Who at my door is standing, Patiently
drawing near, Entrance within
demanding? Whose is the voice I hear?
Sweetly the tones are falling; "Open the
door for me! If thou wilt heed My calling,
I will abide with thee.

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Helping Others As We Have Been Helped

I love reading in 2 Corinthians chapter 1. There we learn that God has some very endearing titles; “Father of mercies and the God of all Comfort”. We likewise learn that God comforts us in trial and allows us to comfort others. How and what could we say or do for those who are experiencing the downturns in life? Verse 4 gives us a glimmer, “… by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” In other words, we model what God has taught and done for us.

It is interesting to see how Isaiah 50:4 supports this truth. “The Lord hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.” It further records that God wakens our ear to, “hear as the learned”. How wonderful that God gives us tongue and ear to help our brother. He provides the means, if we are willing. Let’s care and love enough to help one another.

May God’s blessings be with each one.
Rick Plattner, along with Jeff Grimm, counseling elders
Health and Fitness

By combining various elements of physical fitness, you can create a well-rounded plan that promotes overall health and wellness.

The importance of regular exercise cannot be overstated. Engaging in aerobic activities, such as running, swimming, or cycling, can help improve cardiovascular health and aid in weight management.

Strength training is equally important, as it helps build muscle mass, which in turn enhances metabolism and increases calorie expenditure. Incorporating exercises like weight lifting or bodyweight exercises into your routine can be highly beneficial.

Flexibility training is crucial for maintaining joint suppleness and preventing injuries. Simple stretches or yoga sessions can improve your range of motion and reduce stiffness.

Finally, don’t forget about the power of mindfulness and mental wellness. Practicing meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply setting aside quiet time for reflection can significantly impact your stress levels and mental health.

By focusing on all these aspects of fitness, you can create a holistic approach to health that supports both your physical and mental well-being.

— Please turn to pg. 62
Let's turn our Bibles to 1 John 4 and read the first six verses. It's important, as we begin, to connect this to the verses before it, so let's read the last verse of chapter 3 and then go on.

We know that he abides in us by the Spirit which he has given us, so each of us ask ourselves, do we have the Spirit of God within us? Are we spiritual people? Do we even live in a spiritual world? Does it even exist? Yes, according to the word of God, it does exist. Take a moment to think of the atmosphere around you, that which you do not see, that which we can only sense. We can feel, at times, the presence of God or the lack of the presence of God.

Not every spirit is good. The Bible has challenged us this afternoon to prove them out, to try them. We don't have to go very far into the Bible for the word "Spirit." God's Spirit comes into play in Genesis 1:2. It reads this way: "And the earth was without form, and void; darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The word Spirit as we have it translated into the English from the Greek – pneuma – is the same in Scripture wherever it's used. It's the word for current or wind. Moved! That was the Spirit. The Spirit moved! We consider the ocean: without the currents in the ocean, the ocean is dead, and upon land: without the wind there is no life. If it was perfectly still with no wind, there would be no life. It would be impossible for the weather to even be. And so that helps us understand a little bit about that which we don't see, the current. We don't see the wind, but we see the effects of it.

When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, he was asking him about this. In John 3, he talked about light and salt, and he also talked a lot about the Holy Spirit of God. Let's turn there and read that account. As we read about when the Lord was talking to Nicodemus, let's concentrate on the Spirit and spirituality, because it's something we really don't talk about very much in life. We're concerned with the here and now, with the natural which would be flesh and blood, with what we see and can touch, what our bodies are made of. But Jesus, when he was speaking to Nicodemus, who came to him, said, "except a man be born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5) Of course, the question that Nicodemus asked here is, "How can a man be born again?" and Jesus says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." (John 3:7) Notice here in verse 8, "the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth. And Nicodemus says, "How can these things be?" (vs. 9)

So, we see that Jesus spoke of the Spirit as the wind, a moving, as this presence of God that is active, just as it was in Genesis 1 when life and light came about. There was a void until the time the Spirit of God moved across the waters. We say, “the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the movement of the Holy Spirit.” We're establishing the identity of the Holy Spirit, the good Spirit, that which is of God, and remember, 1 John says, “Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us his Spirit.” (vs. 13)

We do live in a Spiritual world. There is a force that we sense that is powerful, that is more powerful than men are. So is the Spirit of antichrist, which is spoken of here also. It says, “Try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1) Those who are dispensing that which is not the Holy Spirit are those false prophets, false teachings. We have these two Spirits doing battle, I guess if we could say that, in the Spiritual world. We ask, do we even have
the Spirit of God? Is God’s Spirit always working in us? Always active? Is sometimes a false Spirit or an evil Spirit working in us and influencing us? We heard this morning in Romans 12, about not being conformed to the world which is under the control of Satan and the evil Spirits, but to be transformed by having a renewed mind in Christ. (Romans 12:1-2) It says this is how we know that he abides in us, and so we have this conflict. The Bible is clear that there are two spirits, and we want to have the Spirit of God.

This is somewhat of a litmus test given here about Jesus coming in the flesh and believing that he came in the flesh, and we’ll get to that, but first, let’s go back to Luke 9. It’s an interesting encounter that Jesus had with his disciples. Note the terminology that Jesus used. I think it will help us understand how we too could get caught up sometimes with not having the right Spirit. Sometimes we say, “if my attitude is wrong, I don’t have the right Spirit. God is not influencing me; I’m being influenced by other things, and I’m being controlled in my thoughts by other things.” Jesus was with his disciples in Luke 9. “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him.” (Luke 9:51-53)

So, we have to prove the spirits out when we are rejected. We have to prove whether we’re going to have a Christ-like spirit or if we’re going to have a worldly spirit. They sensed God sent them on this mission to the Samaritans to go make ready a place; the Lord got there and they said, no, we don’t want to have anything to do with you. Okay, now there’s some judgment that had to be made by the disciples here. Let’s see what they decided to do. “And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, (Listen to what their attitude was here.) Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them?” (Luke 9:53-54) And here they’re referencing Elias as Elias did call down fire in the Old Testament, but Jesus turned, and rebuked them, and said, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.” Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.” (vs 55)

Now, let’s think about this a little bit: they’re missionaries, and the Lord sent them out on a mission to get a place ready. They were rejected. They come to the Lord, and they’re going to tell him, how about if we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, and Jesus said, “You don’t know what manner of Spirit you are.” Have you ever felt that chastening from God? “Steve, you don’t know what manner of Spirit you are.”

Prove it out! Try the spirits whether they be of God, because it starts there. It starts where we’re sourcing. What we’re sourcing – that which goes into our minds – causes us to think and then we make decisions. These people have rejected him, and so we mete out a judgement, fire to come down and consume them. But God says, “You don’t know what manner of Spirit you are.”

I believe that that adds value to the fact that we do need to discern the spirits.

We have to prove them out. How do we do it? In prayer. Have you ever said or heard someone say, “I really feel like the Spirit of God is leading me to do this”? It could very well be. But one of the first things we have to ask ourselves is, have we proven it out?

Now, if it’s been proven out and we don’t want to do it, we shouldn’t keep proving it out. We should just do it. But there are times when God maybe is calling us, and we want to do something, but God is calling us to either wait or to not go forth. We have to prove it out. We each have specifics in our own life we

— Please turn to pg. 63
Ministry Program Updates

Romania Update

European Committee

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

Food Packing and Distribution: The Romanian churches have many older members and friends and relatively few younger people. For those of you who helped package food for Romania at Bluffton in the past, this continues that work. HarvestCall’s European Committee covers costs for materials and transportation. The Romanian brethren buy the materials locally, pack 440 large packages and 440 small packages each month, and distribute them to the needy.

Materials for the food packages are purchased locally at a “Costco-like” store. It was a joy to observe 50 to 60 church people of all ages gather for an evening of food packaging. They came from several congregations to the Antioch facility. They made up the boxes, organized the materials, filled the boxes as they slid on rollers down the “line”, and stacked the finished boxes. They bottled honey and included it in the packets.

Typically, each recipient family gets one large and one small food package and a visit each month. The more needy receive about $75 to help with expenses. It is a wonderful outreach. Just as an example, one brother told us he delivers food packages about 8 days per month, often accompanied by the elder. Using a van and a covered trailer purchased using contributions from our brethren, many of the packages are delivered to various congregations for them to distribute.

The Need for Donated Wells in Haiti

Caribbean Committee

“And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem” 2 Samuel 23:15

There is always a need for clean sanitary wells in Haiti. There are many Haitians that do not have easy access to clean drinking water. In some areas of Haiti people live next to a river. The water in the river is very dirty, but because a clean sanitary well is miles away, they use the river for their water source, washing dishes and clothes, bathing, and sometimes even drinking it.

They have no money to have a clean well drilled. Seeing the need, HarvestCall Water Aid drills donated wells in areas like this.

These wells typically provide clean water for about 300 people and are always very busy. There is need for many more of these donated wells and to provide them, sponsors are needed.

HarvestCall Haiti Water Aid has a team of five Christian Haitians that have drilled approx. 1,000 wells since 1985. HarvestCall provides the equipment and materials and the community pays for the fuel and driller’s wages which costs approx. $2,200. But there are
Caribbean Committee

Wells in Haiti

European Committee

Romania Update

miles away, they use the river for their water source, the river is very dirty, but because a clean sanitary well is not available, many Haitians have to drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem. 

In some areas of Haiti people live next to a river. The water in the river is not safe to drink and the villagers rely on the river for their water. Often the river is not clean, and the villagers use the river for their water needs. Because of the lack of clean water, many Haitians make do with the contaminated river water. In some areas, there are wells available, but not all areas have access to clean water. In some cases, the wells are not clean or not sanitary, and people still have to drink from the river. The lack of clean water can lead to health issues and diseases. The Haitian government and other organizations are working to provide clean water to the people of Haiti. One organization is HarvestCall Water Aid, which provides clean water to the people of Haiti through the construction of wells. HarvestCall Water Aid has a team of five workers who travel to Haiti to set up and develop wells. Typically, each recipient family gets one large well and one small well for their use. 

The Romanian brethren buy the materials locally at a "Costco-like" store. It was a joy to meet with Romanian elders and deacons to discuss current and future projects and needs to help fund. Again, HarvestCall provides funds for purchasing materials and, for the most part, the Romanian brethren perform the work. An open discussion was held for the European Committee members met with several of the Romanian elders and deacons to discuss current and future projects and needs to help fund. Again, HarvestCall provides funds for purchasing materials and, for the most part, the Romanian brethren perform the work. An open discussion was held accompanied by the elder. Using a van and a covered trailer purchased using contributions from HarvestCall, PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996. Be sure to write "Water Aid" on the memo.

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These packets supplement what they raise themselves. Many of the elderly have difficulty doing their own shopping and the items in the villages are more expensive than in the cities so it is a win-win all around. 

Food Packing and Distribution: The Romanian brethren seemed to share that mindset and our time together as coming alongside and working together. The Romanian brethren seemed to share that mindset and our time together helped both of us to appreciate each other. Strong points are excellent local interpreters, taking the lead in identifying ways we can help, and local accountability and oversight of the projects.

What can we take away? We can learn from the attention and care they give to the elderly, especially the monthly visits. We do not have to wait for a formal program to do better in this important outreach. We can pray for the Romanian brethren as they deal with an aging church population and try to keep their young folks there. We can pray for the European Committee that it may faithfully represent Christ and you.

– by Christopher Indermuhle

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– by Christopher Indermuhle

For $2,200 (or any amount) you can provide (or help provide) a well with a hand pump for a poor community. When you sponsor a well you provide safe sanitary water to hundreds of people that are currently taking their water from a contaminated source. If you are interested, send your donation for a well along with your name and address to: HarvestCall, PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996. Be sure to write “Water Aid” on the memo.

Donate a Well

For $2,200 (or any amount) you can provide (or help provide) a well with a hand pump for a poor community. When you sponsor a well you provide safe sanitary water to hundreds of people that are currently taking their water from a contaminated source. If you are interested, send your donation for a well along with your name and address to: HarvestCall, PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996. Be sure to write “Water Aid” on the memo.

– by Maurice Schaefer

– by Maurice Schaefer
People Pleasing

Could it be possible that when attempting to show kindness to others we might subtly be moving away from God rather than toward Him? This may seem like a strange question. After all, kindness is a virtue to value in believers. In Ephesians 4:32, Paul calls us to “be ye kind one to another.” We are to be considerate and pleasing to one another. Consider Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” And yet, certain approaches to pleasing each other may possibly lead to unhealthy emotions and relational patterns. Rather than serving others unselfishly, is it possible certain types of pleasing can perpetuate patterns of manipulation, insensitivity or defeat? And, if so, how does this happen?

Signs of Unhealthy People Pleasing

There are a number of markers that may indicate an individual is engaging in unhealthy people pleasing. Such behaviors may include: allowing other people to determine one’s value, schedule, and priorities; being other-centered without first being God-centered; or serving out of “duty” whereby service to others is often associated with a “should”, “supposed to”, or “must.” Consequently, individuals struggling with unhealthy people pleasing behaviors have difficulty living within God-designed limits (i.e., time, resources, roles). They may tend to assume more responsibility for others’ emotional reactions than is necessary or warranted. At times, they may have a tendency of viewing decisiveness as the same thing as hurting others. Each of these behaviors leads toward enslavement rather than freedom in serving and pleasing others.

Likely most of us would review the unhealthy patterns of behavior above and agree these would not be healthy. So why are such behavioral patterns so difficult to break? How do we serve one another with the right motives? There are likely a number of reasons unhealthy behavioral patterns can become rigid and set in our lives. These can include incorrect beliefs about what it means to serve like Christ and not being in-tune with the Holy Spirit. In addition, various underlying emotions such as paralyzing fear, false guilt, and worry can motivate unhealthy people pleasing behaviors.

Underlying Emotions

Proverbs 29:25 reminds us “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” The emotion of fear often flows out of an assumption that harmful experiences are inevitable. It leads to a posture of being on guard or defensive around others. Fear can also lead to pessimistic patterns of thinking where uncertainty and doubt consume an individual’s thought life. It is normal to experience fear. At times, this fear flows out of painful and difficult experiences. However, if left unchecked, it becomes a snare that prevents authenticity in relationships and can counteract the things about you that are right and good.

Scripture calls us to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers or peace-fakers (Matthew 5:9). When we fall into patterns of faking peace or seeking to keep peace at the expense of the truth being shared
in love, we likely are becoming ensnared by the fear of man. We are powerless to change ourselves or quiet ourselves in order to hear the Spirit if we are ruled by the fear of man.

Another common underlying emotion of unhealthy people pleasing is false guilt. True guilt is a normal emotion. God uses true guilt to bring awareness we have done something wrong. It is meant to lead to repentance, an acknowledgement of error or wrong behavior that leads to a freeing response and brings us back into relationship with God and others. While true guilt is meant to help disappointed people. He traveled away from villages where individuals remained sick, blind, or lame (Mark 1:33-38) while doing His Father’s perfect will. Jesus was grounded in who He was, and He maintained a laser focus on God’s call for His life. Each of us have been given innate worth through our Father that transcends performance or appearance. Consider, how our lives would change if we acted consistently from a place of God-given worth rather than a place determined by the words/actions of broken individuals with a less-than-perfect frame of reference. This is a powerful question to consider.

with relationship restoration, false guilt often leads to a continual wallowing within guilt. It can lead to ongoing judgment and condemnation which in turn, leaves an individual seeking to prove their worthiness for forgiveness while rarely believing they are worthy. This can be a difficult cycle to break.

To accurately discern true guilt from false guilt, we must remember a believer is called to lifelong sanctification. The reality is believers are not perfect, nor will we ever be perfect in this life. As a result, individuals will mess up and disappoint others at times. Even Jesus, though He was perfect, while the underlying emotion of false guilt can lead to the “if only” mindset, the final emotion in unhealthy people pleasing behaviors tends to ruminate on “what if” scenarios. For example, “what would happen if I do or say that?” The longer we stay in the whirlpool of worry and doubt, the more it takes a grip on our mind, body and soul. There is a never-ending list of possible scenarios that worry and doubt desire us to consider. Unfortunately, most of these scenarios are often considered from a place of uncertainty, leaving us focused on what is not in one’s control rather

Continued on page 61
Apostolic Christian LifePoints

Ashlyn Gramm, Kyle Streitmatter - Mission Communication

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

We have been so excited to welcome three new residents to LifePoints this summer! Two of these dear friends moved into Timber Ridge; the other is at Linden Estate. We are thankful that each one has entered this new season of life with us. We appreciate your prayers as they continue to adjust to their new homes.

Have you ever wondered how the admissions process works here at LifePoints? It begins with the waiting list – interested families call the Social Services Coordinator to be placed on our waiting list, and afterward, they wait. An important fact to note is that the average wait is about 10 to 15 years! When a spot becomes available at LifePoints, the waiting list is assessed to determine who has been on the list the longest and has stayed active in pursuing placement. The Social Services Coordinator will then contact that family to see if they are ready to move forward with the process of making one of our LifePoints facilities their loved one’s new home. If so, an interview will be scheduled.

This interview includes the resident and their family, the Social Services Coordinator, administration, and staff from our various departments. The purpose of this meeting is to determine if and how we can best serve the individual’s needs. LifePoints then makes a decision about the placement, and the final steps like setting an admissions date are arranged.

The admissions process is a joyful, but difficult, time for families. It is a huge adjustment – not only to have a loved one move away, but to entrust their care to others. This can be especially challenging when family members have been the primary caregivers in the past. However, God’s timing is perfect in both the waiting and the process. So often we have been told that it was at the point when families could no longer care for their loved ones like they wanted to that LifePoints was able step in and fill that need.

The journey toward a life at LifePoints truly begins with a step of faith. We are so thankful for the many families who have taken that first step.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Cyndee Fiechter — Auction Chairman

Pulling onto a very quiet Gateway Woods campus early on Auction day, the sun was beginning to rise, burning the dew off the grass and the lingering fog from the air, I soaked in the feeling of anticipation and excitement. The tent flaps were down, protecting and covering over 2,000 donated items for this year’s Auction, all of which would go home with generous people from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and other states far and wide by the end of the day.

The smell of grilled sausage faintly drifted from the food area while the car parking volunteers stood ready and eager to safely direct cars into the grassy field-turned-parking lot. As families streamed from the parking lot - walking or being taxied in by golf carts - a corner of the white tent was pulled back where attendees came to claim their bidder numbers. These numbers would be used to purchase belly-filling meals, homemade pies and baked goods, ice cream and BLT sandwiches, delicious smoothies, coffees and lemon shake-ups,
popcorn, potato curls, and hot pizza, not to mention Haiti linens, face painting, Kids Candy Shop and train rides, and Gateway Woods apparel.

The opening program - which included a testimony from a staff member, a worship song from staff and residents, and an opening prayer - still gives me chills when I stop and think back on the day. One of my most memorable events of the day was watching the Kids Korner, surrounded with yellow security tape holding back almost 100 kids. They were clutching their parents' bidder cards or cash in little fists, hoping to grab a special item. When the security tape dropped, the mass surged forward, as they started to make their own memories at the Gateway Woods Annual Auction.

Now, the Auction is over and there are so many things to praise our God for! Those 2,000+ items were donated by you, many of you giving hours of your precious time, many of you generously spending your hard-earned money, all combined to make the absolutely perfect day – topped off by blue skies with a gentle breeze occasionally moving through the tents. One of the highlights of the day is always watching old friends from Sunday School days, young group years, college semesters, and old army buddies seeing each other again and reunited after time apart.

The 2019 Auction earned $637,134 by the end of the day including $58,000 from the Team 224 bike riders!

By Saturday evening, campus had quieted and the tents were standing all alone with the sides down again... but the stories these tents could now tell. Stories of generosity, excitement, laughter, delicious food, friends seeing each other again, and 2 lost little girls looking for their mom, knowing they were safe in the middle of several thousand people, confident that someone would find her. But the best story of all is the story told by the brothers and sisters of the Apostolic Christian Church coming together to demonstrate to the lost that we care and love them. Thanks for doing your part to make the 2019 Auction such a success and a glory to the Father! We can’t do it without you!

News:

We are excited to announce the hiring of Bro. Clint & Sis. Sydnee Schumacher (Goodfield, IL) as our new set of houseparents.

Our Annual Hog & Jog 5k Run/Walk is scheduled for October 19. If you would like to come out and support Gateway while getting some exercise. Register at: https://gatewaywoods.org/events/hog-jog

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. For more information, please see our ad in this edition or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers.

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.

**Alabama, Athens**

**Kristy Moore**

This summer seems to have flown by and many of us have enjoyed travels to see friends and family. There were also many who came through and visited us on their travels to different destinations. We appreciated getting to meet you all.

We also appreciated spending time with those who came to serve and share the Word with our congregation. Thank you goes to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr (Princeville, IL), Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller (Alto, MI), and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel (Peoria, IL).

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

**Arizona, Phoenix**

**Marge Lindenbaum**

“There open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” Acts 26:18

What God creates, Satan tries to steal or counterfeit. Satan loves to try and copy God – have you noticed? Only the motive is different. He has not one original thought or action. He stole God’s created angels for his followers. God sought man’s obedience, and Satan sought – and still seeks - to usurp that position and persuade man to obey him. God sent His Son to save man. Satan will send his son to try and destroy man. Satan uses God’s Word (improperly) to try and achieve his goals and deceive man. He has his own Bible. God is a Trinity. When Satan rules the earth without restraint, he will be represented by the Antichrist/Dragon (Satan), the Beast (who recovers from a mortal wound) and the False Prophet. During the Tribulation, God will designate His people with a mark on their forehead. Satan will designate his followers with a mark on their forehead or right hand.

He comes as an angel of light. His most effective weapons consist of 99% truth and 1% deception.

Natural light is a wonderful thing and one of the most amazing gifts God gives us. It allows us to see where we are walking, saves us from injuring ourselves, and so much more. It nourishes our bodies and our brains and cheers us up. It provides nutrients for plants to grow. Artificial light can be offensive. I get up early and hike, both because I need to get to work on time, and to avoid hiking in the heat of the desert. There are surprisingly many people who get up early and go out on the Arizona hills. Some of them sport high-powered headlamps so they can see where they are going. If they happen to be walking toward you in the dark, that light can tempt you to sin with your mouth.

But God provides for a gradual lighting of His world, which is possibly one of the most beautiful things in His creation. Each sunrise is different, and changes from moment to moment. As the light rises in the sky, the hills take on different colors and different areas are highlighted and then dulled as it moves on over the rest of the land. It puts a glow on everything at eye-level as it comes up over the horizon. Then the show is repeated as the sun retreats for the night. Of course, too much sunlight can be detrimental to our health, so He provides both light and darkness, for a perfect balance. There are many characteristics of natural light that portray Jesus accurately.

I am reading a book, “Glow Kids”, by Nicholas Kardaras, Ph.D. The title refers to the artificial light that emanates from the hand-held devices such as phones and tablets and illuminating the faces of children who use them. The book is disturbing and enlightening. I recommend it to anyone who has children or grandchildren who love “gaming”, social media, or other screen-involved pastimes. If the information presented is accurate, Satan has possibly outdone himself with this counterfeit light.
“If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.” John 11:9

Things are starting to pick up again, as school is back in session and our congregation returns from summer vacations to endure the last bit of heat before we become a paradise again. Our Jr. High and High School had their annual ACYF trip a bit early this year. We are thankful they enjoyed safe travel and a blessed time of fellowship together. If only our world would enjoy more of the influence of the Holy Spirit!

**Arizona, Tucson**

*Dean and Jackie Knobloch*

School has started again here in the city and we pray our students have a successful year as they apply themselves to further education. Sunday School will also resume right after Labor Day. Learning about God’s will is important for following God’s ways as we grow and develop.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Bro. Don Bauer’s (Sis. Glo) brother, Loren Bauer. We know God is the comforter for the sad events in life.

We also were made aware the Sis. Carole Haas (Bro. Bob) fell and broke a hip and is undergoing rehab. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Bob as they deal with continued health issues.

It was wonderful to have Bro. Gene Denick and his wife, Karen, assemble with us for church after many weeks of illness. God is good and faithful.

Please come and visit. You are always welcome. If you need information or accommodations please call Bro. Dean Knobloch at 309-231-8428.

**California, Los Angeles/Altadena**

*Kali Sauder*

“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day.” 1 Tim. 1:12

We probably all have these words committed to memory since we sing them in the chorus of the hymn. Brimming with confidence, the apostle Paul and the hymnwriter both speak victoriously of the certainty of hope as their lives are fixed on Christ! It is with this hopeful confidence that we sent our Sis. Stephanie Moser back to service in the “fields ripe unto harvest” for another year of teaching in China.

Also, we are thrilled to share Cody Moser’s (Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin) commitment to Christ and trust that he will continue to grow in Him whom he has believed, persuaded that He is faithful to keep that commitment forever.

Many of our older Sunday school students traveled to San Diego this month for an ACYF weekend. What a wonderful way to begin this academic year. Our small church has big love for our small Sunday School, and we anticipate another wonderful year of our kids learning of the hopeful confidence available in a vibrant life committed to Jesus!

“I know not what of good or ill may be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days before His face I see.
But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day.”

Hymns of Zion #109

**California, San Diego**

*Sarah Fulop*

I would like to take a moment to discuss surrender. I’ll admit...
for a long time surrender was a terrifying concept to me. At times I viewed it as admitting defeat. Other times I was afraid of losing myself. But really that is the point of surrender, to let go of yourself, your desires, your wants and your pride. Surrender can be messy and terrifying when everything in my human nature is screaming at me not to concede control. These past months I have had to give up plan after plan due to circumstances out of my control. There were tears and pain and even some anger. But as I surrendered my wants and desires, I began to feel an indescribable peace and joy, because in our surrender we find Christ.

“He must increase but I must decrease.” John 3:30

That verse is not something to be fearful of, but to rejoice in. Understanding your identity in Christ and who God is, is crucial for surrender.

Psalm 139:13 describes God as a Creator who formed us and knitted us in our mother’s womb.

John 3:16 says God loved us so much that He gave His only Son so that we who believe in Jesus will have everlasting life. Isaiah in chapter 26 verse 3 explains that “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Because God is a God who knew us before we were born, saves us, loves us unconditionally and provides peace to those who trust Him, then we ought to joyfully surrender to His will. For me, I was craving security, comfort and peace in my life. But my own strength exhausted, surrendering to God was my only choice. Surrender came with the realization that God loves me and is someone I can trust with every fiber of my being. It was incredibly freeing. God provided the strength, courage and steadfastness I needed to face the storms in my life, to concede control and my expectations of what I wanted my life to be. Surrender isn’t easy; it’s an ongoing battle of dying to our own selfish, sinful nature. But surrender is also a joyful journey of discovering the radically graceful, loving and all-powerful nature of God. When we submit to His will and trust in His plans and not our own, steadfast peace can engulf our own lives.

Here in San Diego, we were thankful for a chance to worship together and encourage our junior and high school students in our annual ACYF weekend this month. We constantly lift our youth in prayer as they transition back into a new school year.

We pray that we all may humbly serve God wherever he has placed us and bring honor to his name.

**Colorado, Denver**

**Tess Leman**

Greetings!

“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” Hymns of Zion #95

This summer two little ones were born. Maya Sage was born to Bro. Jake and Sis. Tifani Leman. Big brothers, Connor and Cyrus, were excited to love on a little sister! Grandparents are Bro. Jeff & Sis. Janice Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Mike & Sis. Deb Leman. My husband, Dan, and I welcomed Elsie Debra into our family. Our children: Sophia, Adam and Joanna are enjoying her! Grandparents are Jan & Val Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Mike & Sis. Deb Leman.

Praise the Lord for the gift of new life!

Another summer vacation season is here and with that comes the blessing of visitors! Thank you to all who made the effort to worship with us! Special thanks to our visiting ministers: Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), Bro. Karl Steidinger (Sis. Carrie, Ft. Meyers, FL), and Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL).

Praise the Lord for the gift of the spiritual family!

We want to welcome back Sis. Alison Mangold (Dave & Sis. Heather, Rockville, CT) as she begins another school year at college. We are thankful we can “borrow” her for part of the year!

**Connecticut, Rockville**

**Julie Bauman, Heidi Beutel**

Our congregation is praising

Our congregation had previously voted to place the responsibility of Ordained Deacon on Bro. Brent Walder and are thankful that the blessing was given from the elder body at the summer conference. We are blessed to have willing servants to keep our flock aright and look forward to the weekend of September 21 and 22 for the ordination. We will continue to keep Bro. Brent, Sis. Naomi & their children in our prayers as they pick up this mantle.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” Ps. 23:5

While the enemy of our soul wants us to feel discouraged, we know that our Savior and our Friend is there to comfort us through difficult times. Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl (Sis. Evelyn) & Sis. Bev Gerber (Bro. Ed) have both spent some time in the hospital. We pray that both Bro. Rudy & Sis. Bev feel the prayers of those that love and care for them while they walk through this difficult time.

With the school year upon us, we think of our children going back to school and pray that they will be protected from the world, while at the same time, being a light to their classmates.

We also want to ask a special blessing on our convert Nihal Baiju as he starts college at Purdue. We are thankful to know he will be loved and cared for from the brethren in Lafayette while he is attending school. What a wonderful blessing we have in our fellowship that we can send our children across the country and know that they will be loved and cared for by fellow believers of Christ!

We rejoice with the angels in heaven when a sinner repents and turns his life to Christ. We are thankful to have Curtis Terrell seeking his soul’s salvation.

As the temperatures are slowly dropping, we are reminded of the quickly passing of time. Soon the leaves will be changing and the rolling hills will be set afire in color. May all of our hearts be set afire with the love of Christ and be a bright example to the world around us.

**Florida, Fort Lauderdale**

**Renee Mangold**

We were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb) Bluffton, IN join us this past month in fellowship. We pray the Lord will bless their efforts.

Sis. Billie Klopfenstein celebrated her 90th birthday. We are so pleased to have Sis. Billie worshiping with us again. We hope the card shower gave her a smile and a blessing.

We started our church Bible Study for the summer on God’s
Comfort. Pray that we will learn and grow in the likeness of Christ as we study God’s Word together.

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

Several in our congregation prayed for our church to grow. We are excited and thanking God as we see our prayers are being answered. We welcome Bro. Chad, Sis. Heather Heiniger with their two children, Analiese 10, and Adeline 4 from Elgin, IL. We also welcome Bro. Ryan, Sis. Kori Stoller with their two children, Octavia 11, and Benson 8 from Latty, OH. We pray that they may feel our love as we worship together striving to reach our eternal home.

Our prayers this month are for Sis. Jean Earley (Bro. Clyde) as Sis. Jean’s mother, Sis. Kathryn (Kay) Eisenmann of West Bend, IA, passed away on July 25. Sis Kay along with her husband have lived in Sarasota for many years. Also, our Sis. Rozalie Dreksler passed away on July 28 at 101 years old. May the loved ones remaining feel God’s love in this difficult time.

Our Sunday School and young families went kayaking to Weeki Wachee. They spent a night there and enjoyed the outdoors and the fellowship.

We thank Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty OH) as he shared God’s word. May God reward him abundantly.

Our prayers go with our elder body as they gather together in Goodfield, IL. May the Lord lead and direct them in ways that please Him, to lead us in a closer walk with our Lord and Savior.

“God thus hears most graciously
All the prayers we offer; And
the angels glad will be Worship
there to proffer To the Lord, In
accord With us poor and lowly,
To God, high and holy,” v 6 “If
a single fervent pray’r Of a soul prevailing
On the tender heart of God Brings its fruit unfailling,
How much more Is in store, When
whole congregations Bring their supplications?” The Power of Prayer Zion’s Harp #174 vs. 4

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.” John 17:18

Greetings of Christian love from Bonne Fin, Haiti. Life seems to be a continual period of transition. This past month, we are so grateful for God’s transition for the mission here at Hospital Lumiere. Our missionary family continues to grow with the missionaries He has sent.

In July, Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann, along with their children: Bryce (11), Joni (9), Char (6) and Weston (1) (Kansas City, KS), moved to Haiti. August brought Sis. Trinity Walder to Bonne Fin from Cayes to serve as a Teacher Aide. Later in August, Bro. Danny and Sis. Sarah Bertsch, with their children: Summer (4), Sawyer (2) and Tucker (11 mo.) (Bluffton, IN) arrived, completing the additions to the missionary family here.

With this blessing, we now have 25 missionaries living here at Bonne Fin.

The new arrivals will be transitioning to life here, learning language, experiencing culture, and preparing to take on responsibilities, not only in teaching the missionary children, but also in many areas of the hospital and mission in the near future. All changes, even those that are led by our Lord, can be challenging. We ask for continued prayer for the team here and the work that God has set before HarvestCall here in Bonne Fin.

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike & Susie Walder

Where is your home? If you ask this of a missionary you may get an unexpected answer. We are torn between two places, since we make heart connections in both, and “home is where your heart is.”

Sometimes missionaries sell their homes before relocating because it makes the most sense. This is not always the case, but we were in that category. There were several things we did not anticipate before losing a U.S. address. Without an address it is difficult or impossible to renew your driver’s license, open new accounts, vote, or file taxes. Thankfully we do have a mail
forwarding address in Florida, but even that is a commercial address, not a residential one.

What is a home? Living in several temporary places the last few years, we have quickly realized that a home is not the structure we live in that can burn down or blow away, but it is anyplace that is a refuge from the world, and where life and love is shared. In Haiti, a bit of tin, cardboard or wood will suffice. Thankfully, HarvestCall has provided a lovely apartment for us, and dear friends open their home to us during the summer.

Our real home is going to be in Heaven. Feeling a little “homeless” often reminds us of this reality. For everything is quite temporary here on earth, including what or where we call home.

Jesus certainly felt this as He moved from place to place during his three years of teaching and preaching. He said, “The son of man hath not where to lay his head.” His focus was eternal, not earthly, as He anticipated the joys set before Him. To encourage us in the same, He said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” John 14:2

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**

*Wendy Zimmerman, Sara Anliker*

“...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:24

These summer months of July and August, we’ve had the blessing of listening to our ministers delve into the Farewell Discourse at the end of the Gospel of John. What assurance and comfort we can find in our relationship with God!

On Wednesday, August 7, Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Iftt shared the testimony of their missionary service in Ethiopia. What an inspiring night of hearing how God was always near and showed up in such amazing ways!

We praise God for His continued faithfulness as we look forward to hearing the testimonies of Hope Metz and Rick Huette on August 31.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Gil (Sis. Anita) Winger, at the passing of his father, Gordon Winger of Cissna Park, IL.

During the summer months, we enjoyed numerous activities including VBS, the Sunday School swim party, Mission Trips, Invite-a-Guest, Youth Group invites and family vacations. As our students head back to school and Sunday School, our prayers are with them and also with the teachers that above all God’s name is glorified!

**Illinois, Bradford**

*Becky Endress, Lana Wiegand*

In Proverbs 16:31 we read, “The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.” Two of our loved ones have reached a high age this summer! Bro. Raymond Klumpp turned 98 on July 5. Sis. Lucille Endress celebrated her 99th birthday on August 24.

Our brothers had a special opportunity to work together, first trimming bushes, then installing a new roof on our church house. It all looks so nice! The little children sing about this in Sunday school.... “When we all work together, how happy we’ll be!”

During the five Sundays that Eureka couldn’t assemble in their church, we enjoyed the fellowship of several families who visited us, including ministering Bro. Mark Dotterer (Sis. Kate, Eureka, IL). Two more visiting ministers shared the Word this month: Bros. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL).

Two young men have wisely sought the Lord in their youth and plan to share their testimonies with the church next month. May His grace surround Gabe Stahl (Bro. Wendell and late Sis. Linda) and Corbin Endress (Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie).

Bro. Brad Kieser (Sis. Rachel) submitted to neck surgery and was hospitalized briefly. We are thankful for a successful outcome and pray he will have a good recovery.

**Illinois, Champaign**

*Brent Young*

“He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” Col. 1:17

We praise God for three young men who gave testimony and were baptized into our Champaign church family. Dawson Finch (Sam and Sis. Dawn), Harlan Kupferschmid (Bro. Corbin & Sis. Stephanie), and Zach Plattner (Bro. Darren & Sis. Sue) all testified that God would welcome
them into glory based on the saving blood and righteousness of our Lord Jesus.

We are grateful to Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) for assisting with the testimonies and baptisms as well as preaching the Word on Sunday morning.

Recent accidents among our church family reminded of us God’s care and protection. Thankfully, both Sis. Haley Plattner (Bro. Darren & Sis. Sue) and Bro. Calvin & Sis. Bethany Teubel’s young daughter, Piper, are recovering well.

We don’t welcome such reminders, but it does bring home the truth that God is in control. Our culture has much to say about luck, fate, karma, even mankind being an existential threat to Himself. Is it tremendously comforting to remember that not only is God in control, but He has our very best in mind. He promised Noah that the earth would continue, planting and harvest, summer and winter, day and night. Certainly God has varied plans for us individually, but we can trust completely in His care for our souls.

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We appreciate having Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) as visiting ministers this past month. Our July Women of the Word devotion explored the history of some favorite hymns. Thanks go to Sis. Betty Schlatter for hosting in her home! We held our annual Sunday School Teacher and Minister meeting prior to the start of a new school year.

We rejoice with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf upon the arrival of a new baby girl. Molly Kate was born on July 28. Molly is also welcomed by her older sister, Lucy. We praise God for His goodness and blessings!

Illinois, Cissna Park

Joan Rudin, Amber Stuckel

Greetings of Christian love across the miles. As we go forth in God’s service, let us do our best to labor for the Lord with diligence in our individual stations in life.

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

The Golden Harvest,
Hymns of Zion #46
“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord” Psalm 127:3.

We are thankful for new young lives added to our congregation. Little Rylan Todd is warmly welcomed into the home of Bro. Justin and Sis. Amanda Kaeb. Happy grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Amanda Kaeb, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann. C J and Bonnie Francisco, along with Oliver and Ivy, are enjoying the new little addition to their family, Violet Mae. Joyful grandparents are Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock, and Marilou Hislop.

Our prayers have reached out to little Eben Stuckel (Bro. Joe and Sis. Amber Stuckel), and Bill Drayer (Judy) as they have both spent time in the hospital recently. How thankful we are when we can experience reasonable health.

We enjoyed and appreciated having Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis Sue, South Bend, IN) bring us God’s Word from our local pulpit once more before his retirement from the ministry. We thank Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue for their service and many visits “back home” through the years.

Illinois, Congerville

Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

A precious little boy was added to the family of Bro. Brandon and Sis. Corin Stickling on July 17. Kipp Benjamin is welcomed by excited big sisters, Kylin and Kimber, as well as grandparents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA). May they find strength and grace as they raise their children to love and serve our Savior.

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

1 John 4:16

Bro. Daniel Currier and Sis. Tory Herrmann (Princeville) were made One in the Lord on July 28 in Princeville. Their parents are Sis. Mary Currier (Art, dec.) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Hermann of Princeville. It is such a joy to watch two souls come together to serve the Lord as helpmates. May they feel the Spirit’s nearness as they
blend their lives together and adjust and grow in love.

Due to the Eureka congregation’s current remodeling project, we have been blessed by our Eureka brethren’s frequent visits, both on Sundays and Wednesday nights. We also appreciate the labors of the ministers from Eureka, including Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl). We enjoy the special bond we have with Eureka and the brethren there, and pray they feel the same blessing of brotherly love.

Other ministers who visited this month include: Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott), Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin), and Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield). Many of these visitors joined us in Congerville for a special service after the conference on Friday night. We appreciate those who spoke the word, as well as the presence of those who worshiped with us on that special evening. May they all go on their way filled with the Spirit and inspired to labor on!

“Draw us close to Thee,
Lord, eternally;
Serving Thee in love unceasing,
Praising Thee with joy increasing;
For eternally,
We abide in Thee.”
The Incomparable, Zion’s Harp #19, verse 12

**Illinois, Elgin**

*Amy Gasser*

We thank Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for ministering to us during the past month.

On July 20-21, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sarah Schambach (Bro. Jason and Sis. Karen). Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park) came to assist Bro. Dan Moser.

We extend sympathy to Nick (Niki) Pilotte in the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Mildred “Millie” Claus of Francesville, IN, on July 21.

Our Vacation Bible School was held during the week of July 22. The theme for the week was “The Good Shepherd.” The speakers for the Bible Class were Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton), Bro. Chad Leman (Fairbury), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere), and Bro. Greg Schambach. The week was concluded with the Sunday School Picnic and VBS Program on Sunday, July 28, at the Fellowship Center.

Bro. Jason Schambach, Sis. Diana Kellenberger, and Sis. Mindy Steffen have completed their terms in Sunday School. We thank them for their past years of service. Bro. Todd Schambach and Sis. Pat Young were selected as the new teachers.

On Sunday, August 11, following a potluck supper at the Fellowship Center, there was a farewell singing for Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger. They plan to move to Sarasota, FL in a few weeks to join their son, Bro. Chad’s family, who recently relocated there. We will miss them, too, but wish them God’s blessings as they make this transition in their lives.

We rejoice with Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena), who has begun her repentance.

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” St. Luke 15:7

**Illinois, Eureka**

*Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke*

It is with thankful hearts that we are once again assembling in our home church after the recent renovation. The many hours put in by those who have organized this project are greatly appreciated, and also all the volunteer time that was spent. We especially wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to those churches near and far who extended kind invitations to us. Ones’ home church building is a special place and holds many precious memories, but we realize the real church is in the hearts of the brothers and sisters, and expressed in the fellowship we have with each other.

A precious baby boy was born to Bro. Gabe and Sis. Livy Knapp on August 4. Asher William was welcomed home by big sister Laynie. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker and Bro.
Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman in the passing of her father, Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther) of Fairbury. Condolences also go out to all of the family as they grieve the loss of their dear father and grandfather.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Trish Steidinger, Kati Meiss*

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elder brethren as they meet this month. We are thankful for their willingness to serve. We pray they feel the Spirit of God in a mighty way as they gather together.

We also give thanks for our ministering brothers who share the Gospel. This month we appreciated having Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl) from Eureka share the Word.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

*Psalm 116:15*

Our prayers are with Bro. Dave Blunier (Sis. Kara) in the passing of Bro. Dave’s grandmother, Sis. Edith Stahl of Princeville. We also pray for Sis. Trish Steidinger (Bro. Martin) in the passing of her father, Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther) of Forrest. May they all feel God’s presence and treasure sweet memories.

We are mindful of those from our church family who have experienced health issues and spent time in the hospital. We pray for Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Bro. Duane) and Bro. Dick Koehl. May God be present with His healing hand and arms of love.

We rejoice that Eli Meiss (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati) heard the call of God and has begun his repentance. We continue to pray for all our converts as they seek the Lord, that they may be firmly grounded in their faith in Him.

We welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania, Cheyanne, Summer, Haley, Javan and Cole Bazzell back to Fairbury. We are thankful to have them assembling with us again, but we are mindful of the Bastrop congregation who surely misses their presence.

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz*

We extend thanks to Bros. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) and Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) for visiting and ministering this month.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

*Psalm 23:4*

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of our Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen, who passed into eternity on July 29. We thank Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN) for his labors in taking part in the funeral service.

We also want to extend sympathy and prayers to the family of our Bro. Earl Gerber, as he was laid to rest on August 15. May God grant comfort to his wife, Sis. Esther and his children:

Wayne (Carolyn) Gerber, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Jerry) Leman of Eureka, IL; Alan (Marcia) Gerber, Sis. Sandra (Bro. Jim) Schneider of our congregation, and Sis. Trish (Bro. Martin) Steidinger of Fairbury, IL. He will also be missed by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

*Matthew 7:7-8*

We are prayerful for converts, Morgan Lanz (Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen) and Jared and Jenna Stork, who have repented, found peace with God, and are now desiring baptism.

We want to extend a special thanks to the Goodfield, IL congregation for all of their efforts in hosting the Elder Meetings and Brotherhood Conference. May God richly bless each one.

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

**Illinois, Goodfield**

*Judy Knapp, Amy Hinrichsen*

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

*Mark 16:15*

This was our theme verse for VBS this year. The kids learned it
well as a song. It was a true joy to witness them singing God’s word. Our kids enjoyed a wonderful week of VBS in mid-July with the theme of “Mission Possible”. Each night was focused on a different mission that our church supports and a Bible story that correlated with that mission including: HarvestCall, Gateway Woods, AC LifePoints, and ACCFS. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, the adults in church enjoyed listening to Bible studies and special singing groups. The visiting ministers who spoke were Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Matt Oesch (Sis. Shelli, Alto, MI) and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN). The last night the kids performed some of the songs they sang throughout the week in front of the whole church. It was a very uplifting week for all of us and encouraged us to share the gospel and understand more about the missions that our church supports.

The students helped raise money for The En Gedi House in Jamaica during VBS week. This home is run by Sis. Erin Davis where she and her daughter, Neiah, live and offer a safe home for babies. Sis. Erin is currently caring for three foster children under one year old. Our prayers are with her.

Sis. Molly Davis recently fell and fractured two vertebrae in her neck. She had a neck repair/fusion surgery in late July. Thankfully she is doing much better. We pray she continues to heal and has a full recovery.

Sis. Loretta Hess was hospitalized recently for a painful infection. She is recovering at a local skilled nursing facility. Thank you for praying for these sisters.

Our church is sorry for the loss of Sis. Shirley Wyss’s sister, Sis. Edith Stahl of Princeville, IL. May God comfort her and her family.

We want to warmly welcome Bro. Nate Zobrist as he is making Goodfield his home church. Bro. Nate is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Suzie Zobrist (Congerville, IL).

We are excited to announce the wedding engagement of Sis. Serena Bauman to Bro. Zach Wieand both from Goodfield. May God bless this new couple as they become one in Christ.

Serena is the daughter of Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman. Zach is the son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wieand.

“Praise Ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.” Psalm 111:1

After months of planning and preparation, our Goodfield church family had the opportunity to spend an amazing week together hosting the annual Brotherhood Conference August 6-9. All glory goes to God as we were blessed throughout the week to work together, loving as Jesus loves and building relationships with each other and our church leadership.

We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit on Thursday night as many ministers and elder couples met together for a panel discussion on preaching the Word, and again on Friday as brethren from across the nation gathered to worship together and study the Beatitudes. Thank you to each who gave of your time, your talents, and shared the love of Jesus with us throughout the conference week. We are thankful to have an elder body that meets together and desires to follow Jesus in leading and shepherding our churches.

We have been blessed by many visitors this past month and many visiting ministers and elders. They include: Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jodi, Indianapolis), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL). We are thankful for their willingness to share God’s word. We have enjoyed the fellowship and are thankful most of all for the bond of love we have as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ!

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

On August 19, Nick Charron cut off his finger in a circular saw accident and severed tendons, nerves, and the bone. On August
surgery was performed to repair the torn tendons and nerves as well as placing a possible plate and/or wires to repair the bone. He needs our prayers and a long period of recovery awaits him.

Bro. Gary Maibach of Smithville, OH was a visiting minister here on Sunday, August 18. He was here for a Fort Sam Reunion, on Saturday, August 17. Bro. Justin Koch spoke here on Wednesday night, August 14, on the topic, “Judas, the Fallen”. We offer thanks to these brothers.

Over the weekend of August 17 and 18, several of our members rode on a bus with members of other churches to visit the Lamar, MO church as a part of supporting smaller churches.

An all-church wedding shower was held for Kristen Zimmerman of Gateway Woods, where she works as Dean of Students. She is marrying Frank Walko II, who works near Latty, OH.

Declan Lewis was born to Bro. LouisJohn and Sis. Leslie Slagel. Grandparents are Dennis and Lorene Slagel of Fairbury and Leonard and Cheryl Schurter of Silverton, OR. Adira Caroline was born to Dustin and Kari Slagel. Grandparents are Charlotte Zurbrugg of Silverton, OR; and Dennis and Lorene Slagel of Fairbury. These births are wonderful blessings of God.

The General Conference was held at nearby Goodfield on August 9. It serves as a time of inspiration in matters of faith and unity, and the fellowship aims to bind souls in one mind and heart. God is to be thanked for providing sessions such as the annual conference.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

We have just experienced another month filled with God’s blessings. We thank the many ministers who shared God’s Word. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) visited us on July 21. Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan, Roanoke, IL) visited on August 4.

Joining us on July 28 were Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL). These brothers helped our Morton church celebrate the marriage of our Sis. Karissa Neihouser to Bro. Alex Poppen of Gridley, IL. Their parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser and Dave and Peg Poppen of Gridley, IL. Bro. Jeff, being our ordained deacon and father of the bride, was privileged to have the wedding service, take the vows of this dear couple and pronounce them husband and wife in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Karissa here in Morton, but wish them God’s richest blessings as they take their place in the Gridley church.

August 10 and 11 was a special weekend for our Morton church family, along with many relatives and friends of Brody and Brianna Tanner, as they gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner. It was extra special for Bro. Brody and Sis. Brianna to have their uncle, Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), assist in this most holy work. May their lights shine brightly wherever God may lead them. Also serving on the pulpit on Sunday was Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington IL).

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

Two families are rejoicing in the safe arrival of new baby girls. Molly Kate was born on July 28 to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf of Chicago, IL. Her sister is Lucy. Grandparents in our Morton church are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman. Grant and Yuru Zimmerman of Columbus, OH, welcomed Harriet LuXi on August 3. Her big brother is Shaun. Her grandparents, also in our Morton church family, are Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman.

Our August Family Worship Night was led by our Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue). He spoke on the topic, “Gideon: The Call”. As the angel of the Lord told Gideon, “The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor” (Judges 6:12), let us remember when God calls us to serve Him. We can trust Him to provide all we need for the victory. Bro. Jeff reminded us it is never the right time to do the wrong thing, but it is never the wrong time to do the right thing.
“Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.” Psalm 60:11-12

School vacation has ended and our children and grandchildren are heading back to school, some to kindergarten, junior high, high school and college for the first time. Let’s remember to pray for the safety of all the students, and grace to meet the challenges that come their way, no matter what stage of schooling they are in. May they feel the love of God and their families and share that love with all those they come in contact with, whether it be the teachers or fellow students.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Milly Zimmerman would like to thank the many who sent thoughts of comfort and love, and sweet memories of our dear Mom. We appreciate your kindness in sharing your love for Mom with all of us. May God bless you all.

Bro. Joe & Sis. Barb Zimmerman, Mary Zimmerman, Kathy & Jim Heiniger and families

Illinois, Peoria

Crystal Wettstein, Bonnie Bach

“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” St. Luke 15:10.

We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two new brothers in faith, Ramon Portillo and Chase Ramseyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly). Whether we have been taught of the Lord from a child or first learned of Him in a prison cell, we all must repent and be converted to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Our dear Lord Jesus has paid the price of salvation for all!

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 1Timothy 4:2

Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) were visiting ministers this month. How precious it is to worship with other brethren across the land!

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.” Genesis 2:18.

Sis. Cassie Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) is engaged to marry Bro. Adam Graf from Dallas, TX (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika of Rittman, OH). We wish them God’s blessings!

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1Peter 5:7

Prayers go out to God for our loved ones who are sick or in difficult circumstances. May they feel His nearness!

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” Revelation 22:21

Illinois, Princeville

Cherie White, Melinda Christ

Our congregation has been blessed by many visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL); and ministering Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR). May these brothers be richly blessed for coming to share and be used by the Holy Spirit.

An all-church Bible Study was presented by Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) on the topic “Following Jesus”. We thank Bro. Jay for taking the time to come and share this study.

We rejoice with first-time parents Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sandy Steffen on baby, Colt Patrick, who was born on August 5. Happy first-time paternal grandparents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen and maternal grandparents, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos of Bradford, IL. Another sweet grandbaby, Aliza Faith, was born to Clint and Stefanie Endress on July 14. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann Endress.

We have had many dear loved ones experiencing afflictions of the body, hospitalizations, or surgeries. Those included are Bro. Dennis Herrmann (Sis. Renee), Sis. Betty Wagenbach (Bro. Ray), Bro. Stan Schick (Sis. Margie), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie), Bro. Tim Wagenbach (Sis. Trisha), Sis. Phyllis Knobloch, Sis. Jan Hoehn and Bro. Harold Steiner (Sis. Karen). May God’s healing hand be upon each one of them and His will be done.

Julia, the daughter of Bro.
Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder, was announced to Rollin Wenger, son of Richard and Jill Wenger of Fairbury. We wish them God’s blessings as they become one in Christ.

An army reunion was held and we were richly blessed by the many visiting couples from near and far that came and worshipped with us.

“When a Christian dies, precious is the prize, Lasting Joys for days of sorrow, Rest from conflict on the morrow Follow when he dies, Follow when he dies”

_Hymns of Zion # 238._

Our dear Sis. Edith Stahl passed from this life on July 20, leaving behind one daughter, Sis. Joyce Blunier (the late Bro. Dale Blunier). Thinking and praying for Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland because her brother-in-law, Jack (Marjorie) Zimmerman of Morton, passed away.

Our hearts grieve and ache for Bro. Seth and Sis. Samantha Kieser with the loss of their twin infant babies, Josiah and Elizabeth. May God carry them through by His grace and prayers of their loved ones and the brethren.

“Let us gather up the sunbeams, Lying all around our path, Let us keep the wheat and roses, casting out the thorns and chaff: Let us find our sweetest comfort in the blessings of today, with a patient hand removing, All the briars from the way. Then scatter seeds of kindness, For our reaping by and by”

_Gospel Hymns # 86_

July 28 was the wedding of Sis. Tory Herrmann and Bro. Daniel Currier. She is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Herrmann. Sis. Mary Currier and the late Arthur Currier are Daniel parents from Congerville, IL. While Bro. Dennis was not physically able to be at the wedding that day, he was able to be with them in spirit at the hospital and listen in to the service.

We look forward to hearing the recordings of the summer elder conference held in Goodfield. May we continually uphold our elders in prayer during this evil day and time.

As our children begin another school year may we pray for protection from Satan and His crafty ways. May they be taught in Sunday School and at home the way in which they should go.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

_Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder_

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.” _Luke 10:2_

On July 19 & 20, the Proclaim & Serve conference--sponsored by HarvestCall with presentations, breakouts, & small group discussions on a wide variety of mission-related topics--was hosted by Roanoke church. It was a great experience learning how to live as sent people, sharing Jesus with those near and far.

On July 20, Andrew Fehr (John & Jane) married Elizabeth Coombs (Bill & Gina) of East Peoria, IL. Kaitlyn Gastman (Bro. Matt & Sis. Jana) became the bride of Klay Nafziger (Todd & Shelli) of Roanoke on August 2. May the Lord richly bless the marriages of these two dear couples.

Bro. Richard Haefli (Sis. Gladys) of Peoria, IL, passed away on July 18. He was a brother-in-law to Sis. Erma Moser, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Rich) Leman, Sis. Sally Blunier & Wilmer Blunier.

Bill Ryals’ brother-in-law, Robert Paulsell (Rita) of Morton, IL, passed away on July 15. Our prayers are with these families.

Visiting ministers included Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. Mark Dotterer (Sis. Kate, Eureka, IL), & Bro. Brad Stoller (Sis. Amanda, Eureka, IL). We thank these brothers for sharing the Word with our church.

Ashley Fischer (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Annette), David Bertschi (Bro. Sam & Sis. Marjorie), and Ethan Hoffman (Bro. Eric & Sis. Jodi) have decided to turn to the Lord in repentance and follow Jesus. We rejoice with them and their families.

In July a group from our church participated in the
Midwest Food Bank Spread Truth bus trip to New York City. It was an inspirational experience for all who participated.

Bro. Brad & Sis. Patty Hodel were blessed with a new grandson, Brighton James, born to Seth & Angie Hodel of Peoria, IL, on July 18. Bro. Jon & Sis. Jill Fehr are thankful for a new granddaughter, Oaklyn Faye, born on August 3 to Jordan & Chelsea Fehr of White Heath, IL.

Our prayers are with Zach Mangold, who began basic training.

Brothers Neal Beer, Dustin Hodel, Marc Kneppe, Josh Maher, Eric Hodel, and Phil Hodel, and Sisters Joyce Hodel, Leah Walder, Jana Gastman, and Stacie Kneppe were elected to teach Sunday School for the coming year. May the Lord bless them and this important work. We thank the retiring teachers for their labor of love for the children of our church.

Bro. Glenn & Sis. Christa Moser celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. We appreciate their faithful example of love and commitment.

Elder Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) Sauder gave a summary of the recent Brotherhood conference on August 14.

Sis. Rachel Fehr returned to the UAE on August 13. She spoke of her experiences on August 11.

The Bible Class WOW activities have begun with a pizza party on August 17.

We have enjoyed having brethren from Eureka worship with us during their remodeling project.

Our prayers are for Lyla Hodel (Ben & Brittany), Bro. John Sauder, Dean Wettstein (Mary Jane), Sis. Jan Moser, Wally Leman (Sis. Marilyn), and Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb) as they are dealing with health challenges.

Two year old Elsie was in the garden with Papa. He heard, “Don’t like this”...thud, as he found her pulling green tomatoes off the vine and tossing them into the air. How many times do we miss God’s blessings because we don’t wait for His timing to bring situations to fruitfulness or fail to try God’s good gifts because we don’t think we will like them?

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda, Japan), and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL). May God richly bless the Word of God as it was spoken.

We also wish to thank the Goodfield congregation for hosting the conference. We look forward to hearing the recordings.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Bill Huette, and Sis. Jeannette (Bro. Fred) Beutel as they have spent some time in the hospital.

We were thankful and rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness two baptisms this month. Elder Bro. Steve had the special privilege of taking the testimony of his first grandchild, Sis. Lexi Sauder (Bro. Eric and Sis. Leann Rocke). We also rejoice with Sis. Lauren Haas (Bro. Tom and Sis. Lisa.)

“We bring our prayer to Thee; O Lord, in mercy hear it! And now impart to them rich measure of Thy Spirit who now have entered in the household of Thy grace; Keep them from Satan’s yoke, Grant them in heaven a place.” Zion’s Harp 42, vs. 7.

Bro. Tom & Sis. Jane Bolliger are thankful to welcome another granddaughter into their family. Bro. Dallas and Sis. Rebecca Haerr (Taylor, MO) and Jackson are loving on Gabriella “Ellie” Grace. Bro. Jon and Sis. Rebekah Wagenbach are overjoyed to become grandparents in welcoming Tate Bradley. His parents are Jared and Nicole Sauder. New babies bring us much joy!

Illinois, Washington
Lily Pfaffmann, Michelle Braker

This month we were blessed with many visiting ministers. Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Bro. Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN).

We rejoice with Bro. Noah and Sis. Jessica Teubel as they had a son, Dustin Edward, born in July. Dustin is welcomed home by his brother Sawyer and sister Lauren.
Washington church held a sending service for our Sister Rachel Witzig (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig) this month. Sister Rachel felt the Lord leading her and accepted a position of English teacher in Japan. We are thankful for the work in her life and pray for her as she continues God’s work in Japan.

“And how shall they preach except they be sent?” Romans 10:15

Indiana, Bluffton

Olivia Steffen, Liana Reinhard, Suzie Fiechter

Good works = God’s work. God works through people. He uses each of us to minister to each other. Most of us would like to apply the verse, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”, when we think of giving and receiving help. Yet none of us gets out of this life without trial and tribulation. At the times we find ourselves needy. Let’s receive with a gracious, thankful and humble spirit. And when we can be used by Him, let’s give with a gracious, thankful and humble spirit!

We’ve been privileged to minister to those in sorrow. Dave and Kim Bertsch unexpectedly lost their daughter, Brianna. Her grandparents were the late Bro. Harv and Sis. Fran Bertsch and Bro. Walt and Sis. Imogene Aschliman. Our Sis. Roxanne Roop passed into eternity leaving her husband, Bro. Jeff, and children, Douglas (Kayli) Roop and Chelsey Roop. Also surviving are her mother, Sis. Anita Bertsch (Bro. Godfrey, dec.); sisters, Ruth Anderson (Harry), Sis. Becky Caffee (Bro. Dennis), Sis. Rhonda Tonner (Bro. Eric, dec.); and sister-in-law, Brenda Wilson (Bob Bertsch, dec.). Our love and prayers are extended to Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner (Bro. Tom, dec.), Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Jerry) and Sis. Jeannie Baumgartner (Bro. Ralph, dec.) on the death of their brother and brother-in-law, Herb Baumgartner. His parents were the late Bro. Roger and Sis. Mildred Baumgartner.

God has called several couples to serve Him together. Bro. Colton Frauhiger (Ben and Lana Sprunger and BJ Frauhiger) and Sis. April Neuenschwander (Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky) announced their engagement. Bro. Patrick Bluhm is engaged to Sis. Alyssa Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda). August 4 was the wedding of Bro. Josiah Steffen (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne) and Sis. Olivia Moser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri). We pray God’s special anointing on these couples and that the purpose of their lives would be to glorify Him!

Bro. Adam, Sis. Ashley, Vera and Abe Neuenschwander welcome twin boys into their family. Ike Adam and Jed Samuel are also embraced by their grandparents, Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander and Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa Troxel. God has blessed the home of Bro. Clayton, Sis. Rachel and Merrick Tonner with little Eden Michelle. Her grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie Tonner and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi Towle of Bluffton North. Saige Elise has been given to Bro. Shane, Sis. Kaitlin, Charley and Jace Fiechter. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter and Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle Tonner.

Praise God that souls are answering His call to repentance! Our new converts are Cruz Rinkenberger (Bro. Joel and Sis. Stephanie), Cora Isch (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie), Abi Isch (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie) and Vince Laukhuf (Bro. Darin and Sis. Erin).

We welcome two brothers back home! Bro. Klint Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) has returned after living for many years in Morton, IL, and Bro. Jacob Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda) has relocated after several years in Francesville, IN.

Thank you dear brothers and sisters in Goodfield, for hosting our Elder Conference. Our prayers were with you all, and especially for our dear Elder Brothers. We can’t begin to fathom the sacrifices they make on our behalf and we continually pray for their wisdom and our willing submission. How blessed we are!

Our High School students enjoyed Christian Endeavor at Remington. Once again, we appreciate the labors of our brothers and sisters who gave of themselves to give them a blessed weekend!

Much love and many prayers follow our Bro. Danny, Sis. Sarah, Summer, Sawyer and Tucker Bertsch as they have followed God’s leading to Bonne
Finn, Haiti. We held a sending service the morning of August 4. Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke, IL), Sis. Sarah’s brother, reminisced and spoke words of encouragement to her. Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Danny’s brother, spoke strengthening words to him and Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) reminded all of us that we are each one, called out, by Him and for Him. We also lift up in prayer the Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch family and the Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel (Roanoke, IL) family, as they rejoice in the obedience of their children, and yet will feel the pain of separation.

As we look forward to the next season of the year, and perhaps even the next season of our lives, let’s stop for a few minutes and reflect. How has God used others to bless our lives? How have we received his ministering spirits? How has God used us to bless others? Are we willing? Are we ready?

Indiana, Bluffton North
Tiffani Schladenhauffen,
Rhonda Maller

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...” Eccl. 1:1&4

A time to mourn:
We extend our sympathies and prayers for several families whose loved ones have gone on to glory this past month: Sis. Coleen Culp lost her mother, Sis. Mildred Clauss (Francesville, IN) went home to Jesus on July 21, her 92nd birthday. The family who lost Sis. Elizabeth (Libby) Steffen who stepped into heaven on July 23. She is survived by a son, Bro. Tim (Sis. Marilise) Steffen; and a daughter, Sis. Mary (Bro. Dean) Lehman (Milford, IN); five grandchildren; and two sisters, Sis. Margaret Gerber (Bluffton Country) and Sis. Joan Gerber (Bluffton Country). Sis. Pauline (Bro. Jerry) Gerber said good-bye to her brother, Herb Baumgartner, on August 5. Finally, Ken Lachowsky’s wife, Barbara, passed into eternity on August 13.

Our church family continues to pray for Shirley Wagaman, who suffered injury from a fall. We are happy she’s on the road to recovery. Our prayers also uplift Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly’s grandson, Jakob, who battles ongoing health issues.

Those in need of prayers and a helping hand aren’t always local. Once again, many joined together at the BDC building to pack disaster relief boxes. What a wonderful opportunity to share the Lord’s goodness.

A time to laugh:
Our high school students have enjoyed a busy month. The summer SOS party, a time of fellowship and fun, was held July 26. In August, they traveled to Remington for Christian Endeavor.

They also joined the entire SS at Bluffton North and Bluffton Country in collecting new toys and games for Kid’s Korner at the Gateway Woods annual auction.

A time to rejoice:
Daylin Reinhard, age 13, has come to the Lord in repentance. We are rejoicing with his parents, Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi.

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

As children go back to school and summer begins to wind down, we have families in sorrow and families rejoicing, but whatever season we find ourselves, God’s compassion fails not. His mercy is new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber

It is with mixed feelings that I write this issue of The Silver Lining. For the past few years, our dear Sis. Mildred (Millie or Mil) Clauss shared this responsibility (The Silver Lining) faithfully. Sister Mil and I would compare notes and take turns writing the articles. In fact, just last month Sis. Mil sent the article early, knowing that we planned to be gone on vacation. Just a few days later, she had a fall and then surgery. We were thankful to know that she had come through surgery to recovery. Once again, many joined together at the BDC building to pack disaster relief boxes. What a wonderful opportunity to share the Lord’s goodness.

A time to mourn:
We extend our sympathies and prayers for several families whose loved ones have gone on to glory this past month: Sis. Coleen Culp, Roberta (Duane)
Pilotte, and Mary Lou (Tom) Dexter will miss her loving presence. We extend our loving sympathy to each of them, as well as to her siblings, Bro. Earl (Sis. Liz) Anliker and Sis. Eleanor (the late Bro. Jim) Bogart. Her husband, Bro. Bob Clauss, and a daughter, Sandra (Jim) Schwartz, preceded her in death.

We will also miss the friendly and positive presence of our dear Sis. Barb Wuethrich (the late Bro. Dave), who passed away on July 26. We extend love and prayers to her seven children, who are: Deborah (Ned) Speicher, Brenda Werner, Brad (Nancy), Bro. David (Sis. Miriam), Sis. Miriam (Bro. Tim) Gudeman, Marla (Tim) Steffen and Bro. Mark (Sis. Lynne). Loving sympathy also is extended to her siblings, Sis. Nola (the late Bro. Rich) Wuethrich, and Bro. Dale (Sis. Anne) and Bro. Roger (Sis. Sandi) Ward.

Another dear person that has recently gone to be with the Lord and will be greatly missed, is our Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington), who inspired us with his faithful and consistent presence at Parkview Haven where he resided in recent years. We were blessed by his presence in Francesville church while he was there. We know that for every person that is ready to meet Jesus, death is a great victory, and we rejoice in this!!

We have been blessed with many visitors in the past month, and among them were the following ministers who shared God’s Word and inspiration with us. Thanks to Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN); Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Greg Stiegliiz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Steve Stiegliiz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN). Bro. Ken was with us for Sis. Barb Wuethrich’s funeral. The other four brothers blessed us when they were here for a family reunion.

Many dear ones have been hospitalized or have health concerns this past month. Our prayers for God’s presence, peace and healing mercies have been with Sis. Madeleine (Bro. Fred) Gutwein, Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich, Sis. Doris Getz, Jon and Sis. Diane Clevenger, Bro. Gene (Sis. Barb) Huber, Sis. Peg (Bro. Dale) Gudeman, and Sis. Vanessa Murray.

Indiana, Leo

Jan Beer

Since our last report these brothers have expounded on the True Word of God from the Leo pulpit: Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN) Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). We thank God, and you, for your service to Him on our behalf.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita (Wyss) Klopfenstein are grandparents again this month when another of their daughters gave birth to yet another granddaughter! Bro. Shane and Sis. Alyssa Bahler of Wolcott welcomed Cora Rose into their family on August 10. Last month, Alyssa’s sister, Sis. Abby Stiegliiz, of our Leo church family, had a little girl they named Kate. We thank the Lord for the safe arrival of these precious blessings.

Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly
(Gutwein) Steffen’s daughter, Marlee, has made known to Bro. Lynn Stieglitz that the blood of Jesus has cleansed her, and she would like to walk in fellowship with us. A few weeks later, in the absence of our Bro. Lynn, our new minister, Bro. Brian Wenninger had the blessing of announcing to the church that his and Sis. Mackenzie’s oldest daughter, Breanna, has claimed the redeeming blood of Jesus, and she wants to walk in fellowship with the Apostolic Christian Church also. We can never thank Jesus enough for His blood that He shed to save us poor sinners.

Our Wednesday evening Prayer Night on August 7 was focused on prayer for church leaders and for kids and teachers returning to school. It was an appropriate topic with the Conference in session and most schools starting class in a few days. We thank God that we still have the freedom to gather and pray to Him who loves to hear His children ask for His help and His favor. We also thank all of the Goodfield church for lovingly hosting the Conference.

It is a joy to welcome Bro. Jon, Sis. Amy Gerst and their kiddos back from Ethiopia for a season. They graciously made a presentation at the Leo Fellowship Center on the evening of August 11. We thank our heavenly Father for their safe journey and for His hand upon the work they are doing in that far land.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Jolan Jackson have moved from the Bay City, MI, area to Ft. Wayne. Their son, Don, built an apartment onto his home, and they were thankful to move into it! Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock moved from central IL to be closer to their children who live in this area. They are making their home in Harlan, IN, just a hop, skip and a jump from Leo. We welcome both of these couples into our Leo church family. We thank the Lord for the strong family bonds that He designed.

One last “thank you” to close out this report - and it is a personal one. My husband Joe and I had the blessing of celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on August 10 with an open house hosted by our four sons and their wives and our grandchildren. The only request we made was that God would be glorified for His faithfulness to us - and that there would be lots of Gospel music! They did well on both counts.

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!” Psalm 115:1

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Carol Haab

We were blessed to have Bro. Seth Gerber (Sis. Jodi, Magdalena, MX) share the word this month. May God richly bless him.

Bro. Travis and Sis. Anne Wilson and big brother Zane welcomed a new son and playmate, Tate Robert, into their family. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer and Jack and Carol Wilson.

School is back in session and fall is approaching quickly. Please take time to pray for the teachers, administrators, and all others who are in care of our children each day. May God bless them with love, compassion, and understanding and give them a fruitful year in the classroom.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful for Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) for giving a presentation on a Wednesday night about how we can better support HarvestCall’s missionaries. It was informative, uplifting, and encouraging to know that our prayers and donations do make a difference!

We recently hosted Christian Endeavor for the Bible Classes from the Indiana churches. It was an energetic weekend full of fun and fellowship! Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) both spoke to our young people and encouraged them to “Find Freedom in the Truth.” We are thankful to both brothers for their love and willingness to serve our youth. We also want to thank everyone in Remington and Wolcott who helped with food, accommodations, and activities. It truly was a whole-church effort and it couldn’t have been done without many willing hands and hearts.

We pray that the seeds that were planted during the weekend will...
bear fruit in God’s perfect timing.

Bro. Rex Clauss (Sis. Tammy) and Sis. Jayne Price are hospital patients this month. Please lift both Bro. Rex and Sis. Jayne up in prayer that God will continue to heal them and comfort them in their time of need. Bro. Walt Bahler (Sis. Esther) has been back to worshipping with us after recovering from surgery. We are glad to see him back in church.

Many of our congregation remember Sis. Mil Clauss (Bro. Bob, deceased, Francesville, IN) and mourn her recent passing. She and her husband lived in this area and worshipped with us for many years and raised their daughters here. We lift her family up in prayer, but rejoice that Sis. Mil has reached her heavenly home.

Our beloved Bro. Earl Kilgus (Sis. Arlene, deceased) has gone on to his heavenly home as well. Bro. Earl served our church faithfully as a minister for 40 years and was always a godly example with a ready smile and wisdom to share. We pray for his family: children, Sis. Brenda Clark (Bro. Ron), Kathy Jefferson, and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna); 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren. May God comfort them and give them peace to know that Bro. Earl is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 1:2

On July 28, Bro. Vince Pfister (Sis. Brandy, Bluffton, IN) shared Words of Truth and Life from the pulpit. On July 31, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) help us with our Communion service.

We are thankful that Bro. Marty, Sis. Livvilla Langhofer and their grandson Daniel are safely home from their recent trip to Romania.

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

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

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

The verse for the month is: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8, 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: 7-8

Bro. Earl Kilgus, father to our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, passed away on July 31. The funeral was held on Monday August 5 at the Remington Apostolic Christian Church. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger hosted the 67th Fort Sam and Camp Picket reunion on Saturday, July 27. It was held in the Valparaiso fellowship hall. First there was registration. Then a business meeting, a catered dinner, and a hymn singing followed. All of this was then followed by a singing group from West Lafayette. Sis. Marilyn added a special touch above and beyond any call of duty. She embroidered a picture frame for all of the Veterans that said, “We the People Honor our Veterans. Thank you.” She also decorated the tables with a centerpiece made with a mason jar filled with flowers and another embroidered piece that said, “Land of the Free Because of the Brave”. These were done with every veteran’s widow in mind and to take one home with them. Then everyone in attendance received an embroidered angel made in the colors of red, white and blue. What a very special and heartfelt event honoring our veterans who fought for our freedom. Thank You! And thank you to all who helped in this special time, honoring our veterans.
We appreciated Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) ministering to us on the Sunday following the reunion, along with the many other visitors that worshiped with us as well. Bro. Gary told us that the Fort Sam reunion means a lot to him, because his dad was saved while in the army. He mentioned David realized that he had fallen short, but he was a man after God’s heart. He to repented of his sin just as we can do also.

Since July had five Wednesday’s, Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller opened up their home for a hymn singing. They had good attendance and visitors, the Braham family, Matt, Jess and their kids plus Matt brought along his guitar. Praising God through song just feels good. There was also a very good turnout at Lifecare Nursing Home. Oh, how the residents enjoy our visits.

A signup sheet was put out for those who were interested in purchasing school supplies. Then in August many came together and assembled kits for the Haiti school children. I can just see the smiles on their faces.

Please keep Sis. Jenna Kilgus’s mother in your prayers. She is seriously ill and in hospice.

Since our summer vacation is now over, we hope you enjoyed many activities outdoors with family and friends. This also means that we are back in school. Keep all the teachers, children, schools and parents in our prayers.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl

A post-wedding shower was held for Bro. Alec and Sis. Abbie Gramm as other commitments prevented many in our local church from celebrating the happy event earlier. Farewell to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Anna Fiechter as they have relocated to Los Angeles, CA for further schooling. Farewell also to Bro. Drew Waldbeser who has completed his year internship here and has accepted employment in Atlanta, GA. Your presence in our fellowship was appreciated!

Thank you and much appreciation also goes to Elder Bros. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Lauri, Phoenix, AZ) and Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) who spent a Sunday with us while in the area for the annual conference.

We rejoice to share the news of two who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ and desire to be a part of our fellowship: Mark Furrer and Keith Farrington. Mark and his wife, Heather, have three children. Keith and his wife, Amber (sister to Mark Furrer), were married late Spring of this year. It is always an encouragement to have others join the Kingdom and walk with us.

New college students are adjusting to new surroundings this week: Grant Klopfenstein, Leo, IN; Sam Getz, Remington, IN; Bros. Ross Huber and Clayton Pelsy, Francesville, IN; Bro. Brecken Beyer, Magdalena, MX; Sisters Marin Leman and Allison Gerber, West Lafayette; Sisters Megan Cook and Larissa Eberhardt, Francesville, IN; Sisters Emmy Steiglitz and Ireland Beebe, Indianapolis, IN.

An interesting thought to share... God says He is the I AM. Whatever words follow this is who He is. Such as I AM the Alpha and Omega, I AM the bright and morning Star, I AM the Light of the World. As His children we should be careful what words follow our I AMs… We can rightly say, I am a child of the King, I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, I am able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me. We should not be entertaining such thoughts as I am dumb, or I am always messing up, or I am a failure, etc.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
Phl. 4:8

Indiana, Wolcott
Luann Gerber, Teresa Earney

We have enjoyed the blessings of summer here in Wolcott, but now the children are back in school and everyone is thankful to be back in a routine again.

We were very prayerful for our dear Elder Brothers as they gathered for the National Conference in Goodfield last week. We are so thankful for the many blessings showered on them.
as they assembled to share their thoughts and leadership regarding our precious church.

Our Wolcott Bible Class helped host Christian Endeavor which was held at Remington August 10 and 11. A blessed time was had by all!

Our dear convert, Ron Kyburz, recently underwent a heart procedure and his brother, Bro. Lloyd Kyburz, had skin cancer removal. We all had opportunity to pray for them and we are so thankful for their quick recovery!

We rejoice with thankful hearts to hear that Levi Blume (Bro. Derek & Sis. Theresa) is giving his heart to the Lord! May we be prayerful for him as he walks this path!

Bro. Shane & Sis. Alyssa Bahler and Wren warmly welcomed little Cora Rose into their family on August 10. Grandparents are Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler and Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita Klopfenstein (Leo).

Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie) of Mediapolis shared the truth from the pulpit recently as they visited family here. We sincerely appreciated their willingness!

We would like to extend our sympathy to Sis. Viola Stoller (Bro. Richard) in the loss of her sister, Evelyn Knochel. Also, Sis. Gladys Widmer and Sis. Arles Kropf had a sister, Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen, pass away recently. May they each feel God’s loving arms around them!

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

**Kendra Schlatter**

Prayers have been with those who have been injured or hospitalized lately including Bro. Dave (Sis. Mary) Wiegand, Logan Wettstein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin), and Emmy Wettstein (Bro. Alan and Sis. Bethany). May we always remember who our Great physician is, who heals and strengthens according to His will.

We thank Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL) for coming and sharing the day at our Vacation Bible School. Bro. Dave gave a topical presentation on relationships. Bro. Dave shared that we should always seek friends who try to build up our relationship with Christ and we shouldn’t seek friends who try to devalue our own values or make us try to do things we feel are not right. Who we spend time with influences us, so be careful that we wisely choose our friends. This was a great topic Bro. Dave shared as our kids will soon be starting school and most parents hope and pray that their kids will interact with others kids who have good values. Bro. Dave stayed with us for the weekend and shared the Word on Sunday. We thank Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis) this past month. We are always glad when they can come!

We don’t always mention the visits of Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL) as he is still considered a “home” minister, but we appreciate his ministering from time to time also, including a couple times this last month.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner and family, along with other relatives, on the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Kay Eisenmann (late Bro. Dave, West Bend). Sis. Kay was originally from Burlington, so made many visits home over the last 60+ years.

Several of our members were privileged to attend the annual Church Conference in Goodfield, IL. Our thanks go to their church for all the labor involved!

We are praying for those of our congregation with health issues at this time, and for healing, if it is God’s will.

**Iowa, Elgin**

**Maria Rocke**

Recent visiting ministers include Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis.
Twila, West Bend, IA), Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL). God bless each one for serving us.

Sis. Sandy Butikofer is home recovering after a recent surgery. We will continue to pray for her and God’s healing in her recovery.

Our newly-elected Sunday school teachers are Sis. Trisha Rocke (Primary class) and Bro. Kent Schupbach (Jr. Bible class). They have our prayers and support in their new duties.

We are also prayerful for the children as the new school year begins. May the Lord be with them and draw each one to Him as they face new challenges.

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:29

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

Our weather has moderated some with lower temperatures and much needed rain. It feels like fall is on the way!

We are thankful for God’s Word brought to us by Bro. Nathan Wiegard (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) this month.

Bro. Tony Funk (Sis. Eileen) is in the hospital for a surgical procedure. We pray for a positive outcome.

May God’s blessings go to the Goodfield church for hosting the Conference this year.

We invite you to worship with us. Please call ahead for Sunday lunch planning. Safe travels!

What does the world see when they look at me?

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We are grateful to the Goodfield congregation for hosting the Brotherhood Conference this year. It was a blessed time of fellowship and learning. We appreciate all who had a part in planning, hosting and speaking.

Our Sunday School picnic the first weekend in August included fun games and other activities for the children, a good meal, and more opportunity for both children and adults to enjoy each other’s company outside of church.

The Sunday School children are enjoying Vacation Bible School, which is held in place of Sunday School during the month of August. We appreciate those willing to teach the students about God and His truths.

We appreciate the recent visit of Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN) and their families. May the Lord bless them for their love and service to us.

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Kristi Knobloch

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” 1 Cor. 14:8

We are so thankful for

our Elder Body, who have the best interests of our beloved denomination in mind when they come together to make decisions. We offer thanks to the brethren at Goodfield, IL for hosting this year’s General Conference in August. We look forward to listening to the Conference conclusions soon.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) gave a presentation on AC LifePoints August 4, and also lent his service on the pulpit that weekend. We thank them for being used in these ways.

Other visiting ministers this month, in addition to Bro. Ron, included: Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH). These brothers may not fully understand the appreciation we have for them spending time in pulpit service while on their journeys here, but it is very sincere!

Congratulations go out to Grant Metzger (Bro. Jerome & Sis. Jana) and his bride, Becky (Halse), who were married on July 27. We wish them God’s blessing on their marriage and their lives together.

Welcome goes to little Lillian Marie, who was born August 3 to Kayla and Edgar Ramos, making Bro. Jerome & Sis. Jana Metzger grandparents for the first time. We ask God to bless this family as they raise their precious new little one!
We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Katrina Gerber (Bro. Monte & Sis. Karla) to Bro. Garth Fehr (Bro. Byron & Sis. Anita, West Bend, IA) and wish them God’s blessings and guidance as they plan for their October wedding.

Matthew Metzger (Bro. Mark & Sis. Audrey) also is engaged to Bailey Lulf. Their wedding will be in July 2020, but we also wish them God’s blessings as they make plans for their future together.

Deann Matthiesen (Jed) was hospitalized, but is home and doing well again. We can always be thankful for good health, such a blessing that is often taken for granted, until interrupted.

Sympathy is extended to Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and family, on the loss of Bro. Rod’s mother, Henrietta Bajema on August 10 at 96 years of age. We know the old must die, the young can die, but “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Psalm 116:15

Our local and surrounding communities have experienced tragedy on several occasions recently, and we want to always remember that those around us need our prayerful support, as well as those in our church family. God knows the needs of each one, and He hears our petitions to lift them up and comfort them as He knows best.

Iowa, West Bend
Karen Schmidt, Jenny Banwart

We appreciate Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) for sharing God’s Word this last month.

Chyan Metzger (Roy & Angie) was married to Jared Koppen. May God bless their union together.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Kay Eisenmann as she went to be with the Lord.

Her children include Sis. Gail (Bro. Dennis) Massner, Sis. Jean (Bro. Clyde) Earley of Port Charlotte, FL, June (David) Schmidgall of Hancock, MN, David (Sue) of Riverview, FL and Joe (Johanne) of Sarasota, FL.

We thank Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) for helping with her funeral service.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) came and shared about AC LifePoints. We thank him for his time and labors and were reminded of the many we can pray for.

We wish God’s blessings to Bro. Garth Fehr (Bro. Byron & Sis. Anita) and Sis. Katrina Gerber (Bro. Monte & Sis. Karla) from Lester, IA as they are engaged.

We’re thankful our church continues to grow as Bro. Nolan Grimm (Bro. Jordon & Sis. Ann) and Sis. Kiara Snook (Bro. Jason & Sis. Colette) from Silverton, OR became one. Bro. Trinton Schmidt (Bro. Ted & Sis. Kelly) and Sis. Laura Fehr (Bro. Mark & Sis. Janet) were united in marriage here the following weekend. We enjoyed having Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) here that weekend bringing forth the Word.

Sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Dorothy Zaugg in the passing of her great granddaughter, Addyson Strahm of Liberal, MO. May God comfort each one.
Japan, Tokyo  
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

The Lord provided and blessed us that we could finish our VBS for 2019. We thank all our helpers both from U.S. and local brethren. Along with inspiring Bible stories and teachings from the Word, we had a few surprises. One day a homeless man walked in, seemed he was hungry for food. Another day a mother shared that she has been diagnosed with stage one of a cancerous condition. This is not too much different than when Christ walked upon this earth. Many longed for healing or a load to be lifted. May we always be prepared to approach those who come with their needs.

In a few days, Sis. Rachel Witzig will arrive in Japan, Lord willing to teach English and share the gospel. Her “sending service” was held in Washington, IL church. The church and Sis. Rachel received much good advice to labor in the vineyard of the Lord. Their Elder Bro. Ron Messner also shared thoughts for those receiving her that we might work together in harmony, pleasing to the Lord.

At this writing, the Ito family of the Shioda church, and the Inoue family of Tokyo church have traveled to the U.S., and are enjoying blessed hours with their families and home churches. We wish safe travels and the Lord’s guidance for them.

Kansas, Bern  
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

Our congregation rejoices with Kari Edelman (Bro. David and Sis. Sheri) as she has recognized her need of a Savior and has begun her repentance. Our love and prayers are with her!

We had one visiting minister this month. We thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) for sharing God’s Word.

Each summer, our Sunday School teachers host a Sunday School potluck for the entire church. It is a wonderful time of fellowship for our church family. We want to thank the teachers who put effort into organizing this potluck.

As our students go off to school for another year, let us always remember to PRAY for them each day. PRAY that they will have a good attitude and wear a smile. PRAY that they will be the hands and feet of Jesus, helping wherever they can. PRAY that they will be kept from harm. PRAY that they will be kind to everyone and respect their teachers. And above all, PRAY that our children will shine the light of Jesus into the dark world and never be ashamed to speak the Gospel!

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Kansas, Fort Scott  
Maria Bahr

“We the clouds are the dust of his feet.”  
Nahum 1:3

Recently Bro. Larry Bahr preached from Acts and noted the strong faith of the impotent man. “And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.” Acts 14:8-10. Although this crippled man certainly experienced the storms of life because of his disability, his strong faith in an omnipotent God resulted in his complete healing.

Likewise, evangelist George Mueller, according to several sources, rescued over 10,000 orphans in Bristol, England during the nineteenth century. Mueller did not ask people for money to build the orphanage or provide for the children. Instead, he prayed, believing God would provide for the children’s necessities just in time. According to the article “George Mueller, Orphanages Built by Prayer,” at one point, over 300 children in the orphanage had dressed for school, but there was no milk or food available. As a result, Mueller prayed, and, shortly after, the local baker came by and told Mueller he somehow knew the children needed bread, so he baked three extra batches. In addition, the milkman stopped by, asking if the orphanage could use some milk.
Since the milkman’s cart had broken down and the milk would spoil by the time the cart would be fixed, the milkman offered the milk to the children. Because Mueller believed, God provided just enough of both the bread and milk for the children. During a steamer trip to Newfoundland where Mueller had a speaking engagement, Mueller discovered the ship had stopped and approached the captain, asking why. The captain responded that the fog made navigating the ship impossible. According to the article “My Eye Is not on the Fog,” Mueller immediately prayed that the fog be lifted. He explained to the captain, “My eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.” Mueller told the captain to go out on the deck, explaining that the fog had already lifted, which it had.

Both the impotent man from Acts 14 and George Mueller trusted God to lift the confusing fog in their lives, trusting in God’s mercy and faithfulness. As Nahum reminds us, the clouds and fogs of life can be a visible reminder of the presence of God as “the dust of his feet.” Nahum 1:3

Most of our congregation attended the wedding of Heather Bahr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie) and Benjamin Self (Dr. Max and Karen) on August 10. We pray for God’s blessings upon their marriage. Heather and Ben are both seniors at Missouri Southern State University.

We were blessed with visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO); Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA); and Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) this past month.

Kansas, Kiowa
Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

So, how does Sunday morning go at your house? Do you get up at the crack of dawn and go outside to view the magnificent handiwork of a brand new Lord’s Day? Do you wearily reach for the alarm clock and hit snooze for another 7 minutes before you have to get up and get breakfast for the family and hurry everyone into their good clothes? Or is your heart filled with joy that finally, after a long 6 days, Sunday is here again!

Sunday: synonymous with the Lord’s Day, first day of the week, Church Day. CHURCH! What exactly does that word imply to you? Church isn’t just one good choice among many. Church isn’t a building. Church, properly understood, is the body of Christ; the gathering of believers in a specific place. And as such, it is a place where we all belong. We are all equally sinful before God and equally in need of a Savior. Church isn’t just a place you go to. It’s not a place that you go to feel better about yourself. It’s not entertainment. Its purpose is not to give you ten easy steps to fix your marriage. Church is the gathering of believers to receive what God has come to give in His Son, Jesus.

Jesus himself said, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20. When we come together as the body of Christ, the Church, we confess our sins. Then, having confessed our brokenness and need, we hear those great and unfathomable words of forgiveness. We hear that, though our sins are many, and we in no way deserve grace, that God in Jesus has forgiven us. We hear God’s word spoken to us as Scripture is read. We sing songs and hymns praising and proclaiming what Jesus has done for us. We hear sermons that proclaim the good news of forgiveness in Jesus.

Kansas, Lamont
Maria Luthi

Our church was recently reminded of 1 Timothy 6:17-19, “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” As this scripture was read, the thought was shared that we are among the richest people in the world, so this is certainly talking to us. May we never put our trust in these uncertain possessions, but only in God, investing in treasures in
heaven and not here on earth.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman hosted our church for our monthly hymn singing. A blessed evening was enjoyed by all.

Some of our Sunday School Students gave of their time and served a meal at the Abundant Harvest soup kitchen. A new Sunday School term has begun. We are prayerful for all teachers and students. Bro. Nathan Knobloch and Sis. Krystal Knobloch are our two new incoming Sunday School teachers.

We have several with health concerns to keep in our prayers this month. Sis. Dorene Metzger and Bro. Glen Anliker have upcoming surgeries scheduled. Sis. Lorean Anliker had a fall and is recovering from some injuries that were incurred. We lift these individuals up to our Father, the Great Physician.

Kansas, Sabetha

Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter

This past month we enjoyed an evening of singing and fellowship as we gathered for an all-church potluck and farewell for Sis. Sheila Moser. As her furlough in the States is over and she returns to the mission field in Haiti, we send our prayers with her and ask that God will continue to bless her with His grace and presence.

The new Sunday School term will begin on September 8. We pray for God’s guiding hand for the students and the teachers as our youth are taught in the ways of the Lord. We are thankful for those who have served and offer our prayers and support for those coming in.

We were thankful for a blessed weekend as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Blake Plattner (Bro. Brian & Sis. Jeanelle). May God bless him as he continues in his journey of faith. Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) were with us for the weekend. We thank them for their service and labors of love.

Bros. David Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL), Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN) and Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA) also visited this month and brought forth the Living Word.

We rejoice with Bro. Travis Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey, Bern KS) and Sis. Leah Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger) as their engagement was announced! We wish them God’s blessings and guidance as they plan for their future together.

A dear sister in our congregation has reached the milestone of 100 years! We rejoice with Sis. Lois Grimm as she has been blessed with many years. We are thankful for her faithful example and the love she has shared with many. We do miss her presence in church as she just in the last few months has not been able to assemble with us anymore. May God be with her.

Kansas, Wichita

Niklaus and Sara Schrader

Currently we are enjoying a Bible study on the book of James every other Wednesday evening. It’s been a blessed reminder to remain a humble and active servant of the Lord. James also reminds us to be prayerful in times of trial. James 5:16 promises us that the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Our annual business meeting was held on August 4. We pray for God’s guidance as people take on their new positions.

We are thankful that Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) was able to share the Word on August 11. We also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their son, Rueben from Goodfield, IL.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson and their daughters: Emily, Erin, and Ava have moved back to Wichita. We are happy to welcome them back.

We are looking forward to fellowship with the Kiowa church at the Kaw Lake campout August 23-24.

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself.” Exodus 19:4

Our VBS theme for this year was “God Walks with Israel.” It was good to review the stories and the lessons from the Israelites’ journeys in the desert and into
the promised land. Though we had a smaller turnout of children than in years past, it was a blessed week. The children gathered early, sang enthusiastically and heard the stories about God’s chosen people. It’s encouraging to know that they repeat the teachings they hear to their parents. One mom asked us, “Where did my little boy get this? He keeps saying ‘Money doesn’t matter; it’s living well that counts.’” His VBS teacher recognized he was quoting her and explained her full thought. May God continue to use the believers here to bring many to Himself! We were thankful to have Sis. Elaine Graff (Altadena, CA) helping again this year. Her work with reenacting the crossing of the Jordan was a hit with the 6&7 yr. old boys!

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Gloria Gonzalez (the late Bro. Javier and Sis. Berta) to Bro. Ben Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne, Alto, MI). May God guide them in this special time as they plan for their life together.

Another addition to the Gonzalez family is little Valentina, born to Maggie on August 9. We are thankful that both mom and baby are doing well.

August 20 was a special day for the church and the community as we held a dedication service at the new middle school building. Many hours of labor, planning and prayers went into this project and we praise God for His blessing, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” (Psalm 127:1) Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Bro. Dean Herrmann (Sis. Dawn, Princeville, IL), Bro. Grant Herrmann (Sis. Hannah, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annie Wulf (Tucson, AZ) made the occasion extra special with their presence. Bro. Joe shared God’s promise to Solomon to have His heart toward the temple if His people would humble themselves and pray. (2 Chron. 7:14-16) That is our desire for Colegio de las Américas.

It was with heavy hearts that we heard of José Luis Ugalde (Bro. Lalo and Sis. Silvia) passing away hours before the dedication. Bro. Lalo was missed, but left a moving message to be shared in lieu of his participation. We are comforted knowing of José Luis’s steps of faith in the last months of his life and are thankful for God’s comfort in the family. Our hearts go out to his wife, Elena, and his four children: Aracely, Eduardo (Lalo), Mayté, and José Luis.

México, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

We were thankful to host many from various churches and communities during the annual EXPO esperanza the first weekend of August. We pray God bless them for their help during their time here!

Summer here always ends with a sad goodbye to the CVE volunteers and Fatted Calf interns. We thank them for their hours of love and service: Dylan Steidinger (Peoria, IL), Isaac Jones (Morton, IL), Amanda Virkler (Rockville, CT), Brittney Lanz (Mediapolis, IA), Arika Nuest (Latty, OH), Hannah Lindberg (Roanoke, IL), Jayla Wettstein (Minneapolis, MN), Sara Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Carson Sleep, Dawson Carter, Mary Sarah Sauber, April Hamilton, Mandy Hasselbring, and McKenna Moffit.

With another fond farewell, we wish Sis. Jenna Freed a smooth transition back to Phoenix, AZ and hope to see her frequently since she lives only 4 hours away! May God be with her daily as she continues to seek Him.

We are thankful to welcome back Bro. Joel and Sis. Kristi Leman from their 3-month sabbatical in Colorado. We also wish Sis. Carissa Schlipf a blessed time of rest and reflection as she prepares to travel to Illinois for the next three months. Our Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer and girls will be at language school in Morelos, MX from September through November. We pray God will watch over and keep them as they learn new skills.

A recent sermon gave me a lot for reflection. We read three passages in Luke 11, beginning with the parable about the man who cast a demon out of his house and after futile searching in dry places, returned to fill his house with another seven demons. The second passage told of the Pharisees whom Jesus said washed the outside of the “dish,” but left the inside full of greed and wickedness. The first example
illustrates our attempts to grow in faith by removing sin from our lives. The second example compares to our attempts at growth by doing what is right. Finally, we read verses 33-36 which speak of the light of Christ filling our bodies so that there is no room for darkness. Christ commands us to die to sin and to do good, but those alone are not sufficient. Only when we surrender our hearts to be filled with the Holy Spirit, can we truly become alive in Jesus Christ!

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” Matt. 5:14

**Michigan, Alto**

**Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb**

An email came through for all in Alto to pray for someone we know and love. Angie Sixberry (Jason) was horseback riding in New Mexico and was thrown from her horse. She endured the two hour flight to Albuquerque and was hospitalized for a week, suffering from cracked ribs, collapsed lung and other bumps, bruises, and concerns. The abrupt accident has brought an awareness to all of how quickly our lives can change. May Angie and her entire family feel the prayers of her church family.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month and wish to thank each of them for their service of love to our congregation: Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Myron Knobloch from Lester, IA.

Our prayer is that the Lord will bless them for their willingness to share the truth once again.

Another ‘all-church’ picnic at Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe’s was enjoyed by many who spent the evening on the water and eating good food. Thank you goes to this dear couple who so lovingly share their lakefront property with any who desire to come for fellowship and fun.

Exciting news here in our little country church had the benches buzzing and faces grinning. The engagement was announced of Bro. Ben Kaeb to Sis. Gloria Gonzalez from Ixtlan, Mexico. As this couple has a unique situation to navigate, we pray for God’s continued guidance through all the changes, excitement, and challenges that may be ahead.

We would like to thank the brethren from Goodfield, IL who hosted the conference this month. As a small church, we cannot fathom all that goes into the planning, meals, accommodations, parking, technology, janitorial duties, and I’m sure much more.

Praise be to our heavenly Father that our dear Sis. Gina Blough made it home safely from a nine week stay in Kenya. We pray as she continues to seek God’s direction and timing that she will know and feel the prayers and support of her church family.

Great grandparents Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen are thankful and thrilled to announce that their grandchildren, Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sandi Steffen (Princeville, IL), welcomed their first child, Colt Patrick.

**Michigan, Bay City**

**Sarah Knochel**

We were blessed to have four visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) traveled to Bay City to assist with Holy Communion on July 27. Bros. Nathan Hodel (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke, IL), David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) and Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH) each spent a Sunday with our congregation while on family vacations. We appreciate their labor of love on our behalf.

We bade a fond farewell to Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson as they relocated to the Fort Wayne, IN area. We wish them God’s richest blessings in the years to come.

We want to thank our outgoing Sunday School teachers: Sis. Jenay Knochel, Bro. Jay Schlatter (Sis. Carola), Bro. Brian Wieland (Sis. Char), and Sis. Carol Wieland (Bro. Dale). We also want to extend our support to our two new incoming teachers, Sis. Kelly Curtis (Bro. Shawn) and Bro. Jim Knochel (Sis. Kay).

As our students start another school year, diligently pray that God would be ever present in the schools. We pray both for safety and wisdom to discern against any evils that would be presented to our youth.

“God is ever present!
Let us now adore Him,

Sarah Knochel
And in rev’rence come before Him!
‘Holy, holy, holy!’
Angel bands are singing
And incessant praises bringing!
Bow Thine ear, Lord and hear,
As we in submission
Offer our oblation!”
Zion’s Harp #68

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

We have had a busy month here! We just ended a wonderful “Invite-a-Friend” weekend where the young group/teens/middle school age invited friends. Events were planned with the overall spiritual theme being Revitalization. The group saw firsthand how the city of Detroit is being revitalized and comparisons were made throughout the weekend of our own spiritual need of revitalization. One event (among many others) included a scavenger hunt downtown with a paper map (NO GOOGLE) which was so fun to hear this young generation talk about afterward!! They were able to meet new people, reconnect with others, and form friendships as they ate, played games, and sang praises to God. We thank Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne) from West Lafayette for driving here and having a devotion specific to the young people Saturday night. The planning was made possible by Sis. Haley Knochel with her church family’s support. She spent a lot of time and effort toward this and we thank her.

Another big event which was bittersweet for all of us, was our farewell for Brady Gasser, son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser. He has touched all of our lives in different ways and is going to be missed more than he knows. When I think of Brady, I think of his amazing family who supported and assisted him throughout the years in every area of life. I think of him loving animals and babies and headphones. I think of him helping with dishes every Sunday. I think of him loving sweets (hence the fond word “busted” started years ago and never ended). I think of him sitting by Sue, Brice, Randy, Angie or Autumn depending on the Sunday. I think of him pulling on Randy or Brice’s arm when he was ready to leave every Sunday. I think of his joy during his farewell service on a recent Wednesday night when he stood up in the church aisle with pure happiness and smiles covering his face as he raised his arms and said “Oh boy!!!!!!!” He obviously knew this party was for him and enjoyed the gifts and candy afterward in the cafeteria. He was such a huge part of our church. There will be a huge void. However, we are so happy for the family and for Brady for his new venture in life as he moves to Lifepoints’ Linden home in Morton, IL. His mom says he is adjusting pretty well. We know God has him covered by guardian angels and we know he will be a blessing there just as he was here. His family plans to see him Labor Day Weekend.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was a huge blessing for the kids as well as the church in general. Thank you to all the hands and hearts that worked together to make it a wonderful experience!

Our other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Adam Uhler (Sis. Ann) from Smithville OH, Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) from Sarasota, FL, and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen) from Bluffton, IN. Bro. Chet Manz and his two oldest children came on a weekend and ministered to the residents at Woodhaven also. We thank them each for visiting and sharing God’s Word.

Bro. Randy Gasser spent time in the hospital, but is recovering. Sis. Kristen Hitz also spent a couple days in the hospital. The family wishes to thank the church for their prayers and they praise God for His healing hand upon her.

We rejoice with Paxton and Denise Williams in the marriage of their daughter, Amanda, to Javier Contreras-Uribe.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Dorothy Leman (Chuck) in the passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Dick Haefli from Peoria, IL.

Minnesota, Morris
Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in
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the air: so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

We grieve with the families of two dear souls who went on to meet their reward this month. Sis. Marion Moser (Bro. Chris-dec.) and Bro. Gilbert Schmidgall (Sis. Barbara-dec.) both left the trials and burdens of this life behind. We are thankful for the hope we have of seeing them again in Heaven someday! We appreciate Bro. Doug Moser (Morris North, MN) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN) for assisting our home ministers with their services.

Also, this past month we have been blessed with some visiting ministers to bring forth God’s Word. We thank Bro. Brad Stoller (Sis. Amanda, Eureka, IL), Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN), and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for being willing to be used in God’s service.

Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger,
Natalie Feuchtenberger

We are so thankful for a summer full of visitors and hearts filled with joy. We send our prayers of protection, and love with our college students as they head out for a busy fall/winter.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusted in him” Psalm 34:8.

We join in prayer over Pat Sharstrom (Tyler and Brittany Fehr’s Mom) as she is battling cancer. We are thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildie, Morris, MN).

Minnesota, Winthrop
Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll

“There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life…”

Hymns of Zion #91 vs 1

July 20 was our annual Invite-a-Friend weekend. We enjoyed the many visitors that were able to come and spend some time with us.

“Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.” Proverbs 4:13

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Paul bringing us our first Spring Memorandum.

Thank you to our outgoing Sunday School teachers, Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) and Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed). We give prayerful support to new teachers, Bro. Nick and Sis. Julie Schmidt and substitute, Sis. Becky Braulick (Marilyn).

“Oh be careful little eyes what you see.
Oh be careful little eyes what you see.
For the Father up above is looking down in love.
So be careful little eyes what you see.”

Children’s Harp #68 vs 1

“Oh Be Careful” was the theme of our first ever Vacation Bible School held the week of August 12. Thank you to the volunteers, teachers, and students who made this a glory-filled week. Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN), came to speak at the conclusion of our week. We were thankful he was able to spend Sunday with us and for sharing the Word over the pulpit as well.

Prayers are for our Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) who had a short hospital stay this month.

Missouri, Lamar
Mindyy Wettstein

We are thankful for a variety of visitors this past month. Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan Huette (Tremont, IL) and a vehicle of singles joined us for worship and blessed us by providing a delicious lunch on July 21! Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) were our visiting ministers July 28. Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser and their son, Brady, (Detroit, MI) were with us August 8. Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock came down for a Wednesday evening to share thoughts from the conference. We want to say a special thanks to these ministers for bringing us The Word this past month!

We congratulate our convert Jackie Wettstein as she has graduated college and has finished her clinicals. We pray God’s blessings for her as she will reside in Iowa for work.

Missouri, St. Louis
Victoria Eberhardt

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). We so enjoy having visitors to our little congregation and always
appreciate their open willingness to share His Holy Word with us.

Sunday School started this month. It’s such a joy watching the kids return to the classroom with enthusiasm to learn about their Lord.

Our surgical patient this month was Sis. Betsy Schrenk (Bro. Loren). We praise God for her continued healing.

Missouri, Taylor

*Lori Marquart*

Three new lives have begun in Taylor since last writing. These parents are encouraged to be as diligent caring for their youngsters’ second (spiritual) birth as much as they were for the initial birth. Finley Tann Sutter arrived July 21 to parents, Bro. Jimmy & Sis. Rachel. His siblings are Presley and Bentley. Finley’s grandparents are Bro. Jim & Sis. Kris Sutter, and Doug & Sis. Cindy Streitmatter (Peoria). Following closely on July 23 was Gabriella Grace born to Bro. Dallas & Sis. Rebecca Haerr. Jackson is Gabriella’s big brother. Her grandparents are Bro. Shon & Sis. Peg Haerr, and Bro. Tom & Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont). Finally, Roegen Cray Sutter made his appearance on July 29 to Bro. Cole & Sis. Tinslee. His siblings are Rigsby and Bexley. His grandparents are Bro. Richard & Sis. Kay Sutter, and Ed & Kathy Tuley. How enjoyable it will be to watch this new group of Sunday School buddies grow in God’s grace and love!

We grieve with Sis. Vonnette Sutter (Bro. Kim and children, Bro. Wade & Bennett), at the passing of her father, Dr. Kenneth Leinweber. Visitation and funeral were on July 26.

“The groans we endure are temporary. The glory we expect is eternal.” -Adrian Rogers

Our July Wednesday Bible studies continued on July 24 with Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville) and on July 31 with Bro. Karl Steidinger (Sis. Carrie, Ft. Myers, FL). Bro. Mark continued our study of Identity in Christ by speaking of specific biblical examples of identity crises. Bro. Karl concluded the series with biblical examples of identities grounded in God. Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont) served us on July 28. They were here to see their new granddaughter.

Retired Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Washington) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis) were both here to present topical bible studies. Our church family extends gratitude to all of these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

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The new Sunday School term will begin in September. We are thankful for those who are willing to share in this critical task. Following are newly-elected teachers who will serve either one or two year terms: Bros. Rick Steidinger, Parker Haerr, Caleb Sutter, and Tyler Haerr, and Sisters Miranda Haerr, Colby Steffen, Sally Gottman, and Devan Grimm.

A wonderful weekend of remembrances and thanksgiving occurred August 17 and 18 as the Taylor Apostolic Christian Church celebrated 100 years. Our congregation is so very thankful for each one who traveled “home” to fellowship. Several activities occurred on Saturday afternoon including the opportunity to take a shuttle to the first “Little White Church on the Levee” which is now a home. The homeowners graciously allowed each to walk through giving a visual reminder to memories. Many interesting stories were shared throughout the afternoon and evening which continued on Sunday afternoon when three retired ministers shared the pulpit answering questions from Elder Bro. Kent and speaking about their lives. Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign) was born in 1928, five years after his parents moved to Taylor. Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) also born in 1928, grew up in Elgin, IA, but was a grandson to Bro. Edward Grimm and recalled many visits to Taylor to see his cousins. Also on the pulpit was Bro. Arnold Gerst, born in 1934, whose parents were the first to be married in Taylor. His family later moved to Oakville, but eventually Bro. Arnold brought his wife and family back to the Taylor area for employment.

“Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.” -Joel 1:3

We heard of God’s faithfulness in the past, we experience His presence now, and we can trust Him with our future.
New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney

On Monday July 22, Gladyce (Brenon) Farney, 85, passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family. She is survived by her husband, Vincent Farney; a son, Reginald Farney; and a grandson, Brenon Farney.

On August 3, we had our Sunday school picnic at Happy Hollow. Thankful God blessed us with favorable weather for those who were able to be there. We were thankful that Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarenton, VT could be with us at the picnic, and then to have them with us for Sunday services. Bro. Mark blessed us by bringing forth the word of God.

Sis. Rachel Snyder has been moved from the hospital to the nursing home. Our prayers are with her in this transition.

No matter what comes our way, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22: 37-38

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle

July 21 was the wedding of Bro. Nathan Graf and Sis. Lindsay Gal. Visiting ministers Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Jonathan Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) took part in sharing God’s Word on this special day.

It was also a blessing to have Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford) visiting and ministering to us this month.

“How, while yet His grace is offered; Waste no time in worldly thought; Now begin your pilgrim journey, Cleansed from every stain and spot. You will find by faith, revealing Full redemption in His blood; For each sinner there is healing, Baptized in this cleansing flood.” Repent Ye!

Zion's Harp #52, v. 4

Daniel Steidl (Bro. Les and Sis. Judi) and Peter Kocsis (Bro. Jozsef and Sis. Susan) have begun their repentance. We wish them God’s grace as they make this beginning.

A little girl, Joanna Jane, was born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rebecca Stoller on August 7. She joins excited sisters: Megan, Emily, and Clara. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Steve and Arliss Pamer.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

It is hard to believe that the school year is getting ready to begin. Where did the summer go? Our prayers go with our school-age children and our college-bound students for their safe-keeping during the coming school year.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Our sincere appreciation is offered to Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), Bro. Matt Zimmerman (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Sis. April, Mansfield, OH) for their assistance and service on the pulpit.

Our prayers are with our Sis. Cheryl Gehres as she has experienced several falls this last week and for Jennifer Curry (Jonathan) who is having surgery. May God provide the necessary strength and healing for these special ladies in our church family.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

Bro. Fred and Sis. Kayla Manz are thankful for the safe arrival of a son, Boston Andrew, born on August 3. Boston is welcomed home by his older siblings: Lincoln, Zoey, Carly and Savannah. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (Lacrosse, IN). May God bless this family as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Our convert, Ashton Manz (Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica) has repented of his sins and stands at peace with God. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in the near future.

We were blessed to gather the weekend of August 10 and 11 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Bro. Joel Schneider (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi). Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) was with us that weekend. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis.
Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL).

We give our support to Bro. Chris Manz, Bro. Jim Manz, Sis. Heidi Schlatter, Sis. Shelby Aschliman, and Sis. Vickie Manz as they have been selected to teach our Sunday School children. We also thank Bro. Chad Manz, Bro. Jim McCullough and Sis. Erica Manz for their years of service as teachers. We have currently suspended Sunday School due to our remodeling/addition project in the Sunday School area. We hope to reconvene by mid-October, Lord willing.

Ohio, Latty

Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

We were blessed this month to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Bethany Klopfenstein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry), Sis. Chelsea Sinn (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa), and Bro. Tyler Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane). We joyfully welcome them into our fellowship and pray for God’s continued nearness in their lives. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) for his service during this weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month included: Bro. Karl Steidinger (Sis. Carrie, Fort Myers, FL), Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH), Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA). May they be blessed for their willingness to serve.

Our continued prayers are with Gracie Laukhuf (Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachel) as she has been announced for peace and is awaiting baptism.

Our church hosted an invite-a-guest weekend on August 10&11. We are thankful for all of those who made the effort to come.

We extend our prayers and sympathies to Sis. Joan Graf (Bro. Bob) as her mother, Sis. Marie Bauman (Rittman, OH), has finished her fight of faith. We were also made known of the passing of Robert Parady (Sharon) and are prayerful for his family, including his sister-in-law, Sis. Eileen Whitman (Bro. Dick), May the Holy Spirit comfort as only He can.

Bro. Ryan, Sis. Kori, Octavia, and Benson Stoller have felt God calling them to relocate to Sarasota, FL. We pray God will be with them during this time of transition.

Ohio, Mansfield

Katie Miller

It was a joy to host students’ grades 7-12 from across Ohio as we gathered for the 47th annual Youth Fellowship Day. Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) brought a message of truth in the morning, after which was a time of lunch and fellowship. Sunday School classes were held in the woods adjacent to the fellowship hall. Singing practice and an afternoon program followed. Thank you to all who traveled, and those local, who labored on behalf of the students. May God bless our youth as they reflect on the theme of the weekend, “Keep thy Heart with all Diligence”.

Sis. Jean Myers passed from this life after an extended illness. Although parting is difficult, we are thankful that she is at rest. Our hearts go out to her family, including her children: Randy Myers (Lisa), John Myers, and Kathy Emanuel (John). We also extend sympathy to Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur) in the passing of her sister, as well as to Bro. Chip Hill (Sis. Sieda) whose sister-in-law, Delores Hill (Mick), passed away recently.

We are thinking of Sis. Tammy Beer (Bro. Chuck) and Sis. Susan Foss (Rick) who have had surgery. We are prayerful for them both as they recuperate. Recently, Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Dorina) experienced hospitalization, and we are thankful for his quick recovery. We also remember the loved ones in our congregation who cannot assemble with us due to health circumstances. May each feel comfort from our Savior, the best Refuge.

Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

“Haste and seek your soul’s salvation; Heed the word of God today! Haste to flee his condemnation; Seek the straight and narrow way. Evil are the
worldly pleasures, Leading to eternal fire; Seek the everlasting treasure, Ere the day of grace expire.” Zions Harp #52

We are thankful for our new convert, Carla Hartzler (Bro. Shane and Sis. Suzanne), and wish her God’s grace as she begins her repentance.

We rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf as the engagement of their son, Bro Adam (Dallas, TX) to Sis. Cassie Feucht (Peoria, IL, Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) was made known.

“Heavenward, then take your journey; Let your course in Faith be trod; Face the crafty adversary Boldly as a man of God. Go with courage to the conflict As the sanctified to be; And retaining still your treasure, With a crown of victory.”

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Marie Bauman as she took her last breath and won the crown of victory. Sis. Marie will be missed by her children: Bro. Jerry (Sis. Martha), Jim (Joy), John, Sis. Joan Graf (Bro. Bob, Latty, OH), and Sis. Peggy Camp (Chris, Peachtree City, GA) as well as, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We, also, want to remember Ron (Rosie) Riggenbach and Tamra (Tim) Morris as their father, Vernon Riggenbach, passed away.

On August 8, Jackson Allen Ray was born and passed away. Our prayers go to his parents, Joshua and Katie Ray, and grandparents, Tom and Sis. Holly Leonhard. We trust God will comfort the hearts of these families.

We have 7 new babies to report and are thankful for God’s miraculous work! Dan and Sis. Angie Manz welcomed Henry David. Henry joins Jacob, Dylan, Olivia, Alex, Noah, Caroline, and Felix. Bro. Ben and Sis. Cymbal Stoller are thankful for the safe arrival of Dakota Glen. Dakota will be loved by siblings: Cassidy, Jasmine, Tate, and Zander; and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach and Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller. Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty added another grandson, Calem Mason. Parents are Tom and Angie Hilty. Jon and Bethany Rufener became first-time parents with the birth of Samara Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener and Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach (Smithville, OH). Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach added another granddaughter, Jayde Aspen. Jayde joins big sister, Brynn, and parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Jessica Maibach (Smithville, OH). Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller, also, added another granddaughter with the arrival of Joanna Jane. Joanna is welcomed by her parents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rebecca Stoller (Akron, OH) and older sisters, Megan, Emily, and Clara. Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery are thankful for the safe arrival of another granddaughter, as well. Merideth Anne was born to Adrian and Alyssa Beery and joins older brothers, Ezra and Ian.

We want to remember Sis. Linda Zollinger and Jim Thompson (Sis. Joyce) in our prayers as they spent time in the hospital this month.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who have served our congregation and want to thank Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL), Retired Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH).

Ohio, Sardis

**Renee Blough, Doris Miller**

Sis. Baylee Figel (Bro. Andy & Sis. Cyndi) has accepted a teaching position in Northern Ohio. We wish her well as she moves to the Rittman/Smithville/Akron church area. Her presence will be missed in our congregation and the local single group, but we are praying that this experience will be a blessing for her and those around her.

Sis. Baylee organized a VBS day for our Sunday School students this summer. The topic was “God’s Love through Parables”. Those who took part enthusiastically requested that the event be held again in the future!

The older Sunday School classes were able to participate in two trips. One was the annual Ohio/Michigan Youth Day Weekend. The other was a Saturday evening trip to the Living Word Outdoor Drama.
Special thanks go to all who made the effort to coordinate these special times for the youth.

Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) preached the gospel message as inspired by God during a recent visit on their way home from the Elder Conference. Let us remember to pray fervently for our ministers and elders, whether they are meeting as a whole, in small groups, or preaching the Word that the will of God can be done in all things.

Bro. Thad Indermuhle (Bro. Dana & Sis. Joy) will soon be moving west to attend South Dakota State University. Our prayers go with him as he begins his college education and fellowships with the brethren at Lester, IA. Our congregation and single group will miss him, but are thankful he has looked to the Lord first for direction in his life.

Ohio Smithville
Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

“Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.” Psalm 111:1

We praise the Lord for Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) who came to preach the message of Salvation.

Our whole hearts praise the Lord for sending new life to our congregation. Bro. Matt and Sis. Jessica and Brynn Maibach welcomed Jayde Aspen into their little family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Bro. Bill and Pam Hartzler became first-time grandparents when little Jackson Robert came to bless the household of Bob and Jasalyn Hash. Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich were also thankful for a new grandson, Grayson David, who joined the family of Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita Steiner (Rittman, OH). Likewise, Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach were thrilled with a new granddaughter, Samara Marie. Samara’s parents are John and Bethany Rufener.

We also Praise the Lord for sending healing to our children. Clay Gucker (Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila), Brielle Uhler (Bro. Adam and Sis. Ann) and Tucker Stoller (Bro. Owen and Sis. Carissa) all spent time in the hospital this month.

Ohio, Toledo
Rebekah Witzig, Brooke Harmon

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

Our congregation experienced the joys of a new birth and the sorrows of death this past month.

Bro. Kent, Sis. Alisia and Rhett Schlatter excitedly welcomed a baby boy, Grayson Daniel, on July 10. We trust the Lord will bless their family as they raise their precious boys!

Our Bro. Joe Croy’s earthly struggles have ended and he has entered into eternal rest. Our love and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Mary. We are so thankful for the conversion Bro. Joe made in his later years, and for the peace it can give Sis. Mary in the days to come.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager as their brother-in-law Robert Parody passed away recently.

We said good-bye to Sis. Haley Linder as she accepted a job near her hometown. We trust she will be a blessing to the Latty church as she has been to ours!

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) and Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH) for preaching the words of truth this month. These brothers were part of a group from Akron who were camping in the Toledo area. We enjoyed a wonderful Sunday of fellowship, and are grateful they made the effort to assemble with us!

Note of Thanks:
Ryan, Kristie, Ethan and Kilei Sancraint wish to express their deep gratitude for the many prayers, cards, visits, food, and acts of love shown to them after the unexpected death of their son and brother, Casen. We pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to provide for this dear family.

Ontario, Kitchener
RoseLynn Metzger

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

A hearty hello from us in Kitchener! I pray that God has been near to you this month!

Once again, we extend a heartfelt thankyou to our visitors this month. On July 27/28, Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) served on the pulpit and the Wolcott/Remington young group came to support us as well. Our young group spent an enjoyable day with them in Niagara and then had a campfire and singing in the evening. It truly was a blessing to be together! On August 4, Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) was our visiting minister. Thank you for coming to serve us time and time again.

We had a church BBQ on August 10 to welcome home Lois Gingrich, (daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alma) from her time spent in France studying French and music. We also said goodbye to Bro. Milan Leman (Fairbury, IL) as his internship here has come to an end. We thoroughly enjoyed having him as part of our church family. He will be missed by all!

Finally, on August 11, Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) came to serve. We are thankful for God’s goodness, and know that He will provide in all circumstances! Blessings in the coming month.

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7

**Oregon, Portland**

**Louisa Gallup**

The annual Sunday School picnic took place last month. With only six Sunday School students, it was possible to have the activities for the kids take place in our church’s big back yard. Afterward, fellowship was enjoyed as we shared a meal together.

The minister rotation brought Bro. Jonathan Zahner (Sis. Amy, Rockville, CT) and his family to Portland recently. We greatly appreciated Bro. Jonathan ministering unto us, and also enjoyed having his family with us for the day.

From Silverton, OR, we were privileged to have song leader help, and the following visiting ministers: Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). We feel blessed to have their support.

**Oregon, Silverton**

**Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett**

We are excited to announce the engagement of Bro. Myron Kuenzi to Sis. Teresa Knecht! Our prayers are with them as they begin this new stage of life together along with their families.

Please continue to pray for Ron Lichty (Sis. Ginge) as he is recovering from spinal surgery and most recently a hospital stay due to pneumonia. Sis. Ginge would also appreciate your prayers as these events have caused a degree of anxiety and uncertainty in her life.

Thank you to the many visiting ministers we’ve had this month:

Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, OR, Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora) from West Bend, IA, Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue) from Champaign, IL, and Bro. Jon Zahner (Sis. Amy) from Rockville, CT. We appreciate your willingness to travel and share the Gospel and pray for God’s blessings on you and your families as you continue to serve Him.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler along with their family would appreciate your heartfelt prayers as Bro. Kevin was diagnosed with melanoma. Please pray for God’s peace and comfort as well as wisdom for the physicians as they seek treatment options.

August 11 we had the privilege to witness the wedding of Sis. Kiara Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) to Bro. Nolan Grimm (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Ann) from West Bend, IA. Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Chrissy) from Burlington, IA, officiated the service and reminded us that our conversation is in heaven. Even though this is an exciting time of life, our true purpose no matter what stage we are in, is to bring glory and honor to God. We pray for God’s grace as Sis. Kiara makes the transition to Iowa. She will be missed here in Oregon!

Thank you to Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose) for offering himself the morning service prior to Sis. Kiara and Bro. Nolan’s wedding. We appreciate your willingness to share the Gospel!

Morgan Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) recently had a
seizure and was in the hospital for a brief time for observation. We are thankful he is back at home and doing well.

Sis. Mary Beth Kuenzi (Bro. Art) recently broke her wrist and would appreciate your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Bro. James Schneider’s (Sis. Tonya) grandfather, Bro. Earl Gerber from Forrest, IL, recently passed away. The family would appreciate your prayers of support during this time.

It was a pleasure to have Sis. Adrienne Rosswurm from Latty, OH, Todd Kiefer from Tremont, IL, and Bro. Travis Fehr from West Bend, IA, in Oregon to work for the summer. We appreciate you being a part of our congregation for a short time and pray for God’s blessings as you return home.

Summer time is always special in Oregon as we have many out of state visitors. Thank you to all of those who have made the effort to travel and spend time with us! We appreciate seeing our brethren from across the states and trust God will bless each one.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

It is always a blessing to share Holy Communion together as a church. We appreciate Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for being here for this special time.

We also were blessed to have other visiting ministers this month. May God bless Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) for sharing the Word.

We would like to wish Sis. Emily Walder the best as she returns home to Rockville. We enjoyed having her fellowship with us for the summer.

Tennessee, Nashville
Cynde Stoller, Mike Fritz

We praise God for His Living Word, brought so willingly in the past month by several visiting ministers, including Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel; Congerville, IL), Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami; Mediapolis, IA), Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina; Akron, OH), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria; Eureka, IL), and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea; Remington, IN).

We have also have also been richly blessed by the fellowship of visitors from Belvidere, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, and Roanoke, IL; Bluffton and Remington, IN; Mediapolis, IA; Lamont, KS; Akron and Rittman, OH; and Philadelphia, PA; as well as some local visitors.

We bid farewell to Sis. Faith Stoller who has moved to the Remington, IN area again this school year to teach. We pray the Lord will be with her and richly bless her.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to fellowship and worship with us. We meet for worship every Sunday. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are 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, jordannfritz@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin/Bastrop
Candace Meiss

We send our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

Once again as I gaze out our kitchen window I can almost feel the breeze as the leaves and branches sway. Today is not a beautiful sunny day; it is hot, humid and overcast. The clouds are dark, warning of a possible storm. My thoughts go to an hour in the middle of my 24-hour shift when I was notified that a mother was admitted to L and D pregnant with triplets and two months early; a warning of a possible “storm”. I began praying for her and her babies and asked my husband and our church group that had gathered that evening to pray. Just as the sun is coming out now and the storm is passing, God answered our prayers that night in an exceedingly abundant way. The next morning our Sunday service began with Psalm 46. “God is our refuge and our strength, a VERY PRESENT HELP in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though
the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea… Be Still and how that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts IS with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:1-3 and 10-11. Our SS Lesson was about Joseph. He was thrown in the pit by his brothers and yet God had a plan and Joseph was saved - “a very present help in trouble” was made manifest once again as a reminder to us!

We are thankful and have been blessed by the willing servants who ministered this past month, Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL).

Our sympathy goes with Sis. Jamie Steidinger on the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) as we bid her an early farewell so that she could attend the funeral. She will be missed and we wish her blessings from above as she prepares for her wedding in November.

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us!

“Nearer, my God, to Thee! E’en tho’ it be a cross that raiseth me, Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee. Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly. Still all my song shall be, Nearer, My God, to Thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee” Nearer my God to Thee, Hymns of Zion #278

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Sheena Pelsy

Greetings from Dallas! The Dallas church is rejoicing with Bro. Adam Graf (Dallas, TX) and Sis. Cassie Feucht (Peoria, IL) as they announced their engagement. What a blessing it is to see two hearts come together after seeking the Lord’s will individually.

We are also thankful for the visiting ministers that gladly brought us encouragement through the Word. Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX) both preached on strong faith in trials.

Life is full of ups and downs. The great thing about it all is that our God stays the same! He is always faithful and always at work in our lives. When Bro. Aaron was with us, he reflected on Joshua’s life and how his faith in God gave the Israelites victory over their enemies. Today our trials might not look like a large army coming after us, but the devil is. We have to constantly be asking God to daily equip us for the battle and give us the strength to endure. When Bro. Dennis was with us, he shared some of Matthew 14 where we see how narrow human’s view on life is compared to God’s. When God brings us to and through a trial, He orchestrates it to benefit ourselves and others around us. God sees a bigger picture and He can position us for His glory and bring purpose to the pain when we trust Him. That is why we are encouraged by James to count it all joy. When we desire what God desires for us, we can be fashioned and used for God’s greater purpose. We may never get to see or understand why God allows the pain, but we can trust that it is for His glory and we are kept in His great and mighty hands.

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, call Bro. Adam Graf (330-590-7086).

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan Reutter

Visiting ministers from the past two months include: Bro. Curt & Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Nathaniel & Sis. April Ramsey (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Mark & Sis. Alice Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Bro. Tom & Sis. LaNae Bahler (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Brad & Sis. Deanna Wiegand (Rockville, CT). As always, we appreciate the truths expressed and the encouragement given.

Otherwise, little has transpired in the past two months. We thank the Lord for His provision and wish you all a blessed month to come.
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 June advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

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### Jamaica Teams

#### Haiti Teams - Les Cayes

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<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<td>Sept 28 - Oct 2</td>
<td>Haiti Awareness Trip</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Bertschi</td>
<td>309-467-2351 Email: <a href="mailto:hospitalumiere@harvestcall.org">hospitalumiere@harvestcall.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Wuethrich</td>
<td>219-863-4163 Email: <a href="mailto:rick@wuethrichfarms.com">rick@wuethrichfarms.com</a></td>
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#### Haiti Medical / Dental Teams

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<td>Sept 14-21</td>
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**COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:**

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

#### Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Herrmann</td>
<td>260-273-9528</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a></td>
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#### Mexico Construction Teams

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<tr>
<td>Rod Schmidt</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com">rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
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**QUESTIONS FOR MEXICO TEAMS:**

Reynosa: Kevin & Sadie Gerber Phone: 260-417-5272 kevgerber@yahoo.com

Magdalena: Email CVEmexico@gmail.com

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**Jamaica Teams**

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

### Jamaica Awareness Tour

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

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

**MISSIONARY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

The Hospital Lumiere team is presently seeking candidates for missionary service in a variety of roles that will fit your calling, interests and experience. Singles, Couples and Families of all ages are encouraged to prayerfully consider full time missionary service supporting the ministry and outreach in Bonne Fin, Haiti.

There are many service and ministry opportunities at HL. The most important qualification is that the brother and/or sister is called by God to serve at the hospital. The service opportunity and placement will be developed to match the candidate's interest and experience. Potential service roles for non-medical candidates:

- Business office management
- Finance and Accounting
- Hospital Administration
- Facilities Operations and/or Maintenance
- Hospital Operations (non-medical)
- Hospital Technical Support
- Information Technology Support
- Missionary School Teacher or Teacher Aid
- Campus and Hospitality Management
- Missionary Support

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Member in good standing within the Apostolic Christian Church of America
- A servant heart, willingness to serve those in need
- Desire to engage as ambassadors of Christ with the Haitian staff at HL and the surrounding Bonne Fin community
- Relocate to Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti
- Learn Haitian Creole (French language fluency is also beneficial)

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

If you are interested in Medical service, please review the Medical Professional Advertisement.
CAREGIVER OPENING
at Casa Vida Y Esperanza; Magdalena, MX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525
Seeking short-term missionaries willing to live and serve at CVE for one year to support a variety of activities around campus.

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

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

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

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

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

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
• Communication via E-mail & Texting
• Prayer Reminder Letters
• Personal Connection Care Packages
• Servant Fund Needs

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

*{Sending} Luke 10:2, {Early Church} 3 John 1:8, {Prayer} Col 4:2-4, {Fellowship} Acts 14:26-27, {Financial Support} Philippians 4:15-20
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.

For additional details for this exciting and worthy position contact Tom Hitz. Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or Phone: 734.635.4112
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

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

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

Isaiah 54:13

To Sponsor a Child or School

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

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☐ Mr.  ☐ Mrs.  ☐ Miss

Spouse _________________________

Address _______________________

City ____________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _______________________

Cell Ph _______________________

Email _________________________

Please check preference:

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☐ Haiti School  ☐ Guatemala

☐ Mexico  ☐ Zambia

☐ Wherever needed

If possible, I prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ______

☐ Girl – Age ______

☐ No Preference

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

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

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JOB OPENING

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Here is an opportunity to use your communications and organizational skills to help our brotherhood proclaim Christ and serve others. An additional communications professional is needed in the HarvestCall office, located in West Lafayette, IN. The Coordinator works regularly with the Communications Director, Videographer/Graphic Designer, committee Communications Managers, other volunteer contributors, and miscellaneous vendors. This person creates and edits content and provides hands-on coordination of a wide variety of projects. He/she is the person who ensures projects stay on track and deadlines are met.

This is a full-time, paid position. Salary will be commensurate with the experience and skills of the chosen candidate. Benefits are provided. Some occasional evening and weekend work is required.

For a complete job description and to fill out an application, go to https://harvestcall.ninjagig.com/
Continued Articles

**ACCFS — People Pleasing**
— *Continued from pg. 9*

than focusing on God’s grace and provision for the future.

**How to Overcome Unhealthy People Pleasing**

The initial step for loosening the grip of these underlying emotions of unhealthy people pleasing is to identify their presence. Pay attention to your experiences in relationships. Do you notice the gripping presence of the fear of man or the gnawing and relentless companion of false guilt? Be curious about this experience. What do you notice about the fear of man? How is it different from the fear of God? Begin to label such experiences and emotions as “false guilt” or “fear of man” or the “whirlpool of worry.” This step in itself can help reduce the stickiness of these underlying emotions.

Regarding fear, remember that disagreeing with others does not mean you need to let go of your sense of inner trust. Next time someone disagrees with you, rather than avoiding conflict or fearfully defending your position, seek to calmly state your rationale and allow the other person to disagree. Meditate on God being your refuge, fortress and defense (*Psalm 46:1, 62:7-8, 91:2, 94:22*).

If false guilt shows up, it can be helpful to pause and reflect – Is there anything I did that I can specifically identify as morally wrong? Something I need to repent for? Consider meditating on your completeness and blameless position in Christ (*Colossians 1:21-22, 2:10*). Within the whirlpool of worry, it can be helpful to identify the values and attributes you want to exhibit and move towards such values even before it “feels right.” The size of the step is not as important as the direction you are headed. Once moving, it will likely help you shift out of questioning your every move. You will live according to your values, not “what might happen.” Consider repeating Psalm 40 and notice the settling effect of establishing your grounding on the Rock and moving from this place with a “new song.”

Many believers actually struggle with the patterns, emotions and encounters described above. It is helpful to continue to learn ways to identify such patterns and move toward God. It begins through acknowledgment and repentance. The worship of people and their approval/disapproval can be idolatry and God calls us to break free from such bondage (*Gal. 1:10*). As you learn to say “no” to others, you will likely feel anxious or guilty. This is normal and it will take time for these feelings to shift. Remember, loving God first never excludes us from loving others. Rather it frees us to *love them well* instead of worrying about whether they love us back or not. Finally, remember there is nothing virtuous about playing along with an unhealthy, destructive relationship pattern.

God desires us to walk in grace and truth. May we look to Jesus as we move toward Him even when it is uncomfortable or scary at times: “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (*Hebrew 12:2*).

Relationships affect every facet of our lives and maintaining God-honoring relationships throughout our life can be a challenge. ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals and the church family in the areas of boundaries, communication, conflict/forgiveness, and other aspects of healthy relationships. These resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/relationships. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org.
their discernment that Moses was “good” would have all come to naught, if they hadn’t done their “reasonable service.” As Jochabed knew that God had a special plan for Moses, she hid him, even though there was the decree from Pharaoh. She had to take the needed steps to protect Moses from this evil decree. Living in faith isn’t always the easiest step and there may be serious repercussions, but in faith, we are called to do that which is right.

How long was she willing to risk the repercussions? Until “...she could not longer hide him”. One of the key truths we find in God’s Word is that God never asks us to do more than we are able. That is our reasonable service to Him. He is always there to help us and provides us grace and strength to persevere, He just asks us to trust in Him.

As parents, Deuteronomy 6:8 reminds us, “… and thou shalt teach them (God’s commandments) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” The commandments of God are different than the message of the world and can at times put stress on the parent-child relationship. We are instructed to do our part and remember that God both watches over and will never leave us. There are certainly times when we aren’t sure what to say or what to do but we are promised that “the Holy Spirit will teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.” Sometimes we just need to be there and listen to our children. Sometimes we need to help them (and us) quiet the “noise” (advice from the world or others) that is so prevalent today, so that we can hear the Holy Spirit’s counsel.

The last principle from the account is about trust. They came to a point where “…she took for him an ark …and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink…” We see that even when they did their part, the final outcome wasn’t known. They waited in faith. And what a wonderful and miraculous continuation to the story we read in Exodus as Moses went from Pharaoh’s house to lead God’s people out of Egypt to the promised land.

As parents, we might worry about the unknowns of the future. God reminds us that we should replace fear with faith – an active faith that is evident to those He places in our lives, whether earthly or spiritual children. A love that is demonstrated by our actions, daily trusting in God’s will above ours to such an extent that our love for them is as Christ’s, willing to teach and exhort them to the more excellent way. Faith that is not swayed by the doctrines of this world, but willing to share God’s truth in love, so that seeds are planted and watered in their lives, doing our reasonable service.

Endnotes:

1. Hebrews 11:23
2. Exodus 1:22
3. Acts 5:29
4. Ps 61:2
6. 2 Tim 2:7
7. 2 Cor 10:5
8. 1 Timothy 4:7
9. 1 Cor 3:7
11. Exodus 2:3
— Continued from pg. 5

can look back on, decisions we’ve made in life as a result of the Holy Spirit, or maybe not the Holy Spirit affecting us and we see the outcome. It’s always good when we choose to obey the Spirit and take time to prove it out.

We can sometimes be spiritually gullible. I saw that in a commentary, and I thought, that’s true. Sometimes I’m gullible spiritually. When anybody names the name of Christ, is it all Christian? If it has Jesus’ name on it or if it has the Christian name, does that make it all good? First of all, we would give consideration to it, but it could easily be that not all that says Christian is really Christian. We have to prove the spirits out.

The Spirit of God says that Jesus came in the flesh, and in the context of John, there were those, who were a part of a group that would’ve considered themselves religious people, who were teaching that because man is evil, it’s impossible for God’s Spirit, which knows no evil, to come into evil flesh. Deity and humanity cannot unite. But that’s a false prophet, a false teacher, because the Holy Spirit came in us, because Jesus was born in the flesh, and because he had a body that would die and that could be resurrected. It’s all part of the plan. This false teaching negates the salvation process, if Jesus has not come in flesh and blood, if he had not been like us, then he couldn’t be our high priest. He couldn’t be our intercessor. He couldn’t be our advocate. He couldn’t know what it’s like to be human, unless he was human, and this is why we have the opportunity for this wonderful relationship with the Spirit of God. We’re united – a frail body, a natural body, a body’s that prone to sin and the holy Spirit within it – and that can help us love and to bear fruit as a child of God. It can cause us to repent when we sin and can give us a joy and peace in life. It’s the Spirit that gives us those things, not the flesh.

It also says here, “Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” (1 John 4:3) The Bible is loaded with warnings of the carefulness that we need to have regarding the discernment of the spirits in the latter days that we’re living here. It says in 2 Peter, “That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” (2 Peter 3:3-4) In Timothy, Paul talks about prophecies of false prophets, wolves in sheep’s clothing, so we need to be aware, to be discerning.

In talking about how to be discerning, one way is prayer. One is making sure that we are committed to an environment, a fellowship that encourages us in our walk of faith. That doesn’t mean that’s all we do; Jesus says don’t take them out of the world but keep them from the world. But we need a place like church where we have a special fellowship that will help us discern the spirits. Another way is to watch what we read, because, over time, we will become influenced by the things that we read. If we wander in our minds and start straying from the truth of God’s word, there are very powerful false prophets in the world today that would tell us that there is no God. They would tell us that science is that which is life. There are so many wonderful things we can read that can expand our knowledge for the glory of God and for the betterment of self, but it must all be filtered through the Bible. We must be able to discern these spirits.

— Please turn to pg. 64
If we look a little further into such a well quoted, marvelous verse, verse 4, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4) Let’s remind ourselves constantly that we are God’s, that we have been bought with a price. We are not the servants of men and we are to glorify God in our body, which is God’s, because he’s given us his Spirit. You know, it’s the same Spirit that moved across the waters, that caused this void to turn into life. He took an empty void, he prayed, and brought life to it. We still battle the flesh. That’s why we have to discern the spirits, to follow God, and he said, little children, ye are of God and have overcome them. I believe we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. The demonic influences are very powerful today, and often quite subtle. Deception is great today. But we have overcome them. How? “Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4) How great is he in us? How spiritual are we? The greater God is in us, the more spiritual we are. When we say spiritual, we are talking about the Spirit of God, because there are a lot of spiritual people who would not recognize Jesus. What he’s saying here is that we’ve overcome because greater is he in us. We sense the battle going on here. Greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the world. There are times the spirit of the world can become great in our life, can be dominant in us. But it says, greater is he that is in us. The greater has the control. The greater is the one that is our God and the one Spirit whom we worship. In talking about these false prophets, he says, “They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.” (1 John 4:5-6) Who are we listening to? Who gets our attention and our time? Is it the still small voice? It wasn’t in the thunder. It wasn’t in the lightening. Just a still small voice. God is speaking to our hearts. Sometimes it’s just the little things. It’s really neat to make an apology. The still small voice, God’s Spirit says, yes, it won’t be easy, but do it for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. Then there’s the spirit of antichrist, saying, forget that; they deserved everything you gave them and more. We have to discern the spirit. Sometimes we listen to that because we don’t want to humble ourselves. I don’t like to be humble. I like to be right. I don’t like to be humble, but the Holy Spirit of God, when I like to be right, will abase me in love, and the Holy Spirit of God, when I humble myself, will lift me up. When I am proud, he will put me in my place. Praise God for that.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Let’s stay close to the word.

It says in the last sentence of verse 6, “Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6) So the next time we have to make a decision, maybe it’s relational, maybe it’s been confrontational, or maybe it’s something simple; maybe it’s a really big decision like a lot of our young people are making. Go to the Spirit of truth, pray and ask God to speak to your heart. Ask for a sign if you need to, for a confirmation from God, and I believe, in love, he gives us that. It may just be the peace in our heart. It might be a wise brother or sister that you can talk to, that says, ‘yes, you should go but be cautious,’ or maybe ‘it’s better not at this time. Let’s listen to one another. That’s how we build and strengthen ourselves and will be able to discern the Spirit of God.

I want to conclude in 1 Cor. 2. We often quote verse 9, and I think maybe we stop too soon. We’ve been talking about Spirit and the flesh and the battle that goes on and the need to discern.
1 Cor. 2:9 reads, “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” Often, we stop there. The next verse says, “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” (1 Cor. 2:10-11) This is the Spirit of God that moved across the waters, the Spirit of God that abides in us according to 1 John 3:24. Corinthians says, “The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” Now, – here’s what it says: this is our hope, this is our expectation, this is why we have great joy – “we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” (2 Cor. 2:11) So we cannot know them unless we have received the Spirit of God. It’s like when we were blinded before we were converted, before God called us in his love and drew us to him. We had the spirit of this world. We could not discern. We have fellowship with God today because we walk in the light and because we can discern what he wants for us, the things that have been revealed to us by the Spirit, that we might receive the things that he freely wants to give us. The best gift of all is Jesus and after that is eternal life with his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

New contact person for the Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers Directory

In Morton, IL, around 1938, young Bros. Orel Steiner, Ervin and Ira Rokey were interested to know where all our churches were located, and the names of the elders and ministers. Inquiries were made with acquaintances in different churches. A typewritten list was made in 1938, but never distributed. In 1939 Bro. Orel married Sis. Rose Thomas and moved to a farm at Oakville, IA.

In 1945, Bro. Orel published the first booklet with only the church locations and names of elders and ministers. Not until 1950 did he publish a directory again, in which addresses were added. Every third year a new edition was published until 1992. Subsequently, an updated directory was issued every other year. During those years additional data and listings were included.

After Bro. Orel passed away in 1990, his children continued publication of the directory. Time moves on, and now it is time to pass the work along to the next generation. Our nephew, Bro. Stephen Endress of Bradford, IL, has agreed to continue the work.

Early on, kind encouragement was received from many brethren toward this effort. Such encouragement and support have continued through all these years, for which we are grateful.

The Orel Steiner family.
Elder Joseph Bella, an early American Elder from Hungary, is buried in the South Side cemetery. His later years are mentioned in “Marching to Zion,” page 84: “He lived to be eighty-nine years old. In his declining years he became quite feeble due to a stroke and could not walk without aid. He was graciously taken into the home of Christian Gerber, who served as elder of the ‘South Side’ country church near Fairbury, Illinois. He is buried in the ‘South Side cemetery where a simple marker reads: “Elder Joseph Bella, Feb 13, 1812; January 31, 1902.”

Brother Bella was known as a “roving elder”. That is, he traveled widely in the early days helping new churches establish themselves. He was a single man, and time afforded him the opportunity travel and preach, and to offer support.

Tremonton, Utah
Because of my work on the history book entitled, “Marching to Zion,” I frequently get questions on our spiritual heritage. I was sitting in my office in Pontiac, Illinois, one afternoon recently and my phone rang. It was a couple from our Cissna Park, Illinois church who were returning home from Oregon. Their intention was to stop at Tremonton, Utah, the former site of one of our churches. They inquired if I knew the location of the old Apostolic Christian Cemetery. Initially, I thought I would have to say I didn’t know the location. But then, I thought of Tremonton, Utah’s entry in “Marching to Zion,” and I told them to wait while I inspected this book. On page 306, the location of the cemetery was referenced -- “3.5 miles west, and 1 mile south of Tremonton. I was glad to provide the answer. Ten minutes later I had a picture of the cemetery on my cell phone, sent by the inquiring couple.

-By Perry Klopfenstein
In Jude verses 14 and 15, we read, “Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all.” In the Bible, people who have been converted are called saints. Saints here refers to all true believers who have been given a new body at the time of the rapture referred to in 2 Thess. 4:16 and 17. If you are converted, you and I will be among them, to reign with Christ.

Matthew 25:31 reads, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.” This verse teaches us that when Christ comes to earth again He will bring all His holy angels with Him. Therefore we conclude that He will bring with Him, all His saints and all His angels.

In Revelation, chapter 20, we can read about the millennium. In verse 2 it is written, “And he (an angel) laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.” Satan is to be bound during the millennium and therefore there will no longer be disease, war, or conflict.

After the millennium, Satan is loosed out of his prison and goes out to deceive the nations. God puts an end to that and John then sees a new heaven and a new earth and the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. This, then, is where we are to spend the rest of our eternal life. Heaven is described with these words in Rev. 21:4, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Oh that everyone would be saved to enjoy the millennium and eternal life in the New Jerusalem, in the new heaven, and on the new earth.

-by Willis Ehnle
And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:29