As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured ...

Jeremiah 33:22
Casting all your care upon him

The apostle Peter tells us to “Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Aren’t we thankful we have a God who cares for us? While we live in uncertain times his love and care are steadfast and sure.

“... for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.” Daniel 6:26.

We pray this month’s Silver Lining can be an encouragement and blessing to each of you. As you peruse the pages you can connect with our Church families across the land, learn Biblical principles, recognize opportunities to serve and be refocused in prayer. Our prayer is that you will be encouraged in your spiritual walk with Jesus Christ.

“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 fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm, along with Greg Lehman, Counseling Elders

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Loving as Jesus Loves – Laying down our lives for our friends

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Imagine a love so full, so complete, so free, that it motivates you to lay down your life – your one opportunity to live on this earth – and die so that someone you love might live. Rarely do we experience such love. How would you feel if one of your friends gave up their life for you? How would you respond? Is it possible for someone to love you more than they love their own life?

This is the love of Jesus Christ for you, for me, and for all people. “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” This ultimate expression of love confirmed God’s love toward us as no other word or action could do. Jesus gave His life, to give us life. And he asks us to continue in this love, to “love one another, as I have loved you.” The Apostle John meditated deeply on Jesus’ love and concluded: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

It would be a rare exception that one would be placed in a position to literally die for a friend. How then do we lay down our lives for the brethren? Paul describes a powerful yet practical love that comes alive in our daily interactions and relationships. This agape love begins with kindness, relates with gentleness, and delights in mercy and obedience. By love we think no evil, rejoice in the truth, and think on good things. We seek not our own way but the welfare of another, offering our whole being as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.” By sacrificing for others in this way, we will embody the principle of laying down our lives for others.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” God-honoring love starts with those closest to us, and flows through our churches to our communities and beyond, reaching even to strangers and enemies. Jesus gave a beautiful vision of this love: “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?...and the King shall answer...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

John asks us to consider a compelling question: “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us love not in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” We can easily have good intentions but find ourselves lulled into complacency or consumed with cares and pleasures. The love of God breaks through discomfort and inconvenience, even fear and pain, and reveals itself in compassionate listening and loving action towards those in need.

Jesus teaches us by word and action to “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” In the account of Lazarus, He wept not for his own grief, for He knew Lazarus would soon be alive. Flowing with compassion, Jesus opened his heart to feel Mary and Martha’s pain and suffering. He wept with those who wept, and later rejoiced with those who rejoiced. In the

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Greetings this morning to each one. As often as we come together and one of your servants – that’s what we want to be, is servants – stands in front of you, it’s not so much or really at all what we would care to say or want to say, but I believe our prayer is “what is the need of the congregation?” We sang in that last hymn about the sheep and the shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd, and he gives his life for the sheep. The epitome of what I could ever achieve is to give my life for the sheep. You know, I would say sometimes we have disagreements or we don’t see things the right way or some sheep think this part of the pasture is better, but I just think, if it would really come down to it, each of us would give our life for the other because that’s what Jesus did. That is the ultimate test. Isn’t it? We always have more that binds us together than sometimes the differences, and differences are always going to be among people. No matter where you go, people are people.

The Bible is opened here for our first reading this morning to Ezra chapter 6. There’re several parts of Ezra here. We know as we read Ezra and Nehemiah, it’s a time towards the end of the Babylonian captivity when the kingdoms of Israel and Judah had come to an end and the people, because of their disobedience and lack of faith in God, were carried away captive for seventy years into Babylon. There comes a time when it was prophesied that Cyrus, this king, would allow them to come back and to rebuild the land. They came back, and actually, Nehemiah was, I believe, the one that led that effort because he stood before his king, and the king allowed them to go back. Nehemiah came back, and they rebuilt the walls around the city. The temple was rebuilt.

Ezra was a scribe that refreshed (maybe we can even say re-introduced) the law to the people, and there was such a hunger for it. They hadn’t heard it, at least in its entirety, for so long they stood in the streets in the pouring rain to listen to the law being read. It kind of pricks us, doesn’t it, to see when somebody has a desire, a hunger and thirst after something and to see what they’re willing to endure for it? At least that’s part of the story here.

Where we’re going to read here in Chapter 6, I believe, is during the time of the reconstruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The people in the land had caused it to stop. There are always hindrances. “What various hindrances we meet in life.” Don’t you find that frustrating? I do. Whether it’s putting something together and a part is missing or the weather isn’t right or I don’t have a permit, when I want to do something, something is stopping me from doing what I want to do, it can be extremely frustrating, maddening even to some extent. So, the people here in Jerusalem had sent requests back to the king, and searches were made to be found of ‘why are you doing this?’ That’s where we are here in chapter 6 of Ezra.

We’ll leave off reading there at the end of the twelfth verse. “Triumph O thou city fair” would be fitting as the work was going to proceed. Hymn #133 (Zion’s Harp): The City of God. I’ll read the fifth verse.

He who will not to Thee turn,
And thy pard’ning graces spurn,
Shall not see Thy glory bright,
But great woe and endless night.

No matter what it is, whether it was the forces that opposed the builders there at Jerusalem, whether it’s our own stubborn will that builds up walls or puts rubbish in the roadways, or whether it’s the opposer, the accuser of the brethren – his name is
Satan – it’s frustrating. Satan’s not embarrassed to give us excuses and distractions. When any of those things that come, we’ve got to know that, as we read through the Bible and look back and watch the lives of many people who have given their lives because they believed in something greater than what’s on this earth, we can believe it too. Even among us, we see those lives. Let’s be assured wrong shall fail and the right prevail.

As I’ve opened the Bible further here into the New Testament, I’m just amazed. Where it’s open here is the end of St Luke and the beginning of St John, as I flipped the pages back and forth, there’s the road to Emmaus story in the end of St Luke, and then starting at the first chapter of John, there’s the calling of the first disciples, the miracle at Cana, and then Nicodemus. My immediate thought is maybe after the sermon on the mount, this is real gospel. This is pure gospel here as we think about what happened there. My immediate thought is where should I read here because any of it could be developed into the gospel message this morning.

Just because we talked about the temple in Ezra here, let’s read in the second chapter of John where the last half of it has to do with the cleansing of the temple. So, let’s just use that. The Lord will use the thoughts and his word to speak to every one of us. That to me is the most incredible thing. I don’t know how many times I’ve heard someone say – maybe you’ve said it – “you were talking straight to me”, and it doesn’t matter how many people are in church. That wasn’t the truth, but that’s how it felt. I’ve been on that side too where I thought “why are they talking right to me?”

Here is St John 2, from the thirteenth verse.

Now, my thought is as we’ve read these scriptures together in the book of Ezra, maybe the building plan did not include a delay of this magnitude. However, it had to be resorted to in order to do what needed to be done. I’m not a construction guy, so I’m not trying to turn this into a kind of parable of how a construction job goes. In fact, the way I’m beginning to see this construction job that’s going on has got to be inside of us. God’s the wise master builder, we all agree, and sometimes, just like in Jerusalem many years ago, there had to be a search made. They went back, and they dug out stuff because they were looking for something. This can be good, and this can be bad. I’ll try to explain myself in this one thought. I don’t know how many of you have experienced what we’re experiencing right now; we’re trying to clean out. We cleaned out one of the attics last week. We’re going to put some more insulation up there, so we said, “let’s get it cleaned out.” Oh my, the stuff that came out. I mean, some of this stuff followed me from high school, and how it got there, I’ve forgotten, but it’s there. Actually, even beyond that, there were things from my great aunts and uncles. I’ve got boxes of German books. I don’t know what they are, and I’m going to find out. So, my point is, there’re things that take us back and remind us of good. There will be things that can take us back and remind us of not so good.

A caution because I want us to be cognizant of this: there are some things in your life, but there’re things in other people’s lives too that maybe have left them with a bad taste. We should recognize that, and rather than just default to ‘it’s your problem’, maybe not jump right there. Maybe it’s not just their problem. In fact, I’m kind of fighting a story that’s in my mind, and maybe we’ll get there or maybe we won’t. On the other hand, there are those things that will awaken in us good thoughts, tender thoughts, amiable thoughts that ultimately pull us back to where we came from.

A real quick story…I don’t want to make more out of this than it is, but a couple years ago I was in

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Ministry Program Updates

Prayer and Thanks in Eastern Europe
Europe Committee

For many years now, HarvestCall has had the opportunity to work side by side with the brethren in Eastern Europe. Several years ago the brethren in Romania and Ukraine requested aid to order and print Bibles to replace the aging ones in several churches. This process took several years but thankfully, after much time in patient waiting, they joyously received the shipment of Bibles. In total there were 1,500 Bibles printed for use in Romania and Ukraine to be shared across many congregations. May we be prayerful that they can be used to reach out to many that are still lost in sin and darkness.

They have recently mentioned a need for comforters. Despite all of the shut downs and social distancing requirements, we are thankful for the volunteers from several congregations that have made and are starting to make comforters for Eastern Europe. Lord willing, this fall a shipment of several boxes of comforters (adult and crib sizes) will be sent, in hopes to arrive in time for the cold winter season. There can be a great blessing in coming together in fellowship to labor on a construction project, church remodel or work team. Others may use different talents and meet in smaller groups throughout the week, across many congregations, and their labors often go unnoticed by many. Yet it is amazing to see how God can use so many talents in so many ways and we are thankful for the labors of each one.

Help Wanted: Extinguish World Hunger!
Bible Distribution Committee

Are we passionate about ending world hunger? “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine … of hearing the words of the LORD” (Amos 8:11). Do we give sufficient time, energy, and material resources to address such a famine around us? HarvestCall’s Bible Distribution Committee researches Bibles and related materials for distribution; works with publishers for quantity discounts; maintains stock at our Illinois distribution center for pick-up and shipping; supplies individuals and groups desiring materials; and offers best practices for establishing, supporting, and expanding distribution efforts (harvestcall.org/spread-the-word). Despite modern technology and electronic Bibles, many still welcome God’s Word in printed form. Help distribute Bibles to relieve our neighbors’ gnawing, spiritual pain!

How can you get more involved? Ask your congregation’s Bible distribution contact (possibly the HarvestCall rep) how you can help activate a local effort. Sunday school classes, single groups, and families can benefit from sharing God’s Word. Make Bibles available to friends, students, and visitors. Beyond reaching individuals, look for distribution locations where people interact for business, travel, and pleasure. Examples include: food banks, restaurants, businesses, homeless shelters, medical offices, senior living facilities, hotels/motels, and correctional institutions. To extend connections with prisoners, Berean Prison Ministries offers a progression of 50 Bible lessons for volunteers to grade. There are so many ways to engage. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).”

Bible Distribution is a tremendously impactful ministry that’s relatively easy, and helpful resources are available to get started. There is a Bible distribution contact for each congregation and a
Please be prayerful for the brethren that distribute these comforters, that their witness may warm the hearts of many in Eastern Europe so they would seek God while he is yet to be found.

Thankfully, God has continued to bless the progress of the Korovia church construction, even through the COVID-19 pandemic. This has shut down building supply stores, but the brethren have been able to continue with some work inside. Yet not all has continued as normal; church services still aren’t being held, some have contracted the virus and recovered, while some elderly have gone on to meet their Lord. Our prayers go out to the many families around us here and those around the world that are suffering illness, isolation, or the loss of loved ones. May our Almighty God continually be their Comforter.

– by Christopher Indermuhle

A starter kit is available to help you establish a sustainable effort that fits your local situation. Coming soon: a new website for viewing available materials with a streamlined request process. Until then, direct your materials requests to bibledistribution@acpublications.org or (309) 965-2141. Additionally, we are developing ways to supply requests for locally effective resources that are not stocked in bulk. While continuing to embrace the King James Version in our churches, the Elder Body recently offered guidelines to use other versions for introductory outreach. So, the distribution center will stock KJV, ESV, and NIV options. A national fund eliminates financial obligation when requesting materials. Donations to cover costs are optional. Our main focus is freely casting God’s bread upon the waters (Ecclesiastes 11:1). Join him in settling the world’s hunger pangs!

– by Sam Manz
Technology in today’s world is integrated into many aspects of our lives. Apps keep us up-to-date. Devices keep us connected to loved ones and our church family. Work tasks are increasingly done remotely via online meetings. Consider the role of technology in your life in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and the shelter-in-place our federal and state governments have created. These changes in our typical schedules have had the potential to draw us into technology with a much greater propensity and has become a vital and even necessary connection tool for many of us. Yet, this integration of technology can have a dramatic impact on our daily lives, including our spiritual walk. While scripture doesn’t mention terms like “breaking news” or “CDC reports” or “Facebook feed”, it gives us concepts which serve as heart checks to consider how we are stewarding our hearts and our sound minds at all times, even in the midst of an event like COVID-19 (2 Tim. 1:7). Below are a few concepts and questions to bear in mind:

What am I prioritizing?

**Concept:** Stewarding my time is key aspect of sanctification in Christ.

**Consider:** What consumes my time and thoughts in today’s world? What am I meditating on…media reports or God’s Word?

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph. 5:15-16

Where am I showing discipline?

**Concept:** Each of us is gifted with different strengths and also different weaknesses.

**Consider:** How is my media consumption affecting myself? My family? What am I willing to abstain from when it is not edifying my sound mind and heart?

“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;” - 1Th 4:4

How am I showing balance in my reactions?

**Concept:** Reacting well to different, uncontrollable circumstances is a sign of maturity and growth.

**Consider:** What is my natural inclination when news seem unfavorable or my freedoms or desires are not granted? How do I answer the question, “If _____ happens, then I feel ______.”? How do I demonstrate worship by turning toward Christ and truth when disappointed instead of turning toward fear?

“And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Rom. 5:3-5

What am I reciting to myself?

**Concept:** Scriptures on our heart and mind ground us and encourage us amid difficult circumstances.
Consider: What scriptures can I recite and believe right now that bring encouragement when I hear a friend’s anxiety? How completely do I turn toward and trust in God’s providence in the midst of distressing times?

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

These concepts and questions touch the surface of a healthy application of technology. A host of resources are available on our website to help individuals, families, or groups consider technology in our lives.

The following are brief descriptions of several resources you will find at www.accounseling.org/technology:

• Five Technology Questions to Consider: This short resource highlights five important questions which we should ask ourselves when we consider the impact technology may be having on our lives.

• Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids: Too often technology can become a battleground instead of a teaching opportunity. These discussion aids build a framework for discussion around technology principles and are separated by age level.

• Technology Sunday School Lessons: Sunday School is a key venue where biblical principles can be taught. These lessons adapt technology discussion questions and teaching points into a Sunday School lesson format for various age levels.

• Breaking Bread Podcast on Technology: This two-part podcast spends time walking through principles to consider as you evaluate your technology use. It builds off the concepts in our presentation, Safe Technology Use for the Whole Family.

• Family Technology Plan: Families provide the important avenue where technology teaching should be fostered. This resource will help families set up a technology plan with their children as they encourage growth and discussion in this area.

ACCFS has a host of resources on various topics to encourage a believer in their walk and growth in the Lord. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org, you can also visit us online at www.accounseling.org.
For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.” Hebrews 3:4

If any of you have had a chance to drive by Timber Ridge recently, you may have noticed some construction happening on our front lawn. Your eyes weren’t deceiving you – LifePoints is adding a new Administrative Building right next to Timber Ridge! All of the corporate offices for the Agency staff will move into this new building, rather than being located in the front lobby of Timber Ridge. This move will allow us to use space more effectively at Timber Ridge for the residents’ needs, and we are excited for these updates!

The construction process has been fascinating to watch each day, and it reminds us of so many biblical truths. As we saw the workers preparing and pouring the foundation, we were reminded of how important it is to know what our lives’ foundation is built upon. Are we listening to Christ’s words and obeying like the man who built his house on the rock in Luke 6? Or are we ignoring the Lord’s truth and trying to build up our lives on our own without a firm foundation? 1 Corinthians 3:11 says “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Our Administrative Building’s foundation may be made up of earthly materials, but LifePoints’ true foundation is Jesus Christ!

The construction of the new building has also brought to mind Hebrews 3:4. No matter how impressive or well-made our Administrative Building will end up being, God is the true Creator, the great Master Builder. All things were made by him! What an encouragement it is to know that he has given us this desire and opportunity to create, and through it all, we are able to understand his character more.

LifePoints’ mission is “Serving according to God’s Purpose.” Because God is the one who built this ministry, we have been able to serve our residents – his children – for almost 50 years. What a testament to God’s love and his role as the great Master Builder!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Chad Kaeb — Development Director
Over 10 years ago, God called our family to uproot from central Illinois to come serve as houseparents at Gateway Woods. I am amazed how God used those first four years to teach and grow myself, my marriage and our kids. While it was not always easy, it was definitely worth it! I am so thankful for the special relationships with fellow laborers and the young people that God placed in our lives.

As our time neared an end for Houseparent experience, an opportunity to still advocate for this ministry became available through leading the Fundraising and PR team. It’s during these past six years that I have gotten to experience Gateway Woods in a different light. One of the things that has really stood out to me throughout this time, has been the reminder of how many individuals are truly part of this ministry. It’s not just the 60 staff, but also mentors, volunteers, foster families, adoptive families, donors and prayer warriors who are ALL critical parts of this mission.

I wanted to say thank you to a church family that continues to encourage, support and love the staff, children and families we serve here at Gateway Woods. Thanks for investing in restoring hope to vulnerable youth and hurting families! It never gets old witnessing how the Lord provides through the generous and kind spirit of his children.
One of the ways that I have had the opportunity to see God work, is during our annual benefit auction. It is always such a great encouragement to staff and kids to witness two thousand people come to campus in early August! And how God uses this large, enthusiastic gathering to raise over $600,000. As I am sure you already heard, we will be unable to host our annual in-person auction this year due to complications with the COVID-19 pandemic. We will miss seeing faithful friends and family who make a special trip out for this day!

However, we would like to invite you to Hopeful Distancing: The 2020 Auction Experience. The auction this year will be an online event from Thursday, July 30 through Saturday, August 1 with a live virtual program on Friday evening. You can still bid on items, purchase “pre-priced” items like apparel and support the kingdom work of Gateway Woods. The Friday evening program will give you the opportunity to hear inspiring stories and still have a chance to interact with staff and other supporters.

Thanks again for being an active part of the body of Christ and part of the extended Gateway family. We love you and appreciate you. We hope to see you virtually for the 2020 auction experience and “Lord willing” in person for the 2021 Gateway auction.

News

- **2020 Auction:** The Auction is converting to a virtual event! See our ad in this month’s edition of the Silver Lining for more information.
- We are excited to announce our most recent Houseparent couple: Kyle and Lindsey Isch. Please pray for them as they started house parenting in June.
- We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods: Teacher, Assistant Houseparent, Development Coordinator and Houseparent Couples. 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.
- We are searching for 2020 summer volunteers. Please contact Sis. Claire Berchtold our 2020 Summer Volunteer Coordinator at vol.coordinator@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus!

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

**Alabama, Athens**

*Lisa Aschliman, Kristy Moore*

“Oh Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name.” Isaiah 25:1

We are surely praising God that we can congregate together again and have Sunday school. We had a few visitors stop by in the past month and we are very thankful for each one of them. The Price family came for several days and it was a joy to be with them again. The Athens church had VBS the week of June 8 and it was organized by a team from up north. Those who came to teach our children for the week were: Bro. Javan Plattner, Bro. Isaak Jones, Bro. Toby Steidinger,
Sis. Renee Schlipf, Sis. Kristy Kieser, Sis. Audrey Manz, and Sis. Gabrielle Wiegand. The students all had a wonderful time and we finished the week with a program on Friday night. We can’t thank them enough for taking a week out of their schedules to bless our little congregation.

We ask for continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis as she continues her battle with cancer.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

If you are passing through our area and need a place to stay for the evening, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815)674-5411 for our guest house accommodations.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.” Revelation 7:17

This passage was always puzzling to me and a little sad, even though it is presented as an encouragement. There are few things more comforting and pleasant to me than the feeling of sun on my skin – even when it is 112 degrees in the shade, and providing there is a cooler place for me to move to when I have had enough. It is not a comfort to think of never having that feeling again. Of course, that promise is given to those saints who came out of the Great Tribulation, not to the Bride of Christ. So, it is uncertain whether the experience of feeling sun on my skin (will I have skin?) is a prospect in eternity, and I really am not concerned about it. What we will experience will be far better than anything we experience here. Just his touch will surpass the best feeling we have ever experienced.

We are told that on earth, a third of all trees and all green grass will be burnt up, a great mountain burning with fire will be cast into the sea, turning a third of it to blood, a burning star will fall to earth and make another third of the water bitter (Rev 8:7-11); another star falls and causes a great smoke to arise that darkens the sun and the air (Rev 9:2). Fire and brimstone-breathing horses will kill a third of mankind. (Rev 9:17). Then in Rev 16:7-9, we find the fourth vial is poured out upon the sun, and power was given to scorch men with fire. That sun on our skin will not be at all pleasant. There will be a lot of burning in the Tribulation. Given all that, it is easy to understand why these would be comforted by the promise that they will never again feel any heat or have the sun light on them.

As this is being written, fires are raging out of control across Arizona. The smoke and even the flames can be seen for many miles, but it does not come close to blocking the sun’s light. Homes are being evacuated, but no people are being burned up in the flames. It is a remarkable sight, and it would be beautiful if it were not so destructive. The scars from the burn can be seen from space.

While it is hard to imagine the devastation that will occur during the Tribulation, we are getting a little taste of it now, with the pestilence, the economic woes, the natural and unnatural disasters taking place around the globe. Lawlessness is certainly abounding and good is being called evil and evil good. Brothers, sisters and friends, we do not want to remain here after the Bride is raptured and the restrainer of evil is removed! The burning is not even a big part of all the terrible things that will be witnessed and experienced during that time. If you have not yet trusted Jesus Christ as your savior, ask him for the grace to surrender your entire self. The age of grace is coming to an end, from the looks of it, very soon. Be a part of the church, his bride that will be caught up to meet him in the air! I believe we will be celebrating our marriage while the world is experiencing the Tribulation. Don’t miss out!

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues,
and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.” Rev 21:7-9

The Phoenix church resumed in-person meetings for those able to assemble, and it is good to be back in personal fellowship, even though we continue to observe the social distancing recommendations. Technology is grand but it is no substitute for face-to-face interactions. Our local HarvestCall continues to operate and serve the African refugee community with provisions of food, and the House of Refuge is also returning to serving in limited ways. We are looking forward to our children attending Vacation Bible School. Our prayers continue for all those who have been affected by COVID-19, for our leadership, and for the Holy Spirit to bring many souls to salvation during these unprecedented times.

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

In the midst of all of the change and uncertainty around us, keep looking to Jesus in faith.

Arizona, Tucson

Dean and Jackie Knobloch

As we all know, things have certainly changed recently. We are now experiencing an unprecedented occurrence of a pandemic. Few people are still alive who felt the effects of the 1918 Spanish flu so this is all new to the world. We now wear masks into the bank and have drive-by receptions. Just months earlier if you entered a bank wearing a mask, the police were called and the only reference to “drive-by” was in street shootings. We are in a world of changing customs and expectations. For the Christian community, we can rely on God who is unchanging and on The Word that is still God’s Holy message to mankind as well as a merciful Savior who stands at the right hand of God interceding for us daily. We are praying daily that the world will seek God and his plan for mankind.

We mourn with Bro. Gene Denick in the passing of his dear wife Karen. We will all miss her here in our church family.

Amid all the chaos there is always a bright spot of joy. Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufmann welcome a new granddaughter; Alayna Marie was born May 19 to Christie and Michael Rodriguez.

We are now reassembling in limited numbers and with the proper social distancing. It is a blessing to be “IN” church in mind, soul and body.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena

Kali Sauder

As chaos and uncertainty runs rampant around us, we are thankful for a sovereign God who says, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

We don’t have to look deep into the Bible or even history to see troubling times. In fact, Jesus spoke this promise over his followers as he faced his own crucifixion. He calls us to follow in his footsteps and claim the peace that passes understanding in our hearts, even in the midst of chaos.

As a church family, we gathered for a special presentation via technology and were encouraged in the “Way of Peace” by Bro. Fred Witzig. The premise was to learn via God’s Word and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ across generations how to walk as Jesus walked, how to combat the tendency to focus on our current or hypothetical situations instead of allowing the Spirit to open our eyes to a higher, eternal perspective.

In this season of milestones, we would also like to recognize Bro. Seth Klotzle’s (Bro. Dave and Sis. Janelle) graduation from college in the field of engineering. We praise God for his faithfulness, equipping and guiding presence his life.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7
The city of San Diego has awakened as locals flock to beaches without the typical "June gloom". The season is off to a bright start with breezy bike cruises and summer tans (or blistering burns). We are so thankful that church is officially back in session, in accordance with state guidelines of social distancing and face coverings. While we are only having one service and no singing, we are excited to be able to gather in person and support each other's burdens.

Our hearts go out to the Kuenzi family in the passing of their patriarch, Bro. Bob (Sis. Linda). Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda spent many winters pouring love into our church family. He was well loved by his daughter Sis. Tasha Petrovic (Bro. Philip) and niece Sis. Annie Wagenbach (Bro. Brian), and now has received his reward. We are thankful for his example of faith and the wisdom he shared while on this earth.

Just as we say goodbye to loved ones, we witness the miracle of new life. Bro. Mika and Mira Milovancev welcomed their first granddaughter Mila this month. We rejoice in their new roles as grandparents. As seasons change and the weather shifts to blue sunny skies, we are thankful for God’s provision of love and faithfulness amidst the changing times.

“For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6

Sis. Brooke Zarkovacki (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose) and Bro. Seth Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA) were united as one before God. They were thankful to be able to have around 100 guests witness their vows. It was a beautiful day of rejoicing!

Sis. Audrea Roberts (David and Jessica) and Bro. Jesse Zarkovacki (Bro. George and Sis. Lily) were married at a beautiful and intimate gathering in Arkansas to be near Audrea’s mother who was unable to travel due to COVID-19. While we missed attending this monumental event in their lives, we were glad to see photos of their smiling faces!

We are grateful to be worshiping together again, albeit for only one service. What a gift! All sorts of “normal” are being challenged in this unique time we’re living in. Many things look different and we’ve had to find creative ways to make do. We have an opportunity to see what foundation we’re resting on! Is it solid rock or sinking sand?

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jayme Luginbuhl are blessed to become first time parents with the arrival of two little precious bundles of joy. Quinley Rose and Carter Jackson were surely be showered with much love from grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Susan Luginbuhl, and Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz.

A precious baby girl was welcomed into the hearts and home of Wade and Lauren Mattesen. Brooks Alison is also welcomed home by siblings, Warren, Caroline, and Blaire. Grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Sherry Skinner and Louie and Laurie Mattesen (North Carolina) rejoice in this added blessing in their lives.

We extend our support, prayers and sympathy to both Bro. Pat and Sis. Rebecca McMann in the passing of Rebecca’s dad, Steve Schaefer (Iowa). We trust the Lord will provide for their family as they endure this season of sadness and loss.

The past months, for each of us, have been a time of being schooled in patience and waiting. COVID-19 has brought about much change and uncertainty to all. These words from the song “Time of Waiting” from our beloved Zion’s Harp, #244 relates so well to the pandemic we are enduring today.

“Waiting is to be our earthly schooling
Which here with our first breath takes its start,
Never ending till by God’s own ruling
Our faint spirit shall in peace depart.
Battle bravely toward that destination,
Though the night of waiting now enfold;
Other brethren bore yet more privation,
Yet through conflict,
victory did behold.”
Waiting, hoping here
in darkest silence,
leads us to that future happiness;
Waiting, trusting oft with
fear and trembling
Brings glad tiding of eternal bliss.”
*Time of Waiting, Zion’s Harp, #244*

**District of Columbia,**
**Washington**

**Henrietta Meyer**

At our annual meeting in February, we discussed the idea of selling our church building/house. The idea was tabled until next year. However, since we have been unable to assemble for over three months and have no idea when we will again be able to meet for services, the trustees and congregation have decided to put the church house on the market.

That being said, we are NOT closing the DC church. The DC church is made up of true believers and as such we will continue to uphold each other in prayer. To date, we are assembling virtually through the use of Zoom and AC Central. In addition, we will assemble when it is again safe to assemble and for ministers to travel. We will work with Bro. Matthew Rassi who manages the church rotations to keep him up to speed with how things are progressing. It will be more important than ever to contact us prior to visiting so we can inform you if and where we will be meeting.

In other news, we extend Christian sympathy to Sis. Doreen and Bro. Barry Steffen on the death of her father, Bro. Willis Gudeman, (Francesville, IN). We enjoyed his and Sis. Margaret’s visits.

The longer we are apart, the more we appreciate being able to join together virtually for services.

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

**Florida, Fort Lauderdale**

**Renee Mangold**

There were no visiting ministers this past month, however, we recently started reassembling for morning only service on May 31. We are not having lunch and we are socially distancing while wearing masks, but not spiritually distancing by any means. It was good for those that were comfortable gathering to see each other and worship together again. The singing went beautifully despite wearing masks. Due to the small number of local residents and having a beautiful large church, we had ample room to spread out.

We are continuing our Zoom fellowship on Thursday evenings. Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye Hohulin who have been blessed with another grandchild. Ansley Jo Prevo was born June 17, 2020 to Bro. David and Sis. Tara Prevo, (Bloomington, IL). We pray that God will bless this new baby girl and walk closely with her all the days of her life.

Our continued prayers for healing go out to Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold’s brother in law Bro. Russ (Buzz) Plattner (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) who recently underwent surgery and is now back in the hospital due to blood clots.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

**Mary Masters, Terri Young**

We, as a church, are very much looking forward to gathering in a phase 2 setting this Sunday, June 21. This will mean two services and a lunch while still exercising great caution.

We offer prayers for Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman as his father passed recently. Also, prayers for Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward as Roger has been diagnosed with cancer. We are thankful for a God that hears and answers prayers.

Our church is rejoicing as we look forward to July 5, when Ryan and Rachel Hollan will share their testimonies, and then Ryan will be baptized. We also rejoice with Ryan and Rachel for their daughter, Faith Sabo, who is giving her testimony August 15 and then being baptized August 16 at the Sarasota church. In the face of much turmoil around us in the world today, the church still has much reason for abundant joy.

**The New Beginnings**

A couple of months ago, we came up with a prayer list for The New Beginnings and asked for your prayers as well. This list included an Executive Director,
Christian counselor, new moms, wisdom in implementing the new guidelines, and mentors. This week as we were meeting together, the comment was made “It seems God has really answered our prayers!” TNB has hired an Executive Director and a Christian counselor. We have our second mom settled in, and have an interview with a potential mom this Friday. We have prayerfully implemented the new guidelines and it seems this has been a good change for us. God is so faithful!

The New Beginnings has continued to have church services in our community center with Bro. Bill Masters ministering to us. We felt it was too difficult to keep the toddlers from wanting to socialize with everyone at church and certainly not understanding social distancing! We have decided, however, to go to church next Sunday and see how it goes. It will be nice to be able to worship, sing, and fellowship together once again (even 6 feet away) with our church family.

Our current two moms, Arzu and Mackenzie, are developing a strong friendship and their kids, Demir and Alina, have become quite the buddies!

Arzu continues to work as a Home Health Caretaker for the summer and enjoys getting to know the people she serves. It has been good experience for her as she looks forward to heading back to nursing school this fall.

Mackenzie has settled into TNB and is a pleasant addition to our little community. There are always a few bumps in the transitional road, but Mackenzie is beginning to thrive in this new and stable environment. She continues her online summer school with FSW and is making very good grades.

We are humbled by the work that God continues to do in, and through, this ministry. We are so thankful for your faithful prayers and support!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

God knows and is in control of all things. It has been said, “Blessed are the flexible for they shall not get bent out of shape”.

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.” Matthew 13:30

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Marilyn Bryant celebrated 72 years of marital bliss. What an example they are of their love for each other. May God continue to bless them in this union.

Stefanie Hebert has reached a milestone and has graduated from high school. We are praying that she will continue to seek God in this new chapter of life.

Kylie Koehl (Bro. Mark and Sis. Trish Koehl) has felt the call and wants to turn her life to God. We are thankful to hear of her repentance.

Our prayers are continuing for Bro. Dick Van Deest as he is still getting radiation treatments, Bro. Glenn Ott as he has been struggling with health complications, and Sis. MaryLou Joos as she is in rehab due to surgery.

Sis. Suellen (Bro. Virgil) Kaeb’s mother, Sis. Carolyn Ott (Goodfield, IL) left this life for her reward. Prayers are with Bro. Virgil, Sis. Suellen Kaeb and brother-in-law Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell Ott. May these dear loved ones and their families feel our love and God’s nearness.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings of love from Bonne Fin! The mission at Hospital Lumiere continues to rest in the assurance of God’s love, protection and grace. The past month has continued to bring challenges that cause us to seek our Lord’s help. What joy we have knowing that it is a “very present help indeed.” We have had very few cases of COVID-19 present to date at the hospital, for which we are thankful. Confirmed cases continue to increase in Haiti, but our staff is prepared and ready for the time when cases may begin to come more frequently.

Travel restrictions continue for anyone coming to Haiti. We are thankful that there are relatively
frequent flights that allow US citizens to return to the US. This past month, Bro. Rick Aberle was able to return to the US to reunite with his family after a period of 3 ½ months. Sis. Raya Nussbaum and several of their children returned to the US as well. Bro. Lucas Nussbaum and their son Tucker remain in Haiti for the time being. Prayers for their family during this time of separation are appreciated.

Since travel to Haiti is restricted for the foreseeable future, we are not certain when missionaries in the US may be able to return to their homes in Haiti. This puts the mission in a position of unique challenges. We trust God to continue to provide for the needs of the mission as he sees fit.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike and Susie Walder

We are prayerful for the families remaining in Les Cayes at this time: Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Brittany Steiner and family; and the two couples at the dairy farm: Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Knobloch and Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller.

All HarvestCall ministries remain cautiously open and work continues to be accomplished as it is possible. All glory goes to God for his love and provision through these times of difficulty.

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

I am writing this article as I sit in my brother’s house overlooking a beautiful valley that is framed by the Rocky Mountains. We just got back from a hike up to some falls where I felt the power and mist of the water rushing down the mountainside, and purple and yellow flowers springing up through solid rock. It is gorgeous here in Colorado. That cannot be denied, but I often wonder if we have God’s eyes to see beauty around us wherever we are. We have no problem listening to and getting concerned and anxious about the negative things around us. News outlets and almost anybody on the street will tell you about the horrible things that are happening around us daily. We see fear on every side, but I am reminded to look for beauty, not just in the physical world that God has created, but in people and moments and circumstances. Can we be instruments of praise for our heavenly Father as we spread that beauty and love with others with the lips that he has given us?

We are praising him that our local government has allowed us to worship together again in church. We are also continuing Zoom services for those that cannot attend. Our fellowship is so much sweeter as we were apart for so long, and we pray that we will not grow complacent in our ability to attend church again.

We had church elections recently for substitute Sunday school teachers, and Bro. Sam (Sis. Betty) Bachtold and I were voted in. We appreciate your prayers as we, with the regular Sunday school teachers, pour love and preparation into teaching young hearts about the love of God.

Congratulations to Candace Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly) on her graduation from high school! We pray blessings on her future and that she would always look to him for direction in her life.
Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Sara Anliker, Kinsey Dotterer

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

I’m sure most of you, like myself, were so thankful to be able to assemble with church family once again! Yes, it looks different, but the recommendations don’t seem bad at all after being confined to our homes for so long. My children weren’t ready for online Sunday school to be over, but we are so thankful for the teachers who made the extra effort to keep up their teaching as much as they did. Even though Vacation Bible School will look different this year also; we are thankful to the committee for making adjustments to their plans so that there will still be outdoor activities.

Micah and Shelby Fehr of rural Danvers welcomed their first child, Eden Laine Fehr, on May 5. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tami Koehl, Dennis and Annie LaFountain (Roanoke), and the late Charles Fehr.

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family of Bro. Ron (Sis. Ellen) Farney. Ron’s mother, Sis. Geraldine Farney, passed away May 21, 2020. Ron’s dad, Bro. Gerry, survives. They were married 45 years.

We rejoice with Darci Kaufmann, daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Rebekah who has given her heart to the Lord.

It’s such a blessing to see how God is working through these interesting times we are living in.

Illinois, Bradford

Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

We were thankful to be able to take part in Bro. Talon and Sis. Anna Sauder’s wedding day on June 7 in unique ways. While some family and friends were present in the sanctuary, many more were able to witness the wedding through video or call-in capabilities. Following the ceremony, a drive-through reception allowed us to meet the new couple and their parents, Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz. We wish Bro. Talon and Sis. Anna God’s blessings as they begin their life together.

We warmly welcome Bro. Jason, Sis. Anita, Jamie and Jordan Koch from Tremont to our congregation. They have relocated to our area and will be assembling with us.

After three months of not being at church, we have started assembling in the church building again for services. Even though it is with modifications and limited numbers, it is a blessing to be able to be together as a church family. We appreciate the time and effort of the Reopening Committee as they worked together to come up with a plan in accordance with current guidelines.

While normal Sunday school isn’t possible, the Sunday school teachers have been creative in continuing it in different ways. We are thankful for the effort they put forth throughout the year in teaching our youth. Thanks to technology, we were still able to vote for new Sunday school teachers. We support Bro. Chad Joos (Sis. Joanna), Bro. Lucas Herrmann (Sis. Lynelle) and Sis. Amy Joos in their new responsibilities. We appreciate the time and effort of Bro. Weston Stahl (Sis. Jill), Bro. Adam Endress (Sis. Brittany) and Sis. Sue Hausmann (Bro. Fred) over the years as they finish their terms.

Bro. Tyler, Sis. Leah, Jesse and Jacie Endress welcomed Carlie Lynae into their family on June 9. Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee’ Endress and Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman, OH) are thankful grandparents.

Note of thanks:

From Sis. Char Dietz: I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital and Mayo Clinic and now back home. I am humbled and thankful for God’s mercy and healing once again. I’m thankful to be a part of a brotherhood who has such love and concern for each other. May God richly bless each one of you.

Illinois, Champaign

Jackie Eisenmann

The past month has brought some welcome changes regarding reassembling with our church family. We have been having church services for those who wish to gather together since June 7. It has been a blessing to worship together in person even though there are changes regarding social distancing and face masks. We are thankful for our ministry
team and the medical reassembly committee who has spent time ensuring our gathering would be safe. We are continuing to enjoy our Sunday evening Zoom fellowship hour to connect with our church family.

This summer we have begun studying the life of Joseph with small group Bible studies for our Wednesday evening services. Bible study groups are available via Zoom and in person at church on our beautiful outdoor patios.

We are praying for Bro. Dawson Finch who is serving the summer in Reynosa, Mexico at Isaiah 55 Ministries and Bro. Zach Plattner who is serving at CVE in Magdalena, Mexico for the summer.

Our annual business meeting was held this month. We are prayerful for the brothers and sisters elected to positions: Bro. Walter Edelman and Sis. Kirsten Finch to Sunday school, Bro. Calvin Teubel as trustee, Sis. Laura Furrer to kitchen committee, Bro. Joel Furrer to continue as usher, and Bro. Sam Furrer to continue as church secretary. May God bless them in their responsibilities. A big thanks to those who finished serving faithfully in these positions!

Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm, (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Sauder, (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) have spent time with us this past month exhorting our church concerning electing an elder. We are thankful for God’s provision of these brothers as we walk through this process. Our church is prayerful at this time. We are thankful that God is in control and already knows the future!

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We held virtual events and services throughout the past month. In May we had a videoconference Fellowship Night where we shared a meal, albeit remotely, and interacted through some enjoyable activities and games.

We bid farewell to Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger and their son Bro. Darin as they have moved to Washington, IL. We appreciate their many years of service in the ministry and will miss them greatly, but we are thankful for God’s leading in their lives and wish them many blessings in this new chapter. It’s difficult to say goodbye, especially in these times when we aren’t able to gather in person. However, we were thankful for the opportunity to have a virtual sendoff where we shared memories and special thoughts prior to their move.

Bro. Randy Knapp has agreed to replace Bro. Virg as a trustee, and Bro. Mark Lindberg, Bro. Daniel Messner, and Sis. Tiera Wiegand will serve as Sunday school teachers. Sis. Tiera Wiegand also accepted the role of single group coordinator.


We rejoice with Bro. Luke Kieser and Sis. Lydia Luginbuhl as they were married in Roanoke, IL on May 31. We wish them God’s blessings as they serve him together.

We also rejoice with Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp on the engagement of their son Ian to Anna Roemer of Highland Park, IL. Anna’s parents are Nancy and the late Tim Roemer also of Highland Park. They are planning a Fall 2021 wedding.

Bro. William Art passed away in early June. We mourn with his family for their loss, and we will miss his Godly example and gentle spirit. With a recent reduction in some of the COVID-19 restrictions, we were thankful that a small group could gather for the visitation and funeral.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin

“Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.” Ira Stanphill

Isn’t it a comfort to trust in God? Life is filled with ups and downs and our congregations are a compilation of life! Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! What a blessing!

We also said goodbye to our precious Sis. Geraldine (Gery) Farney. She leaves behind her husband Bro. Gerry Farney, children Bro. Ronald Farney (Sis. Ellen, Bloomington, IL), Randy Farney, Rod Farney (Erika) and Sheryl Spohn (Scott). We will greatly
miss her ready smile and cheerful countenance! Bro. Gerry will also miss his helpmate of 65 years!

Despite our VBS being cancelled for this year, we have willing brothers who spoke to our Bible class students.

Thanks go to Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Zach Anderson (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) who spoke on the subjects of “He’s got your failures, future and friends in his hands”. We hope our young people can sense how much they are loved!

As a congregation we are also looking forward to the birth of children in the next couple of months. We want those families to know we are keeping them in our prayers!

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

Mykah Sage was born to Logan and Kierstyn Dietrich. Excited big sisters, Brenley and Kimber welcome little Mykah, as well as grandparents Bro. John Dietrich and Renee Dietrich. We wish them God’s blessings as they raise their young family.

"So, amid the conflict, Whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all; Count your many blessings, Angels will attend, Help and comfort give you To your journey’s end. Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your blessings, See what God hath done; Count your blessings
Name them one by one; Count your many blessings, See what God hath done”

Count Your Blessings,
Hymns of Zion #116

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We extend sympathy to Sis. Judy Klopfenstein and her family in the passing of Bro. Dick on May 23. There was a drive-by visitation on May 26, followed by the funeral in church for a small number of family members, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Phyllis Kaptain also passed away on May 23. Private family services were held on May 28.

Congratulations to Alyssa Moser, who graduated from high school. A drive-through graduation party was held in her honor on Sunday, June 7, at the home of her parents, Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne.

Bro. Chuck Kellenberger has made it known that he will be retiring from the ministry. We thank him for his many years of willing service, and may God bless Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie.

June 7 was our first service back in church since the pandemic began. It is a blessing to be allowed to assemble again, and we are thankful for the reopening committee who is working together to make this happen in a safe manner for everyone.

Bro. Dick Hartman is recovering from a fall. Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kay) Cargill recently had another surgery because of an infection from previous medical hardware. Sis. Amy Gasser had elbow surgery to repair some injuries from a previous fall.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:15

During this time of pandemic and patience, we are rejoicing to be able to gather again in our church building since May 31, though in a limited way with care and restrictions. We deeply sympathize with those not yet able to gather freely with us, though, and realize that this unusual time has meant far different things for one individual or family than for another.

We think so often of our loved ones in nursing homes, hospitals, and isolated in their own homes, where there often can be no visitors at this time. Although we can’t reach them with handshakes and hugs as we so long to do, all prayers do reach our Father in Heaven, and he has promised to keep them in his care at all times.

A new baby is a promise of joy, and we rejoice with several families. Keith and Lana Wiegand had a son Nolan Dietz born April 26. Grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina Wiegand and Larry and Marilyn Wettstein, Congerville. Bro. Elton “Dietz” Wiegand (Sis. Loretta, dec.) is the great grandpa to Nolan, as well
as to another great grandson born April 9 when Maverick Jon arrived to Bret Wiegand and Morgan Florey. Bret is the son of Merle Wiegand (Sis. Deb, dec.) and Morgan is the daughter of Jon and Erin Florey and Shannon Wall.

We rejoice as well with Stephen and Stormy Getz, who welcomed Arthur Richard on June 2, a new little brother to Rogan. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Getz and Clint Plunk, Eureka, and Marla Plunk, Bloomington. Although we can’t foresee the future world of any of these dear infants, we trust that God is already there!

Birth is a wonderful milestone, but spiritual rebirth fills us with even more joy. Natalie Meiss (Elder Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy) and Tamra Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine) have found peace with God and man, and now await baptism.

Illinois, Fairbury

Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

God is so good! We are thankful for many answered prayers as the regulations for shelter in place are beginning to loosen a little. The news that church is considered essential and we could begin to slowly assemble again was so encouraging! For some of us, the mandate to stay home wasn’t too hard at the beginning. However, if you’re anything like me, I have learned that I need people! I need the encouragement, accountability, conversation, smiles, and presence of others. I often think of those who have spent the past months alone, every day. The days grow long for them. In our church family, we have a “Keeping in Contact” document that someone diligently reorganizes every week and emails out to each of us. We are thankful for the efforts of the individuals our family has been blessed to be paired up with. We are encouraged when others take time to drop a card, message, food, or gift at our door step. It reminds us we are not alone and someone cares. If you haven’t already, let God move your heart to be his hands and feet today.

We are thankful for each of our Sunday school teachers and the efforts they put forth to teach our youth the truth. We lift up in prayer and support Sis. Sara Moser (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Shay Stork (Bro. Bill) as they have been elected to teach in Sunday school.

Sis. Ella Marie and Sis. Rosalee Edelman have moved to Fairbury. We welcome them as they take their place in our church family.

It is always a miracle when souls answer the call of repentance. We rejoice with Jordan Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara) and Micah Plattnar (Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber) as they have answered God’s call to follow him. We pray for these two young men as God begins to mold and shape them for his service.

Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made by the great Creator. We pray for Allison Kaisner (C.J.) as she underwent surgery and was a hospital patient for several days. We also remember little Treyson Rassi (Bro. Darl and Sis. Janelle) as he also had surgery. We pray for health and strength to be restored not only to Allison and Treyson, but all of those who need the Father’s healing.

We pray for Sis. Dawn Huber (Bro. Rich) with the passing of her sister Karen Denick (Bro. Gene, Tucson, AZ). Memories of those we love are a treasure.

Illinois, Forrest

Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11

Our prayers are with Bro. Ted Bachtold (Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Jeremy Leman (Sis. Shara) as they have been called to the ministry here at Forrest. May the Lord be ever near them and bless them, and their dear families, as they begin this new responsibility of ministering the Word of God. We want to thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), who were willing to assist our Elder Bro. Marvin with the new minister selection and installation responsibilities.

“In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord, Go offer Him thy youthful days And walk within the
Saviour’s ways.
You need not honor, riches, fame
This life abundant to attain,
Oh heed the Master’s loving call
Give Him they body, soul and all.
In youthful days His blessing seek,
With heart that’s tender true and meek,
And while the years draw on apace,
You’ll praise Him for His love and grace.”
Youth, Hymns of Zion, #135

Our hearts are filled with joy as Marissa Lanz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha) has answered the Lord’s call to repentance. May she continue to feel his loving guidance and grace.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Harry Johnson (Sis. Til) as he spent some time in the hospital this month.

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.” Psalm 92:1-2

We have a lot to be thankful for, especially lately since we have begun reassembling in church. It is so good to see our church family again, actually be in church, and to hold a conversation not through zoom. Praise the Lord for this! We had our first in church service on Wednesday, June 3, and our first Sunday service on June 7. Church may still look a little different but we are thankful to assemble together again!

Bro. Matt and Sis. Hannah Grimm are thankful to welcome a healthy baby boy, Palmer Jeffrey. He is also welcomed by his sister Adelaide and paternal grandparents, Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and maternal grandparents, Bro. Linc and Sis Cartrina Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN).

“What God has joined together, let not man put asunder.” We have had two weddings in the last month! Planning a wedding in the last couple months cannot be an easy task. We are thankful to God that these couples could still join hand in hand despite so many changes and unknowns. Sis. Taylor Wiegand was married to Bro. Drew Gerber (Bluffton, IN) on May 31. Sis. Taylor is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Wiegand. Bro. Drew is the son of Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Both of Goodfield, Sis. Haley Rokey and Bro. Nate Hartman were joined in holy matrimony on June 14. Sis. Haley is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey and Bro. Nate is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman. The church enjoyed congratulating these couples with drive through receptions and we wish both of these couples the very best as they begin their lives together in Christ!

We are sorry for the loss of our dear Sis. Carolyn Ott. She passed away on June 11 after several months of battling serious health issues. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Don, and the entire Ott family during this time.

To close, may everyone be at peace and may we all remember Jesus words,

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Matthew. 5:9

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

On Sunday, June 7, our congregation was privileged to take Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tim Funk, (Peoria, IL) was a visiting minister on that Sunday morning, and gave a communion exhortation. Later, communion was held in the regular church building in groups of ten souls, which lasted most of the afternoon and into the evening. In addition to Bro. Tim, Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter, (Bloomington, IL) also assisted in serving the bread and wine. Although the communion service was conducted under a different pattern due to the virus, it was nonetheless a blessed event, and we can all attest we were thankful we could deepen the remembrance of Christ’s broken body and the shedding of his blood.

In mid-June, our graduates were honored in a ceremony in the tent next to our church building (where we have worshiped during the coronavirus). Surely, we offer our sincere best wishes to the graduates as they proceed in the future. May God be with them. Our fervent prayer is that all who need to seek the Lord will do so. It is God’s will that all will come to the knowledge of the truth in true repentance, and do so before it is...
forever too late. In the last issue, we listed this year’s high school graduates. We apologize that we listed Sis. Andrea Teubel, but failed to list her as a sister in faith.

I have been reading the Silver Lining all of my converted life of many decades, and I must admit that the past few issues have been most interesting, as each locality refers to the methods they embraced in worship concerning the health safety guidance given by departmental authorities. While normalcy has differed from the past, nonetheless we had free course to the Word and Spirit, and the Lord was with us. As we sing in the Zion’s Harp #68, “God is ever present, let us now adore Him, and in reverence come before Him.” We have done so, and have felt his presence. Praise to his name, now and forever.

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner

Our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) spoke to us for our June 3 Family Worship Night on the topic “Hope in Christ” during the times we are living in. Things to remember: God is our rock and our hope. He is not surprised at our present circumstances. His kingdom is alive and going forward. We are citizens of the United States, but as believers, we are citizens of Heaven. With all of the reservations and plans we may have had for this summer that have had to be cancelled, our reservation in Heaven is not cancelled. If we are not believers, we need to evaluate our relationship with Christ, repent of our sins and put our trust wholly in God. Some day our faith will become sight when we see Christ face to face. That is our Biblical Hope.

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.” Psalms 118: 8-9

Bro. Ted then explained to us the plan for reopening the church with in-person services. We are thankful our God and government has provided for us to take this step, even though things may not be “normal” for quite some time.

We realize COVID-19 has not gone away and many, because of various reasons, do not feel comfortable being in a large group. We remain very thankful for the technology which allows us to listen to and/or watch the Sunday and Wednesday evening services in our homes. We thank the brothers who have given of their time and talents to make this possible.

We welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter and their children Kyler, Macy, Isaiah, Hudson and Aleah. May God bless them as they make Morton their home church.

We sympathize with two dear families whose loved one has finished their earthly life. On May 2, Sis. Geraldine Farney, (Cissna Park, IL) passed away. She is the sister to our Sis. Merna Zimmerman (Bro. Bruce). On June 2, Sis. Ruth Krantz (late Bro. Harold) went to be with Jesus. She is survived by two daughters, Mindy Norbom (Gary, Dunlap, IL) and Missy Mallory, (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn Roeschley are happy their new granddaughter has arrived safely. Phoebe Yaebin was born to Sae Han and Summer Park. Abigail, Daniel, Ezra and Jude are thrilled to have a new sister.

We were reminded to pray for the dozens of missionaries from our churches across the country sent by HarvestCall to serve in Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, and Japan. We especially remember our Bro. Scott Kieser, Sis. Nicole Knobloch and Sis. Kendra Neihouser from our Morton church. Many of us have enjoyed “visiting” with them on ZOOM and hearing of their prayer requests and how the pandemic has affected those at CVE in Mexico.

“Finally brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

As we go forward not knowing what the future holds, let’s heed the words of the following hymn:

“I place myself in Jesus’ hands
And there abide forever;
No griefs, no joys, shall
loose the bands,
Nor yet our union sever!
In these dread days
When earth decays
Who stays in Him and thus obeys
Shall be preserved forever.
A Rock and Castle is the Lord;
And they shall see and wonder
Who build on His almighty Word,
And thereon deeply ponder.
And what He saith
In life or death,
My heart shall trust
with steadfast faith,
Though earth be rent asunder.
And let Him do with me His will,
What He will do shall please me;
I cleave to Him with
strong faith still
And hope that He will bless me.
He must be blest
Who loves Him best,
And on His Word does firmly rest;
Lord, with this truth impress me!

When things seem at
their worst, I will
Still joy in His protection,
Who loves to bring out
good from ill,
And grieves in my affliction
His trials sent
Are all well meant;
His rod, a Father’s chastisement,
Are tokens of affection.
His pledge in faith will ever stand;
It is His blessed pleasure
That naught me from
His mighty hand
Shall separate or sever.
He will not break The
Word He spake;
So confidence in Him I take,
And praise Him then forever.”

“Confidence”, Zion’s Harp #177

We are very thankful for those avenues that kept us connected in ways that would not have existed even a few years ago. A special thank you to all those who have worked diligently in the technical set up and navigating the uncharted waters of reopening while following all the local, state and national guidelines. We pray everyone will continue to extend an extra measure of peace during these unprecedented times.

“Grace be unto you, and peace,
from God our Father, and from
the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my
God always on your behalf, for the
grace of God which is given you by
Jesus Christ.” I Corinthians 1:3-4.

America and her citizens pared down during this ordeal and maybe that’s a good thing. Suddenly, some of our lives became much slower, simpler and for some, slightly inconvenienced. For others, their business became jeopardized or jobs were lost. Some lost loved ones to the virus or other causes, unable to mourn with traditional funerals or visitations. Some people have been isolated for months. Healthcare workers on the front line have seen things no one will ever understand if not there and had to perform in conditions never seen in our lifetime. Whatever our situation or personal opinion, let us remember the least among us and those devastated by this situation.

“But the wisdom that is from above
is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,
and easy to be intreated, full of mercy
and good fruits, without partiality,
and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17.

The recent racial tensions are tragic and heartbreaking. We appreciate the statement from our elders that we each need to consider every person is made in the image of God and loved by him. Like Jesus, we should make every effort to understand the very real experience of others. This event can and should be an opportunity to listen to understand and to work for meaningful change, starting in our own hearts. As believers we must have a heart for helping the oppressed and those suffering injustices.

“Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We’ll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime,
we’ll understand.
Then trust in God thro all the days:
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Tho dark thy way, still
sing and praise,
Sometimes, sometime,
we’ll understand.”

Some Time We’ll Understand,
Hymns of Zion #165

We extend our support and sympathy to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Cathy Stahl with the passing of her dear mother Sis. Janice Hoehn on May 17. We will all miss Sis. Jan at Skylines and her visits to church. Our thought and prayers are with
retired Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman with the passing of his brother, Wally Leman, (Sis. Marilyn, Roanoke, IL) on May 24.

On May 31, we started assembling back at church for services, rotating morning and afternoon services in small groups in the sanctuary, fellowship area and large Sunday school room. Although everything isn’t back to normal, it is good to be back in church. Since returning to church, our Sunday school came to an abrupt close for the school year. The week of June 8 through 11, the beginners thru 6th grade were able to do an online Vacation Bible School lessons and activities daily. The theme was “Reaching Out” with the theme song “A Beautiful Life”, Hymns of Zion # 139. Many older members and shut ins were blessed by cards received from the children as one of their activities.

Recently the Single Group has enjoyed gathering together outside in small groups for fellowship.

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


“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” Genesis 2:24

We are happy to hear of the birth of a new great grandbaby to Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann (Bro. Harry, dec.). Bro. Greg and Sis. Diana Eisenmann, (Chicago, IL) are parents to Anika Raquel on May 25. Curt and Mary Beth Wagenbach are happy grandparents to Barrett Louis born on June 6 to Luke and Jill Hoerr, (Taylor, MO).

We rejoice that three more souls have begun their repentance. New converts are, Gabriel Herrmann, (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann), also Madison and Colton Blunier, (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier).

“While Jesus whispers to you, Come Sinner, come! While we are praying for you. Now is the time to own Him, Come sinner come!” Come, Sinner, Come, Hymns of Zion # 103

Illinois, Roanoke

Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

We wish God’s richest blessings to these recently married couples, who had to be very flexible with their wedding plans due to COVID-19! On May 29, Wade Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodie) and Britney Schmidgall (Les and Angie) of Armington, IL were married. Sis. Lydia Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Luke Kieser of Chicago, IL (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise, Princeville, IL) exchanged vows in our church parking lot on May 31. Madison Leman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Stacy) married Tristan Fox of Normal, IL on June 6. His parents are Jason and Kori Huneke of Lena, IL.

We completed our Wednesday evening Bible studies on James. On May 20, Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill) spoke on James 4.

James 4:8 – “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners: and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” Bro. John used a magnet to illustrate when we live out our faith connected to Christ we draw others to Jesus. Proud people repel God. Proud people have a critical spirit, don’t ask for forgiveness, desire to make a name for themselves, don’t think they have anything to repent of, blame others, compare self with others, think they know it all, look at others’ faults with a microscope and their own with a telescope, and focus on others’ failures. Humble people are drawn to God. Humble people celebrate others’ success, are slow to judge others, admit mistakes, glorify Jesus, take responsibility for their own failures, aren’t overly concerned with praises and criticisms of men, ask for forgiveness, don’t compare themselves with others, and acknowledge and confess sin.

Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) spoke on James 5 on May 27. James 5:8 - “Be ye also patient: stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” Bro. Frank encouraged us to trust in the living God, not in uncertain riches. He urged us to have faith, trusting in waiting on God to
work and move. He reminded us to exercise patience like a farmer waiting for seed to grow and that there is power when a believer in Jesus prays.

Wally Leman passed away on May 24. His survivors include his wife, Sis. Marilyn, children Sis. Cindy Shorb (Bro. Brett); Greg Leman (Lela); Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bro. Ed); Kari Rogan (Laura); Sis. Shari Moser (Bro. David); Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val); Ron Leman (Kathy); Jon Leman (Tami); a brother: retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane), and sisters: Sis. Karen Leman and Sis. Fern Leman, 38 grandchildren and 60 great grandchildren. Wally’s son Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN) had the funeral service for Wally. The Roanoke church family will remember Wally and Sis. Marilyn’s “pie ministry” of encouragement. Sis. Carolyn Ott, (Bro. Don, Goodfield, IL) went to be with the Lord on June 11. She was the mother of Bro. Jim (Lorna) Ott.

We began services at church on June 7. Families were assigned to the 9 AM or 11 AM service and divided into groups, meeting in the assembly room, the balcony, and the fellowship hall. Baccalaureate service for our high school graduates was June 7. Graduates are Bro. Eli Durand, Braden Getz, Gabe Hartter, Clara Hodel, Kara Hodel, Ethan Hoffman, Bailey Leman, Whitney Leman, Carolyn Moser, Carter Sauder, and Isaac Wuethrich.


Each VBS lesson started with songs from our Sunday school children and ended with The Summit: advice from our elderly brothers and sisters. Skits and reading of Bible stories at Base Camp, climbing advice from “Trail Guide” Bro. Ed Sauder, songs from special groups, and a message from one of our ministering brothers made for an inspirational evening for young and old. You can view this on the Roanoke church website. Thanks to all who were a part of this wonderful Bible School experience!

We rejoice with Daniel Moser (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy), who has begun his walk with the Lord. Joanna Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar) and Ethan Hoffman (Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi) are at peace with God and man. Their testimonies and baptisms are planned for August 15-16.

First time grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis Andrea Harris. Rhodes Monroe Meinhold was born to Austin and Samantha of Roanoke on June 7. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke welcomed twin grandsons, Charles David and Theodore Dennis, born to David and Heather Thames of Highland Park, IL, on June 9. We wish these families God’s blessings as they raise these dear children.

Please pray for Bro. Les (Sis. Judy) Luginbuhl, Bro. Bob Zimmerman, and Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb) Schwind, who have health challenges.

Our 3 year old granddaughter, Elsie was looking through a Bible storybook when she came across a picture of the stone rolled in front of the tomb. “Oh no, they are trapping God!” she called out. She turned the page, “Oh, He got out again!” Isn’t that the good news of the gospel! Satan thought he had won. Jesus Christ had been crucified. But the good news is that he rose from the grave, giving us victory over sin and death. He is our hope! We have all been living through challenging times; worldwide pandemic, unemployment due to shutdown, turmoil over racial issues, rioting. Jesus is the answer for here and for eternity. We can bring our feelings, hurts, anger, fears and disappointments to Jesus, just as David did in the Psalms. One of our “Summit Climbers” told us not to waver in our commitment to God. He always shows up. Choose him. Serve him.
“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

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

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Caiden Buster (Sis. Inga Lelm), Bro. Ben Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Grace Kaiser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee), Sis. Abigail Koch (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary), Christopher Koch (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika), Sis. Promise Koch (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sandi), Isaac Lennington (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sarah), Bro. Aden Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen), Sis. Grace Rassi (Bro. John and Sis. Heather), Sis. Blessing Sauder (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Nathan Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna), Sis. Faith Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val), Bro. Matthew Stuber (Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne), Aaron Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), and Ryan Wagenbach (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rebekah). We wish them all God’s richest blessings in their future endeavors. We especially want to keep Sis. Abigail Koch in our prayers as she interns in Reynosa, MX this summer.

We said farewell this month to Bro. Jason and Sis. Anita Koch and their children Jamie and Jordan as they moved to Le Claire, IA for work. We trust that the Bradford, IL congregation will welcome them warmly as they join their church family. We want to thank Sis. Anita for her service as a Silver Lining correspondent. Sis. Lucy Kaiser will be taking her place.

This month, we were able to watch the wedding of Bro. Talon and Sis. Anna (Dietz) Sauder. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder and Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz (Bradford, IL). I have been so thankful for the technology that we have available that makes it so we can still watch or listen to church services and special events while we can’t attend in person. We want to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Anna as she joins our congregation.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Emily Stuber, Maverick, and Tessa welcomed home a baby girl, Nova Charlotte. Her grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. Now that we are gathering together again in small groups, we look forward to seeing her soon. Sis. Debbie Aberle also welcomed another grandson, Kaegan Peter is the son of Ryan and Courtney Aberle (Troy, OH).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Colleen) and Bro. Matt Moser (Sis. Aimee) as they lost their father, Bro. Robert Moser (Morton, IL). We pray for those who are recovering from health issues, including Bro. Dan Steiner (Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Bill Knobloch (Sis. Ellie), that God may continue to send healing for them.

Illinois, Washington
Lillian Pfaffmann

Washington has been blessed with the addition of more babies; marvelous creations by our Father hand! Bro. Daniel and Sis. Wendi Leman and their two little boys, Henry and Harrison, were excited to add a baby girl, Millie Jo, to their family on June 2! Jace Allen was born on June 5 to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jenae Leman. Tate, Crew, and Avery are his siblings. Bro. Jared and Sis. Megan Folkerts welcomed Brooklyn Renae on June 13. Her big brother is James. Each little one is precious in his sight!

We were delighted to have a wedding engagement! Bro. Kirk Streitmatter (Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean Steitmatter) to Sis. Lexi Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp, Peachtree City, GA). We are so happy for them and pray they can continue to feel the Lord’s presence as they plan their lives together!

We are so thankful Bro. Russ Plattner (Sis. Sally) is continuing to recover from an emergency surgery he experienced during “shelter in place”. COVID-19 added an extra dimension of stress for him and his family as visitors were not allowed in the hospital at the time. He is still experiencing health issues so please keep praying for complete healing! God is faithful to answer!

Our church is attempting re-opening with outdoor services on Sunday morning and inside, on Wednesday eve. Large gatherings are still discouraged so progress...
is slow. Thankfully we can also obtain services on-line, via Zoom or AC Central, to gain spiritual strengthening and encouragement to carry us thru this “strange” period of history. It has affected each and every one of our lives in one way or another. May we seek to find our Lord in it all and be able to separate the ‘good’ from the ‘bad.’

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

COVID-19 has come to rural America, including Bluffton, IN. We have seen brothers and sisters become ill, some hospitalized. We each live with the realization that we could be next, yet that is part of life. We don’t know what tomorrow will bring our way, but we do know that God is with us and that we walk the path he has determined for us. He is faithful! He is good!

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff McAfee, (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Joel Drayer (Sis. Erin) as their recent scans have revealed no cancer! They have both battled long and hard and we are thankful.

Our love and prayers are with Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb Garman as his brother, Jim, has passed away. They also mourn the death of Deb’s mother, Sis. Doris Neuenschwander (Bro. Chuck, dec.). Sis. Doris leaves behind Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander, Dan and Tammy Neuenschwander, Dennis and Cathy Neuenschwander, Phil and Cindy Lockwood, Sis. Sheri Cress, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed (Indianapolis, IN) and Sis. Andrea Sipe, along with Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb Garman. Nine of her siblings preceeded her in death and her brother, Bro. Dale Fiechter, survives. Bro. Carl Hackenjos went to be with the Lord, leaving his wife, Sis. Evelyn, and children, Ted and Laurie Cobarrubia, and Andy and Michelle Hackenjos. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri Moser and their family on the passing of her dad, Wally Leman, (Sis. Marilyn, Roanoke, IL).

Deacon Reinhard (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jane) and Corrine Isch (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rachel) have answered the Lord’s call to repentance. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven and pray for God’s continued direction in their lives!

God has drawn together two couples for his service. Bro. Drew Gerber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami) married Sis. Taylor Wiegand (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay) in Goodfield, IL. Bro. Hunter Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. Jenna Neuenschwander (Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky) also became one in the Lord.


Bro. Jordan and Sis. Leah Rokey have felt God leading them to relocate to Sabetha, KS. We are sad to see them go, but pray that God will be with them and bless their family!

We’ve been enjoying “Monday with a Minister”, a short devotional time that we can access online on Mondays with different ministers each week. It’s been a blessing to have a little more connection without contact!

Our high school seniors missed out on a lot of normal graduation activities, but we were able to serve them at the graduate breakfast and
special service on May 24. May God bless each of them with salvation, purpose and his direction!

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

Indiana, Bluffton North

Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen

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

The 3 and 4yr. old students recently met on a Saturday afternoon for a final lesson and party before the 4yr. olds move up to the nursery class. It was delightful to watch their joy, energy, and engagement. The story was on creation. Afterward, we asked them (individually), “What was the best thing God made?”

Five 4yr. olds. Five answers. Animals, Trees, Flowers, Food, and an exuberant “Us!”

We also asked, “How can you show God you love him?”

Being nice, Hugging, Love other people, Let Jesus in your heart, Cause he’s up in heaven! The 3yr. olds just smiled.

As always, we can learn a lot from children. Love God. Love others. Give thanks.

We are glad to welcome another little one into our church family. On June 12, Bro. Seth, and Sis. Livia Fiechter and their son, Braxton, were blessed with a precious little girl, Kinsley Elaine. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) are the happy grandparents.

The 5th-12th grade students are glad to be back in Sunday school, and we are rejoicing in the blessing of gathering once again in God’s house. We may be socially distanced in the pews, but our hearts are bound together in love,

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Romans 14:17

Although the annual girls camp was canceled in its usual format, the various churches met this past Saturday – each in their own location. Bluffton/Bluffton North girls met at Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger’s place. In addition to fun, food, and fellowship, each of the different church groups made a video recording of a skit in the afternoon. In the evening, they watched each other’s skits, plus a lesson from the camp coordinators via video technology. Our girls were also privileged to hear Sis. Jane’s testimony.

“He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered...” Psalm 111:4

Our prayers go out to Bro. Sam (Sis. Becky) Ringger, Sis. Joyce Baumgartner, Sis. Gayla (Bro. Steve) Gerber, and Tony Shively, who have been hospitalized this past month.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Cindy Shorb (Bro. Brett), Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bro. Ed), Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val), and Sis. Sheri Moser (Bro. Dave, Bluffton, IN), as well as Greg Leman (Lela), Kari Rogan (Laura), Ron Leman (Kathy) and Jon Leman (Tammy), wish to express their thanks for the prayers and kindness during the illness and passing of their father, Wally Leman, (Sis. Marilyn, Roanoke, IL).

Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.” Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31

Four times in one chapter of the Bible, the same verse is used! It reminds us to praise the Lord as the psalmist says, “for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.”

God is so good and we have so much to thank him for! Even in (and sometimes especially in) difficult times, God’s mercy, love and grace shine more brightly, and he brings light to our dark days, and good out of bad situations.

During this time of distancing and less physical fellowship, we have had an opportunity to “fellowship” on a “Zoom night” on Tuesday evenings. It is special to see the dear faces of our loved ones and to hear a little of what others are experiencing.

We were saddened to hear that our dear Bro. Willis Gudeman (Sis. Margaret) fell and broke his hip, but we’re encouraged when he had a successful hip replacement. However, God had
other plans for Bro. Willis, and he peacefully went to sleep in Jesus’ arms at the hospital. We will miss Willis’s loving and dear presence with us, but rejoice for him, that his earthly race has been won. We extend sympathy and prayers of comfort to his loving family including his dear wife, Sis. Margaret, four children, Bro. Dale (Sis. Peg), Sis. Doreen Steffen (Bro. Barry, Washington D.C.), Sis. Debbie Nuest (Bro. Don), Sis. Donna Putt (Bro. Mike) and all the extended family.

Many prayers have been offered for the following loved ones with health concerns: Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry), Bro. Roger Ward (Sis. Sandi), Sandi’s dad, Bill Long, and Jerry Hendershot (brother to Sis. Connie Linback and Sis. Karen Albrecht).

Indiana, Indianapolis

Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier

With the continuing shut down, we have been missing each other at church but appreciating the blessing of virtual church. Our theme of the Fruit of the Spirit has been a rich reminder of our Father’s attributes and character and how he works out his sanctification in us through the Holy Spirit.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold and Bro Ben and Sis. Suzanne Graham at the passing of their father Bro. Dick Graham (Princeville, IL). His grandchildren are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kaylin Bollier and Sis. Teryn Leuthold and Sis. Tristan, Adrian, Elias, Makaya, Claire, Cutler and Locklen Graham.

Sis. Lauren Moser also said goodbye to her grandfather Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Mark and Sis. Laurissa Wuethrich and Caleb and Julianna Wuethrich are also mourning the loss of their grandmother, Sis. Carol Bucher, (Valparaiso, IN). Our sympathy and prayers are with each of them as they process the loss of their beloved family member and focus on the eternal reward.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed whose mother, Sis. Doris Neuenschwander, (Bluffton, IN) went home to be with the Lord. Doris and her husband Chuck had been one of the first couples in our Indianapolis church when it was started.

In the last month, our church was able to start meeting with restrictions and guidelines, but we were all happy to see one another and fellowship in the parking lot. We are living in strange times and much grace needs to be shown to one another as many have differing convictions and comfort levels moving forward. Thankfully, long before the pandemic, our ministers decided to start a series on the Fruit of the Spirit. It has been very timely and met us where we all have needs.

There were three graduates this year, Bro. Drew Klopfenstein (Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby), Sis. Chloe Sprunger (Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara) and Grace Bucher (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kim). Although this year turned out differently than they had planned, we wish them all God’s blessings as they move forward to their future plans.

Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer welcomed Clive Canaan into their family. His older siblings are Liliana, Micaiah, Simeon and Zander. We rejoice with their sweet family for this special gift of life!

Indiana, LaCrosse

Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

As time has passed and positive changes have occurred, we, like the psalmist of old, are so very glad to again assemble in the house of the Lord. While the routine is somewhat different, we are thankful to smile, worship, and have Sunday school together in person.

On one of these Sundays, we were able to have a special service and congratulate our graduate, Kendon Gudeman, as he finishes high school and begins a new chapter in his life. The message, from Psalm 1 and Matthew 7, was convicting to each of us, as it applies to every stage.

“Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8
Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

During this time of social distancing, it can be difficult to express our sympathy to those who lose a loved one. We reached out in prayer and love to our Sis. Cheri Blunier (Bro. Bill) and Bro. Brad Leman (Sis. Charla) and their families. Cheri’s youngest brother, Benjie Joos, of Illinois passed away suddenly of a heart attack. Brad lost his grandfather, Bro. Wally Leman (Sis. Marilyn, Roanoke, IL). Regardless of the current conditions, we trust they feel our loving care for them.

We sent wedding anniversary congratulations to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein on May 31. Through fifty years of marriage, God has been their anchor. We appreciate their testimony of his faithfulness.

Other victims of the current restrictions are our graduating high school seniors. Their last year of high school was unprecedented and will make a great story to tell their kids and grandkids in the future! Our best wishes and prayers for God’s guidance go to our graduates: Sis. Dayla Drayer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather), Landon Kilgus (Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy), Max Laukhuf (Bro. Mick and Sis. Lisa), convert Jasmine Lombard (Bro. Rob and Sis. Sierra Parker), Bro. Reed Maibach (Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie), Sis. Callista Rager (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Michaela Slagel (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kristen).

Our heartfelt thanks to our faithful Sunday school teachers who have adapted their method of teaching under very trying conditions. They spent lots of time and energy using alternate means of bringing the Truth to our students. Currently, we are on a Sunday school summer break.

May the little seeds the teachers have planted fall on fertile heart-soil and bring an abundant crop, by God’s grace.

Sunday, June 7, was our first Sunday service in our church building. Only those under the age of sixty-five, who had registered their desire, were eligible to attend. The registration was needed to determine if more than one service would need to be held. Social distancing and wearing masks was required.

The next Sunday, all ages were welcomed and masks were not required, but social distancing was practiced. After the morning service, a parking lot picnic was held by those who wished to bring their own lunch and lawn chairs! The weather was absolutely gorgeous and the fellowship was absolutely delicious! COVID-19 restrictions definitely sharpened our appreciation for being with our church family.

Satan tempts us to become confused, discouraged and stressed with all the distressing current events bombarding us, The Word provides relief:

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

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

As another month goes by, normal life is a ways off, but familiar things creep back into our lives.

We are thankful for the creativity and dedication of our congregation to be able to set up a way for VBS to take place. It felt a bit different, but God’s truth was declared and hearts were stirred.

We want to thank Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL), Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Tim Drayer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN) for sharing truth with us. We studied lies we believe about God, ourselves, sin and the church. We were challenged and blessed. May God continue to reveal wrong thinking and lead us to freedom in Christ.

We ask for prayers for Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn as he begins cancer treatment. We also want to lift up Bro. Ray Haab as he was recently hospitalized. The virus challenges make health treatment a very different experience when no visitors are allowed. May God grant comfort and healing.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful that here in Indiana the declining number of coronavirus cases and the
government’s guidelines have allowed us to worship together in person again, although in a somewhat different form than we are used to. It’s such a tremendous blessing to be able to see each other again! I recognize that not all of our congregations are in this same position, and we want to remember them in our prayers. I am also thankful for our elders and for the HarvestCall medical committee advisors for their wisdom and leadership of the church through this difficult time. I pray that God will continue to guide their decisions and recommendations.

Sis. Benita Bahler (Bro. Mark) recently had surgery. Brock Nieman (Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea) also spent some time in the hospital as a result of an accident with a hay baler. We want to remain prayerful for both of them.

We bid a fond farewell to Sis. Faith Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cynde, Nashville, TN), who is going back to live in Nashville with her family after spending a couple of years here. We will miss Sis. Faith’s presence with us and pray that the Lord will continue to watch over her and bless her on this next phase of her life. We hope she comes back to visit often!

We also bid farewell to Sis. Kayla Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette), although her absence is planned to be temporary. Sis. Kayla will be spending the summer in Magdalena, Mexico assisting with the summer camps at Casa Vida y Esperanza. We pray for Sis. Kayla that God will bless her time in Mexico and bring her back safely to us, if that is his will.

We apologize that we neglected to report Bro. Austin Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) graduated last December from Purdue University. We pray that God will continue to guide Bro. Austin as he seeks to live out God’s will for his life.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

Even with all the changes brought by the COVID-19 virus, we trust God our Father, who loves us, and gives us eternal comfort! Our prayers for healing are with Sis. Jill Lehman (Bro. Don) who twisted her knee and is having trouble getting around. God is moving in the hearts of our young ones and given us cause to rejoice! We are so thankful that Ezekiel Martinez (Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna) has professed a need of a Savior and has started his repentance.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” Ephesians 6:10

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

Our verse for the month is: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35

We have finished one of our Wednesday night Bible studies in Acts and we are now doing a Bible study series of Abraham. These have been done in a virtual setting thanks to Bro. Tim Bucher. Things are so different these days but with the will to seek him, he does provide a way.

Sis. Lois Bucher was not feeling well and had to have a procedure done. She is back to feeling much better and wanted to tell everyone thank you for the prayers. She appreciated it so very much. Praise the Lord he always takes care of us.

Our dear Bro. Kyle and Sis. Lindsey and baby Murphy Isch have asked for prayers during this time of change in their lives. They will be going through the process of moving into the houseparent role at Gateway Woods. They began their work the beginning of June. Though the job will be challenging, they are excited to see what God has planned for them. How blessed are they that answer God’s call.

Sis. Dawn Ailes’s brother-in-law Drew McClanahan went through the Whipple surgery on June 11, in Chicago, IL. This is normally a 6-8-hour surgery and very extensive with a yearlong recovery. Praise the Lord his surgery was successful and he is now cancer-free!
Indiana, West Lafayette

Libby Wahl

Congratulations to Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne Schieler, joyful grandparents of Lincoln Otto born May 16 to Chase and Amy Schull, (Indianapolis, IN). His ‘big’ brother Gabe is so excited. Congratulations also to Bro. Brad and Sis. Amber Widmer on the arrival of a son, Rese Bradley, born June 12. He will add some spark to Quincy and Brandys’ world.

We are rejoicing in testimonies and a baptism scheduled for Sunday, July 5. Having previously experienced new birth and baptism as a young adult, Austin Roe desires fellowship in our denomination. He will share his testimony early Sunday morning. Autumn Ross also desires to share her testimony followed by baptism. Autumn is the oldest daughter of Bro. Rodney and Sis. Jennifer Ross.

Our continued appreciation goes to Bro. Ryan Meister and the local COVID-19 Task committee for helping us navigate guideline updates to our worship services. A big thanks, too, to our minister Bro. Kirk Platter and the Midweek Service committee for scheduling a rotation of summer blessings including: topical studies, personal testimonies, prayer service and song worship.

“... for mine house shall be called the house of prayer for all people.” Isaiah 56:7

“... It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer ...” Matt. 21:13

Indiana, Wolcott

Teresa Earney, Luann Gerber

We have so much to be thankful for this month in Wolcott! We have 5 graduates from high school that are ready to begin a new step in their life. They are Nanci Bahrer (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi), Erin Bahrer (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody), Dustin Blume (Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica), Danny Lehman (Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) and Timothy Wagenbach (Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica). We pray God will be with them and guide them!

Sis. Rebekah Edelman and Bro. Ezra Fritz have announced their engagement and we are rejoicing with them! Their parents are Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (Nashville, TN). May God shower them with blessings and love!

A very precious new baby boy has come to bless the lives of Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany Drayer! Dirk Ray will get lots of attention from his delighted big brothers and sisters! They are Hannah, Naomi, Stacy, Tabitha, Isaiah, Amy, Keith and Esther. Grandparents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Peg Aschliman and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer, all from Bluffton.

Our sweet Isaac Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Becky) had minor surgery this month and it went great! He is looking forward to moving to Morton in the near future to live in a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) at LifePoints. Our church family has been beyond blessed by this young man through the years and we will deeply miss him!

On April 19, Jalen Bahler gave his testimony and was baptized. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) was here to help Elder Bro. Greg Lehman in this wonderful event. Since it was during the COVID-19 shut down, there was a drive by reception after the baptism. We are thankful and joyful to welcome Bro. Jalen into the brotherhood!

Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

We continue to lift Sis. Charlotte Teubel up in prayer as she is taking treatments for her thyroid cancer. We also are keeping Elder Bro. Doug Schock in our prayers as he is dealing with a kidney stone.

As we commemorate the July 4 holiday, may we be ever thankful for all our freedoms in this country.

Note of Thanks:

To our beloved international church family: Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, kindnesses, and encouragement sent our way during Sis. Clara’s recovery and rehab. It has been a long and arduous process, but it was blessed of the Lord and so many of you, the saints. Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock.
Iowa, Burlington
Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

1 Thessalonians 5:16 tells us to “Rejoice evermore.” That means rejoicing in good times when it’s easy and in challenging times when it’s not. We did find it easy to rejoice when Burlington reopened their doors for a morning service on Sunday and our normal evening service on Wednesday. It’s special for our church family to listen-in on a Sunday school lesson given by our brothers each week. This assists in social distancing, and it takes place before our Sunday morning service.

Due to COVID-19, our annual Sunday school picnic was cancelled this year. Our church family is disappointed, but we look forward to time together in the future.

My grandma, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), was one week away from her 100th birthday when she went to be with Jesus. I was inspired by her steady life of faith and kind outreach to others, making it a bittersweet goodbye. Thank you to those who sent cards, texts, and prayed for us during that time.

We continue to pray for those from our church family who remain at home, some who are dealing with difficult health issues. We each have our own set of struggles and challenges, yet how much glory can be given to God when we still rejoice!

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

"Every morning, a lovely kind word we must say,
Before we leave the house today.
So much can happen throughout the day,
“Who knows if we shall see each other again,” we say.
A lovely word we must say,
Before we go to sleep at night.
Who knows if we will awake the next day
To see the morning light.
Our life so quickly passes by,
We’re not alone, redemption draweth nigh.
The last word you had said to me,
The question you asked, what can it be?
So may our last word be one of kindness.
Remember, it may be our last,
So let it be the finest."
Poem submitted by Bro. Paul Butikofer

"A Father’s Prayer
Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to thee:
Before his eyes were closed in sleep
He asked that Thou his soul would keep;
And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My hand upon his tousled head,
Do ask with deep humility,
That Thou, dear Lord, remember me,
Make me, lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.
O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or even marred by me.
So for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I trembling, ask the same from Thee:
Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me."
-Author Unknown

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

We have started having morning worship services in God’s physical house. We follow the guidelines given us. We are enjoying physically seeing each other and being able to fellowship while social distancing.

God speaks of us as little children. We expect our children to listen when we speak to them. Do we become frustrated when we must continue to repeat ourselves when speaking to anyone? We were reminded to listen when God speaks. Will God become frustrated and quit speaking to us?

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We rejoice with our convert Garett Butikofer that he has found peace with God and man. We pray he will continue to feel...
our Lord’s grace and peace as he awaits baptism.

We are praying for God’s comfort and grace for the family of Sis. Joyce Eland, who died May 18. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Brad, and her children: Bro. Christopher, Wendy Weyrick (Ben), Lisa DuBrava (Keith), and Ryan (Beverly). She also left eleven beloved grandchildren. It seems somewhat fitting that Joyce’s funeral should be the first ever held in our church, since she and Bro. Brad were one of only two couples still attending who have been here since our local church was established here in North Liberty almost forty-two years ago. She will be greatly missed by our church family and others who were blessed by her godly example and influence. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), who was blessed by her special influence during his years in Iowa City, was able to have Sis. Joyce’s funeral service.

Iowa, Lester

Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

Sunday, May 24, was the day we started Phase One of assembling at church. Thus far it is working well. The weather was ideal for the annual Sunday school picnic held in the church parking lot. A drive-through style was used to pick up the to-go meals and meet the teachers.

We are thankful Gabi Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Carla) has begun her repentance. We wish her much grace and God’s guidance. Maddie Molitor (Carol) is engaged to marry Tristan Wylie in July.

Surgical patients were Mitchell Knoblock (Bro. Thadd and Sis. Wendy), Ella Leuthold (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lee) and Bro. Delbert Knobloch (Sis. June). Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome) is resuming chemo treatments. Our prayers are with them and so many others with health concerns.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harlan, Sis. Betty and Jesse Wulf in the loss of her mother, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Latty, OH). We enjoyed having Sis. Catherine spend time visiting us in past years.

Three little girls have blessed the following homes. On June 5, Kora Jo was welcomed by Bro. Ross and Sis. Abby Mogler and her three brothers Khye, Kamden and Kian. Grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois Mogler and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS). On June 14, Grant and Becky Metzger became first time parents to Alethea Ann. Welcoming her are grandparents Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger. On June 15, Bro. Tyler, Sis. LaChelle and Brynnlee Metzger were joined by Cambrie Lynn. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria Moser.

Iowa, Mediapolis

Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz

We are so thankful to be able to go to church again, after three months of home church! It is such a blessing to be able to worship with our church family, even if it is currently a little different than what we are accustomed to. I think we have all learned a lot about not taking for granted the privilege of worshipping and fellowshipping with one another.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach are happy to have a new granddaughter to love. Anika Raquel was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Diana Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner also welcome a granddaughter into their family circle, as Joanna Renee was born to Bro. Cameron and Sis. Erika Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Our prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank, as Bro. Dale’s sister, Sis. Joyce Eland (Bro. Brad, Iowa City, IA) passed away unexpectedly. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Elva Gerst in the passing of her sister, Ruth Moser.

Iowa, West Bend

Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt

We enjoyed our monthly all church singing outside on the fellowship center lawn. It was a blessing to sing hymns together and see many we haven’t been able to see for some time.

“By embracing Faith, instead of fear, we become an example of the Love and Strength needed to help change the World. Peace was NEVER won with violence and Faith has NEVER been met with darkness. Let us become the deliverers of Hope through our intention to make the World a better place, ONE moment and ONE action at a time.” Louise Hay
Japan, Shioda and Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue, Carrie Ito

We are all thankful for another month of the Lord’s nearness and strength. Among us, though, are close relatives that are hospitalized and gravely ill at this time. We are keeping them in our daily prayers and commit them to our Heavenly Father’s loving care.

We are also very thankful to return to our church home for our worship services. It is a joy to sit together. For several months we could only listen and view on camera the Word preached. After the service, each one would usually comment how their week of daily life was going. This was a great blessing when we could not see each other in person. The Lord surely provided for us. We’ve also enjoyed seeing Sunday school students and their parents attending services.

Shioda church is thankful for a new convert! Koshin Furuya is a college student who has attended our church since childhood, so we rejoice to see God answer our prayers. Please pray for him as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold

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

With this verse in mind, we think of our high school graduates! As they close one chapter and open a new chapter in life, our prayer is that wherever God leads them, they will let their light for Jesus shine bright! Congratulations to Amber Menold (Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda), Alyssa Strahm (Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet), and Jared Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila).

Our church family was so thankful to be able to gather together again for Sunday worship on June 7! God has really opened our eyes, that when we think we can do life “alone”, we can’t. Simply, we need each other. We need our church family. We need to encourage each other. We need to pray for each other. We need to laugh together, and we need to cry together. As our congregations all move at a different pace or direction at reassembling, we pray that we will all continue to be encouraged. God has been faithful!

We want to send a special thanks to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Taylor, MO), for spending Wednesday evening, June 10, with us as part of our VBS agenda. Bro. Scott spoke to us on ‘Jesus, the Good Shepherd.’ It was so refreshing and uplifting to be reminded that when we are questioning our life, circumstances, or situations, we are still being gently guided by our loving shepherd. He cares so intimately for us as his sheep…..enough that he gave his life to cover our sins!

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

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

Although we have appreciated the technology of the Zoom program to view our local ministers, services, and our dear fellow church family, nothing can compare to sitting in the house of God around his Word in person! However, during the weeks of isolation we were able to keep up with our church brothers, sisters, and friends. The Sunday morning Zoom visits were such a blessing to us who truly missed seeing our dearly loved church family, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have utilized this new technology.

Although our congregation has only been having one service on Sundays, we will soon move to resume the normal format of two services and a fellowship/lunch hour. We appreciate the endeavors of our ministering brothers and church trustees to get us back on schedule!

We appreciate the dear ones who have taken the time to stop by and worship with us the last few Sundays, even though we were operating at “half-mast” with only one service. Your visits were an encouragement to us!

Several in our midst have had medical issues, including surgery for Sis. Millie Frieden, who is now home and recuperating. We pray for the Lord’s healing touch for all who are in need, and especially for our nation at this turbulent time as well.

Kansas, Lamont
Maria Luthi

While we have continued to meet over Zoom for most of this month, we were overjoyed to have our first Sunday back in church on June 14! It was so beautiful to
meet in-person and see everyone together worshipping, despite the extra safety measures in place that made the service seem a little different. The psalmist’s words resonated deeply with us, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

We wish to extend thanks to our two visiting ministers who shared the Word over Zoom with us; Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO) and Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

A group of men and boys in our congregation enjoyed an evening of fishing, a cookout, and camping while some of the ladies and girls enjoyed time together picnicking and fellowshipping. We cherish the great blessing of being able to spend time together again with those who are dearest to us.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Albert Edelman and his family and we are thankful he has recovered from pneumonia after just a short hospital stay.

As we begin to gather again and get back into our churches, let us keep the mind of Christ and “in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3

There are many opinions and perspectives all around us. May we never forget all the time spent apart when we wished we could gather. May we never take each other for granted. Christ’s very blood was spilled for us and his body is so precious.

Kansas, Sabetha
Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, bowels of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:12-15

After many weeks of worshipping apart, we are very thankful to be reassembling again as a church family. In times of separation we are reminded just how much we appreciate the blessing of fellowship.

We rejoice with Matthew Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Collen) as he has repented and given his life to the Lord. May he feel the church’s love and encouragement as he seeks to give his all to the Lord.

We are always thankful for a growing church family and we want to welcome Sis. Emma Hoerr who has recently moved from Taylor, MO to our retirement village. We also welcome Bro. Jordan and Sis. Leah Rokey and their children, Ava, Jake, and Elsa, as they’ve moved from Bluffton, IN. May the Lord bless each as they settle into their new homes.

Kansas, Wichita
Niklaus and Sara Schrader

Praise the Lord we were able to begin having church again on May 31. Though the procedures are different than usual, it’s still encouraging to see one another and fellowship. We were thankful to have Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA) preach via Zoom on Sunday, June 12. Congratulations to Harrison Metzger on his high school graduation. We pray for God’s guidance and protection over him in his college endeavors. Ann Warner has improved significantly and sometime soon she will hopefully move back to her apartment in Hutchinson.

In times of uncertainty we should remember Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” 1 Thess. 1:2-3

So thankful for each brother and sister that has worked, labored and patiently hoped for the time of reassembling in church. It has been a blessing to come together again—to sing, to visit and to work together to make our worship services as normal as possible, despite the face masks and physical
distancing required by the local authorities. Also thankful for the connection we have developed digitally during this time and trust that God will use all these circumstances for good.

Sis. Carmen Garcia is grieving the loss of her sister Ramona, albeit with hope, as she received the Word and testified of faith in Jesus Christ. She is thankful for the prayers and the love expressed in various ways.

México, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

Greetings in the name of Jesus!
On June 4, Bro. Seth and Sis. Jodi Gerber welcomed Raelyn Keyla into their family. Excited foster siblings are Osmara and Jorge. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN). As a community, we are thrilled to get to be a part of little Raelyn’s life and ask God to bless her family as they teach her the ways of Jesus.

We ask for prayers for Maria Jesús Garcia who attends church here and for her family. She is hospitalized at this time. Please pray for God’s healing and peace.

Due to a continued increase in virus cases here in Magdalena, we are still in the phase of highest precautions and have not begun church services yet. Please pray for each of us that we would continue to connect with one another through technology and most importantly use this time to invest in our relationship with God!

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

We are so blessed to be worshipping together again. Although some things have changed, God’s Word remains the same, His love never fails, and he has not forsaken us. What sweet comfort this brings to our hearts as we work to adapt to the differences coming our way.

Our prayers ascend to the Almighty for many who are ill, going through treatment, or struggling with physical or emotional hardships. There are many whom we know, and also those we may hear of through media who are in severe trials. May we be faithful in prayer for others and choose gratefulness in every circumstance, understanding that knowing Jesus Christ is our greatest blessing.

As the fathers and sons prepared for a camp-out this weekend, there was a buzz in the air. The annual tradition did not disappoint, and the memories and stories are already being shared of boating, fishing, and campfires. My thoughts and prayers go to those who will spend their first Father’s Day without their fathers here on earth. And as many did not spend Mother’s Day with their mothers this year, it seems we are celebrating both of our parents this weekend.

“I witnessed a small child bow his head in prayer today. My heart was touched as he repeated his mommy...his own way. I would not have understood what this little boy was saying, but his older siblings told me quick “He thanked mommy for the food” while praying. I’ve heard these children pray before as after a meal they ‘finished up’. It took both mommy and daddy to teach them to be thankful for what they sup. This all brought back special memories of what our mother taught us to say, before and after each meal, then dad would at night kneel with us to pray. What a gift to give your children when you teach them the importance of prayer, and of our Heavenly Father who hears us and is of everything, fully aware.” ibG.res

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

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

As distress amongst the country continues to escalate, we find comfort and solace in knowing and praying to God and giving thanks that he is the giver of peace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy and Jane Wackerle as Randy recently had surgery and Jane recovers from a fall.

As we begin to reassemble after months apart, evidence of God’s mercy and grace is present. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to reconnect with those who we have not had fellowship with for several months.
Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Hello! Recently I was reading a book (I am not taking credit for this idea) and a light turned on in my brain. It was really powerful and I shared it with my husband and daughter. In essence, the book reminded the reader that we were made to create as humans. We create meals, pictures, books, medicines, vehicles, clothes, etc. We don't even realize that we are all creating something every day. The kicker is, everything we create can be broken down until every piece can be traced back to God. Therefore, we cannot create anything that did not have its origin with God. Essentially, we are simply using God's raw elements and materials. For example, a recipe's ingredients can be broken down one by one into something God started. Simple example: an egg. It came from a chicken that was born from God from parent chickens, also made of God. The chicken dutifully lays an egg. We then collect or buy the eggs and use them. It is the same with everything we see or use. We did not make gravity, water, dirt, animals, or create people. We use our brains and bodies, also made by God, to use God's materials to create everything we see around us. This may seem kind of obvious to some, but it was something I had never really thought about.

Speaking of creating, we are thankful to again be creating music, fellowship and worship together in God's house with the gifts he has given to each of us. It was so good after the services finished the last two weeks to be able to go outside in the beautiful sunshine and spend some time talking and sharing after being physically apart for several months. We want to recognize all of the extra effort made by many within our congregation to continue worship services during the quarantine. Our ministers, Sunday school teachers and those with skills in technology allowed all of us to stay connected to our church family during this period of quarantine. We also want to express our thankfulness to those who have been so generous with their time to plan our physical return to church services in a safe and reasonable manner.

Minneapolis, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

Greetings of love and peace from Minneapolis.

Oh what a beautiful morning, as we celebrate the generous and much needed rain, the Lord provided for us last night! What a view to look outside, as the grass already appears greener! The many birds, searching for good eats, and a chipmunk that skitters about, collecting the harvest of seeds washed down the gutter, seem to be celebrating too! Giving thanks and praise to our great heavenly Father!

Although many who succumb to the culture around us may not feel the joy that God intends for us. Cry out to him, as David did, in Psalm 4:1, 8:

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer"

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."

As the lyrics say, in the beloved Hymns of Zion #186, "Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." We pray for all to follow him and know his peace.

Our Reassembly Committee met to determine the guidelines for worship back in church with lessening restrictions. Thank you to those whose efforts led to re-gathering on June 14. Some with concerns continue to tune in via Zoom or listen through AC Central to hear God’s precious word.

We lift up our loved ones in prayer who have health concerns. Bro. Doug Messner (Sis. Sue), spent time in the hospital, as well as Sis. Sheryl Luthi, in the past weeks. Bob Messer is out of his coma and was moved to a hospital in Duluth. Lord willing, Sis. Diane Stewart (Bro. David) will have hip replacement surgery in the coming week after patiently waiting for surgeons to resume their normal schedules. May they, and so many others who are hurting, feel the healing powers only God can provide.

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes go out to Anthony Rocke (Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie) on his high school graduation! May God’s guidance and direction be a blessing for Anthony in his future decisions.
Minnesota, Morris
Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

We wish the best to our graduates this year, Easton Hacker (Bro. Andy and Sis. Echo) from high school and Tess Steiner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill), Joanna Moser (Jon and Lori), and Ashlee Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy) from college. We pray that they will look to him for direction as they make plans for their future.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

It seems the old saying, “absence makes the heart grow fonder” is really true! Oh, how good it is to gather together in our church building again. We are grateful, and look forward to the Sundays when we can once again have a noon meal and afternoon service.

Our hearts rejoice with the angels to hear of souls giving their lives to God. Taylor and Harrison Zeltwanger, (Bro. Adam and Sis Christy) have begun their walk of faith. We are so thankful and encouraged.

Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger

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Minnesota, Winthrop
Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll

Our prayers are with Karen Smith who is recovering from an injury and also for Scott Van Deest and his family (son of Sis. Nancy and Bro. Dick) as he is hospitalized and recovering from multiple surgeries in the brain.

“Honour thy father and thy mother ...” Exodus 20:12

The Lord has so commanded it and our country has set aside a day to recognize and appreciate our mothers and fathers. We’re thankful for their labors of love and most importantly their heritage of faith.

To see the light of grace so clear.”
Assembled Congregation,
Zion’s Harp #207

With thankful hearts we were able to assemble again in our sanctuary as a congregation as our state has slowly been opening up. To sit together and to see loved ones we have not been able to see in many weeks brought much joy.

Note of Thanks:
Sis. Bernadine Messner would like to thank everyone who sent cards and well wishes for her 95th birthday.

Missouri, Kansas City
Katy Frantz

Our church met for the first time in our building on Memorial Day weekend. The past few months have made us appreciate that it’s the individuals that make up Christ’s church, not a physical building. Nonetheless it felt good to have a roof over our heads.

We were blessed with HarvestCall volunteers that organized a VBS for the children in our church. Our kids will have wonderful memories of these brothers and sisters teaching them about being like Daniel, who purposed in his heart.

We were thankful for Bro. Trent Banwart (Sis. Kristi, Fort Scott, KS) taking the time to lead a Bible Study at our VBS program on Friday night.

Missouri, Lamar
Mindy Wettstein

We were blessed to start gathering together again on May 17!
We have been doing a combination of Zoom services and regular services and have been utilizing the fellowship hall for church. We are so thankful for the visiting ministers and their families who have visited us virtually. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN), and retired Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS). On May 31, we enjoyed a day of worshiping virtually with the Lamont, KS brethren as our local minister, Bro. Mark Wettstein, shared the morning message with us, and then we tuned in again in the afternoon to the Word through Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS).

May 30 was a beautiful day to “carol” outside windows at a local Senior living center! We miss hugs and fellowship with them, but are still thankful to see their cheerful faces through a window!

June 13 we enjoyed an outdoor singing with our friends and neighbors followed by snack and fellowship. It was so refreshing to gather together!

**Missouri, Taylor**

**Tami Pfum**

What a joy it has been to once again assemble together the past few weeks as a church family. As we’ve resumed services in an abbreviated manner, it has been common for some to linger outside for over an hour after services end, sharing sweet fellowship together in the fresh air. May we never again take for granted simple privileges like weekly services, sharing a meal together, greeting one another, extending a hand, or sharing a hug.

Although we haven’t been able to offer welcome hugs, we hope that Sis. Megan Grimm (Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia), Sis. Shalise Steidinger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim), and Sis. Shayna Young (Tom and Sis. Jolene) as they begin a new chapter in life. May they feel the Lord lovingly guiding their steps as they make plans for the future.

**New York, Croghan/Naumburg**

**Karen Farney**

We have joy in our hearts as we are able to once again assemble in the house of the Lord. We have been assembling for four Sundays now. The first two Sundays we assembled in our cemetery, and the following two Sundays in our church assembly. Our first gathering was May 24, Memorial Day Weekend. What could have been a more appropriate place than in our church cemetery for this service, as we remembered those dear grandfather, Richard Hessling, Sr. (Quincy, IL); and Sis. Deb Sutter (Bro. Steve) with the loss of her beloved mother, Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Donald, Goodfield, IL). How thankful we are that our hope isn’t in this world only, and that, as Believers, we can look forward to the day when we will one day be reunited with those we love.

This month’s hospital/surgery patients were Sis. Becky Huber (Bro. Vernon, dec. and Sis. Judy) and Noah Heimer (Darin and Danielle). We are thankful they are both able to attend church with us again.

On June 14, our high school graduates were honored with a special service and reception. Congratulations to Katie Grimm (Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia), Sis. Shalise Steidinger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim), and Sis. Shayna Young (Tom and Sis. Jolene) as they begin a new chapter in life. May they feel the Lord lovingly guiding their steps as they make plans for the future.
that have fought the good fight of faith and gone on to their reward.  
"Onward, Christian Soldiers"  
Gospel Hymns #365  
We remember Sis. Alice Virkler in our thoughts and prayers as she has experienced some medical challenges. Praying God will bless her and others with his mercy, grace, peace and love.

Ohio, Akron  
Joelle Indermuhle  
“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1  
We have one high school graduate this year: Connor Botosan (Bro. Victor and Sis. Tammy). We wish Connor God’s blessings as he begins this new chapter in his life.

Our congregation is excited that we have two more engagements to announce. They are Bro. Steven Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Melissa Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira) and also Bro. Matthew Pamer (Steve and Arliss) and Sis. Rachel Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer, Rittman, OH). We pray that these engaged couples would seek God’s direction as they plan for their future together.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Sis. Janice Graf in her recent passing. Her children are Lisa Graf of Copley, OH; Scott and Denise Graf of Copley, OH; Julie and Bill Skinner of Medina, OH; and Craig Graf of Fairlawn, OH.

Ohio, Junction  
Karen Schlatter  
Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy Miller (Shirley) as he recently fell from a ladder and is slowly healing. We wish him a full recovery.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Elizabeth Manz welcomed Benson William into their family on May 29. Betsie and Zane are excited to have a new brother. Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz and Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Schrenk are the grandparents.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie McCullough became first time grandparents when their daughter Sis. Sierra and Bro. John Rosswurm (Latty, OH) had a baby boy, Trace Alan, also born on May 29. May these young couples be granted Godly wisdom as they raise their children.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Heidi Schlatter’s (Bro. Doug) father, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH). They often visited us in Junction when they would come to stay with Doug and Heidi. We appreciated the Words of Life he would share with us over the pulpit. We sorrow with the Domka family but rejoice that Bro. Fred has gone on to his reward.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Psalms 116:15  
We sympathize with Tiffany Hurd (Mark) in the passing of her father, Lawrence Wright. Although most of us never met him, we mourn with Tiffany and her family as we know the important role dads play in a family circle. May she feel our love and support at this time of loss.

On Sunday, June 21 was the wedding of Sis. Hannah Schrenk and Bro. Bob Baer (Bradford, IL). We are thankful for the visitors who were able to attend the wedding including Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). We will miss Sis. Hannah as they will be making Bradford, IL their home. We encourage them to visit us often.

Ohio, Latty  
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller  
Greetings of love! We were blessed to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms for our converts Sam Rager (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sherri), Sadie Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene), and Julie Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane). Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) joined us for the weekend, along with Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). We also would like to thank Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for his inspiring message to us this month.


We wish God’s richest blessings upon our high school graduates. They include Nathan Gerber (Shawn and Sis. Shane),
Kaleb Keysor (Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer), Andrew Sinn (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joy), Claire Sinn (Bro. Duane and Carrie), and Miriam Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene). May they look to the good Lord for his guidance and direction in their lives.

We bid farewell to two souls this month. Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond, dec.) went to her heavenly home just days before her 100th birthday. Our love and sympathy are with her children, Bro. Leon (Sis. Deb), Sis. Betty Wulf (Bro. Harlan, Lester, IA), and Bro. Jerry (Sis. Cherry), along with her extended family. Bro. Bill Laukhuf (Janice) also finished his earthly life. Along with his wife, he is survived by his children, Treva Steele (Gary, Anchorage, AK), Trenna Elliott (Tom, Kansas City, MO), Kara Cobb (Edward, Henderson, KY), and Laurel Wolna (David, Grand Rapids, MI). May the Holy Spirit provide comfort to these families as only he can.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

We extend warm congratulations and pray a blessing upon our 2020 high school graduates. Graduating this year are Allie Blevins (Laurence and Erica), Hannah Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy), and Thomas Beer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci). May they seek God’s guidance through every step of life’s journey.

Our hearts keenly feel the passing of our Bro. Fred Domka from this life into eternity. We offer sincere condolences and prayers for his wife, Sis. Connie, their children: Rick (Rebecca), Sis. Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Doug, Junction, OH), Sis. Tonya Miller (Bro. Marlin, Rittman, OH), and Ryan, and for each grandchild. Sis. Ruth Domka is in our thoughts as she mourns the loss of her son. We also think of Carolyn Batten, Dan Domka (Mary Ann), and Eileen Van Patten in the loss of their brother. Bro. Fred served nearly 38 years preaching the inspired Word of God and leaves a powerful legacy of integrity to each who has known him.

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6

We pray the comfort of sweet memories be near to each one who misses Bro. Fred’s presence. May memories of Godly lives lived inspire us to choose the path of striving to follow Jesus. And in the example of our brother, let’s not forget to smile along the way.

“All the way my Saviour leads me; Oh the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father’s house above, When my spirit cloth’d immortal, Wings its flight to realms of day, This my song through endless ages - Jesus led me all the way; This my song thro’ endless ages - Jesus led me all the way.”

All the Way My Saviour Leads Me, Hymns of Zion # 21

Ohio, Rittman
Maria Beery, Julie Steiner

“Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices, Who from our mother’s arms Has bles us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.”

All Come and Thank the Lord, Zions Harp # 236

We are thankful Bro. Tom Hill (Sis. Elaine) has received support from our congregation to serve in the ministry. We appreciate his willingness to serve and give his family our prayers and support!

We rejoice with our new converts, Faith Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy), Calla Steiner (Bro. Joel and Sis. Katrina), and Marion Bauman (Sis. Delores) and pray God will be near them during their repentance.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Scott Steiner (Sis. Cindy) in the passing of his mother, Pat Steiner (Bro. Rich, Smithville, OH), and with Sis. Tonya Miller (Bro. Marlin) in the passing of her father, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH). We take comfort in our hope of heaven!

Congratulations and God’s blessings to our graduates! They are Aubrey Csapo (Bro. Matt and Sis. Darlene), Sis. Samaria Henry (Bro. Buck and Sis. Taunia), Sis. Tori Ingold (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joanna), Brendan Lanz (Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee), Sis. Brenda Ramsier (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra), Christopher Schar (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda),
Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita), Bro. Jonah Steiner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea), Bro. Reed Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill), Dylan Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan), and Ryan Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Michelle).

Ben Schar (Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki) and Rachel Schmidt were united in marriage. Several weeks later, the engagement of Sis. Rachel Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Matthew Pamer of Akron, OH (Steve and Arliss) was made known. We wish these couples the best as they enter this new stage of life.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery welcomed another granddaughter, Carlie Lynae. She will be loved by her parents, Bro. Tyler and Sis. Leah Endress (Bradford, IL) and older siblings Jesse and Jacie. Jerry and Sarah Riggenbach and big sister Gracie are thankful for the safe arrival of Peyton Joe. Grandparents are Joe and Sis. Karen Riggenbach.

We want to remember Bro. Vince Hartzler (Sis. Jane), Harold Bauman (Sharon), Jeff Maibach (Elsie), and Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman in our prayers as they spent time in the hospital this month.

“All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav’n adore,
Who is and shall survive,
Now and forever more.”
All Come and Thank the Lord, Zions Harp # 236

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

A breakfast and drive through party was held to honor our graduating seniors. Daniel’s request for pulse and water instead of the king’s meat and wine as recorded in Daniel 1 in the Bible was meditated on. The countenances of Daniel and his friends remained the fairest because they trusted in God for their wisdom and strength. We pray the same for Sis. Kate Dotterer (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura), Livi Beard (Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith), Haven Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee), Kyria Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee), and Justin Fisher (Val and Bro. Dave, deceased) as they move on from high school. Congratulations to our eighth grade graduates as well; Leah Hartzler (Bro. Eric and Sis Jami), Mara Beard (Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith), and Wyatt Joos (Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy).

“And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58:11

The Sunday school students enjoyed an afternoon of outside activities at our annual picnic. The meal was followed by a time of song and a message by Bro. Dana Indermuhle reminding them how “Jesus Loves the Little Children”! Special thanks to our superintendent and speaker for their efforts; it was an uplifting time for all who could attend.

Ohio, Smithville
Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

“All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who thro’ life has been my guide?
Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate’er befell me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate’er befell me,
Jesus doeth all things well.”
All the Way My Saviour Leads, Hymns of Zion #21

“All the way my Saviour leads me; What have I to ask beside?”

Feeling that God has led them together, we were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Kevin Indermuhle and Sis. Crystal Gasser. Parents of this future couple are Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty Indermuhle and Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon Gasser.

“Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who thro’ life has been my guide?”

Boyd Nieman, Sis. Bonnie Nieman, Brandon Bauman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Dawn) Maibach felt God’s tender mercy and healing as they spent time in the hospital this month.

“Heav’ly peace.”

We were so encouraged to hear that Patty Sense is searching for this heav’nly peace and has given her heart to the Lord in humble repentance. Patty is the mother of Bro. Cole (Sis. Mariah) Rudy and we wish her much grace.

“Divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell.”

In need of this divine comfort is Bro. Rich Steiner as he bid farewell to his beloved wife, Pat Steiner.
Also mourning Pat’s loss are her children Lisa Gasser (Eric), Myra Pierce (Mike), Laura Riggenbach (Ryan), Bro. Scott Steiner (Sis. Cindy, Rittman, OH), Bro. Eric Steiner (Sis. Lindsay) and her brother Bro. Bob Klotzle (Sis. Shirley). Our sympathies are extended, as well, to Sis. Amy Dotterer (Bro. Steve) in the loss of her brother-in-law, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and to Sis. Tennille Stoller (Bro. Troy) in the loss of her father, Bro. Bob Kuenzi (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR).

“For I know, whate’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.”

Ohio, Toledo
Anne Baumann, Rebekah Witzig

Loving greetings from the Toledo family. We were so blessed, after careful consideration of the recommendations from public agencies and the Apostolic Christian Medical Committee in conjunction with a group of advisors from our own congregation, to reassemble for morning services beginning on Sunday, May 31. Currently, most of our church family has been enjoying a socially distanced reunion after ten weeks of quarantine. Those who are observing the “at risk” precautions and have not rejoined in person, have been able to listen to live services via telephone. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love through Jesus Christ, who is the true “link” we need to connect.

During this time of limited contact, many volunteers came forward to accept supplies and pack hygiene and health kits in their own homes for local shelters and Mexico HarvestCall outreach. Our Toledo families worked together to prepare 75 local kits and are still completing 280 kits for Mexico. It is humbling to witness how willing and enthusiastic everyone has been to help with this work.

Our prayers for comfort and peace go out to the family of our friend, Norma Harmon, 98, who passed away on June 9. She attended church faithfully with her husband, Bro. Jim Harmon, for many years. Norma will be fondly remembered by our congregation as the “gum” lady because she carried a purse full of Wrigley’s choices every week and offered a piece to each person she met.

We were blessed to support Toledo college student, Sadie Sinn, in prayer, as she was baptized at her home congregation in Latty, OH on Sunday, June 14. Our Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna) was able to travel there to assist with the service, for which we were thankful.

In closing, we are joyfully anticipating a groundbreaking service at the new church location this Sunday, June 21. The site is prepared, and now the building phase is scheduled to begin the week of June 22. It seems appropriate that the date of our groundbreaking is observed as Father’s Day in our country for this is to be a house in which to gather for worshipping our heavenly Father. Our prayer is for guidance, safety, and unity under his direction, as in the words of Psalm 127:1, “unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain.”

Ontario, Kitchener
Roselynn Metzger

“These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:17

Sending a warm hello to all from Kitchener! We are excited to announce that we have been given the go ahead to gather in churches again at 30% capacity. We met in person for the first time on June 14 for an afternoon service. It was so good to see everyone and worship together. In the future, we plan to continue gathering for an in-person morning service, and then gather via Zoom for an afternoon service, or some variation similar to this. We have enjoyed having visiting ministers with us this month and love that they could join us on Zoom. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Matt Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) for their willingness to share the word with us! We also gathered for an online midweek service on May 27 and June 10.

As previously mentioned, it was wonderful to meet again, and the message given was so fitting for the present time. Bro. Elmer Gingrich read John 15 and highlighted the importance of loving one another. If there is one thing that the world needs more of, it’s love. Not
human love, superficial love or conditional love. It needs God’s love. Pure, unconditional love that only comes from God. Let’s allow ourselves to be vessels of God’s love for his glory! He has loved us from the beginning of time, now it is our turn to commit ourselves to loving him, giving our lives for his service and glory so that others can learn of this amazing love. Blessings on the coming month!

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” Psalms 37:5

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

Congratulations to our high school graduate Sis. Victoria Hoach (Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam). May God bless and guide her as she begins a new phase in life. We are thankful that despite the state mandated social distancing, a drive-thru graduation event was organized at the near-by Silverton church parking lot, in which Sis. Victoria participated as well.

Our congregation was allowed to start meeting again last Sunday, with a limited number and special safety requirements in place. We remain hopeful and prayerful for a vaccine and a return to some normalcy, while staying healthy at the same time.

We appreciate all the work being done to have church via Zoom. It is a real blessing for those needing to stay home.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

Our congregation welcomed three babies this month!

May 28, Bro. Cameron and Sis. Erika Sinn along with Emmett, welcomed a little girl, Joanna Renee. Grandparents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner, (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn.

May 29, Joseph and Kassaundra Kuenzi welcomed their first child, Lincoln Aaron. Grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Mark and Brenda Sanders.

June 12, Aaron and Anna Luthi along with Grace and Ava, welcomed a little girl, Emma Kay. Grandparents are Wally and Laura Lierman and Bill and Kris Luthi.

Jacob Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) and Elena Smisek (Brandon Smisek and Melissa Staiger) were married June 13. We are thankful for them both and pray for God’s abundant blessings on their marriage as they embark on this journey together.

Bro. Evan and Sis. Kristin Sinn have recently moved to Silverton area from Florida. We are thankful to have them here and pray for a smooth transition.

We are happy to share that Trenton and Lori Sinn have begun their walk with the Lord! God is faithful in his calling and we are thankful for those who continue to respond to his call.

Our dear Bro. Bob Kuenzi (Sis. Linda) passed away June 15 with his family surrounding him and encouraging him toward heaven. Please pray for Sis. Linda and their family during this time of sorrow. It’s a blessing we can find comfort in the fact that Bro. Bob has won the race and is now with our Savior.

Jake and Marissa (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) Rainey are planning to adopt 3 children this summer, Carter, Kelsey, and Isabella. Please pray for God’s grace and nearness as they add to their family!

Due to COVID-19, the majority of us continue to worship via Zoom, however we are allowed to have gatherings of 25 now. It’s been a blessing for our church family to get together despite the small groups and we look forward to the day when, Lord willing, services will return to normal!

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.” Psalms 126:3

The Philadelphia church is certainly “glad” to be worshiping together again in our church building! What a joy to sing together in the sanctuary again! We are thankful for God’s provision and protection during these unsettling times and trust he will continue to take care of his children.

Our prayers are with Bro. Daryl Luginbuhl (Sis. Norma) as he has spent some time in the hospital this month. May God’s love and healing be near us all as we seek to serve him.
**Tennessee, Nashville**

**Mike Fritz**

We are thankful that things are opening back up again in Tennessee, although a little more slowly in Nashville itself. Due to local restrictions, as of late June we have not yet been able to meet together for worship in our church building, but we look forward to the day when that will be possible again.

If you have the opportunity to travel to or through the Nashville area, please plan to fellowship and worship with us. Under normal circumstances, we meet for worship every Sunday. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury, 765.993.8917, jeremy.bradbury1975@gmail.com.

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

**Candy Meiss**

Sending our love and greetings from Austin!

We rejoice and are thankful that we are healthy and met virtually this month. We were able to reopen our church on June 14 with Zoom available to those at home. This month we were blessed from the Word via Zoom by Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN). We are thankful for their willingness to serve. We also enjoyed a Wednesday evening Bible study led by Bro. Duane Reutter before he and Sis. Kay headed back to their home in Connecticut for the summer. We will miss them and look forward to their return to spend the winter months with us.

Recently we heard the news that Bro. Nelson and Sis. Janelle Eisenmann are moving to West Lafayette, IN. We will miss them so much and wish them abundant blessings as we will continue to lift them up in prayer.

*“The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another” Genesis 31:49*

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

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

**Sheena Pelsy**

“Love should grow anew each morning,
Love itself in works should show.
Should each member be adorning,
Christ in us where’er we go!”

*Self Sacrifice, Zions Harp #159*

Love and greetings from the Dallas church. We would like to say thank you to Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) for sacrificing their time and driving up to Dallas so that we could have our first in-person church service. It was such a blessing to be gathered together, singing hymns, and being filled with God’s Holy Word, while still being safe and cautious.

Through Bro. Leland’s preaching and the work of the Holy Spirit, we were reminded of how power and love can abide together. The author of the hymn *Self Sacrifice* places both power and love together where in the world they are kept very separate. Bro. Leland explained that for human nature it is not common to visualize power and love together, but throughout the Bible they are found hand in hand. As we grow and mature spiritually, we see the relation between them because of Jesus! Jesus is a great example of power and love because it is his authority that empowers us, guides us, and sends us. Just like Jesus promised his disciples his constant presence and power when giving them the Great Commission, Jesus promises to always be with us and empower us. Even in a world of chaos, we can show love to one another because he first loved us and continually gives us the strength and grace we need every day.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

**Sarah Wagenbach**

We were thankful to be able to worship and have Sunday school together outdoors for the first time since the pandemic started. It was a blessing to be together. May God richly bless the ministers, wives and families who made it work to join us at our worship service times through video conferencing. They were: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA). While we missed being with them in person, it was a blessing to spend time together.
News and Notices

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1. Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.
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Guesthouse Accommodations:
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
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4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901
Phone: (507) 288-0072

Mid-week Services:
(3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
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Do you desire to grow in the knowledge of Christ and be better equipped to take his gospel message to the lost? This Bible Study has been developed to help you grow in these areas, inspire you to use your gifts in the church to disciple new believers and ultimately help foster a culture of evangelism within the church.

The Study consists of nine lessons that explore the topics: "What is the Gospel?", personally preparing to share, ways to communicate the gospel and overcoming fear when sharing. Additionally, the Study explores the importance of the role of the church in outreach, fostering a culture of evangelism and the blessings of God that result from faithful evangelism.

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Nine Lessons:
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• Personal Positioning
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• Freedom from Inhibitors
• The Compelling Community
• A Culture of Evangelism
• Blessings of Faithful Evangelism

These Bible studies have been developed by the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

For additional information and ordering visit www.acpublications.org
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HARVESTCALL MISSIONARY PURPOSE

The primary purpose of a HarvestCall missionary is to proclaim Christ and serve others. In fulfillment of HarvestCall’s mission, all missionary roles are purposed toward the sharing of the Gospel, the discipleship of believers, and the demonstration of the love of Christ through deeds of compassion.

PRIMARY ROLE: DEAF DISCIPLESHIP (3-5 years)

1. To intentionally and effectively be engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers.
2. The commitment of our team to discipleship within the Deaf community continues to deepen, and as such we believe there is a need for long-term growth of our missionary team. We believe that 3-5 years is necessary for cultural and language acquisition before someone is adequately prepared for discipleship roles. Therefore, the purpose in the early years would essentially be as a “training ground” although the near-term role itself might change with time as the missionary becomes more equipped for the long-term role of being engaged in Deaf discipleship.

TRANSITIONAL ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Key Result Area #1 (first step)
   Cultural and Language Training
   a) Complete Levels 1, 2, and 3 of JSL (Jamaican Sign Language) training on island

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:

Amber Miller - Missionary Care Coordinator
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

b) Learn the history of Jamaica and develop an understanding of the native language, Patois

c) Complete Helping Without Hurting curriculum
   • Read the book, “When Helping Hurts”
   • Go through video series “Helping Without Hurting in STM”

2. Key Result Area #2 (near-term)
   HarvestCall Jamaica Team Role
   a) JSL Video Bible translation coordinating / video editing / support
   b) Support Deaf Can! Operations
   c) Support E3 Fellowship gathering (small church establishment)
   d) Assist in the distribution of material aid

3. Key Result Area #3 (within 6-12 months)
   CCCD Role possibilities
   a) CCCD support opportunities (based on skill and interest)
      • STM teams (support Seth for a year before taking responsibility)
      • Construction and maintenance
      • Teaching or Interpreting (w/ ASL skills already)
      • Teen Bible study

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED:

1. Interest and desire to learn sign language (past training / experience is preferred)
2. People person – willing to engage with others, particularly those different than you
HARVESTCALL MISSIONARY PURPOSE
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TRANSITIONAL ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Key Result Area #1 (first step)
   Cultural and Language Training
   a) Complete Levels 1, 2, and 3 of JSL (Jamaican Sign Language) training on island

   b) Learn the history of Jamaica and develop an understanding of the native language, Patois
   c) Complete Helping Without Hurting curriculum
      • Read the book, “When Helping Hurts”
      • Go through video series “Helping Without Hurting in STM”

2. Key Result Area #2 (near-term)
   HarvestCall Jamaica Team Role
   a) Support Sis Erin with En Gedi House ministry and child-care
   b) Assist in the distribution of material aid
   c) Possible establishment of Deaf Can! Coffee ministry in Mandeville

3. Key Result Area #3 (within 6-12 months)
   CCCD Role possibilities
   a) CCCD support opportunities
      (based on skill and interest)
      • Agriculture (vegetable crops and cattle as well as coffee farm)
      • After school activities
      • Construction and maintenance
      • Teaching or Interpreting (w/ ASL skills already)
      • Coffee farm (Deaf Can!)

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED:
1. Interest and desire to learn sign language (past training / experience is preferred)
2. People person – willing to engage with others, particularly those different than you

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Coordinator
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
Bible Distribution: Sharing His Word in Love

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

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

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Bible Distribution
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DIRECTOR OF NURSING

The nursing department within the hospital and clinic at Hospital Lumiere is staffed by Haitian nationals who are trained and certified by the Haitian medical system. Over the past 10 years, the nursing staff capability and dedication to serving the patients has greatly improved. All nursing departments are supervised by well qualified and skilled team members that are responsible for delivering the nursing services including staff assignments, scheduling, quality assurance and training. The position of Director of Nursing is to support the nursing team providing guidance, supervision and mentoring. This is not a hands on direct patient care position.

A key component of the medical program at Hospital Lumiere is hosting medical teams and ongoing training from medical professionals in the States. The DON will be responsible for establishing, coordinating and hosting nursing medical teams visiting HL.

This opportunity is a fulltime missionary position resident at Hospital Lumiere in Bon Fin, Haiti.

DEPARTMENT QUALIFICATIONS:
• Active member of the Apostolic Christian Church with a heart for service and desire to share the love of Jesus with the Haitian people
• Love for Haitian people and desire to work in close collaboration with Nursing Staff with a focus on relationship building
• Commitment to Ethical decision making and honesty in all decisions
• Responsibility and Accountability in all action, and willingness to support Nursing Supervisors in fostering program expectations with their nursing staff
• Willingness to adapt to necessary and frequent change
• Attitude of openness to learning and respect for Haitian culture
• Willingness to learn Creole language to effectively communicate with staff
• Willingness to work as team-player with other staff members and other members of Leadership Team including Administrator, Medical Director, Manager of Central Supply, Facilities Director, Operations Director, Finance Director and Pastors Office.
• Desire to interact with patients, families and employees while serving as an Ambassador For Christ.

REQUIRED EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:
• Active Licensure as Registered Nurse in US
• 5 years nursing experience preferred

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HarvestCall

For further information, contact: AC Publications, 651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742, Phone: 309-965-2141.
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

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

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

Isaiah 54:13

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

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Haiti School  Guatemala
Mexico  Zambia
Wherever needed

If possible, I prefer:

Boy – Age ______
Girl – Age ______
No Preference

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

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651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
The Hospital Lumiere team is presently seeking candidates for missionary service as Facilities Manager. Singles, Couples and Families of all ages are encouraged to prayerfully consider full time missionary service supporting the Hospital Lumiere ministry and outreach in Bonne Fin, Haiti.

General Duties and Responsibilities for the Facilities Manager:
- Manage Hospital and Campus Facilities maintenance and upkeep
- Manage Hospital Carpenter/Cabinet shop
- Manage Hospital and Campus vehicle fleet and maintenance
- Manage and Supervise the Hospital and Campus Electrical system (Solar, Diesel Generators and Hydro-electric generation and distribution)
- Plan and Manage construction and renovation projects. Supervise and coordinate Haitian staff and US volunteer teams.
- Manage and supervise Haitian facilities, maintenance, mechanic, electrical and construction staff.

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications and Requirements:
- Member in good standing within the Apostolic Christian Church of America
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- Relocate to Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti
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For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Coordinator
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

If you are interested in Medical service, please review the Medical Professional Advertisement.
TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking a teacher and teacher aid for missionary children. These positions involve full-time teaching in the multi-level classroom setting of the Bonne Fin Missionary School on the Hospital Lumiere compound. The missionary role is expected to start during the summer of 2020. These are full time missionary positions with a service term of one school year. There is opportunity to extend the term of service.

**Teacher qualifications** include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

**Teacher Aid qualifications** include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a High School Diploma, a Bachelor’s degree preferred, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with the teacher, students, parents and visitors to the school, a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

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

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

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


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Due to COVID-19, join with other friends of Gateway Woods ONLINE this year for Hopeful Distancing: The 2020 Auction Experience! Each year, your incredible support and God’s faithful provision help to repair broken lives and show the Gospel through the love of the family. And for the first time, you’ll be able to bid from the comfort of your couch!

There is no way we can recreate our normal, in-person Auction. Nor can we grill the perfect pork chop or make a lemonade shakeup for you over the internet. When you come to campus it’s always an amazing encouragement to our staff and residents every year. We are so going to miss seeing you in person, but we do hope that this virtual experience will allow us to be together in spirit. We are so thankful for your prayers, time, and faithful support over the years. You are a vital part of the ministry of restoring hope to broken lives.

We’ve significantly scaled back the number of items this year. There will be no duplicates, which still means incredible variety for bidders of all interests! To stay tuned, follow our social media channels and visit gatewaywoods.org/auction for more information.

AUCTION SCHEDULE

Monday, July 27
8:00 AM* Online Auction Item Preview Opens
Bidder Registration Opens

Thursday, July 30
8:00 AM Online Auction Opens

Friday, July 31
7:45 PM Virtual Program Pre-Show
8:00 PM Virtual Program Begins

Saturday, August 1
2:00 PM First Lot of Auction Items End

*All Times are EST
Loving as Jesus Loves

— Continued from pg. 3

parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus brings to light our unfortunate human tendency to pass by a hurting soul, look the other way, overlook oppression and injustice, or stay absorbed in our own cares. He then shares the moving account of the Samaritan, whose compassion transcended social status, societal norms, and politics. With courageous love the Samaritan reached across boundaries, labels, and perhaps even his own hurt, to bind up the wounds of a hurting soul and restore towards wholeness. This is the love of Jesus, revealed in our compassion and empathy for every individual on earth.  

In a world full of hurt, pain, and our human weakness, there’s no shortage of opportunities to lay down our lives for one another. We see this love alive in our brothers and sisters, in our marriages, families, churches, schools, businesses, and communities. Through the current coronavirus pandemic, we see countless sacrifices motivated by this self-giving love of Jesus. Through the tragic events in our country, we see an awakening of empathy, compassion, and loving action springing forth in our hearts towards those facing oppression and systemic bias. We can ask ourselves; do we genuinely love all people— even our enemies?

Whatever the situation, with our love for Jesus as the foundation and motivation of everything we do, we can give back to Christ the life He gave to us. We can serve one another as a modern day Epaphroditus, of whom Paul writes: “for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service towards me.”  

May God help us to love as Jesus loves by laying down our lives for our friends, our brethren, our neighbors, and all of humanity.

Endnotes
1 John 15:13
2 Romans 5:8
3 John 15:12
4 1 John 3:16
5 1 Corinthians 13
6 Romans 12:1
7 John 13:35
8 Matthew 25:35-40
9 1 John 4:20
10 1 John 3:17-18
11 Galatians 6:2
12 Luke 10:30-37
13 John 11:35
14 Isaiah 11:3-4
15 1 Corinthians 6:7
16 1 Corinthians 10:33
17 Philippians 2:17
18 Philippians 2:30
another congregation (I didn’t have any part in this) and a man who was visiting from town was talking to me. He actually used to be a pastor. I was talking to him at noon, and he said, “I want to tell you something, Doug. You did three things today” – he wasn’t speaking of me – “I haven’t seen in a long time, and it touched my heart. Your minister preached out of the Bible, when you prayed you all knelt, and you all sang together.”

I’m not trying to lift that up above anything, but I want to say, it took him back to a time in his life when that was meaningful to him. It could be that it’s the same thing when you have Christmas, and your children or your siblings or aunts or uncles walk in, and they smell something or see something that takes them back a long time. It’s a good feeling.

Okay, having just said these things and relating to the Jews rebuilding the temple in a way that wasn’t in the established plan, I want us to take a look at rebuilding. This is what Jesus said when he was speaking of the temple of his body. Every one of us knows, and Paul makes it clear too that we are the temple of the living God.

We do know that this temple gets old. We do know that this temple loses effectiveness in many ways, but we also know that this temple increases in experience and, I’ll use the word, wisdom. I’m not afraid of that. We all would like to think that the older we get there is some wisdom attained and it increases. Then I would like to think there increases an impulse to know where we’re going to go and spend eternity. That is not a charged statement. I think you could go just about anywhere and any people would say that’s true. That’s true. We want to know that. You and I are in a much better place having known this way for a long time, but understand not everybody is.

So, I’m just going to walk through some of these verses of what we read and how the Jews’ Passover was kept. Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the high feast or festival, if you will. It was supposed to remind them from where they came. Passover. Let’s go back to Ezra. I think one of the revelations in Ezra, or maybe it’s in Nehemiah – they were contemporaries – was that Passover hadn’t been kept. You think, “how could they forget that so quickly?” But they had.

As Jesus went into the temple, he found the temple itself had changed in, dare I say, purpose. It doesn’t say it right here, but in the other gospels he said, “My father’s house is to be a house of prayer.” He said here, “Ye’ve made it a house of merchandise”, and in another place, he said, “Ye’ve made it a den of thieves.” It should have stung. Jesus drove those things out – the money, the sacrifices.

You brothers and you Sunday school teachers know there’s a scripture that says, “I will have mercy and not sacrifice” (Matt 9:13). It’s really close to that. There’s another place where Jesus says, “If thy brother have ought against thee, leave your sacrifice at the altar, and go reconcile to thy brother.” Words that effect. In other words, Jesus is saying, “I don’t want your sacrifices if you’re not reconciled.”

Now, that is pretty intense. I’d like to think I would never tell anybody ‘don’t go to church if you’re not right in everything’ because I remember myself some of the little sacrifices I might do or make or think because I knew I needed them. I needed every bit of help I could get.

But when we think about how Jesus drives out this merchandise, I think we’re touching on the fact that the ultimate calling of God and the ultimate response to God is the new creature created in Christ Jesus. It’s what Jesus then tells Nicodemus here in chapter 3: “Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of God.”

— Please turn to pg. 60
Actually, it’s interesting to me. We were talking at our elder forums about the draft, the selective service, some scenarios that take place, and how the believer should respond. One elder brother, who has visited in Washington’s selective service office a couple of times, said they do have in their rules or regulations that they recognize a “road to Damascus experience”. I thought that is wonderful. I don’t know how you could really say more descriptive than that because that is a reference to Paul, who was a Jew of the Jews, struck down, surrendered, and was led by the hand into Damascus.

So, the aspect of a new birth created in Christ Jesus is like Jesus’s cleansing of the temple. It’s an example of how our lives individually work. We need to sweep it out and not only sweep it out. All of you parents get questions once in a while like: how do I quit thinking of this? how do I quit hearing this? how do I quit doing these things? I don’t always have good answers, but I do know, at least in my mind, I’ve got to fill it with other things to replace the stuff I want out. Jesus taught the same thing about the heart of a man being cleansed and swept, but stayed empty, and if it stays empty, just like you’ve heard a hundred times before, stuff is going to go in to fill a vacuum.

So, let’s look at that new birth and then a new person created for a different manner of life. It’s because there’s a different purpose in life. “And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up” John 2:17. Maybe they thought initially that Jesus had gone overboard when he chased all the merchandise out of the temple. Maybe people think the same thing of us too. Maybe we go overboard. You too can see it where people might think that. I just remember this one couple in particular thinking that after I responded to the Lord in repentance. People looked at me and said, “What?” and more than that, but they were astounded at the perceived level of change. When the Bible says “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength”, what are the options? Mark 12:30 If you get married you don’t do it halfway. You love your spouse.

So, honestly, I can’t fault the disciples. If we turn back one page and go into Luke 24, Jesus says to them, “O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:25-27

I thought they would have understood way before that, but they obviously didn’t, which speaks to me time and time again: ‘Doug, you can’t expect everybody to know everything at once.’ Whether it’s the abilities of your children or grandchildren or others to do things, you’ve got to recognize the skill level and maturity. So are we, as babes in Christ.

“They answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou dost these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” John 2:18-19. They immediately went to their physical understanding of the temple, of a building of stones. You know, I’ve never been there, but from all the pictures you see, the size of those stones has got to be incredible. Then the building skill of those people back in that time always amazes me. How they can do such things? The Jews were thinking, ‘well how can that be?’ No, that’s not what he was talking about; we know that.

I’m just simply going to leave it like this: in all the things that you and I said, ‘I can’t do that. That’s impossible,’ think,
‘well, was it impossible for God?’
Can’t the Lord do some pretty marvelous things? Can’t the Lord take mountains and move them?
If you put your hand to it, if you put your mind to it, put your will to it, but ask him for help.
“Son of David!” the lepers said. This is an impossible thing. They had leprosy. They weren’t going to be cured. They were outside of town. Whenever I read the word ‘lepers’, I just remember all the slides my dad showed me of Korea of all the leper colonies, and not only the leper colonies, but the squalor of the whole situation. It was off limits. But Jesus said, “Go and show yourself to the priest,” and the ten went and were cleansed. All I’m saying is, don’t think it’s impossible. If we refer back to Ezra, don’t think the roadblocks are going to stop you. Don’t think the regulations and the oppositions of others will stop you. I could go on, but I don’t want to. There are many such teachings of Jesus teaching us to please continue to seek, knock, and ask.

**Assembly Hymn, Zion’s Harp #207**

1. Assembled congregation,  
   With thanks and adoration,  
   Before God’s throne appear.  
   With pray’r and supplication  
   Each heart shall seek occasion  
   To see the light of grace so clear.

6. Inspire, O Lord, each servant  
   With love and ardor fervent  
   Thy gospel to proclaim;  
   That, prompted by Thy Spirit,  
   They work and toil with merit  
   Unto the glory of Thy name.

2. In silence give attention,  
   The Lord will cheer and strengthen  
   With His own word and hand.  
   If earnestly we seek Him,  
   And pray’rfully entreat Him,  
   He’ll not let us as orphans stand.

7. Thy messengers Thou sendest,  
   By them to us extendest  
   The living Bread of heav’n.  
   That none of us may perish,  
   Arouse our hearts to cherish  
   The grace and healing to us given.

3. His word is full of promise;  
   His angels He’ll admonish  
   His servants to attend,  
   Who in His grace are sharing,  
   And here on earth preparing  
   For that bright home and happy land.

8. Give faithful servants ever  
   Who have but one endeavor,  
   Thy Gospel to proclaim;  
   Who heed Thy Spirit holy  
   And strive and labor solely,  
   O, Lord, to glorify Thy name.

4. Send, Lord, Thy holy teaching  
   To us in humble preaching,  
   Yet in the Spirit’s pow’r,  
   That we, a new creation,  
   In love and true devotion  
   May bear our burden ev’ry hour.

9. O Father, be the Giver  
   Of Jesus’ powers ever  
   Unto Thy children here;  
   Let more and more be given  
   The inner life from heaven  
   To all who pray with heart sincere!

5. Thy Word alone enlightens,  
   With light and power brightens  
   What seems a mystery.  
   It gives us understanding  
   In living faith expanding,  
   Subduing ev’ry enemy.

10. O, bind together fully  
    With love’s devotion holy  
    Thy people, dearest Lord,  
    For whom Thy blood was given  
    To ransom them for heaven.  
    O, hallow them and keep them, Lord!
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

I happened to encounter a letter written in 1987 by Bro. John Klotzle who served as head of the Rural Gospel And Medical Mission of India, Inc., U. S. A. Excerpts are given below that reflect the India work as it was approaching its 50th anniversary (in 1988). The contents of the letter were addressed to supporters of the mission. Some facts of the mission’s founder are also listed.

Letter From John Klotzle (1987)
“Peering into next year, we anticipate a very special milestone, the Mission’s 50th Anniversary since being founded in 1938. Special plans are being made to honor this occasion which will be held in January, 1988. Three couples, including my wife and I, Jim and Virginia Hoerr, and Nathan and Marilyn Steffen, plan to visit India and participate in that ceremony. The celebration will be to honor and glorify the Lord for the salvation of hundreds of souls, stemming from the fulfillment of His Holy commandments. We plan to also hold the Spiritual Convocation to uplift and counsel the Spiritual Workers and Mission Staff as well as to visit tribal congregations bringing forth the Word, distributing Bibles and children’s clothing.

Among the many blessings evident as we review the past year are the sustained prayers and generous support given by so many. As our Mission family in India considers the Savior’s birth, they will be richly reminded of how His love has touched so many of their lives because of others willing to share. Your prayers on behalf of the work in India are deeply appreciated. May God bless you richly in the year ahead.”

Bhagwant B. Bhagwat, Founder
In 1968, Bhagwant B. Bhagwat was visiting some Mennonites near Rittman, Ohio. During this time he happened to meet some brethren from the Apostolic Christian Church in that area. He became impressed with their God-fearing ways. When it became apparent his religious views were reasonably similar to Apostolic Christians, the church began providing assistance to his India mission which consisted of several congregations, medical clinics, and orphanages in rural areas of western India.

A former Hindu, he had embraced the Christian faith as a young man. For this, he was disinherited by his parents who later fasted themselves to death because their son left the Hindu religion and supposedly disgraced them. He died on January 5, 1980.

The Bhagwat Will
In a report to the World Relief Committee dated June, 1980, Bro. John Klotzle wrote, “Mr. Bhagwat’s will has been filed in the United States and is in the process of probate. Mrs. Bhagwat is the heir to the estate in the United States and all of the real property in India. As it stands today, upon her demise, the United States and India estate will go into a United States Trust to be administered by brothers from the Apostolic Christian Churches in America.” (Mrs. Bhagwat died in 1981)

Dedicated Administrator
Over the years, due to my history work for the church, I had many conversations with Bro. John Klotzle. He administered the work of India for many years. One time he told me, “My mind is always in India.” His love for those loved ones, and for the well being of the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India was unmistakable, and impressive to me. I have never forgotten that comment.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
Kingdom Authority

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.” Philippians 2:8-9

King of kings and Lord of lords. Just as His blood never loses its power, the name of Jesus has total authority. Because Jesus became poor and gave His life a ransom for all, God granted Him all power in heaven and in earth. Jesus reigns above all kingdoms, powers, and every exalted thing. Everyone and everything are subject to Him, whether in the earthly or spiritual realm. (John 3:35)

As well as many descriptive titles, the Bible reveals the authoritative positions Jesus holds. He is the head of the church, the captain of the host of heaven, the intercessor for the believer and the final judge of all men. He is the one that draws all men to repent and then grants eternal life. (John 6:44)

Jesus has given authority to His church and to His children as joint-heirs with Him. Before Jesus left, He gave this promise to those that would afterward believe: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mark 16:17-18

There is a spiritual battle constantly raging and Jesus experienced it as a man. He never gave place or territory to the kingdom of this world. Every Christian has been given the power of the Holy Spirit as well as spiritual armor to resist the enemy’s attack. Most of the armor is defensive, but the sword of the Spirit (Word of God) is a powerful offensive weapon; the weapon Jesus always used.

Jesus has also given His children the keys to bind or loose evil spirits (Matthew 18:18). These keys are prayers in faith to command a stop to evil infiltration (binding what Satan oppresses) or to cast out a demon (loosing what Satan possesses). Admittedly, this is more commonly faced on the mission field, but all Christians can confront it. Walking in the Spirit and in obedience we can confidently command demons to leave in the name of Jesus. “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22

Satan is going about as a roaring lion, actively deceiving and devouring because his time is short. We don’t need to be crippled by Satan’s power and we don’t need to retreat. Through His sacrificial death at Calvary Jesus has already defeated sin, Satan and death. With confidence we can pray proactively for our family, church and loved ones.

Jesus is longsuffering now—not willing that any should perish—but He will return soon with power and authority to settle all accounts. The coming kingdom of our Lord will never end. Jesus Christ will reign with all authority for ever and ever, an eternity of eternities! (Revelation 11:15)

MAJESTY

“Majesty; worship His majesty. Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise! Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from His throne, Unto His own; His anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King! Majesty, worship His majesty. Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!” —by Jack Hayford

—by Mike Walder
"All things bright and beautiful, 
All creatures great and small..."