susan were here for the wedding of their niece, Rebecca Wagenbach. Also on the pulpit this month was our dear Elder Bro. John Lehman of Sabetha, KS. We cannot say enough for the gratitude we as a congregation feel for the ministering of these visiting brothers.

**Kansas, Lamont-Gridley**

*Dorene Metzger*

Summer is quickly becoming early winter for us. We are thankful for recent rains of several inches. The earth is slowly turning varied colors of God’s choosing. What an awesome God we have Who creates human life as well as animals and plant life. How He creates and yet knows each of us by name as well as our myriad supply of thoughts and nothing is hid from Him. I stand amazed in His Presence and His “abilities” here on earth, but, as His Word reminds us, it has not entered our minds what Heaven and eternity with Him will be like!

Our Fall Invite-a-Guest weekend was a special time of fellowship. Ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Ryan Kellenberger (Sis. Adrienne, Ft. Scott, KS) were among our guests.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held at Bro. Ron & Sis. Jane Isch’s home. We all enjoy this time of fellowship with our youth.

Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS ) gave us an enlightening view of HarvestCall and its many arms that reach out to those who have met up with misfortune and how we as a brotherhood can help in this work. Bro. Klint ministered to us on Sunday as well as Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO). We thank all our visiting ministers as well as our local brothers who expend themselves in God’s service to us.

**Food for Thought:** SIN is what you do when your heart is not SATISFIED with God.

**Kansas, Sabetha**

*Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter*

We warmly welcome Sis. Luanne Beyer who moved here from Mediapolis, IA. Her son Koertland and Sis. Rebekah Beyer and family live here. We are thankful to have her assemble with us.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester IA). May God bless him for his love and service.

Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman have reason to rejoice this month as they have another granddaughter, Lettie Ann. Her parents are Bro. Hans and Sis. Rachel Strahm of Bern, KS. Also their son, Isaac Edelman has repented for his sins, found peace with God and now looks forward to baptism.

We enjoyed a much fuller church on Sunday, October 6 as our Single Group hosted an invite-a-friend weekend. It is such
a blessing to meet those from near and far and enjoy a time of fellowship and singing together.

We pray for God’s healing hand on Sis. Arlene Grimm (Bro. Rod) as she recently had knee surgery. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Eugene Marti, former elder of our Sabetha church. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his family.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, we are so grateful for the bountiful blessings our Father has given us. Let us remember to praise Him and give Him our thanks for all things.

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalm 100:4

**Kansas Wichita**
**Debbie Frieden**

August 26, we had surprise guests from Kansas State University (Manhattan KS): seven students representing churches from Fairbury, IL; Taylor, MO; Bern and Sabetha, KS. We are thankful to have guests to brighten the day.

Our guest minister for September 9 was Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR). They were visiting Bro. Chris Mendell (Sis. Amy, Bern, KS) and their three girls. Lisa and Amy are sisters. Bro. Richard Sauder (Sis. Carol, Elgin, IL) we’re traveling through on their way to Prescott, AZ. We always appreciate company for church.

Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christie, Sabetha, KS) shared the word on September 16. Our guest minister on September 23 was Bro. Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and family. It was so nice to have these young families visit.

Jesus carried the burden of our sin so He could give us the blessing of life.

**Mexico, Ixtlán**
**Ruth Gerber**

“And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage;” Exodus 13:14

I imagine most of those reading this month’s updates are preparing for Thanksgiving and many family get-togethers. No doubt the Pilgrim story and the traditions that surround it give us an opportunity to teach our children about God’s merciful hand. How much more should we look for ways to share the story of how God’s strong hand freed us personally from our bondage to sin.

Partaking of Communion this fall was a special opportunity for the believers in Ixtlán to remember and thank the Lord for His work on our behalf. An added blessing during that service was hearing several of the believers share part of their conversion experience.

It was a real joy to hear Nayeli Montejano (Sis. Hermila’s daughter) share her testimony and to see her baptism, such a witness to the strong hand of God. We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman (Denver, CO) were with us, and also Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

We currently have several sisters that are out of town for different reasons and they are each missed. Sis. Issa Sibaja (Felix and the late Sis. Lourdes) has gone to serve at CVE in Magdalena. Sis. Marcela Salceda has also been serving there for some time now. Sis. Socorro Chavez is in California with her son, Manuel Robledo, who is recovering from a work-related explosion. Sis. Estela Salcedo is in Morelia with her daughters and thankful to have recovered sight after a long-awaited cataract surgery.

We are thankful to have Sister Berta de Gonzalez back from the U.S. and also to welcome Miriam Ramirez (Bartolo and Sis. Kike) from the church in Barra Vieja. She is the new sixth grade teacher for Colegio de las Américas.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lalo Ugalde (Sis. Silvia) and his family as they minister to his father, Jose Luis Ugalde. He has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and short of a miracle is not expected to live long. We are thankful that he is seeking the Lord and it was special to have him in church this week. Whether the Word is shared from father to son or son to father, may many more be freed from bondage.
**México, Magdalena**  
*Laura Aviña*

We welcome Sis. Issa Sibaja into our church family! She has moved here from Ixtlan, MX to support child care staff at CVE. As she adjusts to a new community and new responsibilities, we pray that she can feel God’s presence and strength.

On October 10, our youth choir had a final singing session and farewell for our choir director Sis. Melody Cervantes who will be leaving for Tecate, MX on October 22. She and Bro. Jonathan Kurtz (Ancaster, ON, Canada) are planning a November 18 wedding in Tecate and will then be living in Canada. While we will greatly miss Sis. Melody, we are thankful for God’s work in her life!

This past Sunday we were encouraged to take time to read the book of Proverbs which gives us practical wisdom for daily life. While Satan uses culture and the media to engrave false systems of value into our minds, Proverbs can remind us of what God values. Integrity, wisdom, humility, diligence, self-control, empathy, mercy, confidence in God, all of those concepts are explored in the pages of Proverbs.

“There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.”  
*Proverbs 19:21*

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

Our dear Sis. Kate Wheeler was called home to be with her Lord and Savior and will be sorely missed by her family. Her siblings that remain are Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) and Marilyn Byam (Doug). Although she and her late husband Carl Wheeler were never blessed with their own children, Sis. Kate was like a second mother to her sister Marilyn’s children.

Sis. Kate was known for her smile that continued through many trials, and her adorable sense of humor. During Sis. Kate’s funeral service we were reminded of her deep abiding faith and how even when she couldn’t recall the past, she still responded when asked to sing her favorite hymn. We were all touched and humbled to hear her sing, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one.”

Joy and excitement came to the household of Eric and Allie Vansledright as they welcomed home their first precious child, Thea Jean. Great-great-grandparents Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch, Great-grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch, and grandparents Allen and Jenny Grile were all waiting on pins and needles for this darling little girl to make her appearance.

We rejoice with Eric and Allie and pray that they will teach and train Thea in the truth of what Jesus did for all mankind.

Our appreciation and thanks go to Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) for bringing forth the truth of God’s Word and sharing the gospel.

This past weekend was the Sunday School Fall gathering. The children enjoyed the farm stand activities like the corn maze, hayride and a “fire truck” barrel train. The gathering had been postponed one week due to so much rain, and the blessing of fellowship and fun was finally a reality.

**Michigan, Bay City**  
*Sarah Knochel*

Greetings in our loving Savior’s name!

Our prayers are with those who spent time in the hospital recently. They include Jennifer Curtis, Sis. Sandi Knochel, and Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie). We pray that God would provide healing and restoration all according to his will.

We are thankful that Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Marianne, Smithville, OH) was able to spend a Wednesday evening with our congregation.

Eileen Groeschen has professed peace with God and man. We are looking forward to her baptism.

At our October Sunday School singing, we were able to celebrate Sis. Lois Wieland’s 97th birthday. We are thankful for Sis. Lois’ example and perseverance through the years.

Bro. Bob Grew (Sis. Kayleen) has been elected to a term as Sunday School Superintendent. We thank Bro. Brian Wieland (Sis. Char) for his service for the last couple of years.

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before
his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” Psalm 100

Michigan, Detroit
Carrie Ramseyer

Think of life as a journey - specifically, a journey through a corn maze. The corn maze is dark, with just enough light to see the definition of the path among the corn stalks. The path itself is mostly mud and, in some places, deep and filled with water. Without a guide or a light, the individual in the maze is doomed to slip and slide through the maze, eventually reaching an end, but perhaps not the one they had envisioned. Life without God is similar to walking in the above conditions - directionless, and filled with falls.

Life with God is a different story. The maze is still dark and filled with muddy perils. But Jesus is at our side, providing a light (Psalm 119:105). He shows us the right way to go when the path forks (Proverbs 16:9). He holds our hand through the maze, catching us when we begin to fall (Psalm 17:5, Isaiah 41:10). While life is still hard, having Jesus at our sides changes everything.

We are excited to announce that BJ Blume and Zach Blume (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume) have started their repentance, and have chosen Jesus to light their path. Praise God that they heard the call and answered!

Congratulations is in order for Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth Knochel, who became first-time grandparents this past month. Luke and Juliann Knochel welcomed a son, Rowan William, on September 26. The joy was apparent in the faces of all the family as they welcomed the newest member.

We request prayers for a few members of our congregation. Sis. Trudy Schmidt recently underwent surgery on her foot. Prayers are requested for her healing. Sis. Dawn (Bro. Phil) Bahr has been dealing with health challenges for the past few months. Prayers are requested for her healing, as well as for strength to endure.

Sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner as they mourn the passing of his brother, Bro. Merle Kaisner of Fairbury, IL. Sympathy and prayers also are with Craig Baran and Sis. Pat Baran and their family (Sis. Kristi Baran of Leo, IN; Cody Baran, and Karlee Baran) as they mourn the loss of Craig Baran’s mother, Arvella Baran.

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

With thankful hearts we are grateful for our dear Minneapolis ministers: Elder Bro. Duane Rocke, Bro. Dewayne Dill and Bro. Kent Mogler for leading us, as well as their devoted wives and children. It is a great blessing to have their support, as they share the fruit of the Spirit, by giving of their love, time and serving our Minneapolis flock.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.” 1 John 4:11-12

We appreciated Bro. Damon Knobloch (Morris North) for being with us on an October Sunday, to speak the precious word.

By God’s will, the seasons change. May we be prayerful that the farmers are able to complete their harvest. He desires our thanks and praise in all things.

September 21 was the marriage date of Thomas and Kendall Messner. Parents of the happy couple are Todd and Sis. Renee Messner, and Steve and Patti Meuwissen. We give God all the glory for His love and the joy He brings.

On that same day, Norah Rae was born to John and Carissa Meyer. This sweet baby girl is certainly a joy and a blessing to grandparents Dan and Lola Deragisch and Tom and Susan Meyer. Congratulations to these families!

Our College Welcome Breakfast was September 30 and a Sunday School Autumn outing was held on October 7. Whether our children are little or young adults, we treasure them and the
special times spent together.

Then again, we remember people around us, who are hurting, sick, or in need of hope. May the Holy Spirit guide us, to be a light for Jesus, and be prayerful that they will seek His peace.

**Minnesota, Morris**  
**Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf**

This past month, Sis. Barbara Schmidgall (Bro. Gilbert) went on to her Reward. Bro. Gilbert continues to be in our thoughts and prayers as he grieves over the loss of a dear spouse. We pray that he feels God’s nearness and strength during this time.

2 Corinthians 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 tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

**Minnesota, Morris North**  
**Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger**

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:3-6

What a joy it truly is to have a family of God. Our fall bible study is on Philippians this year, I cannot help but admire Paul’s joyful perseverance in the letters he wrote to the church of Philippi, even while he was in chains. His love for the Philippians really resonates with me as I think on our body of believers that truly love and care for each other.

We were so thankful to witness the testimony and baptism of our Sis. Noel Schieler (Bro. Keith and Sis. Jodi) at the beginning of this month. It was such an encouraging event. Thank you to our visiting minister Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. Larae, Minneapolis, MN).

Thanks also, to Bro. Dan Weerts for the HarvestCall presentation at our annual Harvest supper. We fully enjoyed the fellowship.

Please continue to keep Bro. Brian Moser in your prayers as his battle with pancreatic cancer continues.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**  
**Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt**

“This it is our Saviour’s pleasure,  
As His footprints plainly show.  
May God’s love, our greatest treasure,  
Richly every heart bestow.”

Zions Harp #237 vs 2

This month we started listening to the Conference recordings. We want to again thank our elder brothers for all their efforts on our behalf and also our church in Gridley, IL for hosting it this year.

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

Hymns of Zion #91 vs 1

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Bro. Josh Eberhart whose cancer has returned and will be going through further chemo treatments. Other hospital patients this month are Darlene Schmidt (Bro. Darrel) who had hip replacement surgery. Andric Rubendall’s (Vanesa Isaacson and Kent Rubendall) pancreatitis has flared up again. We pray for them and all others who need God’s continued healing in their lives.

**Missouri, Kansas City**  
**Julie Webel**

This past month we held our annual fall church cleanup which was a huge success with many wonderful volunteers.

We thank Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Kristi, Fort Scott, KS) for his help in the ministry this past month.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Kara Snyder and Sis. Jamie Marti on the loss of their father, Gene Marti. May God grant you peace during
this difficult time.

Sis. Diane Smith’s husband, Ron Smith, was recently hospitalized while on vacation and is now recuperating at a VA hospital closer to home. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time.

**Missouri, Lamar**

**Mindy Wettstein**

As I sat down to write the article for this month and glanced at my page containing snippets of notes regarding visitors, events, etc., we have had lots going on for such a small church!

September 23-24 we were thankful to fellowship with several local visitors. We were blessed to have Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) minister to us, and then lead us in a Bolstering Meeting that Sunday evening. Bro. Rick Kellenberger (Ft. Scott, KS) is also assisted in the bolstering efforts, and we thank him for joining us in the meeting. We ask that you would continue to be prayerful that our congregation would be faithful and receive encouragement for the day.

The following weekend (September 30) Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle and family, St. Louis, MO) gathered to worship and preached the Word. The same weekend, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fisher guest-served lunch (thanks again!). Bro. Jeff added closing thoughts for both sermons.

Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy and family, LaCrosse, IN) was our willing minister October 6. Bro. Joel Ramseyer has relatives in the area, and he planned a mini-reunion at the Fellowship Hall for his family, and invited the Lamar church to join them for a singing that Saturday night. Old friendships were rekindled, and new acquaintances and friendships were made.

We took a temporary break from our current all-church Bible study to listen to the recordings from the Elder conference. To God be the glory for the elders willing to speak! Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis MN) was able to join as we listened to the last 2 topics at a mid-week gathering, and for Sunday worship (10/14). Bro. Duane currently has some work in the area, and we greatly appreciate his willingness to travel a distance to fellowship with us!

Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn Banwart are rejoicing at the birth of their grandson, Jeffrey. Parents are Jonathon and Beth Banwart. Older siblings are Daniel, Jacob, and Kevin.

Linda (Rick) Barton had a brief hospital stay, and has since returned home.

Sis. Edith Hohulin has recently been feeling poorly, and is now using oxygen. We trust that with the oxygen (and a portable tank) that she will be able to worship with us in the near future! It’s always a blessing to see her smile and hear her giggle!

**Missouri, St. Louis**

**Victoria Stoll**

We thank our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) for their willingness to share God’s Word during their visits to the St. Louis area.

Fall temperatures have arrived to the St. Louis area and that has our congregation rejoicing. We praise our wonderful God for the full array of fall colored leaves and trees that decorate the earth.

**Missouri, Taylor**

**Lori Marquart**

Taylor is on a record pace for weddings in 2018! Bro. Cooper Sutter (Bro. Roger & Sis. Dianne) and Sis. Shania Young (Tom & Sis. Jolene) chose Sunday, September 23, as their wedding date. Serving us on the pulpit that morning were Sis. Shania's grandfather, Bro. Tom (Sis. Connie) Schambach, and her Uncle, Bro. Scott (Sis. Hope) Schambach, from Elgin, IL.

“Kindly heaven smiles above, when there’s love at home.”

*The Christian Home, Hymns of Zion #64*

On Wednesday, October 3, Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka) presented a study on “James, The Man & The Book.” James had a unique perspective on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ having lived in the same home. What a privilege to have access to that insight!
The annual Taylor Invite for young adults was the weekend of October 6 and 7. Twenty-six churches were represented, multiple service projects were completed (in spite of rainy weather), and Christian friendships were strengthened. The scriptures opened to Exodus 3 Sunday morning, which tells us when Moses stopped to look at the burning bush and Jehovah God spoke to Moses because he “turned aside.” This is a beautiful reminder of the importance of being aware of circumstances around us, not too busy with our own affairs, so that we don’t miss the Spirit of God speaking to us and leading us.

Prayer is requested for those recently hospitalized or with ongoing health challenges: Bro. Josh Eberhardt (Bro. Fred & Sis. Kathy); Callen Knochel, broken wrist (Bro. Joe & Sis. Lindsey); Sis. Judy Huber; and Sis. Rosie Massner.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather) and family, at the passing of his grandfather, Gene Marti (Mary, Kansas City).

What a joy we had on Wednesday evening, October 17, to have Bro. Stan & Sis. Andrea Gutwein speak to us of their growing business in India, the opportunities they have to witness for Christ Jesus to the Hindu community, and their role with RGMMI (Rural Gospel Medical Missions of India). Please pray for them and their children including a little girl to be born in December.

**New York, Croghan/Naumburg**

Karen Farney

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

For the month of September we had two visiting ministers: Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). We thank them for bringing forth the word of life. In their messages they both talked about the fruit of the Spirit and how very important they are in our lives. Brethren from Rockville, CT served lunch.

The beauty of the fall has almost come to a close. The dullness of this time of year will be with us for a while and then the Lord paints His beautiful picture of the winter season.

“Oh Lord my God: When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the Stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.” How Great Thou Art vs.1

**Ohio, Akron**

Joelle Indermuhle

We are grateful that Kenny Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia) has found peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism in the Remington Church where he attends.

With joyful hearts we share that Justin Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) has answered God’s call to repentance.

Sis. Jan Graf spent time in the hospital this past month.

We are thankful for the willingness of Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury) to serve us in the ministry.

**Ohio, Columbus**

Nancy Banks

We are thankful for this time of the year as the landscape begins to show its beautiful colors and the high temperatures of summer’s end begin to fade away. At the same time, we have prayers on our hearts for those living in the areas devastated by the recent hurricanes in the south. May God give them the strength as they begin rebuilding their lives.

Our church combined the Sunday School picnic and Invite-a-Friend weekend for a time of fellowship with families and friends. A candy search, hayride and singing followed a carry-in supper. Sharing together in God’s great creation was truly a blessing.

We were blessed also with many guest ministers this month and wish to thank each one for their labors of love: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CO), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Tim McMillan (Sis. Nada) spent some time in the
hospital this month and we are thankful for God’s healing mercies.

Ohio, Junction

Elizabeth Manz

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:1-2

We are thankful that Jonathan and Emily Reinhard (Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth) have surrendered their hearts and lives to the Lord and are now at peace with God. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

We extend our sympathy to Russ Slane who recently lost his sister, Lisa Beregszazi. May God be a comfort and strength to him during this time.

After a few months of prayer and consideration, the time has come for us as a church family to earnestly seek God’s will regarding a new elder to serve our congregation. Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) are assisting us with the process. Bro. John spend some time exhorting us Sunday afternoon, October 14. We desire God’s will and pray that He will make it clear to us.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers who came this month. They included Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). We are thankful for their service to the Lord and to us.

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

It was a blessing to have several visiting ministers and their families this month. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH). May each one be blessed for their part in feeding the flock and spreading the Gospel.

We recently enjoyed hosting out-of-town guests for an “Invite-a-Friend” weekend. A warm-hearted thank you goes out to each one who traveled to be with us, and also to each one at home who labored to make the weekend a blessing for everyone.

Our thoughts are with three of our sisters who are struggling with health battles. Sis. Jean Myers, Sis. Jolene Ramsier, and Sis. Marilyn Beer are in our prayers. May each one find abundant grace and strength to bear their burdens.

Ohio, Latty

Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

We are rejoicing that God has provided our congregation with another minister. Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy) has been given this responsibility. We pray that God will provide his every need as he transitions into this new role.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the accident that claimed the life of young Oliver Stackhouse. Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with his parents, Bro. Travis and Sis. Ann; and his sister, Cheyanne, along with his grandparents, Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein and David and Julie Stackhouse. We are also prayerful for the family of Sis. June Rager who finished her fight of faith. Her children are Bro. Eric (Sis. Sherri) Rager, Dennis (Brenda) Rager, and Susan (Carl) Jeffrey. May God be with both of these dear families during this time of loss.

Thank you to visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL). We appreciate your labor of love.

Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

“Now thank we all our God with Heart and Hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices, Who from our mother’s arms Has blest us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.”

We thank God for the work He has done in the lives of our young brothers and sisters as two engagements were made known this month: Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro.
Jeff and Sis. Millie, Smithville) to Sis. Anna Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) and Bro. Jacob Kries (John Kries and Sis. Sheila Kries) to Sis. Kara Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura, Sardis).

Congratulations to Audrie Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) and Eric Merillat as they were united in marriage. May God bless them in this new stage of their lives!


One week later, on October 18, Flint Daniel arrived safely to Bro. Blake and Sis. Tresa Maibach. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler and Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois Maibach.

"Oh may this bounteous God Thro all our lives be near us, With ever joyful hearts And Blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace, His full redemption send, And free us from all ills, Sustain us to the end."

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Jody Calame (Bro. John II) in the passing of her mother, Elaine Troyer, and with Sis. Carolyn Keiper (Bro. Kevin) in the passing of her sister-in-law, Suzanna Shook.

We, also, want to remember Bro. Brian Emch (Sis. Amber) and Bro. Reinhart Keiper (Sis. Betty) in our prayers as they spent time in the hospital this month. We trust God will be near each one who is dealing with illness or loss.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), retired Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) for serving us.

"All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given, The son and Holy Ghost, Who dwell in highest heaven. The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore, Who is and shall survive, Now and forever more."

Zion’s Harp #236

Ohio, Sardis

Renee Blough, Doris Miller

Warmth was felt in the weather and in our hearts the weekend of October 6-7 as many locally and from northern Ohio gathered at the Klotzle farm. This Fall Gathering is an annual event that, in my lifetime, has witnessed some operational changes from year to year, but continues to be a blessing for all ages.

The same evening, many were able to travel to Smithville, OH for the testimony (and baptism on Sunday) of Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa).

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

The will of God has been made known in the lives of Sis. Kara Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) and Bro. Jacob Kries (John Kries and Sis. Sheila Kries) of Rittman, OH. We rejoice with them as they announce their engagement. It is spiritually strengthening to hear how God continues to direct His children in His own time and way.

Our appreciation goes out to Sis. Faith Beard and Sis. Joy Indermuhle as they have faithfully carried out the duties of Silver Lining Correspondents for many years.

Ohio, Smithville

Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, let us remember that our reason for living is that we might praise and magnify our great God!

A heartfelt thanks goes to those visiting ministers who came to preach the Word this past month. They included: Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), retired Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH).

What a blessing to watch as God draws souls to Him. We were privileged to witness the testimony and baptism of Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa), Sis. Natalie Indermuhle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty), Bro.
Doug Indermuhle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty), and Bro. Gary Murray (Sis. Susan).

The blessings continue as we watch God draw souls to each other. Our church was excited to hear the engagements of two couples: Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) to Sis. Anna Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Austin Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne) to Sis. Erinn Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith, Silverton, OR).

God then draws us near to Him and each other as we pray for those in sorrow or pain. Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Gary Murray (Sis. Susan), Sis. Luella Stoller (Bro. Harold, dec.), Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa), and Bro. Jim Laukhuf.

Ohio, Toledo

Brooke Harmon, Alisia Schlatter

“I want my friends to pray for me. To hold me up on wings of faith, That I may walk the narrow way, Kept by our Father’s glorious grace. I want my friends to pray for me, To bear my tempted soul above, And intercede with God for me. I need the prayers of those I love.”

This is so powerful, for we don’t always know the struggles that those around us are going through. Often, we are made aware of significant health issues, but we are left unaware of the spiritual and emotional struggles of those around us. As a plaque in my home states, “Prayer Changes Things.” Taking this to heart will make all the difference.

While this month we did not have any visiting ministers, we did have several family and friends join us. We are so thankful for the blessing of their visit.

Ontario, Kitchener

Roselynn Metzger

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

Greetings from Kitchener!

We have lots of news to share this month! On September 15 we helped Phillip and Ines McKeen, a family from church, move into the church rental house. We are thankful for how smoothly the day went and wish them an easy adjustment to their new house! That weekend, Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) came to serve us.

The following weekend we were blessed with company from Rittman, OH. Bro. Marvin (Sis. Sue) Hartzler, along with their 10 children, came to support us. Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier also joined them for the weekend!

The next weekend, September 28/29, a portion of the following Young Groups came: Junction, Latty and Bluffton (about 12 people in total). They helped us with repair work and painting in the church rental house. It was a long day and we are thankful for all the hard work they did! We enjoyed supper and a short singing together in the evening.

On Sunday October 7, we did not have a minister and continued working on our church bolstering project. Continued prayers for this project are greatly appreciated and can be felt!

In Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving a few weeks early so on Monday October 8 it was our turn to eat turkey and pumpkin pie! It was a good time to reflect on the many blessings we receive from God!

On October 13, the Young Group from Rittman, OH came, and helped us with a Fall Cleanup Day for the church. Throughout the day we cleared the flower beds, trimmed the hedges and cleaned the woodwork and windows in the church. Once again, thanks to a very willing group of workers, the work was done very quickly! We enjoyed a meal and singing together that evening. The visiting minister was Bro. Michael (Sis. Mindy) Kaisner from Peoria, IL.

We enjoyed having their children in Sunday School!

On Wednesday evening (October 10) our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) came and ministered to us. We were blessed by their efforts to make the trip and wish them safe travels as they depart for Japan for their Fall trip in a few weeks.

This brings the news from Kitchener to an end. A special thank you goes to everyone who has supported us this past month whether in ministry, service or prayers. We appreciate it so much! God’s blessings to all!

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Deut. 31:6
Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

We enjoyed having Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise Leman from Forrest, Il. They traveled here for the minister rotation. We truly appreciate their willingness to serve our small church.

Support from the local ministers from Silverton, OR was as follows: Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz). May The Lord bless them all for making the effort to minister and worship with us. We also thank the song leaders, and their families, who offered support during the past month.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett

Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra) from Bluffton, IN joined us for Communion September 22. Even though we experience this special event every year, each Communion is a precious time of spiritual renewal with our brethren in faith and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra) from Bluffton, IN, Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth) from Mansfield, OH, and Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise) from Forrest, IL, who visited and preached this month. We appreciate the efforts of each minister and pray for God’s blessings for you and your family as you continue in the Lord’s will.

Josiah Metz (Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura) and Steven Schurter (Lee and Jeanette) have both begun their journey in the Lord! We rejoice along with the angels in heaven and are prayerful that they will draw closer to the Lord each day.

We are excited to announce the engagement of Sis. Erinn Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) to Bro. Austin Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne) from Smithville, OH. God has been faithful in leading them together, and we trust that He will continue to direct them as they look forward to marriage.

Bro. Bill Eisenmann (Sis. Carol) from Latty, OH delivered a presentation on our Eastern European Nazarene brethren October 6. It was an evening of education regarding the current state of our brethren, learning how we can be of help, and a call to action that left us with motivation to help those in need.

Houston Kuenzi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri) recently broke his wrist and Gabe Dietrich (Sis. Amanda Dietrich) broke his arm. We are also prayerful for Collin Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa), who recently had his appendix removed. Once again we are thankful for God’s protection.

In thinking about the changing of the weather and the leaves turning color, it is a comfort to know that our Lord never changes. He is a friend that is near at all times and desires the very best for each of us. Thanks be to God!

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Psalm 127:1

We are reminded in this Psalm to seek the Lord’s blessing on all our projects and endeavors. Here in Philadelphia, we are seeking His blessing on a remodel and addition to our church building. We appreciate the support and love that we have already felt from the brethren as we work to move forward with our addition project.

We would like to welcome Bro. Walt Beery (Sis. Linda, Rittman) as he will be temporarily moving to our area to oversee the construction project. We appreciate Bro. Walt’s willingness to serve and look forward to having him with us in the coming months. We pray that our efforts can be for the glory of God and the good of His kingdom.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We are thankful that Elder Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City) and Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville) were able to be here to share Holy Communion. Throughout the month we were also encouraged from the Word by our other visiting ministers: Bros. Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens), Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha), John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria,
People are rushing to the stores and buying all the water that is available, leaving little or none for the next person in line. It does make us wonder what God wants us to learn from this experience. It reminds me of the account of the woman at the well. When Jesus talked with her in Samaria, he told her that if she knew who she was talking to she would ask for living water. How grateful we are that we can drink at the fountain that never shall run dry.

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

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

Matthew 11:28-30

The Dallas church was blessed to have Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) visit and minister for our monthly service. Full of the Holy Spirit, Bro. Leland’s message touched on God’s divine plan through Jesus Christ and individuals, who were included through that plan, like John the Baptist. We learned that John the Baptist was committed to making sure the person’s heart was in the right place. He watched for a repentant attitude before he baptized them. Leland pointed out how we got to see the human side of John when he sent spies to question Jesus if He was the One. He didn’t doubt Jesus, but made sure it was really the Messiah, just like he did with the people and proving out their faith. Like John the Baptist we are called to point others around us to Jesus Christ. Through it all, we see that what John the Baptist had started, Jesus Christ finished.

We are always thankful for the Plattner’s and welcome any other 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

The poet Robert Frost puts our community (Bennington, VT) on the map as he resided, wrote poetry and is buried here. He is one of few Americans recognized world-wide as a master of the poetic form. In reading some of his poetry recently, I came across one I had read in high school and it struck me as having spiritual significance. It goes:

“Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.”
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods
and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely,
dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.”

I, like the rider in the poem,
tend to get distracted by seemingly insignificant things in life. The Spirit of God, like the horse, becomes a little disturbed at my turning aside and the dipping of my spiritual engagement. Then I come back to reality and remember I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep. So onward I go back in proper spiritual form.

Quite a few visiting ministers this month have been helping us to remember our promises and the arduous journey. They include Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL). They came on separate Sundays. May God bless them.

There are people who would love to have your bad days. Be thankful!

Forgiveness

Proverbs 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

Proverbs 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

Proverbs 25:21-22 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: 22. For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

Jeremiah 4:18-19 Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart. 19. My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

Matthew 5:7-12 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matthew 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;

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22. Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seventy times seven.

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye
have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

**Luke 6:27-29** But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28. Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

**Luke 6:35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

**Acts 8:22-24** Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

**Romans 3:11-14** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

**Romans 12:17-21** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Romans 15:1-3** We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. 3. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

**1 Corinthians 13:7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

**Galatians 6:1-3** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

**Ephesians 4:30-32** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

**Ephesians 5:1-2** Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

**Colossians 3:12-13** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
Sharing Christ with...

Our family has some thoughts to offer about sharing Christ with friends and neighbors. Start by pursuing a relationship with Jesus, reading your Bible, and praying, so you are ready to give an answer when asked a question about your faith. Be willing to say, "I don't know. I will get back to you!" Invite others to join you in searching God’s Word for truth and answers to life's questions.

Love on people - Volunteers are always needed, so offer your time and efforts. Greet others with a smile. Show an interest in their lives. Build relationships by being willing to invite others to your home for a meal or just the evening.

Be different - Be willing to deny yourself. Live your life in obedience to the Word. Choose to represent the brotherhood well. Honor your father and mother. Be willing to have different priorities, interests, and conversations than the world around you.

Finally, we want to share a favorite saying at our house, "Life is not about me. It is about a real relationship with Jesus and loving/serving others."

The Stoller Family - Nashville, TN

"...there are opportunities all around to share Jesus with others. I just need to step out in faith..."

As I consider ways to share Christ in my neighborhood, I think of doing acts of kindness in Jesus’ name. This can involve simple things like baking treats for a neighbor or offering to help around someone’s home. Many times, friends, co-workers, or neighbors ask what your weekend plans are or if you had a good weekend. Don't hesitate to share any and all church functions you’ve attended or how you saw God at work over the weekend. I am always convicted by how an older sister in church responds to the all-too-frequently asked question, "How are you?" Her response is consistently, "Thankful and blessed.” Wow! This is a testimony to the world of what it means to be content and at peace with God.

Another sure way to share the Gospel is to invite neighbors to church. When I see a neighbor out mowing his lawn or working in the yard while I’m on my way to or from Sunday church services, I’ve been convicted many times to stop and invite him to church. But I never have. What am I afraid of? Is it rejection? Do I not realize that any possible rejection would not be toward me, but toward God? Is it fear that I’ll have to answer a bunch of questions? Do I not trust that God will provide the answers?

I’ve realized there are opportunities all around to share Jesus with others. I just need to step out in faith, decide to be vulnerable, have a willingness to follow the Holy Spirit, see each neighbor/co-worker/ friend as a soul that God loves, and have a solid foundation in God’s Word in order to share it with others effectively. And ultimately, I need to have a daily purpose to glorify God and build up His body. What a mission we have!

Sis. Karissa Neihouser - Morton, IL

When we begin the day with a prayer that we may walk in a Christ-like way, God will surely bring the work. We all know people who are observant of a need and seem to have a way to fulfill it. It is every day, wherever or whoever we are, that we can live to the glory of God. There is a little poem (origin not recalled) that ends with:

"Others, Lord, yes others
Let this my motto be
Help me to live for others
That I may live like Thee."

-- A Fairbury Sister
Mission Work at Home: Serving Christ and People at a Nursing Home

I HAVE THE privilege of working in an Apostolic Christian nursing home. Each day, I'm thankful that my job allows me to serve God and others at the same time.

While some may view a nursing home as a depressing place, I have found ours to be a place of richness, wisdom, joy, and humor. As residents realize their earthly days are closing, they have no time for pretense. They inspire us to follow their examples as they clarify priorities and care less about material things. They engage us and each other with a reality in relationships that is joyfully refreshing. Their willingness to share unexpected historical treasures enriches our lives. Imagine hearing firsthand how God protected a World War II veteran in battle experiences! How faith-strengthening that is – for, if God provided in such difficult circumstances, He will surely provide for me!

Yes, we see pain, illness, and weakness of the flesh and mind. There are many times when we weep with frustration because we can’t help someone as we wish we could. Yet, at such times, we often have the privilege of seeing the strength of the Spirit and how God lovingly upholds and cares for His children in trials.

Truly the fields are white unto harvest in a nursing home, both among those who reside there and those who support them. The opportunities for ministry are myriad. As I often tell older brethren who wonder if they still have purpose in life, God doesn’t stop using His children until the end. Many times the Lord touches our hearts as workers through the examples of faithful believers who trust in Him and testify of His goodness despite pain, suffering, and loss. “...that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” (II Corinthians 1:4)

Through being employed or living at a nursing home, God gives souls the opportunity to hear His Word and experience Christ’s love. What a blessing to witness the miracles of hardened hearts becoming softened and expressing faith in Christ through exposure to the Word, prayers, hymns, a spiritual atmosphere, and being loved and nurtured as they have perhaps never felt in their lives before! It is not our ministry or our glory. It is God’s. He gives us the incredible privilege of witnessing these miracles as we serve. For example, one person didn’t believe in God and often expressed contempt for believers. Then, he surprised and touched us in the last days of his life by allowing us to minister to his spirit through reading the Word to him and praying with him. In his weakness, he expressed how God had touched him.

While it may not seem glamorous, let’s support the Lord’s work in nursing homes through prayer, donations, or spending time giving/receiving encouragement. Interacting with souls in their golden years involves investing in an eternal goldmine. A brother in faith whom I highly respect once told me that he had heard the following from another source. “In churches in general, it is easy to find people who will serve on committees and help with planning events. It is much harder to find someone who will wash the feet of the oldest saint in the church in a dark corner where no one knows and there is no recognition.” This analogy inspires and challenges me. Am I willing to serve in the dark corners, quietly washing feet without recognition? This beautifully illustrates this opportunity to be Christ’s hands and feet by sharing Him with our older brethren, friends, and neighbors.

– Anonymous - Fairbury, IL

In my experience, allowing the joy that I have in God to beam out of my attitude every day opens the door to tell people my testimony and explain how I can be so peaceful through every trial in life. Individual testimonies are powerful. It acts as a real and current model for others to use as a reference on their journey to find Christ.

– Sis. Amanda Massner - Mediapolis, IA
SHARING CHRIST is a privilege, and love is the motivator! We are His witnesses. (Acts 1:8) God gave the Holy Spirit for each of us to obey His commandment to “go.” Prayerfully ask God to fill you with His perfect love for your neighbor. Fear Him more than man. “Perfect love casteth out fear.” (1 John 4:18)

Jesus used a basic evangelism principle: self-righteous sinners must humble themselves before they can receive grace. How do you convince sinners of their disease of sin? When Jesus talked to people about eternity, He sometimes pointed to the Ten Commandments. (Matthew 19:17-22; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-24; and John 4:7-26) Most people will proclaim their own goodness. (Proverbs 20:6) No one is good – only God. (Romans 3:10) Once sinners recognize their disease of sin, they are ready for grace, and you can reveal the only cure for sin – Jesus Christ. (Luke 5:31,32)

As you talk with people about everyday things, create a witness opportunity by swinging from the natural to the spiritual. Ask non-offensive questions: “Do you ever think about eternity? If you died today, where would you go? How do you think you get to heaven? What happens after a person dies?”

Alternatively, giving a gospel tract* swings to the spiritual quickly. Or do both – hand a gospel tract and ask a spiritual question. Use the Ten Commandments (have you ever lied, stolen, or taken God’s Name in vain?) to bring conviction with the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7, 13; I John 3:4) Sharing Bible verses on sin can also stir such conviction. (Revelation 21:8; Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Romans 1:29-32; Galatians 5:19-21; Proverbs 6:16 -19) God’s Word will not return void. (Isaiah 55:11) When a sinner is humbled, then point them to Jesus.

You can leave tracts in shopping carts, with a generous tip, at the bank drive-thru, with fast-food employees, cashiers, on hotel dressers, in waiting rooms, on seats at airports, or in plane seat pockets. You can leave a tract in the gas pump credit card slot. When you go through a fast food drive-thru, pay the bill for the car behind you. Ask the cashier to keep a tract and give another to the next car with a sticky note, “God loves you and paid your fine at the cross.”

Be creative! Conduct a survey on the Ten Commandments. “How many commandments can you name?” The goal is to promote self-examination to see if they have kept them. With a small church group or with family, you can set up a booth at the local fireworks, fair, flea market, or food distributions. Free handouts such as water bottles, coffee, etc. provide an open door to share the gospel. Be ready with gospel tracts, free Bibles, storybooks, and prayer beforehand. A soup kitchen outreach with free food is also an open door to share the bread of life. Use a free car wash or a prayer station at a coffee shop, thrift shop, or flea market to open doors to talk to people.

Use whatever wholesome bait is most likely to reel the fish in! Most people enjoy talking and will not be offended. Speak with love. If they reject you, they have rejected Christ, not you.

Every soul is an opportunity. Be willing to let God use you! It might just save a soul from hell.

– A HarvestCall Missionary

*Counseling Elders’ Note: Print copies of our church’s “God’s Perfect Plan of Salvation ... According to the Bible” tract are available from AC Publications and can be linked/downloaded at www.acpublications.org/media/pdfdownload/335.pdf.
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I John 3:4) Sharing Bible verses on sin can also stir knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7, 13; God’s Name in vain?) to bring conviction with the Commandments (have you ever lied, stolen, or taken tract and ask a spiritual question. Use the Ten the spiritual quickly. Or do both – hand a gospel What happens after a person dies?” would you go? How do you think you get to heaven? ever think about eternity? If you died today, where the spiritual. Ask non-offensive questions: “Do you witness opportunity by swinging from the natural to Jesus Christ. (Luke 5:31,32) reveal the only cure for sin – ready for grace, and you can their disease of sin, they are Christ. (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7, 13; God’s Name in vain?) to bring conviction with the Commandments (have you ever lied, stolen, or taken tract and ask a spiritual question. Use the Ten the spiritual quickly. Or do both – hand a gospel What happens after a person dies?” would you go? How do you think you get to heaven? ever think about eternity? If you died today, where the spiritual. Ask non-offensive questions: “Do you witness opportunity by swinging from the natural to Jesus Christ. (Luke 5:31,32) reveal the only cure for sin – ready for grace, and you can their disease of sin, they are
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.

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

Terms of Service
- Full time residing in Haiti 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.
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
### TEAM INFORMATION

#### Haiti Teams - Les Cayes

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<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<td>Nov 9-16</td>
<td>Les Cayes - Water Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
<td>309-242-7020  Email: <a href="mailto:luenal@live.com">luenal@live.com</a></td>
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<td>Nov 9-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td>574-870-5046  Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td>309-266-9009  Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Nov 30-Dec 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lane Gerber</td>
<td>260-241-4099  Email: <a href="mailto:lane.gerber@gmail.com">lane.gerber@gmail.com</a></td>
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**YEAR 2019 PROJECT CAPACITY**

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<tr>
<td>Ron Palitto  330-336-5373  Email: <a href="mailto:Ronp@palittoconsulting.com">Ronp@palittoconsulting.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Getz  574-870-5046  Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18-25  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Steffen  616-308-6621  Email: <a href="mailto:nds235@gmail.com">nds235@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1-8  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Kuenzi  503-932-3128  Email: <a href="mailto:hkoanoak@msn.com">hkoanoak@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15-22  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Hodel  309-361-5031  Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.hodel@gmail.com">jonathan.hodel@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 22 - Mar 1  Les Cayes/Torbeck - Haiti Ag/Seed &amp; HDP</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Hodel  309-231-7467  Email: <a href="mailto:htfj94@gmail.com">htfj94@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1-8  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Leuthold  309-645-2208  Email: <a href="mailto:sleuth@speerbank.com">sleuth@speerbank.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8-15  Les Cayes - Haiti Trade Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Getz  574-870-5046  Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8-15  Les Cayes - Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Fischer  309-242-7020  Email: <a href="mailto:luenal@live.com">luenal@live.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27-Apr 1  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller  309-266-9009  Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1-8  Les Cayes - MEBSH/Construction</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Zeller  309-266-9009  Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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#### Haiti Teams - Dumay / Lifeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2019</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8-15</td>
<td>Dumay - Medical</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben Stork</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Dumay - Masonry</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Schaffer</td>
<td>815-848-3976  Email: <a href="mailto:kmschaffer85@hotmail.com">kmschaffer85@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22-29</td>
<td>Dumay - Masonry/Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
<td>815-848-2173  Email: <a href="mailto:palla2@frontier.com">palla2@frontier.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29 - Feb 5</td>
<td>Dumay - Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Moser</td>
<td>815-848-3942  Email: <a href="mailto:moser@maxwire.net">moser@maxwire.net</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5-12</td>
<td>Dumay - Construction</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Kinsinger</td>
<td>847-774-4015  Email: <a href="mailto:mjkinsinger@gmail.com">mjkinsinger@gmail.com</a></td>
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#### Haiti Medical / Dental Teams

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27 - Nov 3</td>
<td>Dental Team</td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1-8</td>
<td>SCOA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8-15</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
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**YEAR 2019 PROJECT CAPACITY**

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

**COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:**

Komari Aberle  Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net  Phone: 785.284.2950

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**USA Winter Rebuilding Ministry Project -- Volunteers Needed**

Hardin County, Texas will be the location of our next Winter Rebuilding Ministry project. Homes will be built or repaired for those unable to recover on their own from 2017’s Hurricane Harvey. And, as we do, we’ll be sharing the gospel message of salvation. Volunteers will be needed from January 6th– March 29th, 2019.

**Registration will open at noon Central Time on November 15 on the HarvestCall website.**

(Additional information and registration: www.harvestcall.org/team-registration)
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. 28-Oct. 2.

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

Jamaica Awareness Tour

If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee, and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tour. This is a quick trip that gives interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about our Jamaica ministry as well as other outreach supported by HarvestCall. The trip will be over a weekend and include worshipping with a deaf congregation. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A caregiver assistant’s 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.
**SHORT-TERM MISSIONARY OPENING at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX**

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

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

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

**Terms of Service**

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

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

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

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**Medical Department Intern at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti**

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

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

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact: Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

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

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

Isaiah 54:13

To Sponsor a Child or School

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

Name _________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Spouse _________________________

Address _________________________

City ________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _________________________

Cell Ph _________________________

Email _________________________

Please check preference:

☐ Haiti Student ☐ Jamaica

☐ Haiti School ☐ Guatemala

☐ Mexico ☐ Zambia

☐ Wherever needed

If possible, I prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ______

☐ Girl – Age ______

☐ No Preference

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

www.harvestcall.org

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Construction Leaders for USA Winter Rebuilding

Construction Leaders are needed for this year’s rebuilding ministry in Hardin County, Texas. January 7th—March 30th, 2019

- Previous construction experience required.
- Must be familiar with all aspects of new construction.
- Must be able to direct a team of volunteer workers.
- Must be a team player – able to work in cooperation with other construction leaders.
- Must be willing to commit to three or more weeks of service.
- A stipend will be offered for four or more weeks of service.
- Room and Board are provided.

Those interested should contact Tim Slagel: slagelachc@gmail.com or Cell: 309-208-0846.

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.*


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  - Care Packages

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(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com
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2 Timothy [1623]
This informative Bible study from the NavPress Life Change series has been adapted with permission by Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. The study consists of eight lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Topics included in this study: Historical Background — Paul and Timothy, Map of the Roman Empire, Timeline of Paul’s Ministry, Overview, Unashamed, Endurance, A Workman Approved, Rejecters of Truth, Timothy’s Guides, Passing the Mantle, Personal Needs and Review. Price: $10.00

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• 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
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• 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 acpublications.org

New Testament Characters [1619]
This engaging Bible study from InterVarsity Press has been adapted with permission by ACCFS. The study consists of 10 lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Character studies included in this Bible study: Anna & Simeon: Growing Old with God, A Throwaway Woman: Redeemed by Christ, A Blind Beggar: Seeing Jesus with Open Eyes, Mary Magdalene: Loving Jesus in Practical Ways, Thomas: Disciple of Doubt, Simon: Bargaining with God, A Jailer: Getting Free from Internal Prisons, Priscilla & Aquila: Practicing Hospitality, Governor Felix: Saying “Wait” to God, Philemon: Bridging Barriers to Brotherhood. Price: $8.50

For additional information and ordering visit www.acpublications.org
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relationships in the church? Isn’t it reasonable to think that we would develop such close relationships if we would be engaged in one another’s life? With a close relationship, greeting one another will not become a superficial event. Let’s consider some aspects of what the Apostles were teaching when they taught the church to greet one another with a holy kiss.

As the Apostle Paul carried the gospel to the Gentiles, he covered a lot of territory and learned to know people of every station in life from dozens of distinct cultures. He recounts the equalizing force of Jesus, emphasizing that, “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.” He could well have added, Albanian nor Spaniard, Italian nor Egyptian, and more. The miracle of salvation erased ethnic, gender, and social divisions and produced deep bonds of love that crossed all boundaries.

To all these cultures, both Peter and Paul encouraged believers to show their deep love and bond by the heartfelt greeting of a holy kiss. They wrote to the Romans (Italy), the Corinthians (Greece), and the varied cultures across the Asia Minor peninsula (modern-day Turkey). The Apostles’ encouragement to greet one another with a holy kiss crossed all kinds of unthinkable barriers and instituted one consistent cross-cultural form of greeting in the church. Slaves greeted their owners. The wealthy greeted the poor. Jewish believers greeted the “uncircumcised.” It was then, and should be today, a grace-filled way to acknowledge the equalizing power of Christ.

Have you experienced the equalizing power of Christ? Do you feel yourself no lower and no higher than any other? Does your social standing prevent you from feeling close to other believers, which you may view as either higher or lower than you? Do you shy away from greeting a brother who may not exhibit the standards of cleanliness that you do? Do you struggle feeling a bond with believers of other ethnicities or races … or has He freed you from the bondage of human status and class? Have you been made free of sin? If so, Jesus affirms that He will make you free indeed… genuinely free from fear of death, free from fear of rejection, free from the slavery of sin, and free from the need to live up to the false human standards of race, class, culture, and status. Sharing in this redemption – bought by the blood of Jesus – we feel no barrier between us and our fellow believers.

The holiness of our greeting is not found in the routine keeping of a commandment but in the conscious awareness of the deep and abiding bond we have with our fellow-brethren in Christ. As we greet each other with this kiss of charity, let’s contemplate our mutual willingness to die for Christ and to love one another in truth.

Endnotes:
1 1 Peter 1:22
2 Micah 7:6
3 Rom. 16
4 Acts 4:32
5 3 John 1:3
6 1 Peter 1:3-9
7 Col. 3:11
8 1 Cor. 16:20
9 1 Peter 5:14
10 1 Thess. 5:26
11 Rom. 16:16
12 James 2:1
13 John 8:36
14 1 Corinthians 12:26
15 1 Peter 1:22
The Winter Rebuilding Ministry Needs Your Help

Opportunity to Serve

Construction Leaders are needed for this year’s rebuilding ministry in Hardin County, Texas.
January 7th – March 30th, 2019

• Previous construction experience required.
• Must be familiar with all aspects of new construction.
• Must be able to direct a team of volunteer workers.
• Must be a team player – able to work in cooperation with other construction leaders.
• Must be willing to commit to three or more weeks of service.
• A stipend will be offered for four or more weeks of service.
• Room and Board are provided.

Those interested should contact Tim Slagel: slagelachc@gmail.com OR Cell: 309-208-0846 ASAP.

Opportunity to Share

RVs NEEDED

Due to limited accommodations suitable for our long-term team in the church, we are seeking RVs in which to house our leaders. We are relying on our generous church family to offer their units to fill this need. Please keep in mind that this will be “home” to these servants for a three-month period. Hopefully, these units will be large enough to provide comfortable accommodations for this extended period of time. An in-kind donation tax receipt will be provided to each donor. We would be most grateful if you as the owner could deliver and pickup your unit prior to and following the project. If this is not possible, we will make other arrangements. Arrival by January 3rd and removal by March 30th is best. Compensation available for travel expenses.

Please send contact information along with a description of your unit by November 15th to:
Les Schambach – usa@harvestcall.org Cell: 630-247-5271

CARGO TRAILER NEEDED

We need to borrow an enclosed cargo trailer (16’ – 20’) to transport mattresses and bunk bed frames from Fairbury to the winter ministry site in Texas. We would like to keep the trailer for the duration of the project to transport windows, door frames, trim etc from our shop to construction sites.

If you are willing to share your trailer for this purpose, please contact:
Les Schambach – usa@harvestcall.org Cell: 630-247-5271

Weekly volunteers will be needed from January 6th– March 29th, 2019.
Registration will open at noon Central Time on November 15 on the HarvestCall website.
(Additional information and registration: www.harvestcall.org/team-registration)
the blueprints for the tabernacle I want you to build.” The reason there were blueprints is because there was a perfect model in heaven set aside for Christ to serve at the altar. So, as it starts out, it is a comparison of the earthly tabernacle, the temple. There are candlesticks and shewbread. Then through the veil as you go into the holiest of holies there was a golden censer and the ark of the covenant, and in the ark a pot of manna (God’s provision), Aaron’s rod (His priesthood), and the tables of the covenant (God’s law). God’s provision, His priesthood and His law, all wrapped together, and over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat. That mercyseat is critical. In the new testament that idea of mercyseat, elsewhere it talks about atoning sacrifice or about propitiation, is the idea that you cannot approach the holiest of holies. You cannot approach God’s mercyseat without atonement. You cannot approach God without a sacrifice to cover for you.

“Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle…” (v. 6) So again, they were busy doing priest things in the first portion of the tabernacle. But, into the second went the high priest, and he went alone and went once a year. The reason it was this way is in verse eight. “The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest…” (v. 8) Do you understand the power of what is being said here? Many of you will remember, if not I’ll tell you, when Christ died, this very veil that separated the priest, that separated the people from where God was inside the holiest of holies, underneath the cherubim on the mercyseat, that veil was ripped in half by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And, if its seclusion to one person once a year was an example by the Holy Ghost that access to God was closed, by ripping it open the Holy Spirit again gave testimony that access to God was now open through His son Jesus Christ.

Now let’s read at verse eleven. Again, context. You are a messianic Jew. You were raised a Jew. There may or may not still be a temple, and you are under persecution, so you are thinking about going back. The author of Hebrews has just laid out in the first verses of chapter nine that the way to God is essentially closed through Judaism. Hebrews chapter nine starting at verse eleven.

“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (v. 11-14)

There is a lot going on in this passage. You have got a comparison between the earthly tabernacle, substandard, and the heavenly tabernacle, optimal. The Levitical priesthood served on earth. Christ serves in heaven. They went and were very active all of the time in the outer temple, but in the holiest of holies they went once a year and they went annually. Christ goes once. They were standing to serve, Christ is sitting. They sacrificed the blood of bulls and goats, Christ sacrificed himself. What is the benefit of that? Maybe this is the first time you have heard this idea. Maybe you haven’t thought about this. Why do I need a priest? Why do I need a sacrifice?

“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament…” (v. 15) Do you wonder why we call it an old and new testament? Certainly, when Jesus is with
His disciples and He is sharing communion. He refers to His blood as the new testament, but also here we have the idea of the replacement of the entire worship system. He is the mediator of the new testament. Another word for testament is covenant. If you think of it that way, “that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” (v. 15 cont.) Christ died to usher in a new way, and I think scripture bares out the only way, old and new testament, to satisfactorily bring us into fellowship with a loving and a holy God.

Now it talks about His death. “For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.” (v. 16) Again, if you think about the word testament as a will, “For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.” (v. 17) So the idea here is if I have a will, the beneficiaries of that will don’t inherit until I die. Just as Christ was the mediator of a new testament, but we don’t benefit from that until the death of Christ.

Now, let’s talk about the importance of that death and the importance of the shedding of blood. “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.” (v. 19-21) Picture that. Moses gives the law and how does he confirm its validity? How does he impress upon the congregation how important it is? He takes the blood of animals and he sprinkles it on the congregation. Think about that mental image. Think about if we were up here spraying blood out into the crowd. It’s that critical that we be covered by the blood. It’s the confirmation of the covenant that God has for us. And, He sprinkles the Bible, and the church, and He sprinkles the pulpit and everything gets covered with blood. That is what verse twenty-two says: “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood…” This assembly is covered with the blood of the old testament. Goats, bulls. Why? “without shedding of blood is no remission.” (v. 22)

We cannot come to God without the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, and that will not be completed and executed without a death upon our behalf. “It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.” (v. 23) So again, you have two tabernacles. The earthly tabernacle is the blood of goats and bulls. That is of no permanent value in the tabernacle in heaven. That requires a better sacrifice and that sacrifice is Jesus Christ. “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands…” It is not in a physical context. “which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” (v. 24-28)

I know, since it is Thanksgiving, we are all looking forward to do the day. We are looking forward to fellowship with our families. If you are like...

— Please turn to pg. 68
me you are looking forward to the good meal, and possibly a nap and relaxing. I just want to impress upon you and leave you with the idea of the sufficiency of our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Are you thankful for that? You have a High Priest in heaven who is there to intercede for you. He has access to that priestly position in the heavens through His own sacrifice. And through that, through that death, He is now the Mediator. That is not a word that is probably used often. I would be surprised if someone used that word earlier in the week. Mediator is not something we talk about often, but maybe mediation is something you think of. You have two sides that try to work things out. Really this whole idea of mediation, of testament, of atonement, of covenant goes back to God. It goes back to Abraham. It goes back to Genesis 15.

There is a passage in Genesis where God is making a promise with Abraham and it is kind of in all of the other goings on that Abraham has, and it is maybe only six or eight verses long, but essentially God comes to Abraham and He says: “I will make a covenant with you that I will bless you. Your children will be like the stars of the heavens and through you shall all nations be blessed.” The way that they made a covenant was to take animals and go into a ravine. I apologize if there are animal lovers, this is a little bit harsh, but they would go into a ravine where it came together and they would take large animals and kill them. They would cut them in half and put a half on either side, and the blood would run down to the bottom. If you do that with several large animals you would get a significant amount of blood. And the point being was that the two people that were involved in the covenant would then walk through at the bottom of the ravine signifying, by that metaphor, that if I break this covenant, just as these animals have died, I will die. It is such an important idea, as I understand it, the Hebrew word that is used to teach the idea of covenant is cutting, referencing back to this very primal agreement and action. We wouldn’t do that today, but maybe that is shame on us for not understanding the significance of it.

Let me ask, which of you is going to stand up and make a covenant with God and walk through the blood and say, if I break what it is that we are agreeing with today, I will die? I would suspect none of us have that confidence, and because of that this is the testimony that Abraham gave. He said, “after we prepared the covenant, I fell into a trance and would hardly bare the weight of the circumstance. And I saw God going back and forth.” Now maybe that doesn’t mean anything to you, because you have not had to make this type of a covenant. But what God was telling Abraham and what He tells us today is, “I know you can’t do this. I know you can’t hold up your end of the bargain. So, I am making a covenant with you. I am going to go through My way and I am going to go through your way.” The implication is, “I am not going to mess up. But when you do, it is My blood.” When you take that promise, that God made to Abraham, understand that you have God’s faithfulness and the manna, you have God’s law and promises in His word, and you have the Levitical priesthood in Aaron’s rod all wrapped up in the ark of the covenant. You have the sacrifice, the shedding of blood, without which there is no remission. Keep in mind that Paul tells us, and probably all of us could finish this verse, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23) If the wages of sin is not death, then Paul is a liar and I would not be so bold as to say that. The wages of sin is death, but God promised to Abraham that He would take
that expense upon himself. That is what Hebrews 9 is teaching us. That in fulfillment of His promise to Abraham, God made a new covenant, He created a new priest and He made a perfect sacrifice. And that sacrifice came in the person of Jesus Christ, and He died, and He shed His blood, just like God knew He would when He made His covenant with Abraham. And through that, we can pray Father. We can be the children of God. We have an eternal inheritance. We can be in heaven with God. We have grace sufficient for today.

So, on this day of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take a little time and think about God’s Word. Are you prepared when you approach God’s word to be taught amazing wonderful things because they are in there? And, do you approach it with a heart thankful for a Savior, for a Brother, for a Lord, for a Friend, for an eternal sacrifice in the fulfillment of God’s covenant with mankind that is sufficient to go into heaven and bring us there with Him? May God bless the word.

Note to Readers:
In a recent survey, readers indicated that the Monthly Sermon was the least valued portion of the Silver Lining. Also, realizing that AC Central offers extensive sermon content, our committee is evaluating whether we should continue including a printed sermon. What do you think? If you find the Monthly Sermon valuable, please let us know by sending a note to:
features@acsilverlining.org
or
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The following article includes excerpts from the “Just Plain Values” magazine in its July, 2018 issue. This publication is sent out monthly from its headquarters in Winesburg, OH. Its contents reach many persons of Anabaptist persuasion, including the various entities among Mennonite and Amish groups. These denominational groups first came to Lancaster County, PA and by the mid-1800s were growing in number. This type of faith thence spread to parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. In time, there were faith communities that impacted Mennonite groups in one fashion or another, and portions of the membership were lost. The article below describes this trend, and was written by Marcus A. Yoder, who is the head of the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center located near Berlin, OH. The article is entitled “Apostolic And Holdeman.” Our task below is to show the portion the author gave to the development of our Apostolic Christian Church, which grew in part from those groups. The excerpts below do not include comments about the Holdeman group. This magazine article was given to me on Sunday, October 21, 2018, by a sister from the church in Smithville, OH.

Excerpts from “Apostolic And Holdeman”

“It was during this time (mid-1800s and on) that two movements began, that, while not directly connected to the Amish, would have a definite impact on those communities. One of these would begin in Europe and the other in the United States, but both would live in uneasy alliance with the Amish and Mennonites. Both movements were initiated and led by dynamic leaders who were concerned about the spiritual life in which they moved.

A Swiss Reformed minister name Samuel Froehlich began the first of these movements. Froehlich had entered the ministry in 1828, but was recalled by 1830, and was excluded from any further ministry in the Reformed church by 1832. Froehlich immediately moved to organize his own church. It was organized at Langnau in the Emmental Valley of Switzerland, and was composed of almost equal numbers of Reformed and Mennonite church members. This group was often called “Neutaufer” or new baptizers.

Some of the group immigrated to America and since they were connected to the Amish and Mennonites, often settled near those communities already in existence. The first organized Apostolic Christian Church, as they became known, was in Croghan, NY, near an Amish/Mennonite settlement. Heavy migration brought rapid growth in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois as the group followed the natural migration patterns in America. In the 1920s and ‘30s, English gradually replaced the German language in church services.

Like the Anabaptists groups, the Apostolic Christian Church is primarily congregational in their church administration. The group espouses a literal reading and obedience to the Scriptures, where baptism is for adults only. They are also generally non-resistant. They are known for their strong mutual aid and care programs as evidenced by the fact that in 1982, the group operated nine rest homes, and a large home for disabled people, along with many relief efforts in poverty-stricken and needy areas. In 2010, there were Apostolic Christians churches in at least twenty-five states and Canada.”

Note: The author did not use up-to-date statistics concerning nursing homes. By 2018, the church had more nursing homes than the above article indicates.

-by Perry Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

A Word from "The WORD"

Perhaps you were reading in Romans 9 or James 5, and encountered the phrase “the Lord of Sabaoth.” You may have thought it was just a variation of the word “sabbath.”

Actually, the word “sabaoth” is a Greek word with the same spelling that means “armies” or “hosts.” This word only occurs twice in the Bible, and both times it is used as a military term.

Romans 9:29 “And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.” (A nearly identical verse is in Isaiah 1:9.)

The only other occurrence is in James 5:4.

Although our God is all-powerful, Scriptures reveal that He is also the “commander-in-chief” of huge “hosts” or “armies”. There are at least three possible interpretations for a description of God as the “Lord of armies” or “Lord of hosts.”

1. Angels

   a. There is a reference to a huge gathering in Revelation 5:
      “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand [= 100,000,000], and thousands of thousands: Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain . . .” Revelation 5:11-12

   b. Daniel describes the “Ancient of days” as being attended by a great number of beings:
      “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, . . . A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.” Daniel 7:9-10

   c. Luke describes a “multitude of the heavenly host” that appeared to the shepherds heralding Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:13). Were there 10 or 10,000 in that angelic band?

   d. A fascinating description of an army of angels, ready to aid Elisha in the Israelites’ battle against the Syrians:
      “And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” 2 Kings 6:17

2. Saints

   a. The Bible references a huge “host” of redeemed souls, referred to as “saints,” in a prophecy in Jude:
      “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed . . .” Jude 14-15

   b. The Revelation prophecy of Jesus’ second future coming, as he will lead heavenly armies (angels and saints?) to defeat the beast and the false prophet:
      “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . . And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” Rev. 19:11,14

3. Soldiers:

   The third interpretation could be applied to the many accounts of the armies of Israelites who were directed by God to wage war against His enemies. Saul, David, and Joshua were all used to lead armies to exact divine vengeance on opposing forces.

   -by Ron Heiniger
...the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelations 22:2