Come my friend and take me sunder,
from all tumult make me free…

Solitude and quietness
leads to everlasting rest.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Faith of Joseph  page 3
Monthly Sermon  page 4
"HarvestCall Night"
At a Local Distribution Center  page 6
Hospital Lumiere: Not Yet Ready to Die  page 6
Patience: A Long View  page 8
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage  page 66
The Light of Hope  page 67
Godliness with Contentment Is Great Gain

This issue contains reader submissions on “How have you benefitted from believers exercising their spiritual gifts?” It is a testament to the difference other people can make in our lives, often without even realizing it.

We are a people abundantly blessed, but sometimes we can become discontent. That’s easy to do in a world where many are posting idealized versions of their lives online. But being content has always been a challenge, even before the invention of social media.

Our next reader-submitted special topic is: What are practical ways to maintain contentment when it’s so easy to compare and complain? Let us encourage one another to experience the “great gain” of contentment and avoid temptations and snares.

Send your contributions answering that question to features@acsilverlining.org by September 16. Please keep them to no more than 600 words. This section will be published in November.

In Christian love,
Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders
God is silent – or when His answer to our request for something that seems good and necessary, or for relief from a difficult or painful situation, is ‘No,’ or ‘Wait,’ or possibly even, ‘Not in this life.’ Joseph’s preparation took thirteen years, as he was thirty years old when finally called out of prison to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams. Once more he acknowledged God and took no credit for himself:

“It (the interpretation) is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

In the later dealings with his brothers, Joseph’s character again proves true. Just as God had revealed through Pharaoh’s dream, seven years of plentiful harvests were followed by seven years of crop failures and famine. Because Joseph had wisely overseen the stockpiling of grain in the plentiful years, there was enough food for both the Egyptians and for people from surrounding countries, including Canaan where his father and brothers were still living. When ten of his brothers came to Egypt to buy food, they were required to deal with Joseph and respectfully bow before him, unknowingly fulfilling what he had dreamed about them some twenty years earlier!

Joseph now fully understood that being sold into Egypt by two dreams which suggested that they would become subservient to him. His attitude at that point appears to have been conceited or arrogant, and his resentful and jealous brothers conspired to sell him to a traveling merchant caravan as a slave.

However, soon after his arrival in Egypt we read that “the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man,” first as overseer of Potiphar’s household but also later when he was unjustly accused and imprisoned for refusing the advances of Potiphar’s wife. Even in prison Joseph showed no indication of bitterness, and when two of his fellow prisoners were disturbed because no one could interpret their dreams, he assured them that God could. God was preparing Joseph for his mission, and at this point he seems to have overcome any pride or self-confidence he may have had earlier. But apparently the time was not quite right, because the butler forgot about Joseph interpreting his dream for two more years. These last two years could have been a very trying and discouraging time for him, but once again there is no indication that he ever lost his faith that God was still with him and that things would somehow “work together for good.” Some of us may also experience struggles to keep faith through times when God is silent – or when His answer to our request for something that seems good and necessary, or for relief from a difficult or painful situation, is ‘No,’ or ‘Wait,’ or possibly even, ‘Not in this life.’

The Faith of Joseph

Theme verse: “By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.” Hebrews 11:22

Joseph demonstrated his faith in God through many traumatic experiences, and through them all trusted God to keep His promise to give the land of Israel to his great-grandfather Abraham’s descendants. Joseph would die, like other Old Testament heroes of faith, “not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” He had the ‘long view’ – the same trust and confidence that describes our yearning for Heaven and walk of faith today.

Joseph’s story begins with Genesis Chapter 37 when he is seventeen years old. There was already enmity between Joseph and his older half-brothers, which may be partly attributed to their father’s attitude – which favored Joseph – because his mother was Rachel – and because Joseph was “the son of his old age.” Joseph either unwittingly – or perhaps deliberately – provoked their animosity by telling his brothers of
Sermon by Bro. Ryan Bertsch, Bluffton North, IN

Genesis 50:19-20
Various passages from Hebrews

In the book of Hebrews, the theme word would be “better.” Jesus is better, he is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. In chapters 1-10, he builds the case of “better.” In Chapter 11, he takes a historical trip through the hall of faith. Chapters 12-13 are kind of application. Let’s start in chapter 1, and just read the first four verses.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Hebrews 1:1-4

Better than the prophets, better than the angels. Why better than the angels? He earned that name, the name above all names to which every knee will bow and every tongue will confess. He earned that name because He pleased His Father and lived a perfect life. Even in the prayer of Gethsemane, “Nevertheless, not my will, but Thy will be done”. And He ransomed us from the grave. Angels did not do that. We will not bow before angels one day. We will bow before Jesus. He is better than the prophets, He is better than the angels. He is better because He became human. He didn’t stay God.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” Heb. 2:14-18

So our Jesus, our King, not only our Creator, but our Redeemer, and our best friend. He is better than the prophets and the angels. He’s better because He became one of us. As I mentioned before in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit brought out a thought to me that those of you who have been there and suffered, you can relate to those who are suffering. You can go to them and can relate. Jesus, our high priest, became a human so that when you are lonely, when you are discouraged, when you are being tempted, whatever it is that the devil or this world or your flesh is throwing at you, Jesus can say, I have been in your shoes; I know what that feels like. And not only that, He did not sin so that He is the perfect lamb of God who has the power to help us when we are struggling. He is better because He became human without sin to help us.

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;” Heb. 3:12-14

Oh that phrase just cuts me, the deceitfulness of sin. You know sin is in our hearts, it’s not an external thing. It becomes an external thing, but the roots of sin are in our hearts. Let me reread it. “Lest any of you should be hardened by the deceitfulness of
have the promised land and it seems like everything is fulfilled but the author is saying no, that is not the land of rest because there is a better land of promise, there is a better than Joshua coming. There is a better eternal promised land coming. That is what the author is teaching us in Chapter 4, that there is better than Joshua, his name is Jesus. There is a better then the temporary promised land of Canaan. I am sure there are some of you who desire the Canaan land now but God has you here for a purpose, take courage in that. If you are here and your heart is still beating and your breath is still in you, God must have a purpose for you. Even just to pray, and I shouldn’t say just to pray, because that is powerful. Brothers and sisters, take courage. But until we get to that Canaan land, that rest, be encouraged.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb. 4:14-16

This is kind of similar to chapter 2 but such encouragement. The author mentions the tabernacle. He never mentions the temple, I’m not sure why. Many people believe it was written before the temple was destroyed in Jerusalem so the temple was still standing possibly. He mentions the tabernacle again and again, and how he had to go into the holy of holies and that priest had to offer up blood for himself and for the people. But now we have this greater high priest, who can relate to us in our sin, but has not sinned. He can relate to us because He is tempted and yet without sin. That big thick curtain, let’s read that verse again. “Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace” so we can go behind the veil that was

sin”, whatever that sin is, it comes from the heart. Jesus teaches that very clearly when He says out of the heart the mouth speaketh. Out of our heart comes sin. You know, yesterday I was getting ready for the springtime. I’m doing a little changing of the landscaping, and am going to take out some stuff. One thing I’m doing is taking out the perennials, the tiger lilies. They are prosperous and are growing in thick clumps and bundles. When they come up, I could take my hedge trimmers and cut them off at the ground, but it is temporary relief. They have big thick fleshy bulbs. They need to be taken out by the roots. That is the power of Jesus, that is what we read here to beware. The goats and the lambs and the rituals of the temple cannot go into our heart. Jesus can purge the sinner, not just to kick the sin down the road a little bit, so that you don’t have to do the yearly atonement, so you have to do it again the next year, not to just give us temporary relief, but actually atone fully to cover the sin for good so that Jeremiah is fulfilled when he said, “their sin I will remember no more”. The blood of Jesus has that power to go to the heart and go into those chambers when “we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins”. To go to those secret chambers and where we have hidden things and God and the Holy Spirit is pricking us. That’s digging it out by the bulbs and casting it into the woods. That’s where I threw mine, in the woods, and they will probably grow back there, knowing tiger lilies. We need to beware, that we don’t have a heart of unbelief.

In chapter 4, let’s think about Joshua leading the people to that rest, across the river Jordan and the people rebelled against God. They had that evil heart of unbelief as the author talked about in chapter 3. After 40 years in the wilderness, Joshua takes them across the river Jordan and they take out Jericho. And then there is sin in the camp, but eventually they take out all those Canaanites. Caleb and Joshua
"HarvestCall Night" at a local Distribution Center

Distribution Committee

Sacrifice. Deep down, no one likes the sound of it. Usually, it means that something valued, something that makes us comfortable, or something that we’ve become used to is taken, leaving a hole that reminds us of what has been given up. Whether it’s an activity, food (or just an ingredient, like our beloved sugar), or pastime, sacrifice is sacrifice. But how many times do we give something up and not notice the beauty in the ashes?

For many, the time before repentance involved pondering over the sacrifices to be made. The places we couldn’t go, things we couldn’t do, and freedom we thought we had to give up was a speed bump that took some momentum to overcome. Looking back though, how many of us would want to go back to those places, do those things and return to that prison cell that the devil told us was ‘freedom’? When God asks us to give something up, it isn’t so that we walk around with a forlorn look on our faces, wishing for the glory days before the ‘sacrifice’, it’s so that He can fill that hole in our lives with something greater.

That being said, how many of us have said ‘no’ to invitations or perhaps just a quiet night at home, and filled in one calendar block a month with the note, “HC Night”? Honestly, it doesn’t always seem to be the most exciting calendar block to look forward to, especially when there are ‘potluck’ blocks and ‘testimonies’ blocks. But how many times do we go anyway, and have a wonderful time putting our time and energy into others? Do we realize where those bags of soup end up? Do we have any idea what a can of turkey, a bag of beans, a new blanket, a school kit, a health kit, or even just a bucket can do for someone who has nothing? If not, do yourself a favor and do some research on where the fruits of your labor are going.

Hospital Lumiere: Not Yet Ready to Die

Caribbean Committee

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

Louis Lictime’s life was good. He was blessed with a wife and four children and worked as a farmer in the countryside, near Les Cayes, Haiti. Then, one afternoon as he was riding home from work in a tap-tap (Haitian taxi), everything changed. A large bus crashed into the tap-tap Louis was riding in and he was seriously injured. Louis’s left leg was badly broken and crushed below the knee. That was over a year ago. Since then Louis has had six surgeries, multiple skin grafts and has battled infections. It has been a long road to recovery but Louis can now get around on crutches and is ready to go home.

Louis is happy to have recovered from his accident, but his stay at Hospital Lumiere has brought more than physical healing. When Louis arrived at Hospital Lumiere, he was a lost sinner. While at the hospital, Louis was visited by Pastor Etherard, the hospital chaplain. Pastor Etherard prayed with Louis and asked...
Next time you attend a HarvestCall night, don’t think of what you are giving up, but let God fill you with the joy that comes when you love like He does with acts of service. Don’t sell Him short, don’t close yourself off from the blessings He bestows.

Another step, next time you are at a work night, take a look at the children, these kids have probably never experienced going hungry and haven’t a clue where those bags of beans are going, and yet, they give of their time and energy with an innocent joy that can warm the hardest of hearts. Jesus told us that we should “become as little children” and it seems that this is another beautiful example of why He wants us to do that.

Lastly, a challenge to take it a step farther, maybe for a week or a month, sacrifice a night out to dinner or a fancy meal. Instead, make a meal of beans and rice. More than 3.5 billion people depend on rice for more than 20% of their daily calories and over 800 million people live every day without proper nourishment. Put on the shoes of so many in the world and sit down to their meal. One final step, take that extra money saved and put it in the HarvestCall collection box so your sacrifice keeps on giving. It tastes better eating beans and rice when you know that by doing so, you’re providing someone else’s dinner even though you’re separated by hundreds of miles. Remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive. – by Kaitlin Maibach

Louis realized he was not yet ready to die, recognized his need for a Savior and began his new walk with the Lord.

Pastor Etherard continued to visit and pray with Louis. “He has made a good beginning and I have seen a change in his character” says Pastor Etherard. When Louis returns to his home, Pastor Etherard will connect him with the local pastor in Les Cayes so Louis can attend church there and continue to be discipled.

Please pray that Louis can continue to grow in faith and in his walk with the Lord. And for others like Louis who are not yet ready to die.

– by Rich Bertschi
We are called to a life characterized by patience. Yet when asked to give an account for our patience, many of us hang our head in shame. Oh boy, we might say to ourselves, I was too short with that employee. I got angry at that motorist. I’m frustrated with my spouse. I’m exasperated by my kids. I suppose everyone has room to grow in patience. The aforementioned are good examples of the struggle with patience. They indeed expose critical areas of much needed growth. But they only hint at the essence of patience. Our view of patience is much too short-sighted. Because we have had a short-sighted view of patience, the beauty of the term has been limited. Let’s consider a longer view of patience. By doing so, we will redeem the term patience and bring back its power and thereby, its beauty.

Put simply, being patient is “bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint” (Merriam-Webster 1828). It is important to note that patience requires discomfort. Patience is teed up when there is a dissonance that needs to be endured, a suffering of some kind. Patience exists in the overlap of my reaction to that suffering. Minor suffering, like when I’m made late by an inconsiderate motorist, is contrasted with major suffering, like when my unfavorable circumstances are a present reality for the rest of my life. We quickly realize there are two types of patience. Small p patience and capital P patience. Small p patience endures modest suffering for a relatively short duration while capital P patience endures significant suffering for a long period of time.

Hebrews 11 is commonly known as the “Hall of Faith” chapter. Contained therein are fifteen men and two women named and commended for their faith. Countless others are referenced without name. “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (v. 13) They not only lived by faith, they died in faith. That is, the promise that was seen afar off was never realized on this side of the grave. As pilgrims they endured the space between knowing the promise...
and realizing the promise, and that space was a lifetime. Romans 8 says, “even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” (vs. 23-25) Patience is the currency of faith.

Now, what capital P patience is God asking you to endure?

- A disability?
- An affliction?
- A broken relationship?
- A dysfunction?
- A difficult marriage?
- An unresolved hurt?
- A temptation?
- A consequence of sin?
- A loss?
- A doubt?

Let’s be clear, it is good and right to do all we can to find resolve in these areas. The Word of God gives us direction on how to do so. The Spirit of God gives us power to do so. God Himself exemplifies restoration and calls Himself the Reconciler (2 Cor. 5:18-19). However, we will never be able to escape all the brokenness we experience in this life. Abraham couldn’t. Joseph couldn’t. Samson couldn’t. Nor could David. It then is in these areas of Patience that we live as pilgrims. We live with an unpleasant present because we have a future hope of reconciliation. The reconciliation that comes with the coming of Jesus Christ. “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” (James 5:8) And for that reconciliation, we patiently wait.

ACCFS has several resources to encourage men in their biblical roles and responsibilities. Recommended resources and presentations can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/women. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian LifePoints
Kyle Streitmatter - Mission Communication Intern

“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:7-10

God’s creation is ripe for activity this time of year! If you’re anything like us here at LifePoints, summer is the time to enjoy the outdoors! Whether you’re beating the heat with an afternoon swim or prefer to venture out in the cool of the evening, there’s no shortage of things to do!

One of our residents’ favorite outdoor activities is visiting Camp Big Sky, a day camp where residents get to enjoy some special summer fun! I recently had the privilege of joining some of our folks on a trip to this special camp. The day started bright and early at 8:45am when we left Timber Ridge in a bus loaded with coolers, sunscreen, and smiling residents! After an hour of driving (and a Casey’s stop), we arrived and unloaded the bus – then the fun really began!

It’s often challenging for people with disabilities to participate in outdoor activities. It requires extra time, effort, and supplies, not to mention the difficulty of finding wheelchair-accessible spaces. However, thanks to Camp Big Sky’s amenities and the efforts of the staff, these enjoyable and healthy days are made possible! The camp has a wonderful fishing dock that accommodates wheelchairs, which was a highlight to be sure – especially for the fishermen of the group! The residents also got to cool off a bit when they needed to by making pillows in the air-conditioned craft cabin!

And of course, no trip to Camp Big Sky would be complete without a ride in the wheelchair-accessible wagon pulled by the tractor. (We were especially thankful that the wagon had a roof to block the sun!) At lunch time, our staff served hamburgers from the grill – always a delicious treat! We’re so thankful that our residents have these opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature!

Camp Big Sky is nestled on a large acreage of trees and open grasslands. As we went about the day’s activities, I couldn’t help but notice the vivid colors and beautiful setting that surrounded us. God’s handiwork is truly amazing – no work of art or beautiful picture that humans make could ever match His ability to design and create. What a blessing to enjoy the beauty of nature that He has given us!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Ruth Kaufman - Former Teacher’s Aide

I love the words of God’s promise in Isaiah 30:18, “And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.” It’s a good reminder to me of how God sees situations and people differently than I do at times. How He is always rising up, ready to do good things for those whose hearts are open to receive from Him.

At Gateway Woods, I found that hearts are not always as closed as they may appear at first glance. Take Matty, for example. He was a student at Gateway Woods School who at first seemed very closed to receiving anything from me, either as an English teacher or as a spiritual counselor. I used to struggle to find ways to reach out to him and teach him in ways that he could receive. He frequently refused to cooperate with me at school, so I found myself lying awake some nights thinking about...
what I was going to do about him the next day. Sometimes he would complain to me about how different Gateway Woods School was from his previous school experiences. He would make comments such as, “You guys are always watching me!”, and “I can’t believe this! I’ve never done my homework before in my life; you’re lucky I decided to do my homework today!” Sometimes when he was frustrated he would ask, “Why do you guys even care so much?!”. And, he loved to complain about “Cons” (Gateway Woods consequences for behavior choices).

However, there were also occasions that he expressed appreciation for Gateway Woods, and appreciation for his houseparents. As time went on, he made comments about how his houseparents really cared about him and that they were helping him with his “problems.”

Conversations with students like Matty helped me to realize that God is using Gateway Woods to restore hope and bring positive change in the lives of children and families being served. God is doing a good work in their hearts and minds that may not be visible now, but one that I can trust has a lasting impact. My job as a Gateway Woods teacher was to simply be available, serve, plant the seeds, and allow God to do His work in each heart. It’s encouraging to know that He is working in ways we cannot see.

It was a privilege to teach at Gateway Woods School this spring. God used the experience to teach me about who He is and His heart for people. I was reminded of God’s love for me, a sinner who doesn’t deserve His grace. I was encouraged by experiencing some different ways that He chose to use me to reach out to youth at Gateway who He cares about and whose souls He desires to win.

**News:**

We thank Sis. Janice Anliker who has helped with summer school along with being our Director of Education.

Our 43rd Auction was held on August 3. It is amazing to us all of the love and support that Gateway Woods receives every Auction.

Please pray for us as we continue renovations and prepare to offer transitional housing to young adults leaving Gateway Woods. WillowBridge transitional housing is a new branch of the LARC initiative that can provide up to 9 young people housing and ongoing community support to help them prepare for independent living.

Please visit our website for more information: gatewaywoods.org/willowbridge.

We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, and Houseparent Couples and Manager of Compliance & Maintenance. For more information, please see our ad in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers. We trust that God will provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’.

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.
righteousness, I declare things that are right.” Isaiah 45:20

Our congregation is in full Summer mode, with many leaving for vacations and taking time off from the busy lifestyle we generally enjoy. It is nice to have this brief time of fellowship with our “core” of local members. We always welcome visitors, of course, and have had a few who are willing to brave the heat. School will be starting before this edition goes to print, and things will pick up again, and that will be nice, too. God is good in all He does, providing his people with seasons in work and rest, and so much more.

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We rejoiced this summer with the wedding of our Sis. Devan Cargill (Bro. Dan & Stephanie) who was married to Bro. Kyle Grimm (Bro. Don & Tricia) from Taylor. Their beautiful wedding in June reminded us of the wedding feast we will see one day in heaven.

“She is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact representation of his nature. She is the one who mediates between God and men, who assures everyone that he is righteous, who is the propitiation for our sins.” Hebrews 2:18

The prophesies pertaining to Jesus alone should be enough to convince any skeptic that there was a foreknowledge of events that could not have been discerned or orchestrated by the mind of man. If anyone seeks Truth and reads and studies Scripture, there will be no room for doubt, as the promise is there, and is fulfilled.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” 2 Tim. 3:16

Should we believe that the Bible is completely accurate and without any error? If so, how do we defend that belief to those who doubt? The very fact it claims to be Truth – to be “God-breathed” requires it to be perfect. If that statement is untrue, the rest of the content is also in doubt. Either it is what it claims to be, or it is a fraud. It can’t be partially true, with some error here and there.

Fortunately, there are many things to support the supernatural nature of the Book. There is the very fact that the Bible still exists and has not changed – in form or application – over millennia. God has and continues to preserve it from countless attacks and attempts to discredit and destroy it. Any ordinary book would never have survived the many attacks of the enemy. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, there was a question in many minds whether the text was changed over the years to remain relevant. That discovery proved without any doubt the Scriptures had not changed or been altered since ancient time. This leads to another manner of proof – archeology.

I can remember people arguing that Pontius Pilate never existed as there was no record nor evidence of such a man. Then archeologists unearthed a seal with his inscription. So much for that argument. Very recently, they unearthed remains of the city of Ziklag, where David hid out from King Saul. There have been several recent discoveries that confirm Biblical accounts that were previously not supported with the findings. There remain matters that are not proven, however, nothing has been discovered that disproves any account of the Scriptures, nor will it.

My favorite and most convincing method of proof of the accuracy of the Bible is fulfilled prophecy. There are too many to recount in this article, but if you have an opportunity to look into the history and demise of the City of Tyre and compare it to the prophecy in Ezekiel 26 that it would be scraped into the sea and men would cast their nets from its ruins, I recommend it. This is one of the most astounding fulfilled prophesies, in my opinion, although each one is confirmation of the Truth of the Scriptures.

Should we believe that the Bible is completely accurate and without any error? If so, how do we defend that belief to those who doubt? The very fact it claims to be Truth – to be “God-breathed” requires it to be perfect. If that statement is untrue, the rest of the content is also in doubt. Either it is what it claims to be, or it is a fraud. It can’t be partially true, with some error here and there.

Fortunately, there are many things to support the supernatural nature of the Book. There is the very fact that the Bible still exists and has not changed – in form or application – over millennia. God has and continues to preserve it from countless attacks and attempts to discredit and destroy it. Any ordinary book would never have survived the many attacks of the enemy. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, there was a question in many minds whether the text was changed over the years to remain relevant. That discovery proved without any doubt the Scriptures had not changed or been altered since ancient time. This leads to another manner of proof – archeology.

I can remember people arguing that Pontius Pilate never existed as there was no record nor evidence of such a man. Then archeologists unearthed a seal with his inscription. So much for that argument. Very recently, they unearthed remains of the city of Ziklag, where David hid out from King Saul. There have been several recent discoveries that confirm Biblical accounts that were previously not supported with the findings. There remain matters that are not proven, however, nothing has been discovered that disproves any account of the Scriptures, nor will it.

My favorite and most convincing method of proof of the accuracy of the Bible is fulfilled prophecy. There are too many to recount in this article, but if you have an opportunity to look into the history and demise of the City of Tyre and compare it to the prophecy in Ezekiel 26 that it would be scraped into the sea and men would cast their nets from its ruins, I recommend it. This is one of the most astounding fulfilled prophesies, in my opinion, although each one is confirmation of the Truth of the Scriptures.

The prophesies pertaining to Jesus alone should be enough to convince any skeptic that there was a foreknowledge of events that could not have been discerned or orchestrated by the mind of man. If anyone seeks Truth and reads and studies Scripture, there will be no room for doubt, as the promise is there, and is fulfilled.

“I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.” Isaiah 45:20

Our congregation is in full Summer mode, with many leaving for vacations and taking time off from the busy lifestyle we generally enjoy. It is nice to have this brief time of fellowship with our “core” of local members. We always welcome visitors, of course, and have had a few who are willing to brave the heat. School will be starting before this edition goes to print, and things will pick up again, and that will be nice, too. God is good in all He does, providing his people with seasons in work and rest, and so much more.

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We rejoiced this summer with the wedding of our Sis. Devan Cargill (Bro. Dan & Stephanie) who was married to Bro. Kyle Grimm (Bro. Don & Tricia) from Taylor. Their beautiful wedding in June reminded us of the wedding feast we will see one day in heaven.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” Rev. 19:7-9.

We mourn with the family of Sis. Elena Kornja who passed
away. She lived in Prescott for many years, but moved back to Columbus several years ago when her health deteriorated.

We are thankful for visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor) and Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix), Bro. Brian Katich (Sis. Debbie, Phoenix), Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester), and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tami, Phoenix).

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We have a bit of wisdom on our bulletin board in our office: “where God guides, He provides”. We are very thankful that Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie) have been given full support from the Tucson congregation to minister from the pulpit here in our church. We know God has led them here and we are grateful that He has provided for our spiritual needs. It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) with us and to hear his exhortations for the ministers and the congregation.

Many are traveling this summer and we pray for safety and care upon the highways and airways. We want to remember our elders as they gather for the annual Conference. Their unwavering efforts are greatly appreciated.

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman

This month, much to the children’s excitement, we had VBS. We spent Tuesday through Friday evenings learning about Joseph and the time he spent in Egypt. This story never ceases to remind us of integrity, faithfulness, trust and courage. Saturday, the whole church was invited to the mountains for a day of fellowship and games. What joy to learn and grow together!

Many thanks go to our visiting ministers and their wives this month: Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris, MN), Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL) Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Bastrop, TX) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT). You all are appreciated!

My husband and I are due with a baby any day now. As I have hit the “nesting phase” I have cleaned, organized, prepared freezer meals, and done a host of other little things in preparation. The baby could come ANY DAY! When I reach this point, I’m always convicted and reminded of eternity. I am so excited to have this child; and I have acted on that excitement and have prepared. But what about the “day of the Lord”? Do I look forward to that day when I will pass into eternity with same excitement and preparedness? It too, could come ANY DAY! We must not be idle, but must trim our lamps and fill them with oil!

Even so Lord Jesus come!

Connecticut, Rockville
Julie Bauman, Heidi Beutel

We are rejoicing that three dear souls have chosen to seek the Lord in repentance. We wish God’s strength and grace to Connor Hany (Bro. Paul & Sis. Betsy), Jeremy Zahner (Bro. Kent & Sis. Karen), Rose Walder (Bro. Brent & Sis. Naomi).

We’re thankful Camille Luginbuhl (Bro. Nate & Sis. Lydia) is home and doing well after her recent hospitalization.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Beth Ehlen in the passing of her husband, Bruce Ehlen.

We rejoice that a heavenly victory has been won for Sis. Glenna Moser. We extend our thoughts and prayers to her husband, Bro. Ben, and family: Sis. Judy (Bro. Wally) Carlson, Bro. Steve (Sis. Janis), Bro. Jon (Sis. Angie), Bro. Sam (Sis. Tyrene) (Silverton, OH), and friends.

We’re thankful that Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) could be with us.

We also enjoyed the service and fellowship of Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA).

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

This month we welcomed Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz and family from Burlington, IA as caretakers. There are still a few months this year with no caretaker. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend
3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL). Other visitors were from Congerville & Fairbury, IL; Junction, OH and Lester, IA. We are thankful for visitors and for them letting us know they are coming.

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

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

“We’ll now depart ye faithful friends; And from this place will go; The Lord in whom our spirits blend, Will lead us on the road.”

On June 23, we bid farewell to Bro. Jeff Il and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter as they make their home in Fort Scott, KS. They have been a part of the Sarasota church for 42 years and have raised their family here. They will be deeply missed for they have been a blessing and a huge asset. May they feel God near them in their new home.

This month we were blessed by Bro. Randy (Sis. Sue Gasser, Detroit MI) as he shared God’s word. May God be his rewarder.

Our prayers this month were for Bro. Terry Miller as he had surgery. May he and his dear wife, Sis. Bev, feel our prayers in his recovery.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Ephraim Kipfer of Latty, OH. He and his wife spent 21 winter years in FL. May God comfort his family in this difficult time.

On July 6, we met at church to car pool to Fort Myers to work at the Midwest Food Bank. As we worked, we enjoyed the fellowship and had a potluck lunch together.

At our July potluck a presentation was given by the ones that traveled to Jamaica on a work team. Each one shared of their experiences along with a slide show. We’re thankful for the work we can do for those in need.

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp

I apologize for the lack of articles and news in the last couple issues! It has been a sweet summer thus far here in Peachtree city. Our church ebbs and flows in the summer as people travel and the busyness of summer comes. But we remain so thankful for the One constant in our lives: The unwavering, faithful, good Character of our God!

We are so thankful to have had Bro. Isaac and Sis. Elise Funk (Peoria, IL) move down to Georgia this June. We welcome them into our local body and are so thankful for the ways they have already invested in our church. We praise God for leading them here and pray He will richly bless them, drawing them closer to Himself. May His name be glorified!

Also, we were blessed to have several visiting ministers over the last couple months. Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH) each ministered to us this past month, as well as Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) who also gave a presentation to our church on the history of Bible translations. We are thankful for their service to us!
We likewise appreciated having Bro. Bob Conrad (Dallas, TX) here to give a presentation on how the Bible can be translated into a different, new language. It was a fascinating presentation and Bro. Bob’s passion for the Bible to be in every language is inspiring. As Christians, we are called to teach ALL nations and it is exciting to see the fruition of this specific aspect of fulfilling that calling grow.

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 678.416.6586 or Matt Knapp 815.674.1498). For additional information, visit our website at www.ptcacchurch.org.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike & Susie Walder

Currently almost all of the Les Cayes missionaries are in the U.S. All of us from last year are planning to return in late July or August, except for Sis. Trinity Walder who will begin her new role teaching the kids attending the missionary school in Bonne Fin in early August. We pray that Trinity will enjoy the opportunity she has before her, as well as the slightly cooler temperatures in the mountains!

It is truly a blessing to serve in Haiti, although it is challenging with the constant pressure of poverty. The opportunity is always ours to love and encourage others no matter their circumstance, their education level, or their kindness to anyone different. Love and patience for others who can be rude or unkind is not natural and we have to pray for it daily. Christ is always the perfect example of loving people no matter if they said thanks or not. Even while we were still sinners He died for us! He made it quite clear that the servant is not greater than His lord and we should not be surprised that whatever He experienced, we will need to experience, too.

Being different and standing out in the crowd is not all bad. It can really work in our favor when sharing the gospel. Their curiosity of foreigners is always an open door to share verses of encouragement to faith and repentance. When we can share in their own language, so much the better! Overall, we find Haitians more receptive to the gospel than in our own culture in the U.S. where people openly admit to being gods to themselves, choosing not to believe in hell or in God. So many are enough removed from church that they don’t even know why Christ came or what the good news is. The whole world is coming to us and even right through our church doors now. The opportunities to share the truth and love of Jesus Christ are all around us, and the time is very short!

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings of Christian love from Bonne Fin. This past month, the Aberle family returned from a summer furlough in the United States. The Nussbaum family also left to spend time in the United States.

While the political situation in the country still requires vigilance and prayer, the hospital was blessed to receive a full Orthopedic Team in early July. We are thankful for the improved situation as it eases concerns for travel.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Wendy Zimmerman, Sara Anliker

As the summer is coming to a close, I find myself anticipating the season of harvest. It is a time where we can see the fruits of our labor from the fields and gardens. The leaves begin to change, and the air becomes crisp. The task of harvest is not an easy one, but the rewards can be great.

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”
Matthew 9:38

Last month we celebrated the freedoms we have as a country and as individuals which allow us to worship openly and come together to hear God’s Word. We were happy to have Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Mike
Kaisner (Sis. Melinda, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) visiting and sharing His Word.

We rejoice to be able to see the fruits of God’s work within many of our young people. We praise Him for working in the hearts of Will Steffen & Ben Steffen (Bro. Sam & Sis. Shelley Steffen), “JJ” Jalien Jones, Brock Sauder (Bro. Court & Sis. Joyce Sauder), Megan Metz (Bro. Brad & Sis. Karen Metz), Joe Kaufmann & Chet Kaufmann (Bro. Andy & Sis. Marie Kaufmann), and Landon Kieser (Bro. Tater & Sis. Haley Kieser). We rejoice in their salvation and love for the Lord and that they desire to be a part of our church family.

We celebrated the union of Sis. Megan Edelman (Bro. Alan & Sis. Wendy Edelman) and Bro. Andy Yergler (Bro. Tim & Sis. Sandy) of Gridley. May the Lord bless their marriage.

We mourn the passing of Bro. John Traub this past month and extend our sympathies to his wife, Sis. Bonnie Traub and their family.

We will continue to praise God for all the blessings He bestows on us and we will worship His mighty name. God’s grace and peace to each of you!

Illinois, Champaign

Brent Young

We rejoiced with Bro. Trevor Wendler & Sis. Dona Fehr on their wedding day. They will make their home in Kansas. Sis. Dona will be greatly missed here in Champaign!

We sorrow with Sis. Wilma Simpson in the loss of her husband and our dear brother, Bob Simpson. In recent years, they made their home in Roanoke, but the Simpsons will long be remembered as pillars from the very earliest days of the Champaign church. Bro. Bob’s passing reminds us again of God’s faithfulness through the years as our church family has grown.

We finished up the Sunday school year with our annual Sunday school picnic as well as our summer VBS week. Our VBS focused on heroes of the Bible, including Daniel, who ‘purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king’s meat.’ (Dan. 1:8) Daniel faced great challenges, in a strange country, and at a young age, but that purposing of his heart before the trial established a good footing when the challenges came.

Bro. Isaac Wofford finished up our VBS week with a message entitled ‘David, Pursuing God.’ He brought us the story through David’s own words in the Psalms. When David cried out to God in Psalm 51 to ‘take not thy holy spirit from me’ he must have been considering the sad story of Saul. He stood at the edge of the abyss and pleaded for the Spirit to...
stay, for the joy of salvation to be restored. This is still a prayer God will hear today!

In addition to Bro. Isaac, we are grateful to several other ministers for their recent service including, Bros. Frank Sauder, Brad Strahm, and Michael Schneider.

We enjoyed the ‘spring memorandum’ together. As the process of the church establishing a clear vision was laid out, we were reminded again how faith and strategic thinking can work together in harmony. There will always be a ‘God gap’- a future we cannot see, answers we are not astute enough to conjure up, and a proneness to wander that is often confounding. But how exciting it is to join together as a church and indeed ‘purpose in our heart.’

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of a new baby girl to our church family. Solvi Trish Wuehrich was born on June 21 to Bro. Levi and Sis. Kyann. Solvi is also welcomed by grandparents Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuehrich and aunts Sis. Marissa and Sis. Cambria. We rejoice with their family for God’s blessing of new life.

We held a farewell reception for Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuehrich prior to their move to St. Louis in July. We are thankful for their service in the ministry and for the encouragement they shared as a beloved part of our church family. We will miss them greatly, yet we rejoice for their willingness to answer God’s call and continue His work in the St. Louis congregation.

At our June Fellowship Night we shared a meal and learned about the stories behind some popular hymns.

We thank Sis. Kyann Wuehrich for serving in Sunday School. We appreciate Sis. Cristela Cardenas’s willingness to start a new Sunday School teaching term this Fall. Sis. Rachel Sauder will also serve in Sunday School as a permanent substitute teacher.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Joan Rudin, Amber Stuckel

Our congregation enjoyed being together for our annual Sunday School Picnic this month. It was a hot day, but we were still blessed to be together.

We also enjoyed gathering for a sending service for our Bro. Adam and Sis. Belinda Kaeb, who have finished language school and will be returning to CVE to fulfill their roles there. We pray for them and think of them often and trust God will bless them there.

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) this past month.

Sis. Marilyn Knapp was in the hospital. We extend our prayers to her, along with others who had health concerns this month.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Judy Edelman in the passing of her sister, Mary Louise Gudeman. Our convert, Gordon Winger also passed away. Gordon is the brother of our Sis. Jean Knapp, Sis. Marilyn Winger and our Sis. Lila Winger and is related to several others in our congregation. Our prayers are with these families.

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

“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

Even as we endure the heat waves of summer, the frigid days of winter seem far away. Yet God has promised from the beginning of time the enduring cycle of the seasons. How thankful we can be for such an unchanging, always faithful Creator!

We are also thankful for the Word of God that never changes, brought to us by faithful ministers. Laboring for us this month include Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka), and Bro. Mark Dotterer (Sis. Kate, Eureka).

On Sunday, June 28, we gathered for our Sunday School Picnic. May God provide for each teacher that labors week after week, and bless the Word that is sown into the tender hearts of our youth.

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We appreciated many visitors during the past month who came for family reunions or individual
visits. Special thanks go to Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford), Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, both from Belvidere), and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie) and Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, both from West Bend, IA).

We extend sympathy to Bro. Chuck (Sis. Ella Mae) Stoller in the passing of his brother, Jerry Stoller, in Houston, TX on June 19.

**Illinois, Eureka**

**Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke**

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

The Eureka church building is being refreshed by new paint, carpet, and other maintenance, so we are not having Sunday services for four Sundays. This gives us opportunities to worship with other congregations. We are thankful to have so many conveniently nearby, and also appreciated the special invitations from Roanoke, Congerville, Latty, and Belvidere congregations. Now our problem is having so many wonderful options! Many thanks go to all of you for making us so welcome when we visit. What a special bond we have throughout our denomination!

Appreciating the ministering brothers who willingly serve us, we thank Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville), Bro. Kent Wiegand (Sis. Larae, Goodfield), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH).

We were so thankful for the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Kate Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy), Bro. Bryce Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), and Bro. Andrew Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla). May they always feel the peace and joy that God has granted them as they begin their walk with Him.

Burke Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi) confesses peace with God and awaits baptism when the Eureka renovations are complete. We all look forward to that Sunday with great anticipation.

Warm congratulations go to two couples who recently announced their engagements: Dana Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy) and Sarah Kupferschmid (Rod and Cindy), and Phil Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne) and Codee Schlipf (Ryan and Shari, El Paso, IL). We wish both couples God’s direction and blessings as they begin their commitment to one another.

We rejoice at the birth of Jude Daniel Wiegand on July 16. He is the son of Bro. Jon and Sis. Marla. He has three big brothers, Logan, Landon, and Cade. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall.

Bro. Jack (Sis. Nancy) Knobloch was hospitalized for hip surgery. Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia, dec.) was recently hospitalized for a heart procedure. Bro. Merle Rocke (Sis. Bev) also was recently in the hospital. May they feel the prayers of all of us that God will be very near in these challenges.

Blessings and best wishes go to Sis. Bena Mae (Bro. Leroy, dec.) Rocke, who turned 101 years old on July 15.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Trish Steidinger, Kati Meiss**

“Love of all gifts is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow…” Zions Harp #37

The engagement of Sis. Jamie Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) to Bro. Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) of Forrest was announced June 23. We are thankful for the Lord’s leading in their lives and wish them many blessings as they plan for a November 10 wedding.

Our Sunday School picnic was held on June 30. It is such a blessing to have our youth sing praises to God from their hearts and then enjoy spending time doing special activities with their Sunday School friends!

A special thank you goes to our Sunday School teachers that have finished their terms: Bro. Kevin Meiss (Sis. Kati), Bro. Bill Stork (Sis. Shay) and Sis. Amy Zehr (Bro. Nelson). At the same time, we express our prayerful support to our new Sunday School
teachers: Bro. Blake Zehr (Sis. Kristin), Bro. Rollin Nussbaum and Sis. Jennifer Teubel (Bro. Nathan). May they feel God’s nearness as they teach our youth each Sunday.

We rejoice with Levi Kaisner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jodi) as he has made known his desire to seek the Lord in repentance. May we be prayerful for him and all of our converts, that they may draw close to the Lord and learn of His will for each of their lives.

We thank Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL) for ministering the Word. May God bless Bro. John and his family for sharing the day with us.

Illinois, Forrest
Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz

As the timely rain shower softens the parched ground, so a word fitly spoken nourishes our thirsty souls. We thank our Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL) for being willing to plant and water God’s Word in our hearts.

While some are called to plant and some to water, we rejoice when God gives the increase. We are prayerful for our convert Grace Eisenmann (Bro. Dan and Sis. Abby) as she desires baptism.

Also in our prayers is Sharon Schrof (Edward) as she recently spent time in the hospital. May she feel God’s nearness in the days to come.


Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart.

As some family circles grow, others are just beginning. We rejoice in the engagement of our Bro. Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) to Sis. Jamie Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) of Fairbury. May they look to God as they start their life together.

Believing in the Lord’s leading, our Bro. David and Sis. Holly Mueller, along with their five daughters, have gained another church family in their recent move to Prescott, AZ. We wish them continued blessings as they settle in their new home.

Our Bro. Troy (Sis. Leanne) Brown was called to teach in Sunday School. May God continue to grant wisdom and grace to those who teach our youth of God and His ways.

Illinois, Goodfield
Judy Knapp, Amy Hinrichsen

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

We are thankful that Cade and Emrie Knapp have sought the kingdom of God in repentance. They are the children of our Bro. Ryan and Sis. Liz Knapp and we are rejoicing with this dear family.

“Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven”. Matt. 18:3

We are Rejoicing with Diane Gregoire, as she has taken advantage of the shed blood of Jesus and confessed her sin. We appreciated Diane’s testimony of faith on June 29, witnessed her baptism on June 30 and welcome her as our sister in faith. Sis. Diane is supported by her loving husband, Rob, and her three children: Whitley, Wade (Nickole), and Wyatt.

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

Our children are such an important part of our church family and we were privileged to honor them at the annual Sunday School picnic on Sunday, June 30. This event culminated the present school year and started a short summer break for students and teachers. We want to take this opportunity to again thank our teachers for their many efforts on behalf of all our children in teaching them the ways of the Lord.

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

Our love and sympathy go out to our Sis. Rita (Bro. Andy) Bauman and their family, as they said farewell to her father, Bro. Ed Ehnle on July 1. We praise God for Bro. Ed’s victory, but
pray for those who will miss him, including his wife, Sis. Verla.

Our church family welcomes Bro. Curt and Sis. Larissa Wettstein and their four children: Brody, Isabella, Ebony, & Adalee. Sis. Larissa was raised here in Goodfield and we are thankful they have settled back in our area after being gone for a number of years.

By the time this column is read, the 2019 conference will be history, but it is our sincere wish that it will have been a spirit-filled meeting and the love of the Goodfield church will remain with all who attend.

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Ransom Wryth Miller was born to Ministering Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller on May 21. Siblings are Haven and Covenant. Grandparents are Sis. Linda and the late Bro. Verlyn Kellenberger of Lester, IA, and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller. May God bless this family. A boy, Leo Warren, was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Shanna Kaeb on July 7. He is their first child. Grandparents are Dennis and Lorene Slagel of Fairbury, and Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb.

For our farmer brothers, the crops of corn and soybeans - planted much later than usual - are now thriving, due to plentiful rains, and hot sun. Conditions surely have improved from last spring, when the farming community was unsettled due to ongoing rains and delayed planting.

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr**

We thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. with the spring 2019 memorandum.

We bid farewell to Bro. Klint Gerber who is moving back to Bluffton where he will be teaching at the high school he attended. We thank him for his many years of service as a Sunday School teacher and director of our Bible Class choir. We will miss Bro. Klint and look forward to him coming back to visit us here in Morton.

“God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you,

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; ’Neath His wings protecting hide you, Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.”

“God Be With You”, Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle Hymns #216

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of our dear Sis. Mildred “Milly” Zimmerman (late Bro. Joe) who entered her Heavenly Home on July 3. Surviving her are her children: Kathy (Jim) Heiniger, Orlando, FL; Bro. Joe (Sis. Barb) Zimmerman; and Mary Zimmerman of Morton; one brother, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Lois) Getz, and one sister-in-law, Sis. Louise Ellen Getz (late Bro. Joe).
Howard “Hod”). Sis. Milly served our congregation graciously as she supported her husband Bro. Joe who was a part of our pulpit ministry for many years.

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

Wednesday evening July 3, we enjoyed an all-church potluck with family and friends at our fellowship hall. After the meal, we sang many hymns and patriotic songs, followed by a message from our Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie). We were reminded of the freedom we enjoy in our country to worship God without fear of persecution because of the sacrifice of many who fought for our independence. We are also thankful for the freedom from sin when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ who made the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Let us always be thankful to God for our many freedoms, and the country in which we live. May He be merciful to us in these troublesome times.

“God bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her, Through the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies To the oceans white with foam. God bless America, My home sweet home. God bless America, My home sweet home.”

“God Bless America” Words and music by Irving Berlin

“Blessed is the nation whose god is the Lord; and the people who he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” Psalm 33:12

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes for my 90th birthday. Your love made my day so special. God bless you all. Sis. Pat Landes

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Wettstein, Bonnie Bach

Bro. Jason Grassi and Sis. Georgina Aquino of CVE, Magdalena, MX were married in June. His parent is Sis. Cheryl Grassi (late Bro. John). We pray God will draw them close to Him in their marriage and while they serve at CVE.

Faith Reinhard (Bro. Tim & Sis. Joan) and Terren Waibel (Bro. Matt & Sis. Lisa) have made known their desire to serve and walk with the Lord. We pray they will grow in grace, love and obedience to the Spirit working in their lives.

Bro. Dick Haefli has passed into the loving arms of Jesus. Our love goes out to his dear wife, Sis. Gladys, and children, including Sis. Rhonda Meister (Bro. Spark) and Sis. Barb Geyer (Bro. Dale).

In all phases of life, whether joyful or challenging, we are reminded of the verse, “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time.” Ecclesiastes 3:11.

Illinois, Princeville
Cherie White, Melinda Christ

“Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!”

Faith of Our Fathers, Hymns of Zion #85

Every one of us has a father figure, whether one who raised us in our homes, or a spiritual father who took us in, but above all, our Heavenly Father has nurtured, guided and pointed the way that we can live a life of faith. Thanks be to all who have kept the faith to help bring us to a good and blessed end!

“As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” Psalm 127:4


We enjoyed beautiful weather on June 30 as we gathered together at Hickory Grove Park for our annual Sunday School picnic. Our sweet children sang songs. We enjoyed good food and refreshing ice cream and had
wonderful fellowship with our church family.

We are thankful that Raymond Rumbold (Joan) and Sis. Doris Christ have been able to come back to church to worship again. Hospital patients this month were Sis. Betty Wagenbach (Bro. Ray) and Sis. Destiny Herrmann (Bro. Denny and Sis. Renee). We hope they heal quickly!

Our sincere sympathies extend to Sis. Mary Ann Knobloch (Bro. Alan) and family as their dear father and grandfather, Bro. Ed Ehnle (Sis. Verla, Bradford, IL), was laid to rest. May God provide comfort in the days ahead as they reflect upon sweet memories of him.

Illinois, Roanoke
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 23 at the Roanoke Park. It’s always a special way to close out a year of Bible instruction for our youth.

Also on June 23, our Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) updated us on the Spring Memorandum and the national church’s vision and purpose. We also discussed a change in our Sunday School election procedures and improvements to our local organizational structure. We are so grateful for our church leadership and their vision for the furtherance of God’s kingdom. We also appreciate our leaders in their desire to keep the lines of communication open and attend to details that make our church run smoothly. To God be all glory!

A number of brothers and sisters from Roanoke assisted with services at the Peoria Rescue Mission on June 23. What a blessing to be able to share the gospel with others.

Our local HarvestCall project was construction work at Salem4Youth in Flanagan, IL, during the last week in June. We are thankful for all those who willingly serve to provide for the needs of others.

“With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love;” Eph. 4:2.

Sis. Lauren Schroeder (Bro. Duane & Sis. Rachel) is engaged to Bro. Cass Schumacher (Bro. Dave & Sis. Julie) of Washington, IL. Their engagement was announced on June 23. Also, Sis. Mindy Bradle (Bro. John & Sis. Jill) was united in marriage to Bro. Trent Koch (Bro. Earl & Sis. Marsha) of Tremont, IL, on July 7. Visiting ministers for the day were Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN).

Madison Leman (Bro. Dave & Sis. Stacy) plans to marry Tristan Fox of Normal, IL. His parents are Jason & Kori Huneke of Lena, IL. In addition, Dalton Hodel (Bro. Jim & Sis. Connie) has announced his engagement to Maya Hernandez, daughter of Ariel & Amie Hernandez. We rejoice with these dear couples and ask for our Lord’s rich blessings upon them.

Bro. Walt Fehr celebrated his 100th birthday on June 30. We are so thankful for Bro. Walt and the blessing he’s been to our church. We ask that God would continue to bless Bro. Walt and his dear family.

Bro. Robert (Bob) Simpson went to be with the Lord on June 30. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Wilma; his son, John of Florida; and a daughter, Leigh (Steve) Schamp of Michigan, three granddaughters, and a brother-in-law, Robert Scherer of Roanoke. Bro. Bob & Sis. Wilma spent most of their married life in the Champaign-Urbana area where Bro. Bob taught speech pathology at the University of Illinois. They had moved to our area in the last few years. Bro. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and lovingly cared for his beloved wife. May our Lord comfort this dear family in their loss. A number of brothers and sisters from the Champaign, IL church travelled to Roanoke to support the Simpson family. Among them were Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart, Bro. Brian (Sis. Wendy) Waibel, Bro. Darren (Sis. Sue) Plattner, Bro. David (Sis. Jackie) Eisenmann, and retired Elder Bro. Dave (Sis. Ethel) Wiegand. We thank these brothers for graciously serving us. The Champaign, IL church had lovingly tended to some of the needs of Bro. Bob & Sis. Wilma so they could live independently in their home for some time. We
thank them for their humble service in the Kingdom.

Sis. Rachel Fehr has returned home for summer break from the UAE where she serves as a teacher. We are so thankful to worship with her again. Sis. Lydia Lindberg has travelled to Japan to assist with vacation Bible school there. May our Lord bless these dear sisters in their labors.

Joel and Gretchen Gehrig and their daughters are also home on furlough from India. They are currently staying with her parents, Bro. Curt & Sis. Denise Knepp. We pray this will be a time of refreshment for them.

A number of brothers and sisters and families from the Eureka church have been worshipping with us while their church sanctuary is being renovated. We heartily welcome them and hope they feel “at home” here. We thank Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille) for serving us on the pulpit on July 14.

Recently, one of our daughters mentioned a dear friend of hers that lives missionally. I asked our daughter to elaborate on that idea. She said her friend always tries to include everyone in extending an invitation to her home. Her friend speaks directly and clearly, without using terms that might be confusing, when conversing with others, particularly those of another culture and when sharing the gospel. She also understands that all our resources are the Lord’s and she freely opens her home and offers other assets, such as her car, for the use of others. This is very convicting. Do I live missionally?

**Illinois, Tremont**

*Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch*

Summer has arrived in full force with hot, sunny days and the occasional thunderstorm. One week it seemed that I could visibly see the corn growing taller in the field beside our house! God provides just what the crops need to grow, the same as He provides just what we need to grow spiritually.

Bro. Jeff & Sis. Gail Sinn are excited to be grandparents to a precious little girl. Vivian Rose was born to first-time parents, Drake & Patience Sinn. May God give them wisdom as they raise her!

Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) shared valuable lessons from God’s Word on Fathers’ Day. We thank him for his service.

We gathered together on a Wednesday evening to hear the spring Memorandum. We thank our Elder Bro. Steve Sauder and Ordained Deacon Bro. James Fehr for their faithful service.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Russ & Sis. Terrie Ehnle and their family as his father, Bro. Ed Ehnle from Bradford, IL, recently passed away.

Sis. Brenda Fehr (Bro. James) broke her ankle and had surgery. We pray for a swift recovery! “...a three-fold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12

Bro. Dale Beutel (Bro. Roger & Sis. JoAnn) and Sis. Sheila Schwab (Bro. Tim & Sis. Rachel, Wolcott, IN) were married in West Lafayette, IN on June 23. We wish them God’s rich blessings and pray they will be an asset to the West Lafayette congregation. Many of us traveled to Roanoke on July 7 to witness the wedding of Bro. Trent Koch (Bro. Earl & Sis. Marsha) and Sis. Mindy Bradle (Bro. John & Sis. Jill). We welcome Sis. Mindy to Tremont and pray they will be blessed as they begin their life together!

**Illinois, Washington**

*Lily Pfaffmann, Michelle Braker*

Another precious baby is born! Matt and Lena Wyss added another little boy to their family, Logan Edward, on June 20. His big brother is Jack.

Then there’s the loss of a loved one. Sis. Dorine Aberle (Bro. Scott’s father, Don Kurkowski, passed away in Michigan. May the Lord comfort Scott, Dorine, and their family!

Bro. Cass Schumacher (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Lauren Schroeder of Roanoke (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel, Roanoke) announced their wedding engagement. Pray for the Lord’s blessings upon them as they plan their lives as one in Him!

We are thankful that the Lord continues to work in the hearts of men, revealing their need for salvation. Larry Edwards started his journey with the Lord. We know that His grace is sufficient to lead, guide, comfort him on the way; this is our prayer for Larry!

Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian) of San Diego, CA, was our
only visiting minister this month. We appreciate his willingness to serve us when he comes “home”.

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Prayer is such a crucial component to our Christian life. It is a true blessing to have direct communication with God for both the small and big things, along with asking for His daily grace and guidance. Intercessory prayer is just one aspect of our prayer life. It is an important scriptural command to bring those around us before the throne of God for His glory!

We have been prayerful for many families who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Harold Meyer entered into eternal rest. He leaves behind his dear wife, Sis. Violet, along with five children: Sis. Becky (Bro. Gene) Gerber, Sis. Ronda (Elder Bro. Lynn) Fiechter, Bro. Denny (Sis. Kathy), Beth (Michael) Horgash, and Bro. Bryan (Sis. Kim). Bro. Ken Isch is also walking the streets of gold with his Lord. We extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Carolyne, and their children: Bro. Jeff (Sis. Karen), Jodi (Jody) Holloway, Jeni Mattmuller, Sis. Juli (Bro. Jon) Kaehr, Bro. Jim (Sis. Rachel) Isch, and Janean (Hal) Kipfer. What a wonderful example of love and faithfulness these two brothers were to so many of us! Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Frauhiger and their extended family covet our continued prayers as they grieve the unexpected passing of their son, Greg.

Bro. Blaine and Sis. Tonia Isch are very thankful that their children, Simon and Hadie, are home from the hospital after suffering injuries from an ATV accident. They expressed how God’s abundant grace carried their family through this time!

On the weekend of June 22-23, we were blessed with testimonies and baptisms of our new Sis. Mari Topp (Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie) and Bro. Alec Schneider (Dale and Andrea). Our thanks goes to Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for sharing the Word, along with our many Remington and other visitors in support of Bro. Alec that weekend.

Several grandparents in our congregation are rejoicing in the birth of new grandchildren. Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann welcome Tessa Jane Troxel, born to Bro. Ned and Sis. Alyssa of Detroit, MI. Murphy Walter Isch was born into this world on July 4 to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Lindsey of Valparaiso. Local grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen Isch. Jeff and Gretchen Moser warmly welcome little Haven Rose into their family. Sis. Wanda Moser is a thankful grandmother.

We have been reminded to be prayerful for several ministries over this past month. Gateway Woods hosted a Foster Care Town Hall evening to bring awareness and offer ideas of how all can take part in this powerful ministry. We also enjoyed having Bro. Seth (Sis. Jodi) Gerber with us from Magdalena, Mexico. We thank him for a brief update and some prayer points regarding the CVE ministry in addition to serving us on the pulpit.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing that a soul has turned to the Lord. We are thankful that Hudson Gerber (Bro. Clint and Sis. Amy) is seeking Jesus at a young age!

Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard are thankful for the engagement of their son, Curt, to Lucinda Rush, and look forward to the wedding this fall.

We know that many around us could use prayers, and trust for the Holy Spirit to fill in the gaps where our feeble minds forget!

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Indiana, Bluffton North
Tiffani Schladenhauffen, Rhonda Maller

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev. 3:20

We are rejoicing that we had two young men who opened the door to the Lord’s knocking. Sawyer Beeks, son of Bro. John and Sis. Laura, and Colton Yergler, son of Bro. Shawn and Sis. Mindy, both made their beginning in
repentance this month. We are prayerful for each of them as they begin their journey with Christ.

Bro. Seth Gerber (Sis. Jodi, Magdalena, MX) shared in the Word this month as they were back in the area to visit family. We always look forward to their visit and pray blessings on their ministry in Magdalena, MX.

We were also blessed to have several visitors for an Army reunion that was hosted by the Bluffton churches.

With the beautiful summer weather, our Sunday School has been active with picnics and camping trips. Our Sunday School’s energy and enthusiasm is so encouraging. These activities are great ways to connect and to point them to Jesus.

Thankfully, Sis. Carol Gerber (Bro. Dale) received a good report. We will be lifting her up in prayer as she begins her treatments.

Indiana, Francesville
Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber

"Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love."

In our congregation VBS is a time of revival for all of us! We are especially grateful for the ministers who come to serve as guest speakers. This year special thanks is given to: Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL); Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN); Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL); Bro. Matthew Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA). Special thanks is also due to our own Sunday School Teachers who spend many hours planning and making the necessary preparations for the many young students who attend.

Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich are both coping with difficult health issues. We hold them up in prayer and trust the Lord will bless them with grace and patience for each new day.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier

We were happy to share in the 50th Anniversary celebration for Brother Glen and Sister Nancy Pfeifer put on at the church by their children. What a blessing it was to hear stories from their lives of God’s faithfulness.

“We have no greater joy than to hear that our children walk in truth.” 3 John 4

We were blessed to have five young people give their testimonies and be baptized the last weekend of June. They were Tristan Davis (Bro. Ben and Sis. Suzanne Graham), Bella Gutwein (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura), Manna Standish (Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie), Easton Beebe (Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie), Jack Klopfenstein (Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby). This joyous occasion brought many grandparents among them were Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) who ministered on Sunday.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Alyssa Knochel, Bro. Jackson and Sis. Paige Troxel and Bro. Gavin and Sis. Jenna Fritz in the passing of their grandfather, Bro. Harold Meyer of Bluffton, IN. He will be greatly missed, but is home with His Savior.

Our hearts also go out to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Jana Gerber in the passing of Tyler’s grandfather, Ephraim Kipfer of Latty, OH. It is always so difficult to lose a loved one, yet we rejoice at the promise of being with them again in heaven.

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

We are now in the middle of summer and the days and weeks seem to fly by. So much is happening, yet I was encouraged in a devotional this morning to “Stop the Frenzy”. The reminder is that our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and we need to stop and rest in Him. It was a very good reminder for me as it is far too easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of activity that accompanies life in many stages.

From the rains of May to the heat of mid-June, there have been many occasions to gather and many things for which to be grateful. Church landscaping was completed in between rain showers. The school year ended and we celebrated the graduation of Sis. Virginia Rocke (Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie). We pray God’s blessings on her as well as all graduates as they enjoy their summer, yet prepare for their next step.

Vacation Bible School was held June 3-7 and we appreciate the efforts of the ministers who gave of
their time to prepare and speak to our Bible class and congregation. We also thank the Sunday School teachers for their efforts with the younger children. Bros. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) spoke on topics within our theme of “Walking in the Light”. Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 9 at a local park where we enjoyed a very nice turnout and a good afternoon and evening together.

On Wednesday, June 19, Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel gave an update on their recent mission trip to Romania and communist Moldova. It was interesting, eye-opening, sobering and encouraging all in one evening.

Bro. Tom & Sis. LuAnn are also rejoicing in the safe arrival of a new granddaughter. Sweet Tessa Jane was born to Bro. Ned & Sis. Alyssa Troxel (Detroit, MI).

Memorandum was Wednesday, June 10, with Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) here to assist Bro. Curt Frank.

Our thoughts and prayers are with several in our congregation who faced health concerns or accident this month, among which are Sis. Connie Knobloch, Bro. Don Gudeman and Janessa Rocke. We are thankful for God’s healing.

We appreciate visitors all year, but during the summer months, we seem to get a few more drop-ins who come specifically to worship with us or stop by as they vacation in the area. It does our hearts good to see both new and familiar faces boosting our gatherings. Many thanks go to Bros. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Neil Stoller (Sis. LuAnn, Princeville, IL) for ministering recently.

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

The heat of summer is upon our northeastern Indiana area. Those of us who vowed during the past winter that we would not complain about the heat, once it came, are being put to the test! No matter the weather, the temperature, the season, the easy or rough times of life, God is good all of the time.

God was good to bring Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Saberth, KS) to preach the true and living Word the morning of June 30. The Meeks family was here to join in the joy of a baby shower for Sis. Lydia (Meeks) & Bro. Brock Williamson. When that new grandbaby arrives later this summer, we hope to see the Meeks family more often!

God was good when He ordained Sunday, June 30, as the day for our dear Sis. Ethelyn Schlatter, age 93, to be released from this earthly life. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Bro. Marvin, dec.) of Leo and a brother, Victor (Elsie) Schlatter, a missionary in Brazil. Ethelyn’s words and actions were a reflection of her great love for Jesus. She had a heart for service and will be missed, but we are thankful she ran the race well and is at rest.

God is good to comfort two of the newest members of the Leo church family who recently said farewell to their grandpa, Bro. Ken Isch of Bluffton. Our love and prayers are with Bro. Kyle (Sis. Lindsey) Isch and Sis. Sarah (Bro. Quinn) Fiechter.

God was good to deliver two healthy babies to our church family. On June 28, Kate Louise was born to Sis. Abby & Bro. Tyler Stieglitz and big brother Boden & sister Parker. Kate’s grandparents are Sis. Rita & Bro. Loren Klopfenstein and Sis. Jane & Bro. Steve Stieglitz. On July 4, Murphy Walter was born to Sis. Lindsey & Bro. Kyle Isch. (This family is new to Leo & I apologize that I do not know the grandparents’ names!) May God bless these families as they guide these precious little ones in life.

God was good and His Spirit was evident the week of VBS, June 17-21. On Friday the children presented a program in song of what they learned all week. We clearly heard the theme of the VBS, “The King Is Coming”!

God was good to allow us to shower love upon Sis. Kristen Zimmerman at her wedding shower on June 22. Kristen and Frank Walko are planning a September wedding. May God bless them as they strive to serve Him together.

God is good to turn a dream into a reality. Bro. Tim (Sis. Christa) Wiegand has dreamed
of being able to host a Father-Son Campout like he enjoyed as a youngster in the Goodfield congregation. On June 28 & 29 that dream became the first annual Father-Son Campout for the Leo church family! Older brothers are in short supply in our church family, but the grandpas that attended were blessed to have fellowship with the men and boys who were there. The general comment was extremely favorable for this bonding time at Wiegand’s pond to become an annual event.

God is good to provide a fun, but edifying, retreat for His people. The long-running Annual Teen and Family Camp at Quaker Haven, North Webster, IN, ran from July 11 to July 14. May all the richness and encouragement from lessons learned, from the bonds of fellowship and the study of God’s Word, continue to bless the hearts of all who were present.

God was good to bring Bro. Bob Conrad from Texas to make a presentation to our church family on the evening of July 7. Bro. Bob and his now deceased wife were missionaries in New Guinea for more than 40 years. He visited relatives while here, but we are thankful he took time to share his experiences with us.

Become aware of all the ways God shows His goodness, then praise Him for it!

Indiana, Milford

Heidi Beer, Carol Haab

This month we were blessed to have Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH) share God’s word. He reminded us he has visited our congregation in the past, but this was his debut on our pulpit. God filled his vessel to overflowing and we sincerely appreciated his message.

A group of young people spent a weekend here recently. They worked on projects in our community helping those in need and sharing God’s message of love through physical labor and song on Saturday. Sunday we enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship. May God bless each one for their willingness to serve others.

On a Wednesday evening, our Elder Bro. Randy Beer shared the Spring Memorandum. The amount of prayer, time and work that has been put into this compilation is astounding and so timely. Each of us has different cares, concerns, and needs, but we must recognize this and work through our differences with love and compassion.

“Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things in life, we are at one.” (excerpt - Club Collect by Mary Stuart)

May we endeavor to glorify God in all things and love each other as Christ has loved us.

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31.

We are so thankful for our elder body and all they do on our behalf. As you read this, the fall conference will be over. Our prayer is for God’s wisdom to always direct their meetings.

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Stan Schambach (Sis. Norma, Prescott, AZ), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) all shared the Word with us. We are thankful for each one’s fellowship and efforts to encourage and admonish us.

The General Conference will soon be held in Goodfield, IL. Many thanks go to all who contributed to hosting, Many prayers go out for our elders as they seek to lead the church in the Lord’s will with humility and grace and truth.

We had several hospital patients this month. Bro. Eldon Getz (Sis. Charlene) had a farming accident and is still recovering. However, we were happy to see him back in church. Bro. Walt Bahler (Sis. Esther) and Bryanna Schneider both had surgery recently and could use prayers for healing. I’m sure there are others too that have more minor bodily afflictions that we could be prayerful for.
**Indiana, South Bend**  
**Joshua Martinez**

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”  
Matthew 18:20

We miss and pray for anyone from our church family whenever they travel. We are thankful to have Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha) safely home from a European trip. We are also glad to have Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer home after a visit to Canada. This month our prayers will be with Bro. Marty, Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and their grandson Daniel who will be travelling to Romania.

We are thankful that Bro. Jason and Sis. Jessica Isch are settling into their first home as newlyweds.

On July 10, Bro. Jason’s grandfather, Bro. Ken Isch (Sis. Carolyne) of Bluffton, went Home to be with the Lord.

This month we enjoyed the company of two large groups of visitors: Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH) shared the Good News from the pulpit and brought about 30 members of his family along. A couple of weeks later, we enjoyed the fellowship of the Dan Reinhard family from Bluffton and other churches, who numbered about forty. We love and appreciate the “showers of blessing” that visitors from near and far bring!

Our children had an enjoyable and uplifting Vacation Bible School. This year’s Bible theme verse was 1 Thess. 2:12, “That you would walk worthy of God who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” We appreciate the efforts of the teachers, grandparents and parents who served, taught and inspired our children.

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”  
Colossians 3:12, 14

**Indiana, Valparaiso**  
**Sherry Meiss**

The verse for the month is:  
Luke 9:23, “And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Our thanks goes to Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle and family of St. Louis, MO) for coming to visit and ministering to us. We are blessed to have you give of yourselves with God’s word and fellowship.

Ladies sewing has a special project given to them. It’s working on quilting a blanket from one of the nursing homes we visit. A family member found the remnants in their mothers’ closet. What a special gift that will be as a piece of memorabilia from the past. The ladies are also working on pillows and blankets that will go to the needy. How nice it is to spend the afternoon with sisters in fellowship doing something good.

We are so excited to report, that Sis. Lindsey & Bro. Kyle Isch have a new baby boy! His name is Murphy Walter Isch, born on July 4 at 3:37pm, weighing 8 lbs. and 21 inches long. All are thankful for a healthy, beautiful baby boy!

Bible study is working on John 3. We have had services at both Avalon and Life Care Nursing homes. The time being spent with the residents means so very much to them and is a blessing to us as well.

Bro. Joe Feller is working hard on getting donations into the Auction book for the Gateway Woods Auction, August 3. We ladies are buttering up our rolling pins to make some pies for the lunch that will be served. Thanks be to God for all who participate in this BIG day.

Watch for our next article for the news of the hosting of the Fort Sam reunion taking place on July 27 & 28.

Please keep Sis. Carol Bucher in your prayers. She had been moved to a hospital in Bremen, IN, but, praise God, she has improved greatly and is now back in the main facility at Avalon Nursing home in Valparaiso, IN, room 208.

Summer is not over yet! So, if you would like to plan one last trip, pack the car and head on up to Lake Michigan. Come and worship with us. The lake is just 15 minutes away from the church. Can’t you hear the waves crashing on the beach?
**Indiana, West Lafayette**

*Libby Wahl*

Bro. Dale Beutel and Sis. Sheila Schwab committed their hearts and lives to each other on June 22. Bro. David Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL) assisted our elder Bro. Nick in the beautiful wedding ceremony.

Tiffany Scafe arrived from Jamaica some years back for college in our area. On July 6, she wed Michael-Anthony Norman in Jamaica. Their new home for the near future will be Ft. Wayne, IN. A few from our fellowship were delighted to make it to Jamaica for the ceremony.

In a devotional I am currently studying, Devotions for a Sacred Marriage, the author challenges each of us as a spouse to ‘love our mate as no one has ever loved them and as no one ever will’. He also presents a number of other enlightening thoughts. God’s blessings and grace to you all, Bro. Dale and Sis. Sheila and Tiffany and Michael-Anthony.

A third child arrived June 29 to brighten the home of Bro. Luke & Sis. Danielle (Wuethrich) Furrer. Daxton Alan has already worked his way into their hearts. Our church nursery is seeing a baby boom. Be ye fruitful and multiply is happening here.

July 7 was our annual date for a very well-attended and prosperous Sunday School picnic with class promotions.

We wish God’s guidance and protection on Quinton Young who has graduated college and accepted employment in Pittsburgh, PA.

Many thanks again go to Bro. Curt Russi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, PeachTree City, GA) for serving on the pulpit.

**Indiana, Wolcott**

*Luann Gerber, Teresa Earney*

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” Psalm 19:1

Sis. Karla Bahler had a sister pass away in June. She lived in Michigan City, IN and her name was Debbie Hoon. Our sympathy goes out to Karla and family in the passing of this special lady.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody Bahler on becoming first-time grandparents in April. Jude Andrew Dotterer was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Leandra.

Thank you to our visiting ministers this month. Bros. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) and Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO) shared the word on June 16.

We had a lovely evening as a church family on June 23. It was our Sunday School Picnic and was very well attended. It’s an exciting time for the students as they are promoted to the next grade level.

Sis. Nancy Christopher was able to return to her home and is receiving therapy for recovery from a stroke. Sis. Shirley Furrer was in the hospital for eight days with vertigo. She is now home and has returned to church. She is receiving therapy for recovery. Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer have both been hospitalized recently. They are each receiving physical therapy and are hoping to move into their assisted living apartment soon.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in the thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

*Psalm 19:14*

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

*Kendra Schlatter*

We celebrated the marriage of Lincoln Joos (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lana Joos) and Sheridan Dunlavy on July 13. We wish them God’s direction and blessings in their life together.

We are grateful for visiting ministers and thank Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) for serving us.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

*Laura Funk*

Greetings from hot, sunny south central Iowa. We just experienced high 90 degree weather with high humidity. We had some rain the last 48 hours which cooled the temperature off. The crops enjoyed the hot humid weather.

We welcome Bro. Alan Schock to our congregation for a temporary job opportunity.

Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL). We are thankful for the visitors that accompany these brothers.
One Sunday we sang the song Christian, Walk Carefully. Bro. Brad reminded us, if we walk carefully, cheerfully and prayerfully, then we can walk hopefully that we will gain Heaven’s rest.

Bro. Dan Stoller reminded us that “we are on a battlefield” and need to keep our armor shining bright. If we excuse ourselves from fellowshipping and worshipping with believers, we soon find ourselves slipping on the battlefield. We were also reminded that we all have a Goliath in our lives. We only need one small stone to defeat Satan, if we put our trust in God.

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), our visiting ministers this month. May God bless them for their love and service.

We plan to have our annual College Student Welcome Picnic on Sunday, September 15 for all the students attending college in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City area and their families. Everyone is invited to join us for church and the picnic following the afternoon service. Please contact Sis. Connie Gerst (319-310-8684) to share contact information and an RSVP.

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Kristi Knobloch

Summer is in full swing and we’ve been enjoying company on Sundays. Visiting ministers who willingly shared God’s word were Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN). Truly we are a blessed people to be provided with godly instruction and wisdom Sunday after Sunday through willing servants.

After serving almost 40 years in the ministry, Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) announced his retirement. We thank him, his dear wife and their daughters and families for the years of sacrifice and service they gave to our congregation. Bro. Dale always kindly reminded us of what our service to the Lord and others should be. May God bless him and encourage him for his efforts.

“Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd.” Numbers 27:16-17

A precious baby girl, Ava Lynn, arrived in the home of Bro. Morris and Sis. Tonya Metzger on July 1. Big brothers Cullen and Easton are taking extra special care of her. Grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger, are also loving her.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber on the passing of her brother-in-law, Don Gill of Kansas. Sympathy also goes to Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler, Sis. Marie Knobloch and Elsie Leuthold as their brother-in-law, Bro. Ervin Banwart of West Bend passed away. Bro. Ervin had many ties to our congregation and will be remembered by many nieces and nephews here.

Nancy Metzger (Arlyn) passed away July 15 after a long and courageous battle with health issues. Our hearts go out to her husband and her children, Alex Beverage of Paris, France; Jessie Beverage of Littleton, CO; and Cassie Beverage of Sioux Falls, SD. Her mother-in-law, Sis. Mariann Metzger, brothers-in-law, Bro. James (Sis. Lois) Metzger, Bro. Gary (Sis. Beth) Metzger, Bro. Ray (Kathy) Metzger, Don (Pat) Metzger, Bro. Butch (Sis. Kathy) Doornweerd and many nieces and nephews also mourn Nancy’s death. We will miss her kind and warm smile.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Butch (Sis. Kathy) Doornweerd and Randy Ludwig. Prayers are with them that they can regain strength as they heal and overcome health challenges. We always lift up in prayer those known and unknown as they battle afflictions of the flesh and soul.

New Sunday School teachers are Sis. Sara Leuthold, Sis. Heather Moser, Sis. Karla Gerber (Bro. Monte), Bro. Brent
Bosch (Sis. Priscilla), Bro. Trent Knoblock (Sis. Heather), Bro. Derek Knobloch (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Kent Moser (Sis. Elyse). May they use God’s direction in teaching the young and tender hearts of our youth, that in time they will realize their need for the Savior, not by our power, but by His grace.

July 4 is our national holiday celebrating our freedom from British rule. May we humbly remember, with thanksgiving, our freedom from sin, made possible by the sacrifice of our loving Jesus Christ when He died for each sin of ours and everyone’s who has walked this earth.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Is. 53:5.

Really, it’s hard to grasp the enormous amount of weight Christ physically felt with so much condemnation piled on His soul.

“Oh the cross is my Statue of Liberty It was there that my soul was set free; Unashamed I’ll proclaim that a rugged cross Is my Statue of Liberty.” -Neil Enloe

Iowa, Mediapolis
Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz

The summer months are upon us and we are surrounded by an abundance of plant life. The fields and gardens are bringing forth their fruit. The flowers are a riot of color. The trees supply welcome shade with their thick foliage. In the busyness of summer, it is good to have those “be still and know” moments and see the beauty of God’s creation and to ponder His love for His children as the Master Gardener.

We bid farewell to Bro. Jacob & Sis. Katherine Montgomery and their 3 boys: Joseph, Daniel and Jeremiah. As they move to Missouri to be closer to Bro. Jacob’s family, we will miss them in our church family and pray God will continue to be with them in their new home.

Excited siblings: Ellis, Saylor, and Seattle Wagenbach, along with their parents, Bro. Reilly and Sis. Katie, welcome a new baby girl into their hearts and home. Scout Kollins arrived on June 26 to join their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicky Wiegand (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb Wagenbach. We pray they will feel the Spirit’s nearness as they raise their sweet family.

The prayers of generations past and present have been answered as Kevin Gerst has responded to the call of a merciful Heavenly Father. He is the son of the late Bro. Rich and the late Sis. Liberty Gerst. It is encouraging to know that the sincere prayers of believers can be effective beyond the grave. “Thy faithfulness is unto all generations…” Psalm 119:90. May he feel God’s love and grace as he begins this walk.

Two lives became one on July 14 as Sis. Jenni Frank (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Reed Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb) exchanged marriage vows. We pray God’s richest blessing on them as they establish their home together. Visiting ministers for this special occasion were Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA), and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA). We thank them for their willingness.

Iowa, West Bend
Karen Schmidt, Jenny Banwart

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Lexi Rose to the home of Bro. Josh and Sis. Lainey Banwart, Thad, Addie, Mitchell and Clayton. Grandparents are Brad & Julie Banwart and Bro. Scott & Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka, IL). We also rejoice with Ethan and Kelsey Fehr in the birth of their firstborn, Ezra John. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis & Sis. Judy Fehr and Rick & Johnney Hurley.

Just as we rejoice with them that do rejoice, our hearts also weep with them that weep as Bro. Larry and Sis. Marveilla Wickman have laid to rest their dear son, Jason. Our prayers are also with Jason’s two daughters, Lilly and Charlie, along with his siblings. Bro. Ervin Banwart was also called into eternity, having been the oldest brother in our church for quite some time. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Sis. Charlotte (Bro. Marvin) Fehr and...
their family. May God comfort each one in their loss.

We appreciated having a few visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Bro. Myron Knobloch (the late Sis. Beth, Lester, IA), and Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet, Bern, KS). May God bless them as they have blessed us by their ministry.

Congratulations and best wishes to Cody Schmidt (Bro. Neal & Sis. Angie) in his engagement to Taylor Reimer (Denise and the late Greg). May God bless and guide them as they plan for a February 2020 wedding.

Our prayers are with Dawson Knobloch (Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose) as he has returned home after being hospitalized as a result of a vehicle accident. May God be his provider always.

**Japan, Tokyo**

**Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue**

This month we have the joy of looking forward to and being prayerful for Vacation Bible School. We are especially thankful for Sis. Javon Steffen of Bluffton North, IN who arrived about one month ago with her mother, Sis. Lori Steffen. They enjoyed sightseeing and spending time with the church people in Shioda and Tokyo churches. Lori returned home and Javon remained here to lead our VBS. Other volunteers we appreciate are Sisters Kathy Sinn, Latty, OH, Lydia Lindberg, Taylor, MO, and Abrey Plattner of Leo, IN. May God bless them richly as they work together to prepare lessons and crafts for the students.

Another special visitor this month is Kaleigh Schambach of Leo, IN. Kaleigh accompanied the VBS volunteers here to Japan and is a guest of her relatives here, Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna and family.

We so enjoyed Bro. Hisato and Sis. Rika Inoue who visited us from the distant city of Okayama, Japan. Their visit and fellowship is always enjoyed. Bro. Teruo Sanada is able to attend every other Sunday which he and we always look forward to.

May God bless all the Silver Lining readers and their loved ones with a blessed and safe summer.

**Kansas, Bern**

**Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold**

It is with grateful hearts that we heard the engagement announcement of Elder Bro. John Lehman to Sis. Carol Marti (Lamar, MO). May God bless their lives as they look forward to becoming one!

Bro. Trever and Sis. Dona (Fehr) Wendler were united in marriage in Champaign, IL. We welcome Dona and hope she feels at home in Bern!

Thank you to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Sis. Rosanna, Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL). Bro. Ted and our own Elder Bro. Brad Strahm shared the spring memorandum. Thank you for serving our congregation!

Addition: Shayna Strahm was another high school graduate this year that we neglected to add with the others!

**Kansas, Fort Scott**

**Maria Bahr**

“Put on the armor of the Lord and Savior, The enemy with artful guile is nigh.” The Armor of God, Zion’s Harp #115

Listening to a recent sermon by Bro. Larry Bahr, I noted a few similarities between woodworking and a godly life. Just as people want to strip floors to remove old finish and stains, so do Christians want Christ to remove their sin stains and blemishes, becoming new creatures in Christ. Just as a craftsman coats a wood floor with multiple layers of protective polyurethane, so Christians need to put on layers of God’s armor for protection from the daily wiles of the devil.

The Apostle Paul explained that Christians need to, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11

Our congregation was blessed with a youth group gathering with visitors from Bluffton, IN; Lamar, MO, and Remington, IN.

Recently Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger shared the spring 2019 memorandum with us. Bro. Randy shared our church’s vision, purpose, and guiding principles and spoke of the shared vision and common application of scriptural teachings, noting that scripture commands obedience to Christ and the Word.
We were also blessed by visiting minister Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther) from Lester, IA.

The church hosted a wedding shower for Heather Bahr (daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie) and Benjamin Self, whose wedding date is August 10. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their married life.

“The shield of faith be thine in every conflict, And from this precious treasure never part.” The Armor of God, Zion’s Harp #115

Kansas, Kiowa

Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

I recently read an article by Tim Gustafson in an Our Daily Bread booklet about a family whose husband had to flee the country they lived in because of government upheaval, leaving a mother alone to provide for her family. One child was very ill and another did not understand how God could allow their family to suffer so! Then a man learned of their plight and provided medicine etc. for them. The family started going to his church, where the son found people that celebrated their relationship with Jesus by living His love. Their example led the son, in the last three decades, to start over 20 churches, a large school, and a home for orphans. We never know where an act of kindness in Jesus name can lead. May we, as children of the living God, go and do likewise in His name.

Ps. 127:3-4 “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”

Bro. Jake and Sis. Tifani Leman of Denver recently gave birth to a baby girl Maya (Mya) Sage. She has two brothers to welcome her at home: Connor and Cyrus. Grandparents include Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr of Kiowa and Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman of Denver, CO. May God bless this addition to their family and give her a heart prepared for the Lord through parental guidance and the love and prayers of family and friends.

We appreciated Bro. John Lehman of Bern, KS joining us for a Sunday recently to share the Spring Conference Memorandum. He also introduced us to his fiancé, Sis. Carol Marti of Lamar, MO. May the Lord truly bless them as they are joined in marriage in the near future.

The summer is passing quickly, and our children will soon be going back to school. May they go with the love and prayers of us all, that God will keep watch over them to guide their hearts and lives toward Him. I heard a dear sister once say that her husband, a brother in our church, held so many up in prayer, that the carpet by the side on their bed was worn out from his kneeling there. May we do that for our children and each other.

We recently had the privilege of having Bro. Lee and Sis. Chelsie (Bahr) Jones and their children, Rylee and Walker, share some time with us. They are living in Seoul, South Korea for three years, and do not often get back to the States. The Lord is so good to us that we can use Skype and other means to keep touch with our loved ones, but it is so nice when we can actually see them in person. We pray for traveling mercies for them as the return to Seoul for another year.

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

During the month of July, our Sunday School takes a vacation and resumes again in August. We enjoy this time of having our teachers and young people assemble with us. The students are always excited to begin a new year. One young lady, upon hearing that Sunday School would be on a break for a few weeks, broke down and cried because she so loves and would miss singing and learning about Jesus. She was consoled by the fact that the break would only last a short time and went on her way quite happy again. It was so sweet to see her tender heart and the love she has for worshipping the Lord. How thirsty are we as adults for the Word of God and the gathering of believers?

Our Sunday School took a canoe trip together one Saturday afternoon on a local lake.
Everyone had a wonderful time learning to canoe, swimming, and playing games together. There were quite a few good-natured canoe “tips”! The afternoon ended with burgers at Bro. Max Burnham’s home.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Andrea hosted an evening in their home where Bro. Ed Strahm and Bro. Todd Rokey (Bern, KS) shared helpful information on the Sabetha AC Nursing Home reconstruction project. Some from our congregation attended the Area Church Fellowship Worship Day in Lamar, MO. We thank them for their hospitality in hosting this special time of being together.

We appreciated Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) joining us for a weekend and helping to share the Spring Memorandum with us. We thank them for their visit and the edification shared.

**Kansas, Sabetha**

**Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter**

“Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.” Ephesians 6:24

It was a blessing to be together the first Saturday of July for the Spring Memorandum by Elder Bro. Gerry.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and we enjoyed having Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) this month.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Roger Hartter (Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Mark Metzger as they have each experienced some health struggles. We are also prayerful for Bro. Dennis Hartter (Sis. Beth) as he recovers from back surgery. May the Lord wrap His arms of love and comfort around each one.

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

**Ruth Gerber**

“The meek will be guide in judgement: and the meek will be teach his way.” Psalm 25:9

This is a chapter that has been shared several times in the past month. For all those who teach, it is easy to understand why God would choose to teach and guide the meek. It is much harder to work with an independent and self-willed spirit.

This past month, Colegio de las Americas said goodbye to yet another class of middle schoolers as they head off to high school. After an encouraging message, one of our ministers prayed that the Lord would have His hand on these young lives and help them to learn how dependent they are on their parents, even as they transition to a more independent stage of life. It was touching to see the response of the parents. We know that the Lord of the harvest will not allow all that has been sowed to be in vain.

Congratulations go to Jana Ugalde (Bro. Lalo and Sis. Silvia) and to Andres Cervantes (Gabriel and Sis. Adriana) as they finish middle school and head to high school. Also graduating from high school are Berenice Cervantes (Gabriel and Sis. Adriana), Axel Torres (Bro. Javier and Sis. Veronica) and Aarón Navarro (Sis. Teresa Cervantes). We are thankful for these young people and pray that the Lord will guide them as they pursue higher education. May they always choose His Way.

VBS week is July 29-August 2. Please pray with us that the stories taught, the songs sung, and the love shown will help to prepare good ground in many hearts.

We are thankful to report a significant improvement in Mauricio Torres’s health since his accident last month. The Lord has heard many prayers and has been gracious.

**México, Magdalena**

**Laura Aviña**

Every year, we await the July and August rainy season with expectation. After a hot, dry June, the cool breezes and pounding rain bring us joy! This year proved strange as in the past weeks dark and ominous clouds built up in the sky, only to pass over with a few sprinkles. On July 8, a small wildfire broke out north of the church, but in the next several days, firefighters and other helpers were able to extinguish it without harm or injuries. Praise the Lord!

All of this causes us to be extra thankful for the first downpour of the season that fell last night. We thank God and pray for more rain in the coming weeks.

We are also praising God because Sis. Amalia Nuñez’s biopsy came back non-cancerous after
her surgery last month which was successful in removing a tumor.

I was inspired by one of the sermons recently where we read in Ephesians 6 about the armor of God. May we be clothed in truth, armed with Christ’s righteousness, and shielded by faith. May we wear our salvation as a helmet and the Gospel as our footwear, and may we fight in the Spirit using the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Many of us enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School learning about Jesus from eternity past to eternity future. The cooperation of 75 kids and effort from many adults yielded a fun and fruitful time! Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) blessed our congregation midweek with teaching about the revelation of God to us through His Word, the Bible. At the end of the week, Bro. Andy Kauffman (Bloomington, IL) shared truth with us about Heaven, the eternal destination for Christ’s followers. We thank these brothers and their children for traveling the miles to teach from God’s Word.

Summer is always exciting for Alto as we have vacationers join us for Sunday worship. Among them have been visiting ministers who preached God’s truth. We want to sincerely thank Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI).

Congratulations to Kasi and Nick Stephens on the birth of precious Lucille Mae. Excited siblings are Amy and William. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie Steffen. Welcomed by Cassie and Trevor Ross is their third son, Ryklin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders.

We have had a wonderful time of reunion with many we love who no longer live near us. It was a sweet time of potluck food and fellowship as we gathered with Bro. Casey and Sis. Rachel Banks and their children. We were also thrilled to have Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Gerst and their family with us. We look forward to another visit from them in August when we can learn more about their life and mission in Ethiopia. We love having Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders home from Haiti for a summer visit. It is hard to say goodbye each time, but we’re so thankful for God’s call and provision in their lives.

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jennifer Curtis, Sherrell Foco and Sis. Marlene McNally (Lyle) as they spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that God would stand by each of them and provide healing all according to His perfect will.

We appreciate Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larissa, Smithville, OH) stopping through on his way home from vacation and ministering to our congregation.

“*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” Hebrews 11:6

May God be with each one in the coming days.

**Michigan, Detroit**  
*Krista Wieland*

The choir hosted the 3lst annual Woodhaven Choir Benefit on a recent Saturday night. It was a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship. We also enjoyed several songs sung by the Bro. Rod and Sis Leann Stoller and extended family on Saturday night and then also Sunday after church. The music was encouraging and stirred our hearts. Music is such a powerful thing and worship through music is mentioned often in the Bible! It spans ages, cultures, and gender. Music can bring back memories from years ago, unlike anything else. We are made to praise Him and this honors Him.

We thank our visiting ministers this month including Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine) from Washington, IL, and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana) From Toledo, OH. Bro. Matt Oesch from Alto also came to share the Word with the Woodhaven residents on a Tuesday evening.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr joyfully announce the birth of a new granddaughter. Quinn Elaine blessed the home of Brandon and Samantha Bahr as first time parents!
Tessa Jane Troxel was born to Bro. Ned and Sis. Alyssa, and joins big sister Raelynn.

Ann Marie Mason is at peace with God and man and we look forward to her upcoming baptism.

We welcome Sis. Wilma Simpson from Champaign, IL to our area. Our sympathy is with her and her family in the loss of her husband, Bro. Bob Simpson.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Dorine & Bro. Scott Aberle in the loss of her father, Don Kurkowski who lived in the Detroit area.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Mary Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell) in the death of her brother, Bro. Ed Enhle.

Bro. Joe Ramseyer spent several days in the hospital, but we are thankful that he has been discharged and is back at Woodhaven now.

In the summer, Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume host the Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T) Program for Sunday School students on several Wednesday nights. The first meeting was this past Wednesday. The students enjoy their time growing in Faith together.

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

Greetings from Minneapolis! We are a small group of believers in a big sea of people! There is much work to be done, as witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of God’s great love and grace, we feel blessed by our Heavenly Father. The last weekend in June, we had the pleasure of getting together for a Minneapolis Church Retreat. Bro. Jamie & Sis. Jodi Pelzel, along with their dear children, opened up their hearts, home and palatial property to host our gathering. The theme was Commitment, Community and Commission. Many hands pitched in to help by organizing the event or activities, leading songs of worship, starting bonfires, leading breakout sessions or ministering, grilling burgers, preparing and serving the meals, clean-up crews, lifeguarding at the pool, wake surfing and boat rides on a nearby lake. All who enjoyed the time together were reminded how we are to use our spiritual gifts; that we are called by God, to be ambassadors, and share the good news of Jesus. Thanks go to all who helped, and the dear Pelzel family, for providing the space. We give glory to God, to allow this event to be possible.

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

We are always thankful to have visitors. On a recent Sunday, a group of beloved brothers from Fairbury, Morton and Tremont, IL churches visited. We were grateful their voices could add to our praise and worship, as we heard the precious word together. We prayed that God watched over them and provided their limit, and safety throughout their travels.

We also thank Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) for bringing their family for the day in Minneapolis and helping fill the pulpit the weekend of our VBS retreat.

Minnesota, Morris
Ashley Knoblocio, Brianna Wulf

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers throughout the month: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN). We are thankful for their willingness to spread the Word.

We have been truly blessed! We are thankful for God’s provision and direction as Bro. Matthew & Sis. Tara Wulf were placed in the ministry. Our support and prayers will continue to be with them and their family. We pray for God’s grace and strength as they labor for Him!

Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger

Summer has brought a
blessing of many visitors to our area. We are thankful and blessed by each one. Among our visitors have been Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, (Sis. Dixie, Gridley IL) and Bro. Ken Wuetrich, (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). We are grateful for their service to our congregation.

Bro. Allen Schmidgall (Sis. Danielle) hosted a camping night for dads and kids. Memories were made and good times shared together. Many thanks go to our generous hosts.

Our church family is excited to welcome Bro. Daron and Sis. Monica Price and their children to Morris North. We hope that it will soon feel very much like home here.

We remember our elder brothers in prayer often in the weeks leading up to the conference. May God’s mighty Spirit meet them there and lead them through each day.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

**Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll**

“Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love…”

_Hymns of Zion #156_

Long-time residents and members, Bro. Dean & Sis. Wanda Messner, bid farewell to our small church body and are moving to the area of Bradford, IL to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Bro. Dean & Sis. Wanda will be sorely missed here and we wish them God speed on this next chapter of their lives. We thank them for their many years of service and hospitality. We were able to host a farewell potluck and singing for them prior to their final departure.

Winthrop has had a fair amount of wedding bells ringing this summer. We were able to celebrate together the joining of hearts of Benji Steiner (Bro. Glen & Sis. Rachel) and Kate Ahlers (Glen & Nancy, Brownton, MN) in Hutchinson, MN, as well as Landon Messner (Elder Bro. Paul & Sis. Jan) and Alyssa Wiechmann (Dave & Ann) in Golden Valley, MN. May God add His blessing to these unions.

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

We rejoice with Bro. David & Sis. Bethany in the birth of a new baby girl. Siblings Justin, Darren, Eric, Ruth, Peter and Leo welcome little Emma Louise with open arms. Bro. Terry & Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Tony & Nancy Messner (Hancock, MN) are thankful grandparents.

**Missouri, Kansas City**

**Katy Frantz**

As the summer days grow long and hot and yet the vines in the garden begin to ripen, I’m reminded of the verse in Galatians 6:9, “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

We are so thankful for the fruit in the life of Kaitlyn Donahue, as she has started repenting! She was very encouraged by the joy of Christ in those volunteers that came to serve our church for VBS in June. We so appreciated their love and encouragement to our church! Thanks also to Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) for ministering to our congregation at the conclusion of the VBS program, and for also serving us in the Sunday pulpit ministry.

Saturday, July 13, we all gathered for a church potluck and farewell to Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann, as they prepare to leave for Haiti to serve at Hospital Lumiere. On Sunday, July 14, we had a sending service and prayed a blessing over them and their four children. Our small church will miss them all so much!

Other visiting ministers that have served our congregation this past month are: Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremon, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) who had the sending service for Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann, Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL).

**Missouri, Lamar**

**Mindy Wettstein**

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

Throughout the past month, we have experienced a wide variety of “seasons”, so to speak.

Our Sis. Corrine Marti (Bro. Dale, dec.) passed away June 19. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her children: Larry...
Floyd Banwart passed away June 21. He was a blessing to know. Our congregation enjoyed the times of visiting with him at Maple Senior Living Center where he resided for the past several years. Our prayers are with his family.

June 29/30 was an eventful weekend. We enjoyed fellowshipping with Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL) and several of their family that Saturday night as they were vacationing in Branson. Bro. Tom took the minister rotation for the weekend. On Sunday, we were privileged to host the Kansas Small Church invite. We were thankful for a wonderful turnout! Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Kristi, Ft. Scott, KS) preached the afternoon sermon. That same day, the engagement of Sis. Carol Marti and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was announced! We praise God from whom all blessings flow!!

Bro. Alfred Banwart (Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Bonnie Braker were hospitalized this past month, and are both thankful to be back at home. Many thanks for the prayers offered up for their health.

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara and family, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott, KS) were visiting ministers on 7/14. We also want to thank the Fischer's for providing lunch!

Missouri, St. Louis
Victoria Eberhardt

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Scott Mangers (Sis. Shayna, Altadena, CA), Bro. Mike Kainsner (Sis. Mindy, Peoria, IL), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL). We are so thankful for their willingness to share God’s Word.

Our church has been enjoying all our summer travelers including the Peoria Bible Class and Young Group. We’re so blessed to live in a city with so much to do for traveling families.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich have chosen to move back to St. Louis. We welcome them with open arms. It’s such a joy to watch our little congregation grow.

Missouri, Taylor
Lori Marquart

Sixty-five students participated in VBS the week of June 24-28. This required extensive effort for many adults who planned, prepared food, and provided instruction and entertainment on the timely theme of, “The Incredible Race: One Race, One Savior.” Thank you to those who worked hard to provide this opportunity of sowing seeds of truth to precious souls.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Genesis 1:27

Created by God in His image, Breckan Renae was born June 29 to Brad & Sis. Rita Schaefer and welcomed home by big sister, Hadley Jo. Grandparents are Bro. Joe & Sis. Jerilyn Yackley, and Jim & Nancy Schaefer.

Taylorians are always grateful for those who choose to make a Sunday stopover when traveling to or from another destination. Two ministers recently stopped here on their vacation travels. Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) served us on June 23, and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City) on June 30. Bro. Jim had most of his children with him, but his wife, Sis. Diana, was visiting family in Arizona. Thank you, brothers, for giving so unselfishly during time “off.”

Sympathy and love is extended to Sis. Joanna Yackley (Bro. Austin), who said farewell for a season to her grandma, Lucy Wellwood of Elmhurst, IL.

It has become a tradition at Taylor to set aside Wednesday evenings in July for topical Bible studies. Ministering brothers from other churches are invited to speak on one segment of a broader topic. “Our Identity in Christ” is that broad topic this year. Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA) spoke on July 10 introducing this topic by discussing what we are in Christ and what defines us. On July 17, Bro. Nathan Hodel (Roanoke, IL) built on that introduction focused on Ephesians 1 reminding us what we have in Christ and what
do we do with that information, and why we do what we do. We are grateful to these brothers as we consider what gives us our identity, and to allow Jesus Christ to more fully define us.

Prayers are requested for the following that have health challenges: Bro. Marvin Wiegand, Bro. Don Hoerr, Sis. Kris Sutter, Brenda Simmons, and Nina Davis (mother of Sis. Kris & Sis. Kay Sutter).

Elder Bro. Kent recently challenged our church family with a question asked by Bro. Mike Stratton several years ago, “What would this church be like in five years if everyone were just like me?” We individually have the opportunity to examine our own choices, compare them to the truth of God’s Word, and, if necessary, make adjustments with the help of the Holy Spirit.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney
As Father’s Day just passed, we thought of our Heavenly Father and all He has done for all mankind, giving His beloved Son who did suffer and die so that we might live eternally.

Our high school graduates this year are Easton Dawson, son of John V and Renata, grandson of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler; Logan Farney, son of Todd and Danielle, grandson of Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney; and Jaedyn Greenwood, daughter of Scott, Missy, granddaughter of Dean and Joyce Greenwood. May they look to our Heavenly Father as they will be starting a new chapter in their lives.

On Monday evening June 24, we gathered for our annual hot dog roast at the Croghan Park. We’re thankful for the good turnout and the blessings of being together.

We are thankful for our visitors this past month who came to serve and support us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce (Betty) Richie who was hospitalized this past month and is now back home.

Our thoughts and prayers go out for our dear under-shepherds as they will be gathering together for the Brotherhood conference at Goodfield, IL in August.

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle
It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville) assist with the Memorandum.

Bro. Sanyi and Bro. Ruben Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi) and Bro. Brad Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) were baptized into the fold. Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman) and ministering Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) and Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman) served us from the pulpit on the baptism weekend.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks
How many times do we wake up on a Monday morning with heavy hearts burdened by the concerns of life? We can only conquer those fears and worries by handing them over to our Lord and Savior and counting our many blessings, one by one!

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers and the company they brought with them this month. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield) read the memorandum update. Other visitors included Bro. Trent Gasser, (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH), Bro. Brian Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH), Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL). A potluck supper was held after church for the Schambach’s so extra fellowship time could be spent with their family. We appreciate all of our visitors so much!

Prayers continue for Bro. Nate and Sis. Becca Steiner of Rittman as Sis. Becca recovers from an automobile accident and surgery. The Columbus congregation misses this precious family and they are in our hearts and prayers.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz
“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee; take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my will and make
it Thine, it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.” Take my Life, and Let it Be, Hymns of Zion #106, vs. 1, 2, 4

We are thankful that Lynelle Schneider (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi) has begun her repentance. May she find the joy that comes from surrendering her heart to the Lord!

Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter are thankful for the safe arrival of another grandson, Grayson Daniel, born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Alisia Schlatter (Toledo, OH) on July 10.

Our church held Vacation Bible School the week of June 24-28. We pray that the time could have been a blessing for the students. We also thank the teachers and helpers for the time spent in preparing for the week.

We continue to lift up little Eli Manz (Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura) in prayer as he has had surgery this month and is still in the process of recovering. We pray for God’s healing hand to touch his body.

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

“Let us then be so united, as Thou with the Father art, that not one of Thy weak members here on earth shall stand apart. From the flames of Thy own burning may our light partake its glow; and that we are Thy disciples all the world may surely know.” The Fellowship of the Saints, Zion’s Harp #33

On the weekend of July 13-14, a busload of Eureka and other central IL brethren came to fellowship with us. We felt strengthened by the bonds of unity and encouraged that we are not alone in our fight of faith. By fellowshipping together, we were renewed in our zeal to let our light shine more brightly, so that all the world can know that we are children of the living God! As Paul writes, “That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” Rom. 1:12. We heartily thank the brethren who came to visit!

Thank you to Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL), Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) for ministering the Word this month.

Rejoicing with the angels in heaven, we are pleased to report that Julie Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane) has begun her repentance. Also, Claudia Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene) has professed peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism. Our prayer for these young ladies is that they can fully depend upon the Lord and allow Him to work as He chooses in their life.

Bro. Ephraim Kipfer has finished his fight of faith. May God provide comfort to his children: Ricki Gerber (Jim Glessner) and Bro. Jon (Sis. Suzanne) Kipfer, and to all the extended family.

We certainly welcome those who wish to join us for the Apostolic Christian Men’s Sing, which we are hosting with Junction on the weekend of August 24-25. May God be praised as His name is lifted up in song. We would love to have you visit!

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

We thank Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH) for visiting and being willing to share the Word with us.

We were uplifted by the exhortation in the Memorandum which we shared together. Let us be thankful for the loving care of our elder brothers.

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

In a world that is constantly changing, may we continue to strive toward our heavenly goal.

Every year the Sunday School picnic brings a lot of joy for the children as well as a special time of fellowship for all. This year was no exception! Many thanks go to those whose efforts made it a blessing.

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

We’re thankful to have witnessed the wedding of Bro. David Brummit (Bro. David & Sis. Shella, Bastrop, TX) & Sis. Bailey Stoller (Bro. Tony & Sis. Cherie) this past month. May God bless them as they begin this journey together. We give a special
farewell to Sis. Bailey, whose presence we will miss.

Two additional couples have announced their engagement, and look forward to their wedding day. Sis. Cindy Dotterer (Bro. Gary & Sis. Sandy) is engaged to Bro. Mathis Kuenzi (Bro. Troy & Sis. Sherri, Silverton, OR). Bro. Baylor Hartzler (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Sue) is engaged to Sis. Isabel Steiner (Bro. Brent & Sis. Andrea).


Jackson Lee Rufener was born on June 20, to parents Bro. Jesse & Sis. Laura Rufener (Smithville, OH), and big brothers, Kasen & Isaac. Solvi Trish Wuetrich was born on June 21, to Bro. Levi & Sis. Kyann Wuetrich (Chicago, IL). God bless each of these parents to raise these precious children for Him.

Many prayers have been offered for Bro. Nate & Sis. Becca Steiner this past month. A tragic accident claimed the life of their precious unborn daughter, Eloise, and caused Sis. Becca to spend some time in the hospital. Sis. Betty (Bro. Reinhart) Keiper also spent time in the hospital. May God grant them daily strength through this difficult time.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Eugene & Sis. Kathryn Bachman lost a son-in-law, Michael (Judy) Musselman. Bro. Jon (Sis. Suzanne) Kipfer lost his father, Bro. Ephraim Kipfer (Latty, OH). Bro. Dean (Sis. Jan) Hartzler, Sis. Kate Hartzler, Sis. Karen Hartzler, & Sis. Nancy Bauman said goodbye to their sister-in-law, Sandra (Ben) Hartzler. May we cherish each day we have, it may be our last.

Thank you to visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Bastrop, TX), Bro. Jim Meiss (Bastrop, TX), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH).

Ohio, Sardis

Renee Blough, Doris Miller

Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Hermann (Princeville, IL) gave a HarvestCall presentation about their time in Ixtlan, Mexico. We came away with a better understanding of the blessings and challenges of a first generation church, as well as the ongoing efforts in Ixtlan to establish primary and secondary schooling which provides both Christian and academic teaching for the students. Bro. Pete Webel (Sis. Linda, Mansfield, OH) serves on the national HarvestCall board and was also present for the weekend.

Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) shared the Word both Saturday evening and Sunday at the annual New Martinsville, WV services. We were reminded that our daily lives can get overrun with worldly pursuits, but simple surroundings result in Christ-focused revival. Our Sardis congregation welcomed Ohio visitors from Rittman, Smithville, Akron, Junction, Latty, and Columbus. We heard greetings from Bluffton, IN, West Bend, IA, Alto, MI and Rockville, CT. Illinois greetings were given from Bradford, Cissna Park, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, Fairbury, Princeville, and Washington. If you were here, but not listed we appreciate you, too! Truly these gatherings are a foretaste of Heaven when the elect shall come together from the four winds (Matt. 24:31), and we shall be forever with the Lord!

Ohio, Toledo

Rebekah Witzig, Brooke Harmon

Yet another month has already passed us by! Time is truly a limited resource and the summer months seem to pass by more quickly than the others. This past month we welcomed Bro. David and Sis. Larisa Maibach (Smithville, OH) to Toledo. Those
who serve us in the pulpit ministry are such a blessing in so many ways. Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) also spent some time with us as Bro. Bill read the spring memorandum during a midweek service.

As a church body, we were able to spend some time together outdoors during our Sunday School picnic. Spending additional time together outside the church can really strengthen our friendships and connections with one another.

Unfortunately, we were recently struck by a great tragedy. Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint’s 10 year old grandson, Casen, son of Ryan and Kristie Sancraint, died unexpectedly on July 12, 2019. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this dear family as they go through this difficult time.

Ontario, Kitchener
RoseLynn Metzger

“When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.” Ps. 56:9

Greetings to all! As the summer progresses, we can see the faithfulness of God in every sun-filled day, every rainfall and in harvest. God showers us with so many wonderful blessings.

One of these blessings for our congregation is our visiting ministers and visitors. On June 16, Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) was our visiting minister. The following weekend, Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) travelled many miles to serve for us. On July 30, Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) came. On July 7, Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) served on the pulpit. On July 14, Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Sis. April, Mansfield, OH) was our minister. Finally, on Wednesday, July 17, Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Livonia, MI) shared the Conference Letter with us. We were encouraged and provided with guidance.

This month we had our annual Church Picnic at a local park. Our day was filled with fellowship, games and a pizza dinner. Much fun was had by all!

A heartfelt thanks goes to all of our visitors this month, we truly appreciate when you make our congregation part of your travels. May all feel God’s nearness this month and forever!

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
James 4:8

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

It was a blessed weekend June 29 and 30, as Sis. Victoria and Sis. Rebekah Hoach (Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam) gave their testimonies and were baptized. We rejoice with the Hoach family and wish these dear ones God’s guidance and blessings as they continue on in service of Him. We thank all those who helped with various tasks and duties as the weekend unfolded.

Our annual Communion Service was held as well. Our gratitude goes to our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) for their labors in conducting these special services. May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Additional visiting ministers who supported us were Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL), and from Silverton, OR, Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz). We also appreciate the ongoing song leader support from the Silverton church.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett

We had the privilege of having several visiting ministers along with their families in Silverton this month. Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth) from Mansfield, OH, Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam) from Cissna Park, IL, Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori) from Bern, KS, and Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle) also from Bern, KS, willingly shared the Gospel. We are thankful to God for their continued work in His name.

June 29, many of us had the opportunity to witness Sam Kuschnick (Jeff Kuschnick and Juliana Moulton) and Shalyse Snook’s (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) wedding. May God bless and guide them in this new phase of life!

Our congregation had the great joy of witnessing four souls baptized into the fold of Jesus Christ! Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle) joined us for this special weekend as we welcomed Bro. Steven and
Bro. Daniel Schurter as well as Bro. Taylor and Sis. Allie Meyer into our church family. We are thankful for the miracle of salvation God has worked in their lives and pray that we will be united as a body of believers and let our light shine for Him.

Cynthia Glass’ (Bob) mother passed away somewhat unexpectedly this last month and she would appreciate your prayers of support during this time of grief.

Lee Metzger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth) was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Lee and his family would appreciate your prayers of support as they journey through this uncertainty. We are trusting that God will provide His peace during this time.

Bro. Sam Moser’s (Sis. Tyrene) mother, Sis. Glenna (Bro. Ben) from Rockville, CT, passed away recently. Our prayers are with Bro. Sam and his family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. We are thankful for the hope of heaven and meeting again someday!

Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi welcomed a new grandbaby this month! July 12, Emma Louise was the seventh child born to Bro. David and Sis. Bethany Messner from Winthrop, MN.

We are excited to share the news of Bro. Mathis Kuenzi’s (Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri) engagement to Sis. Cindy Dotterer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) from Rittman, OH. May God draw their hearts together in love and prepare them for the exciting journey ahead!

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

**Laura Isch**

“I am Thine, O Lord,  
I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise  
in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.  
Draw me nearer, nearer  
blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thous hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer,  
nearer, blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.”

*I Am Thine, O Lord,  
Hymns of Zion, #170*

We are grateful to Bro. Jon Zahner (Sis. Amy, Rockville, CT) for sharing the Word this month. May God bless him for his efforts and bless the Word into our hearts. We also appreciate those who included Philadelphia in their summer travelling plans. May God bless us all as we strive to be nearer to our precious Lord!

**Tennessee, Nashville**

**Cynde Stoller, Mike Fritz**

May the Lord bless Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth; Smithville, OH) and Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee; Rittman, OH) for ministering to our congregation. We enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Bradford, Washington, Princeville, and Roanoke, IL; Rockville, CT; Rittman, OH; Leo, IN; Mediapolis, IA; and Philadelphia, PA. Thank you to Bro. Dustin Hodel for coming and sharing a Gateway Woods presentation with our congregation.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cynde Stoller welcome Titus William to their family along with Bro. Jeremiah, Sis. Faith, Sis. Patience, Matthew, Mercy, Micah, Peter, and Grace. Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL) are grandparents.

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

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

**Candace Meiss**

We send our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. “ Psalms 118:24.

“Today is my favorite day. God made it in a special way. I like tomorrow and yesterday but today is my favorite day! Did you ever wonder why God makes each day begin? He just gives us one more day so we can be with Him! Today is my favorite day. God made it in a special way. I like tomorrow and yesterday but today is my favorite day! I tell the Lord good morning each day when I wake up. He’s been waiting all...”
night long to fill this day with love! Today is my favorite day.
God made it in a special way. I like tomorrow and yesterday but today is my favorite day!”

I was singing this in my heart as I drove home today, thankful to be going home after a long 24 hr. shift where I was privileged to manage the care of many healthy newborns and thankful parents. I remember our Kaitlyn singing this song over and over as she played when she was very young. What a joy to be thankful and happy.

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high”
Psalms 92:1

Once again I sit at our kitchen table thankful for the sunshine, the gentle breeze, and the shade of the beautiful oak tree outside our window.

We are thankful and have been blessed by the willing servants who ministered this past month, Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton, IN). Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val, we appreciate the many ways you served us during your visit. Thank you for serving us lunch on Sunday, for the delicious BBQ you provided for our Saturday potluck and your desire to gather everyone together for a meal. It was such a special evening of fellowship and sharing. We were thankful that all could attend.

What a joy that most of our Austin/Bastrop church were able to attend and share in the joy of the special wedding day of Bro. “Lil” David Brummitt (Bro. David and Sis. Shella) to Sis. Bailey Stoller (Bro. Tony and Sis Cherie) in Rittman on June 23! Congratulations and God’s blessings to you!

We are rejoicing with Sis. Jamie Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish, Fairbury) who announced her engagement to Bro. Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen, Forrest) on June 23, with wedding plans for November 10. It is such a blessing to have Sis. Jamie here with us for the summer!

It was with many tears and prayers we bid farewell to the Bazzell family as they move back to IL to be closer to family and for Mark’s work. We are thankful that Justus is staying in Bastrop to continue his education in welding and we look forward to him continuing to worship with us. It has been such a blessing to have the Bazzell family here for the past 3 years and we will continue to lift them up in prayer.

Remember to be grateful, for a grateful heart is good medicine!

“Today is my favorite day. God made it in a special way. I like tomorrow and yesterday but today is my favorite day!”

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

Love and greetings from Dallas!

We would like to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary Zapata, TX), for being willing to travel many miles to come preach God’s Word.

We were blessed to be reminded of the importance of keeping our minds on that which is true, honest, pure, and lovely and take what God has taught us and put it into practice. Paul’s words in Philippians 4:8-9 say exactly that. Paul calls the Philippians to always be working toward a mind of Christ and that still applies to us today. When we fix our thoughts on that which is good in God’s eyes, we can be used by Him even more. And we as believers can do that which is according to God’s will without fear, because the God of Peace is with us. So as we head into a new month, let’s put to practice coming to God in prayer in search of what we need to correct and put to practice what He has taught us in full faith.

Bro. Gerry also shared the memorandum and reminded us what a blessing it is to have such strong unity within the church body.

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sundays. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, call Bro. Adam Graf (330-590-7086).
For Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven…

Matthew 5:3-16

5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acknowledging our bankruptcy and total dependence upon God is prerequisite to entrance into His kingdom.

2 Cor. 3:5; Rev. 3:17.

Man comes before God without merit and finds themselves guilty.


5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

The heart toward God in the discovery of our brokenness and emptiness is characterized by godly repentance and sorrow for sin.

Ps. 40:1-3; 2 Cor. 7:8-13; Acts 2:38, 3:19; Isaiah 61:1-3.

5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Meekness is seen as gentleness; forbearance under injuries, humility, submission to the divine will without murmuring; It is opposed to pride, arrogance and insubordination.

Electronic communication and political action needs to be under the biblical warnings for the tongue.

1 Chron. 16:34; Micah 6:6-8; Luke 6:36-38; Leviticus 19:17-18; James 5:9; Mt. 18:21-35.

5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

This depiction is of our desires which are to be wrought in God.

Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:1.

What are we hungering after?
Materialism? Comforts? Use of time and resources?

5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Our lives exhibit mercy and forgiveness directly proportionate to the degree that we recognize the depth to which we have been shown mercy and forgiveness. Turning our eyes to Jesus frees us to offer what we have received to others.

1 Chron. 16:34; Micah 6:6-8; Luke 6:36-38; Leviticus 19:17-18; James 5:9; Mt. 18:21-35.

5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Jesus was always concerned with the sins of the heart and the outworking of them. What we feed on is of critical importance to the state of our inner man.

Ps. 101; James 1:27; Mt. 5:28-30, 6:22-23, 12:35, 15:18-19; Ps. 15:1-5; Prov. 22:11-14; 2 Tim. 2:22.

5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

In a culture that is focused on the use of power and even violence to overthrow and control, we are to be those who seek reconciliation with God and others.

2 Cor. 5:14-20, Heb, 12:14; Rom. 12:17-21, 14:19; James 3:14-18; Matt. 5:22-24, 38-44; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Psalm 34:14.

5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Remember those that are experiencing persecution, and pray for them. Be willing to accept the scorn of men for a biblical conviction or the cause of Christ, while giving ourselves no excuse for contentious or provocative behavior as Christians.


5:13-16 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Anticipating being sent forth with the reminder that we are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

Mark 9:50; Matt. 6:19-34, 7:24-27; James 1:22-25.

-Outline from 2019 General Conference held at Goodfield, IL
Are you looking for more purpose in your life?

There is an abundance of hurting children and families in need of help. Come find fulfillment walking alongside them as they turn their lives around at Gateway Woods. Find joy as you share the Gospel with those in need of a Savior and be humbled as He shapes your life while doing so.

We currently need an Assistant Houseparent, Manager of Compliance & Maintenance, and Houseparents. Will you be the beautiful feet that comes and labors to share Christ?

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
A ROUND THE TABLE is a new source for Christ-centered teaching and conversations from an Apostolic Christian perspective and it is coming soon to AC Central. In this new content area, you will find teaching from the elder body, a sharing of perspectives, and discussion of topics that are relevant to us as Apostolic Christians.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Psalms 25:4-5

Why is this needed? Partly because we live in a culture where we have many things at our finger tips, but we are less connected to all of them.

Today, many of us begin our search for information on the web – whether we are looking for directions, recipes, or even understanding scripture. Sometimes we get accurate and useful results; sometimes the responses are wrong or not on topic; sometimes we can’t tell if the information is accurate or not. There is a need for easy access to Christ-centered scriptural content from an Apostolic Christian perspective.

Today, we are connected to more people than at any previous point in history – we can travel across the country and around the world, talk on the phone, and share pictures and video instantly. Yet, at the same time, we recognize that we don’t always know everyone in our own congregations, and sometimes feel disconnected from our brothers and sisters in other congregations.

Today, people get to know their elder (and those who visit regularly) but may not know the elder body as a whole.

We can’t deny the reality of these challenges, but we can overcome them by drawing closer to Christ and each other. As an elder body, we are collectively committed to communicate more often and more effectively with the church. The communication methods the church is already familiar with (reading the Memorandum, and transparently sharing scriptural truths and real life application) will be reinforced and strengthened, but we recognize the necessity of stepping into new ways to better engage more of our brothers and sisters.

A variety of formats for Around the Table episodes are anticipated including a single elder teaching, two or three elders in discussion, and episodes including brothers and sisters from our congregations. To help you envision what you may hear, here are some example topics that are being explored:

- Spiritual Discernment in a Digital Age
- Denominationalism vs. Congregationalism
- Our Vision and Purpose as a Church
- Gender roles / Spiritual Headship

Initially, these episodes will be audio segments – typically 15-25 minutes long. When appropriate, a supporting document will be attached. In the future, we anticipate written pieces and video as well. New episodes will be added regularly.

Around the Table is expected to appear in AC Central by mid-to-late August.

Our desire is that Apostolic Christian believers will become more fully equipped through this online teaching to fulfill our

— Please turn to pg. 50
WHEN REFLECTING on Brothers and Sisters who have blessed me with their spiritual gifts, I hope it’s okay that I share names. I would run out of ink if I tried to write about every person who has touched my life. So, I will just mention a few. My references relate to the gifts Paul mentions in Romans 12.

Prophecy:
As a young Christian, I went on a single group trip to Iowa. The Junction single group joined us, and I sat in the back of a van with a Brother named Sam Manz. I’ll never forget it. He said, “Brother Matt, can I read you a story?” He proceeded to pull out a book called *Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up*. I listened as he read the first chapter about the martyrdom of Polycarp. That affected me. Bro. Sam’s gift of sharing truth instilled in me a desire to live like Polycarp. Thank you, Sam.

Serving:
Many credit Francis of Assisi with saying, “Preach the gospel at all times. And if necessary, use words.” That approach fits Sis. Lois Drayer well. My mother said very little to me about Christ. However, she demonstrated Christ with her life. When raising five boys, she served us with all her heart. Today, we are all Christians, Apostolic, and the best of friends. We can attribute these blest ties to our mother and father. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

Teaching:
Bro. Ron Kipfer is my mother’s cousin. He is also a gifted teacher. Over his years of preaching at Bluffton, he shared from his deep well of knowledge. He taught with passion, tears, stories, and occasional humor. He has educated and inspired me with his love for God, truth, Christian history, Apostolic history, and hymn history. Thank you, Ron.

Encouraging:
In 1999, a few Bluffton Brothers accepted an invitation to sing at Valparaiso’s VBS. They asked me to join them. I was very nervous. In fact, I was so nervous that I fainted – in front of everybody. Oh, I was so embarrassed. I said in my heart, “I will never sing in front of people again.” Yet, a seasoned Brother named Ken Bucher kindly encouraged me to keep singing. I’m so thankful he did! Thank you, Ken.

Giving:
When we moved to Wolcott in August of 2018, many locals welcomed us with open arms. I found out very quickly that the Wolcott congregation is full of generous believers. They showered us with meals, helping hands, hugs, and even financial help. Thank you all.

Leading:
Bro. Alan Ringger leads the “Timberline Bible Study” in the Bluffton area. I went to his house once a week for many years as a single Brother. His gift of leadership was amazing. He asked deep questions to help us grow and think. He talked to us about awkward but vital issues. He also helped us along as we learned how to lead Bible studies ourselves. Thank you, Alan.

Showing Mercy:
Sis. Tiffany and I have been married for 14 years. I wish I could say that I’ve been the perfect husband. But I can’t. I’ve said things I regret. I have not helped around the house like I should. I’m sure I’ve annoyed Tiffany with my “otter” personality. (She is a “beaver.”) Through it all, we have a wonderful marriage anyway. This does not result from me being a perfect husband. Rather, it’s because she forgives me when I am not perfect. Thank you, Tiffany. I love you.

Bro. Matt Drayer — Wolcott, IN
AS A YOUNG convert, I struggled with my own imperfections. I didn’t think, say, or do everything just right. I was very discouraged and wondered if God was even with me. Could I ever truly be His follower?

One afternoon while I sat in church after the service, one of my former Sunday school teachers put his hand on my knee and asked how it was going. I must have felt desperate as I blurted out the thought, "I don’t know. I am still making mistakes.”

While I considered my admission and situation to be devastating, my past instructor kindly and compassionately turned it around with a very simple response. He merely said, "Well, let me know if you ever stop (making mistakes)."

I don’t believe he could ever know the joy and peace that filled my heart. My thought was, “You mean that even my dear old Sunday school teacher still makes mistakes?” I was so encouraged.

He didn’t use it as a call to following Jesus in a shallow way. Rather, he acknowledged who we are and our continual need for coming to God’s throne of grace for mercy and help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Although he gave the encouragement over 45 years ago, I have never forgotten it.

Reflecting on how he blessed me, I pray that I will never give someone the feeling that they are beyond help. Instead, I will listen and respond with care. I think of Job’s friends, who (though they messed it up in the end) sat with Job upon the ground for 7 days. During that time, they said not a word unto him, “… for they saw that his grief was great (Job 2:13).” May the Spirit move me to regard others like my old Sunday school teacher, who was a true Barnabas to me.

A Fairbury Brother

EVEN THOUGH I sought the Lord as my Savior through repentance and baptism as a teenager, I didn’t receive a basic understanding of spiritual gifts until our children were teenagers. As parents, we were hungry for discernment on how to guide them spiritually and vocationally.

Early in our marriage, my husband’s job offered several personality tests, so I took them with him. As a result, we discussed the dynamics of how our different personalities impacted our individual approaches to daily life. This brought such understanding to some common frustrations of marriage. As a wife, it was sweet to receive such defined insights about some of our daily behaviors towards each other. But the best sweetness was yet to come . . . discovering spiritual gifts and truly being heirs together of God’s grace as husband and wife (I Peter 3:7).

We first realized the importance of spiritual gifts when seeking to guide our converted, teenage children toward suitable vocational training. We found a ministry that sent tests to our home before interpreting what we completed and returned. Reading the results of these spiritual gifting tests provided some of my most exhilarating times as an active mother. These “aha” moments not only helped me better understand what motivated some of my children’s behaviors, they also gave me courage to direct them vocationally. It was life changing for us as parents of teens. As husband and wife, we found another spiritual gift survey that was more suited for marriage relationships, which still blesses us today.

In recent years, our daughters and I gathered together around Mother’s Day and filled out the Spiritual Gifts Inventory from ACCFS. I was excited to discover this on their website and to further learn together as adults. At first, we worked alone, reading and pondering the questions. Then, we worked together by sharing insights that we could record about one another on paper. We learned why some distinct, lingering disagreements had occurred while growing up together; yet, we weren’t purposely sinning against each other when those disagreements occurred.

With its simple layout and easy accessibility, I encourage anyone to take advantage of the Spiritual Gift Inventory on the ACCFS website (www.accounseling.org/identifying-developing-spiritual-gifts/). Since our Heavenly Father presents or references spiritual gifts in numerous New Testament passages (Romans 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; — Please turn to pg. 50
AROUND the Table
— Continued from pg. 47
unique role in the body of Christ, for His kingdom and glory.

Around the Table is a production of Onward Media, a new Apostolic Christian communications organization which is forming now and will be fully active Jan. 2020. Onward Media will be responsible for Apostolic Christian Publications (the bookstore), The Silver Lining, AC Central, our national church website (www.apostolicchristian.org), and other existing and new content. Prior to the creation of Onward Media, the church had a number of partially overlapping groups responsible for the creation, review, publication and communication of Apostolic Christian-related content. Onward Media will help efficiently steward our resources to effectively deliver sound doctrine, biblical teaching, and relevant information to our church community. For more information about Onward Media, visit www.onwardmedia.org.

—by John Wiegand, on behalf of the Elder Body

How Have You Benefited From Believers Exercising Their Spiritual Gifts?
— Continued from pg. 49
Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:6), He assures His sons and daughters that He continually longs to give us His gifts. The book of Proverbs often challenges us to continually seek knowledge and understanding towards God, others, and ourselves. We can obey these passages by studying spiritual gifts.

A thankful wife, mother, and grandmother

Remembering
— Continued from pg. 66
also lists notable in gatherings over the years: 1906 (65); 1922 (109); 1947 (49); 1970 (31); 1974 (44); and 1975 (39).

The Future
It is God who sees the future and knows the end from the beginning. But an ongoing legacy in our churches has been to preach a true, Bible-based doctrine from our already-established pulpits, which have benefited from past visions to preach and be faithful. As time has unfolded, and the way has been open, we are currently in an era where brethren feel moved to take the Word to faraway places, and much energy has been born to “proclaim and serve”. A legacy of the past is continuing. The Lord Jesus was clear in sending persons to preach the gospel, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:20

-by Perry Klopfenstein

Ephesians 6:11-13
Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Adapted Bible Studies offered by the Apostolic Christian Church

James [1611]
This instructive Bible study from the NavPress Life Change series has been adapted with permission by Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. Topics included in this study: Facing Trials, Trial or Temptation?, Doing What You Hear, No Favorites, Genuine Faith, Controlling the Tongue, Wisdom, Whose Friend?, More on Pride, and Patience & Prayer. Price: $10.00

Available Topics
- Faith: Depending on God [1601] Price: $8.50
- Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past [1602] Price: $8.50
- Four Great Loves [1603] Price: $8.50
- Friendship [1604] Price: $8.50
- Fruit of the Spirit [1605] Price: $8.50
- God's Comfort [1606] Price: $8.50
- Grief [1607] Price: $8.50
- Hope [1608] Price: $8.50
- Images of God [1609] Price: $8.50
- Integrity [1610] Price: $8.50
- James [1611] Price: $10.00
- Prayer [1612] Price: $8.50
- Sermon on the Mount [1613] Price: $8.50
- Joshua [1614] Price: $10.00
- Parenting [1615] Price: $8.50
- John [1616] Price: $10.00
- Philippians [1617] Price: $10.00
- OT Characters [1618] Price: $8.50

Sermon on the Mount [1613]
This instructive and enlightening Bible study from InterVarsity Press has been adapted with permission by Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. It explores some of Jesus' best known teachings. The study consists of 12 lessons and can be done individually, in small groups, and congregationally. Topics included in this study: Unexpected Blessings, God's Way to Make a Difference, The Importance of Obeying God's Law, What's Wrong with my Private Sins?, Faithfulness in Marriage and Speech, How to Really Love Your Enemies, How Not to be Religious, A Pattern for Dynamic Prayer, What God Thinks of my Ambitions, Relationships that Encourage, Detecting the Lies of our World, and Making the Choice of a Lifetime. Price: $8.50

Now Available at Apostolic Christian Publications

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

Apostolic Christian Publications
651 East Peoria St., Goodfield, IL 61742
Store Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 11:30am (Central Time)
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content

Be sure to download the latest update to get the newest features

Check Google Play or the App Store

Help us shape the future of AC Central.
Submit feedback and vote for suggested features at accentral.userecho.com

Want to support new feature development?
Donations for AC Central are appreciated and are currently routed through HarvestCall. Write AC Central on your check memo or choose it when making an online donation at harvestcall.org

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

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

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

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

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acpublications.org
After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
Business Manager Job Opportunity

The Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka has an opening for a Business Manager. This key position is responsible for the accounting functions of the Home. Below is a listing of the primary job functions and qualifications. Please prayerfully consider this special opportunity to serve our elderly. Interested individuals should submit a resume and application to Kim Joos, Administrator. Applications can be found on our website at www.each.org.

Business Manager Primary Job Functions

- Responsible for accounting functions including accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll systems.
- Serves as Compliance Officer and HIPAA Privacy and Security Officer.
- Responsible for facility IT functions including ongoing trouble shooting and recommendations for hardware and software updates.
- Serves as Acting Administrator in the absence of the Administrator.

Business Manager Qualifications

- Bachelor’s degree in Accounting or Business Administration.
- Experience in accounting field is preferred.
- Knowledge of IT systems.
- Ability to make independent decisions when circumstances warrant such actions.
- Possess the ability to deal tactfully with personnel, residents, family members, visitors, government agencies and the general public.
- Ability to work harmoniously with and supervise professional and non-professional personnel.
- Ability to plan, organize, develop, implement, and interpret the programs, goals, objectives, policies and procedures, etc., that are necessary for providing quality resident care and maintaining a sound operation.
- Trustworthy
- Team player
- Compassionate
- Open communicator
- Self-motivated
- Flexible strong leadership skills
Jamaica Teams

QUESTIONS FOR JAMAICA TEAMS:
If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at Imdettwyler@gmail.com

Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

YEAR 2019   PROJECT   CAPACITY
Sept 11-17    Juarez    30
Cheryl Herrmann  260-273-9528   Email: cherrmann@frontier.com

Mexico Construction Teams

YEAR 2019   PROJECT   CAPACITY
Nov 23-29    Magdalena
Rich Bertschi  309-467-2351   Email: hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuethrich  219-863-4163   Email: rick@wuethrichfarms.com

Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

YEAR 2019   PROJECT   CAPACITY
Aug 10-17    OPEN for Medical Team    8
Sept 14-21   SCOA Orthopedic    FULL
Oct 12-19    Continuing Nurse Education    4
Oct 26 - Nov 2    Dental    FULL
Nov 30 - Dec 7    SCOA Orthopedic    FULL

COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:
Komari Aberle   Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net | Phone: 785.284.2950

Jamaica Awareness Tour

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

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

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumiere and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our 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 remaining Awareness Tour for 2019 is scheduled for 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

Haiti, Bonne Fin
Construction Teams

The Hospital Lumiere renovation program continues to restore and improve the facility to an environment that honors God and provides an atmosphere that contributes to the wellbeing of the hospital staff, our patients and their families.

Hospital Lumiere has an ongoing need for maintenance and/or construction teams and especially for skilled electricians. Rather than listing predetermined dates and asking people to fit into them, if a team, or individual, is interested in coming, they should contact the Hospital Administrator to discuss possible dates and available projects.

Hospital Administrator Bro. Rick Aberle
Phone: 011-509-4222-1004 or
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net

Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti

PROFESSIONALS in the Medical Field

Full Time / Long 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. Current medical positions:

**PHYSICIAN:** (General Medicine/Family Practice, Internists, Orthopedists, Surgeons, OB/GYN) These positions are intended to serve patients, lead a department and mentor/train Haitian physicians.

**ANESTHESIOLOGY:** (Anesthesiologist and CRNAs)

**NURSE PRACTITIONER:** Support and mentor positions for medical and patient care within the hospital and clinic.

**NURSE:** Support and mentor Haitian nursing staff, engage in patient care

There are many needs for medical professionals to serve the patients and Haitian staff including those listed above. If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for the positions listed above, please contact us.

There is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job descriptions and qualifications. Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of each applicant.

For additional details for this exciting and worthy position contact Tom Hitz.
Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or
Phone: 734.635.4112

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HarvestCall
CAREGIVER OPENING
at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

Seeking caregivers, single or married, willing to provide a Christ-centered family-like home for children who have been removed from their biological families. A 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

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

Seeking caregiver assistants, single or married, willing to support a caregiver in our Christ-centered family-like homes for children who have been pulled from their homes due to circumstances out of their control. A caregiver assistant qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

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

Terms of Service
- Live on or near the CVE campus, may include living in the home of the children being cared for.
- Language, culture and caregiver training will be provided.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


Ideas for Use
- Awareness
- Prayer Reminder
- Personal Connection
- Servant Fund Needs
- Communication via
- E-mail & Texting
- Letters
- Care Packages

Contact your Local HarvestCall Representative for Availability
For additional details for this exciting and worthy position contact Tom Hitz.
Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or
Phone: 734.635.4112

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking a teacher and teacher aid for missionary children. These positions involve full-time teaching in the multi-level classroom setting of the Bonne Fin Missionary School on the Hospital Lumiere compound. The missionary role is expected to start during the summer of 2019. These are full time missionary positions with a service term of one school year. There is opportunity to extend the term of service.

Teacher qualifications include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

Teacher Aid qualifications include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a High School Diploma, a Bachelor’s degree preferred, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with the teacher, students, parents and visitors to the school, a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street, Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141
Email: bjbibledistribution@acpublications.org

Willing to Share Yourself with another church?
Interested in a loving, nurturing congregation?
Offering: FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT
No special certification, training or education needed!
WE WILL TRAIN. All you need is a big heart.
Work 3-11 p.m. caring for 4-6 older adults.
Four weekdays, plus every other weekend
Fully paid hospitalization and 401(k) pension.
Bay City, MI
(30 minutes to Frankenmuth, 2-1/2 hours to Mackinac Island)
Call Sis. Bonnie Schlatter: (989) 225-2880
Position not available until Fall, so you have plenty of time discern God’s will.
https://woodhaven-retirement.com/bay-city/
Apply now.

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

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

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
HarvestCall Missionaries

Haiti Dairy - Les Cayes, Haiti
Les & Christine Kaeb  Francesville, IN
Daryl & Deborah Knobloch  Bradford, IL

Guest House - Les Cayes, Haiti
Sheila Moser  Sabetha, KS

Construction Department
Les Cayes, Haiti
Ed & Julie Sanders  Alto, MI
Isaac & Brittany Steiner  Rittman, OH

Child Sponsorship - Les Cayes, Haiti
Michael & Susie Walder  Smithville, OH

Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti
Rick & Komari Aberle  Sabetha, KS
Danny & Sarah Bertsch  Bluffton, IN
Brett & Laura Hermann  Kansas City, MO
Lucas & Raya Nussbaum  Forrest, IL
Carrie Stoller  Latty, OH

En Gedi House - Mandeville, Jamaica
Erin Davis  Goodfield, IL

CCCD - Kingston, Jamaica
Seth Kaeb  Gridley, IL
Blake & Tashi Widmer  West Lafayette, IN

Ixtlan, Mexico
Matt & Ruth Gerber  Washington, IL

Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE)
Magdalena, Mexico
Jon & Berenice Aupperle  Peoria, IL
Miguel & Laura Aviña  Forrest, IL
Keith & Alisa Beyer  Leo, IN
Seth & Jodi Gerber  Milford, IN
Jason & Georgina Grassi  Peoria, IL
Adam & Belinda Kaeb  Cissna Park, IL
Scott Kieser  Morton, IL
Nicole Knobloch  Morton, IL
Adam & Jenna Leman  Bluffton North, IN
Kendra Neihouser  Morton, IL
Andrew & Erin Ott  Congerville, IL
Carissa Schlipf  Champaign, IL
Denver & Katie Slagel  Silverton, OR
Todd & Zoë Stoller  Princeville, IL
Cassidy Wulf  Magdalena, MX
Duane and Ann Wulf  Lester, IA

Tokyo, Japan
Rachel Witzig  Washington, IL

Please Pray for our Missionaries

Pray for Open Doors
Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Colossians 4:2-4

Pray for Words
And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19

Pray for the Word to Spread and for Protection
Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Pray for Wisdom, Spiritual Understanding, and Strength
For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness... Colossians 1:9-11

Pray for Unity of the Body in Ministry
Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf. 2 Corinthians 1:11

SENDING CHURCHES
• Bradford, IL
• Champaign, IL
• Cissna Park, IL
• Congerville, IL
• Forrest, IL
• Goodfield, IL
• Gridley, IL
• Morton, IL
• Peoria, IL
• Princeville, IL
• Washington, IL
• Bluffton, IN
• Bluffton North, IN
• Francesville, IN
• Leo, IN
• Milford, IN
• West Lafayette, IN
• Lester, IA
• Sabetha, KS
• Kansas City, MO
• Alto, MI
• Latty, OH
• Rittman, OH
• Smithville, OH
• Silverton, OR
• Magdalena, MX
Pray for Open Doors

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2-4

Pray for Words

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:19

Pray for the Word to Spread and for Protection

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Pray for Wisdom, Spiritual Understanding, and Strength

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness...

Colossians 1:9-11

Pray for Unity of the Body in Ministry

Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 1:11

Please Pray for our Missionaries

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.

HarvestCall.org/servant-fund
The Faith of Joseph

— Continued from pg. 3

his brothers was God’s working, but he initially concealed his identity by answering them “roughly” through an interpreter. Inwardly he yearned to forgive his brothers, but first proved them to see whether they were sorry for how they had treated him. When Judah humbly confessed, “God has found out (uncovered or exposed) the iniquity of thy servants” and offered to become Joseph’s servant in place of Benjamin, Joseph finally revealed himself and offered words of comfort and reconciliation: “be not grieved, or angry with yourselves that you sold me hither, for God did send me before you to preserve life...it was not you that sent me hither, but God.” He not only acknowledged God’s sovereign will and work, but simultaneously absolved his brothers of their guilt. Nevertheless their consciences would be burdened for years to come. After their father Jacob died, they said, “Joseph will peradventure hate us, and certainly requite us all the evil we did unto him.” But Joseph’s faith and character had not changed. Once more he wept upon seeing the guilt his brothers were still carrying, and again assured them that “God meant it unto good.”

This is one of many instances in Scripture where God used temporary adversity to accomplish a greater and longer term good, and Joseph’s forgiving heart foreshadowed how Christ would be willing and ready to forgive us if we acknowledge our sin.

Near the end of Genesis Chapter 50 we come to the theme verse. Joseph had fulfilled his mission in Egypt, but desired to be carried back to his homeland for burial, as his father Jacob had. Once more he reaffirmed his faith and vision of the future: “I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you up out of this land to the land he sware unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from hence.” Exodus 13:19 records that some 360 years later, amid the urgency, confusion, and excitement of the Israelites being forced to leave Egypt suddenly and without preparation, Moses remembered to take Joseph’s bones with them.

Once he had reached emotional and spiritual maturity through his experiences in life’s ‘boot camp,’ Joseph became a role model of faith, repeatedly acknowledging God’s working both in his life and in the lives of people around him. There is no evidence that he became despondent or bitter when things seemed to be going badly. He believed God would provide for his family’s immediate physical needs and also bring his people into the land of promise – trusting God for the little things and the big. Did Joseph envision an even greater promise of an afterlife? We can be confident that he did. The prophets spoke clearly of resurrection, as in Isaiah 26:19, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Daniel 12:2, and Hosea 13:14. And then there is the wonderful Messianic prophecy from Job, who lived in the patriarchal period hundreds of years before the prophets: “For I know that my Redeemer lives...and though worms destroy this (present) body, yet in my (resurrected, immortal) flesh shall I see God...”

Today we have an even clearer view, since Christ has “abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” May He enable us to endure our individual tests of faith and embrace not only a long view but an eternal one, desiring “a better country, that is, a heavenly.”

Endnotes:
1 Heb 11:13 7 Gen 50:15
2 Gen 39:2 8 Gen 50:20
3 Gen 41:16 9 Gen 50:24,25
4 Gen 42:6,9 10 Job 19:25-27
5 Gen 44:16 11 2 Tim 1:10
6 Gen 45:5,8 12 Heb 11:16
ripped from top to bottom when Jesus, the perfect lamb of God died for our sins and entrance was made. So that when we pray, I can fold down the praying bench, the brothers kneel here, you get on your knees and we pray a pretty nice format in church on our knees, but I pray when I’m driving sometimes. I pray in my living room on the floor, I pray at the kitchen table, I like to walk and pray and I like to rock in my rocking chair and pray. How is that possible that I can go into the throne of grace anytime anywhere if my heart is in Christ? Because of Jesus. You know If we were raised Jews, I believe we would appreciate this book of Hebrews so much more. If we were living our life used to all these sacraments of having to sprinkle the blood and do things exactly like the laws of the Torah say, having to have this person, this high priest wearing this garment, all these rituals to make it possible to reach God. I take it so for granted that I can just fold my hands, I don’t even have to fold my hands, it’s good to teach our young kids to fold your hands and close your eyes, but that’s not even in the Bible. We teach our children to fold their hands so they focus on the prayer. But get on our knees, that’s quite a few times in the Bible. God cares about the posture of our heart, not the posture of our body. The reason we can have that boldness is only because of Jesus. The author of Hebrews is encouraging those people who are tempted to go back. I know there is no one here tempted to go to the law of Moses, but I’m pretty sure all of us are tempted to rely on our strength sometimes, tempted to do that sin, and tempted to go back and trust in this instead of in God and that’s why we can take courage.

In chapter 5, the author teaches through the priesthood of Melchisedec, no longer is Jesus just better than Aaron and Levi, but He comes in the order of Melchisedec. This little snippet of scripture in Genesis 14 when Abraham had to pay tithes to this priestly king of Salem and he’s a priest and he’s a king, and nobody knows who his parents are or where he came from or what happens to him. Our King Jesus comes after the priesthood of Melchisedec. That phrase is introduced here in verse 10 of chapter 5. Called of God a high priest after the order of Melchisdec because He is a kingly priest, Our Lord Jesus came as a Priest to offer intercession for our sin the first time, but as He comes the second time, He will be a King. Our High Priest in heaven, He intercedes.

Let’s get our swords back out and open to Hebrews 6. My prayer again is that the Holy Spirit will teach us to love Jesus even more as we see He is better. Throughout Hebrews, there is a phrase that is used, a couple different times, “a shadow of things to come”, a figure of the light. That’s what the law and the prophets are. That’s what Jesus taught His disciples on the road to Emmaus when He was resurrected. He said, don’t you believe all that the law and the prophets spoke of me? So those things are a shadow of things to come. I can’t think of a specific thing, but imagine it’s your birthday. My kids get so excited to get their gifts. But imagine if we shine a flashlight on the present and they are allowed to touch and feel it all they want, but they are not allowed to have the present. How disappointing that would be. That is what the law and the prophets, they had the shadow, but they didn’t have Jesus, nor did they understand when He was coming. When He did come, the Jews rejected Him and said He was not the Messiah. We actually have the gift, we have Him in the flesh, Jesus who died and rose again for our sins. If there are any sitting here who do not, I plead with you, repent of your sins, come to Christ, take
Him as your sacrifice but also as your best friend the rest of your lives. Who will give you peace as my daughter’s memory verse in kindergarten, “my peace I leave with you, my peace I give you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you”. That’s the peace that Jesus brings, something way better than the bulls and the goats and that temporary offering for sin. And it gives us confidence, doesn’t it?

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, that anchor we have in Jesus Christ.

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.” Heb. 6:18-28

So the author continues, Jesus our high priest after the order of Melchisedec, He is better. One time, one day on Calvary, that blood came down. Just try to put yourself in the shoes of these Jewish people who had to see the throat of that lamb or that goat get cut and the blood drain and had to watch the high priest as described here, how they had to take that blood and sprinkle physical blood on things and offer that blood. But God has always said that blood is required for the remission of sins. From the very beginning when Adam and Eve tried to cover up with leaves, tried to cover up the shame of their sinful nakedness with fig leaves, they have never been good enough. So the first animals were killed by God Himself, we don’t know what they were, but God clothed them with fur. An animal died because of sin. And for 4,000 years, the blood of hundreds and thousands of bullocks and goats was being shed. I take that for granted because I have never killed an animal for my sin and if I did I wouldn’t think it would be worth anything. I’ve seen animals die, you see them kick and the life go out of them, but if we were raised in the Jewish faith, I think we would so much more love and appreciate the power of one sacrifice, God Himself. Go to Calvary and instead of just glancing over those chapters there in the gospels where Jesus hanged, writhing in pain, try to envision that physical blood dripping down his brow and into his eyes mixed with sweat. He was already dehydrated because of the thorns and the blood dripping down His back because of the woodbeams and the splinterly cross and of course coming out of His hands and His feet and as it
dripped down off of his toes onto the soil because of the sin that I have done and that you have done and your children have done. And for people who turn away from that and count the blood of Christ as unholy, there are serious warnings in chapter 10 and I don’t even really understand all of that scripture. But I understand enough to know there is one way, one sacrifice that is good enough for your sin and for mine and that simply is the theme of Hebrews, that Jesus, the blood shed, that’s the only way, “there is no other name under heaven whereby you can be saved”. That’s the covenant.

In chapter 8, He starts speaking on this covenant. How appropriate we read this as we come into Communion season. This new covenant we have in Jesus Christ even in the night of betrayal, where He said, this is the new covenant, the new testament I give unto you and He broke the bread which is His body and the wine which is His blood and we’re going to physically see that, isn’t there just something special about physical sacraments? I don’t know what it is, but the last two Sundays at Bluffton Country, I went there for the baptisms and the kids get out in the aisles and they want to get a glimpse of the person getting into the water. The baptism tank back here kind of hides it. But even when we’re older, it’s something in our humanness we get into this whole idea of physical things and in Communion, we hear the tink of the glasses and we see the bread, and that’s what the whole Old Testament was, the sensors, the smells, the flames, the smell of the burning sacrifice, and all these physical things. I’m sure the Jews who were persecuting the Hebrew Christians were saying “Our way is better, we have a big temple that is magnificent, we have the showbread, the table, the gold lampstand, we have the gold overlaying this,” we have all these physical things and the author says don’t focus on those things, Jesus is better. The new covenant is better than the old covenant and in the world to come when you do cross the river Jordan, it will be much better. Those things will be real. We can cling to that.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, 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.” Heb. 9:24-28

The first time He came to deal with sin; the second time He is going to come as our King. Oh, I can’t wait for that day. What if it is today? What if you don’t lay your head down on the pillow tonight because Jesus came back? Or even more realistic, what if you don’t lay your head down tonight because you die? Does that bring peace to you or does that scare you? We have Jesus, He can speak peace to us for that reason.

**Husbands...**

Ephesians 5:25

**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

Colossians 3:19

**Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.**

1 Peter 3:7

**Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life: that your prayers be not hindered.**
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

It is worthwhile to take note of the effects of preaching, over the years, as our brethren have sincerely attempted to be faithful to the Word, and to bring the good news of salvation, earlier in Switzerland, and later to the United States.

**Calling the Lost**

In most every era of Christianity, a high motive has been to spread the gospel of salvation -- that is, to preach, to teach, and to make sincere efforts to draw souls to repentance. Church work, as seen in Acts 2, found souls responding to the truth. In verse 41, it is noted that those who gladly received the Word were baptized, and an example is given where in one day 3,000 souls were added to the fold. They thence continued “steadfastly” in the Apostle’s doctrine and fellowship.

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:47

**The True Gospel in Europe**

In our denomination (when it began in Switzerland), preaching the gospel was a foremost intent. Bro. Samuel Froehlich felt moved to preach and make attempts to garner souls into the fold. He states that initially, however, he had no intent to begin a new denomination. The Spirit of God, however, ruled otherwise.

God blessed his work (and that of his co-laborers) in a miraculous way as they went all over portions of Switzerland -- into barnyards, into town squares, into living rooms, and into secret places. Their motive and manner was to take an open Bible, and preach from it with inspiration. They were full of zeal and seemingly tireless. And what God did was powerful. 110 congregations were formed in 35 years. And this was from nothing at the outset of their work. It’s significant to note that on baptizing responding souls, church fellowships were established to provide a sacred haven and provide strong spiritual nourishing modeled according to the New Testament’s teachings. We still benefit from the sound doctrine and church order established early on.

**The True Gospel in America**

The pace of establishing churches in America was slower than in Switzerland due, in part, to language and cultural differences. Two other factors inhibiting growth are relevant: (1) Our European brethren coming to America were mostly of younger age and were parents with young (and often large) families. Of necessity, they bowed to the priority of first establishing themselves occupationally and financially. (2) Christianity had come to America much earlier, and many denominations were already in existence. Yet, new churches were developed in many states, with the pace amounting to a new church every 18 months.

But the church in America did indeed grow. Faithfulness to the Word and Spirit gave rise to thousands of members, reaching to 13,000 members at one time. In the earlier years, perhaps more so than in the past few decades, large in gatherings are impressive to note. In the Lewis County, New York area (Croghan and Naumburg) during 1881 baptisms were held for 13 consecutive Sundays, for a total of 140 converts.

The history of the Roanoke, IL church lists an impressive amount of baptisms: 1893 (43); 1896 (59); 1906 (106); 1916 (78); 1920 (50); 1926 (86); 1937 (76); 1940 (43), and 1947 (51).

Interestingly, even smaller congregations had in gatherings. At the Union City, NJ church, 21 souls were baptized in 1917. On the other hand, the Bluffton, IN church grew from 18 souls baptized in 1858 to over 1100 members by 1984 (source: Marching To Zion, Volume 1, page 148). The Morton, IL congregation

— Please turn to pg. 49
The Light of Hope

Biblical Unity

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.” Ps. 133

True biblical unity is beautifully described in this short psalm of David. Although I had to ponder the examples of unity that are given here, the people of David’s era and location would have easily understood both of them.

The precious ointment running down Aaron’s beard was a holy anointing oil, described in Exodus 30:23-33. God commanded that four specific spices were to be mixed together in the oil for it to become holy oil. It was not the oil that was holy, but the mixture. By themselves the spices could not make a holy oil.

This is a great reminder for us that we need each other to provoke one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24). The body of Jesus Christ is made up of all types of people and the resulting harmony of the body pleases the Lord. Jesus taught that by receiving those that He has placed in the body, we also receive both He and the Father (Matthew 10:40). Who wouldn't want that?

David further likens unity to the refreshing dews found on Mt. Hermon and Mt. Zion. The dew on these two mountains was renowned for its heaviness and richness. It simply hung on everything resulting in these two extremely lush and fertile areas of the country.

This incredible dew is another picture of true unity in the body, a picture of abundant and overflowing Christian love and care one for the other. If we see another member suffer or stumble, we can come alongside them to comfort or to encourage. If we see another member sin, we can warn them and help restore them in the body. (Romans 15:1; 1 John 5:16; Galatians 6:1).

The two examples of the oil and the dew are both pictures of things flowing from the top down. In the same way, as Christ is the head of the church and we are His members, His love and grace flow down on us richly. We seek to love in the same measure He loved while we serve one another.

“...This is my commandment that ye love one another even as I have loved you.” John 15:12. How much did Christ love? He laid down His life for us.

At the end of this psalm, it states that God commands the blessing of unity in His body. Thus unity is not a choice. It becomes something that we must do in response to His command. I can pray all I want for God to unify the church, but if I do nothing to build it, it will never happen. God gives us His Spirit—His very nature—to accomplish it, so we can gladly promote, continue, and with Christ's love in us, fulfil His command.

What does biblical unity look like? It is not only good and pleasant, it is also lush, abundant, and overflowing. How important is biblical unity to Christ? He commands it. And what is the blessing we receive if we fulfil this command? Life for evermore!

-by Mike Walder
Living in harmony, harmony, that's the way that it ought to be, you and me made to be, together in harmony.

Mark 12:30-31