Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: Daniel 2:20-21
Our Future

“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.” Rev. 5:1-4

As we read in Revelation, we get a window into the future. What if this story ended at Revelation 5:4 above? What would our future look like? Words can’t really describe the hopelessness that would ensue. Thanks be to God it wasn’t the end, in that “the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, (Jesus Christ) hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” Rev. 5:5

Because of this, we can now sing and praise Him. “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” Rev 5:13

Let us come before His throne and worship Him in every aspect of our lives. We are truly blessed.

Jeff Grimm, along with Rick Plattner, counseling elders
The Faith of Moses

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;”
Hebrews 11:24

As I began thinking about writing this article, I was mowing the front yard and I marveled at how different life is today than it was in the days of Moses. The neighborhood was peaceful, the grass green, and supper was in the making. I wondered how I could possibly write about Moses’ faith from the perspective of a suburban home in 21st century America. My mind went to the desert of Sinai and the burning bush. An adopted Egyptian noble exiled to the desert tending sheep. A bush that was burning but not consumed. The voice of God. The faith to lead an entire nation out of slavery to the promised land. How can these things be relevant to us?

They are extremely relevant. If we can see them through spiritual eyes, we will see that the decisions that Moses faced are decisions that we all face, and we can understand that his experiences are not that different than ours. We will also comprehend that faith is a critical element in decision-making, only becoming active when we are faced with a choice. Let’s consider Moses’ choices.

By faith, Moses chose to declare his loyalty, defending an Israelite who was being attacked by an Egyptian, thereby aligning himself with the people of God. While the Word is clear that we cannot condone the sinful act of murder, Moses’s loyalty to God’s people was clearly demonstrated. Although he hoped it would not become known, it became common knowledge and Moses fled to the wilderness. Is this all that different from our own experience? Even those who are raised by believing parents are “adopted” by the world. The devil is like Pharaoh’s daughter, taking us in and treating us royally—as long as we do not align ourselves with the people of God. Like Moses, if by faith we demonstrate loyalty to the people of God, we will find ourselves no longer accepted by society and we will become separated—in a social wilderness rather than a geographical wilderness. Choosing to reject the world and align with the people of God requires faith.

By faith, Moses chose to associate with the friends of God. We can see that God provided for Moses as he escaped to the wilderness by connecting him with a family that respected and honored the one true God. We can be assured that even though we may be isolated in a social wilderness, He will provide for us. Moses was taken into his new family by the priest of Midian, Reuel, whose name means, “Friend of God”. In a similar manner, we are taken into fellowship by the church. By faith, though exiled from the world, we find safety, friendship, and accountability, in the church family. The church is a friend of God and will shelter us, though we live as pilgrims and strangers in a foreign land. Moses could have chosen to move on and find something better than to live as a nomadic shepherd in the wilderness. But, by faith, he chose to associate with the “Friend(s) of God”.

By faith, Moses chose to obey God. He had eyes to see and ears to hear when a voice spoke to him out of a burning bush. After forty years of preparation in the desert, the Lord called him to go back to Egypt and demand freedom for his people. Moses had a choice. Continue in his now-comfortable life in an established household or risk everything to go back to Egypt. He felt incapable and raised all kinds of questions and objections to God. The Lord answered all of Moses’ concerns. Moses had a choice to make. By faith, he obeyed God. In our time, the Word of God is like that burning bush. It is full of a fire that burns but does not consume. If we are willing to take notice

— Please turn to pg. 58
Greetings and love. Thankful to be able to be in God’s house together and worship and honor him. The Bible is open into Daniel 8.

Just a little bit on the Old Testament reading… we open to these scriptures sometimes with a lot of different prophecies, and I wish I understood better some of the things that Daniel was talking about here, some of the history and maybe how some of how this ties in. Daniel was there in the Babylonian empire; he was taken out of Judah to a foreign country. We can read a lot about Daniel – the faith that he had, along with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the wisdom that God gave them throughout their time there – and we also realize that Daniel was given much insight into things to come. I’m sure there are those out here that understand this a lot better than I do, but I think it’s important for us to recognize that Daniel has this dream and he was looking at those things, many of which came to pass. He talked about the different kingdoms: the goat and the ram, the different horns, and if we would study it, we’d find there are different parts in that, including the Persians and the Medes, how they rose up, how the Greeks rose up, and how the Romans rose up. We can assign meaning to the different things in that.

The important thing that I get out of this is the understanding that God sees all things. Daniel, at that time, had no idea the things that were to pass, and if you or I were to ask Daniel, he might have said, “In the next 50-100 years all this would have come to pass: the end of the world, and we might face judgment.” Many times, people have thought that throughout the ages, and, at times, it can get us to be a little hardened against the fact that that judgment day is coming. Maybe we think, “Well, it’s been 2000+ year since Jesus came, and time just keeps going on.” We think, “Will the Lord ever return? Will he ever come back and take his children home?” There are things that we look at and say, “It seems like it’s close. It seems like it’s close.” There are people that can study these things, pointing to different parts of it, and say, “Here this happened and here this happened. This is the next thing that happens,” but when it comes down to it, what’s the important thing? The important thing is that we’re ready, isn’t it? the important thing is that we understand that there is a heaven and a hell and that we understand there is going to be a day of great judgment.

When we opened the Bible this morning at the table, it opened in Revelation and some of the judgments to come. Sometimes when we read though those things they seem far off, distant, it’s just a ways out there, and we think, “Well, it might happen sometime, but probably not tomorrow.” And yet we really don’t know, do we? We really don’t have any understanding of when those times will come. God could come tomorrow. He could come this afternoon. He could come right now. The roof could be lifted off the church, and we’d look up into the sky and see Jesus coming. We’d all have a reaction to it, wouldn’t we? Some of our reactions might be our heart lifted up in joy as we see our Savior coming. Some of our reactions might be one of great fear. We’d want to hide under the benches because we know we’re not ready. But the day’s coming, and we need to ask ourselves the questions, “Am I ready? Am I ready for the return of the Lord? Am I ready for the time that would come when time would be no more?”

That’s something hard for us to understand or fathom – no more time. Probably most of us have our life driven by time: we get up on Sunday morning knowing we have to be at church at a certain time. We spend time in the assembly, and sometimes we sit there (us ministers understand it) and look at our
want to be in a place where there’s no hope.” So we ask ourselves the question, “How can I get to heaven? How can I have that hope today that tomorrow I’ll be in heaven?” I think probably all of us here understand the great gift that was given there many years ago as Jesus went and died on the cross and shed his blood for us. We have that in our minds. I think everyone of us here — at least I hope every one of us here, and if not, we’ll talk about that — knows Jesus came as a baby in the manger, lived a perfect life, and then went to the cross, died, and shed his blood for mankind’s sin. Why did Jesus have to do that? Because we are all sinners. There’s not one of us that was righteous. There’s not one of us that could claim that we could earn our way into heaven. Not one of us that can say we’re perfect before God, and so that blood had to be shed, because it says without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. We have to have that blood shed so our sins can be forgiven and wiped out. We can be made whiter than snow, the Bible says, by the blood of Jesus Christ. We read in Ephesians, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Eph. 2:8-9.

It’s a gift from God. The salvation is a gift from God, and Paul is very clear about it as he teaches and he preaches that God wants to give us the gift of salvation. He gave his son to do that for us so he could be our savior, that we could turn to him, and repent for our sins. Repent. What’s that mean? It means to be sorry for our sins and to want to turn away from our sins. It means not to want to stay in them, not to want to just say, “I’m sorry,” and just to go back and do them again, but to turn away from them and find our salvation through Jesus Christ. It’s not of our works — not because we do such a great job of repenting or such a great job of confession or
Counting the Cost

Kairos Committee

“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” Luke 14:26-28

God is calling countless souls that embrace Islam to himself through Jesus Christ, his Son. He is using dreams and visions, prayer and people but most importantly his word, the Holy Bible, to express himself to them. Previously, some had only prayed in Arabic, not understanding the prayer, only reciting it from memory, ten to fifteen minutes, five times a day. There isn’t anything personal about it. After hearing a Christian pray, actually talking to God and believing that he hears and answers their prayers, and actually cares for them, they feel a longing to know the God with whom they can have such an intimate personal relationship.

However, to the Muslim who is touched and called, giving themselves wholly to Christ in faith is a fearful and even dangerous step to take. Questioning the Qur’an or Islam is forbidden and one of the most shameful things a Muslim can do. In a right/wrong culture, it’s hard for us to understand fully the consequences and persecution that occurs when a Muslim embraces Christianity. We don’t fully realize that leaving Islam can cost a person everything, perhaps

Because you came, I met Jesus…” Caribbean Committee

A Haitian pastor recently shared this story with Bro. Isaac Steiner after one of our HarvestCall teams visited a Haitian village:

Roselaine Cardet was a troubled woman living in Bonpas, Sud, Haiti. She had experienced a dream of being imprisoned by a Haitian Voodoo priest and the only way out was to call on the name of Jesus. Roselaine was not a believer. However, Roselaine had neighbors in Bonpas that were Christians. She observed the Christians gather for worship on Sunday, observed their lives, and saw them praying for a new church building. She saw them work together to put the walls up, then wait patiently and pray that God would provide a way to complete the building.

Sometime later, a team from HarvestCall arrived at Bonpas and brought materials and began work on the church roof. Roselaine observed the team working with the local Haitian congregation, and witnessed the joy and expressions of Christian love as the team worked, sang, and worshipped with the local congregation and finished the roof before departing.

After the team left, this woman visited the Haitian pastor and told him that she was deeply moved by what she had observed, that she wanted to surrender her
Counting the Cost

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Isaac Steiner after one of our HarvestCall teams

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and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren,

whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s,

the same shall save it.” Mark 8:35

As Christ beckons a Muslim to trust him and surrender their life to him, we should understand the strong hold and fear they are experiencing in order to gain the freedom that only comes from

Christ. We should equip ourselves with knowledge and patience, and much love and understanding when we are involved with a Muslim in the “valley of decision” or who has already passed through that valley into a new life in Christ. The decision to follow Christ is a costly one, and they will need all the support they can get from their new family, the family of God, their Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Mark 10:29-30

As we find more and more Muslims in our communities, schools and workplaces, articles are collected to help us understand the Islamic faith and lifestyle so that we are better equipped to reach out to them. You can find helpful articles at www.harvestcall.org/kairos.

– by Tim Hohulin

even their life. Stories of Muslims forsaking Islam and being banished from their families, never to be heard of again, seem impossible to grasp, even when occurring in a foreign nation. To think of this happening in the U.S. is beyond our comprehension, yet accounts abound of those that have suffered such fate.

Some Muslims may sanction violence for the sake of restoring Islamic honor. The father, for example, whose child has “dishonored” them and Islam by converting to Christianity, may view it necessary to punish the child in order to restore honor. As the father has been dishonored in the eyes of those attending his mosque, extreme pressure is put on him to restore honor in his family and mosque. Accounts of severe discipline and even “honor killings” are not unheard of in these cases.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.” Mark 8:35

As Christ beckons a Muslim to trust him and surrender their life to him, we should understand the strong hold and fear they are experiencing in order to gain the freedom that only comes from

life to Christ and become a member of his kingdom. Roselaine now enjoys redemption by Jesus’ shed blood, and freedom from Satan’s bondage.

Our ministry may be constructing schools and churches in Haiti, but as stated in HarvestCall Guiding Principle #8, “We will proclaim and demonstrate Christ’s love such that the gospel is never secondary.” This visiting work team came to construct a roof on a church, but the most important result of the trip was that a soul came to know Jesus.

May God give us these opportunities in our lives to demonstrate God’s love and proclaim the gospel message of salvation to a broken and enslaved world.

– by Rod Wieland

November 2016   SILVER LINING

October 2019    SILVER LINING

7
The Church and Singleness

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

The Sanctity of Singleness

For a long time, the Church has diligently taught and held high the “sanctity of marriage” – the unity of a man and woman reflecting the Oneness of God. This instruction is worthy of weight and attention. Marriage speaks to the union of Christ and His church and creates an environment where loving, believing parents can disciple and encourage their children toward faith in God. However, we see in John 1:12-13 the teaching of the new covenant of a spiritual family, the increase of the kingdom of God through spiritual regeneration and not just growth through childbearing. This is a critical shift to consider. It calls us to ponder the value we place on marriage and the lesser value sometimes placed on singleness. In the spiritual sense of God’s new covenant, singleness and marriage have equal standing in His sight. His focus is on His spiritual family (Mark 3:31-35). In this context then, it is good to consider for a moment not just the “sanctity of marriage” but also the “sanctity of singleness.” Similar to marriage, the sanctity of singleness can celebrate oneness, fidelity and covenant – not with man, but with God. Singleness therefore has great value in God’s eyes.

Scripture abounds with examples of believers who were single. Paul, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Anna, Jeremiah, Elijah and Daniel are a few individuals who were likely single. Jesus Himself chose to live a single life, building a family of brothers and sisters in the Lord versus building an earthly family. Living life

Similar to marriage, Satan has attacked God’s design for singleness. Without careful Biblical attention being paid to the sanctity of singleness, some inaccurate views can be propagated. Included in these inaccuracies could be:

1. Singleness is something to be feared.
2. Singles have less value than their married counterparts.
3. There is something wrong with the individual that doesn’t receive a marriage proposal.
4. Singleness is a phase of life and should be temporary.

This article will endeavor to encourage us by asking eight self-reflecting questions regarding how we view the singles in our lives.

1. Does my attempt to encourage singles have the opposite effect? The comment “You’ll be next” when directed to a single at a wedding reception may have the opposite effect, leaving the individual feeling hurt or discouraged. The single may be:
   a. content in his/her current state of life.
   b. currently in the marriage proposal process and thus feel undo pressure.
   c. desiring marriage but feeling little control over their marital status.

2. Have I kept up with my single friends? In a new couple’s excitement of engagement and beginning a different phase of life, single friends can sometimes feel left behind. Oftentimes, single friends are excited for the new couple but can feel disappointed as their relationships change. While a degree of change is inevitable, it is important to maintain communication as much as possible with single friends, taking a continuing interest in their lives.

3. Do I overlook mature, gifted singles for church responsibilities? Church offices, Sunday school, committee membership, and other aspects
of church all can benefit from capable single involvement. We should strive to see the value and potential in our singles.

4. **Do I relegate certain responsibilities only to singles?** Babysitting, running errands, visiting elderly, and service projects can frequently be delegated as responsibilities to be fulfilled by singles. Assuming singles have more time and fewer responsibilities can often be a false generalization. Without the support of a spouse, single individuals often lead very busy lives as they balance work, family obligations and household responsibilities on their own.

5. **Do I overthink my invitations to singles when I host gatherings?** Will they feel comfortable? Do I invite only an even number? Do I invite people for the sole reason they will inevitably bring blessing to the gathering, regardless of marital status? Invitations to singles can be a great encouragement to all those involved.

6. **Do I view all singles as the same?** Singles hold many different titles and exist in many different life stages. Some are doctors, mothers, executives, college students, et al. Singles vary in maturity, responsibilities, and life callings just as widely as everyone else. They are no more a homogeneous group than married couples. We should remember singles in our church family are not one and the same, realizing the life of a 40 year old working single may vary dramatically from a 20 year old single college student or a 55 year old widow. We should be careful to not have the most defining label in one’s life be “single.”

7. **Am I sensitive to the general support singles need?** Singles go through periods of loss, questioning and needing affirmation. They also have a need for support, just like married individuals. And often singles can feel alone during these times without the benefit of a spouse or close confidant to truly share their heart with. One example is our church’s proposal by faith process. While this has been a blessing to many, the proposals usually discussed are those that have led to engagement. Confidentiality around this process is critical, but it can also create an environment where individuals who have given or received a “no” can feel shame or confusion if they try to reconcile these disappointments on their own. There is the hope this would draw an individual closer to the Lord, but unfortunately, this is not always the case. The individual may feel like they are the only one to have this experience and could develop bitterness toward God for not following through on the dream or expectation of having a spouse. Being able to openly share emotions with elders, parents, mentors or close friends while trusting that confidentiality will be maintained can be very helpful. Be willing to help create this environment of friendship and sharing as God gives opportunity.

8. **Does the term “single” mean anything more to me than marital status?** The word single occurs twice in the Bible (Matt. 6:22, Luke 11:34) and is derived from the Greek word haplous, which means “clear, sound and whole.” Both 1 Cor. 7:32-35 and Matt. 6:22 speak to having a spiritual vision that is fully fixed on God, not divided by other cares or concerns. It is good for all of us, married or single, to consider how focused our lives are on God and His purpose in our lives.

If we do not take time to reflect, the sanctity and blessings of singleness can continue on page 61.
Are You Ready and Available?

The Church Establishment Committee (CEC) has reached out for many years asking singles, couples and families to consider “relocating” to smaller churches and church plants. However, instead of focusing on “moving”, maybe we should shift our thinking to “Are we ready and available?”

The natural tendency in life is to discuss “big events” as opposed to what led to those events. Think of someone you know that has relocated. Typically, they will get many questions about, “How did you decide where to move?” or “Tell me your story.” Rarely, however, will they be asked, “What happened in the 15 years prior to your relocation?” “What were you doing, and what was God doing to make you ready and available for this moment?”

The word ready has a couple of different meanings in the New Testament. One is to be “fit or prepared.” As an example, in 1 Peter 3:15 we are told to “… be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you…” Another meaning is “willingness or eagerness” as Paul discussed in Romans 1:15 — “So, as much as is in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.” Readiness, defined as being “prepared and eager”, reflects the unquenched Holy Spirit within us. Consider the consequences of only being half ready — to be prepared and not eager is wasted talent as we read in Matthew 25:14-30 of the man who hid his talent in the ground. To be eager, but not prepared is ineffective and distracting as we see in the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:14-17.

We also have to be cautious with our motives and “self talk” when thinking about being ready and available. Consider if the following statements are true, or justification not to be involved:

• “Once I find my ministry or calling, then my life will thrive.” The truth is, Jesus says that He has come that we can have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10) If you aren’t “thriving” in Christ now, moving to find a ministry isn’t the answer. Instead, ask yourself, how can I be more effective in my current location.
• “If I had a purpose, then I would be motivated to study the scriptures.” The truth is, we are commanded to study the scriptures (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1). A different purpose without a change in our love toward God, isn’t likely to increase our study of the Word.
• “I am just not sure I know enough yet.” The truth is, we will never know enough. Even Paul stated that he was not already perfect (Phil. 3:12). We will always be growing and changing.

Twelve Truths of Readiness

Let’s consider 12 truths from II Timothy on what readiness looks like. The Book of Timothy was written by Paul shortly before his death. He wanted Timothy to be ready for pastoral ministry and be able to continue without him on this earth. These truths can be broadened to all ministry.

1. Cultivate Biblical Culture – Culture is a way of life of a group of people that includes their behaviors, beliefs, values, etc. Culture is developed by how we as individuals interact with those in our families, our churches and community. The first time Paul came through Timothy’s town, he was stoned and kicked out of the city. The second time through, he wanted to take young Timothy with him. We do not read that his Mother Lois or Grandmother Eunice resisted him going. The culture around missions had been cultivated enabling Timothy to go.

2. Live Boldly for Christ – Timothy was challenged to not live timidly but in boldness.

3. Persevere in Faithfulness – Paul gives examples of Phygellus and Herogenes of men that “quit” in difficulty, but he also talked about Onesiphorus,
who refreshed him often, and diligently served him.

4. Engage in Discipleship – Timothy was to take what he had been taught and teach others with the passion of a soldier, athlete and farmer.

5. Be Gospel Motivated – Jesus rose from the dead! What a radical statement! Because it is true, Paul instructed Timothy to endure whatever necessary so that others might be saved!

6. Focus on Biblical Truth – Paul coached Timothy to stay away from “side issues” that would turn others from truth. He said to handle the truth appropriately so that ungodliness from “side issues” will not spread like a canker.

7. Walk Purposefully – Timothy was reminded that he was a set aside vessel for God’s purposes. He needed to deny his own lusts and pursue God. In conflicts, he needed to turn from resisting God to honoring Him.

8. Discern False Teaching – False teaching was going to happen in Timothy’s time, and men would profess Christ in word, but not in reality. Timothy was charged to discern falsehood and respond appropriately.

9. Expect Difficulty – Paul reminded Timothy that ministry is not glamorous. He should expect resistance if he lives for Christ!

10. Cling to Scriptures – In difficulty Paul told Timothy that the scriptures were sufficient both to save and sanctify him. He was fully equipped for his ministry with the scriptures.

11. Preach the Truth – Timothy was charged to preach the Word at all times, resisting the temptation to please men that desired teaching affirming their sinful state.

12. Think on Eternity – Paul ends his letter by telling Timothy that he is going to die, but reminds him that there is a crown of righteousness laid up for all of those that love the appearing of Christ.

We can look at this list of truths and say, “I am not there; I have not arrived!” However, the question is, "What is our trajectory?” We will never fully arrive, but "Are we growing in being ready and available?"

Many times the CEC or other organizations have asked, “Would you prayerfully consider moving to meet a given need?” While these are still valid requests, perhaps the larger question to consider is, "Would you ask God to continue growing your readiness and availability?” The opportunities are endless in your neighborhood, community, small churches, church plants, foreign missions, etc. What happens when one person daily devotes his/her life to being ready and available for God’s use? What about 10? Maybe 100? The relevant question is, “What about you?” May God receive the glory that He is worthy of!

If you have any specific questions regarding church planting or small church bolstering, talk with your elder, consider joining the Learn and Discern Prayer group or send an e-mail to CEC at cec@harvestcall.org.
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:10

If you follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@aclifepoints), you may have seen some recent news articles about one of our residents becoming an honorary member of the Morton Auxiliary Police Department. We are so excited for this young man and the opportunities he now has to serve his community!

Growing up, this resident’s father was a police officer, and he has watched both of his brothers join the police force as well. It’s in his blood to want to serve others, and we are grateful that the Morton Auxiliary Police Department has given him this chance to do so in big ways! He’s already helped with crowd control and leading the parade floats at the Morton Pumpkin Festival this year. We love seeing him thriving in this position!

As we read the news articles and watched the interviews, our hearts were stirred by this resident’s heart for others. You can hear the emotion in his voice as he talks about how excited he is to be able to help people. His life has been impacted by the kindness of others, and he is eager to return the good he has been given. It’s an encouragement for all of us to be looking out for ways we can help and do good as we are called to in Galatians 6. We are certainly given many opportunities to serve, and how often do we breeze by them because we are solely concerned with our own lives?

We also want to remember and give thanks to all those that support and encourage this ministry here at LifePoints. In whichever way you are involved in our residents’ lives – whether that is by working here, taking time on a Friday night to come to a hymn singing, supporting us financially, writing letters, praying for our residents, and more – know that LifePoints would not be the same without you. Thank you for doing good unto all men.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Laura Steffen — Science Teacher

Students who attend Gateway Woods School are often behind in credits for graduation. Their attitudes toward this situation can vary. Some students are not bothered. They find little value in education because believe they know what they need for the future. Other students see graduation as an impossible goal, one that only others can achieve. Some students want to earn credits, but when it comes down to doing the work, they aren’t willing to put forth the effort to review and understand the material. Still other students persevere through the difficult material, completing all the assigned work. They have the end goal of graduation in mind.

Like the parable of the sower and the seed, students come to Gateway Woods School as fallow ground in need of bearing fruit, but they cannot become fruitful on their own. Some of them do not yet see a need for God. Others have fully accepted the world’s teaching, believing that they can’t find God. Some of the students know that the seed is good, but the thorns and thistles of past desires or addictions choke out the truth we try to plant. Each weed must be carefully rooted out. Christ calls us to sow the seed in their lives whether the soil is yet ready to receive it or not.

As a teacher, I can sometimes become discouraged. Have I sowed in vain? Will my work ever produce fruit? All seeds require a time of germination, and sometimes, the seed flourishes with the care and attention it receives. Students blossom and produce wonderful growth here. This brings joy to my
heart as a teacher. Yet I know that I only plant the seed; God causes it to flourish. How much greater must His pleasure be when we, His children, apply ourselves to growing and flourishing in our understanding of Him? We must allow Him to teach us of Himself. His patience with us when we are slow to learn is so much greater than what we as people can ever manage!

**News:**

Our Annual Hog & Jog 5k Run/Walk was held on October 19. This was a great day for the community to connect with Gateway Woods while promoting a healthy lifestyle.

WillowBridge is officially open. 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.

**Arizona, Phoenix**

**Marge Lindenbaum**

“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.” Ps. 112:7

On January 13, 2018, the people of Hawaii received a ballistic missile alert (which turned out to be false). At the time, two of my children were in Hawaii – my son lives there, and my daughter was visiting him. I was on my way to have lunch with a friend when my phone rang. It was my son, informing me of an alert that was sent out, due to a missile being launched toward the islands, instructing everyone to seek shelter. We talked for a while, and then said goodbye. I pulled the car over to say a prayer, had a moment, then went on to meet my friend. I apologized for being late and explained what was going on. She said, “You Christians respond so strangely to situations like this!” It was unexpected and somewhat off-putting, as I expected something more sympathetic or caring. Her response is the thing I most remember about that day – likely because the alert turned out to be false. Later, I thought about her reaction and realized she was right. It was not a “normal” response. Many people on the islands were terrified, shocked, angry (especially after it was retracted) and the local reaction was reportedly chaos and confusion, as there was really no shelter available.

Followers of Jesus recognize two Truths that facilitate a peaceful acceptance of such news. First, God is in control and we are not (no matter how much we deceive ourselves into thinking we are). Secondly, all things work together for the good of us Christians. The more times we have trusted God and seen how He works all things for good, the easier it is to trust Him, and not fear evil tidings. We understand the brief nature of our mortal
lives, and how what happens here only matters in the way it affects our eternal destiny.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Is. 26:3

We are happy to have our Elder Bro. Herb Knochel and Sis. Laurie back from their travels in connection with our India ministry.

Our ACTIVE program is up and running. This month, the students made greeting cards for veterans that are in a local home. We were informed the cards touched many of the veterans staying there.

We are looking forward to our winter visitors returning soon. It appears the heat of summer has abated, although it is a little early to be fully confident of that. We are enjoying beautiful weather for at least the near future. Come and enjoy it with us.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We have been blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Brian Katich (Sis. Debbie, Phoenix), Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris) and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville) have graciously served our congregation. Many thanks go out for the efforts to preach the Word of God.

Our Sunday School students are enjoying a new year of instruction focusing on His teachings.

We are keeping Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas in our prayers as they struggle with health issues. It is good to hear that Bro. Don Bauer (Sis. Glo) is recovering from knee surgery.

Please consider visiting us here in Tucson. You are always welcome. If you need accommodations, please call Bro. Dean Knobloch at 309-231-8428.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

The transition to school has come and gone, along with the start of the Sunday school year. We celebrated this new beginning with our kids at our annual beach picnic enjoying fellowship, the warm weather, and God’s awesome creation.

There is another new beginning as Garrett Moser (Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin) began his walk with Christ! We rejoice with him and his family, echoing our current study of Galatians:

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world...to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Galatians 1:1-5

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman

This month our men and older boys spent a couple of nights in the mountains camping for the annual Men’s Retreat. They enjoyed fishing, hiking and daily devotional time. It was a blessing to bond together and encourage one another.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Matt Wulf (Sis. Tara, Morris, MN) for opening God’s Word this past month. What joy to be able to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! He is worthy!

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” 1 Chronicles 16:29

Connecticut, Rockville
Julie Bauman, Heidi Beutel

We want to extend a warm welcome to Lucas Reutter (Bro. Nathan & Sis. Miriam) who moved here from the Clarendon, VT congregation to work in the area.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Ben Moser as he has been hospitalized this past month, and is now home recovering after spending some time in rehab.

We were thankful to have Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) this past month to preach the word.

We rejoiced with Bro. Jesse Schneider (Bro. Doug & Sis. Jane) and Sis. Erica Clarke (Gary Clarke and Christy Clarke) as they announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them as they prepare for marriage and their wedding.

We also rejoice with Bro. Matthew Moser (Bro. Steve & Sis. Jan) and Laura Schneider
(Bro. Doug & Sis. Jane) as they announced their engagement. May God bless and guide them always!

We are thankful for Paul and Kelsey Hills, Rob Hany (Bethany) and Brian Garrow (Bro. Ed & Sis. Cindy) as they were announced for baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms the weekend of September 28 & 29.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

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

Our ministers this month were Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL). Other visitors were from Francesville, IN, Forrest & Fairbury, IL. We are thankful for visitors and for them letting us know they are coming.

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

Florida, Fort Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

We were thankful for the ministers and their families that visited this past month. Visiting were Bro. John Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). We pray they will be blessed for their efforts.

We were thankful for God’s protection over our church family during hurricane Dorian. Our prayers go out to those in the Bahamas that were impacted so heavily.

We are enjoying afternoon Bible studies in place of second service, occasionally when our numbers are down to only a handful that are here in town.

Our prayers are with Zachary Mangold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold’s grandson) as he embarks on his military career and that the Lord will keep him ever close, guided and protected.

Florida, Fort Myers

Mary Masters

We are thankful to have escaped the fury of hurricane Irma, but saddened for all the folks living in the Bahamas. In Fort Myers, we did not feel many of the effects of this strong hurricane. I missed reporting last month so will be including the visiting ministers from the last two months.

We were blessed to have Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) Bro. Jim Butikofor (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IO) and our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn, Sarasota, FL) as our visiting ministers. We thank each one for giving their time and talents.

We have finished our Galatians study and will resume regular afternoon church. We were immensely blessed with a close look at Paul’s writings. It helped us examine our own lives as to whether we are putting more emphasis on man-made rules than our worship of God. The living Word flushes our hidden sin.

The New Beginnings

We have two new residents since our last writing. Juliana has a one-year old son, Tristan. Janice has 18-month-old, Zariah, and 4-month-old, Alani. We welcome them to our TNB family. Our residents are busy in school working for a degree to afford them independence and taking care of their little ones. These single mothers face a myriad of challenges. Our mission at TNB is to give them a hand to help them succeed toward their goals.

We are thankful for Paul and Kelsey Hills, Rob Hany (Bethany) and Brian Garrow (Bro. Ed & Sis. Cindy) as they were announced for baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms the weekend of September 28 & 29.
We must put aside our own impatience and expectations and fully lean on the direction of the Holy Spirit. We have found that to hear and discern God’s directives we must spend time in His word and in prayer daily. What we may have experienced growing up might be completely different than what our residents have experienced. We are learning to try to climb behind the eyes of these beloved moms and see things the way they may see them. One of the very rewarding happenings here at TNB is when we see the little children start to settle in and thrive in a safe, protected environment.

We welcome Terri Young to our campus. Terri is our ministering Bro. Marvin Steffen’s sister. She has come from Colorado to help us as a mentor. In the short time she has been with us, the moms have responded to her kind gentleness and helping hand. We thank God for her saying yes to the Holy Spirit’s prompting.

A verse that comes to my mind is, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Prov. 9:10. Only when we stand in reverential awe and put God before ourselves can we experience victory over this world and Satan. Please pray for all of us to cling to Jesus and let go of past sin.

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

We welcome Bro. Don and Sis. Peggy Heiniger from Elgin, IL as they make their home in Sarasota, FL. What a joy it is to see our church grow in number. Pray that they may feel our love as we worship together.

We thank Bro. Arlan (Sis. Katie Miller, Gridley IL) who came on the weekend of August 16. They presented “Bridge the Gap -Mentoring” learning how to build and deepen relationships within our church family. Loved ones joined us from Fort Myers and Fort Lauderdale for these activities which consisted of a Friday night potluck, Saturday morning presentation, and a picnic at Siesta beach in the evening.

We also thank Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) as he shared God’s word. Now with two of their daughters in Sarasota, we look forward to see them more often.

This month our prayers were for Sis. Aldine Martin and Sis. Sandee Price as they both spent time in the hospital. Prayers also were for Sis. Maryann and Bro. Lyman Feldman in the passing of Sis. Martha Zollinger of Rittman who was Maryann’s sister.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings! Recently, the rioting and violence over gas shortages and rising prices have been affecting daily life. While dismay and frustration over not having gas is completely understandable (for example, if you drive a taxi for a living), choosing rage is not the response God’s Word instructs us to take. We have been thankful to receive a few visitors here and there between the periods of unrest. Elder Bro. Marvin & Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton,
were here to visit with each couple and each single missionary to provide comfort or encouragement as needed. These brothers also shared the Word with us one Sunday, which was so appreciated. May God bless you for your care and kindness.

Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb are thrilled to welcome another granddaughter! Mari Jean is the first child born to Bro. Graham and Sis. Leah League (Bradford, IL). Sis. Christine was thankful to be with them back in the States. Congratulations, Graham and Leah!

Our missionary school started here the first week of September, to line up with the start of Haitian schools. We are thankful for this local Christian school where Grace Walder, and Korian and Kenton Steiner attend. Two teachers and the principal are teaching 23 students this year; a mix of missionary and Haitian children, all from families involved in local mission agencies (all are English speaking). Many parents rotate on the school board and some will substitute teach when necessary.

These missionary school teachers are not paid, but are supported by their friends, families and churches. Each has felt uniquely called to serve. Some come for 1-3 years, and our children have loved each one. If you would like more information about teaching at our school in the future, or you would like to visit, you may contact any one of us. Several of our sisters have taught in the past and have been gladly supported by their home churches.

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**

*Wendy Zimmerman, Sara Anliker*

“Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me for I trust in thy word.” Psalm 119:41-42

What a wonderful request and statement. When we offer our hearts and true desires to the Lord, He will always hear us. To know God is to know life. To know God is to know truth.

We were richly blessed this month to have many visitors with us. Our thanks go to Bro. Kole Meyer (Sis. Amy, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), as well as Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) for bringing God’s Word to us in such powerful messages. We also had the great privilege to have the Covenant Chamber Choir lead us in worship.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptism of Bro. Rick Huette and Sis. Hope Metz (Bro. Brad & Sis. Karen Metz). What a privilege to hear of the Spirit’s work in their lives.

We thank our Lord and Savior that two more have given their hearts to Him and come together to encourage and pray for Ethne Heiniger (Bro. Brett & Sis. Jen Heiniger) and Ethan Leman (Bro. Darin & Sis. Jessica Leman).

We praise and thank God for the 50 years He has given to us as a Bloomington Church. We pray that He continues to bless and direct our paths.

God’s grace and peace to you!

**Illinois, Bradford**

*Becky Endress, Lana Wiegand*

We are thankful to announce two new converts this month! Praise God for His tender call to Marissa Endress, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress, and Jenna Ehnle, daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ehnle.

Thanks to our visiting ministers: Bros. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City), Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville), and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago) for sharing the Word on our invite-a-guest weekend.

Several new babies were recently born in our community. Memphis James joined Jimmy and Alex Colwell on August 24. His grandparents are Jenny Moody of Bradford, Donnalee Colwell of Sparland, and Doug Colwell of Chillicothe. Bro. Graham and Sis. Leah League welcomed their daughter, Mari Jean, on September 11. Her grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb of Francesville, IN, and Richard and Vanessa League of Arizona. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos have a new grandson, Colt Patrick. Little Colt was born to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sandi Steffen of Princeville on August 5.
One special event we enjoyed this month was an all-church supper and singing at the home of Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tonya Joos. It was such a blessing to watch the children play and to fellowship as a church family. We cannot thank God enough for the gift of unity and peace within our brotherhood!

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

We sincerely appreciate the willing service of Bros. Fred Witzig and Jason Dotterer, who visited to share the Word this month.

We mark the seasons by semesters here in Champaign and fall is now upon us. Fall brings many anticipated events, including the Student Welcome Picnic, the first of our monthly Bible study series, and the beginning of our monthly Youth Night program. We trust that all these events are a worthy investment of preparation, study, fellowship, and worship.

The approach of fall is also felt in the turning of the corn and soybeans as we progress toward harvest. While our appreciation for the beauty of a cornfield sometimes wanes, it reminds me of the song that says simply ‘I feel the thunder in the sky, I see the sky about to rain, and I hear the prairies calling out Your name.’

For me, it took a year of living in the desert to fully appreciate that the prairies do indeed call out His name, and never more than in the harvest. There is a familiar cadence to the harvest that teaches us yet again that history is not a cycle, but a season that ages for a time, but will then conclude at a time appointed.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

Thanks go out to our recent visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO). In August we began a new Sunday School year and enjoyed a Wednesday evening Fellowship Night.

We rejoice with the Rassi family to welcome Maylove (nine years) and Djessica (eight years) into our church family. Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget brought their new daughters home from Haiti in September.

Keith Bradley was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Julie Luthi (Lamont, KS) on September 6. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi (Lamont, KS). We praise God for His abundant blessings!

We mourn with our brothers and sisters who have said goodbye to loved ones in recent days. Sis. Edith Zimmerman of Morton, IL passed away in August. She was the grandmother of Bro. Fred Sollberger and Sis. Leah Graf (Bro. Ryan). Bro. Joe Ramseyer (Sis. Dorethy, Detroit, MI) passed away in August as well. He was the grandfather of Sis. Carrie Ramseyer.

Bro. Chris Lee Wuethrich (Sis. Ruth, Francesville, IN) passed away in September. He was the grandfather of Bro. Levi Wuethrich (Sis. Kyann), Sis. Marissa Wuethrich, and Sis. Carrie Ramseyer. We extend prayers and condolences during this time of sorrow while also rejoicing for the promise of victory in Jesus.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Joan Rudin, Amber Stuckel

New life is such a miracle! Little Ty Jackson, son of Ashley Walder, was born in August. He is welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Doug & Sis. Julie Walder, and many other close family members!

Our Sunday School Students and our Senior Citizens enjoyed our annual dinner together. We enjoyed the program that evening and spending time together.

Greg Rudin, son of Gary Rudin and the late Liz Rudin, has sustained serious injuries. Please pray for him and his family.

Our Sis. Lucille Knapp is now living at Fairview Haven. We trust God will bless her in her new home.

Todd Farney, the son of Grace and the late Ben Farney, passed away. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

“IT may be I must carry the blessed word of life...
Across the burning desserts
to those in sinful strife;
And tho’ it be my lot to
bear my colors there,
If Jesus goes with me,
I’ll go anywhere.”
If Jesus Goes With Me,
Tabernacle Hymns #36, verse 2

On August 21, we held a
sending service for our Bro. Andy
and Sis. Erin Ott as they prepared
to leave to enter the foreign
mission field. They, along with
their four children: Sierra, Malaya,
Clayton and Aria, will start their
journey in Costa Rica, where they
will attend language school. After
that is completed, Lord willing,
they will serve at Casa de Vida y
Esperanza in Magdalena, Mexico.
Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis.
Kathy, Roanoke) joined us that
evening to exhort both this dear
family, as well as our congregation
in our role as a sending church.
While their presence among us
will surely be missed, we have
faith to believe that they are
pursuing God’s will for their
family and will be a blessing to
those they encounter along their
journey to Mexico and serving
there as missionaries.

“And, behold, I am with thee, and
will keep thee in all places whither
thou goest.” Genesis 28:15

The High School students in
Bible Class attended ACYF Day
in Tremont on September 15. It
was a blessed day of singing and
exhortation for both these young
people and the teachers and wives
who attended. Bro. Jeremiah
Psinas (Morton) and Bro. Arlen
Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest) were
inspired in their teaching through
the Spirit to the benefit of all. We
pray that as these young people
continue to listen to God’s Word
and the beautiful hymns they
sang, that they would be moved
toward surrendering their lives to
their Savior, Jesus.

We are thankful that Bro.
Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl,
Eureka) labored on our behalf this
month. May he and his dear wife
feel the blessings of the Spirit for
their willingness to serve.

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Earl Beery (Sis.
Suzy, Rittman, OH), Bro. Brian
Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville,
IN), Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis.
Michelle, Chicago); and Bros.
Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene) and
Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi) (both of
Belvidere) for ministering to us
this month.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby
Leman are happy to have a new
grandson, Henry Daniel, born
on August 29 to Bro. Drew and
Sis. Ashley Pelc (Peachtree City,
GA). Henry’s excited siblings are
Audrey and Noah. His paternal
grandparents are Dan and Anne
Pelc of Oelwein, IA.

The annual Sunday School
Pancake Breakfast was held on
Saturday, September 7, at the
Fellowship Center. It was hosted
by our Bible Class students to raise
money for their ACYF bus trips
and other Sunday School activities.
We thank them for their efforts.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

“I was glad when they said unto
me, Let us go into the house of the
Lord” Psalm 122:1.

The Eureka congregation
truly felt a deep gladness and
thankfulness to God, as we
returned to our refreshed church
building on August 18, after
five Sundays away. We are very
thankful as well for all of the
churches near and far that made
us so welcome during those weeks.

We were thankful for the
visiting ministers who served
us this month. They included
Bro. Arlen Lehman (Sis. Denise,
Forrest, IL), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis.
Laura, Garden Grove, IA), Bro.
Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction,
OH), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea,
Remington, IN), and Bro. Ryan
Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL).

September 15 was a special
Sunday as the Bible class hosted
Bible classes from Peoria, Taylor,
Washington, and Morton.

We are sorrowing along with
Sis. Kathy (Bro. Jerry) Leman, at
the loss of her father, Bro. Earl
(Sis. Esther) Gerber of Forrest, IL.
We also extend sympathy to Sis.
Judie (Bro. Ernie) Knecht, whose
brother, Preston Tomblinson of
LaRose, IL, passed away recently.

Bro. Leland (Sis. Barb)
Zimmerman was hospitalized,
but is now recuperating and
appreciates your prayers.

We are very joyful that Brett
Leman has peace with God and
desires baptism. He is the son of
Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis.
Illinois, Fairbury

Trish Steidinger, Kati Meiss

We are so thankful Stella Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara) has answered the call to repentance. We wish Stella much grace as she begins to build a firm foundation on the Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Now it is accomplished! I’m no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine” Now It Is Done, Zion’s Harp #209

It was a blessed weekend August 24 and 25 when we received three new brothers and a new sister into our fellowship. We welcome Sis. Lydia and Bro. Luke Kaisner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jodi), Bro. Marvin Edelman (Matthew and Helen of Kansas) and Bro. Bryce Teubel (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jennifer). We wish many blessings on our new brothers and sister and their families. We thank Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville) for helping Elder Bro. Rick in this sacred work. Other visiting ministers that joined us for the special day were Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL), Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cisna Park, IL) and Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL). We are thankful for their faithful service.

On September 15, our Bible Class traveled to Tremont for ACYF Day. We are thankful our youth has this opportunity to travel and share fellowship and song with other Apostolic Christian youth. We pray they have lasting memories.

Hospital or surgical patients this month have been Bro. Harvey Schieler (Sis. Janice) and Clayton Meiss (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati). Our prayers are with them as they recover.

Illinois, Forrest

Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Loren Kaeb (the late Bro. Eldon and the late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb) begins his repentance. May he feel the prayers of his church family and take comfort in knowing the prayers of those who have gone on before continue to ascend to our Heavenly Father.

We extend loving prayers for those who have had recent hospital stays and surgeries: Sis. Gloria (Bro. Wayne) Drayer, Keith (Jackie) Walter and Barb (Dale) Knapp. We also continue to keep our Bro. Brad (Sis. Shannon) Brown in our prayers as he continues his battle with cancer.

Thanking God for the safe arrival of Brecken Joseph are first-time parents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Damaris Kaeb. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser (Fairbury, IL), joined in loving memory of the late Bro. Eldon and the late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb.

Reminding us of God’s goodness this month were visiting ministers, Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO). May God bless their willingness to serve His people.

Joining us for ACYF Day were Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), along with young people from Goodfield, Gridley and Roanoke. As the young voices raised in song uplifted our hearts, may the messages and memories of the day lift their hearts toward our Savior.

Illinois, Goodfield

Judy Knapp, Amy Hinrichsen

Summer is over. Fall is in the air! We pray for the children as they head off to school each day. May loving angels watch over them always. Sunday School has started as well for our church family. We pray that hearts are soft and pliable and seeds can be planted to bring
forth much fruit in the years to come. We also think of the teachers that so lovingly give of their time to teach the youth. May God grant them much grace and wisdom in this endeavor.

Bro. Quentin Snyder from Taylor, MO was traveling through our area on business and spent Wednesday evening, September 11, with us. He presented a Bible study on Trust, a very timely topic on the anniversary of 9-11. Thank you Bro. Quentin. Please visit us again.

Our dear Sis. Loretta Hess spent some time in the hospital, then a nursing home for a few weeks, and is happy to finally be back in her own home. We are thankful that she is back home and hope to see her in church again soon.

Our hearts were heavy to learn of the sudden passing of Lydia Baer, who is our Sis. Sara (Bro. Herman) Glueck’s sister. This dear family also has a niece, Loralei Glueck, that was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Loralei’s siblings, Sis. Sabrina, Doug, and Brad all attend our Goodfield church. We lift them all up in prayer as they take this journey with their loved one. Thankfully the surgery was successful and she seems to be doing well.

On a very happy note, we rejoice with Pam Knapp, wife of Ken and daughter-in-law to our Sis. Wilma Knapp, as she has found a need to turn her life over to Jesus. We pray for grace and peace in the journey for this dear soul.

May God be with you till we meet again!

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Bro. Matt Kaisner from Fairbury was here on Wednesday evening, September 11, to speak on the topic, “The Apostle Paul.” Also Elder Frank Sauder was a visiting minister who helped with converts being taken into the church on the weekend of September 14-15. We are happy to receive five new members into our fellowship: Bro. Will Yergler, Bro. Terry and Sis. Brenda Waber, and Bro. Josh and Sis. Kourtney Kaeb. May the work of salvation continue on, in these times.

Bro. Mike Stoller suffered a mishap. In a grain bin, he lost his big toe in an augur. He was rushed into surgery, but they were unable to save his toe. We wish much grace and healing as time unfolds. Sis. Deanna Peden was recently hospitalized.

A loss to our Gridley congregation was the passing on September 10 of Sis. Vicki Schlipf, 73. She was born on March 22, 1946, in Peoria to Leland and Mary Tjaden Heck. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Dale, whom she married on November 12, 1966. They were blessed to have nearly 53 years of marriage. She is also survived by two sons, Ryan (Sherri) Schlipf of El Paso, and Jared (Jenny) Schlipf of Brimfield; and four daughters, Sis. Haley (Bro. Brian) Stoller of Gridley; Heidi (Hadley) Welsch, Heather (Chris) Gentes, and Holly (Chad) Hitchens all of El Paso. She is survived by 19 grandchildren; and also by two brothers, Tim (Marilyn) Heck of Germantown Hills, and Tom Heck of Thailand. Sis. Vicki will be remembered for her gentle and kind personality. May God grant much grace to Bro. Dale and his children and grandchildren.

A child was born to Bro. Christopher and Sis. Kelsey Stoller. She was named Reagan Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller and Ministering Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki Zehr. Emery Jo was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Dana Kaeb. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt of West Bend, IA, and William and Sis. Juanita Kaeb of rural Arrowsmith. Leo Warren was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Shanna Kaeb. Grandparents are Dennis and Lorene Slagel of Fairbury, and Elder Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb. These are precious gifts from God. May the parents find grace as they train them up in the nurture and direction of God.

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr**

We were blessed this month to have many visiting brothers who shared the pulpit and brought us teachings from God’s Word. We thank them for their labors of love on our behalf. They were Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ); Bro. Matt Koehl (Sis. Emily, Sarasota, FL); Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL); Bro. Joe Gerber (Sis. Heidi, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL).
Bro. Nathan Hodel (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke, IL) spoke at our September Family Worship Night on “Gideon: The Assignment”. When God gave Gideon only three hundred men to fight the Midianites, he thought that was impossible. But he needed to trust God and be willing to be used by God. In our lives no matter what happens, what God calls us to experience, we can let go of our fears that even when life seems lopsided and unfair, God has our issues in total control, even if the result is different than we think it should be. God is faithful.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Philippians 4:11

We extend our deepest sympathy to three dear families who have said farewell to their loved ones. August 17, Sis. Edith Zimmerman entered her Heavenly Home. She is survived by two sons, Bro. Doug (Sis. Janie) Zimmerman, Bro. Tom Zimmerman; and two daughters, Susan (Mike) Wehrmann and Sis. Elaine Sollberger all of Morton. Sis. Pam Baer met her Lord and Savior on August 21 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Surviving are her sister, Sis. Christine (Bro. Greg) Kaiser; and brothers, Steven (Marcia) Baer and Bro. Doug (Sis. Dawn) Baer. September 15, Sis. Bernice Rapp (late Bro. Henry) went to sleep in the Lord. She leaves her children: one son, Stephen (Jeanne) Rapp of Tega Cay, SC; one daughter-in-law, Sis. Sara Rapp (late Bro. Philip) of Morton; and two daughters, Barbara (Jim) Rapp Cardwell of Chevy Chase, MD, and Sally (David) Zwanzig of Morton.

Our congratulations go to three families who have been blessed with new babies to love. First-time parents, Bro. Nathaniel and Sis. Tressa Leman, welcomed Mathis Jay on August 27. His grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman of Morton, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn of Silverton, OR. Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk have two new grandchildren. August 18, Otto Christian joined the family of Bro. Aaron, Sis. Kendra, William and Adelaide Funk of Washington, IL. Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman of Washington, IL are his maternal grandparents.

August 29, Bro. Caleb, Sis. Holly and Hattie Moser of Lester, IA welcomed Jaycee Diane. Her other grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser of Lester, IA.

As this is being read, the farmers will be laboring in their fields to bring in the harvest. Let us all be laborers for the Lord.

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

**Illinois, Peoria**

**Crystal Wettstein, Bonnie Bach**

We are so happy for new converts, Macy Hartter (Bro. Ben & Sis. Heidi) and Patrick Lazoen. We pray for God’s blessings and direction in these lives.

We rejoiced at the wedding of Sis. Tiffany Waibel & Bro. Trent Wyss of Washington, IL. We will miss Sis. Tiffany as they make Washington their church and hope they visit often. Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO).

A breakfast was held to meet Bro. Jonathon & Sis. Bere Aupperle while they were home for a short while from their service in Magdalena, MX. We continue to pray they can serve the children in Magdalena with the Lord’s guidance.

Berean Prison Ministry held their annual banquet, featuring the moving testimonies of a converted ex-prisoner and a woman whose husband was killed while they were being held hostage in the Philippines.

The 4th annual Gospel Sing was held at the home of Bro. Bob & Sis. Myrna Hoerr, featuring the singing of Fourth Watch, Magnify, and Kindred Spirit. It was a lovely evening of praising our Lord through music.

We have completed our study of the book of Mark and look forward to beginning a new all-church Bible study in the near future.

**Illinois, Princeville**

**Cherie White, Melinda Christ**

“Baptized into Thy name most
holy, O Father, Son and Holy
Ghost, I claim a place, though
weak and lowly Among Thy seed,
Thy chosen host. Immersed with
Christ, I’m dead to sin; Thy Spirit
now shall live within.”
The Baptismal Covenant,
Zion’s Harp #41

We rejoice with our two new
brothers in faith that have turned
their backs on Satan and now
walk in newness of life in Jesus
Christ: Bro. Daniel Feucht (Mark
and Sis. Paula) and Bro. Joseph
Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann).
Assisting Elder Bro. Craig Martin
(Sis. Terri) was Elder Bro. Bruce
Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford,
IL). Other visiting ministers that
day were Bros. Kevin Banwart
(Sis. Sandy) and Darren Fehr
(Sis. Nora) both from West Bend,
IA; Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie,
Tremont, IL); and Bro. Barry
Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL).
On other weekends we also were
blessed to have Bro. Isaac Wofford
(Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL),
Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto,
MI), Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri,
West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Tyler
Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL).
May God bless each one in their
ministry of the Word of Life.

What a privilege it was to
listen to the recordings of the
Brotherhood Conference. By
God’s grace as we apply the
 teachings of the beatitudes, we can
receive the promises made to those
that are faithful.

The engagement of Mikaela
Wieland to Trevor Maloney was
made known unto us. Mikaela is
the daughter of Bro. Brian and
Sis. Renee Wieland. We pray for
the Lord’s leading and guidance as
they plan for their wedding.

We lift up our loved ones who
are suffering afflictions, have been
hospitalized or had surgery in the
past weeks. May God be with Joan
Rumbold (Raymond), Bro. Herb
Rumbold (Sis. Diana), Sis. Mary
Martin (Bro. Sam), Sis. Arlys
Martin, Sis. Frances Knobloch,
Bro. Rolland Joos (Sis. Linda) and
Sis. Mary Martin. Let us look
unto Him who comforts us in all
our cares.

Illinois, Roanoke
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

Our annual nursing home
benefit “Homecoming Days” was
held August 23-24. It’s always
a wonderful weekend of food,
children’s activities, an auction,
entertainment, and other activities
to raise needed funds for our
nursing home. We thank all the
countless individuals and groups
who helped to make it a blessed
and productive weekend.

Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane,
Lamont, KS), Bro. Justin Isch
(Sis. Liz, Lamont, KS), and Bro.
David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha,
KS) were our visiting ministers
on August 25. Bro. Daniel Leman
(Sis. Tess, Denver, CO) served us
on the pulpit on September 15.
We thank these brothers for their
faithful service.

On August 28, Bro. Joe
Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA)
was our guest minister. His Old
Testament text was 2 Chron. 26.
This passage talks about King
Uzziah who was successful, but
“...when he was strong, his heart
was lifted up to his destruction:” 2
us not to depend on our own
strength, but to depend wholly
on the Lord’s. Bro. Joe had
recently been in Ixtlan, Mexico to
witness the dedication of the new
secondary school. While there,
one of our minister’s father (a new
follower of Christ) went to be with
the Lord. Many of the deceased’s
family were not believers, but what
a comfort that the peace of God
was evident at the service and to
all in attendance.

Also visiting that evening
were Bro. Jeremy & Sis. Elena
Balzer from our sister church in
Balingen, Germany. Bro. Jeremy
spoke after services about his
experience at the Latty, OH Men’s
Hymn Sing. The theme for the
Sing was Psalm 103.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and
all that is within me bless his holy
name.” Psalm 103:1.

Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy)
also shared that evening that he
had recently been at the Ignite
weekend. He thanked all those
from our church and others who
support this event by helping
in the kitchen, being discussion
leaders, and performing other acts
of service to further the Kingdom.
May our Lord bless all who
faithfully serve.

Our seventh and eighth grade
students, their teachers, and
families sang with the residents
at Timber Ridge in Morton, IL
on September 6. A pizza party followed. We thank our young people for their kindness to others.  
“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matt. 6:21.

On September 11, Bro. Jonathan & Sis. Megan Hodel presented a financial topical Bible study at our fellowship hall. Bro. Jon and Sis. Megan were very open about the challenges of reconciling different opinions regarding money, particularly in marriage. They encouraged us to be good stewards of the Lord’s resources. May God bless the Hodels for their efforts to enlighten us on managing our money for His glory.

Our fall Ladies’ Day “Daughters of the King” was held on September 14 at our Fellowship Hall. It was a blessed day of cross-generational sharing, fellowship, and encouragement through talks and discussions as we focused on our identity in Christ. Again we thank all those who helped make it a beautiful day.

Glenn (Patricia) Essig of Washington, IL passed away on September 13. He was a brother of our Sis. Doris Farney. Bro. Dan (Sis. Kim) Maher’s brother-in-law, Jack Braten from Maquon, IL, died on September 7. May our Lord comfort these dear families in their loss.

Our Bible Class travelled to Forrest, IL to participate in ACYF Day on September 15. We thank the Forrest church for hosting our youth and providing a day of instruction and activities for them.

Sis. Karen Leman, Sis. Shar Moser, Sis. Abby Moser, and Joanna Moser spent a week in Mexico as part of a medical team. May God bless these dear ones for their ministry to others.

Bro. Tim & Sis. Linda Martin welcomed a new grandson, Cru Ezra, on August 15. His parents are Chris & Emily Miller of Eureka, IL. Thomas Arthur was born to Brock & Jen Baurer of Vernon Hills, IL on September 18. Bro. Brad & Sis. Cheryl Baurer are thankful for their new grandson. Bro. Harold & Sis. Judy Sauder also have a new grandchild, Scarlett Kathryn, born to Jimmy & Kim Houck of Peoria, IL on August 22. We ask for God’s blessings on these families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

We want to lift up Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb) Schwind and Bro. Bob Zimmerman for our Lord’s healing and strength as they deal with health issues.

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch**

“Jesus loves the little children... They are precious in His sight...”  
*Jesus Loves the Little Children, Gospel Hymns #166*


We thank our visiting ministers and appreciate their efforts. Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie, Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN) were with us recently. On September 15, Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) took part in ACYF Day as we were privileged to host the Bradford, Congerville and Fairbury Bible classes. We were blessed by the beautiful singing and a full church!

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Rev. 3:6

The book of Revelation opened in both services on September 15. We were reminded that an end is coming. What a joy it brings to know that there is a glorious home prepared for those that love the Lord and there will be no curse of sin there!

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Josh, Sis. Nicole, Ariana & Isabelle Bolliger as they have moved back from Akron, OH. We also welcome Bro. Clayton & Sis. Whitney Steidinger from Taylor, MO. We know they will be missed from their respective congregations and are thankful to have them in Tremont!

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lily Pfaffmann, Michelle Braker**

Newborns are such a reminder of God’s awesome power, and attention to details as He forms each little body in the mother’s womb! Otto Edward was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kendra Funk.
William and Adelaide are his big brother and sister. Bro. Isaac and Sis. Rachel have also been blessed as Andrew Stephen was welcomed home by his big brothers: Sam, Caleb, and Silas and big sisters: Grace and Anna!

Two visiting ministers shared our pulpit this month: Bro. Mike Kaisner (Sis. Mindy) of Peoria, IL and Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) of Silverton, OR. May God bless them for sharing God’s Word!

Two souls, Bro. Trent Wyss (Bro. Fred and Diane), Washington, IL, and Tiffany Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie), Peoria, IL, were united in holy matrimony on August 18. May the Lord’s love and peace shine upon them!

Sis. Vicki Bucher (Bro. Steve)’s mother, Ida Aschliman, 95, of Bluffton, IN, went to be with the Lord September 15. Our empathy and comfort are extended to them!

Abram Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby) is recovering from open heart surgery which took place September 17. Our prayers are with him and his family as he recovers!

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Olivia Steffen, Liana Reinhard

The season is beginning to change from summer to fall. Children are back in school, the evenings are cooler, and we look forward to the changing leaves. We had our annual church picnic this month. It felt like a good way to end the summer and kick off autumn. It is always an evening of blessed fun and fellowship among all ages.

Just as the seasons are changing, two couples have entered a life season of marriage. Bro. Lance Grube (Bro. Lonnie & Sis. Vicki) was united as one with Sis. Breann Frauhiger (Bro. Jeremy & Sis. Sally) at Bluffton North. We also rejoice with Bro. Caleb Schwalbach (Jim & the late Dawn) and Sis. Whitney Kaehr (Bro. Brent & Sis. Allison) on their September 1 wedding.

Bro. Kole Meyer presented the topic of stress. We appreciate his willingness to share and teach us more about this topic.

Bro. Jon & Sis. Amy Gerst gave us an update on their ministry in Ethiopia. It was a blessing to hear how we can support and pray for them.

Several couples in church are experiencing the season of a new baby. Bro. Spencer, Sis. Breanna and Madden Pfister excitedly welcome Burke Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Courtney & Sis. Jodi Pfister and Bro. Larry & Sis. Sharon Stoller. Little Renna Leigh was born into the family of Bro. Darin, Sis. Madison and Brinley Fiechter. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Lynn & Sis. Ronda Fiechter and Bro. Brent & Sis. Rachelle Tonner.

Sis. Rosie Heyerly passed into her final season of eternal rest. She will forever experience the joy of Jesus. We are thankful to the single brothers and sisters in church who remain steadfast in their faith and bless us with their love and service. Our prayers are also with the family of Sis. Ida Aschliman during her passing. Her children are Sis. Becky Isch (Bro. Perry), Sis. Vicki Bucher (Bro. Steve) of Washington, IL, Gayle Bucher (Clint) of Carmel, IN, Bro. Keith (Sis. Connie), Bro. Kevin (Sis. Beth), and Bro. Kelly (Sis. Lisa) Aschliman. She also had many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

We extend our thanks to Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) for serving our church this month.

“And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:” Daniel 2:21

Indiana, Bluffton North
Tiffani Schladenhauffen, Rhonda Maller

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” Ps. 133:21

We were blessed with a beautiful evening of fellowship at our annual church picnic. The weather was uncertain so it had to be moved inside, but the sun came out and we were able to enjoy the blessings of the unity of our church with food, games and fellowship. Earlier our K – 4th grade Sunday School children had a picnic to wrap up summer.

We rejoiced with Bro. Lance Grube and Sis. Breann Frauhiger as they were united as one in
Christ. We pray for much joy in their new life together. The parents of this joyful couple are Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Vicki Grube (Bluffton Country) and Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger.

Bro. Byron and Brittany Gerber welcomed a new little boy into their family, Callen Anthony. Callen joins his excited siblings: Rhett, Heath, and Elsa.

We are prayerful for Bro. Damon and Sis. Kylie Gerber as they move to Memphis, TN to pursue a ministry opportunity there. Pray that their transition into their new role and new community will go smoothly, and they will feel the Lord’s leading every step of the way.

Sis. Becky Isch (Bro. Perry) and Bro. Kelly Aschliman (Sis. Lisa) lost their mother. Bro. Al Ringger (Sis. Colleen) lost his sister in the passing of Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bluffton Country). The death of one of His saints is always bittersweet, so we pray for these dear families.

Bro. Brett Shorb (Sis. Cindy) is in need of our prayers as his body battles an infection in his shoulder after shoulder surgery. We are thankful that he is now recovering at home and pray his shoulder can continue to heal. We are also prayerful for Sis. Bethany Maller as she faces some outpatient surgery and recovery at home. May they both feel peaceful as they rest and their bodies heal.

Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.” Eccl.4:9

We rejoice with our Sis. Chloe Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy), as she was married to Bro. Jared Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann, Mediapolis, IA). Many visitors showed loving support, and we were blessed to have numerous visiting ministers. Those who were on the pulpit that morning, were Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally), Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami), and Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine), all of Mediapolis, IA. Conducting the wedding service in the afternoon were Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA). May the Lord continue to guide and bless Bro. Jared and Sis. Chloe as they serve the Lord together!

Two dear soldiers of the Lord have laid down their earthly armor and are “safe in Jesus’ arms”. We extend loving sympathy to the family of Sis. Doris Getz (the late Bro. Keith). Missing Sis. Doris, along with many extended relatives and friends, are her children: Jill Kozeluh, Sis. Jenna (Bro. Dan) Kilgus, Sis. Jody (Bro. Bruce) Waibel and Jason (Maggie) Getz; and also two brothers, Donald (Mary) and Theodore (Wendy) Prettyman. Sis. Doris spent many years tirelessly serving the Lord and we will miss her cheerful presence.

Our Bro. Chris Lee Wuetrich is also at rest, and will be dearly missed by many, including his precious wife, Sis. Ruth; his children: Bro. Ken (Sis. Lyn), Kitty (Dennis) Gutwein, Bro. Kevin (Sis. Connie), Bro. Chris (Sis. Carla), Sis. Kelly (Bro. Mark) Ramseyer, and Kirby (April); along with one brother, Bro. Bob (Sis. Phyllis) Wuetrich. Bro. Chris Lee cared for Sis. Ruth tenderly, and will be missed for his kindness and love to all. Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit MI) shared the funeral service. We are thankful for his willingness!

After the week when we laid our two loved ones to rest, we were blessed to have the Princeville Choir with us for a Saturday evening and Sunday. Our spirits were comforted and refreshed by the beautiful singing. The Lord “restores our souls”, and He used the choir to do that for us. We were thankful to have many visitors from Princeville of all ages. It was a huge blessing and we thank them. Two Princeville ministers blessed us by sharing God’s Word that Sunday. Special thanks go to Bros. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie) and Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna).

On a recent Wednesday evening, our Elementary Sunday School classes and teachers hosted a chili supper before church. About eighty years ago, three sisters of our church felt led to support the American Leprosy Mission, which has continued. One Sunday of each month, the
children bring coins to feed “Pete the Pig” (a large glass/plastic pig). At the end of the school year, they empty Pete, and all the monies collected are sent to support the treatment and cure of leprosy. This year, their goal is to provide medicine that will cure three people! It’s a real blessing to watch our children eagerly save their money to provide care “all around the world” for lepers.

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Dan Leman (Sis. Tess, Denver, CO) here on a Wednesday evening. He read 1 Cor. Chapter 12. We were encouraged to make use of the many gifts God has given to His Body here on earth! Thanks Bro. Dan and Sis Tess. We always appreciate visits!

Our prayers have been with the following loved ones who have had surgeries or health concerns recently: Virgil Von Tobel (Sharon), Wayne Bogart and Phyllis Knapp. May the Lord bless and strengthen as only He can!

Indiana, Indianapolis
Kaylin Bollier, Edie Bollier

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Pfeifer’s barn on August 4. It was a beautiful summer day and many attended. It is always a great way to start off the new year of Sunday School.

Our hearts ache with our Bro. Bill and Sis. Connie Witzig who lost their sister, Sis. Joyce Ferneau, during a liver transplant. We also grieve with Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim Gudeman as their mother, Sis. Barb Wuehrich of Francesville, went to be with the Lord. Also, our Elder Bro. Ken Wuehrich and Sis. Lyn said goodbye to their dear father, Bro. Chris Lee Wuehrich of Francesville. We’re thankful we can look forward to our home in heaven.

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue and their three children of Tokyo, Japan. They were here to visit family. We appreciated Bro. Makoto sharing the Word.

“As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” Proverbs 25:25

Bro. John and Sis. Sandy Lichtle welcomed a new grandson, Levi Zion. His parents are Justin and Olivia Lichtle. He has a “big” brother Adrian.

Our church is enjoying going through the book of Luke.

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

Visiting ministers since our last report were Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS). As always, we appreciate their willingness to explain the Holy Scriptures to us.

We might be seeing Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christine in Leo a little more often now that they have a brand-new grandchild here! Sweet little Bristol Christine Williamson was born August 29 to Sis. Lydia & Bro. Brock Williamson. She not only shares her middle name with her Grandma Meeks, but also with her local great-grandma, Christine Locher. Her local grandparents are Sis. Wendy & Bro. Jason Williamson. We pray God’s grace and continued favor on this new family.

Currently, we are specifically praying for our Sis. Judy Gehring who is dealing with some health issues. She is out of the hospital, but faces a time of rest and recovery at home. A dear young man from our congregation, Kyler Donaghy, son of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany, has joined the Marines. He left for training in San Diego and took our love and prayers with him.

We were recently informed of a new Sister in Christ. On August 10, our Ordained Deacon Bro. Jeff Waibel received a call late at night from a nearby hospital. An elderly woman who grew up in the Apostolic Christian Church was a patient and could be dying. She had never repented or been baptized, and she wanted to do these things as soon as possible. Since our elder was out of town, her family called Jeff. He went to see her immediately. Her name is Betty Schulz. She is the older sister of Jeff’s former Bay City, MI elder, Andy Virkler. She had lived in Ft. Wayne for a long time and many years ago attended the Ft. Wayne church, then occasionally the Bluffton church. She is 91 years old and had never professed faith in Jesus Christ. Her mind was perfectly clear, and she made a confession of faith and asked for baptism yet that night. Jeff baptized her by sprinkling in the
presence of her daughter and son-in-law, then prayed with her. Since that night, she has recovered to the point that she was transferred to The Cedars nursing home in Leo. After a few days at The Cedars, she went back to her daughter’s home in rural Leo, where she had been living. Her health continued to improve enough that she was able to attend one service with us in Leo. She cannot see very well, but her mind is very sharp and she is a delight to talk to. Bro. Jeff highly encouraged us to go visit her and encourage her in her new walk of faith. Even though she is older than just about everyone in our congregation, she is still a baby in Christ. Oh, the mercy and patience of our great God who would have all men to be saved!

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Carol Haab

Our sympathies go out this month as a lifelong friend of our church congregation, Martin Stookey, passed away. Our prayers and sympathies are with his family.

We remember Bro. Jesus and Sis. Normal Terrazas in our prayers as Norma’s mother, Imelda, battles serious illness. May God use the hard times to draw us nearer to Him and bring glory to His name.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

Many thanks go to our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Janice, Washington, IL), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN). We appreciate each one’s time and energy to minister from the Word of God!

Many prayers go out to Bro. Neil Knobloch (Sis. June) for his recent knee surgery. May God comfort and heal him as only He can!

Braden and Ashely Clark welcome a new little boy to their family. We are thankful we can count them all as part of our church family! Ethan Briggs arrived safely and is welcomed by his parents Braden and Ashley, his big brothers Callan and Deacon, and his grandparents Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark, Tim and Allison Turner of Kokomo, IN, and Ken and Lori Davison of Toledo, OH. May Braden and Ashley feel God’s nearness as they raise their precious sons!

We are thankful to have witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Kenny Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Sis. Sophie Getz (Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara) this past month! It truly is a miracle when God brings two individuals together and makes them one in His Son! We hope Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sophie feel the love of the church as they begin their married life together.

Sis. Lea Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette) gave her testimony of faith to the church and was baptized this month. What a blessing to hear how God has worked once again in a dear loved one’s soul, heart and mind! It truly is something we never get tired of hearing. May God continue to bless Sis. Lea as she goes forward in her walk with Him as her guide.

Our prayers go out to the family of Sis. Doris Getz (Bro. Keith, deceased, Francesville, IN) after her passing from this life into the next. Sis. Doris was the dear mother of our Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan) and Sis. Jody Waibel (Bro. Bruce) as well as Jill Kozeluh and Jason Getz (Maggie). She also left behind 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. May God bless the family with His comfort and love as they adjust to life without her.

Note of Thanks:
The family of Bro. Earl Kilgus would like to express appreciation and thanks for all your prayers, cards, and phone calls during this time of dad’s passing. A special thank you for all the visits at Parkview Haven and your love shown to our dad over the years. It has been a real comfort to feel the arms of the church and friends wrapped around us. May the Lord bless each one.

Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus, Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark, Kathy Jefferson and families

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold"
thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10

With the full support of our church family, Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi) has accepted the call to serve as our elder. September 1 was the day of Bro. Scott’s ordination. Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) shared wonderful words of Truth and Life during the morning service. We thank Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) for blessing our church family with the Special Elder Ordination Service. With many prayers and God’s Grace, we will journey together toward our eternal home in Heaven!

On September 7-8, we enjoyed a Young Group Invite Weekend with greetings from 12 different churches. Our entire church family cheerfully helped to make a blessed time for all. May the Lord bless Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) for sharing a Topical Bible Study based on the weekend’s theme of Hebrews 12:1.

On September 18, Chip and Kasha Iacob welcomed Rose Eleanor into their home and hearts. Also celebrating baby Rose’s arrival are siblings Josiah and Elizabeth.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:14

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

The verse for the month is: 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Our love and sorrow go out to Sis. Jenna Kilgus and family for the passing of her mother, Sis. Doris Getz of Francesville, IN on August 29. She was a devoted member of the Francesville Church and was happiest when serving others. Please keep this family in your prayers.

We thank Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus of Remington, IN for sharing in service and fellowship with our congregation. We had the memorandum followed by a members’ meeting. Your love and understanding is greatly appreciated.

A new Bible study has been started on Sharing the Gospel.

The ladies sewing is going strong with many blankets and pillows being made to be sent out to those in need.

One of our friends from The Avalon Nursing Home passed away. His name is Frank Land. He was a regular attendee to our song services and who loved singing praises to the Lord. He will be missed in more than one way.

It was so wonderful to see our dear Sis. Marguerite and Bro. Bob Hoerr one afternoon at church.

One of our members drove up to get them and brought them down to us. They got to receive Holy Communion and fellowship with us for a while.

All has been going well with the healing of Sis. Lois Bucher’s hand surgery. She will be doing physical therapy, but the cast is off. Please keep Diane McClanahan in your prayers, she is the sister of our Sis. Dawn Ailes. Diane had knee replacement surgery in February and there have been complications since then. They have found an infection in the bone and once that is healed, she will undergo knee surgery again. Sis. Rachel Feller is very happy to be back working again. Be prayerful that God will continue to lift her and her family up to Him.

Always keep each other in prayer with the love of Christ.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl

The following are our sweet and bittersweet highlights, each touching hearts in different ways.

New converts are: Autumn Ross, daughter of Bro. Rodney & Sis. Jennifer (Gudeman) Ross of our local congregation; and Larissa Eberhardt, Francesville, IN (originally Iowa), a college freshman.

Bro. Brandon Putt is engaged to Sis. Hailey Luzadder, college juniors, both of Francesville, IN.

Visiting ministers were: Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry; Bluffton North, IN).

Special Events: Bro. Jon & Sis. Amy Gerst, Ethiopia, shared their mission work; Saturday Ladies’ Retreat theme Ps. 51:10 ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me’;
Ignite Weekend Retreat uniting our youth; fall Purdue Singing weekend hosted by PYG.


We will continue this school year alternating Thursday evening worship services with ministries within our local church.

With thanksgiving, we rejoice with those who rejoice and we weep with those who weep. May the Lord bless and keep you all!

Indiana, Wolcott
Luann Gerber, Teresa Earney

“It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is their faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

The Sunday School hosted a church outing at Prophets Town State Park. Getting together as a church family is such a blessing and very enjoyable.

September 7 and 8 was our invite-a-guest weekend. Anyone who wanted to could invite a guest of their choice. Our church was full on Sunday. We had four visiting ministers. A big thank you goes to Bros. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL), Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for coming and sharing the word of God. It was such a blessed weekend!

We are so thankful that Ron and Donna Kyburz have shared their testimony of peace. We look forward to their baptism weekend that will be planned in the near future.

One of our dear sisters was called home. Sis. Gladys Widmer (Bro. Ed) passed away peacefully on September 13. Ed and Gladys were married for 68 years. Our sympathy goes to Bro. Ed; their daughter, Sis. Laurel; their son, Bro. Neal (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette); the grandchildren and great grandchildren and other extended family members. Gladys was such a kindhearted, caring person and will be deeply missed.

A warm welcome goes to Sis. Leanne Kuenzi in her move to our area for new employment. She is from the Silverton, OR church. We are so happy to have her as part of our Wolcott church.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Kendra Schlatter

The weekend of August 24/25 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Jackie Wettstein (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein, Lamar, MO). Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was here to assist. Other visiting ministers here that weekend were Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL). We also appreciated other visiting ministers throughout the month including Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

Our single group hosted Iowa/Sunday School churches the weekend of September 21/22. It was a blessing to have a full church and to fellowship with our brethren of like faith.

Isiah Ronald was born August 27 to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Sara Joos. Welcoming him also is big brother Benjamin. Grandparents are (the late Ronald Joos) and Sis. Christy Joos and Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel. Great grandmothers are Sis. Lorraine Joos, Shirley Slinkard, Sis. Wilma Teubel, and Marvel Christy.

Iowa Burlington
Marilyn Anderson, Elaine Eisenmann

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). May these brothers feel our heartfelt thanks for sharing the Word with us.

We have two babies to report! First-time parents Bro. Jacob and Sis. Rachel Wyss welcomed Liezel Fae on September 1. Happy first-time area grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach (Mediapolis). Bro. John Wagenbach (Mediapolis) is Liezel’s great grandfather.

Bro. Blake and Sis. Josie Wulf, along with Kate, Elsie, and
Cash, welcomed Cliff Daniel on September 12. Local grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf. Local great grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Mary Massner.

We rejoice with Bro. Michael and Sis. Ivy Steiner as their son, Courage, has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. May he feel the support of our church in this very important step in his life.

We enjoyed the food, fellowship and singing on September 8 when our church, along with the Mediapolis and Taylor, MO churches, and hosted by Bloomfield church, gathered at Keosauqua and Bentonsport, IA. It was a memorable time.

Sis. Marilyn Anderson’s brother, Bob Frank, passed away on September 10. He was the son of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mathilda Wagler Frank. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marilyn.

We are happy to report that Ashley Anderson has found peace with God and man. We wish her God’s nearness as she continues on this wonderful way of life and look forward to hearing her testimony.

We lift those up in prayer who are having health issues.

Sending God’s blessings...

**Note of Thanks:**

Bro. Dean Massner, who resides in the Morning Sun Care Center, wishes to express his thanks to all who remembered him on his 60th birthday.

**Iowa, Elgin**

**Maria Rocke**

Elgin hosted the Zapata reunion in August. Among our visitors was ministering Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). We appreciate his labors from the pulpit.

We’ve enjoyed having Sis. Char Dietz worshiping with us these past few months as she’s been volunteering in Rochester. She will be missed when she returns back home to Bradford.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

**Laura Funk**

Greetings from south central Iowa. We are enjoying the blessings of rain. I just had a thought! God’s creation needs a drink when water is sent!

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO). We appreciate and are thankful for all visitors.

Can your conscience be wrong? Are you always right? Is it OK to go against your conscience? Could your conscience not tell you it’s sin? We were privileged to hear an exhortation where these questions were asked and statements made. Are we allowing God’s Holy Spirit to guide us through our conscience?

Thank you Lamont, KS for hosting the Sunday School gathering. It was reported they had a great experience!

Years I spent in vanity and pride, Holy, holy, holy, What a Friend we have in Jesus, How Great Thou Art. We sang these phrases in Sunday School yesterday. A beautiful timeline of a true Christian’s life!

**Iowa, Iowa City**

**Diana Butikofer**

Our College Student Welcome Picnic this past Sunday was a blessed day. We enjoyed the students and their families who were able to join us for church and the picnic. May the Lord watch over and bless these young people throughout this school year.

We were blessed by the ministry and visits of Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN) and their families this past month.

**Iowa, Lester**

**Audrey Metzger, Kristi Knobloch**

Our congregation has been blessed with many times to rejoice together this past month. Our tiniest blessings are three new babies! A daughter, Mara Lee was born to Jed and Deann Matthiesen and big sister Nora on August 22. One week later, she welcomed a new cousin, Jax Hunter, on August 30! Jax was born to Melinda Popkes and Greg Hoogendoorn. Both of these precious little ones join Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes’ growing family. Little Jaycee Diane was welcomed with open arms by big sister, Hattie, and parents, Bro. Caleb and Sis. Holly Moser, on August 29. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Bro. Fred and
Another time of rejoicing is when two souls become one. Bro. Keegan Knobloch and Sis. Callie Koehl were united in marriage on August 25 in Morris, MN. Parents are Bro. Lance and Sis. Kristi Knobloch and Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim Koehl of Morris, MN. Our prayers of blessings go with them as they make their home with the Winthrop, MN congregation.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes once again added to their family when their daughter, Katie, married Kevin Ranney on September 7. We wish this dear couple God's blessings as life together begins for them.

With the summer drawing to a close, students have returned to school and college for another year of studies. We welcome Bro. Thadd Indermuhle (Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy) from Sardis, OH to our congregation as he begins his school at a local university. We hope he soon feels at home as he spends his weekends with us. Our thoughts and prayers also go with other students who will spend the week away from their respective homes. Sunday school has also resumed and we pray a blessing on each in attendance, teachers and students, as they spend time together each Sunday.

With thankful hearts we rejoice with Sis. Shanyna Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) and Sis. Becca Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) as they recounted for us their lost condition during their testimonies on September 14, were baptized having their names written in the book of Life on Sunday. It's so easy to forget the seriousness of our conversion throughout our busy daily lives. It is so good to periodically go back and remember where we really came from and what God’s mercy and grace does for a soul.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers that weekend: Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL); and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora), and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie) all of West Bend IA. Also serving on the pulpit this month were Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL).

Bro. Joshua and Sis. Bethany Johnson and girls have returned to Witchita, KS after spending a few months with us this summer. We pray continued blessings on their life and enjoyed having them with us, even if it was for a short time.

Continuing with battling cancer is Bro. Brad Kloostergaard (Sis. Linda) and his dear family. As of now, Bro. Brad is receiving care at a facility that eases the battle a bit. His journey has been long and he has borne it with patience and endurance. May God continue to guide and direct this dear family as they face an uncertain future.

Sis. Margene Peasley (Bro. Dave) spent some time in the hospital for surgery and is home recuperating. Carl Leuthold also spent time in the hospital recovering from a fall. May God grant both of them healing mercies that they soon regain sufficient strength to perform daily duties.

We have concluded listening to the conference recordings. So many kind reminders were given to guide us in our Christian life, putting ourselves behind and Christ front and center.

“This Shepard ne’er forsakes His fold In joy nor yet in sorrow, But shares to us His love untold Each day and each tomorrow. Then let us follow to the end and with Him enter heaven’s land.” The Faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, Zion’s Harp, #116

Iowa, Mediapolis
Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz

What a joy it is to be in a church family where the newness of life surrounds us. We are always thankful to receive the peace announcement of our converts and this month we have two. Denalyn Lanz (Bro. Robbie and Sis. Kris) and Brayden Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) have found peace with God and man, a solid foundation in a world of shifting tides. We look forward to testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

Establishing a new home is always an exciting time and that is what Bro. Jared Schmidgall (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann) and Sis. Chloe Huber (Bro. Bob and
Sis. Joy, Francesville, IN) are doing. There were many from here that traveled to Francesville to witness the vows of this dear couple becoming one in Christ. We extend to Sis. Chloe a warm welcome to our church family and look forward to seeing her parents and siblings here often.

Another miraculous new beginning is the birth of a child. Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach were made first-time grandparents with the arrival of Liezel Fae Wyss. Parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Rachel Wyss of Burlington, IA.

Another Sunday School term has begun. We pray for the teachers and the students that the seeds of God’s word can be planted and watered in the hearts of those tender little souls, that they will have that desire to be men and women of God. May they see in us the joy of serving our Lord and each other.

We have finished the conference recordings and have been so blessed by the sincere and humble expressions of our elder brothers. While so many events of the times we live in are rowdy and loud, our little flocks gather in the quietness and closeness of each other as we listen to what God has revealed to those who watch for our souls.

One more new thing came our way this year. The churches of Bloomfield, IA, Burlington, IA, Taylor, MO and Mediapolis, IA met in a central location for a carry-in supper and then singing in an old historic church. Truly the rafters were raised as the church and balcony were filled to capacity with praise to God from 200 plus of all ages. We sang from the Hymns of Zion. All those old familiar favorites felt right at home in that simple little church. It was a wonderful evening and we thank the Bloomfield brethren for organizing this event.

While we rejoice with those who are going through the new and exciting things of life, we also think of those who are carrying burdens and going through the hard and challenging times. The wisdom of the Bible never fails as it instructs us to rejoice with those who are rejoicing and weep with those who are weeping. Certainly there is a huge range between those two emotions as we carry on in life together. For some reason, whenever I see a flock of geese flying in a V pattern, it reminds me of a church family. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of him to reduce the wind resistance for those behind. The birds take turns being in the front, falling back when they become weary as another takes over. Another benefit of the V is that they can keep track of every bird in the group and easily communicate. In this pattern, the birds can fly easier and longer to reach their goal. Does not even nature itself teach us of caring for one another?

Iowa, West Bend
Karen Schmidt, Jenny Banwart

We were blessed by the ministry of visiting brethren: Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH). Also coming to spend a Wednesday evening were Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, MN). It was a blessed evening and we really appreciate the godly encouragement they gave us.

Congratulations and best wishes to Noah Fehr (Bro. Cory & Sis. Jennifer) in his engagement to Emma Thatcher (Mike and Diane). May God bless and guide them as they plan for a June 2020 wedding.

May God continue to be with Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne), Kurt Metzger (Lou), Ralph Bormann (Melanie), Cody Schmidt and Sis. Jackie Mogler as they recover following hospitalization.

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”
Isaiah 41:13

Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

The evenings are getting cooler, and the children have returned to school for their second semester which are signs of the fall season. We are thankful that our summer travelers from both churches have all returned home safely after receiving wonderful blessings from ministry and fellowship.
In August, we bid farewell to Koa and Kia Kellenberger, son and daughter of Gary and Yoko. Both went to the U.S. to continue their education. Koa will enter a university and Kia will enter high school. We wish them the blessings and protection of our Lord as they settle and study in a new land.

Sis. Rachel Witzig of our Washington, IL church arrived in August. We warmly welcome her as she endeavors to share the gospel through English teaching and fellowshipping with our churches and those she comes in contact with. May the Lord provide for her every need as she also settles in a new land away from her family. She seems to be adjusting very well. We know she appreciates the prayers of her home church and many loved ones.

As today was a national holiday being Old Folk’s Day, it was church cleaning for our church. We were thankful for good helpers as we worked and fellowshipped together.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

We are so excited to share that Bro. Travis Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) has announced his engagement to Sis. Leah Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla, Sabetha, KS)! May the Lord continue to work in their lives as they prepare to become One in the Lord.

Two more souls have answered the call to repentance. We are thrilled for Luke Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) and Jenna Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) as they seek God’s will for their lives.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) shared with the Bern and Sabetha congregations about LifePoints. It was an interesting presentation. We all enjoyed the potluck supper before it!

Our Senior Bible Class enjoyed a trip to Lamont. Thank you for hosting our youth!

Kansas, Kiowa
Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

“Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.” Job 42:1,2,5

I love reading about Job, and know I would never have had the strength and patience he showed in all the trials he faced. It fascinates me to read chapters 38-41, when God speaks to Job out of the whirlwind and tells him all of the wonders made by God’s hand. Then Job answers with those verses 42-45 and finally understands that God knows and sees everything and only allows things to happen to us that He controls. We do not know what will happen in our lives today or in the future, but with our God keeping Satan in his place and our future in God’s hands, all we need to do is patiently wait for God’s love, His protection, His healing and most of all His guidance from day to day. We are a truly blessed people and serve an awesome God.

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Matt. 19:6

We extend our love and prayers to Bro. John and Sis. Carol (Martii) Lehman, who became one in Christ this past month in Lamar, MO. May God bless this union of their hearts and lives in Him as they from this day forward serve and walk with Him.

Lamont, KS hosted the semi-annual youth fellowship this month. We had several attend. So many lasting friendships come from this special weekend. We are so thankful it is still happening for our precious youth as it did for us when we were their age.

Our youth had two other special events this past month. One was Bible School, which we hold for one day with Bible lessons, games, art projects, and a picnic at the river in the evening and then singing. It’s always a very enjoyable day for everyone. The Wichita, KS youth sometimes join us for the occasion, but couldn’t make it this year. They did join us for the second event, a day of camping and fellowship at Kaw Lake in Oklahoma. The weather was beautiful and every one really enjoyed being together.

Kansas, Lamont
Maria Luthi

This month we wish to extend our thanks to several visiting ministers: Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Elder Bro.
Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO).

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch hosted a meal and our monthly church singing in their home. It was a blessing to several visitors as well as our local church over Labor Day Weekend.

We also remain prayerful for our hospital patients this month, Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker, who continue to recover.


Our church was blessed to host the High School Youth Fellowship weekend for students from area churches. The students met on a Saturday afternoon for games, activities, a work project, supper, and a speaker (Bro. Scott Wegman,) who spoke on right relationships. Bro. Scott also ministered to the students on Sunday with kindness and conviction. It was very encouraging to see our youth gathered together and we are thankful for the efforts of so many to make this special weekend happen for them.

Kansas, Sabetha
Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter

Greetings of love to each one in this lovely fall season!

As always, we appreciate our visiting ministers. We were thankful to have Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) with us. While visiting, Bro. Ron and Bro. Kaleb held a marriage seminar. It was a blessing for many couples from our congregation. The same weekend we were able to gather as a church family for an all-church potluck and hear a presentation on LifePoints, also by Bro. Ron.

We are very thankful for two new converts: Tyler Grimm (Bro. Kurt & Sis. Hannah) and Martha Hartter (Bro. James & Sis. Sandy). May the Lord bless them and guide them as they begin their walk with Him.

Children are certainly a blessing from above. We rejoice with Bro. Jerry & Sis. Christy Meeks as they welcome their first grandchild, Bristol Christine, daughter of Bro. Brock & Sis. Lydia Williamson from Leo, IN. We are also thankful for the safe arrival of Tyson David who was welcomed with love by Bro. Josh & Sis. Leanna Hartter and his big sister Karissa. Grandparents are Bro. David & Sis. Beth Hartter and Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia Fehr.

We rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Our love and prayers are with Sis. Ruth Hertzel as her son-in-law, Brian Schweitzer, passed away. We also want to extend sympathy to Bro. Gerry & Sis. Ellen Hertzel and to Bro. Fred & Sis. Charlotte Aberle in this time of loss.

Kansas, Wichita
Niklaus and Sara Schrader

We appreciate our recent visiting ministers Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS). It is such a blessing to have these visitors share the Word of God.

Several people from our congregation attended the campout at Kaw Lake hosted by the Kiowa church. We were blessed to have such a great time of fellowship, fun, and good food.

Saturday and Sunday September 14-15 was the high school ACYF in Lamont, KS. Several of our youth attended. Join us in praying that young hearts were opened to God’s truth.

Please be prayerful for Bertie and Bro. Roger Reimschisel as Bertie has been hospitalized recently.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord, for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.”

Isaiah 12:4-5

September is our patriotic month here in Mexico. Independence Day, with all its parades, speeches and fireworks occupies center stage for a good part of the month. We took advantage of the opportunity to spend an evening together as a church singing of God’s works
and reflecting on the freedom that Christ has purchased for us. It was a special evening for fellowship and growing friendships of children and adults alike.

As Colegio de las Américas goes into the second month of classes, we are thankful for the staff God has provided. We would ask for prayer support so that all the teacher positions could be filled and that the Lord would bless us with staff dedicated to the vision of preparing young people to serve Him… that His doings would be “known in all the earth.”

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

After a weekend of board meetings, brothers from a few churches worshiped with us the last Sunday of August. We thank our Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for sharing God’s Word with us.

We thank Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman (Bloomington, IL) for visiting us in August as a part of the CVE grandparent program. May God bless them for the love they pour into this community!

Sis. Courtney Plattner (Champaign, IL) has arrived to fill a yearlong position at CVE. We are excited to welcome her into our church family. May she feel God’s presence and strength as she adjusts to her new job and community!

We celebrated Mexican Independence Day on September 16 and are thankful for the freedoms we have to speak freely of Jesus Christ and worship Him openly.

As I’m reading through Hebrews in my personal devotion time, I am intrigued by its detailed explanation of how Jesus provided a better way than the law. “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.” Heb. 7:19. I am so thankful to live in an era where I can have forgiveness of my sins and a personal relationship with my God!

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

We are so thankful that convert Marilyn Byam has expressed her desire to give her testimony and be baptized. We look forward to witnessing this in October. May she continue to know and feel the love of her brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our thoughts and prayers are continually with Sis. Gretl Schlatter (Latty, OH); Elaine Wingeier’s (Stan) daughter, Diane; and Angie Sixberry (Jason) as each of them are experiencing health issues. We pray that our merciful Father would grant healing according to His will.

Our prayers are also with Sis. MaryAnn Feldman (Bro. Lyman) as her sister Sis. Martha Zollinger (Rittman, OH) went home to be with her Savior.

We are thankful for visiting minister Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) in his willingness to share the message of truth along with our home ministers this past month.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy, Jada, Adia, Theo and Tessa Gerst from Ethiopia, are currently in the US. We were blessed to hear them present and share their experiences and struggles as they continue to spread the gospel in a foreign land. It is always a joyful occasion when we reunite with our loved ones who live internationally. Our prayer is that each one who is called to share the gospel in another place would be blessed with courage, wisdom and strength from the Holy Spirit to follow the path He has chosen for them.

“When times are tough and the way is steep,  
Do you stumble along or to the Father weep?  
When the nights are long and sleep won’t come,  
Do you go to the Father or use something to numb?  
When hurt and pain seem too deep to bear  
Do you fall on your knees in humble prayer?  
When sickness or sorrow weigh you down,  
Do you still know joy or continually frown?  
When changes come and you do not agree,  
Do you take captive each thought or let your mind run free?  
When you’re weary and worn, and want to give up,  
Do you choose to go dry or drink from His cup?  
The choice is all ours, we are free in our own will,  
But the question remains, will you turn away or in
Notes of Thanks:
Thanks for your prayers, meals, cards and flowers. They are very much appreciated and uplifting as well. Angie Sixberry
Hello Dear Alto Church Family,
Our family would like to thank all of those who were able to come to our presentation at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening! You are such an encouragement to us and we feel very loved by you all. Thanks again to each of you for your various forms of support over the last six years of our time serving in Ethiopia.
By Prayer, Jon, Amy & Kiddos

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland
We are enjoying the beautiful weather while it lasts! Late summer/fall seems to fly by so I am determined to appreciate it!
I wasn’t going to write about this because I really don’t like talking about myself in general, but our family needs all of your prayers desperately and I am reaching out. After three years of driving, and no changes to treatment, I had two seizures three weeks apart. Go figure. I am now not able to drive for a period of time. This has affected our whole family and I (we) have been struggling with this loss of independence and freedom that comes with driving.
Thanks to my wonderful (did I say wonderful?) church family, I have been able to get many rides to work and am so thankful. As my husband so truthfully stated, “this is a church that cares and shows the love of Jesus with their actions”. Lyft transportation also has been a great service that I did not have access to in the past and I have met many different people. They have all been kind to me on the half hour drive to work and it is easy to get a driver. The last driver told me that some people just sit back on their phones and don’t talk and she liked it that I did talk. Of course, I have been told I could talk to a tree, but I do like hearing people’s stories and one never knows where a chance will come to share about Jesus. I’m praying for a chance to witness or make a difference in one of their lives spiritually.

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner
Greetings from the twin cities! We were excited and thankful to have moved our Sunday worship services back upstairs after remodeling. That Sunday, September 8, our ministers shared a dedication service including our Minneapolis church history, past gathering places, when our current church was built, and our vision moving forward. As a body of believers in Christ Jesus, we are grateful to God for those who devoted their time and efforts to updating our building. It is a warm and inviting place to worship our heavenly Father and share fellowship, all for His glory!

Our Sunday school students began a new year on September 15. Brothers Matt Saurer, Ben Dill and Adrian Rocke are teaching the upper grades; while Sisters Claire Dill, Marti Saurer and Renee Messner teach the younger classes. Special thanks go to Bro. Kent Mogler and Sis. Connie Bergstrom for their past years helping shape and share the love of Jesus with our precious children.

Minnesota, Morris
Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf
Two became one as Sis. Callie Koehl (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim) and Bro. Keegan Knobloch (Bro. Lance and Sis. Christy (Lester, IA) were united in marriage. We pray for God’s richest blessings as they make their home in Winthrop, MN. We had visiting ministers for the special weekend: Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN). May God bless them for their labors.

“Thus united and in concord Let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us For each other’s welfare strive.” Unity, Zion’s Harp #237

We were blessed to have our single group host Labor Day weekend. What an encouragement it is having brothers and sisters of like mind and faith gather together.
Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger,
Natalie Feuchtenberger
“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.” Isaiah 32:1-2.

I really appreciate the nuggets of comfort like this that are placed throughout the word of God. Even on my weakest days, I can read and re-read these words, finding reasons for praising our King. So today I am praising Him for flowers alongside otherwise drab roads, the scent of a rainstorm that is slowly fizzling out, the love that is passed around from one human to the next sharing in the highs and lows of life. These are a few examples of my rivers in dry places and shadows in a weary land.

We are thankful for all of the visitors over the summer. Pray for our children and Sunday school teachers as they head into a new year of learning.

Missouri, Lamar
Mindy Wettstein
On August 16, we hosted a dinner and singing shower for Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Carol Marti. Thank you for sharing your testimony of how the Lord brought you together!

A bus of believers from Gridley, Forrest, and Fairbury came to fellowship with us August 17-18! With the support of numbers, we divided up into several groups to sing to the elderly. Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Forrest, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Kristi, Ft. Scott, KS) brought us the Word of Life on Sunday.

August 25, Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) covered ministering duties, as several were able to travel to Bloomfield, IA to witness the weekend of Sis. Jackie Wettstein’s testimony and baptism (daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein).

Hymns of Zion #74 vs. 1
We offer sympathy and heartfelt prayers to several of our church family for the unexpected loss of their loved ones. Bro. Mike & Sis. Joyce Messner have suddenly lost their granddaughter, Catina Odegaard. Sis. Donnabell Nelson has experienced the sudden loss of her daughter, Candice Pederson.

Sunday School began for the year on September 8. We pray for the Word to be planted in young and tender hearts and ask for God’s grace over the teachers and students.

Note of Thanks:
Thank you to all those who have offered prayers and visits to me while I’ve been in the hospital. Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce)

Missouri, Kansas City
Katy Frantz
Summer has ended and all the kids have returned to school, but we wish the summer interns could have stayed longer to fellowship with our small church. We appreciated having the addition of Bro. Nelson Knobloch from Remington, IN, Bro. Winston Leman from Francesville, IN and Bro. Phillip Wegman from Taylor, MO.

The beginning of school also brought with it the start to our new year of Sunday School. It is so refreshing to see the new children come into their classes - eyes wide with excitement and hearts open to hear about Jesus! In addition, we met with the Fort Scott church for a Sunday School picnic. We always enjoy the time when our churches can come together!

Also, our hearts are filled with joy at the repentance of Amor Kellenberger. It brings to mind the promise given through the prophet Isaiah: “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.” Isaiah 55:6

We are grateful for the visiting ministers that served us in the past few months: Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Sis. Rosanna, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS).

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August 30 was the wedding of Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Carol Marti. We were thankful many of the visitors stayed and worshipped with us on Sunday, following the Saturday wedding! The visiting ministers were: Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO); Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL); Bro. Matthew Schubach (Sis. Courtney, Kiowa, KS); and Elder Bros.: Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA). Sis. Carol, we wish you the Lord’s blessings as you move to Bern!

We are praising God for a new convert, Ryan Braker. His parents are Terry and Rhonda Braker, and his grandma is Sis. Bonnie Braker. Please join us in praying for him as God works the work of Salvation in his life!

September 8, Bro. Jeff Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS) ministered to us - thank you! We also enjoyed visitors from Lester, IA and Forrest, IL as we would have otherwise been a small gathering. The Ft. Scott church invited us to join them and Kansas City for a picnic. We are blessed by their friendship and fellowship!

We had multiple visitors for a CEC (Church Establishment Committee) Meeting. Sis. Bonita Frank presented the topics regarding Dementia and Alzheimer’s. Thank you for your willingness to present! Bro. Jay Luthi joined us for Saturday evening, however was unable to worship with us on Sunday.

The brethren who assisted with the CEC meetings also comprised our visiting ministers: Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cisna Park, IL); and also for visiting ministers we enjoyed Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern KS) and Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott, KS).

Bryson Frieden (Brock and Elizabeth Frieden) was in the hospital this month, we praise God for healing.

Several additional couples have joined our serving list, including Bro. Monte and Sis. Linda Maus, and Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banward (both couples of Ft. Scott, KS), and Brock and Elizabeth Frieden. We are thankful for their consistent support!

Missouri, St. Louis
Victoria Eberhardt

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month, Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN). We are always so thankful for visitors to our congregation.

Many thanks go to our Taylor brethren for supporting us in so many ways. This month, Bro. Kent led our congregation to experience the joy of placing Bro. Chris Wüethrich (Sis. Carla) officially back into the St. Louis ministry after their move back. Sis. Jan and several from our Taylor family spent the afternoon with all our children so that all the St. Louis adults could partake in such a special meeting. What examples of being brothers and sisters in Christ.

Recently during a HarvestCall evening activities, the children gathered around a world map to be shown the location of the kids they were helping. As the children packaged school kits to be sent to Jamaica, it was a joy to watch them fill each bag with such a focus on helping the other kids. How easy it is for us to forget just how blessed we are and what a good reminder it is to see our children helping others with a simple joy.

Missouri, Taylor
Lori Marquart

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me…” Psalm 23:4

Bro. Robert Hoerr entered his eternal rest on August 19. Funeral services were August 23 at the Taylor church, with his burial including full military rites. Bro. Robert is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sis. Emma “Dee”. They have five children: Bro. Brent (Sis. Charlotte), Scott, Ted, Sis. Amy Adrian (Bro. Rusty), and Carrie Sherman (Mike). Please pray for this dear family which includes their 11 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

A family connection brought Bro. Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie, Prescott) to Taylor. While here to visit their daughter, Sis. Devan (Bro. Kyle Grimm). We are grateful to Bro. Dan for serving us from the pulpit on August 25. He shared this bit of wisdom (author unknown), “Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do,
but it never takes you anywhere.”

Bro. Clayton & Sis. Whitney Steidinger have moved to Tremont, IL for employment reasons (which is actually a move back “home” for Sis. Whitney). This young couple will be greatly missed in Taylor, but when the Lord says to move, it is best that we heed! Pray that they feel God’s peace in their new surroundings.

Gratitude and love is extended to Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis) who presented a Wednesday evening Bible study on September 4.

“…How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

Elder Bro. Kent & Sis. Jan Heimer traveled to Dubai in early September to meet with representatives from RGMMI (Rural Gospel Medical Missions of India). Sis. Jan returned home while Bro. Kent went on to India for further meetings before returning safely home. God is at work all over His created world.

The calendar is marked for the weekend of October 19! We are rejoicing at the news that Jonathan and Natalie Wegman (Bro. Scott & Sis. Dawn) and Shalise Steidinger (Bro. Rick & Sis. Kim) are at peace with God and man and desire to share their personal testimony of redemption, and to be baptized.

Prayers are requested for recent hospital patient, Brenda Simmons.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney

We are thankful for the announcements of new lives. Bradley and Joyce Herzig, JR welcomed a new granddaughter, Haven Yann Herzig, born June 25. Parents are Jake and Chanda. Justin and Caitlin (Schantz) Hirschey welcomed a son, Ross Gregory Hirschey, born February 28. Joseph and Marissa (Hirschey) Hartnett welcomed a son, Colin Joseph, born July 5. He was also welcomed by his sister, Isabelle. Grandparents of Ross and Colin are Martin and Linda (Plana) Hirschey. Bradley and Bryn Virkler welcomed a daughter, Clara Mae, born July 6. She has a big sister, Emery Rae. We are thankful for the safe arrival of these precious gifts from our Heavenly Father.

As new lives come into this world, there are lives that leave this world. Bro. Bradley Herzig, Sr, 88, passed away on Monday, August 19. He was great grandfather of little Haven Yann that was listed in the births. Bro. Bradley is survived by his wife, Sis. Jeanie (Virkler) of Castorland; son and daughter-in-law, Bradley, Jr and Joyce (Robbins) of Lowville; daughter, Sis. Gwen McGillvray of Castorland; and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Sis. Pam Herzig.

Ministering Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT) were with us August 18 and brought us the message from the Lord.

A few nights this past month we gathered to listen to the conference recordings. We thank God for giving the brothers the words to speak, to guide us on our walk with Him, through this journey of life that we might come to that good and blessed end.

We are also thankful for David and Deborah Schneider. They have been assembling with us since last fall and have made it known that they desire to be a part of the body of Christ. We all must come through the same door of repentance and conversation, and that door is Christ. David is from this area, with ties to the church and has been away many years, working throughout the land. We are thankful God has directed them back home.

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle

We bid farewell to Bro. Josh and Sis. Nicole Bolliger and their twin girls, Isabelle and Arianna, as they returned home to Tremont, IL. We enjoyed having them attend Akron for the past two years while Bro. Josh attended college and pray they can adjust quickly to being home again.

Bro. Kenny Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia) and Sis. Sophie Getz were wed in Remington, IN on September 1. May God bless them in their marriage.

September 8 was the baptism of Sis. Bethany Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina) and Sis. LaNae Schar (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne).
We appreciated having Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) here for the weekend to assist with testimonies and the baptismal service. Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman) also served us from the pulpit on Sunday. We were reminded what an encouragement it is to be able to travel and gather with brethren and of the precious fellowship we share!

Ohio, Columbus

Nancy Banks

We have been blessed to have had several ministers visiting and worshipping with us this month. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sandy, Morton, IL).

College Welcome Day was held September 8. The picnic opens with introductions of returning and new students that attend colleges in Columbus and surrounding areas. We pray for each and every one of our students as they begin the new year.

Thoughts and prayers are with our Sis. Cheryl Gehres who has been in the hospital after several falls. She has now been moved into a facility for rehabilitation and recovery. We also send get well wishes to Jennifer Curry (Jonathan) as she recovers from surgery. She is currently in rehab to recover and gain strength for other surgeries in the coming months.

Ohio, Junction

Elizabeth Manz

We are thankful that Daniele Porter (Josh) has begun her repentance. We pray that she will find courage and grace as she grows in her faith. Praise God for His mercy in drawing people to Himself!

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz are thankful for another granddaughter, Valerie Ruth, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Miller (Latty, OH) on September 12.

Evan Schlatter (Miranda) has repented of his sins and stands at peace with God. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in the near future, Lord willing.

Bro. Derek Schlatter will be taking over Bro. Mitch Manz’s ushering responsibilities as Bro. Mitch prepares to move to Kansas City, MO after his wedding.

Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) were among our visitors this month. We are thankful for their ministry of the Word.

Ohio, Latty

Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

“And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.” 1 Cor. 11:24

On the weekend of September 14-15, Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. John by sharing communion with our church family. We were reminded of our Savior’s sacrifice and of our calling to serve Him faithfully until He comes again. Our heartfelt thanks go to Elder Bro. Craig for serving and ministering to us.

Also, this month we had our annual Sunday School picnic. Our youth are a blessing. We pray for wisdom for our Sunday School teachers. May we all walk in the ways of Jesus.

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 19:14

Our continued prayers are with Lily Sinn (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette) as she has peace and is awaiting baptism.

Ohio, Mansfield

Katie Miller

We have been prayerful for Elizabeth Brandt through her initial surgery and recovery. Her parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo. She and her family are in our thoughts as she faces an additional surgery in the near future.

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jennifer, Toledo, OH) who served us over the pulpit. Let us each strive to live the inspired Word to encourage those around us!

“O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer’s praise, The glories of my God and King. The triumphs of His grace. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease, ’Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ’Tis life, and health, and peace.” 

Hymns of Zion #291
Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

The Lord has been good to us this month. Are we thankful? Or, are we like a child who is temperamental, pleasant if given everything they ask for...but grumpy if told “no”? Can God trust us enough, that He can tell us “no”, and yet our relationship with Him will still grow? Then think of Job. During his trial, he heard silence from God, unsure how to even consider his relationship with God. In all our decisions, in all our daily challenges, may our persistence and trust in God clearly show.

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him,” Job 13:15

This month, we welcomed two new lambs into the fold, through baptism. Our Bro. Jacob Hartzler (Bro. Tim & Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Leah Steiner (Bro. Nate & Sis. Anita) publicly confessed their desire to live for God the rest of their life. May God bless these young souls.

When the Lord calls, may we be listening. Ashley Steiner (Bro. Joel & Sis. Katrina) and Chad Ramsier (Bro. Tim & Sis. Joni) answered God’s call to repent. Though they aren’t promised an easy road, we have confidence they will receive abundant grace as they humble their lives before Him.

Sis. Charity Gasser (Bro. Aaron & Sis. Deb) and Bro. Aaron Zollinger (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Pam, Smithville) have announced their engagement. We wish them grace and peace as they become one in the Lord.

We rejoice in the safe arrival of two babies this month. Oakley Eden Beery was born September 10 to Bro. Chad & Sis. Katie Beery. Thankful siblings are Cayden, Ava, Larkyn, & Hudson. Grandparents are Bro. Walt & Sis. Lynda Beery and Bro. Tim & Sis. Joni Ramsier. On September 13, Kevin Baker Leonhard was born to Matthew & Lexi Leonhard. His thankful grandparents are Tom & Sis. Holly Leonhard.

Sis. Martha Zollinger (Carl) breathed her last breath, and entered eternity. She leaves behind her husband; children: Andrew & Caresse Zollinger, Sis. Anita & Dan Pope, and Michael & Helen Zollinger; many grandchildren & great-grandchildren; and a host of memories. Sis. Anna Rufener (Bro. Orin) passed away. She will be missed by her husband; her three sons: Paul & Denise Rufener, Bro. Leon & Sis. Lori Rufener, and Bro. Dan & Sis. Karen Rufener; many grandchildren & great grandchildren who loved her, and felt her love for them. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Holly (Tom) Leonhard in the loss of her brother, Terry Haines. God knows the needs of those left behind. May they find strength for each new day.

Hard times come in many ways, some known to us, but often silent and born quietly. We want to remember those who have spent time in the hospital this past month, including Bro. Orin Rufener, Bro. Mitch Baltic, Bro. George Riggenbach, Bro. Bob (Sis. Lorie) Riggenbach, Sis. Linda Zollinger, and Cydney Emch (Bro. Bryan & Sis. Amber).

We’re thankful for guest ministers this past month who have willingly preached the Word: Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Mansfield, OH), and retired Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). May God remember their efforts, and so many others who diligently care for the needs of our church.

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

As students begin a new year in school, changes also occur in the Sunday School rooms in Sardis. We give heartfelt thanks to Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle; and Bros. Jeb Joos, Alan Blough, and Andy Figel as they turn their classes over to new teachers. We are thankful for many Christ-centered family homes and Sunday School classes.

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

Prayers for wisdom go to Sisters Joy Indermuhle, Dee Beard, Alice Ramsier, Faith Beard; and Bros. Garth Maibach and Matt Brake as they begin a new round of lessons with the youth who will be the future church.

Bro. Dale Riggenbach recently passed from this life to eternity. He was a special elderly brother.
who will be remembered for his contentment, his kindness, and his support of the church, and will be greatly missed by his family and our church family. A special touch at the funeral service was added when the choir sang, *Take Time To Be Holy, Hymns of Zion #112*. It was the last hymn that Bro. Dale had selected a couple weeks prior at the church nursing home singing, where he was a resident. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Virginia, and is survived by daughter, Millie; three sons, Jim, Bill and Don; and many of their loved ones.

The Miller family had many visitors from around Ohio who gathered for an annual family reunion. Among them was Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH). We extend special thanks to him for serving on the pulpit. The Hartzler family also spent a weekend together in Sardis, and as they usually do, invited the church for a Sunday afternoon potluck. These times together are cherished and looked forward to by both children and adults.

**Ohio Smithville**
*Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller*

We are thankful Melody Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) has yielded her heart to the Lord in humble repentance.

Two engagements were made known to us this month. Bro. Dinold Gabriel is engaged to Sis. Karla Detweiler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene, Silverton OR). Bro. Aaron Zollinger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Charity Gasser (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb, Rittman, OH) also announced their engagement. May God bless these two couples during this special time.

Bro. Dana Riggenbach and Sis. Jollene (Bro. Steven) Hofacre spent time in the hospital this month. We pray for healing and God’s nearness as they recover.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Lyman) Feldman at the death of her sister, Sis. Martha (Carl) Zollinger (Rittman, OH).

**Ohio, Toledo**
*Rebekah Witzig, Brooke Harmon*

Fall is just around the corner and school is back in session. We are blessed to have multiple college students attending the University of Toledo, which brings a variety of new faces and families to our congregation. As a church family, we celebrated by hosting a welcome picnic for these students and their families. We were also privileged to have Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH) preach the Word during one of our Sunday services.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Teresa Rywalski as she underwent surgery and a subsequent hospital stay due to an infection.

We also mourn with Sis. Connie Sancraint as her husband Dave unexpectedly passed away. We earnestly pray that the comfort of the Holy Spirit will be upon this dear family.

*“It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God: but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes.” -Oswald Chambers.*

This quote really touched my heart. God does not demand what is impossible from us. He does not expect us all to accomplish great feats in His name. Instead, he calls for faithfulness in the small things and then enables us to fulfill this calling through His power. The Christian life is not about observing the Scriptures on the big life matters, but a continual, daily study of and obedience to the Word. The everyday moments that seem trivial and mundane can all be carried out for glory of Yahwah.

*“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31.*

**Ontario, Kitchener**
*Roselynn Metzger*

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Prov. 18:10

A warm hello from us in Kitchener! As summer comes to a close, we see that all things in life are constantly changing. The children have gone back to school, the leaves are slowly turning colors and there is a crisp breeze in the air. Thankfully, there is one constant in our lives, and that is God and the love He shows.

On August 18, Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) came to serve on the pulpit. The same weekend, the young group travelled...
to Livonia, MI for an Invite-a-Friend weekend. On behalf of the young group, we would like to thank all those involved in hosting us, preparing food and organizing activities. We really enjoyed the time spent together!

The following two weekends, we did not have a minister and held call-in services at church instead. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Livonia, MI) came on September 8 to counsel and minister.

We are happy to announce that convert Emily Mathiesen (Bro. Murray & Sis. Esther Metzger) has a testimony of repentance and conversion, being saved by grace through faith, and of reconciliation and peace with God, and has expressed her desire for baptism. We are so excited for her and look forward to this special event!

On September 15, Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) were with us on Sunday. We really appreciate their dedication to our small congregation. They have been a wonderful blessing to us. Thank you to all other visitors who made the effort to come this month. May God bless you richly for this!

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

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

We appreciate the work of our elder brethren as we heard the Memorandum, and have started to listen to the Conference recordings. May The Lord bless them for their willingness to serve.

Visiting ministers from Silverton, OR were Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz). We are thankful for their continued support.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett

August 25, we had the pleasure to witness the wedding of Sis. Jenna Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) to Bro. Ethan Harter (Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill) from Washington, IL. We are thankful for God’s work in their lives and pray for His continued guidance as they set out on this new adventure together! We appreciated the many ministers who were able to share the Gospel and fellowship with us over the weekend including: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) from Rockville, CT, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) from Washington, IL, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia, PA, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia) from Washington, IL, Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue) from Altadena, CA, and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian) from San Diego, CA.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn welcomed a grandson, Mathis Jay, on August 27. Mathis was born to Bro. Nathaniel and Sis. Tressa Leman from Morton, IL.

We are happy to share the news of Sis. Karla Dettwyler’s engagement (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) to Bro. Dinold Gabriel from Smithville, OH. We are thankful for God’s direction in both of their lives and pray for His love to grow in their hearts and draw them close together.

Ben Meyer is being deployed to Afghanistan and, Lord willing, plans to return in March. Please pray for protection and the Lord’s nearness during this time.

Sis. Leanne Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) has recently moved to Wolcott, IN to take a teaching position at Cornerstone Private School. We will miss having Sis. Leanne in Silverton, but trust that God will bless her work in Indiana.

Bro. Kevin Dettwyler (Sis. Jill) recently had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor. We are thankful for God’s protection and would ask for your continued prayers for a full recovery.

September 14, we had the honor of sharing the Lord’s Communion together with Elder Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein from West Lafayette, IN. We were encouraged to remember the sacrifice our Savior made and to allow that remembrance to motivate us to action. Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller from Gridley, IL also joined us for the weekend. We are so very thankful for both Bro. Nick and Bro. Clark’s willingness to share the Gospel message with us. We pray for God’s blessing as they continue to serve Him.

Nick and Brittany Prince have been attending the Silverton church for quite some time and
desire to become a part of our congregation. We look forward to Lord willing hearing their testimonies at the end of the year.

Fall seems to have arrived overnight in Oregon and as the rains come, we can be reminded of how the love of Jesus and His sacrifice have washed away all our sins and made us new!

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**  
*Laura Isch*

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

The Philadelphia Church held its Sunday School picnic on September 8. The Sunday School is such an important part of our church! We are thankful for their enthusiasm and energy! We continue to pray that their hearts will be drawn close to God and that we can do our part to be a good example to them.

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**  
*Candace Meiss*

We send our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

In the stillness of the morning as I ask God to direct my day, scripture verses and songs come to mind. The song “Broken Pieces” by Rudy Kitchen and James Marin, Jr. encourages us to trust in His Holy Word as we pick up our broken pieces and give them all to Him.

“Just bring your cares to Jesus, Your soul He’ll satisfy. Pick up the broken pieces and bring them to the Lord; Pick up the broken pieces, trust in His holy Word; He will put them back together and make your life complete. Just place the broken pieces at the Savior’s feet. You may feel that there’s no hope, broken hearts just cannot mend: Tho you’re torn in many pieces, Christ can make you whole again; Storms of doubt blow all directions, But don’t you be afraid, God can make all corrections, He made a body out of clay.”

In Japan, broken pottery is often repaired with lacquer dusted or mixed with gold, silver or platinum, known as Kintsukuroi. The flaw is seen as a unique piece of the object’s history, which adds to its beauty; just as we are when we bring our broken pieces to the Lord and Christ makes us whole again. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”  
Psalm 51:17

We were blessed by guest minister, Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH); special thanks for ministering to us on a Wednesday night. “Pick up the broken pieces and bring them to the Lord; Pick up the broken pieces, trust in His holy Word; He will put them back together and make your life complete. Just place the broken pieces at the Savior’s feet.”

“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” Matt. 21:44

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

Please refer to our minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

**Texas, Zapata**  
*Mary Plattner*

We in Zapata are welcoming the winter season as our winter family will be returning soon.

We thank the Elgin, IA congregation for hosting our Zapata Reunion this summer. It was a blessed weekend as some who have not been able to travel South any longer were able to be with us there.

Anyone wishing to come to Zapata this winter is most welcome. We do appreciate our winter visitors.

**Vermont, Clarendon**  
*Nathan Reutter*

Visiting ministers from the past month encouraged us through the Word. We were thankful they did not deviate from the simple messages found therein. They include Bro. Don & Sis. Connie Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Wes & Sis. Esther Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Scott & Sis. Gigi Schafer (South Bend, IN), Bro. Jeff & Sis. Carole Gerber (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Marvin & Sis. Sue Hartzler (Rittman, OH). From many ministers came the same message of hope through Jesus.

We also enjoyed the Sunday school picnic this month and enjoyed the sweet fellowship of our small group along with a few from the Rockville, CT church.
Adorning Ourselves With the Ornament of a Meek and Quiet Spirit

by - Sis. Gail Bradford (Indianapolis, IN)

Humility #186
Zion's Harp

“Meekness is the noblest virtue, Ev’ry Christian’s honor bright; It adorns the youthful member And the aged with its might. Though it does not stand in favor With those of a proud behavior, Yet ’tis more than precious gold, More than fame and wealth untold.”

These familiar words from verse one of “Humility,” hymn #186 in our Zion’s Harp, relate to a challenging scriptural passage. “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (I Peter 3:3-4).

In American culture today, being “meek” is hardly considered a virtue. Instead, people promote being insistent, assertive, and forward. Especially in the work world, many desire to be self-promoting and to take charge. It feels like the way to get ahead. As women – regardless of whether or not we are employed outside our home, we may perceive these qualities as equally useful within our social lives.

Living in our society can seem confusing for a Christian woman. On one hand, our promotion or raise may depend on our ability to be a “boss.” However, at home and/or in the church, the Scriptures reveal that our husbands or male leadership are our heads, which involves us submitting to them (I Corinthians 11:3, 14:34; Ephesians 5:22). This apparent contrast could contribute to uncertainty at work and to conflict elsewhere. Yet, before we conclude that there are irreconcilable differences between these two concepts of being successful, let’s delve deeper into the actual definition of the word “meek.”

In the King James Version, “meek” comes from the Greek word praus, which describes a person who is warm, friendly, patient, forbearing, kind, and gentle. As translated from Peter’s use of the Greek word histuchios, “quiet” describes being peaceful and tranquil, and exhibiting a spirit of quietness.

Examples are a good way to define meekness more clearly. Whose example demonstrates this attribute as our best model in the Bible? You know Him as Jesus! “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; …” (Matthew 11:29). Before Christ, Moses lead the Jewish people out of Egypt. He “… was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3).

Closer to our own time, an 1828 dictionary defines meek as “mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated, yielding; humble; not proud or apt to complain.” A more recent dictionary describes meekness as showing patience or humility; gentleness. A modern thesaurus gives “mild,” “peaceful,” and “deferential” as synonyms for meekness.

In addition to understanding the Biblical and more contemporary definitions of meekness, it is useful to understand what meekness is not. Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is not always...
demonstrated by silence. Meekness is not being passive in the face of wrongdoing. Meekness is not being unwilling or unable to lead.

When we know what meekness is not, we can more clearly realize its blessings. The Bible promises blessings for a meek and quiet spirit. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

A picture emerges of a woman who adorns herself with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. This woman exhibits a calm confidence and a tranquil stillness in her heart, which is at rest in Christ. “Thou wilt keep him (her) in perfect peace; whose mind is stayed on thee, because he (she) trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26:3). She is not arrogant or assuming. She knows her worth is not in her self, but in her relationship to Christ. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Philippians 2:3).

Rather than avoiding controversy, a godly woman faces necessary challenges under the Holy Spirit’s influence. “Brethren, if a (wo)man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1). Her confidence is in the security of the truths she reads in the Bible, and she is not easily offended. “Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 19:165).

A woman with a meek and quiet spirit is a strong and steady force among the storms of life, which inevitably buffet every person. “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). She is consistent and reliable in her reaction to unexpected circumstances. Indeed, she does not contribute to the chaos that such surprises often produce. “(S)he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;” (Proverbs 16:32a). She is at peace because she trusts God. “Be still, and know that I am God: …” (Psalms 45:10a).

In her actions and words, a woman with a meek and quiet spirit:
- Radiates calm and confidence,
- Shows love,
- Makes wise decisions,
- Does not offend easily,
- Demonstrates resolve and steadfastness, and
- Is slow to anger.

Are we letting God shape us into being such a humble woman?

As referenced earlier, the word “humility” relates closely to meekness. As a virtue that both the Old and New Testaments repeatedly promote, being humble is not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less. Choosing humility means placing confidence in the Lord rather than in our own intelligence, cleverness, beauty, or talents.

“Genuine humility is a reflection of neither weakness nor insecurity. Instead, it implies a respectful appreciation of the strengths of others, a lack of personal pretension and a more relaxed sense of confidence that doesn’t require external recognition” (Forbes Magazine, October 29, 2015).

How can we women be humble, meek, and quiet in this often bold, brash, thoughtless, and hurtful culture? While the answer is simple, it may not be easy. We can practice gratitude. Being thankful (otherwise known as counting our blessings) can calm even the most troubled soul. When we think about what we have rather than what we lack, we realize that our life is indeed full of blessings.

When we adorn ourselves with the ornament of a humble, meek, and quiet spirit, we often differentiate ourselves as examples of living in the world but not of it (John 17:14-17). This separateness can invite beneficial conversations about why we are behaving this way. These discussions are opportunities to testify of how Jesus’ love and instruction guide our lives in a way that’s available to everyone. While those we encounter and we ourselves have unique personality types, each of us can be a woman of a meek and quiet spirit. Jesus shows us the way.
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content

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   2. Near St. Mary’s Hospital - two bedroom apartment within a 12 unit building.

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Phone: (507) 288-0072

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

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Come to the Hospital Lumiere Benefit Auction

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti

BENEFIT AUCTION
Friday, November 8, 2019

Your bids can provide medical care to needy Haitians.

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

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

Friday, Nov. 8, 2019
Five Points Washington
360 N Wilmor Rd, Washington, IL 61571
4:30 – Food Court & Silent Auction
6:15 – Musical Entertainment
7:00 – Live Auction

TO DONATE: Contact Rich Bertschi or a Local Auction Representative
Phone: 309/467-2351 Email: hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: harvestcall.org/benefit-auction

LOCAL AUCTION REPRESENTATIVES
• Bluffton, IN – Leon & Pat Gerber
  leongerber249@gmail.com or 260-273-3811
• Eureka, IL – Colin & Kyla Knapp
  kylajoknapp@gmail.com – 309-712-6323
• Forrest, IL – Ted & Teresa Bachtold
  tbachtold@route24.net or 815-848-706
• Goodfield, IL – Jill & Greg Wagner
  wagner73@juno.com
• Mediapolis, IA – Joel & Abigail Steiner
  Js@hpct.com – 515-441-2797
• Morton, IL – Michael & Tami Leman
  Mleman@lemanauto.com 309-988-6035
• Princeville, IL – Carol Martin
  carolmartin1126@gmail.com or 309-337-0031
• Rittman, OH – Alice Widmer
  awidmer0818@gmail.com or 330-464-7402
• Sabetha, KS – Don Plattner
  nekspromos@gmail.com or 785-532-9206
• Silverton, OR – Evan & Emily Schmidgall
  schmidgall.emily@gmail.com or 503-871-4286
• South Bend, IN – Bob & Sue Beebe
  rbert.beebe1@gmail.com or 574-291-2158
• Washington, IL – Jon & Cheryl Ricketts
  jonnriettts7@gmail.com or 309-444-9061
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.

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
Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR 2020</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7-13</td>
<td>Juarez</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd &amp; Teresa Earney  260-273-9528  Email: <a href="mailto:tearney@adamswells.com">tearney@adamswells.com</a></td>
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Mexico Construction Teams

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23-29</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rod Schmidt  Thanksgiving  Email: <a href="mailto:rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com">rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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QUESTIONS FOR MEXICO TEAMS:

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

Jamaica Teams

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22-29</td>
<td>CCCD - Kingston</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett &amp; Kristin Fehr  815-848-4833  Email: <a href="mailto:brettkristinfehr@gmail.com">brettkristinfehr@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22-30</td>
<td>CCCD - JDV</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Lindberg  815-641-9065  Email: <a href="mailto:lindma@hotmail.com">lindma@hotmail.com</a></td>
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If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at Imdettwyler@gmail.com

Haiti, Bonne Fin Construction Teams

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

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

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

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

NOW AVAILABLE
Missionary Support Card Packs
A Resource Tool to Stay Connected with our Missionaries

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


Ideas for Use
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- Communication via
- E-mail & Texting
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Contact your Local HarvestCall Representative for Availability
TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

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

PROFESSIONALS in the Medical Field

Full Time / Long Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere

Professionals with training, skills and experience in the medical field who have a desire to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti are encouraged to contact us. Current medical positions:

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

**ANESTHESIOLOGY:** (Anesthesiologist and CRNAs)

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

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

There are many needs for medical professionals to serve the patients and Haitian staff including those listed above. If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for the positions listed above, please contact us. There is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job descriptions and qualifications. Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of each applicant.

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

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

If possible, I prefer:

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

Send to:

HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

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

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

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

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

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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/
Are you looking for more purpose in your life?

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

We currently need an Assistant Houseparent and Houseparent Couples. Will you be the beautiful feet that comes and labors to share Christ?

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
The Faith of Moses
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of it, God will use it to call us to all kinds of actions which we are incapable of doing. But God will answer all of our concerns and provide capabilities beyond our own, just as He did for Moses. By faith, we can choose to obey God’s Word – even though we don’t understand it fully or know how to accomplish what the Lord teaches us to do.

In many other ways, the faith of Moses is relevant to us today. He believed that God was able to protect him against Pharaoh’s wrath. We can believe that God will protect us against the devil’s wrath as we carry out the work of God. Just as Pharaoh threatened Moses, the devil will threaten us. Just as Pharaoh pursued Moses and the children of Israel, the devil will attempt to bring us back into bondage. Just as Moses saw the forces of Pharaoh destroyed and no longer able to pursue the children of Israel, by faith we can trust God to “part the sea” and “make a way of escape” for us in every situation.

By faith, Moses chose to believe that God would lead them through the wilderness to the promised land. We choose to believe that God will enable us to safely “cross the Jordan” into eternity. By faith Moses trusted God to provide food for over a million people in the desert. We choose to believe that God will feed His people in the spirit by the manna of the Word. By faith, Moses brought forth water out of the rock, trusting God to meet the most life-giving need in the direst of times. Today, we choose to believe that God will feed His people in the spirit by the manna of the Word. By faith, Moses brought forth water out of the rock, trusting God to meet the most life-giving need in the direst of times. Today, we choose to believe that God will feed His people in the spirit by the manna of the Word.

Paul writes that all that happened to Moses and the children of Israel was for our benefit, that we could learn from their example. It hardly seems fair. They were slaves so that we can understand that living in sin and serving the devil, is slavery. Their disobedience teaches us to obey. Their desire to go back to Egypt teaches us to be content with our life of faith, never desiring to go back to the ways of the world. Their unbelief kept them from entering the promised land – so that we can learn not to fear death but trust completely in the goodness of God to keep His word to us and wipe all tears away.

Just as Moses had choices to make in his day, we have choices to make. Will we reject the mindset of the world and be willing to be separate and stand alone on the promises of God? Will we choose to associate with God’s friends and be content with such things as we have? Will we choose to obey God’s commandments to deliver others from slavery and stand against the devil? By faith, will we follow the leading of His Spirit toward heaven, learning from the mistakes of those who have gone before?

Like Moses, by faith, let’s choose to obey God in all things and believe His promises.

AC Medical Fellowship Committee Biennial Meeting for 2020

Save the date: AC Medical Fellowship meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 18, 2020 in Goodfield, IL at the Fellowship Hall. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and presentations at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until ~7:00 p.m. with a light breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Spouses are welcome. If you are on the HarvestCall Health Care Provider registry, you will receive an email in a few months with a formal invitation and registration form. There will also be a Facebook posting.
such a good job of going back in making restitution that earns our way to heaven. It doesn't, does it? We couldn't do that.

I remember reading or hearing a story that talked about a great king that had many, many lands. It’s just a story, not an account of something in the past, but it illustrates the point. The great king had many, many lands, but he had no heir. He had no one that he could give his kingdom to, and so one day he was riding along and saw a measly peasant working in the fields, laboring as he had for many years. The king said, “Go and pick me an apple, and I’ll give you the kingdom.”

The peasant went and picked the apple and gave it to the king, and the king gave him the kingdom. He became the king, so we ask ourselves the question, “Did that peasant earn the kingdom? Did he do something so magnificent, so great that he could earn the kingdom?” The answer is no, he picked an apple off the tree. A child could pick an apple off the tree, but what did it require in his heart? #1, he had to have faith. He had to say, “Well I don’t understand it. I maybe don’t get it, but I’ll have faith to believe it.”

It’s the same with us isn’t it. We don’t understand how a God up in heaven who has the power to create universes, not just the world but universes, would look down upon me. Why would he want to give me eternal life? Why?! He could create 500,000,000 more of me. In fact, he could create 500,000,000 more of perfect people that could worship him, that could honor him, that could glorify him with wonderful voices, and with marvelous interactions that would show forth love. But he chose me. He chose you to offer the plan of salvation - not perfect people; not people that could earn their way, that could impress him, and could show him such wonderful people. But he chose people that are nothing, that he loves, and desires that we could be with him in heaven.

Here we read about faith and works, and so let’s continue to try to understand the complementary nature of them. He says faith without works is dead. “Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” James 2:18.

How does that all come together? We have the illustration of the king and the peasant. but we realize that some parts in the illustration aren’t perfect. Does it matter what we do in this life? There may be some that might say, “Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, and ye shall be saved,” and they’d be right in that. But it’s not just that we can say, “Oh, I believe” and then go back to sin. Why? Ephesians says it’s a gift. It says it’s not about works. Why is it that we cannot just believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior and then go back to sin to just live how we want? Why is it transforming when we believe in Jesus Christ?

Because when we believe and we understand just what I said that there is a great God in heaven, a righteous God, and we understand that he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross for the world – but more specifically for me – it’s transforming. When we understand that it was my sin, my sin, (we can generalize the world, but we come back to my sin), and we see him on the cross, see that suffering, and we recognize that because of me, he was there; we recognize the love that he had, that he was willing to sacrifice himself for me, then we shouldn’t want to have anything to do with sin. When we fully believe that and can visualize that, we should not want anything to do with sin. Sin is what put my savior on the cross; that’s what put your savior on the cross.

It was that sin that started out in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. It was that sin that just corrupted that beautiful world.

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that God created. The story of Jesus starts there in the garden, doesn’t it? It starts there in the creation as God looked at his work when he was done and said, “It is good. It’s very good.” And we can see today that beauty of which God said was very good as we look at the beauty of the mountains or the sun setting in the clouds and the various colors. But we can also see what happened when sin came in to the world – disease, heartache, sin that causes all kinds of horrible things to happen in this life. We recognize that sin marred the world that God created.

We also recognize that when we serve God, he doesn’t demand. God could create us to be forced to bow down before him. In fact, someday every knee shall bow. I don’t think it’ll be because God is forcing people, but I think as we see Jesus, as people see Jesus, whether he’s coming in the clouds that last day or whatever, people will just bow because they see his greatness, his might, and his power. But every knee will bow. Every soul will repent. Some will repent for eternity in hell. Some will repent while they’re alive and can enjoy the beauty of serving God in this life plus then the hope of eternal life.

When we really believe in God, it’s transforming. “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2. It’s hard for us to envision that, but what God wants is for that belief to go from up here [the head] to down here [the heart]. Many people, even the devils themselves, believe that Jesus is the son of God, but that belief needs to transverse from up here where it’s just head knowledge down to our heart where it becomes action involved with love. A love for Jesus that we don’t want to sin. Love for Jesus that we want to please him and want to do his works.

“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;” James 2:15-16. See, that is the head in recognizing they need something, and so we say, “Depart, be filled; God be with you!” But then when it comes to the heart, we feel a compassion, we feel a love for them, and we have a desire to help them. Because we have a love for Jesus, we have a love for them.

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou dost well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” James 2:18-20. Faith without works is head knowledge. I believe faith with works is heart knowledge, and so we think about our lives and about our love for Jesus.

Now it’s very easy, isn’t it, to fall into Satan’s trap? There are two traps, two different extremes, that Satan will use to try to trap us. First is “it’s all faith.” I can believe and that’s all it takes. I’m just good through life. I can do whatever I want. I can do what I please, Jesus loves me, and he’ll take me to heaven someday. That’s the one trap – faith without works. What’s the other trap that Satan will set? The second trap is works without faith or the thought that I can work hard enough. I can do good enough that I’m going to somehow please God by what I am doing. See, I don’t think we please God by what we are doing. I think we please God with why we do it. Let me say that again. I don’t think we please God by what we do; I think we please God with why we do it.

I’ll just give a quick example. Think of when they were there in the temple and the rich men were giving huge amounts of money and the poor widow came up and cast in two mites. What was the
difference? The rich men gave tons more. Think of all the things that what the rich men gave could be used for: to feed the poor, to help those that are sick, and all the other things they could do. What the widow gave wouldn’t do anything, but the widow gave it out of a love, out of a desire to love God, and to trust in him. The rich men gave of their abundance so they could be seen, and so the works aren’t ‘what have I done’ or ‘how can I pat myself on the back for being a good Christian,’ the works are ‘what’s my motive,’ ‘what’s my attitude,’ and ‘what’s my heart.’ Jesus said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind… And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Matthew 22:37 & 39. If we had that attitude and that heart, that’s what God wants to see, and that’s when it transitions from a knowledge and belief of Jesus up here to a knowledge and belief of Jesus down here, when we can have that love, that desire, to please him and serve him in all that we do.

ACCFS — The Church and Singleness
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all but be lost. We need to hold on to a healthy view of singleness which is laid out for us in the New Testament covenant with our Lord Jesus Christ. We understand like none other what and how God’s family is grown, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13). Our spiritual relationship with Christ as His brothers and sisters will last into all eternity in a fashion our earthly relationships as husband, wife, and single do not (Luke 20:34-35). Where then is the place which the single should be able to truly turn for encouragement, support and value in this world? Only the Church. May we do our part together to make this a reality.

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

The Faith of Moses

Hebrews 11:24-29

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

Kindness and Devotion

Elder Isaac Gehring, the first elder at the Sardis, OH church, was one who personified kindness and devotion. As leader of the group who established our second church here in America at Sardis, he is remembered especially for an encounter with an immigrant woman who had come to his area from Switzerland.

“Older brethren tell of hearing their parents tell of the kind and loving nature of Elder Gehring. A woman who had known him in Switzerland came to America and settled in a community near Sardis. When she learned of his whereabouts, she decided to visit him.

As she approached his community, she made it known to others of her intentions whereupon they warned her of tales they supposedly heard of him. Their feeling was that Elder Gehring would immediately disapprove of her lifestyle and insist she make a change. Indeed, when they observed the flowers on her hat, they firmly advised her not to go as they were convinced he would rebuke her for her vanity and pride. But her heart was set. She would go and see for herself.

Her visit turned out to be one of great blessing. They visited peacefully for hours, and not once did he reproach her. Further, when she left, they parted with a handshake, and he pressed a five-dollar gold-piece into her hand. She was so touched by his loving ways that she became crushed and soon sought his advice for her salvation. She later became a member of the church.”

Elder Gehring was not only a man of kindness, but devotion to duty (in preaching and serving) was also reflective in his spiritual work. In the 1850s, Elder Isaac Gehring felt that if he went up to Wayne County (in the area of Rittman), he might find souls who were interested in their soul’s salvation. He walked 150 miles from Monroe County up to Sardis, OH. In an incredible turn of events, the first person to respond to his preaching, and embrace a new faith, was Anna Steiner, the wife of John Steiner of the Chippewa Mennonite church in that area.

Another convert was her sister, Elizabeth. Both women were daughters of Bishop Daniel Steiner of the Mennonite denomination. Elizabeth was the wife of Ulrich Steiner, brother of Bishop John.

Zeal in Promoting the Truth

It is said that Elder Benedict Weyeneth, the first elder of our denomination here in America “knew no bounds” when it came to caring for his church (locally at Roanoke, and at other locations), and in preaching the gospel of salvation. It has been reported that one time, Elder Weyeneth walked (along Nicholas Baumgartner) from Elgin, IA to central Illinois (probably to the Morton/Peoria/Roanoke area) in the dead of winter. When they arrived in Illinois, their leather boots were frozen to their feet and they had to open the seams to take them off. One author wrote, “This they did in the service of the Lord.”

Dedication in Seeking Truth

In 1858, two young Mennonite boys, Matthias Strahm and Ulrich Kipfer, were living a Mennonite community near Bluffton, IN. Because of discord and dissension in this group, these two boys were seeking truth. They had heard of the message(s) of Samuel Froehlich back in Switzerland, and wanted to learn more of this new doctrine. So they set out to walk to Sardis, OH, nearly 300 miles to the East, to make inquiry of salvation. It only took one evening of discussion with Elders Isaac Gehring and Joseph Bella, to become convinced they had found a “firm foundation”. They fully committed their lives to the Lord in repentance, and embraced the new church. They then walked back 300 miles to announce this new faith to their Mennonite community. In time, 18 souls were baptized. This formed the beginning of the Apostolic Christian Church at Bluffton, IN.

-By Perry Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

Watch

A few years ago, there was a little boy who used to come to my office every day. He had been abandoned by his mother when diagnosed with multiple chronic health issues. He had become a ward of the hospital by default. This little boy often roamed the hospital, supervised by the staff who had become his multiple ‘parents’. Some days, he would come in, get pen and paper from my desk, and proceed with scribblings, normally including parts of my desk as his palette. Other days he would simply come in, sit in the chair across my desk, and watch me. He was mostly non-verbal and would sit with very little expression on his face, fingers idling across papers, stapler, or pens…simply watching me.

As his eyes rested on me, I soon would find myself drawn to turn around and look back at him. As soon as my eyes would meet his, his gaze would drop and he would look away. I’d sit there watching him, smiling at him. Soon, his slightly crooked mouth would sort of tip up in what passed for a grin. Then, he would silently rise and amble out of the room.

Those times when he would simply watch me, and I would watch him, were the foundation of the connection of friendship and love we shared. I always felt that he was seeking to understand me, to know me when he would simply watch me. Thinking back on these times, I often also think on what it can mean to watch, how our Savior had asked His disciples to “…tarry ye here, and watch with me.” Matthew 26:38.

We recall the outcome of that request. That was a time in the disciples’ spiritual growth, when they were still dependent on Jesus to watch them. They were still following Him out of a desire to receive, not give. They were still focused on themselves, and their own sorrow over what they were just beginning to become aware of: That Jesus was going to die. So they slept. And then, they forsook Him and fled.

When Jesus says “watch with me” He intends for us to watch with Him in a way that we come to know Him more deeply. This means we experience the “watch” from His viewpoint, seeking His mind. We must leave behind our perspective, seeking His experience, His sadness, His joy, His suffering.

Often in today’s world, our culture encourages us to accomplish, to gain, to experience for ourselves and our own purposes. We focus on getting the job done, to achieve, to fix. This disrupts our ability to understand things and see things from any other perspective but our own. We apply that conditioning of our experience to our spiritual life. We look at Jesus, and instead of watching with Him, we seek for Him to watch with us. Then, when God sends us into ‘the garden’, we resist, or worse yet, we ask God “Why?” When Jesus prayed in the garden, He didn’t ask why.

We can be encouraged to emulate this example. As we watch with Jesus, our perspective changes to know Him more deeply. That is directly transferrable to all our other relationships. When we or those we love encounter challenges, we still can ask God for the cup to pass away. But no matter the answer, we can then experience Christ’s joy when we say “thy will be done”.

-by Rick Aberle
Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Acts 14:17