Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:24-25
Sharing VBS Memories

In many of our churches, June is the month for Vacation Bible School. It’s a blessed time for our children and our churches as we enjoy special activities, visiting ministers, and extra fellowship throughout the week.

According to *Marching to Zion*, VBS began in some Apostolic Christian churches in the 1950s-60s and spread from there. It would be interesting for readers to share special memories you have of VBS, recent or long past. Please send those to readerinput@acsilverlining.org. If we get a collection of these, we’ll print some of them in a future issue.

Though many years have passed, I still have fond memories of VBS lessons, craft projects, tasty lunches and memorizing Bible verses. The love my teachers showed to me still warms my heart when I think of them. I’ve also watched my children go through VBS; what a joy to see them sitting around the house with a Bible in their lap memorizing verses or humming VBS theme songs while they played.

Will you share your VBS thoughts?

Giving thanks for Him,
Tom Stock, along with Rick Plattner,
Silver Lining Counseling Elders

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The Father Calls His Children to Strengthen the Things That Remain

Key verse: “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God” (Revelation 3:2).

If we were to put ourselves in the place of the church of Sardis and concentrate solely on the negative aspects of the above verse, we might be inclined to take a defeatist attitude towards the future. However, if we embrace the entirety of the message, we see that Christ acknowledged the presence of good and worthy attributes which should be strengthened and He held out a wonderful promise to those who hearkened to His call to “hold fast and repent”. “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5). As was true for the church of Sardis, a positive and submissive attitude on our part has much to do with pursuing a biblical outcome. Thinking of our church in the best possible light and having an unselfish concern for every brother, sister and friend enables us to be encouragers instead of skeptics, or worse, fault finders. Our church has many wonderful attributes that are well worth preserving and strengthening. In this article we will consider a few of them that deserve our attention: biblical unity, joy, fellowship, and serving one another.

Biblical unity is grounded in humility and love, and is centered on the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (Ro.12:10; 16; 1 Thes 3:12-13; John 1:17). The Disciple John records our Savior’s prayer for a united church: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us…” (John 17:21)”Further, Paul instructs us that Jesus “…is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us” (Ephesians 2:14). In the Old Testament, the division between Israel and Judah serves as an instructive example in preserving unity. 1 Cor. 3:9 speaks of the necessity of laboring together in fervent love and harmony in our daily Christian walk, certainly as spiritual leaders and as individuals (2 Cor. 3:9; 1 Peter 1:22). When grievances occur that bruise that harmony, the biblical prescription is proven to be the answer-speaking truth in love and with grace, and a willingness to correct our wrong and extend longsuffering and forgiveness to others (Ja. 5:16; Eph. 4:15, 32; Col. 4:6). Surely the shared desire of all believers is to be part of that united fold under the Great Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ (John 10:16).

Joy: Maintaining a true Christ-like joy can be difficult, especially when facing sorrows or other challenges in life. When the awful prospect of crucifixion was upon Him, Jesus sought His Heavenly Father in earnest prayer (Luke 22:42-44). God sent an angel to strengthen Him, and Jesus was able to experience joy even in such trying circumstances, “…who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). The joy that literally “lay before His view” was actually the cross that He was willing to endure, defeating Satan, and giving us the opportunity for salvation. When we find ourselves struggling with keeping a joyful attitude, we can begin by following Jesus’ example and beseeching God for help: “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24). Jesus shows us that our joy is greatest when we keep His commandments and abide in His love. “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:10-11).
Greetings, Loved Ones. Welcome to each one, to those that are visiting, and to our home congregation. It’s a joy to be together and to look into the Word of God. It’s the Lord’s Day, and we can set aside the cares of life, not that we would forget them because what we hear today we want to be able to apply to our lives and the situations we’re facing. It’s also Father’s Day. We’re thankful the children can be with us here in the sanctuary this morning.

Sunday School is over. When we think about fathers, I looked into the Word. Father is in the Bible over 1300 times. That means it’s more than once per chapter, but interestingly, son, child, is in double that. While many of us can be thankful that we still have our fathers that we can honor today, each of us can be thankful that the heavenly Father is ours. We can honor Him today. So may it be that His Spirit will be with us as we look into the Word and that we can understand His teachings and apply them to our lives today.

I thought we could read a story that parallels the love of God with an earthly father. In the Old Testament, let’s turn to 2 Samuel 18. As we read here of David and his son, Absalom, I’d like us to be thinking of how God loves us even when we behave like Absalom was behaving.

We see that David was sitting with great anticipation. We know the background - Absalom had tried to take over the throne, and there was a battle that David had expressly told the troops and Joab not to harm his son, even though his son was acting as the enemy. He gets the news back, and we see David’s response and that his desire is that he could have died in Absalom’s place.

We see a great love here that goes so deep. It is expressed so beautifully, at least in my mind, by the words that Joab speaks to David, coming from man’s perspective, from man’s thoughts, not God’s thoughts and David’s expression being how God’s thinks. At least that’s how I read it. So Joab says it seems like the life of your son is more important than all the rest of the things in the world. You have it backwards (2 Samuel 19:6). But, this is exactly how God sees us. Your life is more important to God than all the rest of the things in the world. That’s how He views it.

Joab says it seems like you would exchange all of our lives for this one life of your son who was rebelling against you (v.6). He was no good anyway! What’s he worth? He’s not worth anything! God says the same thing. He says, for one sheep that goes astray, I will leave the ninety and nine and go after that one child (St. Matthew 18:12).

And again Joab says, “…thou lovest thine enemies…” (v.6). This is what God does - He loves us even before we loved Him. This portion of Scripture just shows the heart of God. David, at a time when he was communing and was close with God, was not stuck on being the king. He was not stuck on winning the victory. He was focused on the life of his son. May we keep that focus on the lives of those around us. What would we exchange for the soul of one? That’s the question! How about our soul? Are we ready to meet God? He’s willing to give Himself. He was willing to give His Son Jesus to die that we could be redeemed. Praise God!

There are many instructions here in this chapter (Hebrews 12). It begins by speaking about this cloud of witnesses, perhaps referring to the previous chapter on faith of all those who have gone before, perhaps speaking about those that we are with today, the faithful, those that are following. But, as we are “…compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us…” (v.1) That describes it so well, doesn’t
it - the many challenges, difficulties, struggles that we have every day? How often we give in when we wish we had not.

“...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” (v.1) He tells us how we can do this and the purpose and the goal that we put in the forefront of our mind: “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...” (v.2). It even tells us the purpose that Jesus went and walked that pathway that we read about: “…who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” (v.2). His purpose and willingness to go the cross and to die there was the joy that He looked forward to having communion with you and with me. “…despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (v.2): He even intercedes for us today.

As we move on in the chapter, it speaks about God. It speaks about fathers. When we think about a father, I don’t know what the real definition is. Originator of family? I’m sure there are other definitions. We can think of it as our earthly father. My thoughts go to the instructions that Jesus gave when they were honoring one another with words. They called one another master or they called one another father. He gave them instructions. He said call no man father but your Father which is in heaven (St. Matthew 23:9).

I think of that today when we think of Father’s Day, and we honor our parents, our dad, our father. I think what Jesus was saying to them is that this father is the beginning of a family, originator of family, protector, spiritual advisor, all those things. Giving that title to somebody else other than our father or our spiritual Father in heaven, it’s a very honored position and it’s not one to be taken lightly. In another place Paul speaks about spiritual fathers. I don’t remember exactly how it goes, but something like, ye have many masters but not many spiritual fathers (I Corinthians 4:15). So it seems that there is quite a depth to this fatherhood other than just beginning a family but also the responsibilities that come with it.

He starts speaking about “…despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:” (v.5), and he goes through this correction process of what it takes that we can be corrected and instructed by God and why it is that we come to the Word over and over and over again, individually and collectively as a body. Why is it that we come back to the Word? So we can be reminded, so we can hear, so we can be instructed. It takes time after time after time, doesn’t it? Even after that we forget and need to be reminded. We see the same parallel, don’t we, with our children and with ourselves? It takes over and over and over again to be reminded and to be corrected so we can be led aright, so we can go the right path, so we can be safe from the dangers that are around us.

He tells us why He does this. Why does God take the time to correct us and to guide us to Him? Because He loves us, and this is the same love that we are to show. So fathers we have a responsibility to show love to the children, to teach them, to correct them, to draw them close. It’s a responsibility that is more than just in the flesh. It is spiritual. There is a spiritual responsibility He gives us because He knows that if we just say ‘be a good father’, what does that mean? How do we do that? Be a good mother! We need examples, don’t we? So He gives us examples, even Himself, the Father in heaven, of how He treats His Son, of how He calls to adoption the many that He sees have needs. Now in His case, He’s God, the Father, God the Creator. He sees every soul as one that He wants to have as His child. What do we see around us? The needs that we can take this same spirit of adoption to teach and to correct.

— Please turn to pg. 61
Called to Serve in Haiti

Editor’s Note: Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder recently began serving as missionaries in Les Cayes, Haiti, primarily functioning as administrators for Child Sponsorship. This is an update of their first few months in the field.

The Lord expects His children to walk by faith. After about six months of seeking God’s direction, we believed He was asking our family to serve in Haiti. We asked Him directly and specifically and He answered in exactly the same manner. Although we knew obedience could be costly, we also knew tremendous opportunities would follow.

Adjustments, Challenges, and Blessings
Following the Apostolic Christian Church’s new missionary approval process, it took about six months to cover the steps to prepare to move our family. There were check-off lists and items to purchase, as well as selling our home and getting rid of many unnecessary things. During that busy time, we were blessed with many supportive words and deeds from our Smithville church family, friends and neighbors.

There were many adjustments and challenges that met us in our new home, but the positives far outweighed the negatives. We felt the love and support of our sending church and the feeling of partnership with fellow believers as they stood behind us in prayer. Additionally, we experienced new relationships in Christ with other missionaries and Haitian believers.

A real encouragement was to see God’s Word come alive before our eyes. A few examples: Hebrews 13:2 – “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Some Haitians are not shy about coming to the door and we are often interrupted at the most inconvenient times. There are always beggars to deal with and how to handle each situation with Christ’s love becomes a real challenge. Do we receive them as Christ received us? Matthew 5:42 – “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” Matthew 10:42 – “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water . . . shall in no wise lose his reward.” Visitors to the door often ask us for a glass of water (among other things) and it truly is a joy to respond to that request!

Many things in Haiti remind us of scenes in the Bible: the marketplaces, carrying water, beggars and poverty, beasts of burden, many people walking, and many generations living together. On Sunday morning the pure expressions of thanks and praise is truly inspiring. But, there is also the contrasting presence of spiritual warfare that we were not used to before.

Haiti Child Care Staff in front of the Child Care building

Initial adjustments included less privacy and keeping everything locked at all times. In Haiti, every window is covered with bars. In the Midwest, we weren’t used to locking vehicles at all times, especially at home. Besides frequent visitors, our “house help” is in our personal space about five hours a day, as well as at the table for the noon meal. They become part of the family! There are constant travel dangers with congested roads, no enforcement (speed bumps help!) and the largest vehicles having the right-of-way. Another issue is trust. Many, but not all, Haitians will

— Please turn to pg. 65
Growing Godly Ranchers in Mexico

Young boys respond differently to consequences involving living animals. That was the observation made by staff at CVE (Casa vida Esperanza) in Magdalena, MX. “If a child neglected his duty to sweep the floor, it was no big deal; it would be dirty the next day and he cared little about it. But if an animal was neglected and suffered, the child’s heart was touched.”

“Living Waters Ranch” was the name given to the farm project contained within the grounds of CVE. To help the boys grow in maturity and responsible conduct, they Irrigated some of the available land on campus and developed a small ranch able to support several hundred chickens, pigs, sheep and cows.

The main goal of the ranch was to influence boys and men with a godly care for others. This “outdoor classroom” provided many opportunities for boys to learn the importance of showing up to work on time, working even when the boss wasn’t around, and becoming dependable citizens. This classroom also provided life skills for some of the boys who were limited in their academic abilities but well-suited to care for animals.

Learning together in local community
The influence of the ranch has reached beyond the children. Local ranchers from the community brought wisdom and experience to the questions being asked during development. Over time Living Waters Ranch has contributed back into the ranch community through new technology testing. From small-scale testing of Middle Eastern irrigation techniques to pasture management methods, Living Waters has been able to test these techniques on a small scale and then pass along the learnings. Relationships of trust have blossomed in an environment of mutual learning.

Getting to know these men has built deepening friendships that benefit CVE staff as well as the ranchers. A few have participated in weekly Bible studies, and many more have been exposed to the gospel through conversations about daily work and the simple example of Christians living out their beliefs. Often it was more comfortable for them to be out in the field watering and talking about God than to be sitting in church studying the written Word.

While riding in a car with a local rancher, a houseparent excused himself to call his wife to see how things were going back at home. The rancher asked, “Does your wife yell at the kids?” This led to a discussion about their wives and how they react to them. A rather personal discussion followed of the man’s marital struggles and marriage in general. It was an opportunity to mentor the man in God’s truth in the normal sharing of work. The desire has been that these relationships could produce fruit in mature men who might become an integral part of the Magdalena church—“a future group of servants that were cowboys together.”

What you can do
Much of the equipment used on the ranch has been donated and delivered into Mexico. If you know of brothers visiting Magdalena, encourage them to inquire about current equipment needs, or you can ask specific questions by emailing CVE@EMEXICO@GMAIL.COM. They are currently looking to drill a...
“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children…” Proverbs 13:22

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” 1 Timothy 5:8

“And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” Luke 12:42-43

We are called to be wise stewards over those things which God has placed within our stewardship, and we are expected to provide for our own. Both of these biblical directives find application in the often neglected area of estate planning. For some, the idea of planning for the disposition of assets and the guardianship of children sounds too morbid for consideration. It’s almost as if by making arrangements for our deaths we are telling God it is okay for Him to go ahead and take our lives. For others, there may be the assumption that since they believe they have few worldly possessions, there is no need to set up a plan to disburse them. “When I’m gone, it doesn’t matter what they do with my things.” For others, there is little concern because they are young and death seems far away in the distant future.

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1

In reality, every adult, single or married, should have some end-of-life planning in order. The obvious first priority is the preparation of the soul for eternal life; beyond that are children who need to be provided for as well as other family members and friends who will be left behind. Even though we fully realize that all earthly possessions will burn someday anyway, nevertheless, someone will be required to tackle the job of handling your estate whether or not you put appropriate plans in place. Without proper estate planning, your assets and children will be divided and/or provided for according to the laws of the state in which you reside. This will likely not be according to your desires and may be very inconvenient for your family and detrimental to your children and heirs.

In this series of three articles, we want to explore some of the basic elements of estate planning and end-of-life issues. It may come as a surprise to some that we at ACCFS would discuss this subject. However, we have seen improperly planned estates and the lack of planning for the end of life often resulting in serious challenges that can threaten to destroy families and relationships. These relationship breaches can lead to depression, anxiety, and a multitude of related conditions which we have seen come to us on the counseling side. Many of these situations are easily preventable with proper communication and planning ahead of time. For these reasons, we feel compelled to share some biblical guidance on the importance of planning for the inescapable end of life.

We will cover four major areas:

1. Communication.
2. Health care.
3. Asset distribution.

The information we provide will be general in nature with only the intent to increase awareness and emphasize biblical principles. Each one of you will need to visit with your lawyer, estate planner, or financial planner for specific guidance. Every situation is unique and needs individualized assistance.

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

Even though we believe it is important to make end of life decisions that affect our health and earthly possessions, we want to keep our focus in the right place. The spiritual legacy we leave behind
is of infinitely greater importance than any kind of financial inheritance that we can amass.

Completely separated from physical wealth, we can leave behind memories of a good home, a solid work ethic, integrity, honesty, a respect for authority, and a desire to follow Jesus. These principles are the types of things that really matter and can help our posterity be prepared to live a godly life and leave a similar priceless inheritance to their children and grandchildren. In fact, we can leave this kind of inheritance in each passing moment of our lives.

“And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 11:19

Communication

“...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;”
Ecclesiastes 3:7b

Surely there are times in which to remain silent, but communicating our wishes to our heirs is not one of them. All of the best laid plans we may put together in preparing our estates may not be properly carried out if we don’t communicate and share them with others. Depending, of course, upon the ages of your children, they should know your desires. Have a family meeting and take some time to explain to them where the family heirlooms came from and label them. Share your plans for their future. Let them know how you expect your assets to be split up. Give them a copy of your will or estate planning documents. Make sure that all of the children are present so there is no confusion. Allow each one to ask questions to clarify your wishes.

We cannot stress this idea of communication too much. So many misunderstandings can develop among siblings and within families because the wishes of the deceased weren’t made known. “Mom wanted me to have the lamp in the living room.”

“No, she told me I could have it!” Even though we are encouraged to remember that “…a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15), in many cases hurt feelings and misunderstandings can still occur easily. Unless adequate and thorough communication exists before death, no amount of guessing and discussion later will accomplish your wishes. The goal of communication should be that there are no surprises once the time comes to work through an estate.

We agree that having these kinds of discussions aren’t easy or desirable. However, the minor discomfort endured now can help to ensure that your heirs won’t be arguing later when you’re no longer there to intervene. Families have enough to process as they deal with grief and transition and do not need the added difficulty of working through conflict resolution over an estate which has not properly been prepared.

In the next article we will explore the various implications of health care within the context of end of life planning.

ACCFS News - Guidance on Using Technology 2014

A number of years ago, the Technology Committee of the Elder Body developed a document to help further the understanding of technology and to provide guidance in its appropriate use. This document has been updated each year and the current 2014 version of the Guidance on Using Technology has been released. It is available on our website along with several other resources designed to encourage, teach, and edify our church family in this area of technology (www.accounseling.org/technology). On the website, you can also sign up for ACCFS resource emails and newsletters.
Recently the residents at Timber Ridge and the Group Homes and CILA’S had the opportunity to participate in an art festival at Timber Ridge! Several artists from the Tri-County area were invited to present various forms of art and residents were encouraged to participate at each “Art Stop!” Timber Ridge artisans kneaded clay at the ceramics booth, painted a red snapper and made prints and decorated tiles with alcohol inks. They also created wall hangings using fabric assemblage, used many colors for bundle prints and used markers and spray bottles of water to create even more colors!

Throughout the year residents have learned about different artists and tried to copy their form of art. Their art work was proudly displayed throughout Timber Ridge for everyone to see!

Timber Ridge residents also have the opportunity to walk and pet many dogs from Heartland’s Therapy Dog Club. They come to visit the first Monday of each month and stay as long as residents want them to stay! Some of the dogs ride around on wheelchair trays, some get lots of walking and others just put their heads on welcoming laps or bed pillows! They are greeted with many people waiting at the doors and when they leave, some residents walk down the side walk with them! We have had as many as ten dogs and their owners come to visit!

Timber Ridge also had a staff member bring in a baby goat, which everyone loved to see and pet! Another staff brought in lots of little ducklings, which everyone loved.

Each month Timber Ridge is fortunate to have a different Apostolic Christian Church join us for Hymn Singing and prayers, which everyone looks forward to! Many of the Group Homes also join us. After the singing, they always take the time to interact and visit with the residents, which is always so beneficial for everyone. This is just another reminder of why we are here and that we truly are serving according to God’s purpose!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Stefanie Beer, Gateway Woods Auction Coordinator and former Houseparent
The Blessing of the Body
1 Cor. 12:14 “For the body is not one member, but many.”

Our family had the privilege of witnessing 1 Cor. 12:14 being lived out as time drew closer to the Annual Auction while we were houseparents at Gateway Woods. What an encouragement it was for us to watch all the volunteers come pouring onto campus to prepare for the big day! It blessed us to be reminded that we weren’t alone, that we were only playing our little part in the body of Christ.

The residents on campus would watch out the windows in awe of the many people coming to help, especially when they realized that these individuals were not getting paid to do so. They were amazed that so many people would come to do all of this work and not get paid! It was our privilege to share with them (and their families at times) the depth and width of the love of Christ. Our front window perch became another avenue to share the Gospel with the residents.

After feeling led to leave our role of houseparenting over a year ago, our family is now excited to serve in a more administrative role as auction coordinators. With this new role, our eyes were opened even wider with how blessed Gateway Woods is to receive such heartfelt support and love with the ministry.

You may be asking yourself, how can you help? How can you be a part of the body that supports Gateway Woods and provides
another witness of the love of Jesus to those who are in need of it? There are many opportunities available to get involved!

The first opportunity available is to be in prayer in the days and weeks leading up to the auction. Pray for the hurting families and children that Gateway serves. Pray they would feel and see the love of Christ in very tangible ways as they watch the auction come together. Pray their hearts will be personally touched and led to love Jesus. Pray for each employee and volunteer at Gateway to prioritize changing lives and not get too lost in the details. Other opportunities to get involved include volunteering your time in the days leading up to the auction on campus and donating items to sell at the auction. And of course, don’t forget to come to the auction!

If you would like item donation suggestions, you can contact our item coordinator, Joanne Gerber, at gwitemcoordinator@gmail.com. If you would like to know more specific ways you can volunteer, you can contact your local Gateway Woods representative, or you can contact me at gwauctioncoordinator@gmail.com. Thank you for blessing the body of Christ with your support, love, and prayers!

News:

Gateway Woods is awarding scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by contacting Chad Kaeb by phone at 888.443.4283 or email chad.kaeb@gatewaywoods.org. Applications need to be submitted by June 15, 2014. More information is available at www.gatewaywoods.org/scholarships.

We are pleased to announce that we have filled our three summer positions here at Gateway! Bro. Phillip Fischer (Leo) has been hired on as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. Sis. Abby Greutman (Latty) has been hired on to lead our Top Quality Program. Finally, Bro. Kyle Isch (Bluffton) has been brought on as our Education Intern. We are so excited for these three young people to join us for the summer!

Do already have your summer totally planned out? If not, consider volunteering at Gateway Woods! It is a great opportunity to impact residents, build relationships with fellow brothers and sisters, and grow some of your skills. If you would like more information please visit gatewaywoods.org/volunteer.

There are four different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including several of great need: several openings for Alternate Houseparents, one opening for a Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker, one opening for a Teacher, and one opening for a Foster Care Case Manager. For more information please see the notices in this month’s Silver Lining or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/careers. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’. Perhaps this includes you!

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 www.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 our website or by emailing ross.feller@gatewaywoods.org.

**Apostolic Christian Preschool Athens, AL**

**Susan Koch**

The themes for May 2014 were the colors black and white, graduation practice, and review. We finished up the alphabet with letters Y and Z for the first two weeks of May and then spent the next two weeks practicing for graduation.

Our Preschool Administrator, Bro. Duane Reutter, came all the way from CT to welcome everyone to the graduation. Thank you so much, Bro. Duane, for making the effort. It really meant a lot! Many family and friends of the students came to see their children show what they learned this year during our graduation ceremony on the 16th.

It’s always a surprise to see if the students will perform that night, because it always goes a little differently on the big day than in practice. Some students will get really excited and shout their lines and others won’t say a word. They just stand there and look cute. This year my class decided they would not say anything, so the audience got to sing their songs with me. It was quite humorous watching my students staring at all these strangers singing their songs. Ms. Louise and Ms. Kalla’s kids did an excellent job remembering their parts.

Graduation is bitter sweet because you say goodbye to some of the students as they move on to Big School (Kindergarten). There are always tears from laughing and because these students grow so much over the three years that we have them. They grow physically, emotionally, intellectually, and most importantly spiritually.

Congratulations class of 2014: Hayden, Kaden, Jamari, Michael, Dean, Alan, and Kamari!

Remember if you want to volunteer at the preschool, please let me know. You can contact me at 309.202.4897 or susankoch2@yahoo.com. More information about the preschool can be found at www.acpreschool.org. There is a section under the About Us tab regarding volunteering; however, once you contact me, I will send you a more in depth informational packet.

**Alabama, Athens**

**Roger and Becky Roberts**

Our visiting ministers this month included Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary (Sis. MaryAnn) Maibach (Smithville, OH).

Tornados once again hit the Athens area at the end of April. Please pray for those affected.

As the school year concludes, we remember our graduates and pray God’s blessings on their future. Our high school graduates are Jenna Freed, Hannah Steffen and Kailey Wuethrich. Those graduating from college include Bro. Chad Braker, Bro. Brent Emch, Bro. Steven Emch, Bill Fehr (graduate degree), Joel Greenbank, Sis. Amanda Knochel,
We appreciate the willingness of those called to serve. They are Sis. Joy Fulop, intermediate Sunday School teacher; Bro. Phillip Petrovic, trustee; Sis. Sarah Wettstein, kitchen coordinator; and Bro. Colin Wettstein, usher. We thank those that fulfilled their terms and pray that God will bless them for their efforts over the past few years.

Sis. Pearl Bozzay was recently a hospital patient. We pray that God will provide for her during her recovery. We look forward to having her assemble with us again!

As the recent wildfires burned in San Diego County, we are very thankful that all our church families were kept safe. Our hearts and prayers go out to those who lost their homes. It serves as a reminder that this world is not our home.

“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”
Hebrews 13:14

We try not to take this for granted, but welcomed many ministers this month. The brothers and their wives are: Gary & Edith Anliker from Elgin, IL, Bill & Mim Brake from Sardis, Todd & Lydia Graf from Akron, Ned & Heidi Stoller from Alto and Mark & Bev Bahr from Detroit.

We’re thankful we had some help from our visitors with spring cleaning at church.
“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor”
John 12:26

Shannon Metzger has turned his heart to Jesus in faith and he has repented. Let us pray for him to continue his walk with God.

**Colorado, Denver**
*Tess Leman*
*Naomi Wiegand*

Greetings from Denver!

Summer is quickly approaching and for us here in Denver, that means visitors! We are so thankful for all who come to see us and bless our church with sweet fellowship. If you are interested in our church services held in the mountains, the dates are: July 20 and 27 and will be held in Breckenridge, CO. Contact Bro. Tom Leman at lemantom@comcast.net or (303) 696-1301 if you plan on attending.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

This spring we have several graduations! Luke Zarkovacki (Bro. George and Sis. Lily) graduates from high school. We pray for God’s guidance as he begins a new phase in life. Annie Fehr (Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachel), Brandon Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Bethann), Brook Zarkovacki (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose) and Gabriella Wiegand (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Naomi) are graduating middle school. Our prayers go with them as high school can hold many challenges!

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

**Connecticut, Rockville**
*Lauren Gottier*
*Sheila Gerber*

We are thankful for the arrival of two baby girls. Dylan Grace was born to Nate and Ashley Carlson. She joins big brother Logan and grandparents, Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson and Tom Burns and Wendy Deprey.

Sage Elisabeth was born to Everett and Kristin Skinner. She is welcomed by big brother Everett and grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Sherry Skinner and Thomas and Sharon Valyo.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife…” Eph. 5:31

The engagement of Bro. David Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis) and Sis. Marla Sinn (Bro. Tod and Sis. Janet) from Latty, OH was announced. We wish them God’s blessings.

We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Julie Bauman and her children: Riley, Rehanna and Reagan, as they have recently moved to the Rockville area from Rittman, OH. We wish them well in this new chapter in their lives!

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:3

Converts Dylan Trombley and Justin Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) were announced for baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms and pray that they will be given the grace to stand fast and be strong in the faith.

Sis. Heather Mangold (Dave) experienced the loss of two of her grandparents. Her grandfather, David Butler, passed away just a few weeks after her grandmother, Helen Butler. Both resided in Pascoag, RI. We extend our sympathies to Sis. Heather and her family.

**District of Columbia, Washington**
*Henrietta Meyer*

Our caretakers for April were Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Hermann (Princeville, IL). We are currently taking reservations for caretakers for 2014, several months are still available. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, this 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. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA), Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Sis. Bonnie,
Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda, Bay City, MI). Our other visitors this month were from Forrest, Champaign and Princeville, IL.

Our prayers and best wishes go to Kelsey Steffen (Bro. Phil and Mona) as she graduates from high school this spring.

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

Florida, South Ft. Myers
Victor Beer

After a few months of worshipping in a rented building, we are joyously meeting in our new edifice in South Fort Meyers. Small details are yet to be done, but our building committee has provided just what we needed and more. The committee consisted of Bros. Dave Kieser, Dave Hodel, Roger Ward, Stan Vogel, Ray Haerr and Larry Bruellman. Many other brothers contributed many hours of labor also.

Our church hosted a picnic at the local Lakes Park on Saturday, May 3 with the Sarasota and Fort Lauderdale churches. It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship, bringing lots of remarks, “Let’s do this again,” from many.

We are prayerfully holding forth for recovery Sis. Becky Knapp (Dave), Sis. Jeanie Haerr (Bro. Ray) and Sis. Virginia Shock (Bro. Norm).

The local “Teen Challenge” group visited our church recently, 30 of them. It was impressive to hear some of the Christ-oriented testimonies about their recovery experiences.

We are so thankful for our new Sunday school rooms. The extra space gives us the ability to accommodate some very active little boys. We send a big “thank you” to the building committee for affording us this space to teach about Jesus’ love and sacrifice. We are looking forward to getting our new furniture and storage units and getting settled in.

The New Beginnings

The New Beginnings is asking for a mentor couple to help with the ministry here in Cape Coral, FL. This ministry is in place to assist single mothers that don’t have a support system.

The mission statement is: The New Beginnings is committed to providing a God-honoring resource to single mothers and their children that assists them and their children in a way that demonstrates Christ’s sacrificial love.

The vision is: We do this by offering free housing, assistance with childcare costs, higher education assistance, and mature mentors for spiritual guidance.

We believe that The New Beginnings ministry is one way that we can give thanks, honor Christ’s sacrifices, and show others the joy of serving Him. We believe that the Holy Spirit enables us to serve in His name and bring others to the feet of our Almighty God.

If you feel called by God to a ministry such as this, or know of someone with this passion, please notify Bill Masters at 309-824-3981. For more information, our website is thenewbeginnings.org.

We bid farewell to Marta and her son, Jaivyn. They have been at the New Beginnings for a little over two years. We are missing them greatly. We wish them well as they begin the journey of independence. We trust that they will rely on God and we know that He will be their ever-present help.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We had visiting minister Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara, Indianapolis, IN) join us to fellowship and share God’s Word this past month. We were grateful and pray they will be blessed for their work.

Our prayers for comfort go out to Sis. Vi Gerber. Her brother, Bro. Hubert Isch (Sis. Judy) of Bluffton, IN, passed away recently. Sis. Doris Huber is heading north for a while to be with her sister who is recovering from surgery. We pray for safe travels for her.

Our numbers have dwindled down since our winter residents have gone back to their northern homes (we had 12 total attending this past Sunday). We enjoy and welcome all visitors year-round and hope to see some of you this summer!
in time of need.

We also said goodbye to Amanda and her daughter, Haley. They have been at The New Beginnings for about a year and a-half. We watched little Haley grow from a baby to a toddler. We wish them God’s blessings and help as they begin a new journey in life.

We would like to introduce to you the newest member of our New Beginnings family. Jamie comes to us from Illinois with her two sons: four-year-old Jadell and three-year-old Jaylin. We are excited to be part of what God is doing in their lives.

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Kim Ott*

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:2

What a blessing it is to be able to worship the Lord together! We were reminded recently by one of our visiting ministers, Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Atlanta, GA), that in everything we do and say that all glory belongs to God. We appreciated having Bro. Matt share God’s Word and also Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN). May God bless them for their efforts.

We would like to extend much gratefulness to Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl as Bro. Ron has felt God’s call to retire from the pulpit ministry. Although we will miss Bro. Ron’s Sunday sermons which have been so full of words of wisdom according to his life experiences, we know with assurance that his ministry off the pulpit will continue to bless others as well. We were thankful to have a retirement dinner for Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol to show our appreciation for their many years of service.

Sis. Debbie Sauder has received God’s direction to move to Minnesota to continue in her career as a physician. Our prayers are with her as she begins this new adventure in her life.

Also in our thoughts and prayers are Sis. Marilyn Bryant (Bro. Gordon), Bro. Miklos Bozzay (Sis. Aranka), and Sis. Mary Ellen Ebach (Bro. JC) as they are currently recovering from health concerns or facing upcoming surgery. May they feel God’s nearness at all times and remember that He has promised He will never leave us alone.

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Doreen Moser*

*Shayla Steffen*

“Not I, but Christ, be honored, loved, exalted; Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard; Not I, but Christ, in every look and action; Not I, but Christ, in every thought and word.” —Whiddington

Not I, But Christ, be honored, loved, exalted

Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Ron Schmabach (Elgin, IL) came to share Communion and to remind us just what Jesus did for us.

We were encouraged to renew our love for each other and to always make sure Christ is always honored, loved and exalted above everything else. There are many ways to do all three and it starts with loving one another and having that common union with each other.

Not I, But Christ, be seen, be known, be heard

Krista Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker) and Charity Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen) have accomplished the goal of graduating from high school. As they graduate and end one part of their journey, we celebrate that a new life has begun. Bryer Douglas Steffen was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Ellie Steffen. As children leave the home and new little ones take their place in the home, our goal would be to have Christ seen, known and heard, on a daily basis at home and at church.

As we celebrated Mother’s day this month, we certainly have our Mother’s to thank for lovingly teaching us of the ways of God.

Not I, But Christ, in every look and action

The Sunday school children and teachers attended ACFY this month. We hope that someday in every look and action our children will give God the glory and forget self.

Not I, But Christ, in every thought and word

The church Bible study continues with studies on the parables in the Bible. The more
we study and search the word, it
certainly is easier to have Christ in
every thought and word.

Not I, but Christ…..

**Illinois, Bloomington-
Normal**

Gina Hodel
Terri Huber

It’s always a blessing when the
church can come in unity to share
Holy Communion together. We thank Elder Bro. Duane Rocke
(Minneapolis, MN) for serving.

We were privileged to have him
with us on Sunday to encourage
our young students as we hosted
ACYF Day. Princeville, Cissna
Park, and Champaign churches
spent the day with us. It was
a blessing to see the kids form
Christian friendships through
Bible study, singing and activities.

On May 3 and 4, we were
blessed to hear and witness the
testimony and baptism of our
new brother in Christ. We wish
Bro. Isaac Schumacher (Bro. Greg
and Sis. Shelle) God’s continued
nearness. We appreciate Elder
Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy,
Chicago, IL) sharing the weekend
with us. We are also thankful
Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis,
MN) and Bro. David Marquart
(Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) could be
with us.

We are happy for Bro. Michael
and Sis. Rachael Slagel and big
brother Jace as they welcome home
Eli Chad. Grandparents are Bro.
Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel from
Fairbury, IL and Bro. Doug and
Sis. Dixie Steidinger.

It is with God’s blessings
we say farewell to Sis. Kimberly
Brosman. She has been given the
opportunity to work at Gateway
Woods and we give her our support
and love as she serves.

We have several college
graduates who have earned a degree
from ISU. They are Sis. Jessica
Robinson, Tofig Mammadov and
Bro. Clayton Walder. We wish
them God’s direction and blessings
as they begin new careers and seek
the Lord’s will for their lives.

We were able to celebrate with
the high school seniors at a special
breakfast. We are thankful for each
one and wish them God’s blessings
as they continue their education
and careers.

The children are excited for
another year of VBS. We pray for
tender hearts so the Word can take
root and that their love/joy for the
Lord continues to grow.

**Illinois, Bradford**

**Roseann Stahl**

Sandi Joos

“But we all, with open face
beholding as in a glass the glory of
the Lord, are changed into the same
image from glory to glory, even as by
the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

We were enriched and
instructed through the preaching
of the Word to reflect Christ,
just as the moon reflects the sun.
Visiting ministers bringing the
Word to us were Elder Bro. Doug
Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield,
IA), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane,
Forrest, IL), Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis.
Mary, Oakville-Mediapolis IA),
and Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina,
Oakville-Mediapolis, IA).

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

Ps. 143:10

Our graduates from high
school this year are: Clayton Kieser
(Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly), Erica
Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy),
Candace Stahl (Bro. Weston and
Sis. Jill), and Allisa Stoller (Bro.
Nate and Sis. Sherrill). Graduation
is a time to reflect on the past and
the direction of the future. May we
always seek the Lord’s direction in
our future.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace
I give unto you: not as the world
giveth, give I unto you. Let not our
heart be troubled. Neither let it be
afraid.” John 14:27

We rejoice to hear that Morgan
Pyles (Bro. Troy and Sis. Heather)
has found peace with God. It is a
peace that only God can give.

Our prayers were with Bro.
Keith Kellenberger (Sis. Ida) due
to his undergoing surgery this past
month.

**Illinois, Champaign**

Sarah Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-
Urbana!

On May 14, we had the
blessing of sharing Communion
together. It was a special night
of reflecting on Christ’s ultimate
sacrifice for us.

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

Thank you to our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy; Chicago, IL), Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda; West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Loren Shrenk (Sis. Betsy; St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary; Ft. Meyers, FL) for sharing the Word. We appreciate all that you do.

Graduation season is upon us! Congratulations to our congregation’s high school graduates: Curt Kupfershmid (son of Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda), Audrey Kupfershmid (daughter of Bro. Corbin and Sis. Stephanie), Seth Waibel (son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy), and Haley Plattner (daughter of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue). Also, Bro. Caleb Plattner (son of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue) graduated from Parkland College and will be attending U of I in the fall. Additional congratulations to University of Illinois students from other congregations who have been residing in Champaign-Urbana: Tiera Wiegand (Silverton, OR), Bro. Micah Zehr (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Phil Dreste (Washington, IL). May God be with all of you in your future endeavors.

May 7 was our annual Student Appreciation Dinner. Our church is truly thankful for the college students who study/reside in our community. We are blessed by the opportunity to build relationships with the students, and we appreciate their support and involvement.

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) visit us for a Wednesday evening in April. Later in the month, Bro. Rick Kaiser presented a Bible Study on “The Law and Faith.”

Also in April, we held Holy Communion and enjoyed a bus trip to Burlington, IA. We are thankful for safe travels and for a wonderful weekend of fellowship with the Burlington congregation. Bus trip activities included a tour of Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner’s Growing N Grace Natural Farm and a supper and singing at Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz’s home. We thank the Burlington church family for their Christian love and hospitality.

We rejoice with Bro. Blake and Sis. Christine Stahl as they welcome an adopted daughter, Ellyana Marie, born on May 12. Their son Alexander is enjoying his new role as big brother.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Janie Waldbeser

Sandy Rudin

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) was able to assist Elder Bro. Tom Stock in serving Holy Communion during the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. This is always a special time of the year to think of the Lord’s suffering on our behalf.

Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) shared a Topical Bible Presentation with us recently. He challenged us to be healthy in the Spirit so we can bear fruit in our lives as believers in Christ.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.”

We were recently privileged to witness the marriage vows of our Sis. Mindy Stock to Bro. Aaron Kaeb. They are the children of Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb. We are so thankful for another young couple in our church family. Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Gridley, IL) and Bro. James Fehr (Tremont) were able to spend this joyous day with us.

We currently have a major remodeling job going on in our church and will be assembling in our Fellowship Center for church services until this project is complete.

Bro. David Obergfel was able to share the ministry with us on our first Sunday in the new surroundings. We always appreciate when someone who has roots in Cissna Park comes back “home” to minister to us.

This is graduation time and we want to congratulate our high school graduates. They are Bros. Joel Kaeb and Tyler Eisenmann, Walter Laubscher and Ryan Walder. May these young men always make godly choices in their lives as they face the future.

Father, we thank Thee for letting us share with Thee our worries
and cares. We’re grateful that Thou will stand beside us to comfort and guide. Help us to console others as Thou dost look out for Thine own. -Author Unknown.

In need of prayers at this time are our Sisters Mary Ann Mann and Marilyn Knapp and Gary Rudin.

**Illinois, Congerville**  
*Erica Steffen*

“I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5

What a blessing is has been this past month to have numerous events as a church, including Good Friday, Easter, Holy Communion and Mother’s Day! These events have given us many opportunities to draw closer as brethren, while we are abiding in the True Vine, as well as celebrate special times in the lives of dear ones in our church.

On April 27, we had the privilege to witness Bro. Matt Zimmerman and Sis. Emily Knapp become one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman and Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay Knapp. May God be near them and their families as they journey on through life, joined together with Christ as their Head.

Another wedding was celebrated this month, as Bro. Troy Plattner and Sis. Amanda Wiegand (Eureka) were joined in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Donald and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Eureka). May they feel God’s continued nearness as they take on their new roles as husband and wife.

We are very thankful for the heritage of faith we have as believers. What an encouragement it is to both young and old to see one of our dear members faithfully serving the Lord through the decades. Our dear Sis. Mae Schrock celebrated her 110th birthday on May 1. She has been serving the Lord for over 90 years! May God grant her the blessings of peace and rest as she continues to be used by the Lord to encourage all those who know her.

With all of the events this past month, we have been blessed with many visiting ministers and their families, who have shared the Word: Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago), Dave Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis Nancy, Forrest). May God bless them as they labor on for the Lord!

*Note of thanks:*

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your prayers, expressions of love and compassion in the loss of our dear sister and aunt. May God Bless you all.

The family of Doris Knapp Baldeon.

**Illinois, Elgin**  
*Amy Gasser*

Our visiting ministers during the past month included Elder Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN). We were also blessed by visits from Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Chicago, IL). Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday, May 7 on the topic of “Godly Relationships.”

The engagement of Bro. Alex Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam of Wolcott, IN) was announced on April 27. We are happy for them and wish them God’s blessings.

A baby girl, Kaylee Rose, was born to Daniel and Samantha Steffen on April 27. Her grandparents are Jeff and Cindy Lange and David and Sis. Linda Steffen. Mary Krueger welcomed a new grandson, Benjamin, born to Derek and Kalan Krueger in Rochester, MN. Eli is his big brother.

Bro. Bill (Sis. Sandy) Kinsinger was recently in the hospital but has returned home. Bro. Arvid (Cindy) Miller remains hospitalized at this time. May we keep Bro. Arvid in
our prayers.
Our high school graduates are Kelsey Kellenberger (Glen), Jack Kinsinger (Bro. Matt and Mary Jo), and Sydnee Reinhard (Bro. Marv and Sis. Kim). Scott (Darlene) Krueger received his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in Colorado, and they have relocated to Genoa, IL. Joshua Moser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne) graduated from IIT in Chicago with a degree in Computer Science and has moved to New York City for employment. Sis. Angela Steffen (David and Sis. Linda) received her Bachelor’s degree in Speech and Language Pathology from ISU and plans to continue on for her Master’s degree. May the Lord guide each one in their various endeavors in this life.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

We rejoice with Garrett and Nicole Johnson, who have found peace with God and are awaiting baptism.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier
Linda Rocke

Preaching on Sunday, weddings, new babies: these are “everyday” miracles we may take for granted. Yet, they are so important as God communicates with us and reaches into our lives with special blessings.

Appreciating the ministering brothers who willingly serve us, we thank Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We also were thankful for visits by Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL), as well as Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), as they also shared the Word this month.

Marriage: “There is beauty all around, when there’s love at home.” The Christian Home, Hymns of Zion, #64. May 4 was the special wedding day of Sis. Amanda Wiegand to Bro. Troy Plattner of Congerville. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner of Washington. We wish the couple God’s blessings as they establish their home in Congerville.

Birth: Another sweet little girl arrived to the family of Bro. Colin and Sis. Kyla Knapp, as Avery Jo was born. She is welcomed by big sister Dahlya. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp, and Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman.

Note of thanks:
Our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, expressions of love, and compassion during the time of our loss. The Harold Hodel Family
June 2014    SILVER LINING

IL), Sis. Mary Gail Weyeneth (Bro. Merle, Peoria, IL), and Mark (Elaine) along with his brother Gene (Linda).

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with the family of Martha Roth who passed away on May 19. May God comfort each of her children: Corinne Zbinden (Bill), Sis. Nancy Pfeifer (Bro. Glen, Indianapolis, IN), J. Lincoln (Debra), and Sam, as well as her sister-in-law Sis. Wilma Knapp (Forrest, IL).

Arlene Farley (Charles) recently spent time in the hospital. May God provide for each one who is experiencing health issues.

“Many an off’ring do I bring; my heart I give to Thee. I gladly give this heart of mine, which Thou dost ask of me.”

The Covenant of Grace, Zion’s Harp #163, verse 1

The weekend of May 17 and 18 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Bro. Lee Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae). We rejoice with him and wish him God’s continued grace and peace. We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Rick on Saturday evening.

Our high school graduates are: Stan Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda), Troy Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis), Bro. Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori), Sis. Miranda Kaeb (Leon and Sis. LeAnn), Mariah McCasky (Bro. Dale and Sis. Natalie), Seth Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal), Alyssa Nestor (Frank and Joyce), Ross Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), and Elizabeth Walter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda). Sis. Jeana Steidinger (Bro. Kirk), Sis. Lynette Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae), and Bro. Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) have finished their college studies and also graduated this month. We wish God’s blessings to each one and pray they will seek God’s guidance and direction in their future endeavors. We will miss Bro. Micah who will be relocating to the Remington, IN area for employment and will be worshipping with the brethren there.

Illinois, Forrest

Karla Zimmerman
Molly Zimmerman

We were reminded once again of our Lord and Savior’s great act of love during this Easter season. We are so thankful that the grave could not contain Him, but rather he rose from the dead to bring salvation and hope to all people! We are thankful that souls continue to come to the foot of the cross and lay down their lives before our great God. We rejoice with our new convert Lucas Kaeb (late Bro. Eldon and late Sis. Stephanie). We also rejoice with convert Lilah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) as she has repented and found peace with God and is now desiring baptism.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

John 14:6

We wish to thank visiting ministers Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington, IN), and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for sharing the word. May their efforts be richly blessed.

We are saddened by the passing of Sis. Mary Edinger. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, as well as her siblings in our congregation: Sis. Marge (Bro. Eldon) Waibel, Sis. Janice (Bro. Ken) Steffen, and Bro. Lloyd (Joyce) Honegger. We are thankful that her end is just the beginning and we can look forward to the day we will meet again.

“When we asunder part it gives us inward pain, but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.” Blest Be the Tie, Hymns of Zion, # 156

Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther) spent some time in the hospital due to surgery for a broken hip and is now recovering at Fairview Haven. Barb Knapp (Dale) had a knee replacement and also spent time in the hospital; she is now home recovering. Our prayers for healing mercies are with them both.

Jared and Jenna Stork welcomed little Rodney Lloyd into the world! Excited grandparents are Bro. Paul and Dawn Stork and Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger.

Illinois, Goodfield

Kayla Wiegand
Melissa Rokey

A precious daughter, Salem Viola Herrmann, was born April
16 to Katherine and Adam Herrmann. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Wagner and Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann (Washington, IL).

The engagement of Justin Fehr (Bro. Steve & Sis. Deb) to Bonni Martin (Steve and Vickie Martin) was announced. We share our love with this couple as they prepare to join their lives together.

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will JOY over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

We are very thankful to announce that Taylor Wiegand (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay) has heard the call from God and has come by faith with a broken, repentant heart. We are so thankful that God is still patient and calling souls to repentance and conversion.

We would like to take this time to thank Connie and Mark Rocke for all of their efforts on the kitchen committee over the last few years. Sis. Alice and Bro. Lee Ruegsegger will be going on the committee. Sis. Mary and Bro. Jake Wettstein will be the lead couple this year. Others serving on the committee are Sis. Shelley and Bro. Ben Rokey and Sis. Paula and Bro. Mike Hartman.

Many hands made light work. On April 5, the congregation came together to spring-clean the church. We enjoyed the fellowship as we worked together.

A benefit sale of handcrafted items made by Haitian women from the Centre Lumiere was held at the Fellowship Hall on April 11 and 12. We appreciated the great turnout and support for this cause.

"I can feel His presence, And His guiding hand, Lovingly He leads us, to the Father land."

Hymns of Zion #70

Sis. Marge (Bro. Don) Bauman’s sister, Doris (Knapp) Baldeon, passed away April 1. Please pray for Sis. Marge and Bro. Don and the rest of her family in this difficult time.

Please keep Bruce and JoEtta Hinrichsen and their family in your prayers as he was diagnosed with stage 4 stomach wall cancer.

Bro. Curt (Sis. Melita) Hodel’s father, Loren Hodel, passed away on April 22. Please remember Bro. Curt and his family in prayer.

Precious is the story of Salvation when told thru the lips of a child. It was a blessing to hear our children present the Easter program April 13. On April 18, we held Good Friday services, followed by Communion service. An early morning sunrise service was held at the Fellowship Hall on Easter morning, followed by our regular service.

On May 10, the Psalm 100 Quartet from Bluffton, IN presented an encouraging evening of acapella music at the Fellowship Hall. They shared about the Cancer Redemption Project, an outreach to orphans in Haiti inspired by the late Bro. Zach Bertsch.

We want to thank Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) for leading us in a recent Wednesday-evening Bible study on spiritual leadership and our spiritual heritage. We also want to thank Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. DonnaLou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) for giving of themselves and ministering recently.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

The other evening at the supper table I read the account of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus and asked, “What must I do to be saved?” He said he had kept the commandments and was generally pleased with his morality. Jesus told him to go and sell all that he had; and then to come and follow Him (Jesus). This was too much for this young ruler. He walked away sorrowfully. His riches meant too much to him.

Before conversion were we not a lot like the rich young ruler? We were “rich” in love of ourselves. We were “rich” in our love of the world. We were “rich” in wanting to do our own will. To achieve salvation, we had to “sell” all that we had --that is, get rid of our sinful life -- and then follow after the Lord Jesus and all that He taught.

I visited with an experienced Elder about this passage of Scripture and told him I felt sorry for the rich young ruler. He told me that perhaps later there was a possibility he did what Jesus
said, and thence followed Him. Surely, we don’t know. But in this line of thinking, there are many who reject Jesus today, but there is always hope they will turn to Him in repentance henceforth. May that be our prayer for the lost; and may we pray for them, day in and day out.

Sis. Linda Krug was planning to have foot surgery. Sis. Karen Stoller is recovering from hip replacement surgery. Bro. Pete Meiss is undergoing therapy for knee replacement surgery. Surely, we can be thankful to God for the advances made in technology and medical procedures.

Bro. Daton and Sis. Kathy Kupferschmid and family are moving to work at the CVE project in Magdalena, Mexico.

As of this writing a major portion of our corn and soybeans are planted. In this realm, too, advances in technology and implements allow farmers to produce bountiful crops. Ultimately, however, it is the hand of God that raises up crops. Similar to a spiritual sense, man can plant, but it is God who gives the increase.

We are sorry to report the death of Alice Kilgus Myer on April 9, 2014, a sister to Bro. John Kilgus of our Gridley congregation. She was the daughter of deceased Elder Henry Kilgus, Forrest.

**Note of Thanks:**

“A church family is one of God’s rich blessings. To each of you who prayed, send cards and gifts, and visited me, I say a humble ‘thanks.’ May God be your rewarder.”

Sis. Anna Marie Reutter

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner**

**Julie Bahr**

Our church family took a journey to the Cross and partook of Our Savior’s Last Supper together. Holy Communion was served by visiting Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford) who assisted our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr.

Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) came to serve our graduating high school seniors for our Wednesday Evening Family Worship. His timely topic was entitled “Crossroads-Choose Right”.

We give our loving congratulations to our graduating seniors: Felicia Baer, Bro. Austin Braker, Seth Braker, Scott Kieser, Nathaniel Kaiser and Justin Schick.

We generously thank our other visiting ministers as well: Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke), Bro. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago).

On May 4, Morton was privileged to host the high school Bible classes from Tremont, Gridley and Forrest for ACYF Day. Thank you for blessing us!

Our sympathy is extended to the family of our dear Sis. Ella Wittmer who entered Heaven’s Rest on April 25. Her husband, Bro. Maurice, and six children survive: Mary Streitmatter, Ruth Stevig, Roy Wittmer, David Wittmer, Jane Fehr, and Susan Henning.

We also share our deepest sympathy to our Sis. Betty Yergler in the passing of her sister, Sis. Iva Getz.

Loving congratulations to Bro. Tim, Sis. Jodi, Lola, Piper, and Tatym Wagenbach who welcomed a new baby daughter, Charley Simone, on April 30. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach (late Bro. Simon Jr., Tremont).

On May 8, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Laura Luginbuhl, along with big brother Pierce, welcomed a new little boy, Bennett Ryan. Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker and Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl (Roanoke) are the grandparents who also are thankful for his safe arrival.

**Illinois, Peoria**

**Pam Fritzenmeier**

A record number of us gathered early Easter morning at the Fellowship Hall to eat a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and praise Jesus through song and a short message.

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said!” Matthew 28:6

Saturday, April 26, the choir presented an excellent meal and beautiful singing program to benefit several worthy charities. Those in attendance were also
blessed by this ministry of song and service.

Our monthly hymn sing is another opportunity to raise our voices in praises to our Savior. Sunday evening, May 4, our 3-year-old through 3rd grade Sunday school classes and the Goodfield choir blessed us with singing as we listened and all joined together in song.

Mother’s Day, May 11, our young group cheerfully and diligently waited on us at the lunch tables, serving all the mothers and ladies first. It was a real treat!

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge Rumbold are happy to welcome a new grandson. Finn Douglas was born May 14. Bro. Marc and Sis. Stacie Knepp, Roanoke, and big brothers, Chase and Max, are excited to welcome him into their lives. Sis. Janet Knepp (the late Bro. Rich, Roanoke) is Finn’s other grandma.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary (Bro. Merle) Weyeneth and family at the passing of her father, Bro. Wayne Davis (Fairbury) on May 14.

Many suffer health issues and covet our prayers. These include Bro. Joe Martin, Sis. Dee Metzger, Allison Stickling (daughter of Chris and Sis. Marsha), Bro. Peter Weber, Sis. JoAnn (Bro. Tom) Reiker, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waibel, Mary Funk, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, Mary See, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Sis. Emily Tanner, Keyla (6-year-old from Magdalena), and Bro. Tim (Sis. Joan) Reinhard.

We joyfully welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family back home. Unfortunately, they had to do a very difficult thing and leave their two adopted children in Haiti, as the adoption was finalized, but the paperwork not complete. Also, do pray for Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela Knobloch, and Bro. Jason Grassi, all in Magdalena.

It’s that time of year - graduations! Our eighth grade graduates are Brady Brecklin (Thomas and Karen), Luke Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel), Keenan Streitmatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Stephanie), Cody Waibel (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa) and AJ Young. High school graduates include (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth), Paige Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary), Bro. Josh Ginzel (Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie), Clayton Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), Jacob Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), Benjamin Hofstetter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Karen), Sis. Rebekah Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty), Caleb Roecker (Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane), Sis. Victoria Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki), Brock Streitmatter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lori), Whitney Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Abigail Trippett (Bro. Matt and Sis. Kristi), and Sis. Tiffany Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose). Our seniors were honored at the annual senior breakfast Sunday morning, May 18.

We ask for prayers for Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister and family as their business, The Old School Center, Farmington, suffered a devastating fire May 15. Many of you have been there for family reunions, church camps, and retreats and realize what a loss this is to the Meister family and our church families. Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan ask that we pray that no matter what happens, the Lord’s name will be glorified through this situation.

**Illinois, Princeville**

**Gloria White**

**Renee Herrmann**

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for their labors of love and kindness this past month: Bro. Greg Stiegitz and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN).

Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder are enjoying their first grandchild, Anden Ben, born to Ben and Anna Kaiser (Canada) on May 6.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick are thankful to be grandparents again. Andy and Victoria Schick (Morton) have another baby girl, Emma Mae, born on April 26.

Graduating seniors are: Sis. Rhea Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann), Daniel Feucht (Mark and Sis. Paula), Justin Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Sis. Victoria Herrmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee), Sis. Hannah Martin (Bro. Larry and
Sis. Tiffany), Sis. Hannah Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie), Sis. Kourtney Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Paige Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna), Victoria Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Mikaela Wieland (Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee). May God lead and direct each one in His righteous ways.

The death angel has visited our congregation this month. Sis. Grace Streitmatter passed from this life into eternity on April 24. Let us remember her son, Robert, in prayer. Bro. Roy Mueller has also gone onto his reward on May 21. Recently, we were exhorted as God’s children that we need to be ready to meet our maker every day. Deaths make that reality.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind
Judy Sauder

Eccles. 4:12: “…a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Megan Schwind (Bro. Dan & Sis. Donna) and Josh Stevens of Metamora have announced their marriage engagement. Josh’s parents are Roy Stevens of Peoria and LeeAnn Stevens of Metamora.

We also rejoice with Heather Rocke (Bro. Dennis & Sis. Eva) who is engaged to be married to David Thames of Morton, son of Jeff & Brenda Thames of Preston, ID.

On May 17, Allison Sauder (Bro. Tom & Sis. Mary) and Nick Ruzicka of Wauconda were united in marriage. Nick’s parents are Tony Ruzicka and Mary Cashman of Wauconda. We pray that God would bless these dear couples as they begin their lives together.

We are so thankful that David Moser (Bro. Greg & Sis. Shar), Tim Wettstein (Bro. Gary & Sis. Elna) and Seth Schwartz (Sis. Joan) have begun their walks with the Lord. May our Lord bless them as they seek to follow Him.

On April 22, our Bible Class students, along with some of the adults who travelled with them to Jamaica on a work trip over spring break, gave a slide presentation and also shared some of their experiences. It was a blessing to see the work they accomplished there and also some of the many children they were privileged to interact with.

1 Tim. 4:12: “…but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

On April 23, Bro. Arlen Miller (Gridley) from ACCFS presented a Bible study on “Spiritual Maturity: Growing from Milk to Meat” at our Fellowship Hall. We thank Bro. Arlen for his timely and thought-provoking presentation.

On April 30, the Prairie Choristers and our Youth Choir along with several brothers from our church offered an evening of worship, singing and prayer to commemorate the National Day of Prayer. It was a blessed evening.

We were privileged to host high school students from Peoria, Goodfield, and Taylor for Youth Fellowship Day on May 4. The students sang several songs for us on Sunday afternoon. We thank them for their willing service.

We again mourn with those who mourn. Bro. Harold (Sis. Mick) Hodel (Eureka) went to his eternal home on April 17. He was a brother to Sis. Flo Wuthrich and Bro. Bob Hodel.

Sis. Ella (Bro. Maurie) Wittmer (Morton) went to be with the Lord on April 25. She was the mother of Jane (John) Fehr and a sister to Sis. Marie Hohulin.

Sis. Iva Getz (Tremont) passed away on May 9. She was a sister to Bro. Lyle (Sis. Mary Lou) Martin. May our Lord comfort these dear families in their grief.


On April 30, Bro. Dennis & Sis. Eva Rocke again became grandparents with Hans Brayden’s arrival. His parents are Brent & Staci Rocke of Gainesville, FL. His big brother and sister are Malachi and Sophia. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta).

Sis. Janet Knepp has been twice-blessed as a grandmother recently. On May 11, Adam & Jackie Knepp welcomed William David into their home. His brothers, Henry & George, and grandparents, Kirk & Stephanie Anderson of Roanoke, are also thrilled with his arrival. Then on May 14, Finn Douglas was born.
to Bro. Marc & Sis. Stacie Knepp. His big brothers are Chase and Max. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Bob & Sis. Marge Rumbold (Peoria). May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in ways of the Lord.

Proverbs 3:13: “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.”

A Baccalaureate service for our high school graduates was held on May 18. Our graduating seniors are: Josh Fehr, Alexa Fischer, Noah Harris, Sis. Joy Hinrichsen, Nick Hoffman, Connor Knapp, Sam Luginbuhl, Sis. Abby Moser, Sis. Jenna Moser, Dakota Ott, and Jake Wacker. It is a privilege for us to watch our young men and women grow up and mature into fine young adults. We pray for the Lord’s blessings on these students as they make plans to attend college and/or enter the fulltime work force.

We welcome Bro. Ty, Sis. Beth, Zoe and Owen Sauder who have relocated back to Roanoke from Leo. May they feel “at home” here once again!

James 5:15: “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;”

We continue to lift up Sis. Kay (Michael) Nazarczuk (Bloomington) and Sally Achterberg, who are dealing with health issues, for our Lord’s healing, peace and nearness.

Illinois, Tremont

Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

Our congregation has been prayerful about seeking an ordained deacon. Bro. James (Sis. Brenda) Fehr has received the congregation’s support and he will be interviewed at the summer conference. We again thank Elder Bros. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for their return visit to help in this selection.

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL) visited recently for testimonies and baptisms. We rejoice with Bro. Talon Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty); and Bro. Trent, Bro. Corbin and Bro. Philip Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie) as they made their vows of faithfulness to the Lord. May God ever continue to grant grace each day anew!

Congratulations to Brett Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) and Ashley Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita) as they have announced their plans to be married this coming September. May God bless them richly.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5&6

These verses were read during the funeral service for our Sis. Iva Getz (the late Bro. Merle). May her early trust in the Lord be a comfort to her surviving family:

Bro. Lyle (Sis. Mary Lou) Martin of Roanoke, IL; Florence Noe of Metamora, IL; and Sis. Betty Yergler of Morton, IL; along with nieces and nephews and families. We also extend sympathy to Sis. Sheri (Chris) Allen at the passing of her grandmother, Irene Liescheidt, of Pekin, IL; and Bro. Rob (Sis. Marcia) Dennis at the death of his grandmother, Zenith Rowell, of Tremont, IL. May God continue to comfort all these loved ones.

What a joy to report new babies! Emmett Andrew is the second son of Mark and Amanda Nickles. Big brother Wade and happy grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck, welcome him home. Emmy Marjorie is the second daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jenny Koch. Her big sister is Cecily and grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch. Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach (the late Bro. St) welcomes granddaughter Charley Simone. She is the fourth daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jodi Wagenbach (Morton, IL). Her sisters are Lola, Piper, and Taty. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel’s grandchildren, Tim and Cali Kizer (Creve Coeur, IL), have a new little daughter Emmalynne Rosa. May God grant wisdom and grace to parents and grandparents as they influence these little ones’ lives!

Our continued prayers of comfort and healing for Bro. Derek (Sis. Leann) Sauder and Bro. Daniel (Sis. Jeanne) Wagenbach after hospital stays.
We also pray for good recoveries for Bro. Floyd (Sis. Wilma) Bliss and Bro. Caleb Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) after accidents.

Trusting that God is directing her path, Sis. Rebecca Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane) has moved to the Taylor, MO area for employment. We’ll always be happy to see her when she comes home to visit!

“Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” 2 Timothy 4:6-5

We are thankful to God for the influence of our believing mothers. May God continue to provide for them throughout the years.

Illinois, Washington

Marlene Prather
Jodi Fehr

“As one whom his Mother comforteth, so will I comfort you….” Isaiah 66:13

We enjoyed a special Sunday honoring our mothers on Mother’s Day. The Word was brought forth by Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). He taught us that our country set this day aside many years ago to honor our mothers, but more importantly, it is God’s command that we honor them. We also, enjoyed having Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) visit our church this month. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

We rejoice with Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner, as their son, Bro. Troy (Congerville, IL) and Sis. Amanda Wiegand (Eureka, IL) were united in marriage. May God bless this union and family.

We were saddened in the passing of Bro. Harold Hodel (Eureka, IL). He was the father of Kent (Janet) Hodel and the grandfather of Bro. Kevin (Sis. Jolynn) Hodel. May God comfort this dear family.

As a result of the November tornado, our Bible Class took a Saturday to clean the Hodel’s fields. We, as a church, donated toward a fund that will help pay for our Bible Class Mission Trip. We are so thankful for all of our young people that participated, and for the many other helping hands.

On May 4, our Bible Class, enjoyed a Senior dinner with their parents and the ministers.

We are keeping Bro. John Kinsinger and Sis. Lydiann Wyss in our prayers, due to having surgery. We will continue to hold them up in prayer.

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter
Kim Meyer

He is risen! Hallelujah! In this historical fact lies our faith, our hope, our joy – in our earthly lives, as well as in our longings for our Heavenly Home.

We enjoyed our first-ever Sunrise Service on Easter morning. As we entered the Fellowship Hall in the pre-dawn darkness, it was easy to imagine the women making their way to Jesus’ tomb. And as we exited a couple hours later to light, sunshine and warmth, we realized anew that His resurrection is what brings the light to a dark world. Thank you, Jesus!!!

It’s been a blessing to again fellowship with Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Aschliman. Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan are home from Ethiopia for a few weeks. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa are home after serving with LSM in Haiti the past year.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Glen (Sis. Eileen-dec.) Furrer and Bro. Bob (Sis. Evie) Gerber as they have faced health issues. We’re thankful to have Bro. Glen back in church, and pray that Bro. Bob will soon feel the Master’s healing hand, either here on earth or in Heaven.

Bro. Hubert Isch has been permanently healed. Our love and prayers are extended to his wife, Sis. Judy, children: Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch, Greg and Katie Isch, Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Jo Gilliom and grandchildren. Our dear Sis. Devona Longenberger has gone to her eternal reward. May God comfort her children: Terry and Twila Longenberger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Longenberger and grandchildren.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Theresa Earney are rejoicing with the birth of Brooke Lee Earney, born to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle of Wolcott. Congratulations also to maternal grandparents, Bro. Troy
and Sis. Lisa Furrer of Wolcott. Bro. Dan and Sis. Caitleigh and Livia Kaehr welcome Jack Charles into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger. Charlotte Kate Reinhard has blessed the home of Bro. Grayson and Sis. Madalynn, Haleigh, Gage and Easton. Sis. Jan Reinhard, Doyle Reinhard and Mark and Deb Steiner (Rittman) are the thankful grandparents. Bro. Klint and Sis. Sarah, Emmit and Otto Fiechter are praising God for the birth of Whitt Harrison. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter. May God bless and guide each of these families as they receive a precious blessing and a serious responsibility in a new eternal soul to raise up for His glory.

The Bluffton and Bluffton North young groups hosted their second World Invite on April 26-27. There were 38 churches represented. The theme for the weekend was “Taking His Stand” and exhortations were given by ministering Bros. Jeff Waibel (Leo) and Joe Sprunger (Indianapolis). Thank you brothers!

On May 4, Sis. Hannah Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth) was married to Bro. Nate Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky, Smithville) of Latty. We will certainly miss Sis. Hannah, but pray that God will fill their home in Latty with His Spirit, and that they will come home to Bluffton often. We appreciate the visiting ministers and their families who joined us on that special weekend: Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty), Bro. Nelson and Sis. Minnie Beer (Milford), Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz (Junction), Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzie Beery (Rittman), Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachel Laukhuf (Latty), Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz (Junction), and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lori Riggenbach (Rittman).

During those two weekends, our large sanctuary was filled. It was a small foretaste of Heaven. Since that time, I have prayed that God will fill our church, fill those benches with souls who are sincerely seeking and serving Him. Those prayers are being answered, as we have 8 converts! Kyra Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim), Heather Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci), Nathaniel Brooks (Bro. Matt and Sis. Bekah), Zach Agler (Jim and Sis. Pam), Ella Stoller (Keith and Martha), Kaylie Van Horn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene), and Jonathon and Jacob Weil (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Lisa) have begun their repentance. Praise God for what He is doing and what He will continue to do!

We have been reminded in recent weeks that in the fall of 1972, our Elder Bro. Sam Aschliman called a member meeting and then simply announced to the brethren that we had very few converts and that we needed to pray. God heard and answered the cries of His people, as in January of 1973, souls began coming in repentance. We then had around 100 converts during the first part of that year. Will you join us in again praying for revival and an ingathering of souls?

Indiana, Bluffton North

Corinne Stettner

Amy Moser

Indiana, Bluffton-North

Jesus Christ saves us from the power of sin, the penalty of sin and one day, the presence of sin!

Our prayers go out to our Bro. Steve (Sis. Cathy) Longenberger with the loss of his mother, Sis. Devona of Bluffton. The funeral was held at Bluffton on May 2.

Bro. Jason (Sis. Gwen) Craighead had eye surgery Wednesday to correct a detached retina. The surgery went well, but his recovery will be long and delicate. He will be recovering at home for 4 weeks. Remembering him with prayers and support would be much appreciated.

Bro. Carroll (Sis. Louise) Gerber spend some time in the hospital and is now at Christian Care Retirement Community. We pray for his healing.

We rejoice with the angels and the families of two Bluffton North converts. Brandon Gerber (son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber) and Lacy Curry (daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristi) have both made a beginning in repentance. We pray for them as they begin their walk with the Lord.
Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber  
Mildred Clauss

On a recent Wednesday evening, our graduates were each given a Bible during the annual Graduation Program. Our prayers are with each of them, that the Bible will be their “road map” throughout their lives, and that each of them will find joy in living to glorify our great God! The graduates are Jacob Zeltwanger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kelly), Sis. Anna Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam), Brock Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri), Sis. Katie Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene), Bro. Trevor Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami), Bro. Rodney Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily), Gage Murray (Bro. John and Sis. Jessica) and Seth Neihouser (Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie).

Bro. Ryan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) and Sis. Kaleigh Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeanie) were united in marriage on Sunday, April 27 at LaCrosse, IN. It was a joyous day, and we welcome Sis. Kaleigh into our fellowship with open arms.

We extend sympathy to Elmer Bucher in the passing of two of his dear brothers within a very short time. His brothers, Bro. Merle Bucher (Sis. Leona, Valparaiso, IN) and Les (Flo, Monticello, IN) have both finished their earthly courses. We will miss them, but rejoice to know that we will be with those who love the Lord, eternally!

On Mother’s day we were blessed with a visiting ministering brother. Thanks to Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) for sharing inspiration from God’s Word.

On May 3 and 4, youth from area Indiana Apostolic Christian Churches blessed us with their presence, as our Bible Class invited them for the weekend.

Having Sis. Leah Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) home in Francesville for a while, is a blessing for us as well. Sister Leah has been serving with World Relief in Haiti.

Prayers continue to uphold our loved ones with health concerns. Recently hospitalized were Bro. Wayne Putt (Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Diane Clevenger (Jon). There have been others with health issues, and we lift them all up in prayer as well.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle

The weekend of April 26-27 was a time of rejoicing as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three precious souls: Sis. Melissa Gudeman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim), Sis. Paige Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Katherine Whitler (Amy Whitler). We pray that God’s grace and strength will be with them as they serve the Lord and trust in Him for their future plans. We appreciate the servant hearts of Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) who were with us for this joyous occasion.

On May 10, we had the privilege of sharing Holy Communion. We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuetrich (Sis. Lyn) who humbly served us. May we daily remember and be thankful for the price that Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

On April 23 and May 14, we were blessed to have Bro. Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jodi) continue teaching a Wednesday night Bible study series on “Grasping Truth through a Biblical Worldview.”

We want to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) for sharing God’s Word with us this month. Also, we were encouraged as we heard about the Lord’s work being done through the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMII).

Indiana, Lacrosse
Betsy Virkler  
Meagan Frank

“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.”  
Zion’s Harp #237

We pray for the Lord’s blessings on Bro. Ryan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) and Sis. Kaleigh Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeanie) as they were united in marriage on April 20. What a blessing to have many visitors to witness this special occasion! We want to thank Bros.
Les Kaeb and Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) for ministering to us that weekend.

We also want to thank Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for bringing God’s Word to us this month.

There were many sisters and friends that enjoyed our annual Ladies Spring Luncheon. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship! The theme was “When life gives you lemons… make lemonade!” We were reminded to make the best of the trials that come in our lives and encouraged to go to God’s Word for encouragement and strength.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” St. John 14:27

Bro. Ross Feller gave a presentation to the LaCrosse and Valparaiso congregations about the work being done at Gateway Woods. It was nice to have a potluck meal together and to learn more of what we can do to serve.

Sis. Mary Ann Feller had back surgery this month and we are very thankful for her quick recovery.

Many of our congregation gathered on a beautiful May Saturday to rejuvenate our church landscaping. It is always a blessing to work together to take care of God’s house!

Indianapolis, Leo
Kirby Reutter

Just how important is our testimony in the community? One of the Probation Officers that we work closely with here at Gateway Woods recently sent this note regarding former House Parents: “Chad and Kristy, you will be greatly missed on campus. I have really come to learn that what the House Parents do is a calling from God. I can actually say all House Parents (and everybody else for that matter) walk the talk consistently. I wish you many blessings and enjoyment in your next chapter of life. Thanks for all you did!”

Just how important is our testimony in the community? One recent donor sent us the following note: “Dear Gateway Woods: I find that I have no donation envelopes for your ministry, so I am sending a check this way. I have found recently that not only do I know Judy Gehring on your staff, but also Brian Wenniger, Nichole Steffen Suvar, and Britni Eisenmann! Thus I feel a special connection to your staff even though I am not of Apostolic background. Please use the enclosed check wherever it is most needed. Thank you and God bless your ministry to youth.”

Just how important is it to have laborers for the harvest? This was Bro. Clint Plattner’s noble attempt to update the current staffing situation: “We are taking it one month at a time here in residential. I am excited to announce the return of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer to the team following a 14-month sabbatical. They plan to first provide alternate coverage in the Cypress House. Then they will assume the lead role in the Oak House following the Hodel’s departure. Bro. Jon and Sis. Beth Ringger will assume the lead role in Cypress House following the Suvar’s departure. Following the upcoming departures of the Sauders, Suvars, and Hodels, this will leave us with two alternate couples providing coverage for five houses. So as a temporary measure, Sis. Abbie Wiegand (current Maple House Assistant) will team up with Sis. Kristi Baran (current Oak House Assistant) to provide alternate coverage in the Oak House until we are able to hire more couples. This still leaves the two remaining alternate House Parent’s covering two houses each.

I am also excited to announce that we have hired Sis. Alyssa Knobloch as the Assistant House Parent in the Hickory House. (Alyssa grew up in Minnesota, has worked in Iowa, spent time in Haiti, and more recently lived in Bluffton.)

I am also pleased to announce that we have hired Sis. Kimberly Brosman from Bloomington to be the Maple House Assistant and Sis. Abby Greutman from Latty to be our Top Quality Coordinator for the summer.

Also, Bro. Nick Steffen from Bluffton North Church has just started working as a part-time
Adoption Case Manager.”
(Are you dizzy yet? Even after reading these updates five times, I still have no idea who works where!)

Just how important is it to have laborers for the harvest? Despite the recent influx, Gateway Woods still has multiple major positions which need to be filled. Executive Director Bro. Ed Graf recently issued the following plea: “Esteemed staff members of Gateway Woods, the called according to His purpose, it’s no secret that we have needs for staff to fill multiple positions. We currently need Alternate House Parent couples, a Case Manager for Foster Care, a Home-Based worker, and a Teacher.”

During a recent church announcement, Bro. Clint stated that in a matter of weeks, he was expecting to lose four staff members which collectively represented more than 20 years of cumulative Gateway experience. Rather than the exception to the rule, this is in fact the rule: A constant need for laborers.

Isn’t it amazing that two thousand years after these words were first spoken by the Master, the fields are still white for harvest, and the laborers are STILL so few? Once a Gateway resident told me: “I would rather have the fiery passion of a broken heart, than the mediocrity of a heart that has always been whole.” Just how broken are we? Are we broken enough to leave behind families, houses, careers, lands, and businesses? Please do not use our many imperfections at Gateway Woods as an excuse. What if the Master waited until we were perfect before He decided to die for us?

Part of worshipping at a church characterized by constant transition is learning to say goodbye. Three dear couples in particular will be moving on this month: Bro. Ty and Sis. Beth will be moving to Roanoke; Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy will be moving to Fort Myers; and Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane will be moving to Washington.

As I struggled to process my own personal separation anxiety, I reminded myself of the following: “I’ve been to the Roanoke church. I know those people. Ty and Beth will be well taken care of. I’ve been to the Fort Myers church. I met some of the believers there. Dustin and Mandy will be in good hands. I’ve been to Washington church. They are solid believers. Kent and Jane will be warmly embraced.”

Isn’t amazing how we can trust the Spirit and each other to care for our loved ones across the many miles?

**Indiana, Remington**

**Jenni Honegger**

**Marcella Tyler**

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) from Silverton, OR, who was here to help administer Communion, and Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan) from Atlanta, GA. We are thankful for each one’s long travels and pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

We recently partook of Communion, and it’s something I look forward to every spring! Although the time of self-examination and self-searching beforehand can be unpleasantly humbling as I compare myself to the mirror of the Word and come up woefully short each time. What a relief and a joy to know that Christ offers forgiveness and hope to me once again through His body and blood. May we always be thankful for His great and wonderful gift of Himself, and may we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming more like Him!

As we recently celebrated Mother’s Day, we want to remember to thank all of the women who have mothered us throughout our lives. Although the women who gave birth to us are often the ones we think of on this holiday, we know that many other women have been instrumental in caring for us and shaping us and sacrificing for us. May God bless each one who has loved us and prayed for us and may we give them thanks, love and prayers in return.

We are so thankful to report the safe arrival of little Kelsey Ann on May 15 to bless the home of Bro. Trent and Sis. Katie Bahler! Kelsey is the granddaughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette Bahler and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Furrer of Wolcott. We pray God’s blessings...
on Bro. Trent and Sis. Katie as they seek to raise their precious new little one to know and to serve Him!

Sis. Velda and Sis. LaVina Beckley have both been able to assemble with us again and we are thankful to have them back with us in church.

Graduation time is once again upon us and we have several graduating seniors this year. Sis. Brittany Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise), Bryanna Schneider (Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen and Shelly Siela of Lafayette), Laura Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa), Kaleb Isabell (Megan Reyes of Lafayette), and Sierra Reyes (Megan Reyes of Lafayette and Rick Reyes of Wisconsin) are all ready to leave their high school years behind. Each one has such special talents and unique gifts. We have enjoyed watching them grow over the years. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will work in each one’s life. We encourage them to use their unique gifts for His glory. May God bless each one of them richly on the next stage of their life’s journey!

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Sunday School celebrated Mother’s Day by serving lunch. We thank the mothers in our lives for their daily sacrificial service and love. We pray for Sis. Sharon Flis’ grandson, Joseph Frepan, who will join the U.S. Navy on June 30; Bob Kaehr (Arlene), who is suffering from cancer and Chip and Kashia Iacob who are in Romania.

We thank our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse) for serving us during our Communion service. May the Lord bless him for his service to our church. We also thank Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse) for sharing the Good News from the pulpit.

We are thankful that Bro. Marty Langhofer (Sis. Lavilla) is safely home from his mission trip to Jordan. We celebrate with our convert, Kelcie Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill), on her graduation from St. Francis University, Ft. Wayne, with a BS in Social Studies.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Indiana, Valparaiso
Marguerite Hoerr
Sherry Meiss

Well, spring has sprung and summer is in full swing. I don’t know about you, but this has caught me by surprise! The calendar is filling up. The weeks are full and the days are flying by me so quickly I should be spinning like a top. But God has everything in control, if you just give him the wheel, it is almost effortless. Praise Him and thank Him every day and all day long.

With the help of the sisters of our church and West Lafayette, we were able to give the residents of Parkview Haven (now known as Pulaski Health Foundation) their annual spring luncheon. Our Sis. Gwen Bucher has been heading this event up for many years. This year she stayed a little longer down in Florida and passed the torch over to me. Or should I say handed me her note book. Thanks be to God that he sent Sis. Carol Bucher home early to remind me it was on the calendar. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful God in charge of things. It was because of Him that everything just fell into place. Those who felt so compelled to follow His direction stepped up and served those who are less fortunate.

Our mothers come in many different ways, some by blood, some by God’s design. Blessed be to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, foster parents, counselors, adoptive parents, house parent, teachers and mentors. Whatever the plan is, be excepting to it, follow it where ever it leads you. You will find God giving you a fruitful life purely as His gift to you, because you gave your life to Him. This means so very much to the ones receiving our motherly love and fulfills the void in their hearts. Let us show God’s children the way to truth. For where there is love, there is God.

We were truly blessed with many guests last Sunday.
This filled our hearts with such joy. Fellowship with others is important. It strengthens our bonds with each other and warms our hearts. Thank you to all how made this such a special day to remember.

Look at what Jesus did for us. He was denied by Peter, beaten, crucified and died for our sins on that cross. God has given each of us a purpose in life. We must open our hearts and become useful to Him. Be who God has planned for you to be, and keep praying for each another.

Follow Him. Turn right and go straight. All are welcome to come and visit, or stay! We’re just south of U.S 30 on IN State Road 49.

**Indiana, Wolcott**

*Michelle Earney*

*Beckie Lehman*

We were blessed to have Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) with us as he helped served Holy Communion. May we always be thankful that God sent his Son to save us from our sins. Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) also blessed us with his presence on Mother’s Day.

We rejoice with Sis. Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) as she was announced for marriage to Bro. Alex Steffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois) from Elgin, IL. We wish them the Lord’s blessings as they plan for their wedding in August and a lifetime together.

We also rejoice with Debbie Stoller Royer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller) as she was joined in marriage this past month to Ron Reelling from Lafayette, IN.

Caitlin (Scott and Sis. Diane Mailoux) and Brendon Griffin (Texas) are having a renewing of the vows ceremony in August and we want to extend our congratulations to them and we pray that they could continue to look to God for guidance as they continue their lives together.

May the Lord also bless Cole Cochran (Doug and Tracy, Remington, IN) and Samantha Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) as they were married on May 3.

Our church is also sending prayers to Paula (Chic) Schleman as she is scheduled for back surgery. May we be prayerful for it to be effective and that she could recover quickly.

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

*Teresa Schock*

I apologize for omitting Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest) who ministered here in March. We do thank him for all his efforts.

Erica (Brent) Wuthrich’s grandma, Lydia Jean Payne, passed away. We extend our sympathy to her.

Communion services were held here April 26. We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria) for assisting and for laboring all day, Sunday, on the pulpit.

God has spoken peace to the hearts of Alan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) and Derek Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol). We are so thankful.

“*What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace, Buried deep in the heart of my soul; So secure that no power can take it away, While the years of eternity roll. Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace, Coming down from the Father above; Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray, In fathomless billows of love*. Wonderful Peace, Gospel Hymns #746.

Our graduating seniors are Megan Joos (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lana) and Blake Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol). Bro. Max Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie, Lester) has graduated from college. May God direct their future plans.

Mother’s Day, now Father’s Day. What a great responsibility to be entrusted with children. I had a plaque I sold at a garage sale and, now, kinda wish I had kept it. It was entitled, “Children Learn What They Live”. I am amazed how closely children do watch us and imitate us. May God be with all parents…and grandparents.

**Iowa, Burlington**

*Ivy Steiner*

*Monica Eisenmann*

Greetings from Burlington!

This past month has brought many blessings for our congregation. A group from our Chicago congregation came and spent a weekend with us. We thank ministering Bros. Greg and Mathew Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering that weekend. The provings and baptisms of Bennet
Wulf (Bro. Leroy & Sis. Carolyn), Zachary Schulz (Bro. Gary & Sis. Melody & the late Sis. Karen), Hannah Steiner (Bro. Mike & Sis. Ivy), and Brianna Schulz (Bro. Roger & Sis. June) were also a blessing to our congregation. We appreciated the efforts of our Elder Bro. John Schmidgall, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (West Bend), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) that weekend. We also were blessed to have Bro. John Steiner (Oakville/Mediapolis, IA) minister to us recently.

Our high school graduates this year are Brady Banwart (Bro. Leo & Sis. Tami), Madelaine Eisenmann (Matt & Monica), and Taylor Eisenmann (Mark & Jamy). We appreciate each of them and wish them God’s blessings and direction in the future.

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

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

Congratulations to Alex Callahan (Jeff & Tammy) and all graduating seniors! May God bless you as you plan for your future and begin the next chapter in your lives.

“Be it so, be it so. Do you feel His blessed tread drawing near to our assembly, Heavenly gifts for us to spread, living bread and drink to render? Streams of blessing from His hand partake, come and take, come and take!”

Communion Hymn, Zion’s Harp #24

We’re thankful Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) came to serve Holy Communion. It was a blessing to gather together as one body around the Lord’s Table, each of us hungering, and to leave filled with Heavenly gifts. We thank our Savior for His sacrifice of love.

Also visiting this month were Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). We certainly appreciate those willing to be a used in the ministry of God’s Word.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

Visiting us this past month were Bro. Ed Stoller (Denver, CO), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We are thankful these brothers and their families are willing to travel, some many miles, to bring God’s Word to the small congregations. We are also thankful they are willing to help where only one or two ministers reside.

Graduating from high school this year is Jaelah Funk, daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk. We wish Jaelah God’s continued nearness and guidance as she moves on to college.

Mother

If you have a gray-haired mother In the old home far away, Sit you down and write a letter You put off from day to day. Don’t wait until her weary steps Reach Heaven’s pearly gate But show her that you think of her, Before it is too late. If you have a tender message, Or a loving word to say, Don’t wait till you forget it, But whisper it today. Who knows what bitter memories May haunt you if you wait? So make your loved one happy Before it is too late.

The tender words unspoken, The letter never sent, The long forgotten messages, The wealth of love unspent; For these some hearts are breaking, For these some loved ones wait, Show them that you care for them Before it is too late.

- author unknown

Are we thankful for all the prayers our mothers have uttered for us? For all the loving deeds they have done for us?

Iowa, Iowa City

Diana Butikofer

We are thankful to have Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville/Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst read and expound on the Memorandum, and to have Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Joe serve us Holy Communion this month. We were also blessed to have Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso,
IN) minister to us on Easter weekend. May God bless these brothers and their wives for their willingness to travel and serve us.

Iowa, Lester

Audrey Metzger
Joyce Moser

"Take fast hold of instruction; Let her not go: keep her, for she is thy life." Prov. 4:13

We congratulate our graduates this month and hope that as they embark on new paths, they remember the instruction they received at home, church, and in Sunday School, as well as the education they received in school. High school graduates include: Micah Bajema (Elder Bro. Rod & Sis. Sue); Kinzi Blomgren (Bro. Jon & Sis. Tricia); Benjamin Feucht (Roy & Melisa); Nedd Knobloch (Bro. Dan & Sis. ReJean); Kelsey Knoblock (Bro. Lynn & Sis. Joni); Matthew Metzger (Bro. Mark & Sis. Audrey); Reagan Meyer (Bro. Brad & Sis. Trinda); Kendra Mogler (Bro. Dwight & Sis. Donna); and Sis. Cari Moser (Bro. Rick & Sis. Lori).

We also congratulate students who have completed their college education this month: Kenneth Knoblock (Bro. Lynn & Sis. Joni), Andrew Metzger (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Dawn), and Tory Mogler (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Lois). We hope God will be their Guide as they enter the work force in their chosen careers, some in locations far from their parental homes.

Congratulations also go out to newly-married couples from our congregation. On April 27, Sis. Lanna Meyer (Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda) became the bride of Bro. Drew Schmidgall (Bro. Rob & Sis. Kathryn) of Morris, MN. Natalie Moser (Bro. Donn & Sis. Joyce) was married to Brian Hansen on May 3. We ask for God’s guidance and the blessings of health and true happiness for each of these couples.

We are also happy for four newly-engaged couples. Caley Moser (Bro. Rick & Sis. Lori) became engaged to Paul Koehl (Bro. Guy & Sis. Lynette) from Morris, MN. They are planning an August 16 wedding. Scott Metzger (Bro. Mark & Sis. Audrey) is engaged to Joni Kooiker. Their wedding date is set for August 2. Deann Bosch (Bro. Tony & Sis. Pam) became engaged to McTier Millington. They plan to be married on New Year’s Day. Bro. Terry & Sis. Elaine Knoblock’s daughter, Anita, is engaged to Wade Feuchtenberger from Morris, MN. We congratulate each of these couples and wish them God’s blessings and guidance as they plan their lives together.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Tom (Sis. Deb) Metzger, Bro. Kevin (Sis. Dawn) Metzger, Kendon Knoblock (Bro. Marti & Sis. Martha), Cody Moser (Stuart & Karin). Bro. Marvin Metzger (Sis. Joleen), Payton Metzger (Brett & Melissa), Bro. Larry Knobloch, and Sis. June (Bro. Delbert) Knobloch. We are thankful that most have been able to return home and are making steady improvement. We also solicit prayers for so many other dear ones in our congregation with ongoing health challenges.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today, for a soul returning from the wild; See! The Father meets him out upon the way, welcoming His weary, wandering child."

We rejoice with our new convert, Vance Metzger (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Polly), who has found the grace to turn his life over to the Lord in repentance. We pray that he can build his faith firmly on this foundation.

It was made known that our convert, Kendra VerBeek (Tim & Sis. Becky) feels at peace with God and man. We rejoice with her and wish her His continued grace, which is ever sufficient.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers share the pulpit recently: Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Bro. Lowell Moser (Morris, MN), Bro. James Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN), Bro. Kevin Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville/Mediapolis). We thank these brothers and their families for their service to us.

Haislee Joann is the new daughter born to Jordan & Masondra Metzger on May 12. She joins siblings: Koen, Liam, and Imena. Grandparents are Bro. Art & Sis Kristy Metzger. We wish this young family God’s rich blessings.

Bro. John Tolvstad passed from this life on May 9, at the age of 92. We extend sympathy to his...
daughter, Sue, and her husband, Dan Stiles, from Kokomo, IN, sisters-in-law Sis. Donna Metzger and Tina Moser, and several nieces, nephews, and close friends from our church in Lester, where he made his home in his retirement years.

On that same date, May 9, Naomi Knobloch left this life for eternity. Sincere sympathy is extended to her brothers: Gilbert Knobloch, Bro. Silas (Sis Edith) Knobloch, and Bro. Melvin (Sis. Wilma) Knobloch, along with many of her nieces and nephews from the Lester congregation. May God provide comfort as these family circles become smaller.

Sympathy is also extended to Sis. Edith (Bro. Silas) Knobloch on the loss of her sister-in-law, Mary Kay (Ben) Hohulin, from Peoria, IL.

Japan, Tokyo

Marie Inoue


It is good to be reminded (above list from Bro. Randy Gasser in a devotional) how the apostles were willing to die for their faith. We would do well to keep this list handy, and the next time our thinking is tested that something is too much to give up for our precious faith and church, we would do well to look again and learn from the early church fathers the importance of putting Christ first in our lives.

This month we were privileged to sing at two local nursing homes as the employees wheeled some patients in their chairs and others walked to the room. A few can sing along, and it is a joy to watch.

Kansas, Bern

Jill Meyer

Rita Menold

It was a blessing to be able to host the 6th-8th grade annual Sunday School Youth Fellowship Weekend on April 26-27. Many thanks to Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita) for sharing the Word with the students and us that weekend!

We also appreciate Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) for serving us this month.

Best wishes are extended to Ted Grimm (Doug and Jeryl, Sabetha) and Miranda Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim) as they have announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them as they plan for their upcoming wedding.

Once again, the time of year has come when we recognize our high school and college graduates as they end one chapter in their lives and plan for another. Graduating from high school are: Michael Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori), Hannah Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) and Michaela Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane). Our college graduate is Bro. Marcus Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori). May God bless and direct each of you as you reach this milestone in your lives!

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely thank our family and friends for the cards and gifts we received on our
50th anniversary.
God bless you all!
Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer

Kansas, Fort Scott
Karen Kellenberger

“Glory! glory! how the angels sing; Glory! glory! how the loud harps ring; ‘Tis the ransomed army, like a mighty sea, Pealing forth the anthem of the free.” Gospel Hymns #622

Our congregation rejoices with the angels over one sinner that is repenting. Noah Fischer (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria) has surrendered his life to the Lord. We pray for God’s grace to be with him as he embarks on his pilgrim journey - in his youth, and all his lifetime.

Several weeks ago in March, we enjoyed hearing Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) share the Word with us.

Recently, a small group of brothers and sisters, that are students at Kansas State University, visited Fort Scott and offered a hand with a few work projects. May God bless them for their labors of love. The young people gathered to enjoy the evening at the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer.

For decades, Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart and his wife, Sis. Kathryn, enjoyed opening their home, often with delicious meals, but always with hymn singings. They have passed on, but the house has remained in the family. The last weekend in April, the entire congregation was invited to join in singing praises in the nearly-empty house a final time, as it is being sold soon.

We have three graduates.
Austin Bahr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie) graduates from eighth grade. Sis. Melanie Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Mary Fischer (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria) are our high school graduates. We pray they remember, as they journey through life, that things done without Christ just aren’t worth doing, and things not worth doing are done without Him.

Kansas, Kiowa
Jenny Stewart

Janice Bahr

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for His wonderful works to the children of men.” Psalms 107:8

This verse in Psalms brought to mind all the wondrous beauty of God’s creation, and made me ponder. How often do we praise God for such beautiful gifts: sunrises, sunsets, trickling brooks, or the rushing waters of rivers, oceans or waterfalls, the still calm of a morning lake, the majesty of mountains, the wingspan of eagles or the tiny hummingbirds, all creatures great and small, the beauty of a starlit or moonlit night, the warmth of sunlight on our face, the sound of a gentle rain or the power of a thunderstorm, pure white snow on the branches of trees, birdsong by day or cicadas of the night, the tiny seeds that grow into grass or flowers or trees? How often, as we enjoy the sheer wonder of creation, do we look up and say, “Thank you God for these precious gifts you share with us every day”? We are truly blessed!!!

We have had a number of visitors, who have stopped through on their way to Oklahoma to help those who suffered so much loss in the tornado that went through there in May of 2013. The conditions are very cold with ice and snow at this time, but it hasn’t stopped these wonderful people. May God richly bless each one for their labor of love in His name.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Christie Meeks (Sabetha, KS) shared a weekend in Kiowa with us on a minister rotation trip. We truly appreciate them giving of their time, and to those that shared the journey with them. The same weekend, Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) shared the pulpit with Bro. Jerry. Bro. Dan and his wife, Sis. Debra, were also on their way to Oklahoma and stopped through to share Sunday with us.

We are listening to the Conference CD’s on Wednesday nights at this time. We truly appreciate the time and effort our elder brothers and their wives spend on our behalf to travel and try to keep our precious denomination together with Satan working to tear it apart. May we ever hold them up in prayer, and keep the faith, until our Lord’s return.

God sent His son Jesus to earth as a baby. As a man, Jesus walked, taught, healed, loved, and died on a cruel cross for every one of us. Now He lives and stands...
SILVER LINING June 2014

on the right hand of God as our mediator, sending the Holy Spirit in His place to be our guide till His return. As Easter approaches, may we remember all we have been given and humbly give thanks.

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger

Holy Communion was held for our congregation on April 26. Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman of Bern, KS took us on a heart & mind stirring “trip” to Calvary where our Savior, God’s beloved Son, paid a tremendous price for my sin as well as yours. The thought of the tremendous pain and suffering, the load of sins of a world of humans (including mine) is incomprehensible to me. My mind goes back to the load that I carried of my own and how heavy that was. To think then of Christ’s load of sin for all and having my Father turn His back to that crushing load--God the Father being so holy! Our own Bro. Jay Luthi was thankful for Bro. John’s help. Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner also accompanied Bro. John and Sis. Connie for this special evening.

April 27 was Bro. Micah Pfaffman’s (Washington, IL) last Sunday with us. We so enjoyed his presence as he worked with Bro. Kent Kraft on the ranch, doing spring jobs for several weeks.

Mother’s Day was an exciting day for three families in our congregation. Sis. Alex (Bro. Kurt) Kraft was taken by ambulance from our Burlington Hospital on April 14 to Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, where she remained for about 4 weeks on bed rest. Then early Mother’s Day, May 11, Trace William arrived several weeks early to join his parents, big sister, Nyla, and grandparents Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna Lanz of Oakville-Burlington, IA and Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. Later that evening, Blake Douglas arrived to the joy of first-time parents, Bro. Kent and Sis. Marissa Kraft. Blake’s grandparents are Norman and Connie Hoerr of Eureka, IL and Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. Our congregation has been blessed with 2 little girls and 2 little boys in the past 16 months. May these little children be raised to know, love and serve the Lord.

Father’s Day will be June 15, soon after you receive this news. The following song makes me think of my own father and my husband who have left this world, and both of whom could often be seen reading their Heavenly Father’s Word. What a legacy believing fathers leave behind for their children!

I Want to Be That Man
Chorus:
I want to be that man
who loves the Lord with all his heart
Just like the Word commands,
Who takes a stand
And leads his family
As he hold the Father’s hand;
I want to be that man.
Who’s awake before the sun
With his Bible opened up

Seeking truth with every Single page he turned.
Anyone could see how Daddy Lived what he believed,
With a gentle heart and a Passion for Jesus’ birth.
I know we had our times we disagreed
But the longer I live,
It’s clear to me....
Chorus:
Society would say
There’s a new ideal today
Not what you give,
It’s more about what you can get.
But I want to live a life
That’s marked by sacrifice.
Like the Saviour who died to Show us all the way.
So I’ll take up my cross
And trace His steps
Surrendering is how I’ll serve Him best.
Just like Peter, Paul and all The saints of days gone by.
Let me show the kind of saints That can come behind.
Chorus:
Written by Ricky Free and Lee Black

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter
Dawn Strahm

We thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) for assisting Elder Bro. Gerry with Holy Communion on May 3. What a blessed time to remember the sacrifice our Savior gave for us.

“And ye, the Church’s members, truly Are folded in my heart’s embrace! In Christ ye are my brethren duly; We share salvation
through His grace. We drink one cup; we break one bread; One Saviour suffered in our stead.” The Lord’s Supper, Zion’s Harp #25

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Bro. Elmer) and Bro. Velmer Meyer. We uplift them in prayer that they may have healing and strength.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie Wenger welcome granddaughter Kate. Her parents are Travis and Erica Kellenberger.

Some rejoice while others weep. Our prayers are with Bro. Todd & Sis. Kara and Ty Strahm as they grieve the loss of Cale, who was stillborn. They had hopes and plans of adopting him in the near future.

Congratulations to our high school graduates as they reach this milestone in life. May they look to God for guidance and direction as they close one chapter in life and open a new one. Our graduates are: Naomi Wiegand (Bro. Stan & Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Whitney Grimm (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Arlene), Sis. Rachel Edelman (Darin & Sis. Karen), Emily Meeks (Bro. Jerry & Sis. Christy), Bro. Jesse Hartter (Bro. James & Sis. Sandy), and Benjamin Meyer (Bro. Alan & Sis. Colleen).

We are thankful Heidi Wenger (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Jean Wenger) has been granted peace and looks forward to baptism.

May we remember our earthly fathers as Father’s Day approaches. We thank them for their earthly training and preserving the faith.

May we continue to strive onward and forward as we strive to meet our Heavenly Father above.

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

**Issa Sibaja Leon**

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Rom. 12:5

Our church in Ixtlan was host to the annual fellowship week-end in which we invited brethren from the U.S. and Mexico, such as Barra Vieja, Morelia, Magdalena and the sister churches in Tecate and San Jose. Several themes were presented such as the history of our church and how we as Christians being members of the body of Christ can grow. It was an enjoyable time in which communication among the brethren was strengthened. We came to know visitors that came from very far. We learned about their struggles and their lives, and we saw the necessity to pray for each other. The annual fellowship week-end is very edifying for our faith in Christ Jesus. This joy could be seen in the faces of everyone and was a great encouragement for the small churches that don’t have the privilege to have their own minister or to be near other brethren in the faith. God has promised us that we are never alone.

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

We ask for your prayers for these small congregations. It seems that the fellowship weekend is a small part of the joy we will experience when we are in heaven.

Recently our Ixtlan church voted for two of our brothers to help with the teaching. They are Bro. Eduardo Ugalde and Bro. Javier Torres.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim. 2:2

**Michigan, Alto**

**Renee Steffen**

Shelli Oesch

As their last school year winds down this May, four of our students eagerly anticipate high school graduation. Zachary Steffen, Carly Byam, Sarah Oesch, Emma Blough are our graduates this year. As they move on to the next phase of their education or work, parents, family, and friends look back with fond memories and forward with great expectations. Congratulations class of 2014!

Our congregation shared the Lord’s Supper together April 26 with Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda from Leo, IN. Lynn painted a word picture of the Last Supper the disciples shared with Christ before his crucifixion, showing the passion, love, and human carnality that was present at that first Communion supper. The message came through with clarity. Come to Jesus with your heart as your offering and accept His free gift with joy. Go forward forever changed by His love. We extend Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda a special thank you for sharing this
weekend with our congregation.

Also this month, grandparents Gordy and Trisha Blough welcome their new grandson, Kole Oliver (Gavin and Alyssa Blough) to their family. Welcoming Kole home is Sawyer, who is thrilled to be a big brother.

Prayers are requested this month for Sis. Renee Steffen as she has suffered a fall in her home. Sis. Loretta Steffen is also in need of our prayers as she is experiencing complications related to a hip replacement six weeks ago. She is now back in the hospital. May we all lift up this dear family to our Heavenly Father who alone is Jehovah Rapha, the One who heals.

We were blessed by the presentation from Bro. Dick Meister and his wife, Sis. Sharon from West Lafayette, “Our Christian beliefs; too much world, too little context”. We are anticipating subsequent presentations on this topic and thank Bro. Dick for his time and effort.

**Michigan, Bay City**

*Sarah Knochel*

On April 26, we had our annual Women’s Luncheon. This year’s theme was “Walking by Faith” It is a special time of fellowship for all the women who attend our church.

“And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

*Luke 22:19-20*

On May 3 & 4, Bro. Lynn Stieglitz assisted Bro. John in Holy Communion. We appreciate the service of each of these brothers and the time of remembrance for our congregation.

We congratulate Sis. Kathy Knochel (Bro. Jim & Sis. Kay) and Sis. Brooklyn Lehner on their completion of graduate degrees. We trust that God will continue to provide for them as they seek employment in their fields of study. We also congratulate Helen Szabo (Sis. Gail) on her college graduation and pray that God would stand by her side as she continues in her schooling.

On May 18, the Sunday School students hosted their parents and grandparents for breakfast before church. It was a blessed time of sharing and an opportunity for all of the Sunday School students to serve their parents.

**Michigan, Detroit**

*Manuela Denes*

“For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

*Isaiah 61:11*

As an avid gardener, nothing brings me more pleasure than to spend time outside marveling at the beauty and splendor that is spring! It’s amazing how quickly a yellow lawn becomes lush and green. The aforementioned scripture from Isaiah is a wonderful reminder of God’s power, not only in the natural world, but also in the hearts of man. How wonderful to know that He can “cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations” where before there was only desolation!

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Bro. Caleb Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly), Adam Gleichman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Pam), and Sis. Autumn Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue). May the Lord continue to lead them as they look with excitement to the future! A prayer goes out to Katie Lanski (Sis. Melinda) as she has completed a Bachelor of Science in Architecture with a minor in French/ Francophone studies from the University of Michigan.

A big welcome goes out to Bro. Drew and Sis. Taryn Schumacher. Bro. Drew will be doing an internship at Chrysler. We hope that they will enjoy their time here with us.

We are always so excited to hear news of a wedding engagement. Best wishes and God’s blessings for our Bro. Ned Troxel as he was announced for marriage to Sis. Alyssa Eisenmann (Bluffton, IN). Parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel, LaCrosse, IN and Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann, Bluffton, IN.

Our prayers go out to Ginny
June 2014  SILVER LINING  41

(Bro. Russ) Rambeau who has been in hospital. Our hope is that the Lord can comfort her and their family and bless her with a speedy recovery.

We're so fortunate to experience the blessing of music in our churches. Detroit recently hosted the annual All Michigan (and Toledo, OH) Homecoming Singing. All present enjoyed a special evening of song and fellowship.

We are so happy for Cody Baran as he was announced for peace. We look forward, God willing, to his baptism next month.

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

It was a blessed evening for all who were present to share in the Lord’s Supper. We’re so thankful that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in this solemn and so very important work. May we never forget the sacrifice our Lord and Savior made for us!

A special thank you to visiting Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) who came to minister at Woodhaven this May. Sis. Diana Jacobs and Sis. Janet Kober also came for the evening service.

Finally, the choir extends an invitation to all for an evening of song and fellowship. The Choir Benefit is scheduled for Saturday, July 12. Dinner is at 5:00 and the choral program is at 7:00. Please come!

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

**Brenda Messner**

**Betty Rossi Lindwall**

“Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matt. 25:40

Sis. Sheryl Luthi organized a group of about 40 people from our church to assemble soup packets for Feed My Starving Children here in the Twin Cities. These packets are distributed to people in need throughout the world.

May 17th was the beautiful wedding day for Seth Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) and Brooke Janecke (Dr. and Mrs. Martin Janecke). We wish them God’s Blessings and much happiness in their new life together.

**Minnesota, Morris**

**Amy Ekren**

**Heidi Pfaffmann**

We appreciate Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North) visiting and ministering this month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bros. Howard Goll and Chris Moser as they have been hospitalized. May God heal as only He can!

We had our annual Easter Program with the Sunday School children. It is so precious to hear the story of our risen Savior from the mouths of babes. May they keep His precious Word always in their heart.

Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Bro. Drew Schmidgall and Sis. Lanna Meyer were united in marriage on April 27 in Lester, IA. We welcome Lanna to the Morris congregation and hope all will make her feel at home!

**Minnesota, Morris North**

**Lois Schmidgall**

**Wanda Gramm**

Happy Spring! After a long, cold winter, the wonder of Spring appears. We are amazed at the beauty, the renewing, the new life that is appearing. Praise God!

“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.”

We have been so blessed this past month with fellowship, love and for the blessing of Praising God thru song. The Mortonaires and others came by bus to visit us. We enjoyed having them share the weekend, and thank them for giving of their talents of singing. Also with them were Bro. Jeremiah Psinas, and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Sue) Niehouser. We thank them for sharing The Word. Our cups were overflowing. May God continue with them as they minister thru song.

All mothers in our church were treated to a delicious lunch served by our trustees, and some Sunday School children. Then, at our noon singing, two songs were sung to us. It’s not a wonder that God wants us to become like a child. I am amazed by the children in our church body. We appreciate them using their talents in serving Him.
The first Sunday in May was another very blessed time in singing of praises. We were visited by the Lifesong, Zambia children. We thank them for sharing their voices in song, and for giving us a little history of their life. May God bless them, and all who are making a difference in their lives.

We rejoice with Erin Schieler as she has been announced for peace and looks forward to sharing her testimony on the weekend of July 26-27. Erin is the daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Jody. Our love and prayers are with her.

Our Bro. Harold Gramm has experienced another milestone in his life. He celebrated his 90th birthday. We are so thankful for our older brothers and sisters. They have been such an important part in our lives, and we just pray that God will be with them.

Our new church building is progressing nicely. Sunday, the teachers had the children look up their favorite Bible verse. Then they went to the church and wrote it on the studded wall. The point of this exercise, was that even though the studded walls would be covered up, they someday would be able to take their children to the spot that they wrote on the wall. Our children are our future, and it’s so wonderful when they can feel ownership.

“He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell, How great is God Almighty who has done all things well.”
Hymns of Zion #207

Minnesota, Rochester
Mark Stork
We are thankful for those who are willing to travel and bring us God’s Word. Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary) were in the area for the wedding of Seth Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) and Brooke Janecke (daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Janecke). We were thankful the brothers stayed over for Sunday and ministered to us and for the many other visitors. Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) also ministered to us on a Wednesday evening.

There are openings at the Guest House for those who would have a need. The phone number for reservations is (507) 288-0072.

Minnesota, Winthrop
Lindsay Schmidt
Julie Schmidt
“...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”
Romans 8:34
Jesus arose, He is alive! Christ conquered the grave and is now at the right hand of God interceding for you and for me! Easter was a time of rejoicing and awakening for the disciples. They finally realized what He was really capable of and what He had really done for them. Have you considered the magnitude of what Christ is really able to do? Have you thought about His role up in Heaven at God's right hand interceding for you? We should be like the disciples of old and rejoice and be awakened to what Jesus is doing and has done for each one of us.

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,” 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Our church was blessed by a good turnout for our invite-a-friend weekend. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship. Our church always enjoys visitors! We would also like to thank visiting ministers Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise) both of West Bend for sharing God’s Word. May God richly bless them for being willing servants.

“...He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Deloris Messerli as she is hospitalized. May God be with her and grant healing as He wills.

Missouri, Kansas City
Brittany Fehr
We rejoice with Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch, who recently welcomed Jonas Robert to their family! Jonas is welcomed by siblings: Anna, Timon, Jesse, Alice, and Milan. Grandparents are Bill and Susan Emch (Madison, KS) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley).
Even as we are grateful to witness the miracle of a new birth in our congregation, we are also grateful each time we witness the miracle of a spiritual rebirth. Ron Trayford (Lois, parents of Sis. Michelle Meyer) recently made a beginning in repentance, for which we are so thankful! Ron is battling severe health challenges, and we keep him and Lois (who is currently hospitalized) in our prayers.

We have welcomed two other new additions to our congregation recently. Bro. Willie Hofstetter has relocated to our area from Toledo, OH, for work. Bro. Don Katanic (Minneapolis, MN) has begun a job in our area before his wedding to our Sis. Anna Donahue in July, Lord willing. We regret that our gain comes at the loss of other small congregations and know these brothers will be missed in their previous home churches.

Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS) were our visiting ministers recently. As they have faithfully planted seed, may God bring the increase.

On behalf of the trustees, we thank everyone who donated their time and effort at our spring church work day.

Missouri, Lamar
Venetta Banwart

As we reflect on the Easter season, one can only imagine the suffering Christ endured for us those last days here on earth. It was good for us to be reminded of that during our Good Friday service. Thanks to Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) for being willing to feed us from his Holy Word that night.

Our visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) Bro. Ned Bahlke (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL). May God grant each one a rich measure of His blessing for being willing to come and feed us from his Holy Word. We would also like to thank our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for being here on a Wednesday night to give us a little history lesson on the background of our church.

May God continue to grant His healing strength to our hospital patient this month, Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard).

I had the privilege to travel to Haiti on a medical work team this month. It is a blessing that one can only imagine to have the health care system we have here in the USA. There is a lot of work that has been done from loving brethren to make the hospital in Bonn Finn a great place to receive great care. May God continue to grant the missionary’s there in Haiti His rich blessing and guidance for future projects that are needed there.

Missouri, St. Louis
Kary Mangers

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

We were able to share in this joy as Bro. Landon Wuethrich shared his testimony of faith and was baptized this past month. We pray God’s blessing on Landon as he continues to run the race set before him. Our Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor), Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis), and Landon’s parents, Bro. Chris and Sis Carla Wuethrich (Chicago), all shared in bringing God’s Word during this special weekend – thank you. We also thank Bro. Kent and Bro. Steve for conducting our Communion service the night of the testimony. It was truly a night of remembrance for what Christ did for us.

Bro. Kent and Sis Jan also joined us this month for our annual business meeting and the reading of the memorandum. We appreciate the support and love they give our church. Thank you to Elder Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf (Latty) for joining us and helping carry out the duties of our elder body.

We were blessed by the Washington Bible Class when they came and worshipped with us as part of their weekend away in St. Louis. We appreciated the fellowship our visiting ministers Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig (Washington) and Bro. Dave
and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann (Champaign) provided. May each be blessed for their investment in our church and God’s kingdom.

Missouri, Taylor

Marcia Sutter

On April 27, Bro. Tom (Sis. Jane) Bollinger from Tremont, IL visited with their family and moved their daughter, Sis. Rebecca, to Quincy, IL, where she will be working at Blessing Hospital. We welcome Sis. Rebecca to our church. Many thanks to Bro. Tom for preaching the morning service.

On May 6, Bro. Craig (Sis. Jacqueline) Stickling from Peoria, IL came and presented the monthly Bible study on the “Impact of Holiness”. The Taylor church appreciates his willingness to come and serve us.

Mothers’ Day is a special day for all of us. For those of us that have a godly mother, we want to thank God for that special blessing. We are also thankful for our grandmothers, great-grandmothers, mothers-in-law, adopted moms, foster moms, and special church mothers who took the place of a mother when circumstances placed us in need of a mother figure. The main ingredient that puts all these women in the category of “mother” is love, and all the many times they prayed that we would find salvation and be safe. The greatest gift that we can give a person is to love them and teach them about God’s love.

The Sunday School children filed in at the end of the morning service on May 11 and sang the song “Tell Mother I’ll Be There” and read a story about a mother that was found in a devotional book. A special thanks to the Sunday School children, the teachers and Bro. Rodney Heimer for their wonderful tribute to mothers.

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. “Is the way long?” she asked. And her Guide said: “Yes. And the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning.”

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed with them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother cried, “Nothing could be lovelier than this.”

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the Mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, “Oh Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near and no harm has come.” And the Mother said, “This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage.”

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the Mother was weary but at all times she said to the children, “A little patience and we are there.” So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said, “We could not have done it without you Mother.” And the Mother, when she lay down that night, looked at the stars and said: “This day was better than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardship. Yesterday I gave them courage, today I have given them strength.”

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the Mother said, “Look up. Lift up your eyes to the Light.” And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said: “This is the best day of all, for I have shone my children God.”

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the Mother grew old, and she was little and bent. But the children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their Mother, and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gate flung wide.

And when the Mother said: “I have reached the end of my
journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them.” And the children said: “You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates.” And they stood and watched as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: “We cannot see her but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence.” -- Temple Bailey from *Food for Tho’*

**New York, Croghan-Naumburg**

*Hope Graves*

We were thankful to have brethren from Ohio with us on Wednesday evening, May 14. High school students traveled here from Heritage School to serve us dinner before our song service. The next day they were able to visit a local business and receive some education from our local area, including the Maple Museum. What a blessing that they made this great effort to join us for a midweek service. Thanks for the wonderful meal and fellowship!

Our prayers go out to Sis. Anna Mellnitz who is hospitalized.

We join our ministering Bro. Jacob Kuntz and Sis. Brooke in welcoming baby Jesse Brett on Mother’s Day, May 11. Jesse joins Lucas, Levi, Aaron, Angelise, Katelyn and Karissa at home. May the Lord bless this growing family!

**Ohio, Akron**

*Carla Miller*

We are thankful for the willingness of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) to assist in serving Communion to our congregation. We also appreciate the ministers who came to visit this month: Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH).

Our congregation is grateful for God’s provision of renewed health for Bro. John Schamback (Sis. Joyce) after a recent hospital stay.


We rejoice with Andrew Graf, Adeline Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) and Michael Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) as they were announced as having peace with God.

Our high school graduates this year are Brenda and Lindsay Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy), Carmen Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia), Ruben Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Ginger), and Sarah Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol).

**Ohio, Columbus**

*Tim McMillan*

It has been asked of me to again report to the Silver Lining for a congregation. With the Lord’s help and your prayers I will be able to comply.

We began this period reading Jeremiah 5. Verse 22 reminds us to fear the Lord, as He has bound the sea with the sand that it cannot pass ever, no matter how strong the storm. Yet we cannot even bind a river. Great is His majesty!

We are thankful that the ministering brothers are willing to travel to our small congregation. Those visiting this period were Bro. Randy Gudeman, (Sis. Becky), Francesville IN. Pray that the Lord’s teachings will be well spoken and well received!

A farewell was given to the family of Bro. Tom & Sis. Elaine Hill. They moved to the Rittman OH area. May the Lord keep watch over them.

“There’s a tie of noble kinship in a soul who loves the Lord. There’s a friendship warm and lasting if he heads the Master’s word. There is a mutual understanding and a sympathy so kind in the tie of a Christian friendship as on earth we often find.”

*Hymns of Zion* #91 vs. 3

We began this period reading from *The Book of Ruth*. Verse 8 of chapter 8 reads “write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the kings name, and seal it with the kings ring: for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the kings ring, may
no man reverse." Jesus, King of Kings and our Lord, has written His word and sealed it, and no man may reverse it. It is unwise to not heed the Kings word in all matters as it is written for His people.

We are thankful so many Brothers and their wives have put in their hearts to visit our small church to preach the Word. Randy Beer (Debra), Milford, IN. Jon Pratt (Sharon) Valparaiso, IN. Don Steidl (Nan) Akron, OH. and Elder Bros. Mark Masters & Lynn Stieglitz were able to share of their time with us for Wednesday meetings.

Beautiful and healthy baby Moriah Joy was born to Todd & Esther Saurer on Feb. 12. There is always a joy in watching the young grow. May God keep the whole family healthy for years to come!

"O, willingly endure! For God's Word doth assure that thou should suffer still, according to His will" Zion's Harp #156 Vs. 1

We began this period reading from Mark Ch. 6. Verse 42 reads "and they did all eat, and were filled." There is not enough paper and ink to write all that God has done, yet He has given us His word in writing. It is for us to eat from when our spirits hunger. The Holy Bible is enough for us all to be full. Praise God for His word!

We are thankful so many are willing to come to our small congregation to preach for us, as we are hungered. Visiting ministers were; Bob Riggenbach (Lorrie), Rittman, OH. Todd Sinn (Janet), Lattie, OH. And Tony Manz (Denise), Junction, OH. May the work of these brethren flourish to glorify the Lord!

Such joy was found at the marriage of Sis. Rebecca (Becca) Tieche and Bro. Nathaniel Steiner on March 30. We look forward to their joining our congregation in worshiping God. May their lives together be rich and fulfilling.

We look forward to Holy supper on May 3, and in reflecting on the annual exhortation I am reminded that I should exhort myself daily to remain on the righteous path Jesus took before me.

"Jesus I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee; destitute, despised, forsaken, thou, from hence, my all shall be: perish every fond ambition, all I've sought, and hoped, and known; yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own!"
Hymns of Zion #169 vs. 1

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller
Mindy Stoller

What a privilege we had to celebrate the Easter season and remember Christ’s death and suffering this month! Our church enjoyed a beautiful Easter program put on by the Latty Adult and Children’s Choir. We cannot thank our God enough.

We also were blessed to hear Bro. Dave Klopfenstein (Sis. LouAnn, Phoenix, AZ) talk on “Christians in Combat”. What a solemn reminder that freedom isn’t free. Thank you, Bro. Dave, for your service and sharing your experiences with us.

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

We rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Sis. Marla Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) to Bro. David Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis, Rockville, CT).
On the same note, May 4 was the wedding of Bro. Nate Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Hannah Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth, Bluffton, IN). We wish them all God’s blessings and continued guidance!

We are grateful to the brothers who ministered to us this month. Thanks to Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twyla, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN).

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Loren Schenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) were willing to bring forth the Word. May God bless each one!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean Myers, Sis. Sarah Rice, and Bro. John Miller (Sis. Lillian), who have suffered from illness and spent time in the hospital.

We wish God’s blessings on John and Madalyn Ramsey as they were united in marriage and begin their new life together. Thankful parents are Bro. John and Sis. Dawn Ramsey and Mark and Elizabeth Contrascere.

Ohio, Rittman
Anna Bauman
Julie Steiner

Our church rejoiced over six souls’ testimonies and baptisms during the weekend of May 17 and 18. Bro. Heath Gerber (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann), Bro. Steven and Sis. Lisa Widmer, Sis. Renee Schaaf (Matt), Sis. Joelle Maibach (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois), and Bro. Roy Zollinger (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb) had the privilege of making lifelong covenants with their God. We give thanks to God for His unspeakable gift through Jesus Christ.

This past month, Fredona Schiffer (94) had the presence of mind, by God’s Mercy, to make a confession of her faith and begin repenting. How lovingly God calls, even unto the “eleven-and-a-half hour”. Nine days afterward, Fredona’s life here on this earth ended. Our sympathy goes to her two children, grandchildren, and other relatives. Also, the breath of life has ended for our Sis. Margaret Betz. She assembled with us for the past several years, and leaves behind many beloved relatives and friends.

Sullivan Rowen was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynn Baltic on May 12. Older siblings are Drew, Lincoln, and Violet. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis Betty Baltic and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jené Rufener. Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller were blessed with a new son, Jordan Wayne, on May 16. Siblings: Lauren, Kaitlyn, Caleb, Christopher, and Heather welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and John and Emily Rufener.

Pain here in this life is often experienced. Yet still the tears flow when we hear of those who are hurting. Adam Baltic (Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy) experienced a severe leg accident. Gladys Bauman underwent surgery. May the Lord bless them with a speedy recovery.

We are thankful to God for enabling brothers to “Call and cry, ye watchman boldly”. Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Vic Bauman (Smithville); and Bros. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Todd Graf (Akron, OH), and Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Our graduates this year are Bryce Bauman, Emma Boltz, Cynthia Dotterer, Joanna Gasser, Baylor Hartzler, Tresa Hartzler, Sis. Trinda Hartzler, Martha Jenkins, Caitlin Keiper, Kody Kosier, Bro. Nicholas Lanz, Hope Leonhard, Brittney Miller, Mitchell Murray, Jeriah Riggenbach, Kathryn Rufener, Sis. Lora Rufener, Levi Schar, Riane Stahl, Riley Stahl, Sis. Jessica Steiner, Bro. Brian Stoller, Derek Stoller, Joel Stoller, Tyson Stoudmire, and Bro. Roy Zollinger. May God be with these individuals as they trust in His guidance.

Note of Thanks:
Greetings from near and far—Just a short note expressing my appreciation for all your well-wishes and concern you have
shown me throughout the years. God richly bless you for your deeds of love and kindness and for all the prayers offered in my behalf. Thank you for your love and for the beautiful cards I have received for my 100th birthday! It was very much appreciated! I am so thankful that I could enjoy my day with family and friends. Both my husband and I want to thank you all, from the bottom of our heart. God richly bless you!!

In Christian Love, Mitch and Violet Baltic

Ohio, Smithville

Sara Crist
Kara Stoller

A baptism weekend on May 10-11 provided much reason to rejoice and offer thanks. Sis. Courtney Gasser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Jason Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) both testified that their own goodness fell far short of the high and perfect standards of a Holy God. We praise God for the blood of His Son that covers all sins and that two more souls have believed, trusted, repented and are now reconciled to Him.

May 4 was a special day for Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger as their son Bro. Nathan Zollinger (Latty, OH) took for his wife, Sis. Hannah Fiechter (Bluffton, IN, Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth). We wish the new couple a joy-filled marriage that brings much glory to our God and Creator.

Our church said farewell to Earl Hartzler, whose life came to a close on April 19 after a period of declining health. Our deepest sympathy extends to Earl’s sister, Lois Hartzler, with whom he lived.

Thank you to all of the elders and ministers who visited us recently: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). May God demonstrate His Spirit and His power (1 Cor. 2:4) through all that minister in His name.

Ohio, Toledo

Deanna Manz
Jenny Manz

On a recent Friday evening, the women and girls from our church were graciously served a “Women’s Appreciation Supper” hosted by the men and boys. It was an enjoyable time fellowshipping, followed by an evening of singing praises to our Heavenly Father.

Our elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) preached the Word on a Thursday evening this month. We thank the Lord for his service on our behalf.

If your summer travels bring you near the Toledo area, we hope you consider spending a Thursday evening or Sunday worshipping with us!

Oregon, Portland

Louisa Gallup

As always, we are thankful for the visitors we have had this past month. We offer special gratitude for Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) from Silverton, OR for sharing the Word. We enjoyed having them and their families with us. It also bears mentioning how much we appreciate the song leader help we have received over the past years from the Silverton brethren. It adds a real blessing to our small congregation to have
one or two families join us for worship, singing and fellowship.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Leman as it was announced recently, that their daughter Nelia is at peace and ready for the next step in her walk with the Lord. We wish her God’s continued peace and guidance and look forward to her baptism.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you so very much for all the birthday cards, calls, flowers and food, people sent for my 80th birthday. Sis. Barbara Moser.

The Bernson and Gallup families wish to thank those who supported us in prayer, sent cards with kind words and comforting thoughts, shared food and gifts at the death of our (Grand)mother Aleida Bernson. Special efforts were made by those who sent sympathy cards overseas to my father. Thank you for doing that, he appreciated it. May the Lord bless you all for caring. Bro. Mark & Sis. Louisa Gallup and family.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder
Ann Kuenzi

Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa Kuenzi are rejoicing in being new grandparents. Bro. Tristin and Sis. Chelsea (Lester, IA) have a new little one to love named Kaiden Robert, born April 17.

We mourn with Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen in the death of their expected grandchild. Bro. Todd and Sis. Kara Strahm’s adopted child was delivered stillborn April 19. His name is LeMonde Cale Davis.

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth Kuenzi are rejoicing in being grandparents again. Their son, Brad, and his wife, Tiffany, have a new little daughter, Annabelle Tina. She was born April 22, and is also welcomed home by Trevon and Madelyn.

Visiting our pulpit this month were Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa), and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), both from Portland, OR. We appreciate them coming.

May 6 and 8 were church clean-up days. It is so nice to see a clean, well-maintained building and grounds. Working together is always a blessing.

Recovering from shoulder surgery is Bro. Jim Kuenzi (Sis. Barb). We wish him a speedy return of the use of his right arm.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

This week we were cautioned on placing our trust in uncertain riches. We heard an account of a 65 year-old man who had much saved and was looking forward to retirement. He was told he would only live about 2 years. While sobering, this was a good reminder that we must put our faith in God and leave our lives in His hands.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike and Monica Fritz

We were blessed on Easter Sunday with a brief Sunday School program.

Recently, Bro. Buck Henry was appointed as a new trustee and Sis. Taunia Henry was appointed as Sunday School teacher. We trust that the Lord will help each to fulfill their responsibilities faithfully to the glory of God. We want to thank Elder Bro. John Laukhuf for filling in as a trustee for the last few years and Sis. Monica Fritz and Sis. Mahlia Fritz for their willing service in teaching Sunday School for the last couple years.

We are thankful for our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago), and Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington-Normal), and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City).

We have also been blessed by many visitors from Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, and Eureka, IL; and West Lafayette, IN.

In addition, we were encouraged in our Christian walk during a recent visit by Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty), Curt Frank (LaCrosse), Bill Schlatter (Junction), and Ted Steffen (Alto).

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contact Bro. Don & Sis. Faye Sauder, 615.373.8928, or
Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin
Candy Meiss

Sending our love and greetings from Austin!
We all feel wonderfully grateful to have ministers and others come visit us. We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) with us for Communion service. Other visiting ministers this month included: Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) for Good Friday and Easter services; Bro. James Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR); and Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) here to preach the Word.

Minister’s schedule: 5/18: Forrest, IL; 6/01: Remington, IN; and 6/08: Roanoke, IL.

This is a beautiful time to visit us. We are thankful for the renewed hope that accompanies Springtime. We welcome anyone passing through to worship with us. Please refer to the minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth

Services are generally being held the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. Please call ahead to verify. Leland and Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

Texas, McAllen
Joyce Nohl

We want to thank the ministering brothers who came to share God’s Holy Word this month: Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX).

Services are scheduled for June 8, Altadena, CA; June 22, Bloomington-Normal, IL; July 27, Cisna Park, IL. We encourage any who plan to visit during the summer months to contact us if they plan to worship with us on Sundays as these dates could be changed.

Andy and Kristi Plattner have a 2-bedroom apartment available one block from the Gulf at South Padre Island for visitors who wish to spend time there. You may call them at 956-433-9844 for more information.

Vermont, Clarendon
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

You are welcome to worship and fellowship with us anytime. Contact Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter at 802-447-2426 or nmrbenn6@gmail.com to let us know when you are planning to be in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:
• Mid-week services
  (Contact local brethren)

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” Revelation 3:5
News & Notices

Annual New Martinsville Memorial Service

June 28-29, 2014

The Sardis congregation invites you to the annual Memorial Service at our New Martinsville Church, Sunday, June 29. In addition to this once-a-year Sunday song and worship service, we also have a Saturday evening service June 28, 7:30pm at Sardis church. Contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593 for further information. Accommodations will be provided, if desired. Single groups are appreciated. A special invitation is extended to visiting ministers.
Foster Care Case Worker Needed – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Foster Care Case Manager. This position provides the opportunity to work with foster families and foster children. Bachelors Degree in Social Work preferred, but will consider a Bachelors Degree or experience in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.

Please prayerfully consider this opening and contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

Britni Eisenmann
Foster Care Program Manager
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
britni.eisenmann@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell: 260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact:
Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742

Alternate Houseparent Needed - Gateway Woods

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to a change in staff, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. This position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore this possibility, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Clint Plattner
Residential Program Manager
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell: 260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com
Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker Needed – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work partially with adoptive families and partially with hurting children and families in our Home-Based Program. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children and families. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

Jeff Waibel
Director of Clinical Services
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell:260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

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Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website:
www.acpublications.org
After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
**Teaching Position Available – Gateway Woods**

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 6th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Adam McAfee  
Director of Education  
PO Box 125,  
Leo, IN 46765  
888.443.4283  
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
15417 Doty Rd.  
New Haven, IN 46774  
260.466.6712  
lynnstieg@gmail.com

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**Mentor Couple or Single Mother Needed**  
**– The New Beginnings of Southwest FL**

A mentor couple or single mother is needed at The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida. Requires a heart to help single mothers and their children. Age: 35-60.

Please prayerfully consider this need. Contact information is listed below. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of single mothers and children.

William & Mary Masters  
Ph: 239.541.4312  
Email: TheNewBeginningsofSWFL@yahoo.com  
Website: TheNewBeginnings.org

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**Bible Distribution: Sharing the Word in Love**

“When there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Prov 29:18

Bibles in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ. The inventory is computerized. These materials can be drop-shipped to nearly any address. To order, contact:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution  
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742  
Ph: 309-965-2141 • bibledistribution@acpublications.org
Registered Nurse Needed - Apostolic Christian Home, Rittman, OH

Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman, Ohio, is seeking a registered nurse to fill the Director of Nursing position that will be opening soon. Qualifications include a registered nurse license in Ohio and a heart to serve the elderly in a Christian atmosphere. Experience in a nursing supervisory role is preferred. General duties include directing and implementing nursing services including skilled nursing care, assisted living and independent living, along with supervising our nursing team of caregivers.

Should the Lord place on your heart the desire to make a difference in the lives of the elderly within a Christian ministry please contact:

Curt Walter, Administrator
10680 Steiner Road
Rittman, OH 44270
330-927-1010
cwalter@apostolichome.com

For more information about the community visit us at www.apostolichome.org.
Summer Worship Services in Colorado

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, Lord willing, we plan to hold services at the following location:

July 20 and July 27, 2014
Breckenridge River Mountain Lodge in Summit County
100 South Park Avenue, Breckenridge, CO 80424
Office: (970) 453-4711

Breckenridge is located in Summit County. If you take the Frisco exit on Interstate 70, Breckenridge is about 9 miles past Frisco on Highway 9. It is less than 2 hours from Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista.

There is free parking available in lots north and south of the entrance that are only about a 5 minute walk away.

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministers from Denver church will be supporting the service, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort also, if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don’t want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations.

For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. (303) 696-1301  E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families:
Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday Service: (held monthly at guesthouse residence) 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
For schedule, see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork
4733 Birdie Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-0072

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875
English Teacher Needed in Ixtlan, Mexico

Colegio de las Américas is a church-funded elementary school in Ixtlán, MX. They have an opening for an English teacher to teach grades 1-6 for the 2014-2015 school year, beginning in August.

While options exist to hire a Mexican English teacher, they really desire Christian teachers that can be examples to our students. If you meet the qualifications below, please prayerfully consider becoming an English teacher in Ixtlán.

Qualifications:
- Member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church.
- A degree in Education and/or TESOL is preferred but not required.
- Ability to communicate in the Spanish language.
- Enjoys being with and working with children. Ability to manage a classroom.
- Willing to be sent by the AC Mission Committee and to work together as a missionary team in Ixtlán.

El Colegio de las Américas is a private Christian school that is focused on teaching Biblical values to students while providing a solid education which is often difficult to find in Mexico.

Counselling Elder for Ixtlan:
Mike Leman

Contact:
Please contact Bro. Matt Gerber for more information about this opportunity to serve.
magerbe@gmail.com

Facilities Director at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumière, Bonne Fin, Haiti is seeking a qualified person to be assigned as Facilities Director of the hospital. Our present Facilities Director is planning to relocate January 1, 2015.

Position description
The Facilities Director is directly involved in managing the maintenance and repair of all hospital vehicles and non-medical equipment, and managing the renovation and construction of hospital buildings and facilities. This management includes developing programs of preventive maintenance and supervision of all personnel involved in the stated maintenance. The Facilities Director is a member of the Hospital Lumiere Leadership Team.

The applicant should have experience in construction, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church, be willing to learn Creole and willing to relocate to Haiti for a minimum of two (2) years and up to five (5) years.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
Governance Board
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

www.acworldrelief.org
Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity – Washington, D.C.

The Washington, DC church caretaker program is entering its eighth year. It has been such a blessing for our visiting caretakers, as well as our local members and friends. We have several openings for 2014, and are taking reservations for 2015 as well. Our church home is located in Silver Spring, MD, and meets both church and residential needs.

The fellowship that caretakers provide is vital to our small congregation and visiting ministers. Caretakers can be couples, singles or families who would enjoy spending time near the Nation’s Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast. Caretakers would perform routine household and yard maintenance chores, and should plan to stay at least three Sundays.

Families with children are urged to give this opportunity prayerful consideration. We have three children (pre-teen and teen), who would welcome other children in their Sunday School class.

For more information, please contact Barry and Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com

Communications Coordinator Job Opening

Position Description
The Communications Coordinator will be an integral part of the World Relief / Mission Committee Communications Team and provide hands-on coordination of a wide variety of projects. This person is the primary production-oriented person who ensures projects stay on track and deadlines are met. He/she works regularly with the Communications Director, Regional Communications Managers, other volunteer contributors, graphic designers and miscellaneous vendors.

Qualifications (partial list)
1. Desire to see God glorified and the church edified by using your talents to support those who serve others.
2. Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines in a well-managed way.
3. Experience with Adobe Creative Suite, especially InDesign and Photoshop.
4. Excellent communications skills, particularly writing.
5. Highly organized.
6. Tech savvy. Able to quickly learn new software.
7. Experience engaging people on social media.
8. Willingness to relocate to the West Lafayette / Remington / Wolcott area.
9. Experience working in a marketing department or advertising agency is a definite plus.

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.

To Learn More
For a complete job description and/or more information, email Dan Weerts (address below.)

How to Apply
Send resume, salary expectations, and writing samples to: dweerts@acmission.org
-- or to --
Dan Weerts
Apostolic Christian World Relief
16448 S. US Hwy 231
Remington, IN 47977

If you have graphic design samples, send those as well.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF
www.acworldrelief.org
Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

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

The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through 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

To sponsor a student fill out this form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name ________________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Spouse ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ____________ St ____ Zip ______

Home Ph ____________________________

Cell Ph ________________________________

Email ________________________________

If possible I would prefer:

☐ Boy – Age ________

☐ Girl – Age ________

☐ No Preference

Cost: $30.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

World Relief Informational Meetings

Opportunities to Serve One Another

The mission of World Relief is to provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world, first to the household of faith, and then to others as much as we are able, in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory to God.

We thank God for the various opportunities to help the needy of the world made available to our congregations through World Relief, not only with funds, but with volunteer labor by our brethren.

One way to hear about these opportunities is to attend one of three presentations held throughout the year.

Schedule

The Western Meeting is held the second Saturday of March and is rotated between the Apostolic Christian Churches west of the line between Indiana and Illinois.

The Eastern Meeting is held on the second Saturday of November and is rotated between the churches in Indiana and all churches eastward.

Also, Thursday before the conference in August, there are presentations scheduled by the church holding the conference.

For more information, go to the World Relief web site (www.acworldrelief.org) and check under Informational Meetings.

Next meetings

Eastern Meeting:

Rittman, OH

November 8, 2014

8:00 am - 4:00 pm EST

Meeting Before Conference:

Lester, IA church basement

August 7, 2014

1:50 pm - 4:00 pm CST
### Haiti Medical Work Teams

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<th>Project</th>
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### Jamaica Work Teams

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### Mexico Work Teams

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“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (v.7) Well, we know the examples, don’t we? Maybe even Absalom is one of those examples where the father perhaps didn’t spend much time in correction with him and just let him have his own way. Many today can go to seminars and learn these things about how children want to be good. That’s not what the Word says. It says our hearts are evil and they go to evil continually (Genesis 6:5). We see it in ourselves, and it’s no different with the children. They need to be taught those ways that are right just as each one of us did when we were young. It takes effort, and it takes action for it to happen.

As we get farther into the thoughts on the correction - and it’s not that we never do anything right. I don’t want to come across like that, but we do need a lot of correction - we can think of ourselves as we were children. We can think of ourselves where we are at today. Every day, how many times, we need that nudging, that correction.

It tells us in verse nine, “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence…” I think this is somewhat what Jesus was speaking about. We recognize how important it is to give honor to our parents. It’s in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12). Jesus spoke about the importance of honoring also (St. Matthew 19:19, St. Mark 10:19). It again establishes the pattern that, as we would submit to our parents and submit through those years of growing, we would then be ready to submit to the Father when we have reached that age of accountability.

“...shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (v.9) When Jesus spoke about this, He was speaking to the Jews who were considering who? Who did they consider to be their father? They considered Abraham to be their father. I believe there was a real challenge both on the part of Jesus and then again of Paul as he continued writing his letters to help them recognize that though Abraham was a father of faith - he’s recognized here in Hebrews also as one that was faithful (Hebrews 11:8,17); maybe there are some for us, perhaps not our earthly father, but ones that we recognize have taught us and have walked a life of faith - I think Jesus was working with them to get them to recognize that their Father is God, the One that is in heaven, is not mortal, is not one walking the earth. The examples that we have here on earth of our earthly fathers are not all good, are they? Some really struggle with their parents - sad to say. Not so with God. Sometimes we struggle because things happen that we don’t think are right or fair or quite the way we would have liked it, but it’s always for our good, isn’t it? That’s the trust we can have with our Father.

“...shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits…”, he says, “…and live?” (v.9) This is not just a belief in God so that we can go to heaven, although it is there and it is a promise for us, but it is also how we live here below. Whether we live in a fear and a condemnation that we are in a fallen world and that’s just the way it is or whether we live with a hope and overcome by the grace of God every day, I think that’s what he means when he says “and live” - the abundant life that is given for us.

“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure…” (v.10). Now I don’t know about you, Brothers, but when I read that, I sometimes feel quite guilty because it’s so true. How many times have I asked the children to be quiet just so I can have some quietness? Not because
it’s really necessary, but just be quiet. Just for our own pleasure sometimes, and what he tells us here is that God never does that. He does not just ask us to do something just for His benefit. It’s for our profit, for our learning. Such a purity! Such a righteousness! “…but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness” (v.10) - because He wants what is best for us. That’s a challenge for us that, as we would train the children, we would have that same purpose in the training – that’s it’s for their benefit.

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous…” (v.11). We can all understand what that’s saying, can’t we, because we’ve all been there and been on the receiving end of correction. It’s not pleasant. Whether it was when we were a child or even now when we’re doing something we know we should not be, and it gets pointed out to us. We feel that guilt, but then how does it affect us? This is the beautiful molding as a child being corrected and being willing to be corrected instead of being rebellious.

“…afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness…” - but I really like how the last part of this verse goes - “…unto them which are exercised thereby.” (v.11). To me that reads that it’s not just a one-time thing, but when I think of exercise, I think of constant, I think of continuous, I think of persistent to receive that correction. What does it take to receive correction? Doesn’t it take humility? A humble heart? Because the opposite is to not receive correction. When someone would point out that we are walking in danger, not doing as we should, and we refuse to listen. We go on in a great boldness and certainty that we are right. It just speaks of pride, doesn’t it?

Knowing that we are fine and our thoughts are to be taken above somebody else’s because we know - when so often we don’t amongst one another but especially with God. Who are we?

So just in reading this we can see that one of the expectations of fathers is correction for the child, a guiding and a purpose to get them on the path. Again it needs to be for their benefit that they can grow, that they can know which path to take. I don’t think of it just with a small child either. I think even as they get older and even for those that are adults to get the counsel and wisdom of their parents. It shows humility, a willingness to be taught, to learn. It’s so sad, isn’t it, when we see families that get torn apart and not willing to communicate to each other anymore? Each of us should make an effort to reach out, to touch, to hear, to honor, and to be with our parents.

“Wherefore…”, after we hear this then, after the recognition that correction is good, that it helps us to grow, and that it is needful both in the physical and in the spiritual, then it says, “Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;” (v.12). I think of this as those that are discouraged. Those that are ‘I can’t make it; I’m not good enough; it never works out!’ Look around! See those individuals, and help them. It says, lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees, those that can no longer hardly make it one step in front of the next. “And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way…” (v.13). I don’t really understand that part of the verse, but it speaks to me of looking around and seeing those that need to be encouraged, that need to be strengthened. He had just told us here, you’re going to get correction, and it doesn’t feel good at the time. There are going to be those that feel like they’re broken and that they just can’t go on anymore. We need to lift them up because the correction is for their good. If they go on, having received the correction, they will be blessed. It’s speaking
to us. Sometimes we’re the hands which hang down, and we need that encouragement. Sometimes it’s others.

“And make straight paths for your feet.” Don’t delay! That’s how I read that. Don’t procrastinate! Don’t say I’ll do it some other time or when I have time, then I’ll make sure I do it. When are we going to have time? We have time right now. It’s our choice. Take it or lose it.

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (v.14). So as we would consider those things that are most important - follow peace with all men, and holiness with God - it takes us back to the thought, what is the whole law summed up as? To love God with our heart, soul, mind, strength and one another. It’s speaking to that right here. How can we have peace with all men? Is that what the world looks like today? Everyone just getting along? That’s so wonderful. Rare, isn’t it? But, we should seek it and to do our part.

This holiness, isn’t that what men run after? Everyone just wants to be holy for God? No! They are running the opposite direction. As we would see this wave of the world running the opposite direction, as we set our eyes and we walk the path, they are going to notice. They are going to say, what are you doing going that way? Come on, let’s go this way. And it’s our duty and our opportunity to share with them. No, why are you running after that filth? Come this way! Let’s follow after those things that are right.

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God…” (v.15). So what does he say is going to help us out? It’s going to be the grace of God, isn’t it? But there are some dangers when we get corrected and when we get instructed. “…lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;” (v.15). How many times does that happen when somebody corrects us, and we say, well who are you? Maybe we don’t say it to their face. Why should I listen to them? Why can’t I do it my own way? All these thoughts of pride come out, and if we dwell on them, if we let them take us, this bitterness can rise up. Even children against their parents: Why don’t you ever let me….? Why can’t we….? It’s for our good!

So, we need to utilize that grace of God to overcome such thoughts because what happens? Thoughts lead to actions. Actions lead to sin, and sin leads to death. That’s what he’s telling us here. We need to guard our thoughts at the very beginning before they become actions.

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” (v.16). That one thing at that one time seemed so necessary - if I don’t get that food, I’m going to die. If I don’t get to do what I want to do, then nothing else matters. That’s how Satan comes to us. Then when it’s over, was it really worth it? Did Esau really need that stew so bad? No! He says, “For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected…” (v.17). He lost that. Even though he sought it in repentance, it was not there for him.

So it’s a real danger for those of us as believers as Satan would bring these things up for us and would tempt us. We must be on guard. We do not want him to get the advantage and to be able to take us back where we came from. The Word teaches us very clearly about not turning back to those things but keeping our eyes on the prize (Philippians 3:13-14). We have so many things that can help us do that if we are willing to listen and to be corrected.

So He gives us the example of the earthly fathers so we could recognize the example and the

— Please turn to pg. 65
Fellowship, a spiritual companionship on equal and friendly terms, is a special blessing to those united in the love of Christ. Sharing experiences and listening to those of others will strengthen our relationships and is another way of cultivating true joy and unity. "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind " (Philippians 2:1-2). Making a conscious effort to listen is an essential part of edifying fellowship, “…he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” (Isaiah 50:4). We perform a very important service when we listen with the sincere intent to identify with and understand one another’s feelings or difficulties. With understanding and genuine compassion and regard for our brother, we can bear “… one another’s burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

Serving others: Performing loving humble deeds of service for our fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ requires an attitude of esteeming the welfare of others over that of our own, as evidenced by Christ’s teaching, “For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27). We have the opportunity to serve not only our fellow believers, but also anyone who needs our help, or anyone for whom we have an opportunity of doing good, “Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then Jesus said unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:36-37). Pride, selfishness, and spiritual idleness are timeless warnings and they compete against, or weaken, our willingness to serve, “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy” (Ezekiel 16:49). Rather, we are to be motivated by unselfish love, “…by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

If we at times find ourselves somewhat discouraged or pessimistic, we can pray as David did that God would “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” (Psalm 51:12). May each one of us do his or her part to encourage and strengthen one another as we strive to walk in faith, grace and hope for our common goal, “Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Phil. 1:2-6).

Godly Ranchers...

— Continued from pg. 7

new well and install underground piping to put additional property into productive service.

Opportunities to build relationships of trust are not unique to a children’s home in Mexico. They are common to most all of us. As we model responsible living and serve others in taking the “short end” of the deal, we open doors of relationship that enable them to trust us with their inmost hurts. Therein the gospel of Jesus has healing and relevance.

Learn more about CVE at
Called to Serve...
— Continued from pg. 6

do or say about anything to survive and they have learned this skill very well. Naturally wanting to trust people, we need discernment with many daily situations.

The biggest challenge before us was the language barrier, so we concentrated on learning Creole our first three months. We cannot relate to or function well with the Haitians without the ability to communicate with them. When they hear us attempt to converse in their tongue, they believe we are here to stay and serve. This training was invaluable as we recently began our work in the Child Sponsorship office and needed to interact with employees, pastors and sponsored children.

While communicating in Creole remains a big mountain for us, we see progress every week!

While currently learning the daily functions of the Child Sponsorship office, we hope to add value in helpful and encouraging ways, especially living out the Gospel message in word and deed. We hope to add more lunch programs and increase school visits, as well as increase communications and accountability back to the sponsors. We are so thankful to serve here and to share God’s Word when the opportunity is given. “Look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.” – John 4:35.

What the Lord has begun, He surely will perform! May the Lord bless everyone for your prayers and support.

- Mike & Susie Walder

Sermon...
— Continued from pg. 63

instruction of the heavenly Father, the One that looks down with such love and care, even as we read of David with Absalom, when the son was doing everything against him, leading armies out to kill him. I think of Saul leading a pack of men to go and destroy the Christians. God would reach down and say that is the man I want to serve me. That is the one I want. Individually, one at a time, probably at those kinds of times in our lives when we are going most against God, He reaches out in love and says, I want you. Come, follow me. Come be my child.

Then He talks about how we can become His children, sons of the living God, brothers and sisters to Jesus Christ. Do we have any right? We do not. Jesus Christ was the only Son of God, but God made a way, through Jesus and His blood, that we can become brothers and sisters to Jesus Christ, sons of the living God, and He as our Father. He will correct and will draw us to Him that we can receive the love that He wants to share with us and with everyone. Let’s share that message today.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

The Nazareans

From an American perspective, we mostly look at our Apostolic Christian Church history as being instigated in Switzerland, and thence coming to American shores in 1847 when Benedict Weyeneth was dispatched to upstate New York (in Lewis County) to speak to a group of Mennonites who were not getting along. Soon the first church of our faith was established here in the United States. Yet, in view of this, our special faith has a much broader scope.

It is instructive to note that the original church established by Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich in Switzerland not only headed westward to America, but in time headed eastward into the Balkan states where eventually multitudes turned to the Lord in Hungary, Yugoslavia, and surrounding states. A portion of this movement -- in Hungary -- is recorded in a book entitled, *The Nazareans* by Karoly Eotvos, a Hungarian professor. His work gives us some insight to how the church developed in Hungary. This month’s Remembering column centers on his book regarding the work of Bro. Froehlich and his spirit-filled contemporaries.

Karoly Eotvos - Author

In the latter part of the 19th century this man wrote a book on how the Froehlich spiritual understandings -- led of God -- began in Hungary. By 1909, author Eotvos had completed the fifth edition of this book. *The Nazareans* was the title, although in the American language it was printed as *The Nazareans* to reflect a more Americanized title. This movement has nothing to do with the modern American denomination called the Nazarene Church.

Eotvos at one time in his life was a professor of law at the University of Papa in Hungary. He was from the small community of Mezoszentgyorgy. He was not a member of the church. In 1872 he was elected as a representative in the Hungarian parliament. At age 60, he began writing books. He became fascinated with the devotion and holiness of the Nazareans and decided to write a book about them. He traveled widely among these believers and conducted interviews with hundreds of persons. He collected letters and other literature that helped give definition to their faith and practice. His book was well received among the believers in Hungary.

Translated Into English 1965-70

This book was later translated into the English language by Joseph Csaba. He was a brother in the church in Budapest. He worked on this translation from 1966-70. In 1965-66, he had spent a year teaching European history at the University of Nebraska. The English translation was typewritten and remained in that form without being commercially printed in America. The translation into English was a credible job, but some parts were difficult to read, and needed further work (for easier reading by the American public).

In 1989 Andy Hunyadi, a member of our congregation in Ohio, sent me a copy of this typewritten manuscript. I was surprised, and obviously very pleased, to learn that such a work existed on the development of the church in Eastern Europe. In early 1993, I received a message from a brother in Minnesota who requested I rework the manuscript to make it more inviting to read for the American readers. From that request, I rewrote each page, and by 1997 a paperback book was completed totaling 240 pages with a five-page name index. In the next issue of the *Silver Lining* I hope to present interesting scenarios pursuant to the development of the church in Hungary. This book provides much interesting information about our church.

-By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Church development in Eastern Europe.
Learn to Be Content

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Philippians 4:11. I have recently been struck with the thought that Paul was not just naturally a contented person. He had to learn to be content.

Ordinarily we might think that contentment comes to the Christian when everything is going well, when food, clothing and shelter are in plentiful supply and everyone in the family is in very good health. Was that the case for the Apostle Paul? He writes, “Of the Jews received I forty stripes save one, Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep” 2 Cor. 11:24, 25. The list of his sufferings goes on and on and yet he was content. What is the secret?

Perhaps the problem is that we look for contentment in easy discipleship. The devil may tell us that if we live like the world with all the entertainment, worldly fashions, use of cosmetics, following the trends of the day, that we will be content and comfortable. Strangely enough, we always want more of the world and there is no end to it. Sadly, it leads to discontentment and a strong defense of that way of life, with the explanation that we are saved by grace and we must not try to earn our salvation.

Could it be that the secret of contentment is found in obedience to God’s Word, which gives Christians rules to live by? The Apostle Paul lived a strongly self-disciplined life

with no time or desire to be like the world, yet he was content. In today’s Christian circles would he not be considered an ultra-conservative? It was he who, by the Holy Spirit, wrote about greeting with a Holy Kiss, about sisters wearing a covering when praying or prophesying, and about sister’s long hair being a glory to her. It was also the Apostle Paul who wrote, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”

I do not eat any meat for health reasons.

The Apostle Paul offered to not eat any meat for spiritual reasons, in order to have better unity in the brotherhood. Today, would he not be accused of being legalistic, trying to earn his salvation by refraining from eating meat? Yet, in spite of his life style, or because of his life style, he was content, something he learned by denying himself many comforts which his body is sure to have desired.

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” 2 Tim. 6:6. The inference which I take from this is that the more godly we can become the more we will be content. The more worldly we become, the less we will be content.

I believe we become more godly by becoming more obedient to God’s Word. James calls this works. “Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.” James 2:17. I do not believe this to mean faith plus our works, but that if our faith is saving faith, it will produce works or obedience to God’s Word. Therein lays contentment.

May I say that living a godly life of obedience to God’s Word, according to my understanding, includes being a servant in helping others and sharing with others the Gospel. To live a very secluded life for self, I do not believe is Scriptural.

Recently I came across the term, Cheap Grace, for the first time. I looked it up on the Internet to see what it is about. It is contrasted with Costly Grace. Both of these terms have been unknown to me, but they are very thought-provoking. The idea is that grace is expensive, it cost Christ His life’s blood, and it costs you and me some self-denial.

We should learn to be content. We can learn that by obedience and works.

-by Willis Ehnle
But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Titus 2:1-2