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"... Streams of mercy, never ceasing. Call for songs of loudest praise..."
Harvest Time

As the seasons change, fall is quickly winding down. All the labor of the prior months is come to bear. The soil was worked, seeds were planted, the weeds were kept at bay, and prayers were offered that the rains would come, not too much but enough for the crops. Through the Creator’s blessing, the seed sprouted, grew, and bore fruit. For some the fruit was abundant, while for others maybe less so. In these cooler months, the farmer’s have busily worked the fields bringing in the harvest and prepping the soil for the next crop. Soon the winter chill will set in.

So it is in the field of souls. The soil of the heart is prepped, seeds are planted, weeds are hopefully kept at bay, prayers are offered, and by God’s grace fruit comes forth. The harvest is ready and he sends us forth as reapers. There is work to be done before the winter chill comes.

In Christian love,
Rick and Michelle Kaisner, Silver Lining Editors
Contending for the teachings of Jesus & his Word

Theme verse: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

Guiding Principle H: We, as a church, contend for the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Word.

Mission Pillar 3: Preserve sound doctrine by contending for the faith.

Imagine you are a believer living near the end of the 1st century. You’ve embraced the good news of Jesus Christ, put your faith and trust in him, and become an ardent follower of his example and teachings. You’ve learned from faithful teachers who were themselves taught by the apostles of Jesus. You’ve studied copies of the sacred writings, sensing the inspiration of God flowing through the hands of Luke, Paul, Peter, and others. You’ve marveled at how these writings so potently capture this new doctrine you’ve been taught, this new way of living centered on Jesus, this powerful soul-freeing teaching of love, grace, and truth.

Confusingly, you and your fellow believers face a constant onslaught of voices that at first seem to echo the message of Jesus but also assert alluring new teachings. Some of you have been exposed to a popular new group whose leader passionately speaks of boundless mercy and abundant grace which overlooks a sensuous, sinful lifestyle. Another promotes a promise of earthly prosperity, teaching that gain is godliness. In a different city, a charismatic speaker claims that if you really are transformed by God’s grace, you will and must follow certain laws and traditions. Some of your friends seem caught up in political struggles as town citizens, striving for what they see as truth and equity, but scarcely able to speak or worship together, let alone listen to or lovingly serve another of different persuasion. Others fear a future of Roman oppression and stir up questions of whether Jesus really wants his followers to suffer with a peaceful spirit or take up the sword to fight for their rights, defend their families and property, and victoriously initiate the kingdom of heaven on earth.

You yourself have been caught up in a philosophical questioning of what is truth, and whether moral values and truths are determined by society or government or God. And part of you is wondering whether there’s any real value in being part of a church, whether you really need to follow the guidance and cautions of your church leaders, or whether it’s really necessary or beneficial to sacrifice some of your own preferences to worship in a way that’s comfortable and familiar to the other believers in your church.

Where do you turn? How do you stay grounded amidst the discouraging barrage of eloquent teachings and confusing questions? You think of Peter’s letter warning of false teachers. You’ve read Jesus’s words warning against empty religion teaching as doctrine the precepts of men. You’ve witnessed Timothy encouraging the church to be the “pillar and ground of the truth,” but wonder if it will stand the test of time. With a weary heart, you go to a hastily arranged gathering of believers and find excitement in the air. A new letter has arrived, a much-anticipated recounting of the gospel from Jude’s perspective. But as it’s read aloud, you hear not the gospel message, but an urgent exhortation to band together and engage in a strenuous ongoing struggle and fight for truth. Jude exhorts you as a church to earnestly contend for the doctrine and way of life taught and lived by Jesus, a way that had been handed down through verbal teachings, and sufficiently captured in writing - once for all - by the apostles and early church.

— Please turn to pg. 55
I want to greet all of you this morning in the name of our Savior. Thankful for the opportunity today to gather around God’s word. It’s just a little unique this morning. Normally, the Bible is closed when I stand up here, but it’s open already this morning. It looks like it’s open in a place where we don’t very often read, so I think I’ll just stay with it. So, let’s read here from the prophet Joel. We’ll read from chapter 2. Joel would fall into that category of prophets called the minor prophets, relatively short portions of scripture, but yet a prophet or someone with a message from God to God’s people that he wanted them to hear. Let’s read chapter 2 here.

Let’s sing a hymn and pray together, and we can come back and consider some of this message from God to his people as it was given through the prophet, Joel. Let’s sing from hymn #94 (Zion’s Harp), The Ship of Faith.

The first part of this chapter here through verse 11 seems to be describing an unstoppable force from the way it talks about this army, this unstoppable destructive force, that God, through Joel, is saying is going to sweep through the land. It’s going to leave behind it complete destruction. It kind of describes how in front of it is going to be a nice land, a pleasant land, maybe we’d say lush, and behind it, it’s blackness. As I’m reading this, I’m envisioning in my head an army, a destructive army. There are examples of it in history, and one of them that comes to my mind was during World War 2. The German army had what they called the Blitzkrieg. It left behind it a lot of destruction, and they were very fast-moving. In the civil war, I think it was General Sherman and his ‘march to the sea’ that left behind it destruction, swallowing up everything in its path.

Then we get over to verse 25, and it says: “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the canker worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer worm, my great army which I sent among you.” I’m wondering if it’s not describing this horde of insects that passes across the land and leaves destruction. There are also examples of that. One that comes to my mind right now is during the plagues in Egypt where the insects came and just wiped things out, leaving behind destruction. So, whatever it is, it’s describing God’s judgment. We could stop with that, and we would be left with this image of a God who is looking for an opportunity to take vengeance on a sinful world. We do need to be reminded that, in part at least, God is a God who has that power. He’s a God that, if we could describe him at least in human terms, sees evil, and his inclination is to respond with destruction because, in his holiness and perfect righteousness, that’s what we deserve.

That’s what the world deserves. But we kept reading, and we see that there is a call then to repentance. When God describes the destruction that we deserve, he wants us to respond with a sense of sorrow, with a sense of ‘I’m going to change my ways because I recognize that I’m in a bad place with God because of my behavior, my thoughts, my actions.’ How did he say it here? “Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning” (v.12). Expressions of deep, heart-wrenching sorrow.

He says next, “rend your heart” – tear your heart; don’t worry about tearing your clothes. Tear your heart. Open it up to me. That’s the response that God wants from us when we realize what this complete destruction is that we deserve. It says, “rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD
your God” (v.13). The essential meaning of the word repentance is to turn with sorrow, with regret, towards God. Why? Not only is God this God of holiness and righteousness who sees evil and wants to respond with destruction, but he is “gracious and merciful”. He is “slow to anger”. He is “of great kindness” and merciful. It says, “and repenteth him of the evil” (v.13).

I hope that this picture I’m conveying of a God whose desire is to respond with destruction isn’t too far off base. I think describing God in human terms is sometimes a little dicey way to go. God too will recognize his desire to respond that way, and he’ll change his mind. He will decide, “no, I am also a God of mercy, and I will choose to extend mercy even though they desire destruction.”

This is not only individually, but it talks about responding to that call as a group of people, just as the Israelites here were called to respond; I think it’s the same for us to respond as a group. Sometimes as a group, we need to repent. We need to call us all an assembly. We need to gather together. We need to do some cleansing. He’s calling them here to do that and for the leadership to lead it.

There was a promise of destruction, what we deserve, a call to repentance, and then, it gives the vision of God’s deliverance. It says “the Lord will be jealous for his land and pity his people.” It’s going through all this and describing this deliverance in verses 18-27, and when it gets to the end of this, it says, “Ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else” (v.27). So, really, it’s about God’s reputation in the end. It’s about God’s name. It’s about God being who he is and getting glory for that. He goes on with, “And my people shall never be ashamed.” I think that word ‘ashamed’ is a little hard for us to grasp in today’s terminology, but I think means, in part, something like we won’t be disappointed. It’s something like if it’s known that we put our trust in God, he’s not going to back away. He’s not going to undercut. He’s not going to pull the rug out from under us. When we put our trust in God, he is faithful. He’s not going to pull the rug out from under us; I think that may be the best way to think about it.

Then, it goes on, describing the time that is coming when God says, “I’m going to pour out my spirit on people.” You’ll recognize in this some references from the New Testament when the apostles and the early church experienced the outpouring of the Spirit. They said, “Ah, we recognize this is what Joel was talking about when he wrote God’s message, “I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (v.28). These are the words I recognize from the New Testament though I don’t know where they are exactly.

Then, in the last verse here, it comes back around as he says, “It shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.” (v.32) God is all-powerful, but the Word essentially tells us that he can’t change who he is. He can’t change from being a God who makes and keeps his promises into a God who is unreliable. So, where else is there something, someone, some being that is that trustworthy?

In today’s world and probably throughout time, as long as people have been organized under governments, there’ve been promises that are made. No matter what system of government it

— Please turn to pg. 56
Call for Sponsors!
Child Sponsorship Committee

The demand always exceeds supply. There are always more young people who need assistance to receive an education than sponsors available to support them. And yet, the great commission instructs us to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” While few of us will be able to personally go and fulfill this commandment, ALL of us can participate in this opportunity to share the gospel. Child Sponsorship is one way that we can make a difference.

Students Available
The HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program has a constant list of students waiting to be sponsored. If they are waiting for a sponsor, they probably aren’t currently attending school, due to lack of funds for tuition, uniforms, and school supplies. Many children in depressed world areas stay home to help their families generate income to afford the necessities of life: food, shelter, health care, etc.

There are often two categories of students who need support:
1. New Students – many young children (6-7-8 years old) have never attended school because their families can’t afford it. Not only do they not receive a basic education that will help them be more productive adults, they may not get the opportunity to hear the gospel news and learn about Jesus.

2. Current Students – for a variety of reasons, some current students (12-13-14 years old) lose their sponsors and may have to drop out of school. Depending on their age, finding a new sponsor may be difficult. While they have been exposed to the gospel message, they miss the opportunity for more advanced spiritual instruction. Plus, their plans to obtain a basic education are derailed.

All Nations
While our program doesn’t reach all nations, we do sponsor over 1,800 students in five countries: Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, and Zambia (as well as 130 schools in Haiti). Through the spiritual curriculum provided for all the students and schools we serve, the gospel message reaches over 15,000 students annually.

If you are not currently sponsoring a child or school, please prayerfully consider helping our church fulfill the great commission through child sponsorship in the countries we serve. If you are

Blessed are the Meek
Europe Committee

In principle we all agree with the beautiful truths in scripture, ‘blessed are they that mourn, the meek, the pure in heart’. Our hearts were touched in a special way when we experienced the faith of our brethren whose trust is in the Lord despite difficult circumstances.

Several of our European Committee were privileged to witness the contentedness of numerous needy brethren in Romania and Ukraine when we visited this past July. One example was Brother Ivan Cozac who suffered a severe back injury in an excavator accident in 1977, leaving him crippled and unable to work as he needed to provide for his family. In the spirit of Deut. 15:7 “If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother.” Brother Ivan was thankful for the assistance he has received from the Koravia church alms fund that is bolstered by ongoing financial support from HarvestCall. His quiet spirit and blessed hope reminded us of the parable of “the rich
already sponsoring a student, please prayerfully consider sponsoring an additional student, so more children get the opportunity to receive an education and hear the gospel story.

**How to Sponsor a Child**
The easiest way to sponsor a child is to go to the HarvestCall website and search for a child who is waiting for a sponsor: childsponsorship.harvestcall.org. Or, you can call the Morton Office (309-266-6080) and speak to a volunteer about sponsoring a child. Or, you can fill out the advertisement in the back of the Silver Lining and mail that to the Morton Office at P.O. Box 36, Morton, IL 61550.

**Sample of Children Available**
For your reference, we have included the pictures of five young people who are interested in attending school but are waiting on a sponsor to step forward for them.
- Two are mid-aged students in Haiti who lost sponsors but would like to continue their education.
- Two are young children in Haiti who would like to start attending school.
- One is a young child in Guatemala who would like to start attending school.

**Prayer Request**
Pray that our brotherhood will be moved to help fulfill the great commission through child sponsorship.

--by Ken Rinkenberger

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man and Lazarus” since his humble home is across the street from an extravagant mansion. What a joy it will be for the faithful to fellowship together eternally when we are “resting together in Abraham’s bosom”.

Many brethren across Eastern Europe wish to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts to aid them. They have greatly appreciated the comforter shipment that arrived safely in Antioch to be distributed later throughout Eastern Europe. May we all keep them in prayer as we enter into the colder months, in which winter heat will cost them a significant portion of their income.
Three Ways to Frame Your Child’s Identity

All of us come into the world with a set of genetic features that determine or at least significantly impact aspects of who we are. One doesn’t have to spend much time around children to realize children, like vehicles, come with lots of different features. These features can be grouped into several categories such as talents, interests, personality, experiences and so on. The combination of these features is a significant part of what makes a person who they are and establishes what becomes known as their identity. While there are many differences between vehicles and children, let’s consider a few similarities to help us think about framing up the identity of our children.

See and Nurture Their Interests
Identity seeks to answer the question “who am I”. People and vehicles come in endless sizes and shapes. Some vehicles are gifted with speed while others with strength. Vehicles can be used for purposes other than what they were designed but there is no denying a pickup pulls a trailer more easily than a car. Giving our children a strong sense of who they are designed to be and not to be and how to nurture their natural tendencies that align with God’s Word can have a positive impact in their lives.

Even at a young age, children display their interests, personality, gifts, and weaknesses. Taking time to watch how they play, what each child is drawn towards and how they interact with peers is important. In doing so you will see some of the features God has weaved into their personhood (Psalm 139:13-14). Knowing what our children are drawn to can position us to come alongside them and nurture their strengths as well as help them recognize and grow in their areas of weakness. Considering the vehicle analogy, if a child has been designed to be a racecar, we want to help them grow into the best racecar they can be for God’s glory. In similar fashion, a child who is gifted academically should be celebrated for this gift. As parents, we need to help our children see and appreciate their gifts while encouraging them to use these gifts in God honoring ways.

Ground Their Identity
Grounding our child’s identity requires teaching him or her that they have been created by God. Who we are at the core is defined not by what we do (our gifts or our weaknesses) but by our Creator. This is a very difficult thing to grasp, let alone hold onto. Most of us tend to elevate the various roles, interests, gifts, weaknesses and so on as the things that define or “identify” us. As life unfolds and loss or transition comes into play, life forces us to grapple with things like “what have I been designed for?” and “what is my purpose?”. When a new vehicle is released, there is much excitement about the new features and design. However, in a short span of time, these features will be out-of-date, and parts will need to be replaced. Changing out a headlamp doesn’t change the essence of a vehicle. What makes a vehicle a vehicle is much deeper than the various accessories that can and will be switched out over time.

We should not expect our children to always hold on to accurate answers to questions about the purpose of life. If most adults are honest, they do not always have proper answers to those questions either. Consciously or unconsciously, we make trivial things our ultimate pursuit. Praise God that he is faithful to expose our tendency to drift from worshiping him towards worshiping other things. God redirects our hearts and parents should expect this redirecting to also be part of their children’s journey. This redirection will allow children to be better equipped to keep good, important, and fun aspects of who they are as secondary and to see those things as ways to enjoy the larger aspects of God’s goodness, worship him and point others toward him. While this larger reality of appreciating God’s goodness, worshiping him, and
pointing towards God does not alleviate the hurt or trial of transitions and loss, it does emphasize to our children the constancy of God when life’s roles, interests, and seasons of life shift. This grounding in God’s constancy is vitally important for all of us.

**Sense of Me and We**
The owner of a vehicle can often tell you unique quirks their particular vehicle has. In one sense that vehicle is unique to every other vehicle because it has different features as well as different experiences than other vehicles. However, on another hand, it is a vehicle and is similar to every other vehicle. Helping our children recognize their unique features while seeing themselves as part of a group allows them to live out 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 by seeing themselves as being different from each other, yet united in the Lord and called to love. A Ford Mustang doesn’t have to be a Honda Accord or vice versa, but both should follow the same traffic laws of the land that all vehicles do.

Helping our children have a good sense of who they are - meaning they recognize their God-given gifts and weaknesses - will help equip them for using their gifts in his Kingdom and to see their need for others who are different from them. They will be better prepared to navigate loss and failure. Kids will begin to see the need to ground their identity in something that will not pass - something that doesn’t require giftedness or perfection but rather requires humility. As Ecclesiastes describes, shaping how they view God and the gifts he gives is important in identity formation. The author of Ecclesiastes articulates the journey of pursuing that which does not bring life. This pursuit eventually leads to the reality that knowing and following God’s commands is the true purpose of life (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

The journey toward developing a healthy identity can be a painful one like it was for the author of Ecclesiastes. Therefore, do not lose hope if you see your child struggling in their identity. This journey requires all of us to be aware of who we are while also grounding ourselves deeper within God himself. It also asks all of us to appreciate the uniqueness we may have while understanding we are part of a larger whole. Yet as we personally frame up our own identity in a healthy fashion, we will find we are able to better encourage, form, and shape the identity of our children as well.

ACCFS has a host of resources available to encourage parents in their responsibilities. We continue to conduct Parenting with a Purpose seminars and other presentations as requested. In addition, we develop and refer to many other helpful resources on our website at www.accounseling.org/category/parenting. If you have requests or would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
As we’ve been celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, there has been a very important group we have been recognizing throughout it all – our incredibly dedicated staff at LifePoints. Whether our staff work in Nursing, Administration, Dietary Services, Maintenance, Direct Service, or other departments, they are all extremely important members of our LifePoints family. Without our staff, we wouldn’t be able to fulfill our mission – “Serving according to God’s purpose.” We would have homes full of people needing our services, but no one to serve. So you can see the vital role our staff play here at LifePoints.

It’s not just a job; it’s a mission. New employees hear this statement as they go through training, and they see it in action as they begin working with the residents. The paycheck is important, but being able to care for the residents and build relationships with each of them is the true reward. It’s evident as you enter our homes and see the love shared between the staff and the residents – this is not your average place of work.

LifePoints wouldn’t be where we are today without our staff. These past two years in particular have been extremely difficult for our residents, their families, and our staff as well. COVID-19, construction, short staffing, illnesses, and death have all affected us in major ways. However, we have also seen so many staff members step up and take on new roles, adjust to the constant changes, and come up with creative ways to keep our residents happy and healthy. When shutdowns have happened, staff have gone out of their way to spend extra time with each resident to show them that they are loved and cared for as individuals. Our residents have been resilient through it all, and our staff have too.

While these present times have placed extra responsibilities and pressure on our agency to find new employees to work at our residents’ homes, we trust that God will work in the hearts of those called to serve with us at LifePoints. We trust that he will bring individuals to LifePoints to work and alleviate the short staffing we face, and he will show them the true reward of “Serving according to God’s purpose.” If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving at LifePoints, please visit the Careers page of our website: http://www.aclifepoints.org/Careers.asp

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Adam and Rachel Riley had the desire to grow their family through adoption, but the path to adoption led them on an unexpected journey that challenged and grew their faith. “We had not expected in our adoption journey to grow so much in our capacity to love people in broken places, offer mercy and grace again and again, and to cling to God’s character like there was no tomorrow!”

They were matched with three separate expectant mothers who were considering an adoption plan. For various reasons, these matches did not end in an adoption for the Riley family. Throughout this process, Adam and Rachel allowed God to work and show them the true reward of being able to serve in the hearts of those called to serve with us at LifePoints.
adoption process. “Without these forced times of reflection, crying out to God, and learning to be content in his plan, another match that shifted and changed could not have been endured! God had done a work in our hearts we know prepared us!”

After three failed matches, God brought another expectant mother into their lives. “We were able to say with every confidence in our being that we trusted God knew the best place for this child.” The birth mom spent some time with her baby, giving her precious time with her cherished son as she considered the permanency of an adoption plan. Believing they had obeyed God and trusted his plan for their family, the birth mom, and her son, Adam and Rachel believed that this would be their fourth failed match. However, just a few hours later, they got a call that the birth mom chose to entrust her son into their care!

“We are forever grateful and humbled by Isaac’s brave birth mother! Although she has not been at a place yet to communicate with us, we have the deepest respect and love for her. Again, we know this is something only God could do in our hearts!”

The Riley’s adoption journey took them to unexpected places, but God was present through it all. Just as for each of us, God knows and cares deeply about us and for those whose lives intersect with ours in unexpected ways, as was experienced by the Riley family in their adoption journey.

News:
- We are thankful that we have had three new babies born this month: June Hazel Zimmerman (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Karla Zimmerman), Graham Ernest Steidinger (Bro. Kirk and Sis. Jeana Steidinger), and Emberton Lynae Gerber (Bro. Philip and Sis. Janean Gerber).
- November is National Adoption Month. If you are interested in learning more about adoption, please visit our adoption website: adoptiongateway.org
- 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, Adoption Case Manager, Communications Administrative Assistant 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 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.ringer@gatewaywoods.org.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

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

Some of the women in our congregation recently completed a Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:1-7:29. What an abundance of
information and wisdom is revealed here by our Lord! His simple words contain the full instruction of how to live here on this earth and yet have our hearts in Heaven. The author of this study refers to the sermon as a primer on God’s “upside down kingdom”. It addresses all aspects of our life here, and how it affects our life in eternity. The first few verses tell the gospel story - blessings for poverty of spirit, mourning our sin and humbly seeking after righteousness. We learn how to relate to our God and to other people. It discusses relationships with neighbors, friends and family, our “masters”, difficulties that are inevitable and how to respond and survive them. And it teaches us how to pray and fast. Jesus tells us who he is and who we can be in him, encouraging us to put the needs of others higher than our own. He warns of false prophets and tells us how to discern truth and discusses the proper way to give. Every teaching is contrary to the sinful nature within us, and every instruction Jesus gave, he also modeled for us. All the things that will win God’s heart are “upside down” when compared to how we naturally expect things to work. This is the key to successful living and spiritual well-being, and something of an overview of the sanctification process his children experience. If we practice the teachings we are given here, and follow the example set by our gracious Lord, we will be blessed in this life, have righteousness as our goal and follow the Lord into eternal bliss. All of this can only be accomplished with the divine assistance of our risen Lord and Savior. We cannot achieve it on our own.

When he finished speaking, it tells us the audience was astonished at the authority with which he taught. He did not refer to any other man’s teaching. His words and wisdom were of a divine nature. Throughout the Gospels, there are numerous references such as this, where the gospel writers record how people were astonished and amazed at the wisdom and authority with which Jesus spoke. What a privilege for them to be able to hear God speaking his word and plan in person! And what a privilege for us to have his word so readily available at any time that we can even take it for granted.

“...Never man spake like this man.” John 7:46

We welcome our winter visitors along with the return of cooler weather! We are thanking and praising God that our Bro. Victor Krstek is improving after his long struggle. We ask you to continue praying with us for his full recovery. The Holiday season is upon us and preparations are under way for our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing. Our Sunday school will celebrate the cooler weather with the annual picnic this month, and then it will be time for our Thanksgiving holiday. May we appreciate all the blessings we enjoy from the hand of our bountiful Father, and praise him with our celebration, on the day set aside and every day!

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

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

We were blessed this past month to host an Invite-a-Friend weekend. With light-hearted fall games and apple cider we were able to come together from across many churches to reconnect and share in the joy of Christ.

Thankful for Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forest, IL) for coming to preach this last month.

Arizona, Tucson

Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings from the Southwest. We have been taking turns giving our testimonies and are reaping the benefits of recounting how God has drawn us to his work. It has been a blessing to hear the many accounts and has allowed us to get to know one another better, especially since so many of our brothers and sisters who reside here have started their journey with Christ in their local church and have now moved here.
We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month to work through the “Sharing the Gospel” Bible study. We pray God will bless our desire to better equip ourselves in passing along the Good News.

Bro. Duane Wulf will be the Sunday school superintendent for the coming year. We will be sharing teaching duties among four sisters for the younger students. Hopefully we will be able to nurture good relationships across a variety of age groups, while teaching the beautiful stories of the Bible to our children.

Arizona, Willcox

Annie Wulf

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Willcox, AZ is a small town of 3,500 people located 80 miles east of Tucson. Agriculture is the main economic driver in the community with corn, alfalfa, beans, pecans, pistachios, and grapes being the primary crops. We are thankful for the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit in the recent establishment of an Apostolic Christian Church here in the southeast corner of Arizona.

The church gathering is held at 158 W. Maley Street and consists of six members and approximately forty friends. Many of the current attendees speak Spanish as their first language and are in various stages of English fluency. Therefore, the morning church service is preached in Spanish with a short English summary. After lunch, the afternoon service is conducted in English with a short summary in Spanish. We are thankful for the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, no matter the language.

We appreciate the brotherhood and extend an invitation to anyone who would like to come visit.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena

Kali Sauder

Our gathering quadrupled in size one Sunday as we welcomed the family of Sis. Lois Klotzle (Elder Bro. John Klotzle, both deceased) as they celebrated her life and legacy. More than a year ago, when she passed away, the family was unable to gather in Altadena for the funeral, and since John and Lois served and raised their children in this church and community so faithfully for so many years, it was wonderful to gather and remember their lives and celebrate evidence of their godly legacy.

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together...O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him...Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” Psa. 34: 3,8,11

California, San Diego

Sarah Fulop

Happy Fall y’all! Tis the season for pumpkin spice and everything nice; with cool evenings, pumpkin patches, and local street fairs. It is also the season to get involved in our local communities and give back to those in need. This month, we had our second sack lunch packaging event for InnerFaith, a local homeless service here in Escondido. We packaged 100 sack lunches and plan on doing so the 2nd Wednesday for the next several months.

This is from the efforts of San Diego’s very first HarvestCall committee. Our mission is to spread the gospel to our local city by building meaningful relationships through service lead activities. As a committee we hope to plan two local HarvestCall events monthly and bring awareness for opportunities to serve. We hope in doing so we can not only serve our community but invite people into our fellowship and share the love and hope of Jesus. We appreciate your prayers as we seek to glorify God in our efforts.

We also ask for prayers for the sick and hurting in our congregation: for God’s healing hand and peace in the middle of long stressful health battles.

Last month, we enjoyed fellowship with our Altadena congregation and appreciate all who helped organize. It is a blessing to be close to our fellow body of believers and meet amongst ever changing social gathering rules. We look forward to hosting the Building Advisory Committee on November 12. We trust God will bless their efforts of love.
Our San Diego congregation wishes everyone a peaceful holiday season.
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16

Colorado, Denver
Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller

"Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord, because he cometh to judge the earth." 1 Chron. 16:33

We have enjoyed vibrant fall colors both in the mountains and the city as autumn brought cooler temperatures. The beauty of God’s creation reminds us of his faithfulness each day. This month, we enjoyed time together at our yearly Sunday school picnic.

Ministering Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) shared a Sunday with us at the end of September, and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) joined us in October to assist in the reading of the Memorandum.

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider

“How shall it be when we at last returning
From weary wand’rings
and from toil and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?”
How Shall it be? Zion’s Harp #146

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Peggy Bahler and her family in the unexpected passing of her beloved husband, Bro. Dave Bahler. We extend our thoughts and sympathy to the Kupferschmid family in the passing of their dear mother, Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid. We also share our sorrow with the Skipper family in the passing of their beloved mother Sis. Alma Skipper. May each of these families find comfort and strength in knowing that their loved ones are now peacefully residing in those Heavenly mansions above.

We were blessed to have visiting Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michele, Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) with us to help assist Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and Elder Bro. Brent Walder to exhort and share Holy Communion. What a gift this is when we in reverence and quietness can partake of this Holy Supper together as we remember the suffering of our Saviour for us on Calvary’s Hill. We also enjoyed the service and fellowship this month from Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) and Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) as they brought forth God’s word.

We welcome Zoe Bozzay (San Diego, CA) to our community and congregation while she is attending college in Massachusetts.

We wish God’s blessings upon Caleb Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler) and Katie Stabinsky (Bill and Maggie) as they are united in marriage. We rejoice with Bro. Jason Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen Widmer, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Janelle Gottier (Sis. Beth Gottier and Guy Gottier) as they become one in the Lord. We pray that God’s nearness and blessings might be upon both these dear couples as they begin their lives together.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

As I write this article, we are experiencing just the beginning of the beautiful leaves.

Due to COVID-19 concerns both here and in our visiting ministers’ churches, the decision was made to have virtual meetings. We thank Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) and Bro. Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO) for getting up early on a Sunday morning to serve us.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703.904.8301 or hmeyer2831@gmail.com 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 if and where services are to be held.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have several visiting ministers this past month; Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH), Bro.
Kole Meyer (Sis. Amy, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL), and Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather, Taylor, MO). We pray that God will bless them for their work.

Bro. Jerry Kaiser, (Tremont IL), led a Bible study teaching us that love and bitterness can’t exist together, as seen in the life of Caleb in Joshua 14:6-15.

We enjoyed a church potluck this month. It was a blessed evening of fellowship while sharing a delicious meal.

We were reminded in one of the sermons this past month that the Lord knew us and every moment that was to come in our life before we were even born. There is truly a blessing and great comfort in knowing that every hill and every valley each of us face has all been laid out before us and is part of God’s ultimate plan.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

**Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger**

“Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.” Lam. 3:41

“The act of prayer teaches us our unworthiness, which is a very salutary lesson for such proud beings as we are. If God gave us favors without constraining us to pray for them, we should never know how poor we are. As the runner gains strength for the race by daily exercise, so for the great race of life we acquire energy by the hallowed labor of prayer. Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God. We thank thee, great God, for the mercy-seat, a choice proof of thy marvelous lovingkindness. Help us to use it aright throughout each day!” (Spurgeon, Morning & Evening Devotion)

God has continued to pour out his love and favor upon our faith family. We enjoyed a night of fellowship, games, and praise as we got together for our summer potluck last month. We praise God for the safe return of many of our winter residents. We love seeing our congregation begin to fill back up once again.

**Florida, Sarasota**

**Becky Funk**

“And be said unto them Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” Mark 16:15

It was made evident to our congregation to place two new brothers into the ministry. We praise God for his provision and direction. May God lead both Bro. Chad Heiniger (Sis. Heather) and Bro. Ryan Stoller (Sis. Kori) and families into this beautiful opportunity to serve our church.

We’re encouraged and blessed this month with several visiting ministers. Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City, GA). We thank them for sharing the word with us.

Our prayers and love are with Mary Kay Rumbold and her family on the passing of her dear husband Gary Rumbold. May God provide grace and comfort during this difficult time.

We had a family night on October 15 to prepare 550 health kits to be sent to Haiti. Prayers for all that are suffering hardship and pain in Haiti and around the world.

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

**Mike and Susie Walder**

Greetings of love.

Although our family is staying in the U.S. for a few more months, we were thankful that Bro. Kurt and Sis. Julie Schroock and family, and Bro. Joab and Sis. Trinity Télusma all safely returned to Haiti recently. We pray that their service for the Lord will be fruitful and a blessing to many.

Schools are slowly opening as buildings get repaired or simple tarps are put up for shelter from the sun. Overall, it is an extra-difficult time for families to send their kids to school this year since they are facing ever rising prices for everything, as well as the usual 80% unemployment. And this is on top of the injuries, damages, or loss of what little they had due to the recent major earthquake.

The students in our HarvestCall Child Sponsorship Program are very blessed to be
able to attend school since their tuition, books and uniforms are generally covered. Unfortunately, we know of some students whose sponsorship funds do not cover things like tennis shoes or all their books, and they will stay at home out of shame. We cannot comprehend this, but sometimes families have to choose whether they eat or pay for school needs, and they decide to eat just like the rest of us would.

Sponsors are encouraged to send small monetary gifts to their students any time of the year, but students especially appreciate being remembered on a birthday or at Christmas. Kids are kids everywhere! You should see their eyes light up with excitement when they pull out the new pencils and notebooks from the school kits or the toothbrushes and shampoo from the health kits many of you pack with love and ship down!

To start sponsoring a child’s education and giving real hope, see the ad in the back of this issue, or visit harvestcall.org/sponsorship for more information or to select a waiting child. We also have students at the trade school and college level who are in need of sponsorship.

Six young people “turned their eyes upon Jesus” and have begun their repentance within the past month. We are prayerful for Andrew Endress (Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth), Tyler, Ashley and Bethany Stahl (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal), Tori Joos (Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tonya) and Larissa Nenadov (Bro. Philip and Sis. Donna) as they turn their back on the world and seek God.

The annual 3rd grade through Bible Class wiener roasts were held the end of September. It is always a special time for each class to make memories together.

We rejoice with Isaac Stahl (Bro. Wendell and the late Sis. Linda) as he has found peace with God and looks forward to baptism.

We appreciated Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) serving us on the pulpit this past month when visiting their children and grandchildren.

**Illinois, Champaign**

**Brent Young**

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

Sis. Sammie Beyer (Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla) shared her testimony of saving faith and was baptized into the family of God. It was an encouraging weekend for our church family and a reminder of God’s love for us and willingness to work in our lives.

We have enjoyed several of our fall events, including a Wednesday evening picnic and a weekend wiener roast and hayrack ride. These annual events are familiar markers of the fall season and include sweet fellowship for all.

We have been prayerful for our Sis. Pam Furrer (Bro. Sam) as she has been dealing with a melanoma diagnosis and associated complications. We wish her God’s continued nearness along with successful treatments.

Ministers willing to travel and share from church to church are a wonderful and somewhat unique blessing of our denomination. We benefited this month a great deal and our gratitude goes out to Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL), Bro. Sam Bertschi (Sis. Marjorie, Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Greg Beutel (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Daren Metz
(Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN).

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann
We extend thanks to Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) for visiting and helping with Communion in early October. It was a special weekend, and we enjoyed some extra fellowship time after church the following day.

Our annual Church Visioning Day was in September. Thanks to the Stewardship Planning Team for organizing this event and leading the important discussions as we consider how the Spirit is directing us as a church family. Also in September, Bro. Mark Lindberg shared a topical Bible study on the book of Zechariah.

We are grateful for those who have agreed to fill open positions: Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen will serve on the VBS committee, Sis. Betty Schlatter is the new WoW Coordinator, and Sis. Angela Steffen is the permanent Sunday school substitute.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Denise Kaeb, Lou Ann Kaeb
“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 8:38-39

We bid an earthly farewell to our dear Sis. Doris Knapp (Bro. Melvin, dec.), on September 20. She had walked this earth almost 97 years and as I observed part of those years, I witnessed in her life that nothing could separate her from the love of God. She leaves behind three daughters, Joyce Gharst, Gloria Feder, and Connie Medina and one son, Robert Knapp.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16

Our congregation was blessed with young members visiting from churches in Iowa, Kansas and Ohio. The singing was amazing with their young voices. We appreciated having them gather with us!

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

The family of Bro. Tyler and Sis. Julia Eisenmann, Miah and Clay joyfully welcome home a sweet little boy, Cody Steven! Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann and Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb and our whole congregation!

Our congregation is also rejoicing that Erica Walder (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise) is moving back home and will be assembling with us again. It is such a blessing having her here with us and so thankful for her walk with the Lord!

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” Psa. 84:11

Illinois, Congerville
Tory Currier, Krista Wieland
May God bless the efforts of each brother who shares the word; we thank Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL).

Our congregation hosted ACYF Day, and we thank each one who had a part in that including some of our visiting ministers.

We were blessed with visitors for our Invite-a-Friend weekend. May we be thankful for the opportunity to fellowship and worship with other believers.

“There are friendships that we cherish In our daily walk of life…”
Christian Friendship, Hymns of Zion, #91
Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

We are thankful for Meghan Forbes, who has begun her repentance. She is the daughter of Bro. Jay and Sis. Jen Cox.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matt. 11:28-30

We extend sympathy to the family of Sis. Libbie Ann Moser, who passed away on October 4 at Highland Oaks. Her children in our local congregation include Bro. John, Sis. Nancy Wewetzer (Bro. Mark), and Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne). Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) conducted the service.

As we always enjoy watching the earthly harvest come to fruition each year, let us with zeal and great anticipation continue to strive towards the heavenly harvest that will take place some glad day!

On September 26, we were blessed to have numerous single groups from across the nation worship with us and praise our great God with their youthful voices. We were blessed to have Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) share the Word with us that day.

October 1-2 was a special weekend for Cade Walder (Bro. Brad and Sis. Carla) and Josie Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi) as they shared their testimony of faith and were baptized into Christ’s body. We were grateful that the way opened up for Elder Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT) to assist our Elder Bro. Trent Meiss in this work and minister to us on Sunday. We also appreciated the services of Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH). Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL), Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL) were also in our midst throughout the weekend.

Our congregation is rejoicing that through faith, our Sis. Natalie Meiss (Elder Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss) was announced to be married to Bro. Jacob Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth, Tremont, IL). Their wedding is planned for December 19.

We are also thankful that Maria Cottrell (Bro. John and Sis. Gloria) and Elle Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara) have surrendered their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We are confident that God will work a mighty work in their hearts as they walk forward trusting him with their lives.

Illinois, Fairbury

Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

Stephanie Kaeb (Forrest, IL).
We are thankful for the safe and healthy arrival of each new baby and pray for these families as they raise their children to love the Lord.

We lift in prayer several from our church family who have lost loved ones. Our Bro. Jim Walter (Sis. Juanita, dec.) and Sis. Rosetta Edelman (Bro. Walt) grieve the passing of their sister, Shirley Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Bro. John Stork passed away, leaving behind his dear wife Sis. Eunice and their children, Sis. Ann, Bro. Bill (Sis. Shay), Sis. Barb, Lorrie Shambrook (Rex), Bro. Mike (Sis. Marie, Bloomington, IL), Karie Edelman (Mark) and Bro. John’s sister Helen Voeste. May God provide comfort for each one through the days ahead.

Illinois, Forrest
Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in words of faith and good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.” 1 Tim. 4:6

Thanking visiting ministers can become habitual when it comes time to sitting down and writing out this article. However, this month I was convicted to sit and ponder on just what ministers go through as they travel to visiting churches and how much they rely on God and the prayers of the church! We thank Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) for giving of themselves and bringing the word to us this month.

We extend sympathy to Keith Walter (Jackie), Bro. Pete Walter (Larae), Bro. Duane Walter (Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Cindy Edelman (Bro. Warren) in the passing of their sister Shirley Kuenzi, Salem, OR. May they feel God’s comforting arms around them.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this month: Sis. Alisa Ricketts (Bro. Allen), Sis. Gloria Drayer (Bro. Wayne) and Bro. Joe Koehl (Sis. Marie). May God’s healing hand be with them during their time of recovery.

As we come into the Thanksgiving season, may we “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.” and "In everything give thanks...” 1 Thess. 5:16-17, 18

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

We are thankful for this beautiful time of year where leaves are changing, and the harvest is plentiful. May we all remember to be like the farmers; plant and spread the word of God to others so that many more souls can be gathered for Christ’s kingdom!

Our Bro. Bill Koepnick continues to heal and recover from his recent heart surgery. We are thankful he is doing well.

At the end of September, we were thankful to hear Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) talk to us about the way Jesus approached life... The way of Peace. In mid-October, we enjoyed having Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington, IL) for our topical Bible study. His topic was “Dealing with Life’s Frustrations.” Bro. Eric Strassheim (Sis. Jodi, Indianapolis, IN) visited and we were glad to have him minister to us. We are thankful for these ministers and their wives being willing to visit and to share God’s word.

Our kids are excited to begin ACTIVE this year! It is a youth, scripture memory program that happens every other Wednesday night for children Pre-K and up.

Bro. Gage Bauman and Sis. Kaylynn Schlipf (Gridley, IL) were joined in Holy matrimony on October 17. Parents of the couple are Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman and Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf (Gridley, IL). We wish this dear couple all of God’s richest blessings in their life together.

Our fall family hymn sing was held on Sunday, October 17. Our church enjoyed pizza, followed by packing HarvestCall kits, a short program by the Junior Choir, and some singing.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, hopefully we can take some time and consider all the blessings God has given us. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thes. 5:18
Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

Sis. Sandra Schneider had shoulder surgery and is recovering. Surely, we as a church pray for those who need physical healing.

Two converts were recently baptized; Bro. Ben Wettstein, (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tara Wettstein) and Bro. Dan Lowery of the Chatsworth area (brother to our Sis. Randi Schaffer). We welcome them as new brothers in faith.

A wedding took place on Sunday, October 17 as Sis. Kaylynn Schlipf married Bro. Gage Bauman, (Goodfield, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf, and his parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman, (Goodfield, IL). We wish them God’s grace and much happiness.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) Bro. Jedd Rocke, (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL); and Elder Bro. Lucas Frank, (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI). We surely thank these brothers for their efforts in preaching.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Emily Wherry became the parents of their third daughter on August 4. She was named Bexley Ellen. Pacey and Nina are her sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger, Gridley, and Robin Perry, Bloomington. This is a wondrous blessing, and may the Lord assist the parents in raising up this infant, and her two sisters as well.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Gen. 8:22

We thank Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL) for sharing God’s word with us when they came to visit family.

Many enjoyed a beautiful fall evening when we gathered for our annual wiener roast and singing around the fire. Another blessed evening was our October hymn sing. The three-year-old through third grade Sunday school students enthusiastically sang their Sunday school songs for us. We also enjoyed hymns sung by the Mortonaires, then were sorry to hear that it was the last time they would be singing as a group. They have inspired many in the seventy years that they have been singing praises to our God.

Our sympathy goes to three dear families who have laid a loved one to rest. Gary Rumbold (Mary Kay) was the brother of our Sis. Debbie Wells (Bro. Denny). Rebecca “Becki” Johann Nunnally of Ironsville, IN was an aunt to Sis. Trisha Monfre (Bro. Clayton). Carl Uhlman (Ruth) was a brother to our Bro. Will Uhlman (Sis. Ellie).

Our sympathy goes to three dear families who have laid a loved one to rest. Gary Rumbold (Mary Kay) was the brother of our Sis. Debbie Wells (Bro. Denny). Rebecca “Becki” Johann Nunnally of Ironsville, IN was an aunt to Sis. Trisha Monfre (Bro. Clayton). Carl Uhlman (Ruth) was a brother to our Bro. Will Uhlman (Sis. Ellie).

In contrast, two families welcomed new babies. Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk are the grandparents to Saige Leona born September 12 to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Holly Moser (Lester, IA). Her sisters are Hattie and Jaycee. First-time parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Clair Huette. Their daughter Melody May was born on October 12. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser.

We are so happy to welcome Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman, Bro. Fred Sollberger and Bro. Joseph Fischer who have moved to our area and are now worshiping with us.


“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Rev. 3:20-21

Four dear souls answered that knock and opened their hearts to God’s leading. We were blessed to hear the testimonies of Allen and Robin Pfanz and Casey and Julie Matlock and to witness the baptism of Allen and Robin. After the prayer of consecration, we welcomed these four loved ones as our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We are
thankful to have them as a part of our Morton church family. As the farmers work to bring in the harvest, let us pray for a bountiful harvest of those willing to repent and give their life over to the Lord.

**Note of Thanks:**
I would like to thank all who helped make my 100th birthday so special. I am so thankful for the love, kindness and thoughtfulness of my church family.

Sis. Kathryn Kaiser

**Illinois, Peoria**

**Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein**

“Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest-home! All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin: God our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied; Come to God’s own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest-home!”

Here in the Midwest, we are in the middle of autumn. As we see the animals collecting and storing nuts for the winter, we marvel that God made the animals with instincts to help them survive. How thankful we should be that he provides so abundantly for us all!

On October 2 the Peoria church enjoyed the annual autumn cookout at the fellowship hall. After enjoying a meal and singing together, we heard about Sis. Madi Waibel’s (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa) experiences in India. She talked of the many differences in the culture and the multitudes of people who have never heard of Christ’s love. She will soon return to study the Hindi language and to live among the people of India bringing the light of the gospel to the lost! Our prayers and love are with her!

We appreciated Bro. Aaron and Sis. Angie Anliker (Bloomington, IL) sharing their testimonies of faith on family night. God can find souls in need of repentance wherever we may be! Both of these evenings were very pertinent to our current Bible study on sharing our faith.

Bro. Jim Carlson’s (Sis. Faith) mother, Wilma Carlson, passed away October 3. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith and grandchildren Ivan and Lucy as well as others of her family. When a life on earth ends, it reminds us that spiritual harvest day for each of us will come. Are we ready?

“We ourselves are God’s own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield; Wheat and tares together sown Unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear; Grant, O Harvest Lord, that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.”

Words in italics written by Henry Alford

**Illinois, Princeville**

**Ruth Herrmann, Cherie White**

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

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month. May God continue to bless and grant words of instruction through our faithful servants Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO).

An all-church wiener roast and singing was hosted at Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah Martin’s residence. We are so thankful we have opportunity to encourage one another in song and worship our God.

Our Sunday school children and families enjoyed our annual wiener roasts hosted by different families. What a joy for the children and young adults to enjoy activities together in the midst of God’s beautiful creation!

“A...children are an heritage of the Lord...” Psa. 127:3

A Scripture Memory Class for Kindergarten through 5th graders began in October. The goal of the class is to teach scripture through song and to strengthen students’ relationships within their church family.

Simon Stoller, (Bro. Neil and Sis. Luann) was hospitalized. We are thankful he is doing better.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

**Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind**

“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psa. 34:1

On September 19, the Roanoke Bible Class attended ACYF Day in Congerville.

Elder Bro. Frank Sauder reported the results of our
Moving Forward Survey on September 26. Our church schedule will now be: 9:30-10:45 a.m. first service (song worship 9:30-9:45 a.m.); 10:45-11:30 a.m. Lunch (cafeteria style); 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. second service (song worship 11:30-11:45 a.m.). The second service will also include periodic studies of books of the Bible.


Our youth activities have resumed: HOPE (junior high girls), ACTIVE (junior high boys), WOW (high school students), and Scripture Memory for grades K through 5th. On October 17, the Bible Class had a Bible lesson, sang, and assisted a number of other of our churches at the Midwest Food Bank preparing Tender Mercies food kits. It is a joy to see our youth learning about Jesus and his Word, serving others, and enjoying fellowship.

On October 6, Bro. Nate Hoffman gave an update on the state of our nursing home, and Bro. Rich Bertschi gave a PowerPoint presentation of our proposed church remodeling project.

Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) was our guest minister on October 17. He encouraged us to view life’s circumstances through an eternal perspective.

Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) began our Bible study series with an introduction to the book of Matthew, chapters 1-3 on October 17. Bro. Frank stated that the book of Matthew is the bridge that connects the Old and New Testaments, and that repentance is core to becoming a follower of Christ.

We rejoice that Javin Feucht (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer) has begun his walk with the Lord.

Pray for those with health challenges: Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy) and her sister Amee Meinhold, Sis. Jane Schumacher, Sherry Maxwell, daughter of Sis. Faye Blunier (Bro. Wally), and Kirk Hoffman (Lisa), son of Sis. Jeannie Hoffman and Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb).

Our Roanoke ladies’ Bible study group is studying Gideon by Priscilla Shirer. In this week’s session we were amazed how God saw Gideon as a mighty man of valor even before he demonstrated that behavior. How thankful we can be that God sees us through his eyes of grace! God’s pronouncement of potential leads to spiritual victory. We can walk boldly in the strength of Christ!

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

We wish to extend our thanks to Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) as they visited and preached the Word to our congregation. We appreciate their willingness to serve when they come to visit family.

We were excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Jacob Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth) to Sis. Natalie Meiss (Elder Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). We wish them the Lord’s blessing on their upcoming wedding and marriage.

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

Two baby boys were born this month and many prayers were offered on their behalf as they both spent some extra time in the hospital. Cory and Laurie Gouliard welcomed Isaac Lee into their family. Big sisters Jacey, Neriah, and Arielle Traynoff are very excited to have a little brother to love on. Bro. Jeff, Sis. Elizabeth, and Kinley Kaeb welcomed home Kaden Jeffrey. Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Kaeb are thrilled to have another grandson.

Our prayers have been with those that have been in the hospital lately: Reagan Fehr (Bro. Klayton and Sis. Megan), Bro. Bill Huette, Bro. Bill Huette, Bro. Mel Kaiser (Sis. Marlene), and Cindy Miller. We are thankful for the healing work that God has done and continues to do in their lives.
Illinois, Washington

Lillian Pfaffmann
“Thus united And in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other’s welfare strive.”
Unity, Zion’s Harp, #237
A song as a prayer for Sis.
Claire Izeboud and Bro. David Moser as they made their wedding vows. Parents are Otto Van Zeist and Elvera Van Slingerland of the Netherlands, US "parents" Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones (Washington, IL), and Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar Moser (Roanoke, IL).

Our dear Sis. Chrystol Harriet Luthi (Bro. Reuben) went to be with the Lord on October 8. She will be sorely missed by her beloved husband of 62 years and daughter-in-law, Sis. Shirley Luthi-Cox (Bro. John), grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Her cheerful presence will leave a void in our Washington church. Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) assisted in a touching memorial service here for her. Reuben and Chrystol lived in the Morris, MN, area most of their lives and that is where Chrystol’s funeral and final resting place will be.

“How shall it be when now the soul, unfettered,
Goes soaring upward in unhindered flight,
Drawn on by love to Him whose light has scattered
The darkness which hid heaven from our sight?
When from the eye of faith the veil of dullness,
As mist before the morning sun doth fall,
And we the Son of God in all His fulness
Behold upon His throne, the Lord of All?”
How Shall It Be? Zion’s Harp, #146

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen
“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:17-19

Greetings from Bluffton!
It’s been a beautiful fall and we are thankful for a safe harvest so far! We appreciate God’s provision for us physically and, most importantly, spiritually. Our congregation has been meditating on our Guiding Principles the past few Sunday mornings. We’ve been considering what it means, on a practical level, that “Jesus Christ’s love for us is the foundation and motivation for everything we do”. His love then leads us to seek to be like him, to follow the Great Commission and to disciple and care for one another. His amazing love works in our lives to produce action and fruit.

God is still calling souls to come to him! We’re so thankful that Aubrey Pulver (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara), Tristan Leman (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kara) and Makena DeRoo (Rusty and Nikki) have answered that call and are seeking him in repentance.

Our prayers continue for our loved ones with health challenges, including Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall), Bro. Aaron Gerber (Sis. Cassie) and Joe Wetherhold.

Thanks to our Wolcott brethren for hosting Jr. High ACYF! The friendships that begin during these weekends of fellowship often last for a lifetime.

A “Sister Connect” ministry has been started here in Bluffton/Bluffton North with the desire to enrich our faith by encouraging multi-generational fellowship between sisters. We were blessed to gather for a kick off brunch and now have many small groups meeting monthly. May God be glorified as we grow together in him!

It’s been a blessing to have Bro. Joe and Sis. Lisa Leman and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller and their families home on furlough this past year. The Lemans have returned to Nepal and the Muellers are preparing to soon return to Papua New Guinea. We will miss their fellowship but keep them close in prayer!

We pray that God will bless Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz, as they are relocating
to Texas to be near their family, Ben and Jaime Maller.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) as they spent some time with their daughter and family, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Katie Gerber.


Indiana, Bluffton North
Deanna Brinneman, Rhonda Maller

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” Acts 3:19

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Mike and Sis. Ann Hollingsworth. Also, Vic and Shara Thomas have made a profession of faith and wish to seek membership at Bluffton North. We are rejoicing with them!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN). It is always a blessing to have visitors.

On October 3, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Lori Steffen and Bro. Dave Smith. On October 10, Sis. Adrienne Kaehr and Bro. Braden Isch were united in Christ. Their parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann Kaehr (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Brittany Isch (Bluffton North, IN). We pray for the happy couples and their families as they blend their lives together.

Three Bluffton North couples shared the updates on their missionary outreaches with our congregation this past month. Bro. Nick and Sis. Amber Steffen talked about serving cross-cultural workers in Eurasia, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller updated us on their work with the Maliyali people of Papua New Guinea and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lisa Leman shared their hearts and excitement before returning to their work in Nepal. It is so exciting to hear about reaching hearts for Christ and translating the word into other languages.

We continue to pray for those battling health issues. Bro. Phil Hoover (Sis. Cyndee) has been struggling with his health. Connor Emerick (Bro. Steven and Sis. Amanda) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis) have spent time in the hospital.

Our junior high students recently traveled to Wolcott for ACYF. Our prayers are for those friendships to be made and young hearts drawn to Jesus.

A highlight each year in Bluffton is our Street Fair. Our Bluffton churches join with other area churches to provide a luncheon for the carnival workers. It is a way to show Jesus’ love to others who are on the road for half the year and do not have the opportunity to attend church.

“The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.” John 1:7

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

We have enjoyed weekends with numerous visitors, and it is always a blessing! Recently one of these weekends was the ordination service for Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) to serve as ordained deacon for our congregation. Our prayers are with Bro. Les, Sis. Christine and their family! We were blessed with four visiting elder brothers on that day. Thanks to Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Ken Wuerthrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN.)

The young people have had numerous activities in the past months. Among these activities was ACYF for the junior high school aged students, held in Wolcott, IN, and the annual Pancake Breakfast served and prepared by the Bible Class students and their teachers on a beautiful fall Saturday morning at the Fellowship Center. Donations for the Pancake Breakfast are used to fund their mission trips. It was delicious! Thank you to all who helped.
A precious baby boy, Boden Dale, was born to Bro. Alec and Sis. Dana Schneider on October 1. Boden’s grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm (Latty, OH) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea Schneider.

We rejoice with Bro. Elijah Waibel and Sis. Kenia Hernandez, as their engagement was announced recently. May the Lord be glorified by their lives! Elijah’s parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra Waibel, and Kenia’s parents are Radie and Sonia Bailey (Medaryville, IN)

Continued prayers uphold Bro. Andre Neihouser (Sis. Lois), and Sis. Lisa Pedigo, who have been hospitalized recently. May the Lord bless them with his precious Holy Spirit’s presence and peace.

We will miss the cheerful smile of our dear Bro. Herb Cook who left this life to be with Jesus. His victory has been won, but it is a bittersweet time for those left behind. Our loving sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Suzanne (“Suz”), and children, Dale (Debb, Rensselaer, IN), Sis. Miriam “Mim” Wuethrich (Bro. David, Francesville, IN), Salli Morris (Ray, Benton, LA), Melissa Bender (Tim, Winona Lake, IN), Brad (Michelle, Fishers, IN), Bryan (Jenni, Zionsville, IN), daughter in law, Sis. Deborah “Debbie” Cook, (Bro. Bob, dec., Francesville, IN). We also extend sympathy to his grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends. May the Lord be with and bless the family with his peace and comfort!

**Indiana, Indianapolis**

Valerie Kipfer

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” John 15:12-14

Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich recently asked us, “What does that look like? Loving one another. How could we or do we “lay down our lives” for our friends? We know that Jesus literally gave his life for us. Would you share a meal with someone in need? Would you give them a warm bed and soft pillow to give them shelter? Would you give your precious time and hard-earned money to lift up someone in need? How can we “lay down our life” for others? By taking the short end. By giving and being anonymous. By giving what we have and expecting nothing in return.”

“All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give. I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live. All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow. Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now. I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.”

I Surrender All, Heavenly Highway Hymns, #109

We were blessed to have Indy Outreach weekend on October 16-17, where many gathered, and went out into the community and did service work for those in need. It was a blessing to all who participated. This event has been occurring for many years, and there are a lot of people from all over the country who have memories of coming to Indy for Outreach Weekend. Ministering Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN) was with us on this blessed weekend.

Truett Thomas Troxel was born on October 15 to Bro. Jackson and Sis. Paige Troxel. Grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy Meyer. We rejoice with them as they welcome their sweet son into their hearts and home.

Currently, Indianapolis Church Sunday schedule is as follows: Family Worship Service at 9:30 a.m., followed at 10:45 a.m. by the second service, Nursery, and Sunday school. Lunch is served after the second service. We welcome anyone in the Indianapolis area to come and worship with us.

**Indiana, LaCrosse**

Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord!

As I look around, harvest is in full swing! The days are getting shorter, and the air is brisk in the morning. The sun is not so hot, and we know that winter is on its way. Looking back on this I’m reminded of God’s words,
“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Gen. 8:22

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Sandy Heinold (Bro. Glen) and her family, as her mother, Sis. Libbie Ann Moser (Elgin, IL), has passed from this life to her heavenly home.

We want to congratulate Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel on the birth of their grandson little Truett Thomas Troxel! Truett’s parents are Bro. Jackson and Sis. Paige Troxel (Indianapolis, IN).

We wish to thank Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), for sharing the word with us one Wednesday evening this month.

Indiana, Leo

Leanne Fischer

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” Lam. 3:21-26

On September 26 during Sis. Marsha Scheitlin’s funeral service, Bro. Jeff Waibal shared that Marsha loved to memorize scripture, and that she probably was the most introspective person he knew. She thought deeply, especially about the things of God. She was memorizing the above verses at the time of her death, and they became our meditation. May we be inspired by her example and continue to keep her husband, Bro. Steve and sons, Jacob and Phillip in our thoughts and prayers. He has testified that he can feel the prayers on behalf of himself and his sons.

Our monthly Wednesday night pizza night was held a little later than normal this month so that Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer could fit us into their schedule and share about their ministry at CVE in Magdalena, Mexico. Interestingly, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller who shared their missionary work for our previous pizza night trained Keith and Alisa when they worked together at Gateway Woods. We heard about how the ministry at CVE has changed over Keith and Alisa’s time there. They now have a day school that draws in many from the local community as they strive to partner with the local Christians to reach others for Christ. We had recently been asked to pray for safety for the local population and CVE because of violence from drug cartels. Keith explained that Magdalena is located between two competing cartels, and the violence escalated as one cartel tried to encroach on the other’s territory. He also said that the violence had abated which we were very thankful to hear. At the end of their presentation, they asked us to pray specifically for two things: Turning - that any turning CVE does would be guided by and in step with the Holy Spirit and Transform - that God would transform lives in the Magdalena community with his gospel.

We were finally able to enjoy our first post-pandemic service at our local nursing home, The Cedars. We met outside on a lovely fall day for hymn singing and the short service.

September 27 was the start date of our remodeling project. It will be done in two phases. First the foyer and assembly will remain open while the dining room and Sunday school area are under construction and then vice versa. We will be having our snack/lunch in the fellowship hall during the interim. Also, on that day our C.A.R.E. group met for a floral workshop, and the flower arrangements were delivered to single parents. C.A.R.E. group also met on October 11 to make cards for prisoners. The cards are for the prisoners to use to send Christmas cards to friends and family. They will be delivered to the prison later in the year. The group made 175 cards for the ministry Christmas Behind Bars.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland as Brace’s father Bro. Roy Wieland passed away.
“It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.” Eccl 7:2

Last but not least, our church has been blessed with several precious new additions this month. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla Fritz are enjoying the new role of grandparents with the birth of Joanna Jade to Evan and Katie Fritz on September 18. June Hazel Zimmerman was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Karla Zimmerman, along with her siblings Nile and Wren, on October 1. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Jeana Steidinger welcomed Graham Ernest on October 3. Siblings Emerson and Elliot are helping welcome him. Annie Louise Pfister joined the Bro. Jordan and Sis. Shay Pfister family on October 6. Her big sisters, Nora and Caroline are thrilled with their baby sister. Bro. Phil and Sis. Janean Gerber were excited to announce the arrival of Emberton Lynae on October 17, joining her sister, Mayve, as part of their special family.

Note of Thanks:
Bro. Tim Sauder had surgery this month and is recovering. He shared with us: “Dear Leo Church, your love to me and prayers to our Lord Jesus have brought encouragement and healing in the months before, during and now after back surgery. Recovery and rehab are painful and long, and your prayers are still needed and effective. I am so grateful for you and our great God who created us to heal.”

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson
Milford church is blessed with several families who enjoy running. What a gift for health and character. Many see it as a beautiful analogy to our spiritual walk. Recently, those gifts were used to support two very worthy causes.

First, the Doughnut Dash, a run to support our local pregnancy help center. Fifteen people from our church ranging in age from 1 to 102 participated. They enjoyed the fellowship of believers, working hard together, smiling together, and being able to support a worthy effort to have every pregnant mother feel loved and empowered to provide the best for her child.

Next, the Milford Miles for Hunger supports our local food bank. The Milford Food Bank started around 2010 by distributing food to five local pantries. With hard work and dedication by several of our members, it has grown and now supports 85 different ministries and organizations in our area. It is such a blessing to see the labor of our church family and several other churches in our area come together to provide for the hungry. The testimonies of God’s provision along the way grow our faith and trust in Jesus.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler
We are thankful for this month’s visiting ministers Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). May God bless them for sharing the truth with us and for their fellowship!

We are blessed and thankful to report that three converts have found peace with God and desire to be baptized soon! Evan Getz (Matt and Heidi), Thad Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette), and Ellie Scheitlin (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda) all covet your prayers as they contemplate this next step in their journey of faith. May God be praised for the works he does in our hearts!

As this next issue arrives in our mailboxes, it will almost be Thanksgiving. Some will be contemplating a bleak holiday with an empty seat that used to hold a precious loved one, and some will be contemplating an overwhelming holiday with extra seats around the table. Either way, the blessings of God are evident and deserving of our thanks and praise.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez
“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.” Zeph. 3:17
Since we had a quiet and ordinary month in South Bend, I will share some reflections on Thanksgiving: It is easy to look around and compare our lives and possessions with those around us. Giving thanks to God, however, reminds us of how much we do have. When we focus on blessings instead of wants, thankfulness gives way to praise. We praise because we realize that we could not exist without the merciful blessings of God. Thankfulness keeps our hearts in a right relationship with the giver of all good gifts and blessings. “Count your many blessings, name them one by one!” May the Lord bless your Thanksgiving celebrations!

“I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free, For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.” His Eye is On the Sparrow, Tabernacle Hymns #84

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

In memory of our dearest sweet Sis. Marguerite Hoerr, she wrote our Silver Lining articles for many years.

Marguerite Beer Hoerr passed away on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

She was born on March 7, 1927, in Milford, Indiana. In 1946 she married Bro. Robert John Hoerr, who survives, and moved to Peoria, Illinois, and then returned to Milford with her husband and growing family in 1957.

Marguerite was a lifelong, avid reader and enjoyed writing poetry and doing crossword puzzles. She shared her love of words as a volunteer in the Laubach Literacy program, teaching English to Hispanic migrant workers and their family members. She was entrusted by her community to serve two terms on the Wawasee Community School Corporation Board of Education, the first woman elected to the board. In addition, she contributed her alto voice to choral and congregational singing, and her time and talent to church meals and charitable events.

Our sympathies to her husband and children, Rebecca (Richard, dec.) Pelath of Michigan City, Robert (Lilliam) Hoerr of Duluth, Minnesota, Frederic (Martha) Hoerr of Fort Valley, Virginia, Douglas (Tracy) Hoerr of Chicago, and Jeffrey (Rocio) Hoerr of Chicago; a brother, Bernard Beer; and sisters, Rebecca Doll and Miriam Speicher. Marguerite had 13 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, most of whom she taught to play Scrabble. Her grandchildren and many nieces and nephews treasured her quick wit, open heart and sage advice.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Abbie Gramm

We had many visiting ministers this month: Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Caleb Schafer (Sis. Laura, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Vince Pfister (Sis. Brandy, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Josh and Sis. Jonell Cook welcomed daughter Lauren Lou to their family. Blessings to them as they add another family member.

We also met as a church family to discuss our leadership structure as a church. Our heart is to support one another and tow the line by developing a culture of volunteerism. Our prayer is that this shift in how we handle our leadership will be more representative of the different church ministries and bring us to greater accountability for our individual involvement.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Kendra Wettstein

This month we were once again blessed with visiting ministers. These included Bro. Greg Beutel (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA). We thank them for their efforts.

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us respond to God’s work and grace in our lives with gratitude.

“O Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psa.107:1

Iowa, Burlington
Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

As summer fades deeply into fall with the bustle of rural Iowa harvest activity, our church family also has its seasons and
activities. It reminds me of Ecc. 3:1 that says “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

Thank God that he created a special time to love! We are rejoicing with Sis. Elaine Eisenmann (Bro. Paul, dec.) as she welcomes two new granddaughters into the family. On August 29, Taylor Eisenmann was united in marriage with Allie Ryan, and shortly following on October 1, Brady Eisenmann joined hands with Dena Mayhew. Both men are sons of Mark and Jamy Eisenmann. Our Burlington church family is also very excited to welcome in the near future, Sis. Holly Massner (Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni, Mediapolis, IA), who is engaged to Bro. Titus Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy). We pray that God will fill all of these young hearts with love, selflessness and commitment to last a lifetime.

We found it a beautiful time to build up our spiritual minds as we listened to the General Conference messages on Wednesday evenings for the past month. May God bless the elders for all the time and effort on our behalf.

Our Sunday school also experienced their own time of spiritual building up as the 6-8th graders traveled to West Bend, IA, with Bro. Blake and Sis. Josie Wulf for an invite. Not long after, Bro. Mahlon and Sis. Angela Steiner took the high school students to Mediapolis, IA for the Iowa Churches Bible Class Invite. Thank you to retired minister Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) for sharing in the day and challenging the kids with a compass, a weight, and a carabiner. Thank you also to West Bend and Mediapolis for their many efforts and including our Sunday school students.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kelly Schulz gave us a time to gather together at their home for our annual all-church fall wiener roast. A delicious supper, songs and visits around the fire, marshmallows and fellowship were special moments enjoyed by all.

We surround with love and support Sis. Janette Schulz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz, along with all of their family, as they walk through a time of mourning with the passing of Bro. Myron “Sonny” Schulz (Sis. Dorothy, dec.). They gave abundant time and energy to care for him in his last days. May they feel the peace of the Spirit near as a hole now remains. Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA) came and shared the day of Sonny’s funeral. Thank you, Bro. Dale, for your care and service.

Lastly, we want to wish our Sis. Charity Scheitlin (Bro. Kenny, dec.) a happy birthday as she reached the milestone of 90! Praise God that he is always faithful, one year at a time.

May we all continue to trust that great faithfulness through every season, in times when we understand his plans and times when we don’t.

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and our elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) were here and shared the pulpit with our home ministers. We appreciate their labors of love and ask the Lord to bless their ministry.

We rejoice that our converts Levi Getz and Sidney McQuade have allowed the Spirit to work in their lives and are now at peace with God. We will continue to pray for them as they look ahead to their baptisms.

As Thanksgiving draws near, may we be mindful of our blessings and express our gratitude to one another and to our Father in Heaven.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

We are enjoying fall colors and temperatures. We were blest with five inches of rain last week which replenished the soil and greened up the yards.

Our congregation enjoyed visiting ministers this past month including Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS). We appreciate all who give of their time and talents to fellowship with our small congregation.
Congratulations to Mathew Lester who completed his college education in welding. We pray for God’s leading while Mathew seeks employment.

Spending time in the hospital was Sis. Sara Lester. We are thankful for God’s healing and she is home recuperating.

Our minds are bombarded with sin-filled situations. Satan is infiltrating any small crack he can find.

“Trust and obey,
For there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.”
Trust and Obey, Hymns of Zion, #186

Iowa, Lester
Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

We are rejoicing with Ambria Knobloch (Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara) and Kerrick Knobloch (Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather) who have made a beginning in their walk of faith. We were encouraged recently to put our hand to the plow, our back to the world, and keep our eyes on the cross. We appreciated Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) as our visiting minister on October 10.

We are happy for Drew Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna) as he married Chloe Ebel on October 16. We also congratulate Emily Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) on her engagement to Wyatt Beyer (Bro. Klint and Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS). We wish these couples God’s blessings and guidance.

Recent hospital patients were little Irene, daughter of Erick and Tessa Frewaldt, Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Bro. Chuck) and Ashley Leuthold (Bro. Michael). We are thankful they are recovering at home and pray for God’s continued healing.

We have had several earthly partings for dear ones in our congregation. Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Nancy) passed away on September 25. He leaves his wife and children Stephanie Byrne (Paul) of Peoria, IL, Dan Gerber (Darcy Jo), Steve Gerber (Darcy) and Mark Gerber of Lester, and Jill Erickson (Kevin) of Lonsdale, MN. Five siblings surviving are Ernest Gerber of Danville, IN, Wayne Gerber of Mansfield, OH, Pauline Teubel of Dunlap, IL, Bro. Bill Gerber (Sis. Erma) and Jim Gerber (Marlene) of Lester, IA. Sis. Erma Gerber (Bro. Bill) also mourns the passing of her brother, Bro. Waymer Esslinger (Bern, KS). Kathy Knobloch received comfort turning to the Lord in repentance in her final days before her passing on October 6. She is survived by four brothers, Kelvin Knobloch (Marion) of Niantic, IL, Thomas Knobloch (Jeri) of Madison, KS, Levi Knobloch of Redwood Falls, MN, and Bro. Denis Knobloch (Sis. Jackie) of Weslaco, TX. Sis. Carol Cordrey (Ray) has our sympathy in the recent loss of two of her sisters, Connie Moton and Linda Gongwer. Bro. Howard and Sis. Lillian Mogler lost their sister-in-law Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Bro. Reuben, Washington, IL). May each one feel God’s comfort in their hours of sorrow.

Note of Thanks:
I want to thank everyone that sent me cards, gifts of love, and words of comfort in the loss of my two sisters. It was such a blessing to feel the love from everyone. God bless all of you.

Ray and Sis. Carol Cordrey
**Iowa, Mediapolis**  
**Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz**

Hebrews 13:8 assures us that Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Further, Isaiah 54:10 states “for the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.” These verses bring such encouragement and peace! God is so faithful! Change is all around us, yet God and the truths we find in his word always remain the same. This month has brought several changes in our church congregation.

Two precious baby girls joined our church family! Bro. Josh and Sis. Karrie Lanz, Calvin, Warren, and Harvey gladly welcome Nan Louise into their hearts and home. Bro. Ron and Sis. Timna Lanz and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach are all thankful for another granddaughter. Austin and Jessica Lanz are blessed to have little Renley Sue join their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly Lanz, and Dan and Jennifer Ewart.

With mixed emotions, we laid to rest Bro. Hartzell Schmidgall (Sis. Marian, dec.). We will greatly miss his loving presence here on earth, but at the same time we are rejoicing with him that he is now in the presence of our Lord. Our sympathy is extended to his children, Don Schmidgall (Carol), Ron Schmidgall (Jane), Sis. JoAnn Steiner (Bro. Tom, dec.), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie), and Sis. Janet Lanz (Bro. Ken), as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our sympathies are also with the family of Bro. Myron “Sonny” Schulz (Sis. Dorothy, dec.), including several of his grandchildren from our congregation. Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy were faithful members of our Oakville congregation for many years before worshiping with the Burlington congregation in later years.

We are happy to report the engagement of our Sis. Holly Massner to Bro. Titus Steiner (Burlington, IA). Holly’s parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni, and Titus is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner (Burlington, IA). We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

Our Bible Class students enjoyed hosting students from Bloomfield, IA, and Burlington, IA, for a day of worship and fellowship. We want to thank retired minister Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), who used a compass, weights, and carabiner clips to illustrate to our youth the need to lay aside things that drag us down and focus on following Jesus with a faith strong enough to weather the trials of life. We appreciate the labors of Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) as they preached God’s word to us this month.

**Iowa, West Bend**  
**Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt**

We enjoyed having several visiting ministers this past month. They included: Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO), Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS).

The 5th-8th grade Sunday school classes enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with other young people from Winthrop, MN, Elgin, IA, and Burlington, IA. They were encouraged to think of how blessed we are with the support we have from one another and how beneficial it is to seek council from those older than us.

Our sympathy goes out to Brent Bruellman and his two sons, Connor and Carson, on the passing of their wife and mother Tracey. Tracey was a sister-in-law to John and Cindy Bruellman. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt bid farewell to Jerry’s sister, Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Washington, IL, formerly of Morris, MN).

Darrell Zaugg (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Doris Zaugg (Bro. Martin) have spent time in the hospital. We pray God will continue to be near them.
We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Laura Bahler as they welcome twin boys into their lives! Jonas Ray and Kallen Roy were born on October 20. Big brothers Daniel, Troy, Eli and Craig will be a big help. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler.

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

We were overjoyed to welcome back Bro. Kenzo, Sis. Soyi, and their daughters Hannah and Sarah from Korea. Our Sunday worship was indeed blessed by their return. It was also special to hear from our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Bev. through Skype on Sunday. We so look forward to when Japan opens its borders again to visitors so that we can once again enjoy sweet fellowship with many loved ones from America.

For the first time since April, the entire country of Japan has lifted the state of emergency as we continue to see a decline in COVID-19 cases. We are thankful for this and pray that the Lord continues to grant healing. This month we resumed our Sunday lunch serving rotation. It has been a blessing to once again eat together more freely. We have enjoyed singing more as this was very limited over the last year and a half. Our ladies meeting also resumed in October and Bro. Akito Inoue shared from Mark 6-7. We are grateful for more attendees on Sundays. May we continue to thank God for his blessings.

**Kansas, Bern**  
**Leigha Rokey, Rita Menold**

The hustle and bustle of harvest season is coming to a close here in Kansas. Though our fields are finished, we know that there is still a harvest of souls to be drawn to Christ and we know our ultimate goal is of a greater harvest for our Lord.

We all enjoyed getting together for our annual fall church picnic a couple weeks ago. It’s always a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement for our congregation.

Our Bro. Waymer Esslinger passed away into eternity. He was a dear old man with always a bright smile as he walked into church. We will miss his presence and quiet visits, but what a joy it must be to sing with the angels around that great throne.

**Kansas, Ft. Scott**  
**Janelle Wuthrich**

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 15:5-6

These verses are very familiar and I’m sure I’ve read them many times, but as we heard them again in a recent sermon, they really seemed to stand out in significance. May this be our goal, every day, that we continually strive to be more likeminded and glorify God in all we do.

Our congregation bid a sad farewell to Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons last month as they have moved to Kansas City. We wish them all God’s richest blessings and hope to see them often!

We rejoiced with Bro. John and Sis. Carol Sinn as they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless each day they have together.

**Kansas, Kiowa**  
**Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden**

We were so blessed to have three ministering brothers to share the word of God with us this past month. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie and family, Morris, MN) were in our midst and so generously lent themselves to expound upon the word. Many truths of scripture were spoken by these servants of the Lord.

We have experienced some health issues in our congregation, including COVID-19 and all its hardships. But thankfully the Lord has restored a measure of health to all involved.

One day, when my kids were small, I walked in the kitchen where my toddler had broken something and was trying to clean it by himself. He broke
things often in the kitchen—ketchup, eggs, whipped cream. It was a constant source of exasperation for me. As I felt the angry shout start to rise in my throat, I heard the Lord say, “I see you. Get down on the floor and tell him, ‘I see you.’” I felt such a wave of compassion for my son that the anger completely dissolved. I believe it was the love of God for him. I knelt down and I said, “Son, come here.” He looked like he knew he was in trouble but reluctantly came to me with his head hanging down. I put my hands gently on his little arms and said, “I see you. I see that you are trying to be good. I see that you are trying to clean up that mess. You are doing a good job. You are good. I see you. I love you. And God sees you, and he loves you.” He was so little. Maybe three. And his lip trembled, and he threw himself at me and grabbed me tight and started to cry. I was shocked. I didn’t know a child that small would even know what I was saying, much less be so moved by it.

I didn’t actually see, but God did. He helped me see. I am so thankful that God sees me. Jehovah, the God who sees. He sees you. He sees your desire to do it right. He sees where you are hurting and no one else knows. He sees that you are trying. He sees where you need help and where you are growing so well.

Lord, thank you that you see me. Thank you that you knew what you were getting when you reached out for me. Thank you that you aren’t disgusted or disappointed with me. You see what I need, and you want the best for me. You want me to see you back! You want me to know how very much you love me and how very much I matter to you.

Lord, would you show me who in my life needs to know that I see them? Would you show me who needs to hear those words today, “I see you; he sees you; and you are loved. You matter.” Show me, Lord, and speak healing and encouragement to their hearts. In Jesus’ Holy Name.

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

Over the past month, our church has been reminded repeatedly of the brevity of life and are grieving with all those who have lost loved ones. We extend our sympathy to the family of our late Sis. Dorothy Schrader in the passing of her grandson, Jackson Schrader (Matt and Ami Shrader, McPherson, KS). Our sympathy also goes out to our Bro. Jacob Knobloch (Sis. Krystal) and our Bro. Nathan Knobloch in the passing of their Aunt Kathy Knobloch (Lester, IA). Our Sis. Krystal Knobloch (Bro. Jacob) also lost her grandfather, Bro. Myron “Sonny” Schultz (Burlington, IA) for which we also extend our sympathy.

There have been many reasons to rejoice as well! Bro. Aaron and Sis. Maria Luthi were officially blessed with a son, Eli Joseph Luthi, via adoption on September 23. His siblings, Kiah, Leora, and Joanna Luthi, have enjoyed celebrating with their much-loved brother. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi and Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner (Bern, KS).

A mystery group, which turned out to be the Bern/Sabetha KS Single Group, paid a visit to our church and provided some blessed fellowship and excitement! Also, our trustees organized several outdoor landscaping projects and got the building and grounds looking very nice. The Sunday school picnic was hosted by Bro. Victor and Sis. Hope Edelman and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Sunday school teachers who worked hard to bless our precious young people through this event.

As we walk this path of life, whether the days are dark or bright, may we continually trust our Lord and Savior, who alone knows the way.

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

Greetings of love from our Sabetha congregation!

We rejoice with Bro. Darin and Sis. Crystal Hartter as they welcomed a healthy baby boy, Nolan Lee. He is also welcomed by his older sister Kylie and grandparents Bro. Dennis and Sis.
Beth Hartter and Bro. Rick and Lori Moser (Lester, IA).

Our church hosted our fall Invite-a-Guest weekend. It was a blessing to have many visitors with us! We appreciate Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) who shared with us from God’s word.

With Thanksgiving coming up, we are reminded of how truly blessed we are! Though we’ve each been given so much, may we remember our greatest blessing, Jesus Christ. May we each remember his great love for us in this season. As it says in 2 Cor. 9:15, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

Kansas, Wichita

Niklaus and Sara Schrader

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We appreciate those who visited and joined us in our bolstering process. Visiting ministers for the weekend were Elder Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jerry Meeks (Christy, Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS). We continue to pray for God’s guiding hand in this endeavor.

Thanks to Bro. Adrian Strahm (Bern, KS) and family for visiting and ministering to our congregation.

On October 10, we had another opportunity to sing at the Regent Assisted Living Home, where Bro. Roger Reimchisel (Bertie, Wichita, KS) reside. Once again, we enjoyed this time of singing and fellowshiping as many of the residents seemed to know the hymns we sang.

October 17 was our fall picnic at Watson Park. It was a very pleasant day of good weather, food, and fellowship. Spending time with people of like mind and faith is a refreshing experience that carries you through the trials of this life.

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” 1 Thess. 5:11

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.” Hos. 13:5

The time of drought is a theme that has been coming out in different passages we’ve read or heard lately. This has been a hard season for us as a church, as there’s not a lot of obvious growth or budding fruit. We know God is still at work, maybe primarily to search us and know us, and to cause us to know him more deeply. We are thankful for his presence with us and for his promises which give us hope.

Sis. Estela Salcedo has had some health complications in the last month. We miss her as she is currently in Morelia with her daughters.

Sis. Lidia Rosas has also had various health issues lately and is mourning the loss of her sister, Josefina. She would appreciate the prayers. A small group of us went to visit her this week and enjoyed a time of singing. We won’t forget that, though she was unable to eat, she wanted to serve us something and then send produce home with all of us. So, we do have some “green” in the time of drought! God is good!

Mexico, Magdalena

Laura Aviña

We are thankful to have an update on our leadership team which will now include Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Zoë), Bro. Jonathan Aupperle (Sis. Bere), Bro. Denver Slagel (Sis. Katie), Bro. Julian Nuñez (Sis. Laura), and Sis. Carissa Schlipf. We appreciate their willingness to serve. Please be prayerful for each of them in their increased responsibilities.

Our Bible studies on Wednesday night have been focused on the importance of prayer. In the last one, we discussed cooperative prayer (praying in a group) and what that could look like.

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt. 18:19-20

May we be united in prayer for God’s kingdom!

Michigan, Alto

Heidi Kaeb, Michelle Oesch

We have had a beautiful stretch of warm autumn weather
here in Michigan. We are so thankful for God’s blessings! It’s always good to see Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) when he comes to visit here and spend time with his daughter Sis. Laura Kaeb (Bro. Aaron), and their fun little boys! May God bless him for ministering to our congregation.

We shared a special evening last Saturday with many that came out to raise money for Lifesong. Richard, a young man originally from an orphanage in Zambia, was there to share his story of how blessed he has been by Christ’s work in his life through Lifesong and his thankful heart!

Our prayers are with Bro. Lyman Feldman (Sis. MaryAnn) and Harry Erickson as they have been in the hospital with sickness. I truly believe God hears every prayer and he is the one who brings healing!

We rejoice with Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen as they celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss together! That is truly a wonderful milestone, and our lives have all been blessed by their example of a Godly loving marriage!

We rejoice with Scott and Summer Schmidt as they welcomed Palmer Margaret into their hearts and home. Excited older siblings are Chase, Macy and Owen. Palmer’s grandparents are Mike and Sis. Cheryl Schmidt.

We pray for continued healing for Sis. Lynn Kimmerly (Gordon) and Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie) as they both spent time in the hospital recently.

In this time of so much uncertainty and unrest, may we continue to cling to our hope in Christ and that our Heavenly Father’s love for us is never changing.

"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

**Michigan, Detroit**

**Krista Wieland**

Today I was trying to hang a picture and the hammer was in the basement with our sleeping dog. When the dog is sleeping, I have no desire to wake her. No desire at all. So, instead of a hammer I used a large measuring tape with a hard surface from upstairs. Now it did the job but took twice the amount of effort and time and I lost a couple of nails. Point being my substitute hammer was not meant to be used as a hammer as it was designed for another purpose. How often does this example apply to each of us? One example I can think of is spiritual gifts. Who can’t lead singing but is an excellent teacher? Who likes to cook for others and who likes to make and/or send cards to others? Let us accept whether we are a hammer, nail, measuring tape or all three!! Then we are able to joyfully share with other people what God has gifted us with and fulfill our important part in the Body of Christ! We don’t need to have holes in the church (like our office wall suffered).

Speaking of spiritual gifts, I think of the gift of music. The Detroit Choir is preparing for their trip to Bern, Kansas.

Sis. Kristen Hitz had to be hospitalized again but thankfully is at home doing better.

We have others in our church dealing with some health struggles. Here is a chance to help out (if they wish, of course). Sometimes we don’t know if they wish unless we ask, depending on the circumstance. I know from experience how wonderful it was when it was me who needed the help and my loving church family helped me over and above in ways I will never forget.

Bro. Bill Kujawa (Sis. Darlene, dec.) and his family have been in our prayers as his brother, Bob Kujawa, recently died. Our sympathy goes out to this special family.

We miss Bro. Quinton Young as he relocated to Georgia some time ago. His smiling face was always a bright spot to see! We wish him well.

It was so nice out today! I almost fell asleep in the sunshine.
on our deck chair!! We have had rain, rain, and more rain. Nothing compared to what other countries have gone through recently so I shouldn’t have the nerve to complain. Have a blessed month!

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We certainly do need THEE every hour! Praising God for his beautiful creation!

It is always hard to say goodbye to our Minnesota summers, but we feel blessed to have moved on into the season of Autumn with many colorful and warmer days still with us.

Sorry to say we failed to write about some very exciting baby news this past June. Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler, rejoiced when a new grandson was born on June 5. Micah and Jenny Mogler welcomed with love their first son, Jaxon Owen. Big sister Junia, has to be loving him to pieces by now!

Our love, belated congratulations, and prayers surround this precious young family!

Many prayers went along with Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke as they traveled to Chile to spend time with their daughter, Allison. On October 16, they were able to attend the wedding of Allison and Cristóbal (Cris) Martínez Goméz (Jose Martínez and María Victoria Goméz). Our love and congratulations are with the new couple! We pray God will bless and guide them as they set out on this new journey together.

Two dear souls, Will and Erika Flickinger feel God’s peace and have a desire to share their testimony with our church. What a blessed Thanksgiving it will be as we continue to pray for them.

"Dear Father, now behold us, Approach Thy throne of grace, To pray in our Lord Jesus, We seek Thy loving face. Bestow on us, Thy children, Thy blessings manifold, Thy love, Thy grace, and mercy as Thou hast done of old." The Lord’s Prayer, Zion’s Harp, #85

Note of Thanks:
I would like to thank everyone for all the encouraging cards, words, gifts and visits as I was recovering from surgery. I feel so blessed I have a caring, wonderful family.

Thank you, Arletta Bragg

Minnesota, Morris
Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” Eze. 34:26

We welcomed a new little boy to our congregation with open arms! Travis and Rachel Kloehn and big brother, Kipton, were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Kaden Myles.

Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen Moser and Nolan Kloehn and Kathy Kloehn. We wish God’s wisdom upon each one as they raise their blessings from above to know him.

Our prayers are with Allan Burnham (Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Neil Schmidgall (Sis. Linda) with their recent hospitalizations. May God’s healing hand be upon them both.

“Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul!” It is Well With My Soul, Hymns of Zion, #55

We were fed from the word by visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN) and Bro. Brad Stoller (Sis. Amanda, Eureka, IL). We appreciate their willingness to be used as servants on our behalf!

Minnesota, Morris North

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

It’s been a beautiful fall and our congregation was blessed to have visitors last month. Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah and family, Bloomington, IL) visited early in October and also taught our congregation a topical Bible study on “Dealing with Shame”. We appreciated how Bro. Matt illustrated the difference between Guilt (I made a mistake) and Shame (I am a mistake) and how Jesus meets us with grace and love. We also had Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber and family, San Diego, CA) visit later in the month. Bro. Mike came to present for our annual HarvestCall supper on a Saturday evening and then to teach the Sunday school class in the morning and share a message about how God desires
that we “rest” in him. We always appreciate having visitors.

We also were sad to hear that Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Bro. Reuben, Washington, IL) passed away and we had her visitation in our church. Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol were initial members in the start of our Morris North Congregation and faithfully attended until their move to Washington, IL in 2018. Chrystol’s sister, Sis. Mabel Zeltwanger is still able to attend church every Sunday.

We were able to have our annual Joy Box packaging event with our Sunday school children. These boxes will be distributed to children in Mexico. It’s a blessing to have our children connect with helping others in other parts of the world. Sometimes we worry that our children will grow up too much only focused on self and only focused on our small part of the world. Our God is a BIG God and wants us to be helpers in his big plans.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

*Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner*

Our congregation is enjoying the privilege of listening to the Elder Conference. We are thankful for technology that makes it possible for us to watch and listen to the conference. Our prayers go out to the elders for all their concern, thoughtfulness and willingness to help us be more like Christ so we will have our names written in the book of Heaven! We want to also thank the Rittman congregation for hosting the Conference in August.

Bro. Nick Waibel and his wife, Sis. Sandra (Francesville, IN) were here for an Elmer Schmidt gathering. We appreciate him sharing the word with us on Sunday.

We are thankful Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) is getting stronger and able to gather with us again.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt with all their medical issues.

Betty Milam spent a few days in the hospital and we are thankful she is well and home again.

Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Verl) also is recovering from knee surgery. We are thankful for God’s healing.

We know God is all around us and will always keep us in his care even when we are at our lowest.

**Note of Thanks:**

Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Messner would like to thank all that have remembered them with cards, calls and prayers while dealing with their medical issues and being shut in.

**Missouri, Kansas City**

It was a joy to witness the baptism of our new brother in Christ, Ryan Braker. Prayerfully, many more will answer the call of our Lord to repentance and baptism. We thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) for their assistance with Bro. Ryan’s testimony and baptism. We also thank Bro. Larry Bahr for his labor in the ministry.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matt. 28:19

Our Kansas City congregation welcomes Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons who have recently moved to the Kansas City area from Ft. Scott. May the Lord bless their move and contribution to our congregation with their many years of walking with the Lord.

We again enjoyed assembling with the Ft. Scott congregation for our annual joint Sunday school picnic to usher in a new Sunday school term. Bro. Ned Kellenberger will serve as a new teacher. May the Lord richly bless the teachings to the Sunday school youthful hearts.

The congregation recently completed a replay, review, and discussion by our ministers and congregation of the Conference topical presentations. We appreciate the ministry for leading the discussions and the labors of the Elder brothers that went into the Conference presentations.

Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger presented the Summer Memorandum to the congregation. We are thankful for his efforts and for those who composed the many teachings and spiritual exhortations.

**Missouri, Lamar**

*Leah Rokey*

Greetings to each of you from Lamar!
We had a visiting minister each Sunday this past month. We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, Morris, MN), Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Sis. Rosanna, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and their families to minister to us.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein brought a group along with them from Eureka and we appreciated them joining us in singing to the residents of a local assisted living on Saturday afternoon.

A group from the Bern congregation assisted us in our annual church cleaning at the beginning of October. We appreciate their willingness to help us accomplish this task! We were blessed by their fellowship and service!

Missouri, St. Louis

Michelle Rassi

Our Invite-a-Guest weekend on September 18-19 was a blessing. We were thankful to have visiting minister Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL) with us for the weekend. May we continue to take advantage of this great privilege we have of traveling between congregations.

We are prayerful for Bro. Landon and Sis. Hannah Wuethrich in the passing of her father, Tod Walker. May God provide comfort to the whole family in the coming days.

For the first time in the history of the St. Louis church, we have a resident elder. On Sunday, October 3 we had the Elder ordination service for Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich. We had many visitors in attendance that day including Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis Jan, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jan, Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA). We are prayerful that the Lord will continue to bless our congregation during this transition time.

Missouri, Taylor

Eleanor Yackley

The Taylor church hosted a large group of young members for the “Taylor Invite” on October 9-10, 2021. Many “deeds of service” were performed for people and organizations in the local area. May God bless the friendships that were made or nurtured during the weekend.

Sis. Katie Miller from ACCFS presented a program for the Hearts and Hands women’s group on Tuesday evening, October 12. She gave a timely warning about the dangers of social media. Vigilance is needed to refrain from being addicted to cell phone and text messages.

“God setteth the solitary in families…”, Psa. 68:6

Bro. Bruce Ogalat was baptized on Sunday, October 17, after sharing his testimony with the church on Sunday morning. Bruce shared his story of growing up in Gabon in Africa before coming to America. He affirmed that God and Jesus stayed with him in all his trials. Many of Bruce’s family members are gone, but Bruce appreciates his church family so much and knows that he is not alone.

Many of our local brethren are facing severe trials of bodily infirmities. Let us pray for each other and bear one another’s burdens while we look forward to being with Christ in heaven when our life on earth is ended.

Sis. Dona Grimm passed from this life to eternity on Tuesday, October 19. Her husband, Retired Elder Bro. Roy, preceded her in death six years ago. Her children are Sis. Jeanne Leman (Bro. Bill, Roanoke, IL), Sherry Stoller (Lloyd, El Paso, IL), Wendy Gutwein (Jeff, Forrest, IL), Bro. Don (Sis. Tricia), Sis. Tami Pflum (Bro. Keith), and Sis. Renee Endress (Bradford, IL). Dona was a virtuous woman, an excellent example, and a wonderful friend.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Anna Stoller

“Let your whole life be an offering To God and to Christ the Lord. None who here to Him surrender Will regret it, for His Word...”
Gives us peace, And release, 
Sweet rest after battles cease. 
Gives us peace, And release, 
Sweet rest after battles cease.”
_Self-Sacrifice, Zion’s Harp, #159_

We are thankful for the many faithful examples of service to God and others by those around us. Our church was blessed to have the Rockville single group visit us a weekend in October. They worked on various projects at the church and local homes on Saturday and served us lunch on Sunday. We appreciate them making the effort to come visit and serve us. We also had visitors from Illinois that Sunday and enjoyed a full church! Bro. Jonathon Zahner (Sis. Amy, Rockville, CT) ministered the word that Sunday. May God bless him for serving the Lord and us!

I neglected to report last month that Bro. John Farney welcomed a new granddaughter. Amabel Strength was born August 20 to parents Ian and Rebecca Gilbert. Welcoming Amabel are older siblings Shae, Rhoda, Tirzah, and Edmond. May God bless this family as they welcome this precious little one.

Ohio, Akron
_Joelle Indermuhle_

Our prayers are with the family of Bro. George and Sis. Marianne Popov, as Bro. George’s father, Lazar Popov, passed away. We were thankful to be able to have Invite-a-Guest the weekend on October 9-10 and wish to thank visiting ministers Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) for visiting and sharing God’s word with us.

Ohio, Columbus
_Nancy Banks_

The majestic colors of fall are covering the entire countryside as we speak, and it has been a beautiful autumn so far with warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine. I would like to share a poem I read the other day that offered so much encouragement to carry us through times of stress. This appeared in the May 2018 issue of Our Daily Bread and it seems to apply to us in our daily walk of life.

“Oh Lord, when I grow weary please help me to remember each and every day: To count my blessings and not my crosses; To count my gains and not my losses; To count my laughs and not my tears; To count my joys and not my fears; To count my health and not my wealth; And most of all…to count on God and not myself.”

We were thankful to have the following visiting ministers with us this month: Bro. Adam Uhler, (Sis. Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Tom Hill, (Sis. Elaine, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters, (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) who shared the Memorandum with us during the second service. We thank each and everyone who traveled from near and far. We appreciate your efforts so much.

The Sunday school picnic was held at the Banks’ farm and the children enjoyed a carry-in supper, a candy search in the straw, a hayride, and a singing for all at the close of the night. A sincere thank you goes out to the many visitors who spent the evening with us. You made it very special.

Ohio, Junction
_Karen Schlatter_

We enjoyed several visiting ministers recently including Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH), Bro. Greg Beutel (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). Bro. Kent and Bro. Jim were here with some of their family to attend the wedding and reception of Jonathan Reinhard (Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth) and Kyla Butikofer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). We thank each visitor for their efforts in coming and a special thanks to the brothers who were willing to give of their time and efforts to minister to us. We also welcome Kyla to our congregation as she and Jonathan plan to make Junction their home church.

We enjoyed an evening with Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy,
Washington, IL) as he came and spoke on the topic of Evangelism. We are thankful they were willing to stay for the weekend, and Bro. Fred ministered to us again on Sunday. The Lord bless him and his wife for their efforts.

I trust that each one of us becomes more willing to share of our faith, our hope and our trust in the Lord Jesus as we interact with people throughout each day.

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

Greetings of love to each of you! We are enjoying cooler weather here in northwest Ohio and it reminds me of this promise;

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Gen 8:22

We are rejoicing with Sis. Sadie Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene) as her engagement to Bro. Austin Wilson (Jack and Carol) from Smithville, OH was made known. We pray for this couple as they make wedding plans.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

“Heavenly Father, hear Thy children, As we come to Thee in pray’r. Help us always to remember God is with us ev’rywhere. God is with us! God is with us! God is with us ev’rywhere.” Heavenly Father, Hear Thy Children, The Children’s Harp # 54

We pray God’s blessings upon Peter Dawson in his relocation to Latty, OH. We are always glad to see him again. Bro. Luke and Sis. Shari, Paiton, Aliza, and Oakley Tucker have moved to our area, and we welcome them warmly.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder rejoice in the birth of their new grandson, Everett Lee. This precious baby was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lauren Rufener (Smithville, OH) and joins his sisters Tressa and Vienne.

Invite-a-Friend weekend was a wonderful time to gather together, strengthening our relationships with one another. We are thankful for all who traveled to be with us!

Bro. Don Miller experienced recent hospitalization, and we continue to pray for his recovery.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philip. 4:7

Ohio, Rittman
Mardel Dotterer, Julie Steiner

In times like these, change is a constant. Feeling frustrated about changes is normal. God can raise us above our human abilities. He can take us to a level of trust that is courageous in the face of change. Job noticed this frustration in uncertainty:

“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:8-10

Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart) passed away this month. We extend our sympathy to her children Bro. Kevin (Sis. Carolyn), Bryan (Tiffany), and Eric (Michelle), and to her 11 grandchildren during this difficult time. We offer our love and care to Sis. Sandy Dotterer (Bro. Gary), Sis. Betty Bachman (Zane), and Sis. Karen Riggenbach in the passing of their sister, Nancy Bates.

After living a full 96 years, Bro. Orin Rufener was called home. Many of our churches have received construction help at the hands of Bro. Orin. He leaves behind three sons, Paul (Denise), Bro. Leon (Sis. Lori), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Karen). Many grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends and loved ones will miss Bro. Orin, as well as his siblings, Bro. Joe (Sis. Lilas), Bro. Glen (Sis. Beverly) Rufener, Sis. Carol Beery, and sister-in-laws Sis. Verna Rufener and Sis. Ruth Beery.

There is rejoicing in the presence of God, with two souls repenting of their sins. Our friends Stuart Straub, and Aenon Keever (Bro. Jared and Sis. Abby) will continue to be in our prayers during this time of conversion.

We have several weddings to report. Bro. Connor Gasser and Sis. Megan Baltic joined lives as husband and wife on September 26. Their parents are Bro. Mark
and Sis. Jill Gasser, and Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic. On October 16, Jenna Stoller (Bro. David and Sis. Jan) became the bride of Eric Harsh. On July 8, James Lanz (Bro. Vern and Sis. Deanna) became the husband of Zoë Ostberg. We wish these young couples God’s blessings!

Nora June Riggenbach was born on October 5 to Bro. Jeriah and Sis. Shayleen Riggenbach. She is welcomed by brothers Finley and Fitz, and grandparents Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach, and Fred and Mindy Hartzler. On October 12, Bree Katrianne Rufener was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Laura Rufener (Smithville, OH). Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener, and her big brothers are Kasen, Isaac, and Jackson. Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat also welcomed a grandson, Everett Lee Rufener on September 22. His parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lauren Rufener (Smithville, OH), and his young sisters are Tressa and Vienne.

During times of change, what an opportunity we have to hear God’s unchanging word preached. We want to thank visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH). Also, a special thanks to our local ministering brothers. This past month, our church has begun prayerfully considering asking one of our ministers to take on the duties of an Ordained Deacon. We just thank God, that we are privileged to partake in his eternal work here on earth.

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

All ages enjoyed an evening of learning more about Gateway Woods. May God’s blessings rest upon Bro. Quinn Steffen (Sis. Sandra) as he faithfully does this work.

We want to thank Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle and their families for providing a place for our annual Fall Gathering. It is always a wonderful day of fellowship.

Happy to announce that Bro. Rob and Sis. Angie Figel are back to their Sardis home following his bone marrow transplant at James Cancer Center in Columbus, OH. We pray that his new blood can increase, and the leukemia can be gone! Many of us have benefitted from Sis. Angie’s daily writings on CaringBridge. God continue to bless and keep this dear couple.

"Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusted in him and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever." Psa. 28:6-9

Ohio, Smithville
Sharon Gasser, Marcy Stoller

I was asking a 6-year-old boy about his Sunday school lesson and he reported that it was about Moses and the fire. As I tried to guess what might have been on fire, he told me through a fit of giggles “You don’t know history at all!” That stopped me right in my tracks, just like the burning bush did for Moses. Of course, I knew that it was a bush, and not Moses’ car, that had been on fire, but there was so much truth to his statement. The Bible is history. It’s not just a story or a good lesson, but real truth and history.

Sharing the truth with us this month were Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN).

Bro. Jason Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Janelle Gottier (Guy Gottier and Sis. Beth Gottier, Rockville, CT) were joined together as one. Curt and Heather Ramsier celebrated the wedding of their son Todd to Kelly Hess (Dan and Pat). We welcome both couples to join us in fellowship.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener (Rittman, OH) as they welcome two new grandchildren in Smithville. Everett Lee was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lauren Rufener.
He was also greeted by sisters Tressa and Vienne and grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (Mansfield, OH). Bree Katrianne was warmly welcomed by parents, Bro. Jesse and Sis. Laura Rufener, brothers, Kason, Isaac and Jackson and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn (Silverton, OR).

We were thankful when we heard the news that Dillon Pridemore (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly Beery) recognized the truth of Jesus Christ and began his repentance.

Prayers carried Sis. Heather Katanic (Bro. Mike) through her recent surgery and Bro. Lyman Feldman (Sis. Mary Ann) through his recent hospital stay. We are thankful that God provided healing.

We pray for Bro. Joe Rufener (Sis. Lilas) during the loss of his brother Bro. Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH). We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken Maibach (Sis. SueEllen) and Bro. Steve Maibach (Sis. Dawn, dec.) as they grieve the loss of their sister Nancy Bates. We also mourn with Dale Uhler (Sis. Marilyn) for the loss of his brother Larry Uhler (Judy).

Ohio, Toledo
Brooke Harmon, Sharon Rager

We as people long to be good. Desperately we try to do the right thing, follow the rules, and even justify our actions, at times. All this is done in an attempt to feel good and right. This can spill over into parenting as we tell our kids they’re good boys and girls. But there is a huge problem with this philosophy because morality can be a mortal sin. Self-righteousness is as deadly as blatant immorality. No matter how hard we work to clean the outside of the cup this fact remains: only God is good.

Scripture clearly records man’s frantic attempts at achieving our own goodness. Matthew, Mark and Luke all record the story of the rich young ruler. He approached Jesus and called him good, asking what he could do to inherit eternal life. Notice the man-centeredness of this question, “what must I do?” Jesus poked at this reference to goodness and reminded the man that only God is good. He then stated several of the commands of Moses to which the young ruler responded, “I have kept them!” As if to say, “Yes, God is good and so am I!” But even in the midst of the ruler’s self-righteousness Jesus loved him. So, he gave him another thing to do, “Sell everything and follow me.” Consequently, the man left unwilling to do what God required.

What do we make of this story? Was this man really one action away from entering into restored relationship with God? I think not. If we view our righteousness as coming from what we do, the things we have to do will never end. Read that again. Simply put, the ruler thought his goodness came from himself. He thought he kept the law. In truth, he never understood how high and impossible it was (and still is!) to keep the law of God. He thought he could do it, so Jesus gave him another “to do”. I believe the rich young ruler could have left, sold everything, and come back to Jesus declaring that he had followed through with the command. But then there would have been another command, and then another rule, and on and on and on. The truth is - Only. God. Is. Good. Man is not good and never will be good.

Enter justification and all its beauty. For us to ever be good we must be given a goodness (righteousness) that is not our own. To receive this alien righteousness, we must acknowledge our spiritual poverty and recognize that we will never measure up to God’s standard: total perfection in thought, word and deed. Only God is good so only God was able to meet those requirements. Jesus took on human flesh and did what was impossible for man. For those who have entered, by faith, into the New Covenant we have been legally declared righteous and given the goodness of Christ. As a believer you will never be more righteous than you are today. Don’t misunderstand me, the Holy Spirit will sanctify us throughout
our lives but we believers are
given a righteousness that can
never be added to. Legally we
are declared perfectly righteous;
practically we’re not there yet.
But for any true believer who
dies, no matter where they are
in the Christian walk or what
sins they are struggling with,
will hear these words, “Well
done good and faithful servant.”
Live in that truth and freedom
because this is where true fruit
comes from.

The kids are back in school
and our college students are
back in town! We love the
energy that they add. We were
also privileged to celebrate the
marriage of Bro. Lee and Sis.
Desma Klopfenstein’s son Jared to
Melody Cobb of Bryan, OH. We
wish them the very best as they
start their married life together.

Ontario, Kitchener
RoseLynn Metzger

“The Lord hath appeared of
old unto me, saying, Yea, I have
loved thee with an everlasting
love: therefore with lovingkindness
have I drawn thee.” Jer. 31:3

A warm hello from Canada!
We hope this month was filled
with many blessings and joy
from above. We celebrated our
Thanksgiving on October 11.
Of course, each day we give
thanks to our Father in heaven,
but holidays such as this cause
us to pause and observe how God
has provided in the past, we have
confidence that he will provide
in the future as well. We shared
a wonderful Thanksgiving meal
together on October 9, followed
by a singing.

This month we were blessed
with visiting ministers, both in
person and online! With us were
Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev,
Detroit, MI), Bro. Tim Weigand
(Sis. Christa, Leo, IN), Bro. Brent
Kaehr (Sis. Alison, Bluffton,
IN), and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis.
Melinda, Congerville, IL).

We gathered for a midweek
service as well as a prayer
service this month. Currently,
we are thankful to announce
there is some opportunity to
cross the border again, and 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. Blessings on the coming
month!

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

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

We thank those who visited us
this past month. It was a blessing
to have Elder Bro. John Wiegand
(Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) bring us
the word recently. We appreciated
being able to worship and
fellowship together that Sunday.

We wish everyone good health
and a blessed Thanksgiving with
their loved ones.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

It was a blessing to share
holy communion with our
congregation this last month and
spend the weekend with Elder Bro.
Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer (South
Bend, IN). This is always a special
weekend and especially in today’s
climate it makes us more thankful
for our Lord Jesus Christ and the
body of believers!

Bro. James Klopfenstein’s (Sis.
Shari) father, Harry Klopfenstein
(Dee), passed away unexpectedly.
Please pray for Bro. James and the
family that they can find joy and
comfort in this time of grief.

Shirley Kuenzi (Glen), a
sister to Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Bro.
Jim), Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi, Bro.
Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen), and
grandmother to Sis. Allie Meyer
(Bro. Taylor) recently passed away.
Please be prayerful for the family
as they grieve for their loved one.

We are happy to share that
Bro. Braden Sinn (Bro. Mark
and Sis. Elsie) and Sis. Lanah
Metz (Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura)
are engaged! We are thankful for
God’s leading and pray for his love
to draw them close to each other
as they look forward to marriage.

Thank you to Elder Bro.
Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen,
Kansas City, MO) for sharing
the gospel message with us this
month. We look forward to and
appreciate your visits.
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
Laura Isch

"Thank ye the Lord!  
Give thanks to the Lord,  
For He is gracious,  
His mercy it endureth evermore.  
Endureth evermore,  
Endureth evermore!"

Psalm of Praise, Hymns of Zion, 245

This is the time of year we take some extra time to give thanks and count our blessings. Surely one of our greatest blessings is the graciousness and mercy of God! Let’s remember to thank him every day for his goodness to us!

We enjoyed having two visiting ministers this month. We appreciate Bro. Matt Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) for being with us to share the word.

Tennessee, Nashville  
Jillian Bradbury

"’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise;  
Just to know “Thus saith the Lord.”  
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!”

’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, Tabernacle Hymns #57

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. We have enjoyed visits from Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Jeremy Lemen (Sis. Shara, Forrest, IL). We were also blessed with fellowship from Indianapolis, IN and a group from Forrest, IL. We greatly appreciate and look forward to times of fellowship. We have had one regular visitor from the community.

We ask for continued prayers for Sis. Faith Stoller, as she continues to study and prepare for missions at YWAM. She recently found out she will be going to the mission field in Italy!

With guidance from our elder body, the Nashville congregation has decided to sell the current church building. We would appreciate your prayers for God’s direction in the coming days. We are continuing to meet at an alternate location. If you plan to visit, please contact: Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.1490, jordannfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury 765.914.0134, jillianbradbury2004@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremiah Stoller, 615.761.7033, jeremiahleestoller32@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin/Bastrop  
Candy Meiss

Greetings of love from Texas. We are so thankful for our visitors and for those who came to serve. We were blessed by hearing the pure word of God by the Spirit’s inspiration by Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL). We enjoyed a very inspiring Gateway Woods presentation by Bro. Jon Ringger on a Wed evening.

Our yearly Sunday school picnic was enjoyed during a beautiful October day. Thankful for everyone who sang, brought food and played games with the children. Our gathering continues to grow as approximately 40 attended.

Everyone experiences transitions throughout life with changes that make us wonder what is next. One thing I have learned is that we should never expect life to continue without challenges and changes. After being a nurse for 46 years and a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner for the past 35 years I am pondering retirement. God is so good and I am so grateful for his moment by moment presence as I cared for the newborns and their parents. Careers and positions allow us to be a light for Jesus and spread joy with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Now I pray that God will continue to guide and direct in a way that only he can do so that the love of God can continue to be spread. In this life of challenges and changes, one thing is constant; God’s love and his presence.

“Each step I take my Savior goes before me,  
And with His loving hand..."
He leads the way.
And with each breath I whisper "I adore Thee;"
Oh, what joy to walk with Him each day.
At times I feel my faith begin to waver,
When up ahead I see a chasm wide,
It’s then I turn and look up to my Saviour;
I am strong when He is by my side.
I trust in God, no matter come what may,
For life eternal is in His hand,
He holds the key that opens up the way,
That will lead me to the promised land.
Each step I take I know that He will guide me;
To higher ground He ever leads me on.
Until someday the last step will be taken,
Each step I take just leads me closer home.”
Each Step I Take, Gospel Hymns, #364
“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 Texas heat has finally left, and the feeling of fall has arrived on our doorstep. Along with pumpkins on our porches and blooming mums in the garden, there is also this renewed sense of cozy and comfort that sets in after a busy summer. With everything going on in the world, we can always find our greatest comfort in Jesus himself.

The Dallas church was grateful to have visiting ministers Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin-Bastrop, TX) join us for services and fellowship. Through both sermons, we were encouraged to rely on Jesus through the good and bad and to know that anything is possible with God. In today’s culture it seems we have everything we could ever need, but the things of this world only clutter our lives and cause us to stumble. Bro. Klint reminded us that when we remove ourselves from the world we can more readily depend on Jesus; drawing closer to him without anything to distract us. Bro. Dennis touched on Jesus’ love for us and desire for a relationship. Sometimes we can get down on ourselves and feel unlived or broken beyond use, but Jesus looks at things differently than we do. He doesn’t just look at who we are, but who we can become!

God used Paul in marvelous ways, despite Paul himself. Just like Paul and many others in the Bible, God can and will use his people in wonderful ways to further his kingdom.

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

We have been blessed with fellowship from many visitors this fall. We have enjoyed God’s creation together; we see God’s handiwork in the beautiful fall leaves on the hills and mountains.

Visiting ministers that served us were: Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We wish them God’s blessings for their time and effort in serving us.

We miss and pray for Morey Weiss that he will continue to heal after his hospitalization.

With COVID-19 restrictions loosening here in Vermont, we are looking forward to having many visitors once again among us. Mid-state Vermont is beautiful in the fall and winter. If anything brings you to the area, please reach out to Bro. Mark Hoffman at 802.775.6036 or Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan at 860.306.4497 as we would love to have you worship with us.
The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Titus 2:3-5

Recently, I’ve had multiple conversations where women admitted to struggling with feelings of isolation, loneliness, and disconnect. After varying degrees of disruption, sheltering-in-place, and social distancing over the past year and a half, this is not surprising. Because God created us in His image, as relational beings who desire to belong and connect with one another, one of Satan’s favorite warfare tactics is to isolate, separate, and break the bonds between us.

This increasing isolation makes it all the more important to foster healthy relationships within our church body, specifically between women. Dee Brestin’s book, Friendships of Women, conveys that married and single women need friendships with other women. So, I appreciate that my spouse recognizes the ongoing importance of my female friendships. He has always encouraged me to prioritize these relationships, realizing they fulfill unique needs he’s not equipped to meet.

Many examples in the Bible demonstrate the importance of relationships. Even if those Biblical characters are male, the same principles apply to women. A wise counselor shared the importance of all believers having a Paul, Timothy, and Barnabas in their life. In other words, an older sister in Christ, someone more mature in faith, to serve as a mentor is the “Paul.” Having a younger woman to mentor and disciple is the “Timothy.” Then, a female peer who is an accountability partner and encourages our spiritual walk is the “Barnabas.” Having personally reaped the benefits of each of these relationship types throughout my life, I see great wisdom in an inner circle that includes all three.

I have also experienced the opposite: the isolation and loneliness in which Satan wishes to keep us locked. I vividly recall one day sitting in the church lunchroom, observing ladies cheerfully visiting together. Everyone seemed to be chatting away with a friend sitting next to her. As my dad’s primary caregiver at the time, I had missed several Sundays in a row. Additionally, I was feeling disconnected because our potluck group had just disbanded. Due to life circumstances, I am blessed to spend considerable time with an older sister from our relationship as mentioned above).

So, how can we nurture these kinds of relationships today? We must intentionally invite women of various age groups routinely worked side-by-side, begetting knots while also knitting their hearts together as butchering, canning, laundry, quilting bees, etc., routines often provided opportunities to bring older women of various age groups together. But as marriage is a season, the mountaintops, and steadfastly clinging to the phrase “a Titus 2 woman” is synonymous with an exemplary woman who is teaching others, typically those in our particular circle. We can take the initiative and step out of our comfort zone. Seek out the lonely at church, mentor and pointed me to Jesus. I have had treasured conversations with older women at church. I have had the privilege of being the “Barnabas” by encouraging our congregation. I always appreciate soaking up her wisdom. I recently asked an older sister what type of Titus 2 relationships she experienced throughout her life, she immediately mentioned group activities where older women admitted to struggling with feelings of unneeded. At that point, I had a decision to make. I could either wallow in my pity party or turn my focus toward others instead of myself. Thankfully, I chose the latter.
Yet, too often we allow Satan to push us to the fringe, where we watch and wait for others to make the first move toward us. Then, we nurse our wounds when no one does. I challenge anyone feeling isolated and alone to step out and take the initiative. Pray for God to show you who needs your company, then stand back in amazement as you learn a lesson in God’s economy; we can never outgive the Lord! Seeking to bless others brings abundant blessings in return.

Looking to Scripture for direction on relationships, Titus 2 comes to mind. Believers have long regarded this chapter as the textbook example for mentoring relationships. So much, in fact, that the phrase “a Titus 2 woman” is synonymous with an exemplary woman who is teaching others, typically younger in age. (This constitutes a Paul and Timothy relationship as mentioned above).

Due to life circumstances, I am blessed to spend considerable time with an older sister from our congregation. I always appreciate soaking up her nuggets of wisdom. Without realizing it, she has become a Titus 2 woman in my life. I’ve also been blessed with plenty of others throughout my seasons of life. A godly aunt exemplifies a persevering faith amid unending challenges and disappointments. I’ve had the privilege of learning from believers who are more mature in their spiritual walk during small group Bible study. Older siblings have consistently mentored and pointed me to Jesus. I have had treasured conversations with older women at church who have faithfully endured hardship and loss, but remain filled with joy and peace.

But one thing I’ve realized: these types of inter-generational relationships require even more intentionality on our part than those with our peers. It’s easiest to gravitate towards those in our potluck group or in the same season of life (the “Barnabas” relationships) than those outside our social circle.

However, it wasn’t always this way. In fact, when I recently asked an older sister what type of Titus 2 relationships she experienced throughout her life, she immediately mentioned group activities where older women taught her life skills. But as she reminisced, she noted how drastically lifestyles have changed since then. It’s true. For previous generations, daily routines often provided opportunities to bring older and younger women together. Through chores such as butchering, canning, laundry, quilting bees, etc., women of various age groups routinely worked side-by-side. From these experiences, lessons were caught as much as they were taught. As younger women learned domestic skills, they were also learning profound life lessons: unconditionally loving a prodigal child, fearlessly trusting God in the valleys as well as the mountaintops, and steadfastly clinging to faith when all hope seems gone. Personally, I recall attending weekly “World Relief” meetings in my childhood. I observed various women, single and married, young and old, gathered around a large quilt tying knots while also knitting their hearts together in friendship and care for one another. While they doubtlessly accomplished beneficial things with their hands at those Thursday meetings, I can’t help but believe the stories shared and the relational bonds created were much more beneficial.

So, how can we nurture these kinds of relationships today? We must intentionally invite a Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy into our inner circle. We can take the initiative and step out of our comfort zone. Seek out the lonely at church, regardless of whether they are in your particular season of life. Meet a young mom for coffee. (As a bonus, arrange babysitting for her children!) Find and confide in a trustworthy peer. However, the key to authentic relationships is vulnerability. Let’s be brave enough to remove the invisible masks we hide behind. When life isn’t “fine,” it’s okay to admit it! Be real. Be raw. Without authenticity in relationships, we will still suffer from disconnect.

As a final caution, we women must carefully guard our hearts from the temptation to be talebearers or busybodies. Neither of these roles fit into the model of a Titus 2 woman!

Bottom line: we must not let Satan win this battle! Isolation is the Enemy’s playground, but God calls us as His children to walk in fellowship and close communion with one another. (I John 1:7).
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News and Notices

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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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<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>Feb 4-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Silvertown, OR Harvey Kuenzi <a href="mailto:hkoanoak@msn.com">hkoanoak@msn.com</a> 503-932-3128</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Communion</td>
<td>April 2-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller172@gmail.com">jczeller172@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Maintenance</td>
<td>April 9-16</td>
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<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller172@gmail.com">jczeller172@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
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<td>Apr 29-M 6</td>
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<td>May 6-13</td>
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<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller172@gmail.com">jczeller172@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, hospitalllumiere@harvestcall.org, 309.467.2351
Rick Wuethrich, rick@wuethrichfarms.com, 219.863.4163

HarvestCall Team Schedule - Jamaica

<table>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg <a href="mailto:Lindbma@hotmail.com">Lindbma@hotmail.com</a> 815-641-9065</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>6/4-11/22</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Greg Eisenman <a href="mailto:GEisemn2@gmail.com">GEisemn2@gmail.com</a> 815-954-3129</td>
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</table>

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

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

HarvestCall Medical/Dental Team Schedule

Haiti: n/a
Mexico: n/a
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in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico

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- Les Cayes, Haiti

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- Torbeck, Haiti

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

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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**
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- Fatted Calf - Magdalena, Mexico

**ACCOUNTING-HR DISCIPLES**
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- CVE- Magdalena, Mexico

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- Haiti School
- Guatemala
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You breathe a sigh of relief. It’s the same encouragement you’ve heard that Paul wrote to the Philippians, to fight not against each other, but to stand fast together in oneness of mind and spirit, contending side by side for the faith of the gospel. It reminds you of how Paul had exhorted Timothy to “continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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.” You take renewed courage, knowing that no critical teaching was somehow left out, and no man-made teaching made its way in. You, together with your fellow believers, have what you need to together discern truth – the authentic, sufficient, pure gospel and teachings of Jesus, passed down through the teaching and way of life of the apostles and early believers.

Such was the environment when Jude exhorted the believers to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Such is our environment today. And so will it be as long as time stands, for the enemy of our souls wants nothing more than to shift us away from the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In today’s world, the onslaught is amplified through one-click access to unending opinions, philosophies, and interpretations of scripture. Any number of inviting digital echo-chambers await us, bringing us compelling new thoughts or telling us that our way is right. And if we’re honest with ourselves, in the face of these challenges, we’re struggling. Yet we shouldn’t be surprised. To contend means to struggle. Nor do we need to fear. But we do need to examine ourselves and join together in the fight to live and to teach the truth of Jesus Christ and his Word.

To prepare for battle, let’s prayerfully ask ourselves some soul-searching questions, starting with our foundation. Do we base our lives, our doctrine, our teachings, on the life and teachings of Jesus, as lived, taught, and preserved for us by the Apostles and early church and now encapsulated in the Bible? Do we base our lives, our doctrine, our teachings, on the life and teachings of Jesus, as lived, taught, and preserved for us by the Apostles and early church and now encapsulated in the Bible? Do we start with the weighty matters, ensuring his love for us is the foundation and motivation for everything we do? Are we seeking to glorify God by loving as Jesus loves, by being like Jesus in thought, action, and character? Do we live and teach the full counsel of scripture, embracing the soul-freeing power of both grace and truth?

For those who are ministers and teachers, are we diligently studying and rightly preaching and teaching the full counsel of God’s Word? As elders, are we fulfilling our calling to lead with a shepherd’s heart of love and service, to speak the truth in love, not having dominion over another’s faith, but as helpers of one another’s joy? As church leaders, do we submit to one another’s counsel, recognizing the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets? How thankful we can be that when difficult questions arise, elders in the spirit of Acts 15 can take counsel together, consider multiple perspectives, seek out scripture, and entreat the Holy Spirit’s direction, mutually submitting to the movement of the spirit in the collective heart of leadership, banding together to provide necessary guidance to the church.

As individuals within the church body, we too are called to join side-by-side to contend together for the faith by both our teaching and our manner of life. Peter reminds us that the Word is not subject to individual interpretation. Have we taken this to heart, actively opening ourselves up to the safety of a multitude of counselors? Do we pray for and respect God-ordained
church leaders, remembering the duty and accountability placed on them to watch for our souls? Are we willing, as the believers of old, to interact with church leaders in mutual humility and transparency, and together embrace biblically-based, Spirit-led decisions? Do we see ourselves as part of the body, actively caring for and discipling one another, with the older teaching the younger? And when led by the Spirit, do we follow the loving pattern of Aquilla and Priscilla, providing gentle instruction to one another so that we each might know and teach the way of truth more fully?

Sometimes we may find ourselves contending for an exact set of practices and traditions in how we worship and live out the gospel. Or we may find ourselves contending against a set of practices that have become embedded in our way of worshiping and living out the gospel. Have we inadvertently elevated church practices or personal preferences to be equal with Scripture, or to be our source of identity, unity, or holiness? Are we seeking to understand the biblical principles underlying our practices, following the biblical pattern of proving all things? Do we embrace customs and practices that help us bear fruit, focus our love for God and his Word, and support sanctified living? Have we sought to understand the value and blessing of Holy Spirit-inspired worship services, and how common patterns of preaching and teaching from the Bible, praying, singing, and fellowshipping together help to bind us together as a close-knit church body?

As we prayerfully reflect on these questions and scriptures, may the Lord inspire us and reveal to us how we can better contend side-by-side – with one mind and one heart – for the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Word.

Endnotes
1 Jude 1:3
2 2 Peter 2:1
3 Matthew 15:9
4 1 Timothy 3:15
5 Jude 1:3
6 Philippians 1:27
7 2 Timothy 3:14-15
8 Jude 1:3
9 John 14:6
10 2 Timothy 2:15; Matthew 28:20
11 1 Peter 5:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:24
12 1 Corinthians 14:32
13 2 Timothy 3:10
14 2 Peter 1:20
15 Hebrews 13:17
16 Acts 15:31; Hebrews 13:17
17 Titus 2:4
18 Acts 18:26
19 1 Thessalonians 5:21

is – whether it’s a democracy or dictatorship or monarchy – there are promises made of deliverance, isn’t there? Promises that it’s going to get better. “Our policies will fix things.” I think that history has shown that that isn’t always true; in fact, probably most of the time it’s not true. We can trust God. When he promises deliverance from the destruction that we deserve when we repent, it’s true, and he will deliver on that promise.

Let’s turn back to the New Testament; we have here the book of Revelation.

So, if we go back to the beginning of this book, the full title of this book the way it’s laid out here in the Bible is called The Revelation of St John the Divine, but if we go to the first words of the book of Revelation, it says it’s “the revelation of Jesus Christ which he sent to John.” So, what’s the book of Revelation about? It’s about Jesus. There have probably been more books written about the book of Revelation than any other book in the Bible, and I’m not going to claim to understand it. We’ll read a part of it here, and I’ll just tell you right now that I don’t know exactly what it all means except that my confidence has grown recently in that it’s about Jesus. It’s all about Jesus. It’s all about...
the story of God and about Jesus’ redemption for this world.

The elder body has this group called the Elder Teaching Resource; for those of you that have a little bit of a penchant for three-letter acronyms, we call it the ETR. At our last elder conference, one of the tasks assigned to it was to help us understand Revelation and what some of the ways are that Revelation is studied. I can’t repeat all of those right now, but one of the encouragements that came out of that to me was to try to read Revelation as the first people that received these words would have heard it. So, first of all, they probably would not have read it. They would have heard it read to them. They would have heard it to them. They would have been a group of people who were suffering persecution, suffering because they were Christians, and they needed to be encouraged that God is a promise keeper and he will keep his promises that he made for deliverance. To understand that better, we were encouraged to find a way to either read it aloud or to listen to the whole book in one sitting. I’m not sure exactly how long it takes, but I listened to it while I was driving to Manhattan [KS] so I know you can do it in less than an hour and a half. You can listen to the whole book of Revelation. I’d encourage you to do it. It does strike us as different than if we just take a section and read it.

So, chapter 19 is what opened here; let’s read a little bit of that.

Let’s just stop there with verse 10. I think it is so in alignment with what we read from Joel. So much of Revelation is a retelling of visions of the prophets of the Old Testament – visions that Isaiah had or Daniel or Ezekiel. This might be one as well. I’m just not linking it up in my mind right now, but it’s a vision of redemption. It’s a vision of restoration. It talks here about the complete giving over of worship to God. It talks about the marriage of the lamb.

Jesus talked about that, right? He talked about the wedding feast. He talked about the garment that we should have or what happened to someone who was there without a wedding garment. So, is this about Jesus? Is it about the things that he taught? What does it say here? He said, “The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (v.7). Who is the bride of Christ? The church, right? The word is clear about that. The church – WE – have made ourselves ready for that great marriage of the lamb.

“To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white.” We are given that robe, clothing of righteousness, that comes from having faith in this God that is faithful, that is holy, that is righteous. “Arrayed in fine linen” (v.8). Arrayed in righteousness when we deserve destruction. Arrayed in white, clean righteousness, that when God looks at us, he doesn’t say, “You deserve destruction”, but he says, “You’re the bride. You’re the one who is invited into a perfect, complete, open relationship with me.”

When he goes on, he says, “These are the true sayings of God” (v.9). Those who put their trust in him will not be ashamed. When he promises, he delivers, and we can trust him for that.

So, may God encourage us that we recognize what it is we deserve in relation to God’s holiness and righteousness. We deserve to be devoured, but God is also a God of mercy. He is a God who is perfectly righteous but yet will repent and change his mind about the destruction that we deserve because the price has been paid by the perfect lamb of God that God provided himself. We didn’t have anything to do with that. We didn’t cause it to come about; God did. Because he paid that price, we can look forward. We can be arrayed in this fine linen clean and white. We can look forward to that great wedding day.
This is the final installment on the history of our church. These have been excerpts taken from a 1990 booklet for teaching about heritage to Sunday School students. It is entitled, “Our Heritage of Faith.”

Choosing An Official Name
In America, the church eventually became known as the Apostolic Christian Church. This occurred officially during the time of World War I when the church’s young men registered for the military. To do so as noncombatants they had to list their church affiliation. Church elders subsequently convened a meeting and settled on the name -- Apostolic Christian. They felt this reflected the church’s intent of following Christ and the Apostles. Because our church differed theologically in a few key areas with American Baptists, they did not use the church’s European name (i.e., Evangelical Baptist). Essentially, they did not want to be identified with the Baptist church.

Worship Patterns
By the early 1900’s, many Apostolic Christian churches existed in the United States. German was the language of worship. At that time, the German language was just as popular as the English language. Just prior to World War I, a bill was before congress to make German the official language of the United States. The outbreak of war with Germany doomed that proposed legislation. From World War I on, the English language began to replace German in our churches. This development took nearly two decades to complete.

Singing in the churches in America has always been in “A Capella” manner, that is, without accompaniment such as a piano or an organ. This style gives both simplicity and holiness to the music. All music is intended to focus on God, and his mighty works. The intent of music is not to entertain (such as with choirs, groups, and musicians), but to enrich souls and to glorify God. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the singing. There are no soloists and no special choral numbers during the worship service so that all honor and glory can focus on God, and not on man!

The church has continued with a plural ministry; that is, several ministers in each church who share preaching duties. They are men of good report with a good understanding of, and fidelity to, the Scriptures; and they are loyal in supporting the doctrines and practices of the church.

The worship service centers around the Word, which is recognized as inerrant and infallible. The Bible is opened by the minister at random and meditated upon with specific premeditation. Ministers do not select their text before a regular worship service because it is felt God knows far better than man what the congregations needs to hear. As the minister-servant humbles himself, the Holy Spirit gives utterance.

The Zion’s Harp hymnal has always been used in the church, both in Europe and America. Bro. Froehlich initiated its origins by assigning various brethren to collect suitable hymns to be bound into the hymnal. The hymns are highly reflective of the church’s doctrine. (See the book, “A Treasure of Praise,” a history of the Zion’s Harp).

Richness
As the brethren in the Apostolic Christian Church face the trials of their time, they have a rich heritage and a firm foundation on which to build. May the Lord grant the wisdom, the desire, and the strength to preserve our heritage for the generations that follow, and seek to do his will.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
United in the Messiah

What comes to mind when pondering the word “united”? Hopefully more than just a bad airport memory. What is your first thought when reading “the Messiah”? I have a confession, when I wrote this title what I’m really thinking about is “Participation in the Church” but for some reason I think switching up the words will help us take a step back and just… marvel. You and I are part of the living temple of God!!

Being united with the Messiah and participating in Christ means that we are being built up as his body (Eph 2), and the life of Jesus – which was so powerful that Peter says in Acts 2:24 that it was not possible for death to hold on to him – that same powerful life is available to us today. It is a true life, an abundant life, one that allows us to lay down our lives for others, to go to “our calvaries” for the joy set before us.

Why must this be so? Because our union with the Messiah means that we live the way he lived and love the way he loved. This is beautifully captured in Phil 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Paul uses many variations of the expression “in Christ Jesus” and although counting gets tricky, in general Paul uses this type of phrase over 150 times in the New Testament. Is that a lot, you may ask? If you want a comparison with a tried and true favorite, he uses “grace” about 100 times, so yes, “in Christ” might be important!

In Romans 15:1-3, Paul teaches that “we then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written (Psalm 69:9 the spirit of Christ speaking through David), “The reproaches of them that reproached thee (God the Father) fell on me (the Son)”…wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”

Throughout Romans Paul is striving for unity amongst the sisters and brothers in the Lord. Why? Because this is the story and pattern of Jesus. He is the fulness of hospitality, of the rich who do not seek to leverage their wealth or power but to steward it for the upliftment and blessing of the other. For Paul, our reconciliation and unified love for each other is the truest expression of being the church, this is the “life hid in Christ.”

During a time of history where reasons for division seem more prevalent than ever, let us step back and… marvel. We have been given the gift of life that allows us, unworthy though we are, to participate in the body of Jesus, our risen Messiah and King! How will this be known? By our love one for another.

-by Blake Widmer
Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:38