He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: ...

Ecclesiastes 3:11
Each Commissioned Together

How do we each fit into Jesus’ Great Commission? Let’s allow our Lord to come and speak in our individual lives, demonstrating how God gives him all power in heaven and earth. Therefore, his body moves to go and teach all we encounter to observe all of Christ’s commandments, so they too might experience baptism in the Trinity’s name. When we radiate God’s light in our respective corners, Jesus promises to be with us unto the end!

As doers of the Word, how can we each promote Matthew 28:18-20 in our own circumstances? For our January 2022 issue, we invite reader submissions that share encouragement and/or experiences toward how any believer can support the Great Commission. Send your contribution (600 words or less) on “Personalizing the Great Commission in your own interactions: encouragement, advice, and experiences regarding fulfilling Matthew 28:18-20 in all walks of life” to features@acsilverlining.org by November 15, 2021. Help us realize each believer’s potential to promote Christ’s powerful kingdom and presence to every soul!

Uniting in love as Jesus’ commissionees,
Sam Manz, Silver Lining Features

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The Bible – True, Timeless, and Inspired of God

Theme verse: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

“Please read me a story!” This or a similar plea is a common request of many a youngster. Children seem to love any type of story, and they seem to have a natural inclination for Bible stories. An innocent child finds pleasure in these stories because someone they love is sharing time with them. If we enjoy doing this with one of our children, consider how our Heavenly Father delights in sharing time with his children when we read his Word together!

All of us bear the responsibility to cultivate a love to know the Bible, and to make this a daily priority. Indeed, the Scriptures themselves teach us to esteem the Bible higher than our necessary food, and as being of more value than gold and silver. The reading of the Word was an important part of corporate worship in the early church and remains a priority for us yet today. The “assembling together” described by the author of Hebrews brought many blessings to the early Christians as they gathered in one accord in their homes and synagogues.

An in-depth review of our seventh Guiding Principle should give us a greater appreciation and love for God’s Word. This principle states that we believe the Bible is true, timeless, and inspired of God. As Christians we are absolutely convinced of the truthfulness of God’s Word. This is foundational—not only for our reliance upon the shed blood of Jesus for our salvation, but for us to retain our confidence in God when confronted with trials, temptations, or uncertainties in our lives.

We believe the Bible is timeless in the sense of its enduring throughout eternity as asserted by Jesus, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” However, timelessness also refers to the Word, though written thousands of years ago, as being completely relevant throughout all ages: past, present, and future. The book of Hebrews assures us that the purpose and mission of Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” In times of difficulty there can be a tendency for us to think there is something especially difficult or unique about the conditions of our own generation, but there is nothing new under the sun in God’s eyes. As an example, Gideon was a man of faith, but was filled with doubts and questioned if God had forsaken him and his people: “And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” Despite his concerns, Gideon found that not only was God faithful, he used Gideon to demonstrate the truth of his word.

The second part of this Guiding Principle is that we cherish the Bible’s redeeming and transforming power. Receiving the Word of God is a prerequisite that leads to a true saving faith, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” This in turn leads to a true repentance and conversion, with the result of our “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” As we apply scriptural principles to our attitude and behavior on a daily basis, the Word serves to sanctify the

— Please turn to pg. 61

October 2021   SILVER LINING  3
Greetings to each one in the Savior’s name. We certainly do welcome each one around God’s Word this afternoon hour. We trust each one has prayed that the Holy Spirit would meet us here so each one of us could have hearts, soft and pliable, that God could mold into whatever vessel he needs. The Old Testament scripture is open to Psalms. The 61st Psalm is where my eyes first fell. We’ll read these eight verses of Psalm 61 here together.

Hymn #232 (Zion’s Harp) Make Me More Perfect – I’ll read the last three verses, and we’ll sing the first three verses.

The New Testament is opened to Hebrews. Let’s begin reading just at the first verse of chapter 2 of Hebrews.

There are so many things that God has done for us. I think we’re learning that. The hymn that talks of Jesus when it says, “For every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade” tells us that we could never write it all. Those last two verses here in Hebrews talked of Jesus, that it “behoved him to leave heaven.” Part of God’s plan was for Jesus to be made a little lower than the angels, to be put down here on earth, and to die. Angels, as far as I know, don’t have to die. Wouldn’t that be wonderful if we could just be angels right now? We’d be in heaven. Here it says, “It behoved him to be made like unto his brethren” (Heb 2:17). He was to be like man.

Then, going on to the next verse: “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted” (v18). He came down here knowing that he was going to have to put on the tent of flesh and to suffer. He was going to be made a man, a brother. He was to be one of us, even as it talks in Acts where he couldn’t heal in his own land because they looked at his brothers, sisters, and parents and said, “How could this be? He’s just another man.” He needed to do that for us because then – finishing the verse – “he is able to succour them that are tempted” (v18).

He can be there to help us. He can be there to bring us through because he went through everything we could. Any issue that we are going to go through, any temptation we are going to face, any physical ailment, any suffering, Jesus did too. When you’re about to go through something, isn’t it so much easier to take advice from somebody who’s been there? They say, “Here’s what you need to do. I went through the same thing, exactly what you will and, by the way, ten times more, but it worked. Here’s what you need to do. If it worked for me, it will work ten times better for you because your situation isn’t even as grave as mine was.” What about when somebody says, “Oh, here’s what you need to do”, and when you ask how they know it, they respond with, “I have no idea. I just thought maybe that’d be a good idea though. I’ve never been through anything like that.”

How much more difficult is that?

This is just those two little verses, two little things, that just magnify what Jesus Christ did. It magnifies the plan of salvation. As we learn bit by bit and as God continues to reveal unto every one of us as individuals what he has done, it just amazes us. How our appreciation for this whole thing just grows. It strengthens our faith because we look at this world and think it’s so confusing. There’s so much going on.

We were talking a little bit at noon about the conflicts in Israel. We can talk pandemics.
We can talk about unrest. We can talk about a thousand things going on in this world that confuse us, and what is the thought that we all have in all of it? Where does this lead? What does it do? What does this mean? Then, we can stop and read a little bit in the scriptures like just two little verses here that magnify God’s plan. Wow. Jesus did that. There was intentionality there. There was a plan ahead of time, a perfect plan. God laid it out specifically for us so it’s a little easier to believe.

I think it was in the third verse: “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” (vv3-4) Again, part of the plan. He sent Jesus to share these specific plans that he had, and then he made sure there were witnesses sufficient – eyewitnesses that saw all of this. That’s why we have multiple gospels. Multiple people saw it. Multiple people heard it. Then here, we’re getting a generation removed from that, but they’re saying, “We talked to the eyewitnesses. They saw these signs, these specific signs.” We can read of any one of the signs, any one of Jesus’ miracles, and the impact it had on those that saw it. They could then take that precious part of the plan, being right up next to it, and it could strengthen their faith.

They could say, “I am positive.” Even some of the rulers that were there, like the soldier at the cross, would say, “Surely, this was the Son of God.” As all this happened, it was not a question in his mind. He wasn’t, to my knowledge, a believer before this, but he knew one thing after the things he saw: “Surely that was Son of God.” Then he could take it and share it. The disciples and apostles could take it and share it. Share what? Share the plan of salvation, not only that it is a theory, but then there is very specific evidence that it occurred.

How important it is that we too, those of us that have been saved, can go into our specifics when we share. You can go through sharing your testimony, and there’s always those things within our own testimony where we say, “I know. I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that at this very moment” – and you name it in your life – “God was there. By his grace, he did it. I am positive.” Now, we have faith to believe that he is here right now, but there are those Ebenezers in our life where all of the sudden we just know. We know that something a little special happened there that made us say, “I’m positive it was God.”

As we look back here to the Old Testament scripture, think of the rock we heard of this morning. We have this psalm of David: “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.” (vv1-3) This again can go back to the Ebenezers in our life that God was this rock. Jesus, as we heard this morning, is our rock. David was surrounded by enemies so often, and we can read of his battles. Maybe it’s, should I say, the man in me or something that likes to read of the wars and the battles.

When I think back of all of the warriors that were with him and the specifics of what some of them did when they fought the giants – one man killed a bunch of them with just a staff, – and here we have David talking about how God was his rock. When David looked around at all of the different things that were happening, he surely

— Please turn to pg. 62
Innovations and Revelations

Medical Committee

Beyond our imagination, medical innovations to improve the human condition continue to accelerate at an astonishing speed. It is also fascinating to see how far the medical field as well as humanity in general has progressed over the past 200 years. For example, about 150 years ago, research breakthroughs revealed that disease didn’t spring out of mid-air; instead, it came from something called “germs.” Even though this information is now basic knowledge, it was revolutionary and controversial at that time. Other examples include the first antibiotics about 100 years ago and the first major breakthroughs in our understanding of genetics about 70 years ago.

To be sure, extraordinary discoveries by diligently studying and analyzing God’s creation have improved our health and medical care! It is interesting to learn about what we now know as well as humbling to realize what we didn’t know for a really long time. But the wisdom that comes from studying God’s creation will only get us so far. While creation is a clear enough witness of the presence of a Creator, it is not specific enough to detail how to love him and walk in relationship...
wayside, some fell on rocks, some fell among thorns, but some fell on good ground and was fruitful. Don’t be discouraged when the seed you cast falls by the wayside, on rocks or among thorns. Keep casting the seed! And don’t take credit for the seed that falls on good ground and is fruitful. To God be the glory!

3) Love, don’t hate! Twenty years ago, the events of 9-11 stirred up distrust, ill feelings and even hatred towards Muslims. With the Taliban taking control of Afghanistan, the Devil would love to stir up the same. Jesus taught love: love God, love your spouse, love your children, love your neighbors and, yes, love your enemies!

In a speech Abraham Lincoln delivered at the height of the Civil War he referred to the Southerners as fellow human beings who were in error. An elderly lady chastised him for not calling them irreconcilable enemies who must be destroyed. “Why, madam,” Lincoln replied, “do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?”

Prayer Points for Afghanistan

- Ask God to provide relief and aid to every citizen – including the small community of Christians – during this devastating surge in extremist control.
- Ask God to comfort families who have fled and pray they find a safe place.
- Pray for protection for Afghans from the spread of COVID-19 – and the rapidly spreading Delta variant.
- Ask God to give Afghani Christians his protection and strength to withstand persecution – and that their faith would remain strong.
- Ask God to protect the children of Afghanistan from the traumatic impact of extremism and religious violence.
- Pray that God would bring his miraculous peace and stability to the nation through its leaders.

I would also add:

- Pray that the Spirit would move mightily among the Taliban, through dreams, visions or whatever it takes to draw them to Jesus. They are, as Lincoln said, fellow human beings.

—by Bro. Tim Hohulin

with him. Microscopes and test-tubes can’t first teach us about the cross and the resurrection. According to scripture, this was always God’s design. “For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God” (1 Corinthians 1:21a). Human wisdom, no matter how diligent, can’t discover the full truth of God on its own. “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10).

In his great love, God gave humanity a clear and sufficient revelation in the scriptures by the mouths and pens of the apostles through the Holy Spirit. Mysteries that were not known in the past are now revealed! This revelation includes the “mystery of godliness” which is that “God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus is the Almighty God and he came to save a broken world. You won’t learn that by using a microscope!

From all of us at the HarvestCall Medical Committee: dig deep in the Bible. Learn each word, love each truth, and live like you have found the ultimate medical cure for death. Because, in Christ, you have.

—by Anthony Baumann
Studying Book of Acts Reveals Patterns in Evangelism,

What would it be like to grow up without the New Testament teachings? Picture yourself living under Roman occupation, attending the synagogue and hearing of a Messiah that someday will come to save his people? You are taught that pleasuring God is about keeping the law. One day, someone comes to your town sharing that the Messiah already came and that his teaching can transform your life. You hear for the first time that the Messiah rose again and if you acknowledge your sin, and follow him, you will be part of that resurrection too! You see powerful evidence of God working in the ones sharing and wonder how you should respond? If you embrace these teachings, you could risk losing your life or be rejected by your religious leaders. Or, you could join the scoffers mocking this new philosophy by protecting your way of worship, and attempting to silence the conflict so it doesn’t catch the Romans’ attention.

After a time, those who first shared the good news appoint some of your new band to be elders, and move on to share in other places. They request a handful of the group go to a neighboring community that is a little off the main Roman road. You pray and wonder, ‘Should I join that effort? It seems more challenging than staying?’ God presses you to go. Your brother, however, feels directed to stay and support the base “church” that has formed.

Proclaiming the Gospel in Jamaica
As you read through Acts, you might ask, ‘Is this pattern of proclaiming the resurrected Christ, discipling new believers, and putting church structure in place still applicable in our times?’ Let’s envision for a minute, the possibilities as the gospel is proclaimed to the deaf in Jamaica, a church is formed and in time, the establishment of deaf leadership.

Evangelizing under Roman Rule
You decide to join this new group of Christians. You enjoy breaking bread together and find incredible support hearing of God’s work in them. When some of your newly found friends are killed because of this new belief, you cling to consolation and collective prayer. Yet you take courage and faithfully testify of Christ’s work in you to fellow believers, Jews, pagans, and even the Romans.

Imagine yourself as a deaf young adult in Jamaica, searching for something more in this life. You remember the Bible Stories from Sunday School, and you know that Jesus loves you, but it all seems so distant. You used to go to a hearing...
church with your family, but as the only deaf person and unable to understand the sermons, you gave up. You try to read the Bible, but it’s hard to understand in your second language, and you struggle with how it connects with your life today.

Many of your friends feel just like you. One tells you about a Deaf Bible Study they’ve been attending. The preaching and worship are all in Jamaican Sign Language (JSL). It sounds exciting, so you agree to go. You hear how all people are made in God’s image and about the importance of having a reconciled relationship with God and your fellow man. Seeing the worship in JSL inspires you, and you keep going back. As time passes, you begin to understand how necessary it is to gather together as believers to worship God and encourage each other. You invite other friends to join!

As the group grows and baptisms continue, others like you will understand God’s plan is for it to be shared through sign. There’s no such Bible, however, so someone will need to teach them until a JSL Bible is available. The group is becoming too large for effective interaction with the teachers, and you pray about staying to support this group or relocating. You decide to stay.

What’s God’s Story within You?
How was the hope of the resurrection proclaimed to you? How did you come to respond with repentance and experience discipleship? How are you contributing to the formation of the local church and/or the expansion beyond? Might God help each of us align our lives with the examples of evangelism, discipleship, and establishment of churches as recorded in Acts!

—by Church Establishment Committee

✿ Church Planting Phases: The church planting phases start with exploring a new location and continue through church establishment and putting local leadership structure in place. As the church grows larger, the cycle starts again as new locations are explored for further outreach of the gospel.

✿ Recent Deaf retreat in Jamaica: Numerous people from the deaf community gathering before their Sunday morning worship.
My 2-year-old toddler currently is in love with a Little Golden Book Classic titled *Little Mommy*. We read the story over and over again almost every night. I smile at these classics and love her passion for story time and how she enjoys this darling story of a little girl playing mommy and imitating the daily tasks she assumes of a mommy. While published circa 1967, I find myself getting wrapped up into how simple, yet unrealistic this hum-drum storyline seems as the little girl goes joyfully from task to task, her baby dolls obediently doing as she says, while the house gets clean, the meals get made and all is done in a seemingly neat, tidy and orderly manner. My current life stage seems comical in comparison to this storybook “little mommy.” Yet this simple book has allowed me to reflect on what God wants and expects out of me through my day-to-day tasks and more importantly, in my day-to-day heart.

**Self-Awareness**

Each day I am given 24 hours-no more, no less. Often it can feel as culture is screaming at me for the need to multi-task, juggle multiple roles, have a degree (maybe even two), all the while having a clean house, orderly kids, and trying a new recipe or two a week. My self-awareness of what each 24 hours does look like and should look like can either lead to a constant encouragement or a constant stress. More important than the daily tasks or challenges ahead of me is where I find my purpose in each day. Being aware of what is at the heart of my daily purpose and what is “perfecting me” (*Psalm 138:8*), helps me self-reflect on what is and is not important. Awareness also means understanding my daily needs vs. my daily wants. A need would be described as essential to daily life and a want can be described as a desire that would be ideal to have or realize. Thoughts to consider regarding self-awareness:

- What pressures do I internalize? Which pressures are real and which ones are imagined?
- What life-stage am I in and what priorities are somewhat determined by this life-stage?
- Are there wants in my life that I have defined as needs? If so, what are they?

**Self-Care**

Self-care is such an important but often neglected area in our lives. Culture can twist self-care into an individualistic and humanistic ideal and thus, believers tend to be hesitant to embrace it. Self-care can be described as attending to one’s physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being. Self-care can vary and mean anything from taking a walk (physical) to completing a project (mental) to quiet devotional time (spiritual) to friend time (social). In general, good self-care is anything that is thought to be energy-giving and moves toward health rather than something that is energy-draining in our lives. As schedules and desires change, the frequency and practice of realistic self-care will continually need to be evaluated. Often an important aspect of self-care is found in the safety...
and accountability of community such as church gatherings, mentorship, Bible study groups, potluck groups or the like. Self-care through the support of others grounded in the Word is vital in a believer’s life (Prov. 20:5). Questions to consider regarding self-care:

- What is energy-giving in your life right now?
- List some areas that are draining or quite stressful for you.
- How frequently does self-care happen in your life? What is realistic? Will this ever change?

Giving our Self for Christ

As believers we are given the best and greatest commandment: “Love the Lord thy God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind” (Matt 22:37). This great commandment is easy to read and yet seemingly difficult to live out in our daily attitudes and tasks. Do I live my life, prioritize my tasks, and encourage others through the attitude of loving God with my heart, soul and mind? We have been created as image-bearers (Gen. 1:27) and thus have a charge to model his example of healthy purpose, healthy focus, and unending love. Sanctified believers are called to not just be doers of the Word but also have a heart of godliness and attitude of gratefulness (Col. 3:17). Thoughts to consider regarding giving our self for Christ:

- What does it mean to you to be an image-bearer?
- Describe what daily tasks can show the identity and purpose of Christ in your life.
- What is my heart attitude towards day-to-day life?

Life will not look like the idyllic storybook pictures and words of Little Mommy, nor should it. Yet, the challenge and opportunity of a sanctified believer is to still find the delight of that darling girl, joyfully playing mommy, while engaging in the pressures, roles, and reality of life as we rest in the promises and identity of the One who writes our storybook of life.

ACCFS continues to develop resources to help women in their walk with the Lord. These resources are found on our website at www.accounseling.org/women. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
Apostolic Christian LifePoints
www.aclifepoints.org
@aclifepoints on Facebook or Instagram
Ashlyn Gramm-Mission
Communication Coordinator

Fifty years. Five decades. Half a century. Can you believe it? Apostolic Christian LifePoints has been open and serving according to God’s purpose for 50 years! The first two residents moved in on October 1, 1971, and it has been an incredible experience reflecting on everything that has happened inside our homes since that day.

As we have mentioned before, LifePoints has grown and changed a great deal since that momentous day in 1971. Timber Ridge has doubled in size with the addition of the South End in 1978, and is now undergoing major renovations. We have opened doors at Oakwood Estate, Linden Estate, and 14 different CILAs in the community. A new Administrative Building for the Agency was built just this past year, and an Activity Center was developed for our residents to use.

Physical buildings aren’t the only changes that have occurred within these past 50 years at LifePoints. The name Apostolic Christian LifePoints for instance, was only unveiled to the public in 2017. Before that, we have been known as the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, “the Home,” “the Agency,” and Apostolic Christian Services. We are so thankful for a name that encompasses our organization’s heart – to be able to provide for and serve each individual at every “life point” and change that occurs in their life.

Some of the individuals that we serve have only stayed with us for a short time. Some have moved back and forth from one of our homes to another because of medical need changes or opportunities to be even more independent than in the home where they were living. Some individuals have moved into one of our homes within this past year, and some have been living at LifePoints for almost 50 years! We have six ladies still living in our homes who all moved into LifePoints during that first year it was opened. We are very excited to celebrate each of their 50th anniversaries as well!

In the 50 years since LifePoints began, we have been blessed with exceptional leadership and guidance from over 60 different Board Members and Guiding Elders from our different church congregations. We have had three Executive Directors within the past 50 years – Bro. Bob Knobloch began the good work, Bro. Ron Messner succeeded him in 1994, and Bro. Blake Stahl has joined us and took on this role in 2021. God has blessed us with leaders who have a heart for the people we serve and who desire the best for their lives.

Buildings may change. Names may change. Leadership may change. But we are thankful to be led by an unchanging God who gives us confidence that “…he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ,” Philip.1:6. It is our mission at Apostolic Christian LifePoints to “Serve according to God’s Purpose,” and we trust that God will continue this good work in our homes and in our lives.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Kristin Walko — Dean of Students

Seventeen-year-old Michael came to Gateway Woods on probation for drug and alcohol issues. He had very low math and reading levels. He had very few high school credits due to not attending school much.

Gateway Woods School (GWS) provided remediation and tutoring and used additional resources to help him. We did not give up on him, although he wanted to give up multiple times. Week after week passed. Then…
pretty soon…this kid who hated school just simply started applying himself.

He attended school every day. He started earning credits. He began reading books because he enjoyed reading books. Unfortunately, he was too far behind to be able to graduate on time, he decided to go for his high school equivalency. And this kid accomplished something that he never thought possible: he earned his high school equivalency!

Michael’s whole outlook on life changed. He realized that drugs don’t have to control him. He realized he can do well. He also realized that he had a talent for acting. You read that right: he came alive under the lights of a stage.

Each spring, I teach a theater class where students learn about the dramatic arts, with a final exam of participating in the school play. I asked Michael to be in the play and he agreed, but was very hesitant. He was given a small role and even though he didn’t have as many lines to memorize as the other students, he had them memorized word for word. I was so proud of him!

Michael was amazing in the play! He had a lead role and was the star of the show. Everyone loved him!

Working at GWS is an adventure. It’s full of ups and downs and you never know what each day will bring. Actually, each hour or even each minute can be a mystery sometimes. But working here is worth it. When you work at GWS, you get to watch teenagers realize the potential that was there all along. You make a difference in students’ lives and you get to teach them about the most important subject of all: Jesus!

News:

• We have three houseparent couples and a resident due to have babies born in October and November. As exciting as it will be to have new life on campus, it also means lots of maternity leaves and extra coverage for staff. Since we are already short a houseparent couple and an assistant houseparent, this makes managing schedules extra tricky.

• We plan to host our Annual Hog and Jog 5k Run/Walk on October 16. We are excited and thankful to welcome those who plan to attend.

• If you want to make a Kingdom impact by sowing seeds of hope for an eternal harvest, visit gatewaywoods.org/sowers-of-hope to learn more about our newly launched monthly giving program. Sign up today to receive a special gift as a reminder to be praying for the youth you are impacting.

• We are currently looking for a Teacher, Houseparent Couple, and an Assistant Houseparent. For more information, please see our ad in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers.

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up.
in prayer, check our website gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at gatewaywoods.org/newsletter or by emailing jon.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

Alabama, Athens
Lisa Aschliman, Kristy Moore

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3

We are reminded in scripture to have faith in God and trust in him because he is preparing us a place for all the ages. In the past month we have laid to rest two wonderful souls from our church family. Sis. Clarann Lynn and Bro. Ed Haggenmaker went to their heavenly reward and even though we will miss them, we are so happy for them in their new surroundings.

We ask for continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis and Shawn Ray who are continuing to have health issues and for the families of those we lost recently.

If you are passing through our area and need a place to stay for the evening, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815.674.5411 for our guest house accommodations. We love having visitors and encourage anyone passing through to spend some time with us.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

"O that a man might plead with God As a man with his neighbor!" Job 16:21

Technology provides us with many ways to increase our knowledge of the Word. Recently, while listening through the book of Job via a phone app, a theme became apparent. As he undergoes extreme persecution at the hands of the enemy, Job longs for a mediator (Job 5:1, 9:33, 16:19-21). He talks about what he would want God to know about him, and while he acknowledges the sovereignty, power and righteousness of God, he cries out for understanding - for God to know Job's heart and his life and for Job to know God's purpose in what Job perceived to be his own destruction. The reader/listener has the advantage of knowing God was fully aware of Job's faithfulness, and even held him up to Satan as an example of a "perfect and an upright man, one that feared God ..." Job 1:8. It seems Job also knew God very well, and he recounts the righteousness of God, his power and perfection to his friends. But he did not have someone to assure him of his standing with the God of the universe or to speak on his behalf. No mortal in his life was able to do that - his own wife told him to curse God and die. His friends believed he had done something to deserve what he was going through, and urged him to confess and abandon his sin. No one could understand what he was going through, and he was not able to know God's view of him.

Thanks be to God, we have such a mediator. In taking on mortality, experiencing death and being resurrected, Jesus was qualified for that role. He is the only one who is able to understand and communicate our position to God and God's position to us.

In litigation, the role of a mediator is to bring two "sides" of an issue together. Often there is a session involving multiple conferences between the mediator and the parties where the mediator repeatedly brings information from one side to the other, while pointing out the strengths and weakness of each case. A successful mediation ends with resolution and both sides being a little disappointed in the outcome.

When he finally met God, Job still was not provided answers to his questions. He was challenged by God, and was shown God's majesty and sovereignty firsthand. He had to acknowledge his own poverty of spirit and imperfection,
but never got to understand, as far as we know, why everything happened as it did. We do not often get to know the “why” of a thing. Likely, it is because our minds could not grasp the answer. Or maybe it is simply to develop and strengthen our faith.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” 1 Tim. 2:5

We are blessed with the addition of a minister to our pulpit and have already enjoyed several services by Bro. Bill Hamilton (Sis. Jennifer). We pray for the Lord’s blessing on him and Sis. Jennifer and their children, Delaney, Taryn, Gwennith and William (Liam), as they bless the church.

Our Sunday school resumed the ACTIVE program, and the first session was a blessing for many as they filled hygiene bags for the local homeless population.

As this article is submitted, Bro. Victor Krstek continues to struggle with symptoms of COVID-19, having been hospitalized for several weeks. We ask you to continue praying with us for his full recovery. We mourn with our Tucson family the passing of Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Bro. Curt). We will miss her friendly nature and know that the beautiful soprano voice she graced our church with will be missed greatly. The angel choir in Heaven will be ringing with her praises to our Lord and Savior.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) with us for a weekend. We appreciate their time extended to our small congregation.

We also want to thank Bro. Arlan Miller for directing a Bible study on spiritual gifts. We were able to spend 3 evenings via Zoom to discuss those gifts and how we can be more useful to the body of Christ.

The year 2021 is entering the last quarter, how time flies! May we each be working in the vineyard and serving our Lord with our greatest potential.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Bro. Curt). We mourn with Bro. Curt and his family as well as with our church family. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. We will miss her friendly nature and know that the beautiful soprano voice she graced our church with will be missed greatly. The angel choir in Heaven will be ringing with her praises to our Lord and Savior.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) with us for a weekend. We appreciate their time extended to our small congregation.

As summer came to a close, so did the earthly life of our dear Bro. Virgil Graf (Sis. Marilyn). Virgil brought such joy to our church family, even though recently we saw less of them since their move to Princeville, IL, and
only winter visits to California. A true pillar of faith, mentor to so many, and beacon of light and childlike joy, he will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by our church family. Every spring he brought orchids from his own yard, lovingly cut for all the women in church. Our prayers are with Sis. Marilyn and the rest of his family. We find comfort and hope in the promise: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Cor. 15:52

Labor Day weekend found our small church family pitching in to once again host the regional ACYF weekend. Young adults from Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott, and San Diego came to fellowship and build community while hearing the word preached, enjoying the beach, singing, playing games, and gathering around food.

Bro. Scott Mangers taught us Sunday morning about how to be ready to share the gospel simply and succinctly, starting with choosing daily to trust Jesus with our whole heart. Sunday afternoon we met in the park in the blazing heat, our backdrop being the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. It reminded me of Psalm 121:

“I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help…The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand…the LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”

The solid constancy of the mountains often reminds me of this Psalm, but the hot day made all of us cognizant of the necessity of shade in a desert-like climate, like Israel, in which the Psalmist wrote these words. These word-pictures help us understand more tangibly what it means to put our trust in God, our helper, our keeper, our preserver.

**Colorado, Denver**

**Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller**

The end of summer brought the time to say goodbye to Sis. Hope Fischer (Leo, IN) who had been worshiping with us during her summer job in Colorado. We loved having Hope join our church family and welcome her back for future visits.

Our Sunday school’s theme this month is thanksgiving, and one of many reasons we are thankful is that Kana Wiegand has shared that she is at peace with God. We look forward to her baptism weekend in a few weeks. We are also thankful for the promise of God’s nearness in all situations. Our hearts are with our Christian brothers and sisters in Haiti and Afghanistan, and we pray they feel God’s presence and power.

Visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH).

**Connecticut, Rockville**

**Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) visit and share God’s Word. We also enjoyed the service and fellowship of Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL). We pray they will be blessed for their efforts.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Gerri O’Brien, who recently laid to rest her brother Eddie. We bid farewell to Sis. Charlotte Limberger as the Lord called her home to her heavenly reward. Our prayers are with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

We welcome Sis. Cami Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) to our community and congregation while she is attending college in Connecticut. We are also happy to welcome Bro. Matthew Fulop while he attends college in Rhode Island.

Hazel Cassidy Schneider was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Sam and Sis. Leah, and big brother Jack. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider and Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Sheila Gerber. Little Delaney Raine was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Kelsey Hills. Her grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne Hills and Jeff and Gail Hannington.

**District of Columbia, Washington**

**Henrietta Meyer**

What a blessing this month to assemble three times for services
Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Joe Gerber (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL).

We are still trying different locations to see which will work out better for us.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703.904.8301, hmeyer2831@gmail.com or Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302.540.6574, or bdsteff@yahoo.com for assistance, to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services and to find out when and where services are to be held.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We are thankful for our visiting Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) for sharing God’s Word with us this past month. We pray they are blessed for their willingness to serve.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Sally Gress and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein at the passing of their sister and daughter Lory Klopfenstein. Lory passed away on September 12 after a long battle with lung disease.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold on the birth of their newest grandson Patrick Glenn born September 15 to David and Kristie Mangold (Jacksonville, FL). Thankful that baby and mom are doing fine. May the lord watch over and guide this little soul all the days of his life.

We enjoyed a potluck dinner this month and shared the renewed blessing of fellowship and good food.

Florida, Fort Myers
Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger

“For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” Psal. 100:5

This month we had the privilege to honor our dear Bro. Vic Beer as he celebrated his 96th birthday. Bro. Vic shared his testimony of God’s goodness and provision throughout his life.

Ministering to us this month was Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL).

Florida, Sarasota
Becky Funk

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:1-3

When David’s wives and children are captured by the Amalekites:

“And David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the Lord said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.” 1 Sam. 30:8

When David’s wives and children are captured by the Amalekites:

“And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.” 1 Sam 30:8

And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of
the cities of Judah? And the Lord said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.” 2 Sam 2:1

David is well known to be the man after God’s heart, and I think I am seeing his secret. He was so close to God because of this conversational seeking of God. God was his first turn in each decision, and he yearned for God’s presence. He recognized that when God was with him, life would happen in a place of peace and victory.

Philippians 4:6-7 came to my mind this morning, challenging me in that same aspect of conversational communion with God as I go about my day.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Like David, we can also have that same type of conversational relationship with God! As we go about our days, may we find ourselves in this type of conversation with God, which could also be described as praying without ceasing. Some examples of conversation with God might look like:

“Jesus, thank you for this opportunity to go to work or school and grow in your likeness! How should I go about studying this information today? Help me to focus and absorb it so that I can be equipped to serve others more competently.”

“That in order to form a habit of conversing with God continually, and referring all we do to him, we must at first apply to him with some diligence; but that after a little care we should find his love inwardly excite us to it without any difficulty.” The Practice of the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike and Susie Walder

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Bro. Joab and Sis. Trinity Télusma, who were married on September 12 in Smithville, OH! Many former and current missionaries and HarvestCall managers were able to be present as we thanked the Lord together for his wonderful work in the lives of this new couple. May God bless their union and their plans as they settle in Les Cayes and take their place in the community. Parents of the couple are Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder (Les Cayes and Smithville, OH) and Joachin and Valna Télusma from Les Cayes.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller at the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Eric Steiner, from Rittman, OH. God’s time is always right, although it doesn’t align with our thinking. Thankfully they were able to return home for the funeral.

Following the 7.2 earthquake, many, many aftershocks continued to add to the tension of the people’s daily lives. They are forced to mostly live and sleep outdoors and many still have church services outdoors, too. Schools cannot begin easily without safe facilities or adequate desks. Some have neither.

As plans for reconstruction of churches and schools are being made, we encourage whoever has a willing heart to join an upcoming construction team to build roofs and benches. All skill levels are welcome. Check in the back of this issue for e-mails and phone numbers for leaders of current teams. For more information about sponsoring a project, e-mail mebshconst.dept@gmail.com.

Teams no longer travel in-country across treacherous highways. We are blessed to now have a commercial airline that flies twice daily to the local Les Cayes airport only a few miles from our guest house. The flight is only a half hour in duration. Those who have traveled by “bus” before will love it!

Illinois, Belvidere
Darcy Steffen

“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.” Rev. 7:12

I have been reading through the book of Revelation recently,
and it struck me how many verses are written in the style of the one above: absolute praise and adoration to our God. It made me wonder how often (if ever) I include sentences like these in my speech. If we will be saying these things in heaven, why am I not saying them more now?

We give God glory in the birth of a new baby! Mason Patrick was born to Sean and Hannah Rushing, and the happy grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock.

This month we finished up our Bible study on the life of Joseph. We are so thankful to Bro. Sam Bachtold for leading this study. As we all face trials of various kinds in this life, Joseph’s patience in tribulation gave us great courage that we too, by God’s grace, can overcome as well.

Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) came to be with us as we spent an evening together discussing our spiritual gifts and our vision for the Belvidere congregation. We are so grateful for the insights they provided and for the ability to share our hearts with one another.

Elder Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser have both suffered with illness this month, resulting in a brief hospitalization for Sis. Lottie.

We were happy to welcome loved ones to our fall 2021 Invite-a-Guest. (Our last Invite-a-Guest took place in March 2020, the day before everything was locked down because of the pandemic.) We thank our visiting minister Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) for his labors. On another Sunday evening we drove to an all-church singing hosted by Congerville. We are so blessed to be able to travel and enjoy fellowship among brethren.

Illinois, Bloomington
Kinsey Dotterer, Lauren Zimmerman

We enjoyed a blessed weekend hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Sis. Macy Stickling (Bro. Delayne and Sis. Lori), Ethne Heiniger (Bro. Brett and Sis. Jen), and Landon Kieser (Bro. Tater and Sis. Haley). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City, GA) as a visiting minister.

We mourn with Steve and Nathan Stock upon the death of their wife and mother, Lori Stock. Our prayers are with them during this time of loss.

Our church family is looking forward to beginning a Bible study on the book of Revelation.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” Rev. 1:8

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

Harvest is such a beautiful and satisfying time of year! The farmers are busy gathering what the Lord has graciously given. Harvest time came for our sister Lucille Endress (Bro. John, dec.), known as ‘Aunt Lutz’ to many of us. She had her 101st birthday on August 24 and went ‘home’ on August 28. She is survived by three children, Bro. Dale (Sis. Cindy), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Cathy), and Sis. Pam Endress, all of Peoria, IL, three grandsons, and one granddaughter. Also surviving is one sister, Sis. Pat Ringger (formerly Gridley, IL), one brother, Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), and two sister-in-laws, Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Martha Stoller (Bradford, IL). Thanks to Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville IL) for assisting with the funeral service.

Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser have both suffered with illness this month, resulting in a brief hospitalization for Sis. Lottie.

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Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

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

As summer moves into autumn, we’ve seen many changes for our church family.

We sorrow with Bro. Chad Kupferschmid (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Corbin Kupferschmid (Sis. Stephanie) in the passing of their father, Bro. Al Kupferschmid (Sis. Wanda, Forrest, IL).
Likewise, we sorrow with our Sis. Shelly Kaeb (Greg) in the passing of her father, Rich Kupferschmid (Maribeth, Eureka, IL). We are so thankful that our hope in Christ is not in this life only.

We are thankful for new additions including a new convert, Alphons Pineda-Knauseder, and Bro. Walter Laubscher who has recently made Champaign his home church.

We rejoice with Sis. Joy Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Andrew Walker (Stewart and Dawn, Rantoul, IL) on their engagement. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they plan a wedding and prepare for marriage!

We recently welcomed our students back for the fall semester with a day of worship and an afternoon picnic. We are always grateful for the life they bring to our church family and to our fall activities.

We extend our gratitude to Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) for sharing the Word with us. Likewise, we’re thankful for our Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for visiting and sharing regarding the August Conference.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Denise Kaeb, Lou Ann Kaeb

We were blessed with visiting Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dale Frank (Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) on August 29, as they came for Bro. Bruce Frank’s ordination as elder. We appreciate their willingness to come minister and exhort us. Our prayers are with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita as they assume new responsibilities. As a church, we have the responsibility to pray for our elders and ministers as they lead, feed, and encourage each of us in our Christian walk.

We also appreciate Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) coming to share the word with us. Thanks for staying over and spending Sunday with us, Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene!

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Kathy Stock (Bro. Gib, dec.) in the sudden loss of her daughter, Denise Sims (Scott). May God comfort you Sis. Kathy!

We received word of the passing of Lori Stock (Steve, Bloomington, IL). Our sympathy and love goes out to Steve’s parents, Bro. Les and Sis. Joyce Stock and his brother, retired Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock and their family in this loss! “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” John 14:18. May God comfort you as only he can.

“A time to be born, and a time to die...” Eccl. 3:2

And as life is, there has also been a birth. Mark and Sis. Dinah Wilkening are rejoicing in the birth of a new granddaughter, Piper Lynn, born to Kevin and Marissa Maciejewski. We wish Kevin and Marissa much wisdom as they raise little Piper and her sister, Faith.

We have had several with health concerns in the past month; Sis. Judy Edelman, Sis. Myrna Weerts, Sis. Sharon Walder, and Scott Beer. We are keeping them in our prayers!

“... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.” Eccl. 3:2

As harvest has started, we pray for safety for the farmers and also look to the harvest of souls. Praying many can answer the call.

Illinois, Congerville

Mary Knapp, Krista Wieland

We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL) to labor on our
behalf in serving the bread of life one Sunday morning.

On August 29, Bro. Austin Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Jessi Kieser (Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer) were united in Holy Matrimony. Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) brought forth the Word, reminding us of the importance of trusting God and stepping forward in faith.

The next weekend we enjoyed a singing with many from our Bradford congregation. The fellowship of kindred minds was enjoyed by all who attended.

"O Thou gracious friend, unite us As Thy consecrated band; And, as was Thy last instruction, May in fervent love we stand! Do Thou join in sacred nearness With Thyself and with Thy fold All who see Thy light and clearness And Thy glory do behold."
The Fellowship of the Saints, Zion’s Harp, #33

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzy, Rittman, OH) for ministering to us in the past month.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie) in the passing of his brother, retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) on August 25 at Fairview Haven in Fairbury. Lori Stock (Towanda, IL) passed away on September 13. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Pat Young and attended the Bloomington church.

We received word of the passing of Sis. Marsha Scheitlin (Bro. Steve, Leo, IN) in a head-on car accident in Indiana on September 17. May God comfort her husband, their sons, Jacob and Philip; her father-in-law, Bro. Al Scheitlin (Elgin, IL), and other family members.

Our Bible Class students hosted the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 11, at the Fellowship Center to raise money for their ACYF bus trips and other activities throughout the year. May God bless them for their efforts.

On Sunday, September 19, our church hosted the All-Day ACYF. It was a blessing to have the Bible Class students from Bradford, Morton, Peoria, Chicago, and Belvidere, and we enjoyed hearing them sing a few hymns together before the afternoon service.

The engagements of Sis. Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena) to Bro. Ross Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya, Mediapolis, IA) and Jesse Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby, Peachtree City, GA) and Courtney Welch (Scott and Karrie Welch of Marengo, IL) were recently made known. May God bless these couples as they take this step in their lives.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2

All around us we can see fields that are ready or nearly ready for harvest. It’s a good reminder to us to think of what we have been sowing spiritually, that each of us as believers should be laboring in the harvest of the Lord. Our lives preach a sermon. Are we encouraging souls to think of the things of God and praying without ceasing that God may inspire and bless our words and actions? What a thanksgiving feast awaits the redeemed in Heaven!

We thank the ministers who visited and served us this month. They included Elder Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Sis. Rosanna, Sabetha, KS).

On August 16, the Eureka church women met for an ACCFS presentation on Building Intentional Relationships, led by Bro. Arlen and Sis. Katie Miller (Gridley, IL). It was inspiring to realize how edifying our relationships can be, and that this is an important way to serve the Lord and strengthen one another.

We rejoice with Bro. Austin Blunier and Sis. Jessi Kieser, as they were married in the Lord on August 29. He is the son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann, and she is the daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer (Congerville, IL). May God bless them richly as they establish their new home.

Note of Thanks:
Thank you for all the cards and prayers for me during my surgery and radiation treatments for cancer. I also appreciate all
who remembered me for my 70th birthday. May God bless each of you for your love and support.

Bro. Tom Stoller

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger*

We welcomed our new sister and brothers, Sis. Maureen Stork (John), and Bro. Tyler Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Tyler Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). We are so thankful for the encouragement of these weekends! Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) were with us to help in the work. We thank them along with visiting ministers Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL).

We have been blessed to listen to the Conference recordings over the past several Wednesday evenings. We were given a wonderfully clear picture of 2 Peter 1:5-7.

Kara Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) has given her life to the Lord in repentance. We are so thankful for her and wish her much grace as she begins to lay a firm foundation.

Our hospital and surgical patients have been Sis. Roberta Meyer, Sis. Pat Hartman, Kati Walter and Trevin Rassi (Bro. Darl and Sis. Janelle). We pray for health and healing for each of these loved ones.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Robert Kaisner (Cherie), Sis. Donna Kaisner (Bro. Jerry, dec.) and Sis. LeAnn Kaeb in the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Al Kupferschmid (Sis. Wanda, Forrest, IL). Also, to Sis. Maureen Stork (John) in the loss of her sister, Karyn Wright, of Crystal Lake, IL. We pray these loved ones will feel the comfort of God’s Spirit during this difficult time.

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz*

As we watch the fields ripen for harvest, we are reminded of the various seasons in each of our lives. Sometimes it’s a season of joy and other times a season of sorrow. But whether it’s a mountain top or a valley, we can be confident that God is there.

It was a renewing of our faith to hear the testimonies of four dear souls, who came from different stages of life yet all heard and answered God’s call. We rejoice with our new Sis. Kinzey Bachtold (Bro. Ted and Sis. Teresa), Bro. Lyndon Schaffer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Michelle), Bro. Warren Edelman (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Loren Kaeb (late Bro. Eldon and late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb). We thank visiting Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) for assisting with the weekend. Also joining us for the weekend was Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy) both of Champaign, IL, Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO) joined us earlier in the month. We thank all these brothers for their willingness to share with us from God’s Word.

Our prayers are with Sis. Lucy Slagel (Bro. Jim) as she recently spent time in the hospital. May God grant continued healing.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Shara Leman as they welcome little Marina Frances to their home. She is loved by siblings River, Madeira, Finn, Harbor, Acadia and Anchor. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart.

Our hearts grieved with two dear sisters as they laid their loving husbands to rest. We pray for Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid in the passing of Bro. Alfred, along with their children: Bro. Chad (Sis. Linda, Champaign, IL), Bro. Corbin (Sis. Stephanie, Champaign, IL), Sis. Kristen Mueller (Bro. Stan), Bro. Daton (Sis. Kathy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Garrett (Sis. Bethany, South Bend, IN). We also extend prayers to our dear Sis. Judy Anliker in the passing of her husband and retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker. We extend loving prayers to their children: Sis. Sherri Kelson (Bro. Paul), Bro. Rod (Sis. Anne, Phoenix, AZ), Robert (Linda), Sandra Zimmerman (Mike) and Bro. Steven (Sis. Sara, Wolcott, IN). May God comfort their hearts during this time of loss.
Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

“Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day”.
The Golden Harvest,
Hymns of Zion, #46.

As our children return to school and the farmers ready the equipment for the upcoming harvest, we truly desire that the seeds will prosper and bear amazing fruit.

Amid much confusion and angst in our world right now, it is imperative that we cling to our faith in Jesus and not give in to the fear that the world seems to promote.

The angels are rejoicing that Ayla Knapp, Aiden Post, and Sammie Barckowski-Fisher have all come to the foot of the cross in repentance. Ayla is the daughter of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Liz Knapp, Aiden is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post, and Sammie is the daughter of Ron and Beth Fisher of Eureka. We rejoice with these families and pray for the new converts as they take this step in faith.

Wedding bells are ringing for our dear Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike, dec.) and Bro. Mark Wuthrich (Sis. Cheryl, dec.) of Morton, IL. We trust that God will provide for them richly as they blend their two families together in love.

Another reason to rejoice is a new baby, and we are thankful to welcome Layna Michele Wiegand to our church family. She was born on September 16 to Bro. Zach and Sis. Serena Wiegand and is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wiegand and Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman. The little miss also has 4 sets of great-grandparents to love her, Bro. Steve and Sis. MaryEllen Wiegand, Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn Blunier, Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber, all of Goodfield.

Prayers were extended for our Bro. Bill Koepnik, as he had a triple by-pass a few days ago. He is doing well, and we look forward to seeing him in church again soon.

There are many that are shut in or battling cancer or other illnesses and we want them to know that they are cared for and prayed for as well as those who ask specifically for prayer.

Once again, we are listening to the Conference recordings and want to acknowledge and thank our dear Elder brothers for their diligence in the leadership of our beloved church. May God be with us all!

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

We offer our sympathies to Bro. Daton Kupferschmid (Sis. Kathy) over the loss of his father, Bro. Al Kupferschmid, (Sis. Wanda, Forrest, IL). Likewise, we offer condolences to Sis. Wava Kaupp and Bro. John Kaupp over the death of their stepson, Tony Kaupp, Hudson, IL. Life surely is fleeting, and each day with loved ones is a treasure. May we cherish our relationships with family, and with brethren.

Brian Betts was hospitalized with an ailment, and we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

As I write this, we are in the middle of harvest. The secular farm fields were “white” unto harvest, and farmers and their modern equipment went forth into the harvest. In our spiritual lives, we are taught the fields are white unto harvest (John 4.35), and by the grace of God, laborers are set forth into the harvest. We are all workers in this harvest, and may grace be plentiful. The eternal destiny of souls is at stake.

Our convert total as of September 20 totals 21. This is a blessing, and may God grant abundant grace to all souls who seek their salvation and turn to the Lord.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner

“But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” Luke 11:28

We thank the following ministering brothers who brought us the truth from God’s Word: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), retired Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cisna Park, IL), Bro. Blair Neihouser (Sis. Natalie, West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO).

We congratulate Bro. Mark Wuthrich (Sis. Cheryl, dec.) and...
Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark, dec.) of Goodfield, IL whose engagement was announced on August 22. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their November 7 wedding.

This month we finished the nine week “Sharing the Gospel” Bible study. May we all be encouraged to share the gospel not only with our families and friends, but with all who may ask us of the hope that lies within us.

At our September Family Worship Night, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) continued our series on the Bible by teaching us “How We Got the Bible that We Have Today”. He reminded us the Bible was of divine and human authorship and consists of 66 books, by 40 authors who wrote it over a period of 1200 years. May we cherish God’s Word that has been preserved for us over these many generations and strive to preserve it for future generations.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” Heb. 1:1-2

““Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord! The lamp that our Father above So kindly has lighted to teach us the way That leads to the arms of His love! Its warnings, its counsels, are faithful and just; Its judgments are perfect and pure; Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord! Our only salvation is there; It carries conviction down deep in the heart, And shows us ourselves as we are. It tells of a Saviour, and points to the cross, Where pardon we now may secure; Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord! The hope of our friends in the past; Its truth, where so firmly they anchored their trust, Through ages eternal shall last. Oh, wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord! Unchanging, abiding and sure; For we know that when time and the world pass away, God’s Word shall forever endure.” Oh, Wonderful Word! Gospel Hymns #345

Illinois, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

School has begun and signs of fall are all around us. Sunday school has also restarted as well as a new all-church Bible study about Sharing the Gospel. We can all agree the world today has never needed the good news of Jesus more than it does right now, especially with all the events in Afghanistan, Haiti, globally, and the 20th anniversary of 9/11. When we see the uncertainty in the world, we can battle anxiety with the words of Isa. 41:10:

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

We rejoice with two souls that were baptized, Bro. Cooper Waibel (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Jennifer Adams. We pray they will feel the love and support of the church as they continue their walk with the Lord.

Wedding vows were exchanged by Bro. Logan Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Carli Leman (Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori, Washington, IL). We wish them God’s blessings as they establish their new home on his word.

We mourn with those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Lucille Endress (Bradford, IL) entered heaven and was the mother to Bro. Dale (Sis. Cindy), Bro. Denny (Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Pam. Bro. Tim Reinhard passed away and we lift up his family in prayer, Sis. Joan, Kristin Menold (Rodney Menold), Sis. Sarah, Sis. Bethany Frauhiger (Bro. Bill, Bluffton, IN), Sis. Hannah Feucht (Bro. Jacob), Sis. Faith, Bro. Mackenson and Berlica. We are so thankful God is the comforter of the brokenhearted.

The ladies’ group, Touching All Generations, met at Bro. Harold and Sis. Imogene Tanner’s beautiful
zinnia field so each one could pick a bouquet to take home, followed by lunch at Tanner’s Orchard. It was a wonderful outing in God’s creation.

The annual outdoor gospel sing was held at Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr’s home. We enjoyed dinner around their beautiful backyard pool and listened as two singing groups sang praises to God into the evening. It was a lovely evening of fellowship and worship.

Illinois, Princeville
Ruth Herrmann, Cherie White

“And he changeth the times and the seasons...” Dan. 2:21

We can now enjoy the beautiful colors of our master artist as the fall season is upon 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.” Gen. 2:18

Sis. Laura Herrmann, (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Karl Christ, (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie) have announced their engagement. They are planning their wedding for December 12. “Be present, holy Spirit,
To bless them as they kneel,
As thou, for Christ the Bridegroom,
The heavenly bridegost seal:
O spread they pure wing o’er them;
Let no ill pour’d find place,
While onward to thy presence
Their hallowed path they trace.” The Voice that Breathed O’er Eden, Hymns Of Zion, #196

Bro. Josh Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Willow Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty, Tremont, IL) were married on September 12. We warmly welcome Sis. Willow to our church family.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...” James 1:17

Thankful for a safe arrival, Bro. Jason and Sis. Sarah Stoller (Rittman, OH) welcome a son, Amos Matthew born on August 23. Little sister, Lois will now have a playmate as he becomes older. Happy grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann Stahl and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori Stoller (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin happily welcome their first grandson, Easton Andrew Hoerr, born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Hannah Hoerr (Washington, IL) on September 2. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Washington, IL).

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph. 4:29

We were blessed by visiting ministers: Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN), Eldor Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. David Sceggel (Sis. Stephanie, Peoria, IL).

“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation...” 2 Cor. 1:4

Remembering our loved one, Hank Bowdoin (Benola) who spent time in the hospital.

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

Michael Streitmatter of California passed away. His parents are the late Paul and Mary Streitmatter. He is the nephew of Sis. Shirley Kieser and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter.

Sis. Lucille Endress of Bradford, IL peacefully walked into the arms of Jesus. She was a sister to Bro. Joe Stoller and sister-in-law to Sis. Bernice Stoller.

 “…Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” Acts 2:38

Our young friend, Kenzie Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), has made a decision to begin a walk with Jesus. Our prayers for her and her parents as they disciple her to grow a best friend relationship with him.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:6

We welcome back home our Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser to become a part of our fellowship and worship.

Illinois, Roanoke
Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

We rejoice with Sis. Joy Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Andrew Walker (Stewart and Dawn Walker, Rantoul, IL), whose marriage engagement was announced on August 22. They worship at our Champaign, IL, church. We pray for God’s rich blessings on this dear couple as they look forward to becoming one in the Lord.
Our annual nursing home benefit was held August 27 and 28. It included a drive-through fish fry and virtual auction. We thank all those who helped make it a successful fundraising weekend. We are so thankful for our nursing home and the blessing and outreach it provides to our church and community.

Our Sunday school, high school Bible Class, and adult Bible Class have resumed. We pray for God’s blessings on the teachers and students as they study God’s Word and learn more about him.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) was our visiting minister on August 29. Bro. Curt read from Psalm 145 where David proclaims: “I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.” Psa. 145:1. Then he read from Luke 1 when Mary rejoices in the news that the angel has shared with her: “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.” Luke 1:47. Bro. Curt encouraged us that our highest calling is to extol the Lord. Even when we are confronted by hard circumstances, we can delight in our almighty Creator.

Our local ministers have also offered encouragement in God’s Word as we navigate these uncertain times in our nation and world. Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer) encouraged us not to complain when we are overwhelmed by our circumstances, but to fall before our Lord in worship and he will lift us up. Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan) encouraged us to “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16. Bro. Jonathan reminded us that to be holy is to portray our Lord’s characteristics, recognizing that it is the Lord that enables us to accomplish them in our life. We cannot exhibit holiness apart from him. Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill) offered an acronym for “HOLY”. “H” stands for a heart of humility; “O” represents obey the truth; “L” stands for love one another, and “Y” denotes yield to the word of God. We thank all our ministers for their timely messages and their ongoing humble service to our church. May our Lord be their rich rewarer.

Bro. Sam Wettsein and Bro. Luke Fischer traveled to Haiti to help with well drilling efforts there. They reported of the devastation there as a result of the recent earthquake and hurricane. Bro. Scott Yordy left for Haiti to assist with construction on Hospital Lumiere, which was severely damaged in the earthquake. We pray for the people of Haiti and all the relief efforts going on there, as well as for the many areas of turmoil and unrest in the world. May our Lord give us wisdom in how to live with purpose and vision in these unsettled times.

Carter Michael arrived to bless the home of Josh and Jenny Hoffman of Normal, IL, on August 31. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy Hoffman. Justin and Kerri Fehr welcomed Isabel Rose into their family on September 10. Her older brothers are Lincoln and Adler and her thankful grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Jill Fehr. We pray for God’s blessings on these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

On September 5 our church held services at the Peoria Rescue Mission. What a blessing to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

We are so thankful for and rejoice with Gabby Yordy (Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy) and Wyatt Gerber (Bo. Cory and Sis. Gini), who have begun their walks with the Lord. Ethan Hodel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina) and Natalie Hodel (Bro. Jason and Sis. Rena) have professed peace with God and man and are looking forward to baptism. May God continue to bless these loved ones in their journeys of faith.

Love “beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” 1 Cor. 13:7

Our Ladies Night, “Love Without Limits”, was held on September 17. Several sisters shared of loving others through the trials and challenges of life which they were able to do through the power of God’s unfailing love. It was a blessed evening of fellowship, sharing, and encouraging each other in God’s Word.

We want to lift up Tom Durand (Sis. Marsha), Sis. Carol Feucht (Bro. Randy), Sis. Jan Mueller (Bro. Jim), Sis. Jean
Luginbuhl, Sis. Evie Hangartner (Bro. Gene), Bro. Dave Whitten (Sis. Lori), Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb), Bro. Marv Braker (Sis. Michaleen), and Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy) and her sister Amee Meinhold, for our Lord’s healing mercies. May he grant complete restoration of health according to his will.

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser
Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) presented to us a topical “The Impact of a Father”. We learned about the responsibilities of earthly fathers, but also our Heavenly Father’s love for us, and his expectations of us. Our congregation hosted an Invite a Family, and we were blessed to have Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) with us to share in the ministry.

Our prayers this month have been with Bro. Bill Huette as he spent time in the hospital, and has now taken residency at AC Restmor in Morton. We also remember Sis. Cheri Frank (Bro. Doug), Sis. Sally Koch (Bro. Roger) and Sis. Janice Koch as they all submitted to surgery.

We rejoice with Sis. Willow Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty) and Bro. Josh Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann, Princeville, IL) as they were united as one in the Lord. Amongst our many visitors were Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) who assisted in the wedding ceremony. Elder Bro. James Fehr shared with them and us twelve words that should be used in every marriage: “I am sorry, I was wrong, I forgive you, I love you.” Willow’s grandfather’s favorite verse will never be forgotten by those here in Tremont;

“As they go forth upon life’s way, Sustain them by Thy grace; May they Thy holy laws obey And live in joy and peace.”
O God of Wisdom, Hymns of Zion, #286

Two visiting ministers served us on their wedding day; they were Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. David Sceggel (Sis. Stephanie, Peoria, IL). We were also blessed with two others at different worship times, Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Jim Manz (Sis. Elizabeth, Junction, OH). May the Lord be their rich rewarder!

A precious soul was born on September 2 to Bro. Seth and Sis. Hannah Hoerr; a little boy they named Easton Andrew! Truly it is an awesome joy to be a parent, but also a weighty responsibility; yet we know God’s grace is sufficient!

Washington has a lot of young souls who have turned their hearts to the Lord. Since not all have been noted in the Silver Lining, here is the list of all our converts: Taygen and Boston Beyer (Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Angie), Sam and Caleb Wofford (Bro. Isaac and Sis. Rachel), Aubrey Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shelby), Cliff Leman (Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori), Ben Fritz (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jessica), Kamden Aberle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine), Isaac Heinold (Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth), and Eli Hartter (Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill). Truly this is the most important step in our lives and one which needs to be built on that solid rock of Jesus Christ! Our prayer is that each will dig deep and “build a house” that will withstand the storms of life”!

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen
We have had many reasons to rejoice this past month. Following baptisms, our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Cora, Abi, and Jacob Isch (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie), Carter Fiechter (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jessica), Isaac Steffen (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jessie), and Hudson Gerber (Bro. Clint and Sis. Amy). Tyler Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Suzie) was also baptized in West Lafayette this past month.
Bro. Joab Telusma married Sis. Trinity Walder (Bro. Mike and Sis. Suzie) in Smithville, OH on September 12. May God bless their union and use them for his glory!

We appreciate Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Tricia, South Bend, IN) for sharing the Word with us! May he be blessed for his service.

What a blessing to have many singles worship with us for the annual Bluffton Invite. The theme for the weekend was “It’s an Honor to Serve”. What a gift to be able to fellowship, meet new people and create lifelong friendships!

Our annual church picnic was an evening of food and fellowship. We were grateful to be together and have beautiful weather!

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

We have been praying for several families this month. Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall) has had serious health struggles and has been hospitalized. We are praying for answers and wisdom for the doctors. With heavy hearts, we pray for Bro. Shawn, Sis. Kaitlyn Reinhard and their families as their 18 month old daughter, Belle Irene, is now in the arms of Jesus. May God be their greatest comfort.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

On September 7, we said farewell to Bro. Bob Meyer Sr. (Sis. Lela, dec). Surviving are two daughters, Sis. Connie Cupp (Bro. Mick, Bluffton North), and Vickie Elsasser (Jim, Dunlap, IL), one son, Robert Meyer (Ann, Bluffton), nine grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Our prayers go out to all who have been experiencing health difficulties, including Bro. Colton Yergler (Sis. Sadie), who spent time in the hospital, and Sis. Tiffani Schladenhauffen.

We were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Chad Aeschliman (Sis. Claudia, West Lafayette, IN) deliver the message on September 5.

Finally, we ended summer with our annual church picnic; good food, fun, fellowship, and praise are a recipe for a joyful evening.

Indiana, Bluffton North

Deanna Brinneman, Rhonda Maller

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

Our young group rejoiced in fellowship with brothers and sisters from many of our churches as they participated in Bluffton Country’s annual invite August 20-22. That same weekend, our K-4th grade students enjoyed their annual Sunday school picnic.

As they rejoiced, our congregation also wept. That same evening, August 22, Belle Irene Reinhard, 18-month old daughter of Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kaitlyn (Frauhiger) Reinhard passed away. She was born on February 19, 2020. Belle was a curious and adventurous girl who loved four-wheeler rides, climbing and jumping, swimming, and playing with kittens. In addition to her parents, Belle is survived by her grandparents, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Marv and Sis. Kim Reinhard (Bluffton Country), great-grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Sis. Pat Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie) all Bluffton, and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bluffton Country). She is also survived by a great-great-grandmother, Sis. Betty Frauhiger (Bluffton North) along with several aunts and uncles and six cousins.

It’s an honor, an honor to serve.”
An Honor to Serve by Ray Boltz

Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” Psalms 37:3

As the world around us changes, we often wonder, where is God’s goodness? It is all around us. These are a few of the signs of God’s goodness: the
support of family and friends, fellowship of other Christians, the smile of a person as we pass on the street, a farmer’s wave as we drive by, the beautiful laughter of children, the songs and prayers of a church, and the beauty of nature that surrounds us in every season. These are some of God’s blessings and he is the light of each new day.

Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky) recently guided us through the reading of the Spring Memorandum.

We are prayerful for our children in the upcoming school year. May they remember the lessons learned in Sunday school and the teachings from their parents.

Lord willing, on Sunday, September 26 we look forward to the Ordination of Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) as Deacon to our congregation. Our prayers and love are given in support of Bro. Les and his family.

We were blessed this past Wednesday evening with the Purdue Young Group as they inspired us with their presence and songs. God bless and guide them throughout the year.

Two families welcome home new babies. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Erica Huber and big brother Zander welcome baby girl Roma Kay to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna Putt, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber. Courtney Wuethrich had a baby boy on September 6, his name is Onyx Jade. Onyx has a big brother Kase. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Mim Wuethrich.

Let us remember when the trials of life come: ‘And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27

Indiana, Indianapolis

Valerie Kipfer

“Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.” I Chron. 16:11

We are so excited to now have a total of eleven converts in our church. Taye Gutwein, (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura) has made a beginning in his life to serve the Lord. We rejoice with him, his parents, and the entire Indianapolis church, as God is still calling souls to him. We will begin a convert class in the near future for this precious group.

We are always happy to have visiting ministers. Recently Bro. Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie, Prescott, AZ) shared the Word with us.

On Wednesday, September 8, we listened to a presentation on HarvestCall at our regular pizza family night. We also conduct children’s programs on these Wednesday family nights.

Indy Outreach is scheduled for October 15-17 and is always a great weekend, not only for the Young Group but for all participants! This is a traditional weekend of service projects and fellowship, of which a lot of people from lots of places have great memories.

On September 10-12, we held the Annual All Church Campout at Mounds State Park. It is always a blessed time, with some families pitching camp for the weekend and others “day camping”. All in all, the blessings, worship and praise, flow around the campfire while enjoying God’s beautiful creation.

“All our choice and our endeavor Are for Him Who gave us love, And our soul would live forever For Him Who came from above. Here alone it finds contentment; Here alone delights to be; Gladly leaves the world’s enchantment For the joy it shares with Thee.”

Our Conversation is in Heaven, Zion’s Harp #198

We’ve been studying 1 Timothy as a congregation, and recently Bro. Eric Strassheim presented Chapter 6. Contentment doesn’t live in the past or the future. Know God and enjoy God, his promises, and his love.

“O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.” Isa. 25:1

Indiana, LaCrosse

Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

“Let us draw near with a true heart...Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Hebrews 10:22-24

Our Wednesday evenings this past month have been full of conviction and encouragement as we viewed the Conference recordings and heard a
presentation about the Gateway Woods. Many thanks to Bro. Chad Kaeb, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Lindsey Isch, and Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sandy Steffen for sharing of the hard work and new developments being done in God’s name!

We would also like to thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Lamar, MO) for sharing God’s Word with us on a recent Sunday. It’s always a pleasure to have their family “home” for a visit!

Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel’s annual Stone Soup supper and grain bin singing is always a much-anticipated event. The weather was beautiful, food delicious, and fellowship sweet as we were blessed to gather together.

Benjamin Roy was born on August 20 to Mark and Katie Heinold. We rejoice with Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold as they welcome a new grandson!

Indiana, Leo
Leanne Fischer

August 21-22 was a special weekend in Leo as brothers from across the country met here to raise their voices in song. They practiced and recorded 14 songs, and shared them with those gathered at church on Sunday. Bro. Jeff Stoller led the group. Visiting minister Bro. Makoto Inoue (Sis. Anna, Tokyo, Japan) ministered the Word to us, as well as ministering with the choir in song. “Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious,” Ps. 66:2. His praise was glorious! Lifting our voices in praise gives us a taste of the glories of heaven.

Recent additions to our Leo church include Bro. Ben and Sis. Suzie Dill who moved along with their three sons from Minneapolis, MN and Bro. Larry and Sis. Liz Moore who moved from Elgin, IL.

As a church family, our hearts are aching for and with Bro. Steve Scheitlin and his sons, Phillip and Jacob as they grieve for the very recent and unexpected death of their beloved wife and mother; Sis. Marsha. On September 17, Sis. Marsha was driving with her son Philip to receive medical treatment for COVID-19. They suffered an auto accident on the way. Bro. Eric and Sis. Marissa Bahler came upon the accident and were able to stay with Phillip as Marsha was transported to the hospital. They were able to get an email out to the church to inform us of the accident. We soon learned that Marsha had been called home. Steve, Jacob, and Phillip were all experiencing COVID-19 which further complicated matters. Steve had to be hospitalized when his oxygen levels went too low, and he was diagnosed with pneumonia. Philip also was in the hospital with injuries (a couple of compressed vertebrae) As of Wednesday, September 22, they are both home and were able to make arrangements for Marsha’s visitation and funeral. Besides her immediate family, Marsha is survived by her mother, Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty, OH), her two sisters, Cyndee Leichty (Brian, Fort Wayne, IN), and Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis, Junction, OH), her brother, Bro. Kirk Stoller (Sis. Eileen, Latty, OH). How thankful we are for God’s Word and his promises. We weep now, but we will not weep forever.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son.” Rev. 21:3-7

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We are thankful to Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, Lacrosse, IN) for serving our church and sharing God’s Word this past month.

We are happy to share that Claire Beer will give her testimony of repentance and conversion and plans to be baptized this fall. Her parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam Beer.
There was a recent ACYF this past month in Wolcott, IN. Our small group of middle school kids was tasked with coming up with a “fight song” for the Milford church. The idea can spark reflection and some laughs. With many similarities amongst the AC denomination, what stands out to the kids in Milford? Would it be the fact that we once had a dog on the pulpit? Or the church layout that provides an excellent game of hide-and-seek? How about the wooden Bible above our pulpit that reads “Ask and ye shall receive” but can be mistakenly read as “Ask ye receive and shall”? What makes Milford special to them?

In the end, the kids were gracious to our congregation and asked for God to bless our church. A prayer for his presence sung to the tune of “God Bless America”. If our defining characteristic is not our building or quirks, but our longing for him, we are blessed indeed. Thanks to the teachers and students for the effort coming up with a song and the time invested in building relationships to God’s glory.

**Indiana, Remington**

*Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler*

We are thankful for this month’s visiting ministers Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN). We appreciated hearing them share the Word as well as their wisdom from the pulpit and pray God will bless them for their service to us.

We said a tearful farewell to our dear Sis. Charlene Getz (Bro. Eldon) this month. With our earthly hearts and minds, we can be tempted to think that she went to see Jesus too soon. But when we look at it with the eyes of faith, we can be assured that she left us at just the right time. In addition to Bro. Eldon, she left behind three sons, Matt (Heidi), Bro. Jason (Sis. Sara), and Bro. Andy (Sis. Gina), as well as her beloved grandchildren Owen, convert Evan, Sis. Sophie Graf (Bro. Kenny), Sam, Sis. Chloe Furrer (Bro. Caleb, Wolcott, IN), Will, Emma, Bo, Eli, Vivienne, Simon, and Asa, and a great-granddaughter Edie Graf. May God be praised for the victory he won for Sis. Charlene and for all of us as well! Please be prayerful for the family.

Sis. Marcella Tyler (Bro. Dale, deceased) is also grieving this month. She helped her sister Barb Sigo lay to rest her husband Roger “Spider” of Lafayette, IN. Please be prayerful for these two sisters as they grieve the loss of their husbands this year.

**Indiana, South Bend**

*Joshua Martinez*

“Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.”

On August 22, we celebrated the end of another joyful Sunday school year with our annual picnic at Gramm Pond. May the Lord bless Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm for blessing us with their kindness and hospitality! Our church family welcomes the following college students: Saige Rinkenberger (Bro. Luke and Sis. Jaime) and Noah Crockett (Brian and June) from Bluffton, IN; Allison Schrock (Bro. John and Sis. Jackie, Congerville, IL); and Masha Greathouse (Rob and Oksana) from Lakeville, IN.

On August 29, faith became sight for Bro. Al Kupferschmid as he entered eternal rest. Our love and prayers go out to Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid (Sis. Bethany), their children and Bro. Al’s bride of 54 years, Sis. Wanda (Forrest, IL).

“We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.”

On September 19, a group of our children traveled to Wolcott for this year’s Junior-High ACYF event. May the Lord bless Bro. Jason Isch (Sis. Jessica) for serving as their driver for that fun trip! On the same day, we were blessed by 18 visitors from the Junction and Fairbury congregations! May the Lord bless Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi), and Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby) both from Junction,
OH for sharing Spirit-filled messages with us from the pulpit!

“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

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss, Lyle Zeltwanger

Our verse of the month for September:
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Gal. 5:22-23

What a blessing it is for us to have had many visiting ministers with family and friends share in God’s Word and fellowship. Our thanks go out to Elder Bro. Matt Manz, (Deanna, Toledo, OH), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Bruce Frank, (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger, (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN). The time you shared with us and the work you have given does not go unnoticed by the Lord. May you all be blessed in his love.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Sharon Pratt opened their home to all for a singing and fellowship evening with snacks. Thank you for your loving invitation.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger planned a wonderful weekend for us! They had invited guests to stay with them and planned a picnic out at the Park in Kouts, but the temperature was 90 degrees at 3:00 p.m. and the heat index was up to 100, for many of us it was unbearable. So, they moved it indoors to our fellowship hall where it was cooler and much more enjoyable. Bro. Lyle made ribs while Sis. Marilyn made a pot of baked beans and everyone else brought side dishes and yes, desserts. It was so nice to have family and friends join in on this time spent together. Sunday was just as special, our pews were full the message was heartfelt from the pulpit and the singing was in glorious tune. Later that afternoon we all gathered again along with friends from LaCrosse church for a catered meal and fellowship. Thank you to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn and everyone else who came together making the weekend complete.

Bro. Tim Bucher has been conducting a Bible study for us covering God’s 7 feasts. We have all been learning so much, and even the things we thought we knew are now much clearer. Thank you for putting this together that we may continue to learn his word.

Our prayers go out to the ones involved in the hurricanes, the earthquake in Haiti, and the events in Afghanistan. Please keep Sis. Rachel Feller in prayer for her health issue, Sis. Leona Bucher for the loss of her daughter Diane Moser, Sis. Beverly Miller for the loss of her husband Bro. Terry Miller, Sue Frieden for the loss of her mother Lucile Bozell, and our beloved Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr as they age together.

If you are looking for a loving church then stop in at Valparaiso and you will be greeted warmly.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Abbie Gramm

This month we held Bro. Tyler Tonner’s testimony and baptism with Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) assisting. We enjoyed seeing some visiting faces for the event. We also have our students back at Purdue and have kicked off our Purdue Young Group activities. Welcome to our new freshman! An additional welcome to Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer, Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer, Bro. Josh and Sis. Jenn Furrer, Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle Earney, and their families as they have begun to worship with us.

Our four-month trial period has adjourned, and our church has determined to keep the trial Sunday structure: first service at 9:30 a.m., a break at 10:45 a.m., Sunday school running simultaneously with the second service at 11 a.m., and lunch at 11:50 a.m.

As we close out the summer and move into fall, may we be encouraged not to grow weary in well-doing. As we engage in good things, sometimes it’s easy to feel burned out. While that is a real threat to our well-being, our capacity ultimately rests in Christ’s power. We can trust
him to have our best interests in mind, regardless of how much we do, and can rejoice in the opportunities to do good in our everyday lives.

**Indiana, Wolcott**  
**Brittany Gerber, Luann Gerber**

We gathered to hear the testimonies of Levi Blume (Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa) and Nanci Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) on a Saturday evening and the next day we rejoiced as we watched their baptisms and welcomed them into the brotherhood! What a blessing it was and we thank Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for coming and helping Elder Bro. Greg Lehman.

Our Sis. Verna Furrer passed away. We are so thankful she was able to surrender her life to the Lord in her final hours so she can spend eternity in heaven!

We were so thankful to be able to host our Invite-a-Guest weekend this month! What a blessing to have visitors with us again!

Many in our congregation have lost loved ones this past month and we want to extend our condolences to each of them. We are praying for Bro. Steve and Sis. Sara Anliker with the passing of Steve’s dad, retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

We were also saddened to hear that our Bro. Kurtis Allie recently lost his grandmother. We are praying for him and his family as well.

Sis. Shirley Furrer (Bro. Irv) and Sis. Chloe Furrer (Bro. Caleb) lost their sister and grandmother respectively, our dear Sis. Charlene Getz from our neighboring Remington church. Our prayers go out to them and the entire Getz family.

Our love and prayers are also with Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard with the passing of Bro. Mike’s brother, Bro. Tim Reinhard (Peoria, IL).

We know that loss is a part of life on this earth, and we are so thankful to know that this world is not our home and someday all our tears will be wiped away.

> “There’s no disappointment in heaven,  
> No weariness, sorrow or pain;  
> No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
> No song with a minor refrain.  
> The clouds of our earthly horizon  
> Will never appear in the sky,  
> For all will be sunshine and gladness,  
> With never a sob nor a sigh.”

No Disappointment in Heaven, Tabernacle Hymns, #20

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

**Kendra Wettstein**

Thankfulness is our gift to God for his gift to us.

Thankful for another year of Sunday school beginning for the children and young adults, praying God will touch the young hearts with his truth again this year. Our prayerful support is with Sis. Jackie Wettstein and Bro. Nathan Schock (Sis. Kaylyn) who are our new Sunday school teachers.

Thankful to be the destination for the annual bus trip taken by several from Congerville this past month. Approximately 60 came and we enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship. We are thankful for Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL) preaching God’s Word that weekend. May God be their rich rewarder. We also appreciate the services of Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Kim Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) help on the pulpit this month.

We are remembering Sis. Kaylyn Schock (Bro. Nathan) in prayer as her grandmother Loretta Lolling passed away. We are also remembering Sis. Carol Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd) in prayer as her brother-in-law Gary Rumbold passed away. May God be the best refuge during these times.

**Iowa, Burlington**

**Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner**

Recently in a sermon, I was convicted and reminded that we should be living today with the kingdom of God in our hearts! Col. 3:1 also encourages us towards a heavenly mindset: “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” As we walk through busy days, events, changes or challenges, do we view those around us as souls headed for a destination? Do we...
consider everyday happenings as opportunities to live out a godly example representing an eternal kingdom?

Gathering with brethren can be a beautiful way to help keep a heavenly vision. It was Burlington’s turn to host the potluck for all the Iowa churches in Bentonsport, IA. Fellowship, singing and food were blessings shared by all.

Our Single Group hosted a supper for brothers and sisters over 70. It’s a special privilege for the younger generation to be able to serve the older, and another way to live out the kingdom of God.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) came on a Wednesday evening and encouraged us in the Word and in ways to seek those things which are above. May God bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Shultz are new grandparents to a tiny little girl, Brynna Melody, born to Tim and Laurie Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA). Brynna was born seven weeks early and has been spending extra time in the hospital. We lift their family up in prayer as they welcome her amidst the challenges.

We wrap another soul in prayer as Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart’s daughter, Savannah, was deployed to Korea as part of the Air Force. How thankful we are that Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God! He knows all things and is sovereign overall. May this truth empower us to dedicate our affection to things that will last eternally.

**Iowa, Elgin**

**Maria Rocke**

Our all-church Invite-a-Guest was this month, and we had a nice turn-out. We cherish the sweet fellowship that accompanies weekends like these and enjoyed getting to know each other’s guests better.

We appreciate the efforts of the ministers that visited over the past month; Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda, Elgin, IL). May each one be blessed.

We bid farewell to Sis. Char Dietz as she returns home to Bradford, IL after a summer of volunteer work and gathering with us on weekends. Her smile and words of encouragement will be missed!

“The Lord may guide your heart With His own light! His peace ne’er from you part; His face so bright Shine e’er upon your ways, And may His living grace Lead you through Pilgrim’s dale To Heaven’s light!”

The Parting Hour Has Come, Hymns of Zion #274

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

**Laura Funk**

We are experiencing late summer weather; hot humid temps during the day and cooler temps in the evening. The crops are maturing, and harvest will soon be upon us. Are you ready for the Lord’s Harvest?

Last month we appreciated visiting ministers Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and families. The singing help was greatly appreciated!

The Bible Class visited Wichita, KS for a Sunday school gathering. The activities and speakers were appreciated. We send our “thanks”.

Sunday school classes and public classes have resumed. We pray God’s nearness to the teachers and the students. We hear of many curricular changes being made and wonder on the future of education. We can trust the Sunday school children are receiving a “sound” education as the Bible does not change.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Sara Lester and children welcome John Abraham to their family on September 2. He has many loving hands to care for him.

“In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain In Jesus the merciful Saviour.”

Our prays of comfort ascend to Heaven for Bro. Vern, Sis. Boni Hostetler and family. Bro. Vern’s brother was critically injured in an accident and passed away. They have five children. God’s timing is perfect, we must trust his leading.

“He’ll lighten the load, And level the road
And bear thee on hands of compassion."
_The Best Refuge, Hymns of Zion #46_

**Iowa, Iowa City**
_Diana Butikofer_

We were blessed to spend the afternoon with the Sunday school children at our annual Sunday school picnic on August 23. The children really enjoyed the extra time spent together. Thanks to all who contributed to the day.

We will miss Darinda Ganfield, who attended here for several years. She has moved closer to her family, and we pray for the Lord’s nearness in this transition.

We were thankful to have Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA) among our recent visitors. We ask God’s blessings on Bro. Troy’s reading and sharing the Word with us.

**Iowa, Lester**
_Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler_

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dale Knobloch with the passing of his sister, Betty “Bess” Dietrich of Silverton, OR. She also has nieces and nephews that have many fond memories of their aunt. Bro. Eric and Sis. Joy Kupferschmid and children said goodbye here on earth to their father and grandfather, Richard Kupferschmid of Eureka, IL. May they find comfort that God knows their sorrow and pain during this difficult time.

We welcome Adriana Sainz, foreign exchange student of Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia, Sis. Kara and Kiann Blomgren. Coming from Madrid, Spain we hope she can enjoy our farming community in rural Iowa!

Hattie and Jaycee Moser along with their parents Bro. Caleb and Sis. Holly welcomed their new sister, Saige Leona, on Sunday September 12.

Grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk (Morton, IL). Bro. Fred shared God’s Word with us when they visited their granddaughters.

Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) also lent themselves on our behalf this month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) was here for Bro. Addison Metzger’s (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana) proving and baptism. It’s encouraging to see Bro. Addison’s humble willingness to submit his life to God and we are in continued prayer for loved ones who haven’t headed His call.

“To me is given boundless mercy,
A gift that I did not deserve;”
_Boundless Mercy, Zion’s Harp #220_

Taking advantage of Christ’s boundless mercy is Kathy Knobloch. We are thankful that she is able to commit her life to Christ while battling cancer.

Regaining strength each day after being hospitalized are Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Deb) and Ross Metzger (Heather). On going prayers go out to others dealing with ailments of the flesh.

A special appreciation and thank you goes to our trustees and their wives for the completion of a big project stabilizing our church’s basement walls. Many members and friends labored together, and much time, effort and prayers went into the project this summer so our children could return to Sunday school.

With many of our church family involved in agriculture, fall can be busy and stressful. While we don’t have many opportunities to calmly take in the beauty of fall, we can watch its beauty unfold as we gather the harvest, the fruits of our labors blessed by God.

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35

**Iowa, Mediapolis**
_Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz_

Summer’s long and hot days have slipped away into the cooler temperatures and beautiful colors of autumn. It is a comfort to be grounded by the rhythm of the earth and its seasons. God’s hand prevails even to this generation, just as he described it thousands of years ago in Gen 8:22. “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest and cold and heat and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” His very presence is all around us. May we not be too distracted in our everyday pursuits to appreciate and enjoy the handiwork of God.
What a joy it is to hear of those who realize their lives are in need of a Savior and come to the foot of the cross, where there is still redemption to be found. Tammy Sharp (Gary) has come to this point and has acknowledged her need for a changed heart. We praise God for his mercy and loving kindness to continue calling souls who are in need.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris Lanz and family in the passing of Sis. Kris’s mother, Loretta “Teddy” Lolling. May each family member feel God’s nearness as they process the loss.

The engagement of Bro. Ross Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) and Sis. Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL), was made known to the congregation. We welcome Sis. Ashlyn into our church family and wish this couple God’s blessings as they plan their wedding.

We have assembled on four Wednesday evenings to hear the Conference conclusions. We thank our Elder body for caring for us and being the watchmen on the wall. Their efforts are appreciated, and we remain prayerful on their behalf as the world becomes more complex.

It was pure delight to once again meet with the brethren from the Burlington, Taylor, and Bloomfield churches, to share food and fellowship, and then to “raise the rafters” in song at an old historic church located centrally for all of our congregations. How we cherish our Christian friendships!

As Sunday school is now back in session, our prayer for our youth and teachers is that the good seed that is sown now, can one day bring bountiful fruit. There is no other knowledge or wisdom in the world that can benefit our children more than that which is found in God’s Holy Word.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers with us this past month. They were: Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA), Bro. Phillip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN). May these brothers be blessed for their labors.

Iowa, West Bend
Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt

We are thankful for the love and encouragement we received from our visiting ministers: Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA), Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA).

We wish our convert Erica Walder (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL) God’s nearness as she relocates back to her home church in Cissna Park, IL. May Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser (Bro. Kenneth) continually feel God’s healing hand as she recovers from knee surgery.

As we look toward the cold of winter, may we feel the warmth of God’s love in our hearts and strive to walk in his way always.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:8

Japan, Shioda & Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Carrie Ito, Rachel Witzig

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” Psalms 91:4

We are thankful to serve a God who remains faithful no matter our season of life. His faithfulness endures throughout every circumstance.

We grieve with Sis. Kido in the passing of her son, Yoshito Kido, from cancer in August. Sis. Kido lives in Kyushu, a different island than where our Tokyo and Shioda congregations are located, but despite the distance, our hearts are together in her loss.

We are thankful for the safe return of the those who traveled long distances this summer. The Inoue family and Sis. Rachel visited the States, and Sibylle Wotzkow went to Switzerland. It is a blessing to know that the Lord is at work in all parts of the globe and that we are always within the gaze of his caring, watchful eyes.
Greetings in Christ Jesus! It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers occupy our pulpit! We appreciate Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane), and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria), both from Lamont, KS, bringing us the beautiful message of salvation!

Our hearts are filled with joy when sinners recognize their need of Jesus, and fix their eyes on the old rugged cross. Our prayers are with Braden Menold (Bro. Trent and Sis Rita), Ashlyn Menold (Bro. Chris and Sis. Amy), Jared Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila), and Aubrey Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), as they begin their walk of repentance!

We welcome Sis. Cheyan Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue), and Bro. Ron and Sis. Cindy Ruyle into our body of believers. It was a beautiful weekend hearing their testimonies of faith and welcoming them into our family. It is a true blessing to have such a wonderful, caring, and loving family of God to walk life’s path alongside us. We are grateful Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), was able to join us for this special weekend!

We lift Bro. Waymer Esslinger up in prayer as he is dealing with health complications. Thankfully, we can lay our cares and concerns at the feet of our Great Physician!

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Janelle Wuthrich

On August 22, our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) joined us for the afternoon to read the Memorandum. He was assisted by our Bro. Larry Bahr. We wish to thank them as well as the entire Elder body for their efforts in submitting this timely message to our congregation.

In September, we have started listening to the recordings of the August Conference. Again, we appreciate all those who labored to bring forth the teachings that can draw us closer as a congregation as we continue to draw closer to our Lord.

Fort Scott recently hosted our annual Fort Scott/Kansas City picnic on September 12. We were blessed with a wonderful turnout from Kansas City as well as many from the Lamar congregation and we truly enjoyed the afternoon of fellowship.

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

“All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.
The rich man in the castle
The poor man at the gate,
God made them high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.
The purple headed mountain
The river flowing by.
The sunset and the morning
Which brighten up the sky.
He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well.”
Creation, Hymns of Zion, #207

A local farmer planted a field of sunflowers in our area, and every time I drive by and see these bright shining little yellow flowers, it makes me smile. Every day, God seems to find a way to give us something to look forward to, and enjoy, in this beautiful creation he has made for us. If we will only look around and notice all of his beauty, we will find something to smile about every day.

Our young people enjoyed a couple of fellowship weekends this month. First, they traveled to Kaw lake in Oklahoma where they camped, played in the water, and just enjoyed each other. The weather was wonderful, and Wichita joined the group which made it better too. A fun weekend was enjoyed by all. Then, our Bible Class traveled to Wichita to join in the yearly (high school once, and Junior high once) ACYF get together with other Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri churches. A big thank you to all the Sunday school teachers who take the time to keep this special weekend going so our youth can meet others from various churches, and our children, grandchildren, and friends might come to know and love our God, our Lord, and have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is all any of us can ask and pray for.

We had the privilege of having two families join us this past month. Bro. Joel Troxel,
(Sis. Amy and family, Lacrosse, IN), were in our midst for one weekend to share God’s Word. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi along with Bro. Tom and Sis. Andrea Koch, (Lamont, KS) shared another Sunday with us. We had a minister and a song leader both which gave us a double blessing. May God bless all of them for their efforts on our behalf.

We extend our deepest Sympathy to the families of Stewart Ott, who passed from this life at the age of 30 years in a Jeep accident this month. His friends said he had many favorite quotes, but the one he loved the most was Psalm 27: 3-4. One of the songs by Casting Crowns they played that day at his service What a precious thought for any of us who have lost a loved one had this beautiful chorus:

"The only scars in Heaven, they won’t belong to me or you, There’ll be no such thing as broken, and all the old will be made new. And the thought that makes me smile now, even as the tears fall down. Is that the only scars in Heaven are on the hands that hold you now."

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

Our church enjoyed many visitors over Labor Day Weekend. We were blessed to share meals and a Sunday evening singing together. Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) shared the Word with us for which we are very grateful.

Several high school Sunday school students traveled to Wichita for the annual ACYF weekend. We wish to thank the Wichita church for all of their efforts to host this group of young people.

Recently, the theme of Christian love has often come across our pulpit. We’ve been challenged with the question – Are we growing up into the maturity of Christian love or are we still acting like children who need to put away the childish behaviors of jealousy, malice, selfishness and the like? Thankfully, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we have all we need to be successful in our growth towards the fullness of Christian love. We need only to ask, because a prayer to love more like Jesus is one the he delights to answer!

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

"A Christian, now baptized, To me much grace is given. Why was this granted me? That I with Christ am risen! This is the holy aim; He who does this neglect Cannot in truth proclaim; "I’m one of God’s elect.”

We were thankful to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Kenton Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia), Sis. Annie Edelman (Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly), and Sis. Amber Strahm (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally). Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA) shared God’s Word with us on this special weekend.

"O grant me now Thy grace That I, with true devotion, May ever by Thee stand, Though stormy be life’s ocean. And with Thy blessing, Lord, May I in faith remain, And to that kingdom come Where peace shall ever reign.”

Baptismal Hymn, Zions Harp, #43

Kansas, Wichita

Niklaus and Sara Schrader

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We were blessed to be able to join the Kiowa Congregation at the Kaw Lake Campout on August 27-28. It was a refreshing time of fellowship with a group friends.

We had the honor of hosting the High School ACYF at Camp Tawakoni on September 11-12. Our theme was “I need, you need, we all need Jesus.” Thanks to all who were able to attend and a special thanks to Bro. Trent Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) who spoke at this event. We hope and pray that many young people who attended were touched by this message and that seeds of faith were planted in their young hearts.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philip. 4:19

Please continue to pray for our widows and those with health needs in our congregation.
Mexico, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Jon Wiegand (Silverton, OR), and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) visited the weekend of August 29. We appreciated their time with us and their efforts to connect with each of us personally.

The meekness and the joy of Christ have been our Sunday topics the last few weeks. We heard the excellent reminder that Christ had all power, but chose to meekly sacrifice himself. We should follow his example by harnessing the strength and gifts that he has given us and using them for his glory and the good of others. Also, we have been reminded of God’s joy in each of his children as told in the parable of the shepherd and the lost lamb. And of the empowering joy of Christ we can have in our hearts even during difficult circumstances.

“For the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Neh. 8:10

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Michelle Oesch

As the days grow shorter and autumn leaves start to fall, we look forward to cooler days ahead.

I love summer and the warm days, but there is something special about fall. The smell of burning leaves, seeing farmers in the fields harvesting their crops, and most of all the beauty God shares as the trees turn bright colors of red, orange, and yellow. It’s truly a feast for the senses and makes our hearts thankful for the blessings of God’s creation!

We lift up in prayer those who have been sick, had injuries, or hospitalized this past month. Lyman Feldman (Sis. MaryAnn), Chris Tomic, Sis. Elaine Wingeier (Stan), Sis. Meika Gerst (Bro. Jake), and Laura Pardo. We know God is the great healer and can do all things, far above what we, in faith, pray for!

We were saddened to hear of Sis Gloria Kaeb’s (Bro. Ben) uncle’s death in Mexico. Ben and Gloria were able to recently travel there to see her family, and we are thankful the way was open for them to travel.

As so much unrest continues in the world, many of us as Christians wonder if the time is drawing near to Christ’s return. There is a sense of urgency to share the truth of God’s Word, so many more will be brought into his kingdom when that time comes!

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Our new Sunday school teachers are Sis. Jenay Knochel and Bro. Alan Schlatter (Vicki). Bro. Jim Knochel (Sis. Kay) is our new Sunday school superintendent. We appreciate each one’s willingness to foster relationships with our youth and help nurture the future church.

We continue to be blessed with visitors including Bay City in their travel plans. We are thankful Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Josh Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) were able to minister the Word to our congregation.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Sandi Knochel as she spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that God would continue to heal and strengthen all according to his will.

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Our church family is rejoicing with Grant Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) and Carson Frank (Elder Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal) in their decision to repent and turn their hearts to the Lord.

We really enjoyed having visitors from Alto, West Lafayette and South Bend for the Michigan Youth Day weekend. We were blessed with wonderful weather for a lot of fun outdoor activities, singing and fellowship. We want to thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) for coming to minister to our church and for speaking to our youth on Sunday afternoon of that weekend.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller were with us on a recent Wednesday evening to provide an update on the past few years living in Pape New Guinea with the Maliyali people. It was wonderful to see them again and hear of their amazing experiences. We will keep them in our prayers when they return and pray for the Two Ts: Teaching and Translation; which...
they will be focusing on when they return.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Kristin Hitz with her ongoing health challenges that included surgery this month. Her positive attitude and trust in the Lord are an inspiration and testimony to each of us.

Bro. Brent Fiechter has completed his medical training in the Detroit area and has relocated to Peachtree City, GA. We have enjoyed having Bro. Brent with us the past few years and wish him God’s blessings in his new home.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Greetings to all during this beautiful fall season. The children are all back in school and our Sunday school has started again. We are so thankful for our Sunday school teachers that volunteer to teach the precious young students the word of God! This school season Bro. Adrian and Sis. Charity Rocke and Sis. Rose Dill are our teachers.

"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.” Philip. 1:6

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf*

It is a joy to see the Silver Lining arrive. The full color photo across the cover is often breathtaking. News and prayers of friends and families is held in our hands. Scripture and writings that spark us to be strong followers of Jesus ignite our hearts. We are often blessed by the unexpected within its pages. And so it is, “The Silver Lining”.

Bro. Drew Schmidgall (Sis. Lanna) was called into the ministry at the Morris Church. We trust that God will bless their family for their willingness to speak words of truth from the pulpit, to witness God’s great love and to comfort and guide as the Spirit leads them.

Newly installed Elder Bro. Damon Knobloch and Sis. Stephanie (Morris North, MN) have the love and prayers of our church as well. May God bless both families as they grow in the Word and in their new responsibilities. Our thankfulness extends to our Elder body and to all ministers who share the truth here and throughout the world.

We wish a multitude of blessings to our recent visitors. Their presence magnifies the love of the brotherhood so wonderfully. A special thank you to Bro. Chet Mogler (Sis. Cassie, Lester, IA) who worshipped with us throughout the summer and fall. Their voices were a beautiful addition to our singing and wonderful new friendships were formed. God Bless you!

We especially enjoyed the visit by Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Tucson, AZ). Their labors both from the pulpit and in fellowship were most certainly a gift. Continue to spread the Word and be blessed.

We close this submission to Silver Lining recognizing that the great mercy of God heals us physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually every day. We have seen it and are eternally grateful. Such a gift we have in our faith!

“Faith and hope and love adorn Heart and life of all true Christians; With these must each child of God Be endowed in full submission. All who wish to serve God truly Must show forth these virtues fully.”

*Faith, Hope, and Love,*

*Zion’s Harp #78*

**Minnesota, Morris North**

Greetings in Jesus.

As school began again for all of the children, so did our fall Sunday school. We held our annual Sunday school kickoff. The children and teachers of all grades played games together outside, games like soccer and volleyball. We also had hayrides again, which brings all ages together and Bro. Daron Price gave a short presentation using some dirty water to illustrate the need for Jesus to wash us clean by his shed blood. It’s a tradition that our children look forward to every year.

We were able to attend the annual Feed My Starving Children event that we do with all in our congregation who are able. It is the food packaging event that comes to Morris. It’s remarkable how well the organization is able to connect the food packaging with the video testimonies of how it’s
helping malnourished children in other parts of the world, which is a visual representation of Psalm 146:7. We were blessed to be able to work beside others in the community as a testimony of faith in Jesus.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**  
*Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner*

Bro. Tom Miller (Maggie) made his covenant with God and was baptized in a small private service.

Our children enjoyed a week of VBS in August. Our theme was “The Armor of God”. They listened to various Bible stories, many of them made armor to help them visualize what each part was and how God uses it to help us each day. They also did group activities to relate to each piece and finished the morning with a light lunch. The week ended with the Bible Class spending Saturday afternoon together and an evening program for the younger children to share what they had learned. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Brenda Messner showed us what happens when satan enters our heart by using a clear liquid and adding mucky liquid to it. The liquid got darker as sin began to grow and then they added Jesus (another clear liquid) and it became clear again. It truly showed how Jesus can cleanse our sins. They had one of the older students put on a suit of armor and had the children name sins that could separate us from God. They shot a dart at the armor to show if we are wearing the armor, God protects us. We were thankful to have a few community children join us. It was truly a blessed week for the children and teachers.

Sis. Marcelle Dapper (Bro. Ernie) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful that she is back at the assisted living where she and Bro. Ernie are residing.

We are thankful to report that Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) is getting stronger and is able to now get around slowly with a walker. She still has lots of health issues, but it is good to see her back in church.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll’s son, Michael Stoll, who was stationed in Kansas, is now overseas helping with the evacuations in Afghanistan. They all covet our prayers for him.

We want to extend a welcome to Manuela Gutierrez and Katia Gomez Tolcheff, foreign exchange students from Spain that will be living with Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder and Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt and their daughter Cheyenne for the school year.

Our children are back in Sunday school for another year. We pray that they will be blessed along with their teachers.

Our sympathy goes out to Pam McMasters (Gulfport, MS) in the loss of her husband, Charlie. Many may know her from McAllen, TX where she and her husband resided for many years. She attended services there whenever she could. Her siblings are Sis. Becky Braulick (Marlyn), Sis. Ann Lind (Dan), Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John), Rich Messner and Lila Messner all from Winthrop and Sis. Gert Esslinger (Bro. Dennis, Morton, IL).

Pam was very ill and in the hospital herself when she heard about her husband’s death, giving her a very heavy load to carry. We are thankful Pam has surrendered her heart to God and has begun her repentance, so she now has God on her side to help her through these difficult times.

**Missouri, Lamar**  
*Leah Rokey*

Greetings of love from Lamar!

As summer comes to a close, we greatly appreciate those who have included us in their summer travels! We also appreciate the ministering brothers and their families who have sacrificed to serve on our behalf. Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), and Elder Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Alfred Banwart (Sis. Carolyn) was hospitalized for a short time. We are thankful he is home and regaining strength!

We were blessed by an evening of fellowship with the Kansas City and Ft. Scott congregations for their Sunday school picnic.
Missouri, St. Louis

Michelle Rassi

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN). Also, our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) came on a Wednesday night to share updates from the Conference.

We welcome Aizhan to America and to St. Louis. She is an exchange student from Kazakhstan who is staying with Bro. Doug and Sis. Tricia Banwart until May.

We had monthly HarvestCall this month and assembled 200 school kits for Haiti. We also watched HarvestCall videos about the child sponsorship program so that the children could see “faces” of Haiti children and better visualize who these kits are helping. Jesus loves the little children, ALL the children of the world!

Missouri, Taylor

Eleanor Yackley

The Taylor church has been learning more about the book of Revelation in our afternoon services during August and September. Our local ministers have been taking turns preparing and presenting the lessons.

Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) was our guest minister on Sunday, August 29.

Several from Taylor joined the nearby Iowa churches for a potluck meal at Keosauqua and singing at Bentonsport, Iowa, also on August 29. This was a time of wonderful fellowship and praise to God.

Bro. Brad Stoller (Eureka, IL) was with us on Wednesday evening, September 1, for a Bible study; and Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL) ministered to us on Sunday, September 5.

Several in our congregation have been sick with COVID-19, but our mighty God has been healing the sick. The virus spread does not seem to be church related, rather, community related.

There are also others dealing with on-going health problems who need our prayers. Let’s remember to pray for others when we pray for ourselves.

Our new Sunday school teachers elected for the coming two years are Bro. Clayton Blunier, Bro. Jordan Steidinger, Bro. Austin Yackley; Sis. Lydia Lindberg, Sis. Heather Snyder, Sis. Kara Snyder, Sis. Julia Sutter, and Sis. Courtney Yackley. May God grant them grace and wisdom as they “plant and water” the precious seed.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Anna Stoller

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” 2 Peter 1:3

Our church has been listening to the Conference recordcings the past few weeks. We have been blessed and challenged by the messages brought forth by the brothers. How thankful we are for the reminder of the divine power our God has given us to live in these challenging times!

We appreciate Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) coming to visit us and preaching the word. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

Eliana Grace was born August 30 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Anna Stoller. An older brother, Denton, welcomes her as do grandparents Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH).

Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) spent time in the hospital recently. We wish him God’s nearness and a speedy recovery.

Ohio, Akron

Joelle Indermuhle

We were blessed to have many visitors this month, as we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia) as Elder. Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) joined us for this occasion. Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) also ministered to us on a Thursday evening.

Our prayers are for healing for our recent hospital patients, including Sis. Barb Graf (Bro. Dave), Bro. Tim Zarkovacki (Sis.
Angie), Sis. Margaret Zarkovacki (Bro. Peter), and Bro. Matthew Gal (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy).

Bro. Nate and Sis. Lindsay Graf are thankful for the safe arrival of little Everly Mae on September 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Rosanne Graf and Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Gal.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

Greetings to all on this beautiful summer day. Children are headed back to school, moms are busy putting up produce from their gardens and schedules are returning to normal after a busy summer.

We were so blessed to be able to worship and fellowship with our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH), Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL).

As I was looking at my past column copies, I noticed that it was just in July that we had lifted restrictions and church services were getting back to normal. Now, a new surge of COVID-19 has returned and we pray that we may continue with our regular church services. May we take each day as a gift from God and trust that his will be done. Our prayers also continue for those who have suffered from flooding and hurricanes, those who have loved ones in foreign countries and can’t leave, and many who have not yet given their hearts and lives to Jesus. May they pay attention to the chaos that is surrounding us and feel the need for repentance!

Ohio, Junction
Karen Schlatter

We rejoice with Brian Manz (Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise) as he has made the decision to begin his repentance. We are so thankful and rejoice with him and his family. It is so comforting to know the Lord still calls loved ones to serve him.

Testimonies and baptisms were held on the weekend of August 28-29. Malia Manz (Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica), Carla Manz (Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise), and Katie Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy) were able to share of the work the Lord has performed in their lives. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for assisting Elder Bro. Tony with the testimonies and baptisms. Many thanks also to Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) for their willingness to share God’s Word.

We offer our love and sympathy to Bro. James McCullough (Sis. Julie) and family in the passing of his mother Paulette McCullough, Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis. Elizabeth) and family in the passing of his brother Bro. Tim Reinhard, Sis. Sara Manz (Bro. Scott) and family in the tragic loss of her nephew Max Brake, and Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis) and family in the loss of her sister Sis. Marsha Scheitlin (Bro. Steve, Leo, IN).

There are so many families dealing with loss in the past few months. May we strive to love one another with a sincere godly love as we never know when it will be our last day on this earth.

Our Sis. Virginia Manz recently had knee replacement surgery. May the Lord continue to provide healing for her in the days and weeks ahead.

Bro. James and Sis. Julie McCullough welcomed a new grandson on September 12. Tripp James was born to their daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Sierra and Bro. John Rossworm (Latty, OH).

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express the gratitude we have for all the love and support you have given us during Kyle’s sickness and treatments. Thank you so much for the prayers, cards with words of encouragement, extra help around our house, rides to appointments, help watching our children, meals, visits, and many gifts you have given us. We would not have been able to make it through this difficult time without God’s faithfulness and all of you. May God bless each of you for all of your thoughtfulness.

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

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

With the coming of September, it was time to once again have our Sunday school picnic. We pray for our youth and for their Sunday school teachers. May God grant the increase as seeds of faith are planted in young hearts.

“A time to be born…”

We rejoice with Bro. John, Sis. Sierra, and Trace Rosswurm with the addition of another son. Tripp James was born on September 12. We are also thankful that Tiffany Sinn (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa) began the process of spiritual rebirth by starting her repentance.

“…and a time to die…”

Several in our congregation have suffered loss this month. Bro. Bill and Sis. Brenda McClure laid to rest his mother, Rose McClure. Sis. Marlene Sinn’s (Bro. Tim) brother Bro. Tim Reinhard (Sis. Joan, Peoria, IL) passed away this month. Sis. Sierra Rosswurm (Bro. John) lost her grandmother, Paulette McCullough. Sis. Iva Stoller (Bro. Darl, dec.) and her family are also in our thoughts as she lost her daughter, Sis. Marsha Scheitlin (Bro. Steve, Leo, IN). We pray for these families and ask the Holy Spirit to be their comforter.

“…a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted.” Eccl. 3:2

After being exhorted last month on how to prepare our hearts and root out the impurities which we have allowed into our lives, we were blessed to share Holy Communion this month. It was good to be able to remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, take time to reflect on our walk with God, make the necessary changes by plucking out impurities, and plant more good seeds to draw closer to him. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) who shared the Word and served us that night.

Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH) also preached the Word to us this month. We appreciate how he gave of himself on our behalf.

We extend a welcome to Peter Dawson, who has moved to our area from Mansfield, OH. May he feel our love and care as he worships with us.

We can rest in the sovereign will of God even when we don’t understand all his ways.

“He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.” Eccl. 3:11

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation….. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:1-4,17-18

Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill (Rittman, OH) and their family blessed us with their visit, and we appreciate Bro. Tom ministering to us.

As our church body gathers to view the Conference recordings, we are thankful for the challenge and encouragement to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Ohio, Rittman
Mardel Dotterer, Julie Steiner

“The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him…He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: He also will hear their cry and will save them.” Psa. 145:18-19

We are thankful for our new convert, Eli Keeever, son of Bro. Jared and Sis. Abby. We wish him much grace in his new walk of life.
We were also very blessed to witness the baptisms of four young souls on August 29. Our new sisters and brother in Christ are Sis. Addie Steiner (Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Hailey Lambert, Sis. Bethany Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane), and Bro. Dylan Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan). Visiting ministers for the baptism weekend were Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH).

Several families in our congregation were blessed with the addition of a new son or daughter. Bro. Jordan and Sis. Joy Stoller have been blessed with the adoption of Raul Keondre, birth date of October 23, 2017. Raul’s siblings are Atiyah, Latrell, and Isabella, and grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Les Cayes, Haiti). Bro. Greg and Sis. Julia Gasser were blessed with the birth of Oakley Maeve on August 22. Oakley is also welcomed by first time grandparents: Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb Zollinger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Janice Gasser. Bro. Jason and Sis. Sarah Stoller, along with big sister Lois, welcomed Amos Matthew on August 23. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann Stahl (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman became grandparents again with the birth of Eliana Grace Stoller on August 30. Eliana’s parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Anna (Croghan, NY) and her big brother is Denton.

On September 2, Bro. Mason, Sis. Joanna and Ivy Hartzler welcomed Willem Anders into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler. Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger (Smithville, OH) are thankful for Nash Brooks born on September 15. His siblings are Peyton, Austyn, Landon and Colton and grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier of our congregation.

We look forward in hope as new households are being established. On September 12, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Brandon Luginbuhl and Sis. Carrie Dotterer. Their parents are Ted and Stephanie Luginbuhl and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Dotterer. The Lord blessed the day with beautiful weather and by the sharing of the Word with visiting ministers Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann) and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam) both of our Smithville, OH congregation. We are also happy to share in the joy of the engagement of Bro. Reed Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Allison Steiner (Bro. Joel and Sis. Katrina). May God bless these young couples and their bright hopes for the future.

Along with the many shared joys in life, we also have many shared sorrows. We extend sincere sympathy to the family of Marion Bauman. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Delores, three sons, Allan (Rose, Sterling, OH), Bro. Doug (Sis. Diana), and Bro. Bill (Sis. Monica, Smithville, OH) and daughter Kristine Hefner (Akron, OH), 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

The past month, we have heard of many illnesses, trials, and tragedies for those we love near and far. We continue with heartfelt prayers for God to grant his healing, comfort, and peace.

"O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!"

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

"Blessed Rest, when earthly toil is ended, Shall be mine in all eternity. From the Father, who His call extended To me, that I serve Him faithfully! O how blest, to cease from toil and care, Then to enter, Then to enter heaven’s rest so fair! ”

The Blessed Rest, Hymns of Zion #267

Bro. John Figel was called to his eternal rest. Our prayers continue for his dear wife Sis. Paula and sons, Bro. Andy (Sis. Cyndi), David (Christy) and Bro. Robert (Sis. Angie).

Maxwell Brake, age 7 passed
from this life. He will be greatly missed by his parents, Jason and Samantha, twin sister, Molly, brothers Dylan Brake, Riley Bryan and sister Mackenzie Bryan. Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake are the grieving grandparents. May they find comfort in knowing that Max is sitting at the feet of Jesus!

Diana L. Riggenbach was also laid to rest. She will be sadly missed by her husband Donald Riggenbach, son of our deceased Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia Riggenbach.

Sis. Faith Beard (Bro. Seth), Sis. Alice Ramsier (Bro. Mark), and Sis. Dee Beard (Bro. Ed) have completed their terms of teaching Sunday school. Covering all the newly formed classes are Sis. Taryn Indermuhle (Bro. Caleb), Sis. Kristy Joos (Bro. Jeb), Sis. Dawn Brake (Bro. Matt), Bro. Jeb Joos (Sis. Kristy), Bro. Alan Blough (Sis. Renee) and Bro. Ed Beard (Sis. Dee). We are so thankful for all who are willing to plant the seeds in our precious future church!

We were blessed to have teachings from the Spirit through Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH).

"Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide, Ever near the Christian’s side, Gently lead us by the hand, Pilgrims in a desert land."
Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide, Hymns of Zion #220

Ohio, Smithville
Sharon Gasser, Marcy Stoller

This month, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) visit our congregation.

Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susie, Smithville, OH and Les Cayes, Haiti) had the service for his daughter’s wedding. We rejoiced with Sis. Trinity Walder (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) and Bro. Joab Telusma (Bluffton, IN and Les Cayes, Haiti) as they were joined together in the Lord. They plan to make their home in Haiti.

Nash Brooks was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger. He was also greeted by siblings Peyton, Austyn, Landon and Colton as well as grandparents Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier (Rittman, OH). Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha Maibach welcomed a new granddaughter. Tessa Poe was lovingly received by Cody and Erin Detweiler. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller also rejoiced to have a new granddaughter. Eliana Grace joined her bother, Denton in the family of Bro. Neil and Sis. Anna Stoller (Croghan, NY).

Our Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda) recently had an outpatient procedure and was blessed with a quick recovery. Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth), Sis. Trudie Schar (Bro. Ethan) and Chris Tomic (Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie) were in the hospital this month. We pray for their healing and continued health.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Kurt and Robin Steiner and their family as they mourn the loss of Kurt’s brother Bro. Eric Steiner (Sis. Tricia, Rittman, OH). We also pray for Sis. Cyndi, Sis. Baylee and Caydi Figel during the loss of their father-in-law and grandfather Bro. John Figel (Sis. Paula, Sardis, OH). We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman and their family as they grieve the loss of Bill’s father, Marion Bauman (Sis. Delores, Rittman, OH).

Ohio, Toledo
Brooke Harmon, Sharon Rager

On September 5 we were spiritually and physically fed by Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser, (Detroit, MI). Bro. Randy shared the pulpit while Sis. Sue provided lunch for us to enjoy. We have appreciated the efforts and fellowship of so many former university students and their parents who come back to support our small church by serving lunch. The following Sunday we were blessed by the messages God spoke to us through Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). We pray the Lord will reward them for their service to us and for him.

Our prayers go with the children and teachers in our congregation as they begin a new school year. We also look forward each year to the college students returning or just starting their higher education
in the Toledo area and pray they too will have a successful year. May God watch over them and be their guide. They represent several churches in Ohio. On September 12 we had a picnic to welcome them as well as their parents and families. Many of them joined us for the day of worship and fellowship. Among our guests were ministering Bro. Seth Beard (Sis. Faith, Sardis, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH). We thank them for lending themselves to the Holy Spirit’s guidance as they shared the Word with us. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Gen. 2:24

Jared Klopfenstein is engaged to Melody Cobb of Bryan, OH. They are planning an October 10, 2021 wedding. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their married life together. Jared’s parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein.

We spent four midweek services listening to the exhortations from the Conference. Our thanks and appreciation go to those Elders who so willingly gave of themselves to encourage, instruct and remind us of the benefits of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. We are thankful for the work and sacrifices of all of our Elder brethren for our spiritual welfare. “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8

Our cup runneth over when we had another visiting minister this month. Bro. Jim Manz (Sis. Elizabeth, Junction, OH) ministered to us on September 19. We appreciate so much the efforts of those brothers who visit and share the Word with us.

**Ontario, Kitchener**

*Roselynn Metzger*

“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” Isa. 43:19

Greetings of love from the north! Lately, this verse has been extra special to me and I hope that it can be an encouragement to you as well. Making “a way in the wilderness” is only something God can do. Imagine a wilderness, we have plenty here in northern Ontario, and know there are lots in America as well. Perhaps the wilderness spans hundreds of kilometers, with mountains to climb, deserts to navigate, and forests to journey through, none of which are easy. They all have their challenges, and we can relate that to life. Our journey here on earth isn’t always easy, people pass away, careers fall apart, natural disasters happen, hopelessness is felt. This list could go on and on, and I think we each have personal lists of ‘deserts’ and ‘wildernesses’ we have walked through. Looking back at the verse above, knowing that God is making a way through whatever ‘wilderness’ we are experiencing is incredibly comforting and shows his loving character. Take courage, he is working on something new for your life, he is making a way where its hard to see one, and he will give you a river in the desert.

This month we were once again blessed with visiting ministers via Zoom. These included Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN). As always, we so appreciated having others join in on our Zoom services. Currently, we are thankful to announce there is some opportunity to cross the border again. If you would like to visit, please reach out to Sis. Alma Gingrich (elmeralma4@gmail.com) with any questions. We would love to have you! As always, our Zoom meetings are open for visitors as well. Thank you for reading and wishing you a hope filled month.

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Isa. 43:2
Oregon, Portland  
**Louisa Gallup**

As the COVID-19 virus is still hitting close to home, we keep praying for the ones who are sick or otherwise affected by it. We are thankful that Bro. Ilija and Sis. Nada Gavrilovic and their family have recovered from COVID-19 and are safely home again.

We have been able to listen to the recordings of the recent Conference and appreciate the sound teachings and wisdom we gleaned from it. May the Lord bless our Elders for their service from which we receive the benefits and blessings.

We send up prayers for safety and good health for all the teachers and students as they have returned to school. May God bless you all.

**Note of thanks:**
After the passing away of Camie Knecht’s (Ken) father:

Thanks to everyone for all the prayers, love and support we have had through this time. It was greatly appreciated.

In Love, Ken and Camie Knecht and Family.

Oregon, Silverton  
**Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn**

Thank you to Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), for visiting our congregation and sharing the gospel message with us! We appreciate your visits and pray for God to richly bless you.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler would appreciate your prayers as Bro. Kevin has recently undergone cancer surgery. We trust in God’s plan even though we can’t see the future, and we believe that God will provide his abundant grace for every situation.

Sis. Renee Angstrom (Bro. Andy) recently fell and broke her ankle, and she would appreciate your prayers for a full recovery.

Bess Dietrich, stepmother to Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) and grandmother to many in our congregation, recently passed away; the family would appreciate your prayers of support.

Phil Hari, a brother to Sis. Jan Gudeman (Bro. Richard), has also recently passed away. Please pray for Sis. Jan and her family as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Please pray for Brad Kuenzi (Tiffany) as he has been sick with COVID-19 and been in and out of the emergency room.

Sis. Liz Snook (Vance) recently underwent emergency gastro-intestinal surgery and would also appreciate your prayers for healing.

We are thankful to share that Todd Kiever, who has moved here from Tremont, IL, and Robert Hoach (Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam) have surrendered their lives to the Lord! We rejoice with them and will be prayerful for God’s leading in their lives.

It’s always a blessing to listen to the testimonies and witness baptisms of converted souls! Bro. Benjamin Meyer, Bro. Trenton and Sis. Lori Sinn, and Sis. Elisha Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) were baptized the weekend of September 19. We’re thankful that Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), were able to share the weekend with us, and we pray that God will bless them as they continue to serve the Lord!

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
**Laura Isch**

"O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!"

_O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Hymns of Zion, #287_

It is such a faith builder to remember how God has helped us in our lives! Although we don’t know what joys or sorrows lie ahead, we can believe his faithfulness will continue as in “ages past”

We have two weddings to report this month! September 4 was the wedding date of Tanner Metzger (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy) and Kim Miller. Abbi Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) was married to Brian Frost on September 11. We wish both couples the best as they begin their lives together.

Our prayers and sympathies are with Bro. Daryl Luginbuhl (Sis. Norma) as he grieves the loss of his mother, Sis. Charlotte Limberger (Rockville, CT). May God be near each one, whether they find themselves in a time of grief or joy.
**Tennessee, Nashville**

*Mike Fritz*

We have said a temporary farewell to Sis. Faith Stoller as she begins Discipleship Training School with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) for the next six months. As she steps out in faith to this training, we pray that she will be challenged to serve God with her whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

We are thankful for each of our visitors and appreciate that ministering brothers regularly visit us to share God’s Word. Our recent visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. Rich Martin (Gridley, IL), Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Greg Schambach (Sis. Heather, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of visitors from Elgin, IL and Gridley, IL; Remington, IN; St. Louis, MO; and Philadelphia, PA; as well as some local visitors.

We continue to meet for worship at an alternate location while determining whether to repair our church building, so when you plan your visit, please contact us to verify where we are meeting that Sunday. Contacts are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.1490, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury, 765.993.8917, jeremy.bradbury1975@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremiah Stoller, 615.761.7033, jeremiahleestoller32@gmail.com.

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

*Candy Meiss*

Greetings of love from Texas. We are thankful for our visitors and for those who come to serve us. It has been a blessing to have Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) visit often this summer. We were also blessed by hearing the pure word of God by the spirit’s inspiration by Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis Sue, Champaign, IL).

We rejoice to have Bro. Tyler and Sis. Ruth Edelman and their precious daughter, Taya, worship with us as they recently moved to Bastrop. What a blessing to welcome them into our church family. We are grateful that their parents helped them move and worshiped with us.

We were so thrilled to hear the announcement of Bro. Mark Wuthrich (Morton, IL) and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL). We wish them much joy in their new life together.

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

*Sheena Pelsy*

The Dallas church was thankful to have many visitors attend our services this month.

Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) came to preach and invited Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) to join. It was a blessing to have both Bro. John and Bro. Roger preach that Sunday. Through the sermons, we were reminded the importance of a firm foundation in Christ and to daily put on the Armour of God. Bro. Roger encouraged us that no matter what our battle in life is, to take up God’s armor, that he has graciously given us, and rely on the supply lines of prayer to help us endure.

Other visitors that came to support us were Bro. Dan Fehr (Sis. Eunice, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dave Bruellman (Sis. Yvonne, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) who also preached God’s Word and brought encouragement to us all. We are so grateful for those that came to support our small church and welcome all visitors!

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, contact Bro. Rodney Pelsy at 219.204.3106.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

*Sarah Wagenbach*

This past month, on a Sunday afternoon, we had our Sunday school picnic at a nearby state park. It was a beautiful afternoon spent together with our Sunday school children and young adults, as well as visitors. We thank all who made the effort to be with us!
I remember a Sunday afternoon as a young father, with a child sitting quietly on my lap, thinking about what a great parent I was at that moment. You see, I had determined as a young man that I would dedicate myself to my family and fatherhood and had been studying God’s perspective on parenting. I was sure that I knew a lot. The minister began to tell a story of a brother he knew that had four children and the fourth child had just repented. All his children were converted, and someone asked him, “How did you do it? What did you do to make this happen?” The brother looked at them and with tears in his eyes stated, “In spite of me!” I sat there that Sunday frustrated and mused, “Our children do not turn out because of the effort we put into teaching them about God and the gospel.”

Years later, I had teenagers. One of them was struggling and I was fearful about their relationship with God. My wife and I realized that we did not know what to do, how to respond, how to communicate, or how to encourage. With no other options left, we began to fast and pray and ask God to turn our child’s heart. In a miraculous way, God transformed our child’s heart and today they are walking in a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. Recently in a discussion with a dear friend who has a child struggling, I told him about our situation. My comment to him was, “In spite of me, God did an amazing work in the heart of my child.”

God had taken me on a journey of learning, and he still has me on this journey. I believe we all must humbly admit that we need to continue to learn and grow individually, as local congregations, and as a denomination.

**God’s Perspective about Growth and Learning**

God desires his people to be always learning but recognize that we will never have perfect knowledge on this earth. Peter states that we are to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ…” (2 Peter 3:18). Paul states in Philippians 3 that he has not yet attained unto perfection but is pressing forward toward it.

However, we cannot grow unless we recognize the great need that we have. If we think that we have the answers, we will not be able to grow. God states in Isaiah 66:1 that the heaven is his throne, and the earth is his footstool. In verse 2, this great and glorious God declares that the man he will look to (esteem, regard) is him that is of a poor (humble) and contrite spirit and trembles at his word. God desires for us to see our need rather than declare our wisdom. Jesus, after telling the parable about sitting in the lower rooms at the feast, states, “whoever exalts himself shall be humbled and he that humbles himself shall be exalted (Luke 14:11).
Finally, James says, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

God also wants us to have a willingness to enter service recognizing that we may not be fully ready. We should not resist God’s work for that reason. We also cannot say, “we have it all figured out.” We must be both willing to serve and willing to grow.

**Our Reality**

As it relates to missions and church planting, we must admit that as a denomination, we have room to grow. For instance, since 2000 we have established very few churches. In the book of Acts, church establishment and growth were a result of evangelism and discipleship. This indicates that we have a need to focus further in these areas.

We have learned a great deal from people who have served in other countries over the past 50 years. Their feedback makes us realize we are still relatively “new” at overseas missions and at times we have unintentionally created dependency in those that we serve. We have struggled with how to have cultural awareness and how a lack of this hinders the clarity of the gospel. Along with this, it has been easy for us to look at poverty only from a material standpoint and not as broken relationship with God, man, self, and creation. It has been much easier for us to bring physical help rather than seeing the need of the whole person.

Our reality as a denomination is that even though we are now supportive of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, cultural awareness and helping without hurting, we are not experts in these areas. We have a need to overcome our strong tendency to make the materially poor people in other cultures “just like us.” It can be easy to confuse the “American Dream” with the Kingdom of God we desire to represent.

**What we Should be Doing going Forward**

As the church agency tasked with cross-cultural missions, HarvestCall leadership humbly recognizes that God wants us to grow and change. To allow for growth, we are focusing on:

- Beginning local church outreach teaching and training to begin implementation of these concepts in our churches.
- Developing relationships with those of other cultures with the desire to learn and grow in understanding.
- Studying and learning how to help without hurting.
- Looking for ways to allow missionaries and indigenous believers to be a resource to others by teaching on their areas of learning.
- Recognizing areas that we have sinned in our attitudes, actions, and relationships and repenting for this.

**Our Future**

What could it look like in three to five years if we as a denomination focused on growing in our understand of missions? Ideally, it would like something like the following:

- Evangelism and discipleship would be happening consistently at local churches with a desire to expand to global outreach.
- Missionaries and past missionaries are actively engaged in teaching concepts about intercultural engagement, material poverty, and the dangers of paternalism and dependency.
- We have a common understanding that poverty is about broken relationships with God, others, self, and creation and lasting change only occurs through reconciliation.
- We will be walking side by side as Brothers and Sisters with those that we are serving on mission field.
- We will have a posture of humility and repentance as we continue to grow and change.

God calls us to be on a journey of learning. He longs for us to “tremble at his word,” “grow in grace” and turn to him in humility as we seek to learn and grow. By his grace we desire that in 20 years we can look back as a church and say, “Praise God for what he has done in spite of us!”

*Matt Knapp serves as Executive Director for HarvestCall.*
News and Notices

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Available on the App Store

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Bible Distribution:
Sharing His Word in Love

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

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

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

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After entering the website, click on the Shop icon located to the upper right of your screen. Select Supplementary Materials and then Light From the Word - digital. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
Fairview Haven is currently seeking a Director of Nursing to join our ministry team. While experience is valued, far more important is a call to and a heart for our mission “An Apostolic Christian Community Where Choice is Valued, Growth is Encouraged and Life Abounds.”

Our directors at Fairview Haven are committed to sharing the love of Jesus with not only our residents but our team members and families whom we serve.

If you feel qualified for this position, would you consider praying about becoming a part of our team?

Contact: Dave Blunier, 815-692-6701 or dblunier@fairviewhaven.org

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**Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution**

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, & Tabernacle Hymns are needed.

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*Scan the QR code or visit: gatewaywoods.org/sowers-of-hope for more info and to start sowing seeds today!*

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*GatewayWoods.ORG*
You can find full role descriptions at harvestcall.org/missionary-openings or the Job Postings section of AC Central.

For additional details for these exciting and worthy service opportunities contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

**DISCIPLESHIP & CHILDCARE**
Engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers. This role will specifically be alongside Sis. Erin Davis and the care of young children at En Gedi house. - Mandeville, Jamaica

**DEAF DISCIPLESHIP**
Engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers. This role will specifically be alongside of the ministry of Deaf Can Coffee and the E3 fellowship gathering. - Kingston, Jamaica

**JAMAICA**

**BUSINESS DISCIPLESHIP**
To proclaim Christ and serve others through the avenue of community interaction, using the business marketplace as the primary vehicle of ministry. Discipleship through relationships with other employees and the community. - Fatted Calf - Magdalena, Mexico

**YOUTH TRAINING COORDINATOR**
To proclaim Christ and serve others through the avenue of community interaction, using agricultural education as the primary vehicle of ministry. This role will be responsible for leading EXPO Esperanza and the Fatted Calf intern program. - Fatted Calf - Magdalena, Mexico

**ACCOUNTING-HR DISCIPLESHIP**
General accounting and administration, reach out and engage with local people, value and adapt to Mexican culture, and share the love and hope of Jesus Christ as a part of their daily lives. - CVE - Magdalena, Mexico

**HAITI**

**MECHANIC**
This position would support the HarvestCall Construction, Well Drilling, Dairy, and Hospital Lumière projects. They will be responsible to help maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment. - Les Cayes, Haiti

**ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER**
As the Dairy program continues to grow, HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist in the efforts at Good Vision Farm. - Torbeck, Haiti

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### HarvestCall Team Schedule - Haiti

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Team Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Leader/Church - Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>Dec 3-10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lane Gerber <a href="mailto:lane.gerber@gmail.com">lane.gerber@gmail.com</a> 260-241-4099</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>Feb 4-11</td>
<td>Silverton, OR Harvey Kuenzi <a href="mailto:hkloanoak@msn.com">hkloanoak@msn.com</a> 503-932-3128</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Maintenance</td>
<td>April 2-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>April 9-16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>April 23-29</td>
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<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>Apr 29-M 6</td>
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<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>May 6-13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Awareness Tours - Haiti

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumière and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the hospital, see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti.

Upcoming trips are as follows: Our next Awareness Tour is: TBD. To learn more, Email or Call:

Rich Bertsch, hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org, 309.467.2351
Rick Wuethrich, rick@wuethrichfarms.com, 219.863.4163

### HarvestCall Team Schedule - Jamaica

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Team Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Leader/Church - Contact Information</th>
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<td>JDV</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>5-27/6-4/22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg <a href="mailto:Lindbma@hotmail.com">Lindbma@hotmail.com</a> 815-641-9065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6/4-11/22</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Greg Eisenman <a href="mailto:GEisenm2@gmail.com">GEisenm2@gmail.com</a> 815-954-3129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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### Awareness Tours - Jamaica

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

To learn more, Email or Call: Loren Dettwyler, lmdettwyler@gmail.com or 503-580-9629

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### HarvestCall Medical/Dental Team Schedule

Haiti: n/a
Mexico: n/a
Missionary Service Opportunities
in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico

MECHANIC
This position would support the HarvestCall Construction, Well Drilling, Dairy, and Hospital Lumiere projects. They will be responsible to help maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment.
- Les Cayes, Haiti

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As the Dairy program continues to grow, HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist in the efforts at Good Vision Farm.
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For additional details for these exciting and worthy service opportunities contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
Your bids can provide medical care to needy Haitians.

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believer, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

We willingly and joyfully accept the responsibility to search the whole counsel of God in applying the Word. There is danger in focusing on one area of the Bible in the attempt to support or justify our personal actions or views. The Lord was tempted in this manner when Satan used Scripture in the attempt to entice him to leap from the pinnacle of the temple. Jesus pointed out that to do so would be tempting God, which other scriptures warn against. Satan was corrupting the Word of God by using it deceitfully and for his own purposes. It behooves us to examine our own motives to ensure they are sincere and not based on our own selfish purposes.

We consider the Bible to be the most valuable and sacred book on earth. It contains the revelations of God, the principles of Christian faith, and the guidelines for putting these into practice by all believers at any time and in any situation. Though the Bible’s moral standards of holiness do not change over time, we fully realize that our own circumstances, experiences, and cultural influences certainly do change—seemingly at an increasing rate. Since the Bible originated by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we trust the Spirit to give us understanding in how to apply the Bible under all circumstances. “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”

Difficult challenges are not new to any generation. The early church faced equally problematic conditions as we do now. They experienced widespread persecution against the church (Acts 8, and historic accounts of the first four centuries); the challenge of integrating both Jews and Gentiles into one common new way of living (Acts 8 and 10); widespread natural disasters (Acts 11); and potential church divisions over unforeseen doctrinal issues (Acts 15). God through his Spirit unfailingly gave proper discernment to his people on key biblical principles that enabled them to successfully navigate through all these demanding situations. In his parting words, Jesus promised he will be with us, “even unto the end of the world.” We are comforted and encouraged in all situations because the Bible is true, timeless, and inspired of God!

Endnotes
1 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2 Psalms 1:2; Hebrews 10:25
3 Job 23:12; Psalms 119:72
4 Acts 13:14-15
5 Guiding Principle G) We believe the Bible is true, timeless, and inspired of God.
G.1) We nurture a love to study the Bible, cherishing its redeeming and transforming power. We prioritize personal devotions and corporate worship.
G.2) We trust the Holy Spirit to give understanding in how to apply the Bible. We accept personal responsibility to search the whole counsel of God and strive to live accordingly, acknowledging application deserves and requires ongoing learning and discernment from each church generation and its leadership.
6 Matthew 24:35
7 Hebrews 13:8
8 Judges 6:13
9 Romans 10:17
10 1 Peter 1:23
11 John 17:17, 19
12 2 Corinthians 4:2
13 1 Corinthians 2:11
14 2 Timothy 2:15
15 Matthew 28:20
should have died, but he didn’t through all of those perils. He made it through, and now, he’s looking back at this and saying, “God is my rock. He is the one that is providing for me.”

We can all look at our own lives. I can look back to the time of turning to God, of going through a repentance, and I know there was habitual sin in my life. I’m sure there was in many people’s lives. We look back and ask how did we pull out of that. We didn’t. God pulled us out. God is our rock. It’s only through Jesus that it was possible, and it’s good every now and again to stop and look back. It’s good to think how could it be that, no matter how hard we tried, we couldn’t pull ourselves out of it. We wanted to. Think of your lives today. There are things, not sinful things, you’d like to not do. There are all sorts of habits you’d just love to have, but, for some reason, you can’t do them. This is a case where, when we look to God, he truly can change us. Then we could go share just as David did of all his valiant men, all of the things they overcame, and their great enemies.

We’re in a spiritual warfare, so that would make us spiritual warriors, valiant just like they were here. We could take account after account, example after example, of some big thing that was in your life, something that looked insurmountable, and how, by God’s grace, he pulled you out. He’s your rock. He can be your rock for those that have yet to turn to him, for those that still live in sin, for those that still look at Goliath and say, “How can I do it?” No, you can’t.

David ran at Goliath. He ran at him, knocked him down with a stone, pulled his own sword out, and cut his head off. That is what you, by God’s grace, can do to the sin, to the issues, to the things that are in your life. Now, could David do it by himself? No. Did he ever once make mention of that? No. He just looked at the situation and knew the power of God. He put his trust in God and told that giant to his face that, because he was blaspheming against the God of Israel, by God’s grace, he was going to strike him down. What an incredible thing.

Now, I don’t think it’s good to look back and dwell on sin or look back on sin with fondness, but we can look back and consider the things that God has taken us through. Are there going to be challenges? Do we live in a lost world? Yes. But we can look ahead and say, “By God’s grace, he can take us through, and we can run into the storm, into the battle.”

One account of Jonathan always strikes me. Without anybody knowing him and his armorbearer, they went all the way down into the middle of the camp of the enemies in the dark. When you’re in a familiar place, the dark is not that terrifying, but when you’re in an unfamiliar place – and then add that type of danger – that takes a level of bravery that is incredible. He had God on his side, and he knew that. He walked right down to the enemies and overcame them, and we can do the same by God’s grace.

It’s not of ourselves. It’s not that we’re going to make up our minds to say, “I’m just going to be braver. I’m just going to have more self-will. I’m going to will my way through this.” Not at all. It is putting our trust in God, and that’s what David had done here. “I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings” (v4). Just because God can take us in doesn’t mean everything is going to be great. It just means that everything is going to work out for his glory. In hindsight, everything will be great. Did David live a great life? Are there many things in there that are wonderful examples? Yes. He
was the man after God’s own heart, but as he was facing giants, as he was fighting the Philistines, as he was going through all of these things, do you think he was saying, “Oh, this is just so great”? There are so many places in the psalms where we can read of his earnest, earnest prayers. He was scared, surrounded by enemies, but he continued to turn to God and ask him to help him.

So then, going back again to the New Testament scripture where it started there with something that I think we all need to ponder. “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (v1). We need to give earnest heed to the things that we heard, to the truth.

Again, we were talking about some of the conflicts in Israel, and one of the things that may concern us about that is that fewer and fewer people in the world would even know that that ties to the Bible. Fewer would know the true history of what’s going on there. They would say, “Oh, I don’t know. It needs to be more peaceful over there. It seems like this nation of Israel is continually a problem. Why don’t we just do away with that because that would sure calm things down.”

If we would say to everyone here, “They’re just going to” – this is not actually happening – “do away with Israel”, would that cause concern? It would for me. It would for me because, even though I don’t fully understand what’s going on, I do know one thing. I know that Israel is talked about a lot in the Bible, and I would be very careful with that.

If someone said, “Well, why? Where are you hearing this?” then I’d say, “The Bible. It actually talks about that happening, and it doesn’t end well for the people that turn against Israel.” Do you think everybody would respond with, “Oh, the Bible. Okay. Well, we’d better not do it then.” If they don’t believe it or if they’ve never heard of it, what difference does it make to them? You could say, “Wow, that’s scary.” Yeah, it is. That is why we are to “give the more earnest heed”, not that we have to worry about all of those things, but that we need to recognize what’s in the word.

We should think, “Wow, we know something. We know how this is all going to go.” I don’t know if there are fewer people that understand than there’s ever been, but I know there are a lot that don’t know. So, what do we do with that? I’ve said this before: it’s like a game. I don’t like using the word “game”. I need to think on that more, but it’s like a game that you know everything about it. You know how the beginning, the middle, the end goes, so if you would play it, it’s really easy. So many others playing it have no idea, and that’s this world in which we live. We’re in the middle of it. We know exactly how it goes; the rule book is right here, and, not only that, but it has in it what you do to “win”. You have that information, and so many others are flailing about trying to make decisions, working toward this goal to make some peaceful world that you know doesn’t even exist.

The whole world is going to get destroyed. If you told somebody that, they may say, “What do you mean ‘it’s going to get destroyed’?”

You could tell them, “Yes, the whole thing’s going to burn. Someday, just when you think you’ve finally achieved this world peace you’re talking about, it will be all over then.” When they ask, “Well, how do you know that?”, you would answer, “The Bible.” Then they have a choice: they can believe it or they don’t.

How precious is that? How incredible is that that you know? — Please turn to pg. 64
Then, what do you do with it? That’s what Paul is talking about here. “We ought to give the more earnest heed” (v1). We can say the apostles were so close to Jesus. I’m thankful that they were writing these letters because we needed that. But where are we today?

There are more people on the earth than I believe there has been in the whole history. Think about how many souls are out there today. How do they find out? You, that’s how. “For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord,” (vv2-3). Then, starting with Jesus and going to the apostles, it talks of all the great miracles that were done. We know what’s coming. How are we ever going to be able to escape the judgment that’s coming? We know all of these things.

If you didn’t know that something terrible was going to happen, wouldn’t you want to be told? If that fire alarm was truly something terrible, and the trustees ran out and then came back saying the whole place was on fire, wouldn’t you be glad they told you you’re going to want to get out of here? What if they just left? If we did get out, we might be thinking, “You knew that. If you weren’t going to tell us, how were we supposed to know we should leave?”

How is it then with the plan of salvation? Do we just put our heads down? Do our own thing? Make sure we get ourselves out? I know some days it feels like that would be the easiest thing to do because it’s hard enough to live our own lives. That’s not what the apostles were teaching here, and that’s most definitely not what Jesus was teaching while he was here on earth. Jesus wasn’t worried about getting himself out. He knew how to do that. He was worried about trying to get everybody else out.

In that 5th verse, “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels;” (vv5-7) Now, he’s talking about mankind – lower than the angels. We were put down here on earth. We’re going to face the temptations. We’re going to face death, but then the question is asked – which is another good question to ponder – “What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” Who are we? Why is it that God, the maker and creator of all things, is mindful of us? Why did he send Jesus? Why didn’t he just destroy us? Why did he even put the whole world in subjection? All the animals, Adam to till the earth, and all those things. Why did he do it?

We can read there in the end of Job, all the questions that God asked but they couldn’t answer, it was because God loved us. I think that’s about as deep as we can get there. That’s for God to know. That was God’s decision. I don’t think it does us much good to stop and wonder why in a sense of ‘I want to figure this out’ but to look at it and consider why? Why me? Then, take that question and ponder it in a way that points us to gratitude, that points us to indebtedness, to thankfulness, to submission and makes us want to say, “That is just incredible what God has done.”

Here, it talks of him sending Jesus. We can take that and say, “If he was willing to do that for me, if he was willing to do that for you, what should I do?” If somebody has done something that great for you, what should you do for them? That is the beginning. These mountains...
that we see, the giants that are around us, the things we have to overcome can all of the sudden start to shrink a little bit.

I think of the things that were preventing me from repenting. I wanted to repent. There were just some things I wanted to do before I repented. All of those things that kept coming up looked big. How was I going to tell my friends that I wouldn’t be going to such and such a thing here this summer? Big deal. But then, eventually, I started considering all that God did, and I started considering the plan of salvation. When we start considering what’s happening in this world and God’s plan, all of those things start to get a lot smaller. Does it really matter if I miss that event if I end up in hell? Absolutely not! That again is God working. We start looking to him, and all those things can start shrinking; those enemies don’t seem like such a big deal.

That’s God’s grace. That’s God’s help, and he will do that in everything in our life. Whatever thing you’ve got there, God has a way of shrinking that thing down, and most of the time, in order for us to allow him to do that, we need to be looking to him. Looking to heaven makes this world seem so much smaller.

To finish up here, starting at the 12th verse: “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (vv12-15) That’s what he’s done for us. Doesn’t the beginning of that sound so much like what David was going through, the fears, the struggles that were there. What was his solution? The rock – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God, the Holy Spirit. Looking to him.

Jesus came down here and was obedient all the way unto death. He overcame death. He arose the third day. Yeah, we are going to pass away. We’re all going to die, but if it can be that we subjected ourselves to God and followed his plan, we’re only going to die like Jesus died. He overcame the devil. He overcame sin. He overcame the grave.

Think of when David killed Goliath. Do any of us need to worry about Goliath? No. He died thousands of years ago. That’s what Jesus came and did here on earth. He came and killed death. We don’t even need to worry about it anymore. We will die an earthly death like Goliath, but we can have new life like Jesus. We know Goliath isn’t coming back, but death is there in every one of our lives, and we just have choice. We don’t have to fight it. We just have to make the decision. Choose to follow Jesus, and he will kill death for us or continue to walk in sin, and die a painful death. It may not be painful at that moment we die here, but the pain is only beginning.

It’s just so incredible that we’ve been given this. We live in this world, in this life, and here’s what’s really going on: we’ve all just been given the answers. It’s not necessarily the answers for fixing everything today, but we’re given all the answers we need in the scripture, the gospel, to make this decision. Every time we go through this, it makes me thankful but also heavy to know the work that needs to be done in sharing with others.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

This series of our church heritage continues, and the American side of the development is covered only in general terms. The data is taken from a booklet for teaching heritage in Sunday School. And the events referred to below follow the American development after the formation of churches in Croghan and Naumburg, New York, and Sardis Ohio.

Church Growth
The next area of church development occurred in the farming areas of the Midwest in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, and Kansas. Churches were formed when believers in our European congregations emigrated to America. Also, new converts won by preaching in America added to church growth. Most of the latter were German-speaking people.

Early preachers of our faith in America were zealous in their travels to help establish new congregations. They traveled far and wide in preaching the Word, and helping new immigrants from Europe settle in their American homes.

Early Churches
Early churches included those established at Peoria, Congerville, Dillon (later Tremont), Partridge Township, and Roanoke, Illinois; Leo and Bluffton in Indiana, and at Elgin, Iowa. Benedict Weyeneth, the first American elder, eventually settled on a farm near Roanoke. Josef Bella, a Hungarian immigrant, came to America and traveled tirelessly in assisting new churches to grow. He was known as the “roving elder” because of his travels. John Krienbuhl, in central Illinois, was a preacher who also traveled to help plant new churches.

1906
In 1906, a division occurred in the church that centered around the wearing of a mustache and other cultural matters. Immigrants in America from Western Europe were quite peace-loving and opposed to war. Many members from Eastern Europe who wore mustaches were thought to appear militaristic. Both the European and American elders tried diligently to resolve the matter, but they failed. Approximately 25 percent of the members (mostly with ties to Eastern Europe) left to form the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) under the authority of the European elders.

1932
In 1932, approximately 10 percent of the membership left to form the German Apostolic Christian Church. They retained the German language (and the German Bible), and established more rigid cultural standards.

More Growth
After the turn of the century, many new churches were formed when farmland in the Midwest filled up. Many of our church families formed a second wave of emigration to areas such as Latty, Ohio; Remington and Wolcott, Indiana; Morris, Minnesota; Oakville, Iowa; and Bay City, Michigan.

As the nation became more industrialized, and farms much larger, many farm people moved into metropolitan areas to seek employment. From the 1920’s on, most of the new churches were established in cities. The church in Bradford, Illinois (established in 1964) was an exception to this trend. (Editor’s note: for local church histories, see Marching to Zion, to read about all of the congregation histories.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
Why Should we Study the Old Testament?

It’s impossible to read the New Testament (N.T.) without encountering hundreds, perhaps thousands, of references to the O.T. But why do Christians sometimes struggle to read and study such a major part of the Bible? Maybe you can identify with one of these reasons:

• We enjoy the N.T. more because of its clear focus on Jesus and his teachings.
• The N.T. seems more relevant to our Christian lives.
• Parts of the O.T. are hard to understand, or can seem boring.
• The O.T. can be hard to reconcile with the teachings of the N.T. (wars vs. Jesus’ teaching on loving enemies).
• We feel like we already know the O.T. well enough because we learned the Bible stories from childhood.
• If we didn’t grow up in a church background, the O.T. may seem unfamiliar and overwhelming.

These are genuine struggles, but did you know that the N.T. itself shows us the value of reading the O.T.?

1) Seeing Jesus in the O.T. helps us better understand and appreciate the Gospel.

Jesus helped his disciples see how the whole O.T. prophesied about him and was fulfilled in his suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection.

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself...And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.” Luke 24:27, 44-45

2) Reading the O.T. provides comfort, hope, and warning for Christians.

Paul told the early Christians that the O.T. was written for their instruction.

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Rom 15:4

“Now all these things happened unto them for [examples]: and they are written for our admonition (warning), upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Cor 10:11

3) Studying the O.T. helps us become mature and better equipped for Christian ministry.

Paul reminded Timothy of the usefulness of the O.T. for his salvation, spiritual growth, and ministry.

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”. 2 Tim 3:15-17

Practical suggestions to gain a new appreciation for reading the O.T.:

1) Pray the Holy Spirit would open our understanding of the O.T. Scriptures.

2) Read through the O.T. in order, taking each passage in its entire context. For those who didn’t grow up with O.T. teaching, consider starting with a Bible story book such as Egermeier’s or Hurlbut’s. They are easy to understand, and connect the stories to the larger story of the Bible.

3) Try to understand the passage at a basic level first. If it’s a story, who are the characters? Where is it taking place? What are the significant details? If it’s a Psalm or prophetic passage, who wrote it? When? What was happening? For whom was it first written, and why?

4) Broaden your understanding of the passage/people by studying any other places in the O.T. that reference it. Does the N.T. speak about this passage or person?

5) What moral lessons can be learned from this O.T. passage? Sometimes the N.T. makes the applications for us.

6) For deeper study, ask: Is there anything in this passage that foreshadows or points to Jesus/the gospel?

-by Matthew Gerber
For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

Psalm 50:10