But there went up a mist from the earth...

Genesis 2:6
Loving and Truthful Communications

What has God taught you about loving and truthful communications? This month we have asked our readers to share some experiences and wisdom they have learned on when to speak vs. listen, confront vs. forebear etc. Knowing these skills are an important part of our daily interactions with each other. Jesus taught us various behavior patterns by his many examples as he walked with others. His listening ear and compassionate heart truly show us the pattern to live by. There were also times he confronted those who were in sin or treating others badly. Being willing to learn good communication skills is critical to the furtherance of the gospel. May each of us be blessed as we read this month’s submissions and apply the teachings to our personal lives.

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm, along with Greg Lehman, Counseling Elders

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Our Call to Love One Another – The World’s Response

“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

Does this message resound in our hearts? John was the disciple “whom Jesus loved.” He reflected that love in sharing the Lord’s twofold message: true believers walk in God’s light, and “… we should love one another.” Regardless of how others respond, Christ teaches us to share the light of his love, revealing to us that loving each other is how we will be known as his disciples. Loving our brothers and sisters signals the passage from death to life that comes by the transformative work of Jesus Christ. Harboring hate toward our brother constitutes a murder conviction, where no eternal life abides. Are we avoiding the envious jealousy that led wicked Cain to slay righteous Abel? We reveal whether Christ’s message abounds as our heart’s treasure by what our actions bring forth – good or evil.

For this love-message to enlighten our hearts, we welcome God to search, know, try, see, and lead us. Expressing true love means giving it away to others. Do we give the love to others that we seek from God for ourselves? Are our hearts pure today? Do barriers, sin, and evil separate us from God or our neighbors? If others seem to live more uprightly, we may feel unsettled. In response, we can feel moved to draw closer to God ourselves, or we can sometimes feel illogically bound to undermine their example to make ourselves feel better. If we’re jealous of others’ gifts, stewardship responsibilities, or service opportunities, this darkens our motivation to treat them with proper love.

Since Genesis, humans have had a choice when confronted with their evil works: repent and forsake them through God’s power, or ignore his reminders through self-justifying resistance. Like Cain, our evil hearts had ungodly intent while we lived for ourselves. God called us from that sinful darkness into his marvelous light. He forgave us with boundless mercy. Like Abel, he made our lives righteous. How much of our first love remains? Our personalities have triggers to which we can overreact. Past pain can steer us in a dark way if we perceive that someone has stepped on our hearts. Let’s guard against letting that pain take the wheel. It’s easy to think ill of one another. The devil loves to feed such thoughts. Walking in the light involves exercising forbearance over fleshly feelings. It involves seeking peace in our brotherly, marital, family, neighborly, and work relationships. As Jesus painfully viewed his haters from the cross, he asked God to forgive them. What if the world frowns on us?

How we handle the world’s hate can illuminate Christ’s love. As the Master’s disciples, we dare not expect to escape the misunderstanding he endured. “The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.” In John 15:18-19, Jesus reminds us that the world hated him first. Since he chose us out of the world, the world hates us for not remaining a part of it. Jesus’ high priestly prayer explained that this hate results from him giving us God’s Word. If we can overcome pride that leads to stony ground for our hearts’ soil, we won’t be immediately offended when affliction or persecution arises for the Word’s sake. Like Paul encouraged Timothy, “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” When we
Are you at peace? Four words. Are you at peace? We say, ‘Peace about what? Peace with what?’ Well, one way to say it is ‘peace with God’ – a trust and confidence in him that he is in charge. He is in control. He sees us. He sees the end from the beginning and everything throughout including where we’re at right now in life. Peace comes if you’re forgiven, if you’re trusting God for forgiveness, and if you repented of your sins.

Another way of peace is peace with people. Are you at peace with people? Is there something between you and another person, whatever it may be?

Are you at peace with yourself? Have you forgiven yourself? Or is there something in your self that needs to be right? Is there fear in your heart today? What doesn’t give us peace? When are we not at peace? Well, it’s when we’re not trusting or maybe there’s a sin in our heart or in our life. It could be some kind of friction between us and something, even ourselves. We keep holding on to something in the past or worry about not knowing what the future is going to be. Maybe we’re scared of a decision or whatever it might be.

Where does peace ultimately lie? It lies in trusting and following God. ‘Who is God?’ you may ask. Well, different people view God in different ways. People worship idols, people worship gods, and people call God different names, but are they worshipping the same God? Well, there is one God who is in heaven, and in this Bible, it talks a lot about him as a God that cares about each one of you, that loves you so much.

Let’s learn a little bit more about God, because, really, it’s not that hard. We don’t understand everything about God. You know, you may ask, ‘Well, where did God come from?’ I don’t know. I don’t know. I can’t answer that question for you. I know where we came from because we came as God’s creation. He made us.

We talk about God. We talk about his angels. We talk about the fallen angels, the demons; Satan is a fallen angel, and all were created by God.

God is the one that gives us peace. He’s the one that gives us confidence. Let’s read in 2 Kings in the Old Testament to start. 2 Kings, Chapter 6.

Let’s read in 2 Kings 6 here where the story is about Elisha. Elisha is a well-known prophet of God in the Old Testament. Now remember, Elijah had come before Elisha; they were walking together, and Elijah asked Elisha, “What would you like?” Elisha told him he would like a double portion of what Elijah had, and Elijah said, “Well, if you see me when the chariot comes down and I’m taken up to heaven, you’ll receive that double portion”, and guess what happened? As they’re walking along the way, this chariot of fire comes down, swoops up Elijah, and takes him off. His mantle falls down. Elisha picks it up. Elisha’s by himself now – as far as humanly speaking – and goes on his way. He goes to the Jordan River and takes Elijah’s mantle, saying basically, “God, where are you?” He hits the water. The waters part, and he goes on his way.

Then all of these different miracles come. Now, here’s Elisha, and he is in a situation that he could be really fearful for right now, not at peace, discouraged and everything: the Syrians are a problem. They were at war with the Israelites. Let’s read a little bit about what happens here in 2 Kings 6, and let’s read from verse 8.

And it goes on from verse 23.

So, here’s the situation. They’re surrounded by lots of trouble in the human sense. Elisha could see, but his servant and the others couldn’t see what was happening until their eyes were opened. Elisha prays, and he asks God, “Open my servant’s eyes that he can see who is for us.” God had created this massive army, the invisible army, to protect, to be there, to take care
of them. Elisha could see it; his heart was in tune with God. That doesn’t mean we can see everything that happens. There are people that can see in the spiritual realm, and others can’t unless God opens their eyes where they can see. In this situation, God sent his angels, his mighty army which is way stronger than the enemy, and with that, it gave the servant peace and comfort to see that God was for them.

It can be the same way for us. Let’s think about in our lives. When I asked if you’re at peace today, if you’re troubled about something, God sees where you are. If you’re not at peace, if you’re fearful, or whatever, God sees where you’re at right now, and maybe he’s asking, “You know what, open the eyes of your heart and see who I am. See that I really care about you and that I love you and that my presence is with you.” Instead of focusing on our problem, let’s focus on God and surrender our problems, our fears. Where we’re not at peace, surrender to God and say, ‘God, help me in this situation. I need you to help me.”

I know Elijah was carried up into heaven, and now, the God that carried Elijah into heaven is the same God watching over each one of us right now. There’s no difference. Elijah and Elisha were just men like us, people that God put in place to use for his glory. Elisha was given the mantle of Elijah and that double portion, and I believe that God has given you each a mantle to do what his will is, whatever it is for you. God helps us in whatever he calls us to do, whatever that mantle of provision or direction or whatever it is that God has put on each one of you, whether you know it or not. If you don’t know what your mantle is, or your direction or your calling is, ask God that he will open your eyes to it.

Let’s think about angels because God, when he calls us to do a task in life, sends the help and provisions we need. He does. He doesn’t say, “Go, do this, but I’m not going to help you.” God helped the Israelites here. He helped Elisha and his servants. He sent the army, and I think about angels. Who are angels to you? Have you ever seen an angel? I’m not sure if I have or not. I think I may have once or twice, but I don’t know for sure. God approaches us in different ways. God’s power is so much greater than we can ever imagine. Remember that.

There’s a story about this person riding down in a hotel elevator, and along the way, he sees this lady in the elevator. His eyes are opened, and he realized it was Corrie ten Boom. She was a well-known Jewish woman of God who did amazing things. She asked this man, “Have you ever seen an angel?” This man tells her about who he is and everything, and she just looks at him and says, “Have you ever seen an angel?” He said, “Uh, no.” So, she goes on to tell about a time when the iron curtain was down in eastern Europe and she was going into one of those countries. She had a bunch of Bibles she was taking with her to give out to people, but the Bible was prohibited. She’s in the line where they check the bags as you go through customs, and the line moves closer and closer to where the guard is. She’s like, “Uh oh.” They’re going through every single bag here, seeing what’s inside, and they could definitely confiscate her Bibles and haul her off to prison. At that point, what does she do? She turns to God and says, “God, you have promised to protect your word. Protect your word at this time.” All of the sudden, this bag she has full of Bibles starts to glow. She’s the only one that can see it. It starts to glow. She goes until she’s first in line. Now, the guard is right there. He looks at it, shrugs his shoulders, and passes her on through as though nothing was there. Isn’t that amazing? She could see what no one else could.

There are a lot of things that are happening in this life that we don’t know how it happens, but we know there’s a God that cares about us. Psalm 91:11 says, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Charge over thee to take care of you. He sends his angels to watch over us. Do you believe it?

— Please turn to pg. 64
HarvestCall Strategic Plan

In 2014 the decision was made to perform a merger between the Missions Committee and World Relief with a recognition that material aid and the proclamation of the Gospel should occur in tandem. The elder body approved the merger and requested a board structure to be put in place to oversee the organization. God in his goodness brought together a committee of 12 elders connected with World Relief and Missions Committee that worked with groups from their congregations and one another to form the Purpose, Vision, and Mission of this new organization that today we know as HarvestCall. These foundational statements were developed and approved by the elder body in February of 2015.

**Purpose** – Enable the Brotherhood to proclaim Christ and serve others beyond the capacity of the local church.

**Vision** – God is glorified as despair and suffering are alleviated, hearts and minds are transformed, and churches are established and nurtured.

**Mission** – Our mission is to equip and mobilize brethren to proclaim the gospel, disciple and nurture believers, and demonstrate the love of Christ with deeds of compassion.

**Guiding Principles** - Biblical Truth, Submission to God, Establish Churches, Love of Christ, Stewardship, Commitment to our Missionaries, Ministry Priorities, Ministry Practices, Responsibility to the Church, Doctrinal Integrity.

E³ Cafe— A Time of Worship, Instruction, and Fellowship, in our Heart Language

*Caribbean Committee*

For the past few years our HarvestCall missionary team in Kingston, Jamaica has been gathering on Sunday mornings in the Deaf Can! Coffee shop (called E³ Cafe) on the campus of Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf. Some of the staff from the coffee business will join, as do some of the teachers from the school. There are also a few Deaf adults from the community that attend on a regular basis.

Our heart’s desire is for this gathering to be a time of worship of God, instruction in the Word, fellowship in the Spirit and encouragement in our daily walk. We take turns leading a discussion about a spiritual topic or a Bible story or various scripture. It is a fairly informal structure with each week a volunteer sharing what is on their own heart.

We use Jamaican Sign Language (JSL) and not spoken English, which makes our gathering a bit exclusive to those who do not know JSL. This becomes a challenge when we have a family member or visitor from the US join us, but most who have had this opportunity have shared that it’s a great learning experience to be in a worship setting where they feel a bit lost and left out, and in some ways end up worshipping God as they see the facial expressions and body language of this diverse group of people seeking to know and honor the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...
– Colossians 3:17
Approximately 2 ½ years later the board asked the HarvestCall Executive Director to begin a process of Strategic Planning for the organization to give specific direction of how we go from our mission (what we do) to our vision (the result of our mission being fulfilled). After hours of deliberation from Board Members, HarvestCall leaders, and Elders, the HarvestCall Board approved the Strategic Plan in January of 2020.

**Strategic Plan**
The Strategic Plan has been shared with the HarvestCall Organization and is summarized as follows:

- **2 Main Anchors:** These include areas that are crucial if we are going to realize our vision of God being glorified.
  - Energize Evangelism and Discipleship
  - People and Reconciled Relationships

In the center of these anchors there is a great acknowledgment of our dependence on God! We are planters and waterers, but only God can give the increase (1 Cor 3:7).

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In many ways the Apostle Paul’s letter to the house churches in Rome is a great guide to us as well. In chapters 12-15 Paul addresses the diverse group and exhorts them to view their true worship to come in the form of offering themselves daily as a living sacrifice, to be one in the body of Christ, to outdo each other in showing honor, to respect the governing authorities God has placed over them, to submit to the law of love as the fulfillment of all law, and to glorify God, whether Jew or Gentile, for he alone is worthy. Romans 15:5-6 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth [expression] glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— by Blake Widmer
The Realities of Singleness

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal 3:28

In recent years, the singleness rate in America has risen to a new high. According to the 2017 Census, 45 percent of adults are single (either never married, widowed or divorced) - a great shift from the 28 percent rate found in 1960. Inevitably, this shift has affected the demographics within our church as well. As we consider this statistic, it can be helpful as a church body to understand some common realities, both positive and negative, singles may encounter, particularly singles that live alone.

Loneliness and Isolation
A common struggle for singles can be loneliness and isolation. Of all U.S. households, 28 percent are comprised of people who live alone. For those that are married or have a family, consider how much of your life is lived in community with your spouse or kids. For those that live alone, a common community takes time and effort to foster in their lives. It can be difficult for the working single to plan events or have people over for supper. Often due to children’s bedtimes, space, etc., it is easier for a family to have a single over versus the logistics of the family coming to a single’s home. As a church family, let us remember those in our lives who may be on their own and consider having them join you for a meal or a family activity or outing.

Another reality of isolation is the temptations it can bring. While everyone goes through periods of loneliness at different stages of their life, there can be increased temptations when you are by yourself regularly. These periods of aloneness can lead to patterns of behavior and coping that are not helpful or edifying. It is important for those who live alone to reach out to others in their life for accountability around areas such as time management and purity.

We are stronger in community than when facing temptation in isolation (Ecc. 4:9-12).

Insecurities
Time alone can be helpful or harmful depending on a person’s personality. On one hand, it can bring about positive reflection and quiet time with the Lord but on the other hand, it can bring about unhealthy rumination and breed insecurities. When disconnected, Satan can attack individuals with lies around their singleness, making them feel inferior in status or rank to those married. Questions such as “Why has no one chosen me to be their spouse?”, “What’s wrong with me?”, or “Am I enough?” are common doubts that can enter a single person’s mind. As a church member, it can be tempting to attempt to encourage a single, yet these words can often seem hollow. Perhaps marriage is not God’s plan for your life. Instead, focus on listening well and practicing empathy while considering the never-married, widowed, or divorced — a great shift from the 28 percent rate found in 1960. Inevitably, this shift has affected the demographics within our church as well. As we consider this statistic, it can be helpful as a church body to understand some common realities, both positive and negative, singles may encounter, particularly singles that live alone.

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mind. As a church member, it can be tempting to offer words like “I know God has someone really special for you” or “Your turn will come” as an attempt to encourage a single, yet these words can often seem hollow. Perhaps marriage is not God’s plan for their life. Instead, focus on listening well and practicing empathy while considering the never-changing encouragements from God’s Word that can reinforce truth in their daily walk—passages such as Jeremiah 29:11 and Isaiah 55:8-12.

Sharing
Whom do you go to when you have a special joy or deep disappointment in your life? Whom do you counsel with when wrestling through a difficult decision? For those married, the immediate response tends to be their spouse. For those widowed or single again, losing someone they have done life with for many years can be an acute loss and it can be difficult to adjust to this new reality. For those who have never been married, it can be easy to become independent and closed off. For singles, there is a unique opportunity to experience Christ’s sufficiency in a deep way as they walk through difficulties on their own. Yet while God’s grace is abundant, having close friends or family members who are willing to empathize through difficult emotions can be hugely valuable (Gal. 6:2). It is a valuable exercise for the single to consider who in their life they can share sad news or exciting joy. In addition, for the church, it is important to think through what special singles (never-married, widowed, divorced) they can make an intentional effort to build a loving relationship with so singles have someone to turn to.

In closing the joys of singleness can be many, but unique realities also make it challenging. As the percentage of singles increases, it is important for fellow church members to consider ways they can reach out, support all individuals whether married or single, and encourage healthy growth and connectedness among the entire church body. The challenges singles face are not remedied only through marriage or roommates. Rather, these realities and tensions highlight a great opportunity for the church to come together and provide an extended sense of family in the life of a single. These challenges will take effort and intentionality from both sides to reach out and let others in, but by God’s grace, these tensions can be managed in beautiful ways that illustrate the sufficiency of Christ.

ACCFS continues to develop resources to help singles in their walk with the Lord. These resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/category/singleness. If you would like more information or have requests/comments, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or office@accounseling.org.
We recently experienced the death of one of our residents here at LifePoints. She had lived with us for a while, left our facilities to try some medical treatments, and ultimately returned when her family asked if she could come home to live the rest of her life with us. For her memorial service, Elder Bro. Ron Messner, our Executive Director, reflected on the concept of home – what it meant to this resident, what it means to us, and how we’re thankful to be the home she wanted to return to while here on this earth.

What is home? It’s different for each of us, but most of us are a bit personal about someplace we call home. There’s just something significant about it – the people we live with, the fact that it’s comfortable or familiar, and the fact that it’s a place where we can relax. At home, we don’t have to put on our best show all the time, we can even slouch a little bit and just feel comfortable there. It’s a place where we don’t have to stay alert; it’s a place where we can let down our guard. Home is where people make you feel like you belong.

We at LifePoints are thankful for the people that live with us, and we give thanks that this can be home for them. Sometimes we hear about residents who go “home” for a weekend or a few days. This “home” they’re referring to is typically their parents’ house. And almost without exception, after a time, a few days or maybe not even that long, these same individuals start saying to their parents that they want to go back to “their home.” So which home is actually home? What does “home” even mean to our residents? Home means the place where they are comfortable.

In John 14:2-3, Jesus says: “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” He spoke this while he was walking on earth. Jesus probably didn’t have a home most of the time. He stayed at others’ houses like what we would call an itinerant preacher today. But he knew that his home was the place where his Father was.

These verses are about Jesus’ promise that he wants to create an eternal home for us. Think about that for a while. No matter where we live here, it will be a temporary home. We’ll either move to a different home or our life will come to an end here on earth. But Jesus is promising to go ahead and prepare this beautiful place to be our true home. A place without stress. A place where we feel like we can relax. A place where we feel like we belong. That’s what he wants for us. He came to this earth, lived and died, and shed his blood, hopefully to draw us to him so that we can go to this place he is preparing as our home.

What will make it home? What will make heaven feel like home? It will be safe. It will feel secure. And we’ll feel loved there. For those we’ve lost, this memorial time is a chance to say goodbye, but it’s also a time to say, “Welcome home.” It’s what we wish for each of our residents. A home that we want to join them at someday. It makes sorrowing and grieving easier to manage because we know that they didn’t just disappear, but that they went home. So let’s be glad for those who have passed, knowing that they were able to finally go to the home that Christ has been preparing.
reason. Back in March, the global pandemic started changing things immediately, and in some ways, perhaps permanently.

And what would this mean for the 44th Annual Gateway Woods Auction? This amazingly wonderful event that is a live auction and family reunion wrapped into one, and draws 2000 people from all over the country every August. How could we possibly do the Gateway Woods Auction in the midst of all this?

On May 11, a decision was made. The Auction, as we’ve known it for 43 years, would need to change. But change to what? There was so much to figure out and reinvent, and auction day was only eleven weeks away. A rough plan evolved and as you, the Church, started to learn what was happening, you responded. And you did so in a big way.

First, you mailed in donations. You knew it was different this year, and you wanted to help. Then, Team224 created an individual and virtual ride. Many of you rode with heavy hearts, contemplating that one of the passionate leaders of Team224, Sis. Lizzie Gasser, had finished her earthly race. Her bike, unoccupied. Others held events in their local communities. It really was still possible to get an ice cream cone, a lemon shake-up, and contribute to the cause.

And finally came online Auction day. But starting on Thursday instead of Saturday. And in less than an hour, all of the 224 items had at least one bid.

By Friday night, the Auction was more than halfway through! Many hundreds of you tuned in to an hour of song, testimonies, memories, and encouragement! And you were such an inspiration to all of us! It was great fun to see greetings come in from around the country.

As Saturday dawned, the pace quickened, and the bids soared. It was nearly like the live Auction, and we could feel you out there, loving, cheering, and supporting the kids.

And then the day was done. And what a day, week, month, and season it was! Hopeful Distancing: The 2020 Auction Experience was blessed beyond belief and anticipation – and all of you are to thank for it. Thank you so very much for your love, prayers, work, support, and donations. At 6 PM on Auction Day, exceeding our wildest expectations, we were staggered to consider that the Lord blessed his Gateway Woods ministry with $701,750. Words cannot express the humble sense of gratitude that swept over us. And now, as of this writing, the total is over $765,339 with more still coming in!

“Unprecedented?” “Never seen anything like this before?” “What next?” Yes, the entire 2020 Auction Experience was all of that and more. What an amazing reminder that with God, not only are all things possible, but sometimes the unexpected happens.

Thank you and may God bless you! We sure look forward to seeing you here on Saturday, August 7 for Auction Day 2021!

**News:**

- **Hog and Jog Update:** This event was designed to be a shared community event with residents, staff and the greater community. In light of the fact we are unable to truly fulfill the vision of this event, we have decided to forego the Hog and Jog that was scheduled for this October. We are disappointed to have to cancel this year, but hopeful to be able to do this in the fall of 2021.

- **We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods:** 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.

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*

“Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the Lord that which is good in his sight.” 1 Chronicles 19:13

We are trusting in God that he will continue to see us through the ups and downs of the COVID-19 changes we see in our lives and our church. He is faithful and we can trust him to lift us up and carry us through.

We have had some more vacations and some Sundays our attendance is down, so we welcome anyone who is passing through the area to join us. We love to have visitors!

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

“*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*” 2 Pet. 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*

“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.” Psa. 63:1-2

Crickets! That is the result of praying over this article, considering several topics, reading the Word for inspiration, and trying to see some new thing during my time with the Lord. There is nothing overly exciting or interesting. Instead the phrase, “There is nothing new under the sun” keeps coming to mind. For several weeks, there has been something of a distance, or brokenness, in my devotions, as well as other things. Usually, when Bible prophecy is clearly fulfilled, it excites me. There have been SO many fulfilments lately and it is almost more tiring than it is exciting. It could be the strange twists and turns this year has taken, or the constant heat with no break (the non-soons). My sister sent out an article, “How 2020 is Taking a Toll on Your Soul”, which rang true. It spoke of information overload and how things affect us, even when we do not realize it. There are a lot of awful things going on, and it seems like Satan is winning, but I know he is not, and will not, and all of this is a part of God’s perfect plan. Still, it does have an effect.

Usually, September is a fun month to write an article – it was my mom’s birth month (and my sister’s and mine), the end of Summer (or at least August), but even thinking along those lines did not produce the start of an article. It seems I entered a wilderness. So, I looked up “wilderness”. It is mentioned 305 times in the KJV, per my concordance. I noted the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness tempting God, and Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted of Satan. I sort of wonder if there is a correlation there. I have been here before, and likely will be here again. There is something for me to learn, or God just wants more of my attention, or he will use it to help someone else. I will continue to trust and watch. And I have no doubt he is waiting at the end of it and we will have a mountain-top reunion. A communion reunion. For now, he is keeping his distance.

I do believe the Rapture could be very soon. There is a national, possibly world-wide, prayer meeting being planned for September 26, which this sort of thing usually excites me. Well, I am excited about that. They are calling it “The Return”, and if you are so inclined, you might join in.
It is a 40-day period of prayer and fasting, with participation as the Spirit leads each one individually. Maybe he has kept me here for this article, as I expect there may be others who are feeling the same way. I know there is a reason for it, and it will work for good. That is a promise he gave me that I often claim and am never disappointed. He is still the God of power and majesty, and I am his precious child.

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

We are back to meeting in person and I am rejoicing in that! The numbers in our state are finally decreasing and things are looking good for further reopening. A small memorial service was held for Sis. Eleanor Prieger-Hill. She is surely rejoicing in her victory in Jesus! She will be missed here.

On August 13, Sis. Bethany and Bro. Robert Neumann, along with big brother Hendrick, welcomed Charlotte Ilse to the world. We lift up this precious new life to the Lord and pray for his favor on the family.

We praise him for his faithfulness, for our multitude of blessings, and for the valleys that make us appreciate the mountaintops even more.

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

As the year continues on, we have had a heat wave with little summer rain. Wildfires are affecting many in the west. School looks different, church still looks different and I am sure that each of us has had trials to wade through. It’s easy to say that 2020 has been a terrible year and that we are all ready for the next. Yet I am reminded of these beautiful words of Isaiah.

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing... Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes” Isa. 35:1-7.

May we not give up hope that God will bring rain and blessings in the midst of the desert that we are feeling this year.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings to each and every one. We are still gathering for our 10AM service. Masks and social distancing have become somewhat “normal”. We are grateful for those who are willing to preach and teach. We had the memorandum presented via Zoom and want to thank Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand for his efforts on our behalf.

I recently spent time studying about John the Baptist. It was pointed out that he came for really only one reason: To point the way to Christ. He did not marry, had no profession or business, no real home or possessions. He was sent with a purpose and he fulfilled that purpose...living less than 35 years. I believe God has a purpose for every one of his children. It may be good to dwell on that purpose more and to be less absorbed with the other aspects of our life. We all know God’s ways are so much higher than our ways. Praise be to God!!

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

Our church family feels deeply the loss of Sis. Lois Klotzle. While it has been several years since she lived here and worshiped weekly with us, she was a long-time pillar of the Altadena church along with her late husband, Elder Bro. John. They raised their family just a few miles from church and faithfully served the church family and many others through their various ministries over the years. Their legacy of magnifying the Lord lives on in countless ways and in so many impacted lives.

“For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Tim. 1:12
Colorado, Denver  
Tess Leman

"And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matt. 12:49-50

Bro. Jared and Sis. Rebekah Stoller welcomed Ridge Michael into the world with open arms. What a precious responsibility as they raise him in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!

Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Stoller.

Many thanks to the brothers who served on the pulpit: Bro. Ryan Shock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN). We appreciate your love and support!

Let us find joy in knowing that as we do the will of our Father in heaven, we are called the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ! What a beautiful family we are a part of!

Connecticut, Rockville  
Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider

We continue to navigate the uncharted waters that lay ahead of us, trusting, believing and obeying the master of our ship. A worldwide pandemic, along with national unrest and confusion, cannot rob us of our confidence that God sees, knows, and hides us “in the shadow of his hand.” (Isa 49:2)

“Noah’s ark long drifted on the surging flood, but with eyes uplifted, trusted he in God. When throughout life’s journey raging storms I see, this shall be my comfort; God is still with me.”

God is Still With Me, Zion’s Harp #148

A precious baby girl, Alayna Marie, was born to Bro. Evan and Sis. Rebecca Beutel. Her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis Moser and Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne Beutel.

We are thankful for Bro. Connor Hany (Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy), Bro. Jacob Gerber (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary-Ann), Bro. Jeremy Zahner (Bro. Kent and Sis. Karen), Bro. Nihal Baiju (Baiju and Sis. Lavanya) and Sis. Lydia Welti (Bro. Peter and Sis. Jill) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of July 17-19, 2020.

We are rejoicing that two dear souls have chosen to seek the Lord in repentance. We wish God’s strength and grace to Brendan Couzens (Bro. Matt and Sis. Cathryn) and Faith Luginbuhl (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi).

Joseph Schneider (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim) and Shannon Jones (Todd Jones and Kim Jones) exchanged wedding vows on August 8, 2020. We wish them God’s blessings in their married life together.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Marion Andrews and her family in the passing of her brother, “Junie” Welti. We pray the Lord will grant them comfort.

District of Columbia, Washington  
Henrietta Meyer

Now that our church building is being sold, the caretaker program has come to an end. Thanks to all our caretakers who so generously and lovingly served us and the Lord in those 13 years. We have many fond memories and will cherish those friendships formed.

We are now looking for space to again hold services. We look forward to seeing blessings unfold in this next chapter of our church.

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, to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services and to find out when and where services will be held.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale  
Renee Mangold

We had no visiting ministers this past month, however, we have been able to meet for Sunday morning services.

We have Zoom meetings once a week for those that are available to join and it is a blessing to share our faith, news about family and friends and reconnect mid week virtually.

We were also encouraged by the virtual Brotherhood Conference this past week.
May we all continue to have peace and resilience through Christ as we go through this challenging time in the world.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

*Mary Masters, Terri Young*

We finished up our Bible study that we have been doing in July and August on developing one’s spiritual gifts. Now we will just have to figure out how to best use each member to edify the body and bring him glory. We were blessed to have Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) serve us in August.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven, along with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Rachel Hollan, as their daughter, Faith Sabo, gave her testimony and was baptized this month in the Sarasota church.

As we look upon events taking place in the world around us, we realize there is so little that needs to happen before the Lord comes back for his church. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

**The New Beginnings**

It has been a very different year as summer has come and gone as it does every year, but the “climate” in our country is as unsettled as it has been in a long time, maybe ever. Isn’t it a comfort that we can look around us and know that no matter what happens, we have a Father that loves and cares for us, has already defeated the enemy, and we can rest in his promises?

Our new director, Danyale Kinney, has settled in and has been busy with building and renewing relationships with many organizations, providing tours and other outreach programs to bring community awareness and support to TNB. We are grateful for the knowledge and vision Danyale has brought to the ministry.

Mackenzie has finished summer school with good grades and enjoyed a time of reprieve from studying and tests. She did decide to get a part-time job working three hours a day for supplemental income and plans to continue the job even after school starts in the fall again. She will be taking a full academic load, working, and handling all the responsibilities a young single mom is required to do. She is a good mother and has enjoyed some local excursions with her sweet daughter, Alina.

Arzu has been working part time this summer and enjoying some free time to be able to go out with friends. The nursing program starts up again with on-line classes and a few in-person classes. She will be busy with school, continuing part-time work, and spending time with her sweet young son, Demir, who will soon be three years old. Arzu is in the Transition Program at TNB and is enjoying the extra bit of freedom allowed to make independent decisions and to use the teaching and direction she has received these past two years to make good choices!

Terri Young has been with us this past year and now has prayerfully felt directed to move back to Colorado to support and assist her kids and grandkids. She shared her deep appreciation for the time spent at TNB, the love and fellowship she experienced with the Fort Myers church family, and the precious memories and lasting friendships she will take with her.

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.” Lam. 3:22-24

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Sandra Kaeb*

We are thankful to hear that Sis. Marylou Joos is back home and recuperating from hip surgery. Our prayers go to Bro. Glenn Ott (Sis. Mardell) as he is struggling with health issues. My God grant him and his dear wife peace and comfort through this difficult period.

On August 2, Bro. Gabriel Streitmatter (Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne) and Sis. Haley Knochel, Detroit, MI (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) were united in marriage. Praying that as they start their lives together, their love may radiate God’s perfect love in a threefold cord.

The first week of August, our elder brothers gathered together for the virtual Brotherhood Conference. We were able to register and listen online to the conference. Praying that God may grant wisdom to our dear elder
brothers as they strive to lead the flock of God’s children.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account” Heb. 13:17

We are thankful to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Funk from Gridley, IL join our Sarasota church. Praying that they may feel our love as we worship together.

On August 16 we were able to witness the baptism of Sis. Faith Sabo, daughter of Jeff and Sis. April Sabo and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Rachel Hollan (Fort Meyers, FL). Praying that in her new walk with God the father, she will shine her light of God’s love and faithfulness.

Thankful to hear that Stefanie Hebert (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kelly) has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

**Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere**

*Rick and Komari Aberle*

Greetings from Haiti! We are thankful this past month for the easing of travel to and from Haiti. Several families and missionaries here have been able to travel back to the United States for furloughs. Bro. Lucas Nussbaum and their son Tucker traveled home in late July. In early August, Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann and family, and Bro. Danny and Sis. Sarah Bertsch and family were able to travel to the U.S. for furlough and missionary orientation.

Bro. Rick Aberle returned to the hospital. Board member Bro. Tom Hitz also spent time here in Haiti in support of the mission.

As COVID-19 has eased here in Haiti, we are seeing a gradual return to normal operations at Hospital Lumiere. While we still do not have any teams scheduled in the next month due to cancellations, we are thankful that we can again offer services to those who need medical and spiritual healing.

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

*Mike and Susie Walder*

Level 4. Do not travel.

This is what is displayed again on the website for the American Embassy in Haiti. Political instability is a constant problem. Riots and dangerous gang activity occur almost daily. Inflation continues to increase hunger and inability to afford schooling or medical needs. The virus can’t be tested accurately or effectively contained.

It is time to return from our summer breaks to resume school and ministry responsibilities. Various committees and teams would like to plan travel in the next several months. It is shaping up to be another challenging year. We could become doubtful or fearful, causing us to be paralyzed and ineffective – not because we don’t have power but because we stop taking action, because of fear.

God is our security and our strength, our shield and only sure defense. He is not pacing around or wondering what to do. God is not timid, cowardly, shy, fearful, nervous or worried about anything. Because we have the Spirit of God living inside of us, neither should we be. We may still experience certain fears, but we don’t need to be overcome by them. We can rest in his promises and his provision.

At the same time, we also need to take practical advice from HarvestCall leaders regarding travel. There is wisdom in seeking counsel about current conditions and acceptable travel procedures.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim. 1:7

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Darcy Steffen*

Through various life circumstances and the current mindset of our culture, I have been provoked to think about peace lately. I read the under emphasized story of Abigail and Nabal to the Sunday school students this past week, and we discussed the opposites of their natures: Abigail the peacemaker and Nabal the antagonist. Jesus said in his sermon on the mount, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9). If we call ourselves children of God, are we making peace with those around us? It is very easy to pick sides and instigate arguments to make sure our opinions and viewpoints are heard, but Jesus calls us to something very different. May we all strive to seek peace and harmony with all, showing the
love of Christ to those around us.

“Blessed are the peaceful children
Who in peace live day by day,
And, unlike the godless sinner,
Evil works with good repay.
He who peace and love has taught
Shall be called a child of God”
The Sermon on the Mount,
Zion’s Harp # 54

We rejoice with Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser as their son Jason married Angela Tomoson (Glen and Barb, Alberta, MN) this past month. Jason and Angela live in Morris, MN. We pray that “Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there’s love at home.”
The Christian Home –
Hymns of Zion #64

Please remember Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario Troxel and their young family in your prayers. Bro. Rudy has been facing some health struggles recently. We pray for peace and God’s nearness on this journey.

We are grateful that Sis. Louise Steffen has finished the race and can rest in peace forevermore. She is an aunt to Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol). Please be prayerful for her sister that she left behind, Sis. Lenora Steffen. They lived together for all of Sis. Lenora’s 95 years.

We were grateful to work together in peace and harmony as our local church gathered for local relief projects this past Wednesday evening. Some cut up and hauled away the tree that we lost in the recent storm, and others packed hygiene kits and wrote encouraging cards for the Rockford Rescue Mission. Many in our church have corresponded the last several months with a man named Edwin who is currently fulfilling a prison sentence in Southern Illinois. He has turned his life to his Savior in humbleness and repentance while there, and we ask that you please pray that the Lord would be close to him always in his loneliness. He let us know that during this time of COVID-19, the inmates are quarantined to their cells for 23 ½ hours each day.

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

Illinois, Bloomington-
Normal
Sara Anliker, Kinsey Dotterer

We rejoice with Jonah and Simon Kaeb; sons of Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan, who have given their hearts to the Lord.

Our warm welcome is extended to the students at ISU, Wesleyan and Heartland Community College. Our annual welcome dinner will look different this year with limited attendance including just the committee, students, and parents, but the whole church is always glad to have our students with us again.

Thank you to all who were involved with making the 2020 Brotherhood Conference happen virtually.

Sunday school starts in a few weeks and even though it will look different, we are very excited for the kids to feel some sense of normalcy. Extra prayers are being said for the teachers; both in Sunday school and school. We were thankful to hear from our panel of educators on our last Selah service who gave us resources to help navigate this school year.

Our church family was so blessed this past weekend with our church campout. It’s always filled with uplifting worship and great bonding time for adults and children alike. We are so thankful for the different gifts we have to make weekends like this happen.

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Allissa Endress became husband and wife on August 2. Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress and Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill Stoller were blessed to each add a new member to their families that day. The wedding ceremony was conducted by Bro. Matthew’s father as well as his uncle, Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). While there were limited guests at the wedding, many more were able to meet the new couple at the reception afterwards.

When a child is born, it is a reminder of our calling as parents, to teach them of God and his ways and faithfulness. “We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath
done.” (Psa. 78:4). Bro. Andrew and Sis. Rachel Klumpp, as well as Aden and Ava, welcomed Raya Joy into their family on July 31. Grandparents are David and Barb Klumpp (Wyoming, IL) and Wayne and Becky Snodgrass (Sigourney, IA).

Sis. Marilyn Tanner (Bro. Richard) had surgery this past month. We pray that God’s healing hand would be with her in this time of recovery.

We were thankful to resume Sunday school after an extra long “summer break.” While it is different in some ways, such as singing outside and sitting farther apart than the children would like, we can be thankful that the message never changes and our church’s youth can be instructed in the Truth. While many aspects of our lives have been altered by the pandemic, we can always come back to God and his Word, which never change.

**Note of Thanks:**

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming response to us at Dick’s passing. It’s been a humbling experience, and we don’t know how we’d have gotten through it all without all of your prayers. We still need them. The food and donations in Dick’s name and all of the cards and remembrances have been much appreciated, and we thank you. When our need is great, our Lord and Christian family have been at our sides, and we can never show our gratitude enough. God be praised, Marilyn Slutz and children

**Illinois, Champaign**

**Brent Young**

We are excited to welcome Bro. Trevor, Sis. Dona and Ethan Wendler to our congregation, after their recent move from Kansas. It is a blessing to have Sis. Dona ‘back home’!

Also returning to Champaign are our short-term missionaries. Sis. Courtney and Bro. Zach Plattner (Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue) are both returning from Magdalena and Bro. Dawson Finch (Sam and Sis. Dawn) from Reynosa, MX. We trust that they felt the continued presence of God, and we now will be praying for their re-entry to our own culture that undoubtedly feels different to them than before.

We enjoyed a ‘drive-thru sundae bar’ as a church family recently on a Friday evening. We were very encouraged that this socially distanced event allowed several of our more vulnerable brethren to participate! Special thanks go out to Sis. Beth Walder and her family as well as Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Fairbury, IL) for making this possible.

We began our fall Sunday school semester after our summer break. Our procedure is a bit different, but after one Sunday, I can testify that the children arrived eager, the protocols were not too onerous, and the Word was taught!

Our counseling elder, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), joined Bro. Brian Waibel for the reading of the memorandum. We were encouraged and challenged with principles of applying Jesus’ example to our individual lives in the present day.

This reminds me of a recent sermon here in Champaign on Acts 20, which follows the uproar and mob action in Ephesus in Acts 19. Bro. David Eisenmann said it well: “Paul in his life was maybe not a whole lot different than us. There was disease. . there were governments that were hostile towards believers. There were protestors. There were those who were getting together wanting to even take his life. But what did we read about here? What was Paul’s passion? It was to share the Gospel with the world. To go and tell others about Jesus Christ.

The problem is sin. The enemy is Satan. The answer is Jesus.”

**Illinois, Chicago**

**Diana Eisenmann**

We appreciate our visiting ministers from the past month: Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) as well as virtual visits from two others to finish our Wednesday night VBS series “The Path of the Prodigal.” Bro. Rich Martin (Gridley, IL) presented “The Desire for Reconciliation,” and Bro. Regg Beer (Milford, IN) shared “The Father’s Mercy.”

The annual Sunday school teacher and minister meeting was held virtually in July. Our August Women of the Word at the Well event was also virtual, and we
discussed the topic of releasing control. In August we began meeting in person for Wednesday evening services.

We are thankful that Bro. Brian and Sis. Amber Vercler have agreed to serve on the VBS Committee, and Bro. Skip Nemecek will serve as an usher.

We mourn with those in our church family who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Helen Schmidgall (Morton, IL) passed away in July. She was the great-grandmother of Bro. Seth Braker (Sis. Brittany). Sis. Lois Klotzle (Roanoke, IL) also passed away in July. She was the grandmother of Sis. Rachel Sauder. Bro. Willis Knapp (Congerville, IL) passed away in August. He was the grandfather of Sis. Michelle Kaisner (Bro. Rick). Sis. Pearl Rassi (Morton, IL) passed away in August as well. She was the mother of Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and grandmother of Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget).

**Illinois, Cissna Park**
**Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin**

Have you noticed the beautiful and peaceful sunsets this past month? They have stretched from the west to the east and the colors are incredible. We believe God is showing us that, in the midst of turmoil and confusion, he is the author of peace and is in control. What a great and awesome God we serve!

With that thought in mind, we want all students returning to school to know that many are praying for them! And for those who are teachers, we are also praying that abundant grace will be given to you with the added challenges. May you all feel God’s presence leading you each day!

Life in our congregation has been quiet this last month. The new babies are growing quickly and are such a joy. A few more of the aged in our congregation have been congregating with us, for which we are most thankful. We are looking forward to weddings in the coming months and harvest will be upon us quickly. As each day dawns may we

**“Trust and obey,**
**For there’s no other way**
**To be happy in Jesus,**
**But to trust and Obey.”**

Trust and Obey - Hymns of Zion #186

**Illinois, Congerville**
**Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen**

On August 11, our Bro. Willis “Bake” Knapp went to be with the Lord. We grieve his loss along with his wife, Sis. Bernie. Bro. Willis was also a brother to our Sis. Carrie Hartman. All would certainly affirm the sentiment shared in his obituary that,

“He was a constant, dependable presence in the lives of his family, church and friends.”

Having been the oldest brother in our congregation, his loss will surely be felt by all who attend. May his dear wife and family take comfort in the confidence that he is “safe in the arms of Jesus.”

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

Recently the exhortation to be peacemakers has come up frequently. What a contrast to the world’s pursuit of strife, defiance and willfulness. While we all strive to fulfill our calling as God’s children, we want to be careful that our walk and our conversation is of one of his children. May we all live in peace with one another, and bravely shine the light of Jesus in a dark, violent and divisive world.

"Grant that I may here be brave,
Loving Thee unto the grave,
That in pain, storm and rain,
I may be a lamb and
lion in Thy name."

Desire for Jesus’ Likeness, Zion’s Harp #240

**Illinois, Elgin**
**Amy Gasser**

Our Vacation Bible School was held during the week of July 20. The younger children received virtual lessons and were provided with craft supplies to complete their projects at home. The students in Grades 8-12 met at the Fellowship Center each evening. We thank the visiting ministers who spoke to them during that week, including Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN), and Bro. Matt Kauffman (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL).

Bro. Matt Schambach (Sis. Renee) has completed his term in Sunday school. Bro. George Eason (Carole) was selected as the new teacher.
We thank Bro. Scott Schambach, who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, August 5, entitled “Judging Righteously.”

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

A baby girl, Maya Indigo, was born on July 29 to first-time parents, Bro. Alex and Sis. Mindy Steffen. Her grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Furrer (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen. Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger are delighted to have a new granddaughter, Paisley Grace, born to Miles and Megan Kellenberger on July 31. Everett is her big brother, and her maternal grandparents are Dennis and Donna DeBusman of Hawthorn Woods, IL. Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach are also happy to have a new granddaughter, Leah Noelle, born to Kirk and Amanda Schambach on August 2. Leah’s excited big brothers are Judah, Noah, and Isaiah, and her maternal grandparents are Jeff and Julie Kellenberger.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Lenora Steffen and her family in the passing of her sister, Sis. Louise Steffen, on August 13 at Highland Oaks. Her funeral was on August 17.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcomed two new sisters into the fold on the weekend of August 1-2. Sis. Natalie Meiss (Elder Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy) and Sis. Tamra Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine) vowed to serve God for as long as he gives them life and breath. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL). It was so nice to have visitors among us after many months of separation.

We are rejoicing with two souls who have sought the Lord in repentance recently. Lynn Kempf (son of Marvin Kempf) was brought to Eureka church with his grandmother as a young lad and wanted to return to our area when he was diagnosed with cancer. We are thankful that he was able to give a testimony and be baptized at his home on August 3. We are so thankful that Jesse Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicky) chose to seek God for direction in his life. Our prayers are with both of these dear souls.

Our prayers are with Lori Jean Wood (Doug) as she is recovering from knee surgery.

A timely message on August 9 was shared by our Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Debra, Milford, IN). God bless the labors that were put forth for the edification of the church body.

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” Romans 14:19

“The Sunday School is our delight, we love it more and more.
Tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more.”

The Sunday School,
Hymns of Zion # 73

Our Sunday school students were happy to begin assembling together in August after an unusual break of over 4 months. We pray for the teachers and students as they learn about Jesus and his love.

Illinois, Fairbury
Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

We are thankful for our elder brothers and their willingness to labor on our behalf. We also appreciated being able to watch and listen to the conference. We continue to pray that God fills them with his wisdom and grace as they strive to fulfill their God given responsibility.

We rejoice with Sis. Audrey Leman (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim) and Bro. Kyle Stoller (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of August 16. Elder Bro. Tom Stock, (Cissna Park, IL) was with us for the testimonies on Saturday. Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peach Tree City, GA) joined us for the baptisms. We continue to pray for all of our converts that they each can find peace with God and man.

Our Sunday school children were excited to once again reassemble in Sunday school! We are thankful for each of the brothers and sisters who give of their time to teach our youth about God and how much they are loved by Him.
Illinois, Forrest
Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Luke 13:4

We are thankful that two more souls have turned to God in repentance. They are Tristan Zimmerman (Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel) and Carson Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise). We wish them God’s nearness and grace as they seek their soul salvation.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Nicole Bahler became first-time parents with the birth of Wyatt Stanley. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen Mueller and Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami Bahler (Fairbury, IL).

July 26 was the wedding of Bro. Jared Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Rachael Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) in Junction, OH. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their journey as new Christians.

“We bid farewell to Sis. Alisha Ramirez and children, Juana and Tim, as they return to Barra Vieja, Mexico, to rejoin her husband Endi. We will miss them in our church family and pray God will be with them.

Sis. Mildred Zimmerman has finished her earthly journey. Our prayers are with her children, Curtis (Cynthia), Bro. Rod (Sis. Micki), Sis. Trudy Rudin (Bro. Craig), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Pam) and Jeff (Stephanie).

Our thoughts and prayers are also with our Bro. Harry Johnson (Sis. Til) who suffered a stroke and had to spend time in the hospital.

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

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

We are thankful to have three new souls answering God’s call. The angels are rejoicing that Stella Rumbold (Bro. Martin and Sis. Marti), Sophia Meister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan), and Kassidy Post (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy) have surrendered their hearts to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with them as they begin their journey as new Christians.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.” 2 Cor. 1:3

Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) has recently been in the hospital and we pray that the Lord will help her and give her comfort.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Karen Wiegand as she has laid to rest her dear husband, Bro. Gary. We pray for all the family including their three sons: Rob (Angie), Rod (Robyn), and Bro. Ron (Sis. Cassandra) and Gary’s siblings: Bro. Gale Wiegand (Sis. Jane), Sis. Carol Martin (Bro. Dennis-dec.), and Sis. Connie Gerber (Bro. Rick). May God grant her and her family peace and comfort.

“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

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Tiffany Ruegsegger are blessed to have a new foster baby! We hope everything goes well for them and their baby boy! Our prayers are with them.

At the end of July, we were grateful to have Vacation Bible School for all the kids! It looked a little different this year but was such a blessing. Instead of having all the kids at the church, some were at the nearby park, some at the fellowship hall, some at houses, and some at church. We had 3 nights of VBS instead of 5, but they were full of learning about Jesus and fun for the kids. We had a visiting minister each night of VBS do a Bible study for the Bible Class, Young Group, and parents. The ministers who spoke were: Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL), Bro. David Prevo (Sis. Tara, Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). We appreciate their willingness to serve. The whole church got to enjoy the last night when all the kids came together and sang praises to God in our church parking lot. Ice cream was a bonus too!

We want to acknowledge and thank all our elder brothers who gathered and met at the annual conference on August 6. We appreciate all their guidance and leadership and their willingness to shepherd us in Christian love. We are thankful to have the capability to listen virtually to the conference.

We were glad to have Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm (San Diego, CA) back for a visit during the conference. We were blessed to have Bro. Mike minister to us while they were back.
Through all of the changes and things that have occurred this year, we can be thankful for all the little things and the blessings that we are getting to experience. Church may look a little different with no lunch and social distancing but at least we can be together and worship! It is good to remember what is most important, and that is Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Change is never easy and we all pray things can go back to normal, but in the meantime let’s be thankful for the blessings we do have and get to enjoy!

Note of Thanks:
I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards, flower and gifts I received on my 90th birthday. I appreciate the love and kindness of all of you. May God bless each and everyone. I love you all! Sis. Loretta Hess

Note of Thanks:
Sis. Karen Wiegand would like to thank the entire church for all the love and support she and her family were shown in the last several months. She feels the prayers and love through the day and feels so blessed to know they have a church family to lean on during this difficult time.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein
Joseph and Madison Funk were baptized August 2 and now are our new brother and sister in faith. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie Funk.

Bro. Henry Finck is our new brother in faith, having been baptized on Wednesday evening, August 19. Bro. Henry did not grow up in our church, and was drawn to it because of his need for salvation.

Bro. Casey Knobloch was involved in a traffic accident on August 18. He had surgery on his hands, and is recovering. Thanks to the Lord, that he was protected to this extent.

Regarding the uncertain times we live in today, a minister recently made mention that Western Civilization has based its moral code on the ten commandments, yet! It is significant to note that he added the word, “yet,” onto the sentence. The inference here was that perhaps the day could come when that would no longer be the case, and the nation could turn into moral chaos. Then, we as converted believers, would face a test perhaps as never before. It is comforting to note that the Lord taught, “…and lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world.” (Matt. 28:20).

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner
We have experienced another month of inspiration, encouragement, challenging times and change.

July 22 our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) and Ordained Deacon Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) shared with us the Spring Memorandum from the Elder Body to the churches. On August 5-6 our elders were able to meet, some in person in Goodfield, IL and some virtually, to discuss matters relative to our Apostolic Christian Church.

The evening of August 6, many were able to watch the virtual Brotherhood Conference with the theme “The God We Trust is The God We Desire to Obey”. We thank our church leaders for the love and concern they have for all of us. Their responsibilities have become very challenging during the pandemic. Let us remember to pray for them daily.

The last week in July our church family was able to participate in Vacation Bible School. Our Sunday school students learned how “Jesus Gathers Us Together” using Psalm 23 as a guide. Our Bible Class and adults were blessed with five evenings of speakers on the topic “Old Testament Kings”. We thank the following brothers for reminding us there were those kings that did right in the sight of the Lord and those that did evil: Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) “The Kings of Daniel’s Captivity”; Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) “Abijah, Asa and Jehoshaphat”; Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) “Ahab and Jezebel”; Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) “Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh”; Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) “Rehoboam and Jeroboam”.

The first couple of weeks in August we took a pause from in-person worship because several from our congregation tested positive for or had been exposed to the coronavirus. We are thankful that on August 9,
Bro. Ted was still able to present the Communion Exhortation in hopes that we can partake of Holy Communion in the near future.

On August 12, our Bro. Jeremiah Psinas spoke at our Family Worship Night continuing the series “In Light of Eternity” with the topic “Deep and Wide” describing the bigness and magnificence of God using Daniel 2 as a reference. He had three themes for us to look for from this study:

1. God’s desire for us to know him as he is, and the lengths he is willing to go to in order for us to know him, and how patient he is with us in that learning experience
2. Do we know God?
3. The ability to know God and have a relationship with him and have him as our foundation has little to nothing to do with age. God knows us fully, and he is to be admired and worshipped.

We thank Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for assisting our congregation in the past year in selecting our new elder. We were blessed to have Bro. Marvin and Bro. Ron join us on August 16 to share the Elder Exhortation for Bro. Ted, Sis Donna, their daughters, Sis. Coreena and Sis. Julia, our ministers and our congregation explaining our responsibilities to each other as members of our Morton church family. Due to COVID-19, the Exhortation for the Congregation and New Elder was delayed when Bro. Ted, Jr. was ordained on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” 1 Cor. 3:9

July 19 was the wedding in Princeville of our Bro. Jeff Strunk, (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Amanda Hermann, (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie, Princeville, IL). We welcome Sis. Amanda and pray she will feel at home in Morton.

We extend our sincere sympathy to three dear families who have laid to rest their loved one. On July 23, Sis. Helen Schmidgall (late Bro. Clarence), age 105, was carried by the angels into the arms of Jesus. Surviving are her son Bro. Ken Schmidgall (Sandra), son-in-law retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (late Sis. Shirley) and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

On August 9, Vicki Warner passed away. She is survived by her daughter Sis. Sheri Daniel (Bro. Billy) and son Scott Warner (Deborah) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Pearl Rassi (late Bro. Eli) went to be with her Lord on August 16, just two days before her 99th birthday. Surviving her are two sons Bro. Gary Rassi (Sis. Debbie,) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). Among her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren is our ministering Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy) and their family; Bro. Timothy, (Champaign, IL), Sis. Kayla, Bro. Lucas, Bro. Isaac and Sis. Alyssa. May God put his loving arms around these families and grant them peace.

As our children and grandchildren return to school, some in person and some online, may we keep them in our prayers that they may feel God’s arms of love and protection around them in these uncertain times.

While our country continues to be in turmoil and unrest, may we think of the message in the following hymn as a comfort to us as we try to live life as “normal” as possible:

“Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely and long for Heaven and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me; "Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear, And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Tho’ by the path He leadeth, But one step I may see; His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me; Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise, When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, From care he sets me free; His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He cares for me. I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free, For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.”
His Eye is On the Sparrow,
Tabernacle Hymns #84

Illinois, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

New converts are such a joy! Mackenson Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan) and Justin Ricketts (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marie Unsicker, late Bro. Brian Ricketts) have expressed a desire to walk with the Lord, and there is no better decision they will ever make. We pray for these two young men as they draw close to him.

Engagements are another source of great joy! Bro. Jacob Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) and Sis. Hannah Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan) will be joining their lives in marriage in the near future. We know the Lord will be near as their hearts grow in love.

A new baby is a big bundle of joy! Belem Knobloch gave birth to Hazel Grace and grandparents Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela Knobloch are thankful for the safe arrival.

We want to give praise to the Father for clear direction in putting in a new minister. Bro. David Sceggel (Sis. Stephanie) was installed into the pulpit ministry. We pray his hand will guide Bro. David every step of the way in this new role. We are so thankful for all our ministers and are reminded we each have a part to play in ministry of the gospel.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Chelsea Huber moved to Michigan and are making Alto, MI their church. We will miss them but wish them God’s richest blessings.

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle has passed away. We greatly appreciated him and the late Sis. Lois in our congregation when they returned in 2008 after 56 years of missionary work in our Japan churches. His presence in church and involvement at Skylines will be greatly missed.

Also, Bro. Bob Gangloff’s brother Philip passed away. It is wonderful that tears are a language God understands.

We want to say a special thank you to our local church nursing home, AC Skylines, for all the efforts and adjustments they have had to make to keep the precious residents safe during the pandemic. They are navigating an ever-changing situation while protecting the high-risk elderly population.

Once again, technology has played a big role, this time in making the Brotherhood Conference and the HarvestCall Proclaim and Serve possible to be viewed virtually. We especially enjoyed hearing the beautiful compilation of virtual choirs singing for the conference.

We feel for those who have had health concerns during this challenging time of the pandemic. We beseech the Healer for health and healing in mind, body and spirit.

Illinois, Princeville
Melinda Christ, Cherie White

On Sunday, August 16 there was a sending service for Sis. Myca Steffen, (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna). Sis. Myca shared her testimony and leading into the mission field. She spoke of how she was directed to Magdalena, Mexico and will be working at CVE.

“And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of shire husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knowest not heretofore. The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust” Ruth 2:11-12

We pray for her safe travels as she leaves our Princeville congregation and community on August 19. May we remember her and all those serving in lands afar, separated from their loved ones.

Those experiencing the affliction of the body and spending time in the hospital are Sis. Sharon Menold (Bro. Mike). We pray for her recovery.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann are happy grandparents to Ridge Michael who was born to Sis. Rebekah and Bro. Jared Stoller (Denver, CO) on July 28. Mark and Sis. Paula Feucht became first time grandparents as Josh and Jenson gave birth to Beau Daniel on August 8. Every birth is a miracle, and pray these parents can feel God’s nearness as they raise these precious ones.

Many of us watched or listened and where richly blessed by the virtual Brotherhood Conference in Goodfield on August 6.
On August 16 we started with two, in-person services. The Bible Class had their first lesson at the fellowship hall on this day for the new school year.

Illinois, Roanoke
Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

Our prayers are with the students, teachers, and school staff as they head back to school and Sunday school, especially during COVID-19.

New Sunday school teachers for the coming year include Sis. Natalie Hoffman, Sis. Hope Sauder, Bro. Jeremy Knapp, Bro. Josh Maher, Bro. Jason Rassi, Bro. Jon Fehr, Bro. Matt Kaufman, Bro. Matt Sauder and Bro. Sam Wettstein. We appreciate these brothers and sisters, who are ministering to the children of our church and thank those who are retiring for their service.

We rejoice in the birth of new babies. On June 2, Denny and Sis. Karen Leman welcomed a granddaughter, Millie Jo, born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Wendi Leman (Washington, IL). Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen’s grandson, Graham Daniel, was born August 2 to Brett and Shannon Janssen in Aurora, CO. Arlo Marcus, the first grandson of Bro. John and Sis. Jill Bradle, was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Mindy Koch (Tremont, IL) on August 5. Louis Walter (Louie) was born to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Sara Schick on July 30. Louie’s older siblings are Evie, Violet and Scout and his grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick (Peoria, IL).

Our prayers are with these families as they raise their little ones to know and love Jesus.

We wish God’s richest blessings for Sis. Abby Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar) and Bro. Jon Hohulin (Bro. Ross and Sis. Heather, Goodfield, IL), who announced their wedding engagement on July 26.

Retired Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 26. We appreciate their godly example of love and commitment.

May the Lord comfort the hearts of those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Evie Hangartner’s (Bro. Gene) sister, Carol Roth, of Playa Vista, CA passed away July 10.

Sis. Lois Klotzle passed away on July 26. She was the mother of Sis. Kathy Sauder (Elder Bro. Frank). We enjoyed having Sis. Lois live and worship with us here in Roanoke the last 3 years of her life. We will miss her quiet, gentle spirit.

Patricia Snider of Washington, IL passed away on July 29. She was the mother of Margi Hodel (Kyle). Pat spent her last days at Margi’s house. Margi shared that about 10 minutes prior to her last breath she opened her eyes, which were no longer cloudy, looked straight up ahead, and smiled before she passed. I wonder what she saw as she passed into the arms of Jesus!

Bro. Willis Knapp (Sis. Bernice) of Congerville, IL passed away August 11. He was the father of Sis. Lynn Getz (Bro. John) and Sis. Janet Leman (Bro. Ben). Bro. Willis “Bake” also spent some months in Roanoke at Country View. We will miss his friendly smile and lively conversation.

August 15-16 were the testimonies and baptisms of Joanna Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar), Eddie Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar) and Ethan Hoffman (Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi). It was a joy to welcome these young people into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) was our visiting minister.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb) as he deals with side effects from cancer treatment.

“No, I don’t want to be a flower girl! I want to be a butterfly!” exclaimed 3 year old Elsie. She wanted to play a different role than the one my niece, the bride, had chosen for her. How often do you and I want to play a different role than the one God has chosen for us? When walking through trials or heartache I have often wished to play another role, but I know that the refiner’s fire is needed to make me more like Jesus and the person God wants me to be. Little Elsie was a beautiful little flower girl, walking with her sister down the aisle, throwing out petals. In fact after the wedding was over she picked up all the cloth petals and put them back in her basket, so she could play flower girl at home. She found joy in her role! I hope I can show joy in the journey, too!

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace
wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 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. 5:1-5

Illinois, Tremont

Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

We rejoice with our new brothers and sisters in Christ, Sis. Melinda Koch (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika), Bro. Joshua Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val), and Sis. Halo and Bro. Anchor Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Misty). We wish to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) for ministering to us that weekend. We would also like to thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) for assisting in reading the Memorandum.

We congratulate Colton and Mary Myers and Trent and Leah Scheuermann on their weddings this past month. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy Schaefer and Leah is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle Oswald. We also rejoice with Bro. Phillip Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val) as he is engaged to Sis. Mary Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy, Sabetha, KS).

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

We have four babies to report this month! Bro. Aaron and Sis. Stephanie Baer welcomed home their first child, Anthony James. Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch are happy to have another grandson, Joshua David, born to Kevin and Anna Koch (Washington, IL). Bro. Trent and Sis. Mindy Koch welcomed a baby boy, Arlo Marcus. His grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch. Bro. Gregg and Sis. Cindy Sauder welcome their first granddaughter, Finley Sage, born to Nic and Charlotte Sauder.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. dishwasher Baer (Bro. Aaron) and Sis. Whitney Dill (Bro. Brent) as they mourn the loss of their great-grandmother Sis. Helen Schmidgall (Morton, IL). We pray that their families will feel God’s nearness and comfort.

Illinois, Washington

Lillian Pfaffmann

“Ring the bells of heaven!
There is joy today,
For a soul, returning from the wild;
See! the Father meets him
out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary,
wand’ring child.
Glory! glory! how the
angels sing: …”
Ring the Bells of Heaven,
Gospel Hymns #622

Chris Mazza became our brother in Christ as he was submerged in the waters of baptism.

How we rejoice with him! This reaffirms to us that our Lord is still working in the hearts of men, and would draw all men to him if they would but let him rule and reign in their hearts!

Our Denver, CO. congregation welcomed one of our Washington families, Bro. Dave and Sis. Tara Prather and children, as they moved to that area for business. We pray that no matter where we are geographically that God can use us for his glory!

It seems the world around us grows darker every day; that evil seems to be multiplying out of control. However, we know our Creator, our Heavenly father, never sleeps and knows even when one of the hairs of all mankind drops from our heads!

He has told us in his Word that this would come to pass; that he would never leave us nor forsake us; that his grace and mercy are sufficient, if we but trust him.

The Bible is full of strength, encouragement, promises, light, truth, conviction to be the salt of the Earth and an illumination in the darkness and to love as he loves… So

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” Psa. 31:24

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen

“Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.
All I have needed,
thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me."
*Great is Thy Faithfulness,*
*Heavenly Highway Hymns, #113*
We rest in the promised faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. There are countless situations that can produce much anxiety if we allow our minds to dwell on them. Yet, God reigns! He is good! He is faithful!

Bro. Chase and Sis. Lucia Rinkenberger rejoice with the birth of their daughter, Sophia Mae. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger and Beatriz Romero.

We’ve been reminded again of how quickly life can change and of how fragile our lives are. Bro. Aaron Gerber (Sis. Cassie) recently underwent unexpected surgery for removal of a brain tumor. He is currently in treatment and therapy. Our prayers continue for them and their young children!

Our love and prayers also surround Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer, who were injured in an auto accident, and Bro. Tim Holopeter (Bro. Joe and Sis. Donna) as he is beginning the process for a kidney transplant.

Sis. Sharon Stoller (Bro. Larry) grieves the loss of her mother, Sis. Phyllis Greene (Morton, IL). Sis. Rose Frauhiger’s (Bro. Tom) brother, Art Moser, has passed away. We pray that both of these families can feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit!

We are praising God that Lucy Steffen (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jessie) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God bless her and begin his converting, sanctifying work!

Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) visited us for a meeting about the Haitian Dairy Project and stayed to minister to us from the pulpit. What a blessing to again have a visiting minister! Thank you, Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene!

“Thank you” is such a small token of our appreciation for each of our elder brothers. Even though there was a sense of loss at not being able to attend a general conference, our prayers were with them and we know that God’s Spirit prevailed.

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lam. 3:21-23

**Indiana, Bluffton North**

**Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;” Rom.12:12

How quickly the summer passes, children return to school, and Labor Day approaches, but always God is present and faithful.

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not.
As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.
Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

Great is Thy Faithfulness,
*Heavenly Highway Hymns, #113*

We share our sympathies with Bro. Alvin Fiechter, and his family, Bro. Dean Fiechter (Sis. Cyndee), and Sis. Kay Steffen (Bro. Keith) as they laid their wife and mother, Sis. Berniece to rest. What a comfort and blessing it is to be fully confident that Berniece is rejoicing with the angels at the feet of Jesus.

We said goodbye in a different way to Bro. Nick and Sis. Amber Steffen as they headed overseas to the mission field the beginning of August.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” *Isa. 52:7*
Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

At this time we are enjoying beautiful, mild, sunny weather. The mornings are cool and refreshing, and the days are warm, but pleasant. The grass and trees are lush and green, and flowers have amazing color. As we enjoy the beauty of nature, Psalms 19:1 comes to mind “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”

The Bible class, along with teachers, enjoyed a special time of fellowship and inspiration on a weekend of camping. Many wonderful memories were made, and Christian friendships were strengthened. May each dear young person look to Jesus and choose to follow him as Lord and Saviour!

Before advancing to the next Sunday school class, the young children in Sunday school shared verses and songs they have learned in the annual “Promotion Sunday”. Every child is precious, and we pray that the memory work they have done will help them throughout their lives.

Our love and appreciation to Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) for sharing God’s word with us on a recent Sunday. We welcome his son Bro Randy, Sis. Brittany and their family to the area, and look forward to having them with us whenever it works for them!

Along with joys, life has hard situations and sorrows, but God is faithful to us in every situation. We extend loving sympathy to Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy Wuethrich in the passing of Judy’s dad, Ora Hughes of Monticello, IN, to Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward in the death of Sandi’s dad, Bill Long of Monon, IN, and to Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser in the death of their sister-in-law Lana Nuest (Keith) of Kouts, IN.

Our prayers have been with the following loved ones who have had health concerns. We know there are others we are not aware of, and pray that God in his love and mercy will be with, comfort and heal each one. Those we have specifically mentioned in prayer are: Lisa Pedigo, Bro. Aaron Gerber of Bluffton, IN (Grandson of Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein), Larissa Eberhardt, who underwent surgery a few months ago (sorry for the late update), Jerry Hendershot (brother of Sis. Connie Linback and Sis. Karen Albrecht), Bro. Dick Overmyer (Beverly), and Bro. Roger Ward (Sis. Sandi).

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier

August has been a busy month for Indianapolis. We continue to meet Sunday mornings at about 50% capacity and Sunday school has started up again which has been a blessing for our children and for the teachers. We enjoyed the Sunday school picnic on August 2 at the home of Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer.

Indianapolis hosted Christian Endeavor for the Indiana high schoolers. It was a fun time for all. Bro. James Schneider (Silvertown, OR) spoke to the students on starting and finishing the race for Christ.

Bro. James brought the Word to the congregation on Sunday morning. It is always a blessing to hear from a visiting brother and to fellowship together.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Paige (Sauder) Emch welcomed their first baby boy Eddison James on July 24. Bro. JR and Tiffany (Schwab) Sauder welcomed baby girl number four, Quincy Kate on July 26. We rejoice with busy parents and the grandparents, Bro. Jon and Sis. Peg Sauder on the healthy arrival of two beautiful new grandchildren.

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

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

This was the theme for our Vacation Bible School this year. We adjusted the schedule of how we normally do things, and instead of three days in one week, we did three consecutive Wednesday evenings. Our special thanks go to ministering Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL). Each of these brothers did a phenomenal job of bringing God’s word to the high school students and congregation, while the younger classes met for lessons and crafts.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was also adjusted for the
current guidelines. We loved the opportunity to gather at a local park, enjoy some songs from the children, have ice cream and spend some time together in fellowship.

One Tuesday evening, a number of loved ones from our congregation met at Parkview Haven in Francesville to sing hymns outside for the residents. It was a blessing to be able to gather and sing, and we pray it was a blessing for those residents who were able to listen and watch from the safety of their rooms.

Our hearts rejoice with great joy over the news that our beloved Carol Ailes has chosen to turn her life to the Lord through repentance. Our prayers continue for her.

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Eph. 4:15-16.

It is a blessing to witness how the Church Body is meeting the unique needs of this difficult time with the talent that God has measured to each one. We continue to pray for the church administrators as they make difficult decisions regarding our church services and Sunday school activity. We are seeing the talents and creativity of some of the Body in regard to remembering the lonely and elderly. May his love abound in us more and more as a beacon of hope in this dark world.

Have you thought to pray for the missionary families who have been sent home because of the world-wide pandemic? Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Gerst and their four children were serving in Ethiopia when they were sent home. These families are torn between the land of their birth and the land to whom God sent them. To help provide a more stable environment for their children and attempt to live as normally as possible, recently the Gersts have been able to rent a house in Grabill. We are excited to have them in our neighborhood. We are already learning from them numerous examples of how God has provided for their family’s needs in this relocation. All glory to God.

We are settling into a routine of meeting two different times on Sunday morning for our church service. Only 120 people can be accommodated at the 9:00 a.m. or at the 10:45 a.m. services, so we sign up via the computer to reserve our place in the service time of our choice. It is a blessing to be able to meet in person, but the social distancing and recommendation of wearing masks leaves something to be desired as far as fellowship! I, for one, am learning to appreciate our former practices that I took for granted for too long. The positive side of this situation is that we are developing a greater need to love and be loved by our church family.

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We thank Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH) for sharing God’s Word with us earlier this month. The past couple weeks have begun the start of a new school year for many of our kids.

“...Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithsoever thou goest.” Josh. 1:9

While things remain far from normal, God’s encouragement and promises work to comfort and fill our hearts with peace.

May his presence cover you in the days to come!
Our visiting ministers for this month were here to share in our VBS. We were thankful to be able to have it even though it was somewhat of a different format.

Thanks to Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), and our Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea) for sharing thoughts on our theme, The Great I am.

We were reminded of the attributes of our Lord and Saviour who is all-knowing, all-seeing, omnipresent, merciful, compassionate, kind, and loving. What are our attributes? How do people see us? Are we a good example of Jesus’ love and kindness?

Our church family is rejoicing with the angels and the parents of Ellie Scheitlin (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda) and Sarah Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) as they have surrendered their hearts to follow God’s pathway. We pray they can feel the love of the church to help them on this journey.

As school has resumed during this pandemic, we pray for the health and safety of all involved. This “new normal” is a challenge for all of us. It is a reminder as to who is in charge. I think God is trying to get our attention to be aware that we need to be ready for his return each and every day. There is so much unrest going on here in our own USA that we are not used to and so much that we are not totally aware of. May God grant us the courage and grace to hold strong to his word, grace and love.

"There is beyond the azure blue, A God concealed from human sight. He tinted skies with heav'ly hue And framed the worlds with His great might.
There is a God, He is alive In him we live and we survive; From dust our God Created man, He is our God, The great I AM."

Our God, He Is Alive, Heartland Hymns #76

We rejoice with our new Bro. Gabriel Martinez (Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna), who shared his testimony and was baptized the weekend of July 25-26! On August 8, our Sunday school Bible class students enjoyed a fun day of fellowship in Indianapolis at Christian Endeavor. Our prayers for healing are with Bro. Don Lehman (Sis. Jill) as he deals with some health issues and also broke his leg. We also kept Sis. Gigi Schafer (Elder Bro. Scott) in our prayers as she traveled to Illinois to assist and comfort her father and sister who underwent surgeries. We also wish a blessed and productive semester for Kenneth Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn) as he returns to Ball State University.

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 1:25

"And He changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding." Dan. 2:21

As the times change, may we draw even closer to the time keeper and seek wisdom and understanding to navigate this new season.

We so appreciate all the efforts towards a shortened, virtual Brotherhood Conference which was a comfort to many. We pray God’s truth and peace rests on the upcoming, virtual Ignite evening scheduled for young adults on August 29. Thanks so much to all who contribute to these connecting events.

A big, prayerful welcome once again to all our college youth who are making their way on changed campuses, whether Ivy Tech or Purdue. So grateful here at Purdue, the new saliva based COVID-19 test was available rather than the less desirable, ‘ugh’ sinus swab. Incoming new students include Bro. Brenden Weerts, Bro. Corey Honeyager and Sis. Lea Bahlol (Remington, IN), Jack Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Cassie Gramm and Jasmine Gramm (Milford, IN), Sis. Chloe Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN), and
Danny Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bros. Elijah Waibel and Ethan Leman (Francesville, IN), Bro. James Drayer and Bro. Reed Maibach (Leo, IN) and friends Lydia Rhoads, Lauren West, Wesley Taner and Kurt Tian Li. The church student headcount for the fall year is estimated around 35. Totals are not yet confirmed.

Our sympathies go to families who recently laid a grandparent to rest: Bro. Steven and Sis. Kristin Sauder , (Sis. Lois Klotzle, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda Meister (Bill Long), and Bro. Brad and Sis. Amber Widmer (Sis. Pearl Rassi, Morton, IL).

Indiana, Wolcott

Teresa Earney , Luann Gerber

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day!”

I Know Whom I Have Believed, Hymns of Zion #109

Our Sis. Mary Beth Lehman (Elder Bro. Greg), bid her mother farewell on this earth, but looks forward to that joyful reunion in Heaven! Sis. Lois Klotzle was such a joy when she visited Mary Beth and her family! We will all certainly miss her and pray for comfort for this precious family.

August 2 was a beautiful day for the wedding of Bro. Trenton Kyburz (Bro. Philip and Sis. Sasha) and Sis. Kenzie Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody). May God richly bless them as they walk hand in hand through this life!

Our VBS was very different this year with Remington and Wolcott having their separate VBS at their own individual churches. The Bible Class for both churches was held at Remington. We sincerely appreciate all the effort put forth to make this a blessing!

A wonderful day was had by all who attended our all-church outing at Prophetstown State Park this year!

Iowa, Burlington

Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

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

We are called to praise God ALL the time, whether good times or bad, alone or with others. Our church family was thankful to have our monthly singing outside and once again, praise God together in song. We also gathered for our rescheduled, annual Sunday school picnic hosted by Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz. It is always healthy for our church family relationships to spend a meal and evening together with adults and children interacting as good friends.

Phase Three has now been instigated, and this includes a cafeteria lunch along with a few other minor adjustments. Also, our Sunday school classes resumed mid-July, and the students recently advanced to the next grade level. As teachers, we are thankful for the continued support and prayers as we bring God’s truth to his youth.

We want to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Myron Schulz with the passing of his wife, Sis. Dorothy. “Dot” as she was known to some, was mother to Bro. Gary Schulz and Sis. Janette Schulz of our church family. Sis. Dorothy left many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and we pray that God can wrap them all in his arms of love during this bittersweet season. Visiting ministers attending her funeral were Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Gerry Wagenbach (Sis. Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

We were thankful to have Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO) and Bro. Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, Lamont, KS) minister to us this past month.

We pray for the continued health concerns of Bro. Joel Wuthrich (Sis. Shirley). May God be his provider.

We celebrated the marriage of Blake Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) and Whitney Madden on August 15. We wish them God’s blessings and direction as they begin a new walk of life together.

Our prayers are with incoming Sunday school teachers, Sis. Megan Joos and Bro. Chet Schlatter. May the Lord be with the kids as they soon will be starting school.
Bonnie, Mediapolis, IA). Thank you to these brothers for serving and sharing in our grief.

As the seasons continue on, may we lift up a song of blessing to our amazing God each and every day!

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

We were encouraged by the visits of Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) as they shared the services here one Sunday. Also here that day was our retired elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) who spoke to our Sunday school children.

We were able to hold our first Sunday of the month singing and our first Wednesday evening service since mid-March. We are thankful for each step toward “normal” we are able to safely take. There are a handful of brethren that, due to health risks, have been home. We miss them dearly. Our prayer is that God would sustain them and their spirits could be lifted through this difficult time.

Our children are heading back into the new school year as I write this. Let’s remember to keep them in our prayers as they learn to adapt to the changes 2020 has brought to academia. Our Sunday school teachers this year are Bro. Dean Rocke, Bro. Kent Schupbach, Sis. Sandy Butikofer and Sis. Trisha Rocke. May they feel our support, and we trust the Lord will give the increase to the seeds sown in the hearts of our youth. Thank you and God’s blessings to those rotating out of teaching; Bro. Jim Knobloch and Sis. Sue Schneider.

“Therefore, trusting in God only, place your confidence in Him; He is near, though we feel lonely, help delays and light grows dim. Be consoled and trust in Jesus, in this Rock your strength increases; Let your faith rest in His blood, fearing neither storm nor flood.”

The Ship of Faith, Zion’s Harp #94

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

Greetings from Iowa!

We have started a new phase in returning to “normal” at church. We are having two services with a lunch break. Those that live close, go home for lunch. Others bring a picnic lunch and socially distance outside. If you plan to visit, please let us know, we will gladly provide a lunch for you.

Even though we have not had Sunday school for several months, a Sunday school picnic was enjoyed with outdoor games and pizza. We are thankful God has blest us with several Sunday school students, as they are our future church. Thank you to the teachers who plant the seeds for the future church.

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We appreciated hearing the Spring Memorandum read by Bro. Joe Gerst and Bro. Jim Butikofer recently. We also were able to listen/watch the Brotherhood Conference on video. It is a blessing to hear the encouragement and concerns of our Elder Brothers as the Holy Spirit guides them.

We recently had a strong storm move through the area of Iowa where many of our congregation live. We experienced very high winds, resulting in many downed trees, some property damage, and loss of power for several days. At this time, all of us have had our power restored, and we anticipate a group of brethren, coordinated by HarvestCall, coming to help clean up in our area. We thank them in advance for all the work they will be doing for the local people here.

Iowa, Lester
Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

Two new homes have been established recently. Matt Metzger

Visiting our congregation this month were Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS). We thank you brothers and families for stepping out during COVID-19 and bringing God’s message.

Our country celebrated the freedoms we enjoy. I saw this statement by former President Ronald Reagan. “If we ever forget that we are “One nation under God”, then we will be a nation gone under.”
(Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) married Bailey Lulf on Saturday, July 25. Trevor Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) married Emily Vande Kop on Saturday, August 1. Sis. Molly Knobloch (Sis. Chalea and the late Bro. Vern) is engaged to Bro. Charlie Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) from West Bend, IA. We wish these young couples God’s blessings as they start their lives together.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Abby Metzger and little Mia welcome Hayes Brian born July 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger. Nathaniel Ray was born August 17 to Edgar and Kayla Ramos. His sister Lillian and grandparents Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger are happy to welcome him as well.

Sis. Chris Metzger (Bro. Dale) is recovering from hip surgery. Sis. Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susie, Minneapolis, MN) has been diagnosed with cancer and is awaiting a second surgery and treatment plan. Cassie Beverage (Arlyn and the late Nancy Metzger) is seeking treatment for a benign brain tumor which is causing health problems. May we remember these dear ones in prayer as they deal with these challenges.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim) in the loss of their sister Sis. Joyce Schneider (Rockville, CT).

We have enjoyed the Sunday evening singings in the church parking lot these past couple months. It makes us appreciate the chance to sing and spend time together in the outdoor setting.

**Iowa, Mediapolis**

**Laura Kurtz, Janet Lanz**

We enjoyed our annual Sunday school picnic the end of July, held entirely outdoors this year. We did not have our usual potluck, but still served our traditional ice cream cones and snow cones. Our church family had not sung together or been together besides church services since March, and we were very grateful for this blessed evening!

Our dear Bro. John Steiner announced his retirement from the ministry following what would end up being his last sermon on Sunday, August 2. Bro. John diligently preached the gospel for 51 years, and his presence will surely be missed! Bro. John was a minister during the tenure of all three of Oakville-Mediapolis’s elders. We sincerely thank Bro. John and his wife, Sis. Carol, for willingly serving our church family all of these years.

Sis. Dorothy Schulz went to be with Jesus August 8. Though in later years, she and Bro. Myron attended our Burlington church, Dorothy grew up in our church, and they faithfully attended the Oakville-Mediapolis churches for many years. We will miss her! Six of Dorothy’s grandchildren and her five living sisters attend our church, and we extend our sympathy to all of them.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Lucy Frank joyfully welcome Layla Marie into their hearts and home! Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy Wulf (Morris, MN) are thankful for another granddaughter. Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary Larson are also delighted to welcome a new granddaughter into their family circle, as Ruby Irene was born to Luke and Ashley Larson.

Plans are being made for in-person Sunday school to start the end of August. New teachers are Bro. Orrin Lanz, Bro. Joel Steiner, Bro. Kory Wagenbach, Sis. Lindsy Frank, Sis. Brittny Steiner, and Sis. Deanna Wagenbach. We want to thank the teachers who have finished their terms, and be prayerful for our children and teachers in the upcoming year.

"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer." Rom. 12:12

What great encouragement this verse is, especially in the times we are living in. Tribulation abounds on many different fronts, no doubt about that! There is so much these days that can cause us to feel fearful, weary, or worried. This verse reminds us to rejoice in the Lord and be full of hope instead of fearful, to be patient instead of weary, and to replace worry with prayer.

**Iowa, West Bend**

**Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt**

We have been blessed to have Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO), Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) here and encourage us through God’s word.
We rejoice with Bro. Charlie Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) and Sis. Molly Knobloch, (Sis. Chalea and the late Bro. Vern) Lester, IA as they feel directed to become one. May God's presence be felt as they prepare for their wedding.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Tim Mogler as he has spent some time in the hospital.

“*The Sunday School is our delight. We love it more and more; We thank you loving teachers too, For all your love and care.*”
*The Sunday School, Hymns of Zion #73*

Our prayers are with our Sunday school teachers and students as they began a new year.

We are thankful to have started assembling together as a whole church for a morning and then an afternoon service.

**Japan, Shioda and Tokyo**

*Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue, Carrie Ito*

August has been a very hot month. Many schools had shortened summer vacation. We have continued to enjoy meeting in person at church and having Sunday school.

Several loved ones, close to our hearts here in Japan, also won the victory over death and the grave as they had made preparation for this day years ago.

We are sad, but we also rejoice to hear of our dear retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle’s passing on to his reward. Our hearts are full of gratitude for his zeal and perseverance to start the churches here in Japan. Without his efforts and God’s grace, perhaps many of us would not have had the opportunity to serve the Lord in this land where Jesus is so little known. Ehnle-san’s walk with the Lord was an inspiration that we will always remember. We were encouraged to see many former kindergarten mothers and students come to church the first Sunday after his death and give the traditional “flower money” to the church in Ehnle-san’s honor. We are planning a memorial service later this fall and pray that many souls who were touched by his life in years past can again be exposed to the gospel and serve Jesus!

Sis. Lois Klotzle, (Altdena, CA), mother of Sis. Kathy Sauder (Elder Bro. Frank), went to her heavenly home. She and Bro. John (dec.) spent time here in Japan visiting Kathy and Frank who were living here during the Klotzle’s many trips to India.

We are grateful for these examples of faith and service to our Lord. May we continue to share Jesus with those in our path.

**Kansas, Bern**

*Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold*

Greetings of love from the midwest! We are so thankful to our local, as well as our visiting ministers, who shared the sweet story of old with us this past month. We appreciate Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis Maria, Lamont, KS), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) each spending a weekend worshipping with our church family.

We offer our prayers to Bro. Matt Strahm as his dear wife, Dorothy, passed from this life. May God’s peace and precious memories fill her void.

On August 16, our Elder Bro. Brad Strahm read the spring Memorandum to our congregation. There was so much good for us to consider, as we navigate through this world where situations can change so quickly. It makes me ever so thankful for an unchanging God!

Sis. Rachel Strahm (Bro. Hans) has been seeking medical treatment related to complications with her eye health. Bro. James Menold (Sis. Lou) had hip surgery in recent days. Our prayer is that God would grant each of them as well as their families grace and patience, as they travel the road to recovery.

The engagement of Bro. Michael Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Sheila Graf (Mark and Marcy, Rittman, OH) brought much joy and excitement to our congregation! We look forward to welcoming Sis. Sheila to Kansas!

Following God’s direction, Sis. Jodi Roth has moved to our area from the Silverton, OR congregation. Our hope is she will feel a warm welcome!

As our children head off to school and begin a new school year, we pray that God will go before them, protect them, and that their lights for Jesus would shine brightly.
Kansas, Kiowa  
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden  
Greetings to one and all! This has been a strange summer for all of us, but we know beyond a doubt that the Lord is in control, always has been, and always will be.  
We have been so grateful for the visitors who have taken the time to assemble with us, even though it has only been for one service and no fellowship hour. We appreciated Bro. Ben Lindberg (Sis. Anneliese, Taylor, MO) visiting and expounding on the Holy Scriptures.  
Surgical patient this month has been Sis. Courtney Schupbach, who is now home and improving. Others from our small congregation are also recuperating at home from various ills. Praise the Lord, he is the Almighty Healer!!  
We have had several young people from our congregation return to colleges and universities, hoping for a “normal” year of learning. Also several Sunday school students have returned to their respective elementary and high Schools, also hoping for continuation in their learning experience. We ask God to bless each of these young souls as they venture out into the unknown. We must place our faith in God every day, as did this young girl from the state of Minnesota who put pen to paper to relay her thoughts in her rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer”:  

"Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule.

For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him so very odd.  
If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.  
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That’s no offense; it’s a freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.  
For praying aloud in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God’s name is prohibited by the State.  
We’re allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.  
They’ve outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.  
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the ‘unwed daddy,’ our Senior King.  
It’s ‘inappropriate’ to teach right from wrong.  
We’re taught that such ‘judgments’ do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.  
It’s scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns and school’s a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!  
Amen"

Kansas, Lamont  
Maria Luthi  
The start of a new school term is here and we are prayerful for all the students, teachers, and families in our church who are navigating an educational system that looks quite different this year. God’s Word brings us such comfort and peace.  

“I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” Psa. 34:4  
Our church is thankful to be back together in person to worship each Sunday. We extend our gratitude to our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel, (Sabetha, KS) who helped share the memorandum with us over Zoom. Our new Sunday school teachers, Sis. Dora Hines and Bro. Michael Luthi, have started their terms and our prayers are with them as they teach our children. Also, several were able to gather for a Harvest Call project making scripture encouragement booklets for those
in nursing homes or high-stress occupations. Some have also been helping to distribute food boxes for the community food drive.

We have been prayerful for our Sis. Dorene Metzger who was hospitalized for a period of time and then spent time in rehab. We are thankful that she is now back at home and doing much better. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Krystal Knobloch (Bro. Jacob) and her family in the passing of her grandma, Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Burlington, IA).

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

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

Greetings of love from our Sabetha congregation! As always, we have so many blessings to be thankful for!

We were able to gather together at our fellowship center to listen to the Brotherhood Conference. It was an encouraging time to come together as a church family, though it was a bit different than usual.

We extend our love and sympathy to the Grimm family, as they laid their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Lois Grimm, (Bro. Nathan, dec.) to rest. Many will remember and miss her godly, humble example.

It was a blessing to come together the weekend of August 8-9 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Payton Strahm. We are thankful for him and welcome him into our church family as a brother in Christ.

We rejoice with Sis. Mary Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy) as she is engaged to Bro. Phillip Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val) from Tremont, IL. We will miss having her in Sabetha, but we are thankful for God’s leading in their lives.

We also rejoice with Bro. Will and Sis. Mariah Eisenbise as they welcomed a precious baby boy into their lives named Boe Issac. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Eisenbise and Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana Strahm.

It was made known to our church family that our ministering Bro, Roger Aberle, (Sis. LaVonne), has decided to retire from the ministry. We appreciate his 44 years of willing service to our church and pray the Lord bless him for his labors.

Kansas, Wichita

Niklaus and Sara Schrader

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these trying times. Our church has been using Zoom for people who are at risk or choose not to come while letting families attend if they sit on every other bench. Everyone’s experience during the outbreak has been different, but we all need to rely on our Lord and trust in what he has in store for us.

This month Bro. Harrison Metzger has moved to Manhattan to begin his college career at K-State. We pray that he can stay strong in his faith and enjoy his college experience.

We look forward to joining the Kiowa congregation at Kaw Lake on the weekend of August 29th.

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psa. 23:6

Our children were trying to figure out how many days they have each lived and the days quickly add up. What a privilege to experience God’s goodness and mercy each day and to look forward to living in his house forever!

Sis. Martha Solorio’s mother, Maria, finished her days this past month. She lived to be 101. It was a comfort to know that her faith was in Jesus and that she testified of God’s goodness toward her. Sis. Martha cared for her for many years and will miss her. Our prayers are that God will fill the void in her life and that the Word will continue to work in her family.

Schools in Mexico will be starting up again the last week of August but will be using virtual education until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. We look forward to experiencing God’s goodness and mercy in these altered circumstances.

México, Magdalena

Laura Aviña

We were thankful for a successful summer program at CVE
this year, including a small Expo Esperanza the weekend of August 7-8. We also wish to thank the volunteers who spent their summer here and worked to make the program and the Expo possible. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship during their stay and pray God watches over them as they move on to school and work this fall.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin Ort and their children, Sierra, Malaya, Clayton, and Aria, arrived in Magdalena at the end of July and we are thankful to welcome them! They are originally from Congerville, IL and spent time in Costa Rica this past year studying Spanish. May they feel the Lord’s strength and presence as they adjust to their new surroundings and roles!

It appears that COVID-19 cases in the area are decreasing in number, however the government has been cautious about removing restrictions. Church services are still suspended for an indefinite amount of time and non-essential travel across the US border is restricted through September 21. Thank you for your prayers!

Recently, I read the stories of David in 1st and 2nd Samuel. As always, David’s patience with Saul impressed me. In the face of Saul’s outrageous attempts at murder, David refused to take vengeance into his own hands and repeatedly punished those who tried to take vengeance for him. As a result of David’s trust and surrender to the Lord’s timing, God chose not only to bless David’s reign, but also that of his descendants. What an excellent reminder of how God values a heart full of trust and love!

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

Greetings of love in the name of our Creator and Heavenly Father. We greet each of you across the miles that separate us.

Congratulations to three sets of grandparents who are each thrilled to welcome a precious granddaughter: grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch welcome Everly Ann, daughter of Eric and Allison Vansledright; Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch, along with parents Luke and Ruthanne Grummet welcome Saoirse Jane; and Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen rejoice in the birth of Ella Noelle, born to Bro. Bjorn and Sis. Tasha Taba of Breidenbach, Germany. Our prayers are lifted up for these parents as they strive to teach their children in the way that they should go so that when they are old they will not depart from it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with many from our congregation who have been hospitalized, had surgery, are experiencing chemo treatments, in need of healing, or are home-bound. We also think of those who continue to struggle with loneliness, depression, or frustration during these challenging times. We love each one of you and pray our precious and merciful Lord will bring you comfort, strength and courage to face each new day, knowing he is in control and desires that you find joy.

Just recently someone spoke some powerful words to me when I was perplexed about a decision made. Their words of encouragement and chastisement were, “No matter what you do in life remember to find joy in the journey!” This statement is one I have repeated, prayed about and contemplated ever since.

“We’re all on a journey from birth until death, and special is each moment and every breath.

Happiness and joy are not really the same and you’d think that by now I’d know them by name.

But I get confused and for happiness I strive, forgetting that it fades, leaving a hollow inside.

True joy is found in Jesus and living like He did... loving, trusting, giving, like we did as a little kid.”

ibG.res

With joyful hearts we received the news that our dear convert Elaine Wingeier (Stan) is at peace with God and man and desires to be baptized. We look forward to that happening in September. We are also thankful that Lena Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi) has surrendered her heart to the Savior that died for our sins. Many prayers were answered and will continue on her behalf as she grows in the new journey as a follower of Jesus.

So often I look at our friends and wonder what is stopping them from admitting they are weighted down and weary from the cares of life? You can see the longing in
their eyes but as we all can attest, admitting our need for a Savior feels insurmountable under Satan’s lies. As believers, let’s always display the abundant peace and joy that comes when we deny Satan that hold over us and surrender to Christ as Lord and Savior.

As a small congregation we are very aware of and thankful for those the Lord has led to live nearby and make Alto their home church. We welcome Bro. Craig and Sis. Chelsea Huber and pray they will feel at home here. Bro. Craig spent many years growing up in this area with his family so we all feel like he’s finally made it back home. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Craig and Sis. Chelsea as his grandmother, Sis. Karen Martin, (Detroit, MI) recently gained victory and is at home in glory.

Our congregation has had the blessing of several visiting ministers traveling through the area on family vacations. We are thankful that Bro. Phillip Schultz (Sis. Kelly, Burlington, IA) and his family made Bay City part of their travels.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Carol Waibel (Bro. Bill), Sis. Sue Steffen (Bro. Derrell), and Sis. Vicki Ramseyer with the recent passing of their sister, Ruthann Getz (Elmer).

We pray that God would continue to stand by our students as they return to school whether it is in person or virtual. We also continue to pray for teachers and parents as they navigate the changes this present time as brought.

"Have not I 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." Josh. 1:9

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Our congregation has had the blessing of several visiting ministers traveling through the area on family vacations. We are thankful that Bro. Phillip Schultz (Sis. Kelly, Burlington, IA) and his family made Bay City part of their travels.

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We pray that God would continue to stand by our students as they return to school whether it is in person or virtual. We also

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Hello and greetings to all! Our daughter just received her driver’s learning permit and God bless my husband for taking the role of “Brake, Brake, BRAKE!” and “did you not see that car?” The first day they drove, my poor husband came home, shaking his head and saying “I don’t know how those driving instructors do it” (he told me that three times). It doesn’t help that unlike a lot of kids, she has never driven a lawnmower, a four wheeler, a tractor, etc. She is basically thrown into the water of swarming traffic, Michigan lefts, no empty roads, and traffic lights that without fail are turning yellow. “Check over your shoulder”, “Ignore the beeping cars”, “Focus”, “Oh dear.” Talk about stimulation overload for the poor kid. I guess practice makes perfect (or safer, at least).

So if we feel that way about our child driving, imagine how God feels about us, his children who are loved beyond measure, when we make choices such as driving several days without opening our Bible? Danger? Yes! How is our spiritual driving these days? Just like a child needs a parent to learn how to improve in driving and prevent a needless accident, we need God to continue to teach us how to drive better. Our spiritual driving will get no better without asking God for help and being willing to listen.

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary and our church had a “drive by” celebration for them.

We had an abbreviated VBS this year at a park with a focus on God and nature. As part of the two day program, we enjoyed a nature walk and a skit by several students.

The Elder body expressed support for Bro. Lucas Frank for Elder/Shepherd of our Detroit church at the recent Elder Conference. Our church is planning an ordination service for Sunday, September 20. We will keep Bro. Lucas, Sis. Crystal and their family in our prayers and are thankful for their servant hearts.

We celebrated the wedding of Sis. Haley Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Gabe Streitmatter (Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL). Currently they will be living in Florida as Bro. Gabe continues his education and we will miss their presence greatly. We are especially grateful for the time, effort and consistency Haley put into our young/teen girls every month with “Kingdom Girls” where they met at her house and did projects, Bible studies, and activities with the purpose of learning how to live for God’s Kingdom. They always enjoyed going and she had a wonderful spiritual influence on them.
In addition to the groom’s father, Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN) was a visiting minister for the wedding. We appreciated them being here and supporting the couple.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. 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 Cor. 4:5-6

Even with the continued COVID-19 restrictions, it has been a blessing on Sundays to enjoy outdoor singing, fellowship and a family picnic atmosphere between worship. Some midweek services were even held outside. We must strive to find the good in all things, always giving God the glory!

Sis. Alissa Messner, who attends church in Lester IA, is encircled in prayer, while she undergoes treatment for cancer. May our heavenly healer comfort her along with her family (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue).

We also lift up in prayer, Sis. Sandy Bentz (Craig) who has been battling an extended illness.

We need to be ready and keep our eyes on him. The fruit of the Spirit must shine on and through us so those around us want to know the source our peace. His name is Jesus.

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Beg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf*

“This world is not my home, I’m just a passing thru, My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; The angels beckon me from heaven’s open door,”

Note of Thanks:

We express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, cards, texts, emails, loving thoughts and acts of kindness before, during and while recuperating from our surgeries. Your support as the family of God, made the journeys lighter! Bro. David and Sis. Diane Stewart

We need to be ready and keep our eyes on him. The fruit of the Spirit must shine on and through us so those around us want to know the source our peace. His name is Jesus.

Christoph Werner and Sis. Angie Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) as their engagement was announced. Also, Joanna Moser (Jon and Lori) became engaged to be married to Alex Guttormsson. We wish both couples God’s blessings as they make their wedding plans.

Some in our congregation were able to travel to Akron, OH to witness the joyful wedding of Bro. Trent Wulf (Stan and Sis. Pam) and Sis. LaNae Schar (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne, Akron, OH). We welcome Sis. LaNae to our Morris church family with open arms and pray God will bless their union! We wish for God’s blessing in two other marriages performed this month; Jason Moser (Gary and Sis. Doreen, Belvidere, IL) was married to Angela Tomoson and Casey Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen) was married to Amanda Miller.

We congratulate Rachel (Moser) Kloehn (Travis) on the completion of her Nurse Practitioner degree! We pray she can be a blessing to others as she labors in this field. We express our sympathies to Sis. Brianna Wulf (Bro. Eric) at the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Bro. Myron, Burlington, IA). May she find comfort in the hope of meeting in Heaven again someday! Sis. Dorothy’s favorite song is a good reminder for all of us in these uncertain times…
And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.
O Lord, you know
I have no friend like you,
If heaven’s not my home then Lord what will I do;
The angels beckon me from heaven’s open door
and I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.”
This World Is Not My Home, Heavenly Highways Hymns, #63

Minnesota, Winthrop
Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll
"Only He is called a brother Whom the tie of love does bind;
And the love of God the Father,
Filleth soul and heart and mind."
Unity, Zions Harp #237

We thank the Goodfield, IL congregation for hosting this year’s Brotherhood Conference. With the restrictions on the number that were able to gather in person, we are thankful for technology and that many of us were able to join virtually. We thank the elder brothers for all their efforts on our behalf.

Our new Sunday school teacher election results are Bro. Keegan Knobloch (Sis Callie) had support for a 4 yr term. Sis. Callie Knobloch (Bro. Keegan) and Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) had support for substitute teachers. We appreciate and thank Bro. David Messner (Sis. Bethany) for his completed term as teacher and Sis. Becky Braulick (Marlyn) for her year as Substitute teacher. Prayers are with all the teachers as they gather and plan for another year of teaching and planting seeds of truth in the hearts of these young and tender souls.

Missouri, Lamar
Mindy Wettstein

We have worshipped in a variety of ways, and are thankful that “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20).

We enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and their family and Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla Cottrell and family the weekend of June 21. It was our first time back to having services in the church building, as we had previously been worshipping in the fellowship hall. We were able to share a lunch together, and the Eureka folks were gracious to provide it.

Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) had plans to be with us on June 28, however Sis. Shaena had a fall the week prior, so they opted to worship with us via Zoom.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN) worshipped with us via Zoom on July 5.

July 12 Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr and Bro. Garth and Sis. Katrina Fehr provided lunch for us.

Also for that weekend, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi was planning to come visit, and those plans fell through. So instead of Bro. Jay coming to visit us, we decided to “go visit” Lamont, KS for afternoon services via Zoom. Thank you, Bro. Ron Isch for preaching the word!!

July 18 we were humbled and honored to host the funeral for Sis. Julie Bahr of Fort Scott, KS. We extend our sympathy, love, and prayers to her family, including her husband Bro. Larry, and her children Heather Self (Ben), Bro. Austin, and Sis. Kendra. Special thanks to Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS), Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and Bro. Ryan Kellenberger (Sis. Adrienne, Fort Scott, KS) for performing the funeral service.

We are thankful for the ministers who shared the Word with us in August; Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS), and Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Sue, Tremont, IL).

We wish to extend a huge thank you to the visiting ministers who take time out of their schedules to preach and worship with us!

Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich (Ft. Scott, KS) have been hosting out-door signings at their home on Wednesday evenings, and it has been such a blessing to gather with them! We look forward to weekly fellowship opportunities!

Please remember to pray for those with health situations. Jane Braker injured her wrist in an
Missouri, St. Louis
Michelle Rassi

“Now there are differences of gifts, but the same Spirit.” 1 Cor. 12:4

God instituted the church so that we can work together to use our gifts for his Glory. We were able to have our annual business meeting on Saturday, July 25. Many thanks to those that fulfill so many duties in the church: both big and small. Sis. Kary Mangers will be our new Sunday school teacher and Bro. Landon Wuehrich will be the new trustee.

We were blessed with Christian fellowship and friendship when a group of brothers and Bible class boys from Tremont, IL visited on their way to a canoeing trip.

During COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, we had a Zoom meeting with friends from three other congregations. The children were asked to share what they were most looking forward to after we could go places again. The predominant answer was “Going to church!” May we all have that enthusiasm and like David said, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1).

We have been assembling again for several weeks but have been on summer break from Sunday school. The children are looking forward to starting the Sunday school year on August 16.
morning and afternoon services, and we bring in our own lunch. Hospital patients this month are Kermit Virkler, Sis. Bessie Farney, and Sis. Mae Virkler. May God grant healing to all those who are afflicted.

We had our annual business meeting and are thankful for the willingness of the brothers and sisters in their new duties. There is much to do, with only a few, but God is faithful, and there is joy in our hearts to labor for him.

The inner and outer joys a small church experiences when a soul is announced for peace. As we share with our dear convert, Paul Virkler, as he experiences this unspeakable joy that is in his heart. We’re also excited to share that Bro. Neil and Sis. Anna Stoller and son Denton (Smithville, OH) have felt directed by God to relocate to Croghan/Naumburg to support a small church. We are eternally grateful to God for these events, that the church will have souls to carry on the work of salvation where it all started in America over 170 years ago.

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psa. 90: 1-2

Ohio, Columbus

Nancy Banks

We wish Bro. Todd and Sis. Esther Saurer God’s richest blessings as they have moved to the Smithville, OH area. It is so hard to say good-bye to their family but we know they are excited to be close to their mother and grandmother, Sis Sue Saurer. She must be happy to have family close by. Clayton, Moriah, Preston and Talitha will be missed in Sunday school.


It has been a strange year for all of us and there are no guarantees of it ever being back to “normal”.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus; that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” 2 Cor. 4:8-10

May we raise up every morning with a prayer on our hearts and a smile on our face, thanking God for one more day.

Ohio, Junction

Karen Schlatter

We were fortunate to witness the wedding of Sis. Rachael Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) to Bro. Jared Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean, Forrest, IL) on Sunday, July 26. Several visiting ministers were in attendance at the wedding. Bro. Richard Manz (Sis. Audrey, Prescott, AZ) had the wedding service. Also visiting that weekend were Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Ted Bachtdol (Sis. Teresa, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL). A thank you to those who were able to come and assemble with us. We wish Bro. Jared and Sis. Rachael the Lord’s blessings in their marriage.

We are so thankful for young hearts turning to the Lord. Katie Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy) has made the decision to serve the Lord by beginning her repentance. What a blessing!

Aric and Jessica Mericle were able to give their testimony of faith and were baptized on the weekend of August 15-16. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) was able to spend the weekend with us along with Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH). Aric and Jessica’s three young daughters were so excited to witness their parent’s baptism.

Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben) fell several weeks ago and broke a bone in her right shoulder. Precious little Avianna (daughter of Kelsi Manz) also fell recently and broke an elbow. We pray for healing for both of them.

Grandparents welcoming new grandchildren are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz with a new granddaughter Catrina Rae born on August 8 to Chad and Cindy Indermuhle from Seville, OH and Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz with a new grandson Abner Karl born on June 23 to Tom and Patricia Koehl from Morris, MN.

Bro. Paul Manz (Sis. Sandra) had hip replacement surgery in early August. It was amazing to see him in church on Sunday after just having surgery the previous Tuesday.
Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kari Spangler have been blessed to have little Ismael from The Ivory Coast, West Africa, staying with them. He was scheduled to have surgery in June for a cleft lip and cleft palate but it was postponed until August. We are so thankful for medical professionals who can perform surgeries for the many things that can go wrong with our human body. We pray for healing for both Bro. Paul and for Ismael.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psa. 139:14

Our love and sympathy go out to Sis. Connie Manz (Bro. Don) and the extended family in the recent passing of her mother Sis. Audrey Ehnle. Sis. Audrey had been living at the Eureka Home in the latter years of her life. Sis. Connie was so fortunate to be able to spend much of the last few weeks of her mother’s life with her at the nursing home. Sis. Audrey and Bro. Ben (dec.) made many visits to Junction over the years. Her kind heart and warm smile will certainly be missed but we are thankful she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

Our church family rejoices with Jonathan (Latty, OH) and Matthew Dawson, both sons of Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy, as they have received wonderful peace. May God be near them as they await baptism; we look forward to this beautiful event! It is an indescribable joy to see souls turn to the Lord and to witness the change of life which comes through seeking Him.

Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna) continues to be in our thoughts as he transitions home from the hospital. Sis. Susan Foss (Rick) has been on a path of recovery after a foot procedure. Sis. Ruth Domka has also spent time in the hospital. As we intercede for one another, we can be comforted that God is a God of miracles.

It’s a blessing to see our students, from the youngest to the oldest, excited for the lessons and crafts of Vacation Bible School. This year took extra planning on the part of the teachers. We thank them for the work that went into the week as well as those who labored for our annual Sunday school picnic. Being together, although it looks different than last year, is a privilege, perhaps something we may have previously taken for granted.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for everyone whose efforts helped make the 2020 virtual Brotherhood Conference accessible. The inspiration of the Spirit and the singing of hymns renewed our hearts. May our greatest passion be the good news of salvation, and may our lives be a testimony to God, who we serve and desire to obey.

Ohio, Rittman
Maria Beery, Julie Steiner

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

We are thankful for two engagements this month. Bro. Chad Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni) is engaged to Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Smithville, OH) and Sis. Sheila Graf (Mark and Marcy) is engaged to Bro. Michael Baumgartner (Bern, KS). We trust God will be with these couples as they begin their lives together.

Ivy Grace was welcomed by first time parents, Bro. Mason and Sis. Joanna Hartzler. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler and Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner. Rory Rose Ray was born to Joshua and Katie Ray. Grandparents are
Tom and Sis. Holly Leonhard. After losing a precious baby boy, Jackson Allen, last year, Rory’s safe arrival is certainly not taken for granted. Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler are thankful for a new grandson, Charlie Joe. Charlie will be loved by his parents, Bro. Tobin and Sis. Ashley Hartzler (Latty, OH) and big brother, Theodore.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Bev Indermuhle (Bro. Brian) and their family as Sis. Bev’s step-mother, Bonita Norris passed away.

Sis. Shirley Rufener (Bro. Darrell), Bro Vernon Landis (Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn), and Rex Dotterer (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Calla) spent time in the hospital this month. May God continue to strengthen and heal them.

We want to thank Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet, Bern, KS) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) for preaching God’s word to us. We always appreciate visitors.

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

"Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!" Dare to be a Daniel, Gospel Hymns, #652

Vacation Bible School focused on Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and how they purposed in their hearts to serve the Lord first and foremost in their lives. Even in the face of persecution and death they trusted the Lord’s will be done. The miraculous shutting of the lion’s mouths and deliverance from the hot fire in the furnace makes a memorable lesson for children of all ages. As adults we should remind ourselves daily the purpose for which God has set his people apart, so that in times of ease and in times of trial that purpose is our first response.

Much of Sis. Kate Dotterer’s (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) summer was spent in Mexico, and we are thankful for her safe return. Soon she will be returning to college, this time at Akron University. Also moving away to continue their educations are Livi Beard (Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith) at Toledo University and Sis. Haven Blough and Kyria Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) to Marietta College. May the teachings of their youth, to lean on God for strength and to listen to his will and purpose, sustain each one of them.

Ohio, Smithville
Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

Sincere thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) for their kind exhortation as we move forward in our search for an ordained deacon. Traveling is a sacrifice to them and their families right now and we appreciate their efforts.

Our hearts rejoice with our three new converts this month. Giving their hearts to the Lord are Kaylee Bauman (Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen), Kaden Katanic (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather) and Rustin Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie).

Little Ezra Ridge arrived to bless the home of Bro. Phil and Sis. Mariah Maletich. Big sister Camdyn and grandparents Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich and Eric and Lisa Indermuhle are also excited for this bundle of joy.

Congratulations to Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa) and Bro. Chad Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) in the announcement of their engagement. May God bless them as they prepare for their marriage.

Our prayers for healing are with Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Gretchen Stoller (Bro. Tom) as they have recently spent time in the hospital.

Ohio, Toledo
Anne Baumann, Rebekah Witzig

Late summer love and greetings from the Toledo church. In the midst of uncertain times in our land, God has, and is, continuing to send beautiful “silver linings” for us to enjoy. We would like to share some of those blessings experienced by our Toledo congregation this past month.

On Sunday, July 19, we spent a joy filled evening at the home of Elder Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Manz to celebrate the close of another Sunday school year with a picnic and games for the students. “Children are an heritage from the Lord...” Psa. 127:3
Words of encouragement and exhortation were shared with us through the reading of the Spring Memorandum on Thursday evening, July 30.

“Holding fast the faithful word…” Titus 1:9

Our first of the month hymn singing was creatively begun again as we gathered at the new church site on Sunday, August 2nd, to raise our voices in praise to the creator. Sitting in the framed, but open-air dining room was spiritually refreshing as the breeze seemed to carry our words straight to heaven.

“…I will sing praises unto thy name.” 2 Sam. 22:50

We were so thrilled to have an outdoor box lunch meal for our high school graduate Katrina Benware (Mark and Sis. Missy) after services on Sunday, August 9. Katrina plans to attend the University of Toledo when the fall term begins. As the small groups of people visited in spots across the lawn, it reminded me of the miracle of the loaves and fishes on the hillside during Christ’s ministry. He always makes provision for us.

“And they did all eat, and were filled…” Matt. 14:20

Ontario, Kitchener
Roselynn Metzger

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

Greetings of love to all! I pray that God has been gracious to you during these last few weeks and months. At times, I find it difficult to see God’s graciousness, deciding to point out the uncomfortable, frustrating and negative parts of my day. God is so patient, gently reminding me of all the blessings he showers on my life. A crisp morning, the smile of a co-worker, a special verse to guide me throughout the day. God is so good, and it is so easy to notice this if we fix our eyes on Jesus. God is ever patient, constantly calling his children to Him. If we let God fight our battles, we see a glimpse of how powerful our God truly is. If we remain faithful, one day we will be able to fully see his power and glory, and oh, how wonderful that day will be. I encourage you to keep this as your focus as we go through this life on earth. Our true home is in heaven, with our Father and he is waiting with outstretched arms, for you and for me. But meanwhile, while we journey here on earth, he walks right beside us. Holding our hand, carrying us through trials. What a great God we serve!

In Kitchener, we began holding in person church services in July. Helpful restrictions are in place to ensure safety for others such as wearing a mask if you are able. We are still able to have visiting ministers join us via Zoom, which is, as always, a blessing. Thank you to ministers from Iowa, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio for bringing the word to us. One Sunday, Bro. Elmer read the Elder Conference letter. Thank you to the elder body for all their efforts and for letting God speak so clearly through their words. May you feel God’s closeness this month and forever!

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will
uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isa. 41:3

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

The only news we have to share is that thankfully, our church family is staying healthy. We continue to follow the recommended health safety protocol and have morning services only. It is not sure yet when the supporting minister and song leader rotations will resume. We have enjoyed some visitors from the Silverton congregation and also from Indiana.

Amidst all the disruption this pandemic created, it was a blessing to be able to experience the general conference via the technology we have today. We appreciate all the labors of our elder brethren and those who worked to have everything come together for our benefit.

As the fall season is approaching, we pray for all the students, whether they are going to school again, or taking online classes. May the Lord bless and protect them, and continue to protect those working in the medical field.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

Thank you to Bro. Myron Knobloch from Lester, IA, for sharing the Gospel message with us July 19. We appreciate your service and pray for God’s blessings as you continue to serve.

We are thankful to share that many have begun their repentance journey in the last month! We are prayerful for Lanah Metz (Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura), Carissa Sinn (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Regina), Trisha Metzger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth), Holly Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky), and Dominic Webel (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie, Kansas City, MO) as they seek God with their whole hearts. Holly and Dominic are engaged and currently living in Kansas City. We pray that as they prepare for their marriage and look to Jesus, he will bless them along the way.

Sis. Lana Kuenzi’s (Bro. Marvin) grandmother, Sis. Lois Grimm (Sabetha, KS), has recently passed away. Please be prayerful for their family in this time of loss.

Sis. Jodi Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) moved to Kansas this month and will be fellowshipping with the Bern congregation. We are sad to see her go, but trust that God will shine through her in this new phase of life. We look forward to her return visits!

We were blessed to welcome Kathryn Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan) into the fold the weekend of August 15-16! Our congregation was blessed to listen to and witness her testimony and baptism. We pray that she will continue to be a shining light for him.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

We were blessed to do Vacation Bible School with our Sunday school this month. Our theme was Love, Joy and Peace.

We appreciated all the teachers’ efforts to make a special time for the children! We also appreciated Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for virtually sharing a presentation on The Way of Peace. With all the turmoil and conflict around us, may God grant each of us grace to seek his peace as we seek to serve each other in love.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We congratulate Sis. Patience Stoller on her recent high school graduation and pray the Lord will guide her as she looks to the future.


It is a blessing to be able to gather at our church building for worship occasionally with a visiting minister. We are grateful to Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) for sharing God’s living Word with us.

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@
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**

May we be encouraged to be thankful and count our blessings!

“May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The peace and love of God, The fellowship of His Holy Spirit Abide with us all, Yea, with us all! Amen.”

**Parting Hymn, Zion’s Harp #213**

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

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**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

**Candy Meiss**

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

“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.” Col. 3:14-15

Being thankful leads to contentment, peace and joy. Are you truly thankful?

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.” Col. 3:17

We rejoice and give thanks that we are healthy and able to continue to have Sunday morning services for a limited number at church along with a Zoom service for those at home on Sunday and Wednesday evening.

“When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. 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.

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**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

**Sheena Pelsy**

Love and greetings! While our church schedule is still not back to normal here in Dallas, we were thankful to have another chance to gather together for Sunday services with visiting minister Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX).

Bro. Leland’s main message during the morning service was about obedience to our heavenly Father. In Jeremiah 35, we read about the Rechabites and their faithfulness to their ancestors. These nomadic people abstained from wine, building houses, and planting seed and vineyards because of their ancestors’ commands. In Jeremiah 35:2, Jeremiah was commanded by God to bring the Rechabites to the temple and give them wine to drink. The Rechabites declined the wine and stayed true to their forefather’s command. God was contrasting their obedience to the continual disobedience of his people. The Rechabites’ example of standing firm in their beliefs and not conforming to culture was exactly what God wants from the Israelites and from believers today. Because of Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross, we have the privilege to call God our Father. Even though we live in a different culture than the Rechabites and Israelites, we are still expected to faithfully follow after God’s commands and not conform to the culture surrounding us. Let the obedience of the Rechabites be a daily reminder to follow our Heavenly Father without wavering.

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**Vermont, Clarendon**

**Sarah Wagenbach**

The weekend of July 19 we were blessed to be able to virtually join our congregation in Rockville, CT for testimonies and outdoor baptisms. Ministering brothers who joined us for online services (and at times Bible class) were: Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH), Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT) and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). We were all blessed in their service to us. We always enjoy our times of fellowship after our worship services together and look forward to when we can host and be together in person.
DO YOU DESIRE a true peace and joy in your heart? Sis. Hannah Koch, my fifth grade Sunday school teacher, was the first to introduce me to that question through the treasured object lessons she presented. Simply put God first, others second, and yourself last. With that as a foundational principle for living, we can accomplish effective communication. Both listening as a foundational principle for living, we can introduce me to that question through the treasured object lessons she presented. Simply put God first, others second, and yourself last. With that as a foundational principle for living, we can accomplish effective communication. Both listening to others and sharing our thoughts provide opportunity for a blessed fellowship for us believers.

As a child and through a large part of my life, I experienced having a mother who understood the art of listening. Most likely, she was familiar with Proverbs and the many teachings similar to “slow to speak, swift to hear.” She applied that often when I had frustrations or concerns by listening until I was “all talked out.” Then, she would share her experiences from when she was that age. That approach always worked with me. It led to a mutual trust in and respect for each other. She never made decisions for me that I was capable age-wise to handle. Thus, I had the privilege to go to God to seek and to follow his guidance. My mom must have known the familiar adage: “Give a man a fish, and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and feed him for a lifetime.” She knew that a committed relationship with Christ was essential first to become truly able to communicate with others meaningfully.

Also, it’s essential to share in return. There is an okay time to talk. Sometimes we need to ask for assistance, let a need be known, or simply share day-to-day experiences. Often a friend, trusted mentor, or trained professional can help us to resolve health, relationship, or other concerns. I have also known the benefits of church fellowship and times with family and friends. These associations also provide opportunity to visit. Applying Biblical principles puts all of it into proper perspective.

Sometimes we also need to confront others. This is never easy. There is Biblical guidance for this. First, we need to pray before approaching the individual. For me, this could become necessary if someone crosses personal boundaries to the point that my health is affected…physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Sometimes we are called to forbear one another. For me, this would become necessary if my efforts to resolve differences through appropriate, Biblical ways failed to yield the assistance that I had needed. If my needs remained unmet and if my situation worsened as a result, then altering associations with those involved might be the better choice. In Acts 15, Paul and Barnabas parted ways. Whether this was truly God’s will, I do not know. What I do know is that faith applied as we surrender our desire to God will bring understanding in his time and for his purposes.

How can all of this be accomplished? As Elder Bro. Edwin Ringer from our Gridley congregation once stated, Jesus first …
Others second …
Yourself last.
What peace and JOY there would be if we all embraced this more fully!

Helen Woerner - Tremont, IL
Since my daughter knows me better than I know myself, she answered these questions on what I have learned. I have learned that I don’t always have to be right and that leaving a person feeling “heard” is more important than getting my point of view stated. We don’t always need to verbalize our opinions as people can feel and see so much by how we take the time for listening. The people I don’t particularly like to be with are the greatest challenge for me. However, when I give them grace, I am one step ahead of gaining trust and compliance with the goals that need to be accomplished. Working on jobs together with people that are hard to understand is difficult. Yet, when I try to honor and respect their ideas, it seems things work more smoothly. I heard a minister say once that “when you look at a person who is difficult, imagine being a sculptor and chip away at the stone until you see their original design.” Look for beauty.

Appreciation is another big thing I learned. There are far too few compliments and not enough appreciation in today’s world. When you acknowledge a person’s good deeds, it tells them more about your character than 10 Bible chapters. Appreciation is contagious as those who are appreciated go on to appreciate others. Random acts of appreciation and kindness go a long way. Examples include saying a neighborly “hello,” giving treats to walker’s dogs, bringing someone flowers, or slipping a $100-dollar bill into someone’s pocket. These things hit them with a love that so many people continually seek and rarely find. It is a love they can come back for, look for, and eventually find in Jesus.

“Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.” (Proverbs 29:20)

Howard L. Herman - Peoria, IL

HarvestCall Strategic Plan
— Continued from pg. 7

We are not sufficient of ourselves to bring this plan to completion, but our sufficiency is from God (2 Cor 3:5). And finally, unless the Lord fulfills the strategic plan, we will be working in vain to complete it (Psalm 127:1).

Four Focus Areas

These areas will focus us toward evangelism, discipleship, people and reconciled relationships.

• Ministry of Reconciliation— We have been reconciled to God and given the ministry of reconciliation. All ministries are to have this goal in mind (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

• Centrality of the Church — God’s means for discipleship and proclamation of the gospel are through the church. The church is to be central to all ministries (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:15).

• Clarity of the Gospel — There is ONE gospel and it is effective to people of all nations, kindreds, and tongues and God is very jealous over the clarity of the gospel. All ministries will focus on gospel clarity (Revelation 7:11; Galatians 1:6-9).

• Our Journey of Learning —

We recognize we have much to learn about missions, other cultures, centrality of the church, and etc. We have not arrived and it is our focus that all involved in HarvestCall will demonstrate the humility to continue to learn (Isaiah 66:2; Philippians 3:12-14).

HarvestCall requests you would continue to pray, support, and be involved in this ministry. It is our desire that by God’s grace he receive the glory due his name among all nations (Psalm 96). – by Matt Knapp
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News and Notices

AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content

Be sure to download the latest update to get the newest features

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Help us shape the future of AC Central.
Submit feedback and vote for suggested features at accentral.userecho.com

Want to support new feature development?
Donations for AC Central are appreciated and are currently routed through HarvestCall. Write AC Central on your check memo or choose it when making an online donation at harvestcall.org

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN
Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families

Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Guesthouse Accommodations:
4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901
For information and reservations, contact:
(507) 288-0072

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

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acpublications.org

After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
Amazon Gift Registry Instructions: There is a “Hospital Lumiere” wish/shopping list on Amazon. Items purchased from this list can be shipped directly to Eureka. If you cannot locate the “Hospital Lumiere” list, contact Rich Bertschi at lemangm@mtco.com and I will send you a link.

Other Online Retailers: When using other online retailers you can ship directly to: Rich Bertschi at 611 Golf Crest Ct, Eureka IL 61530.
2021 Team Schedule

Magdalena
Silverton, OR
March 20-27, 2021
Congerville, IL
May 28 - June 3, 2021
Washington, IL
June 11 - 17, 2021
Detroit MI & Lamont, KS
June 25 - July 1, 2021

Questions about teams to Magdalena?
Contact: Adam Kaeb - operationscve@gmail.com

Jamaica
Awareness Tour
Jan 8 - 21, 2021
Loren Dettwyler
lmdettwyler@gmail.com
503-580-9629

*If you are interested in sponsoring a team to Jamaica, contact Loren Dettwyler

Haiti
Les Cayes MEBSH/Construction/Ohio
Jan 8-15
12
Ron Palitto
Rorp@palittoconsulting.com
330-336-5373

Les Cayes HWA/ Water Aid
Jan 15-22
4
Rich Kuntz
rrkuntz60@gmail.com
815-848-2420

Les Cayes Haiti Trade Schools
Jan 15-22
4
Andy Getz
andy@getzitdone.com
574-870-5046

Les Cayes MEBSH/Construction/Alto
Jan 22-29
12
Nathan Steffen
nds235@gmail.com
616-308-6621

Les Cayes MEBSH/Construction/Silvertown
29-Feb 5
12
Harvey Kuenzi
hkolanoak@msn.com
503-932-3128

Les Cayes MEBSH/Construction/Roanoke
Feb 12-19
12
Josh Moser
joshmoser92@gmail.com
309-573-6398

Les Cayes MEBVSH/Construction/Peoria
Feb 19-26
12
Wes Sutter
wasutter@icloud.com
309-863-1309

Les Cayes / Torberck Haiti Dairy
Feb 26-Mar 5
12
Brent Hodel
htfi94@gmail.com
309-231-7467

Les Cayes Haiti Trade Schools
March 5-12
4
Andy Getz
andy@getzitdone.com
574-870-5046

Les Cayes HWA/ Water Aid
March 5-12
4
Rich Kuntz
rrkuntz60@gmail.com
815-848-2420

Les Cayes MEBSH/Haiti Support
March 19-26
HC-CC
Jon Zeller
jczeller1972@gmail.com
309-266-9009

Les Cayes MEBSH/Maintenance
March 19-26
12
Jon Zeller
jczeller1972@gmail.com
309-266-9009

AWARENESS TOURS

JAMAICA

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

Our next Awareness Tour is:
Jan. 8-21, 2021. There is room for 12 people.
To learn more, Email or Call:
Loren Dettwyler
lmdettwyler@gmail.com or 503-580-9629

Haiti

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

Currently no trips are scheduled.
To learn more, Email or call:
Rich Bertschi, 309.467.2351
Rick Wuehrich, 219.863.4163
En Gedi House Ministry - Mandeville, Jamaica
MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY

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

   2) 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
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) 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

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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Goodfield, IL 61742

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**Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti**

**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
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 Hospital Lumiere ministry and outreach in Bonne Fin, Haiti.

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

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

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

For additional details for 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.
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

Missionary Support Card Packs
A Resource Tool to Stay Connected with our Missionaries
The past decade has seen tremendous growth in brethren serving full time in the cross-cultural ministries of Apostolic Christian Church. Supporting those the church sends as missionaries is our responsibility and an example given us by the early church. We can support them in prayer, in fellowship, and financially.*

**Ideas for Use**
- Awareness
- Prayer Reminder
- Personal Connection
- Servant Fund Needs
- Communication via
  - E-mail & Texting
  - Letters
  - Care Packages


Another way to pray for our missionaries.
Download HarvestCall’s one-page document listing all those serving. It includes prayer ideas and is appropriate for posting on your refrigerator or church bulletin board.

Visit: www.harvestcall.org/our-missionaries

Contact your Local HarvestCall Representative for Availability
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

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

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.
ISAIAH 54:13

To Sponsor a Child or School

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

Name _________________________  Please check preference:
 □ Mr. □ Mrs. □ Miss

Spouse ________________________

Address _______________________

City ____________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph _______________________

Cell Ph _______________________

Email _________________________

If possible, I prefer:
 □ Boy – Age ______
 □ Girl – Age ______
 □ No Preference

Send to:
HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080
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COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER & POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer Communications Manager
The primary purpose of the Child Sponsorship Communications Manager (CM) position is to build awareness for the ministry throughout the international ACCA brotherhood. In addition, the CM also creates customized communications support for various CS programs and projects as needed to support the CS Committee ministry oversight in five countries.

Responsibilities of Position:
• Develop an annual communication plan that includes strategies, tactics, audiences, and special projects for the coming year
• Utilize existing ACCA media to promote CS to the brotherhood (Silver Lining, HarvestCall Updates, Proclaim & Serve Conference, website, social media, etc.).
• Coordinate story leads/ideas with the CS Committee and our Christian Education Partners in each country to ensure broad representation of CS in ACCA media and material
• Develop sponsor messages that reinforce the value of CS and their important role in spreading the gospel and providing an education
• Create special communications tools as necessary to support the ministry (e.g., conference display signage and material, powerpoint presentations, brochures/handouts, etc.)

Potential Board Role:
• The board of Child Sponsorship consists of 6-7 couples who serve a six-year term, with an opportunity to serve a second term (singles can also serve on the board) – **Option to serve but not required.**

Requirements for Candidates:
• A B.S. degree in communications is preferred; some level of demonstrated communications experience required
• Strong language skills (grammar, spelling, punctuation)
• Creative writing skills that tell a story and engage the reader
• Ability to prepare an outline and interview sources for articles/stories
• Organizational skills to work with others to meet deadlines

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact Ken Rinkenberger. 
Email: kenrink@comcast.net or
Phone: 314-614-0738

**CHILD SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
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Executive Director Job Opening

Due to the anticipated retirement of its current Executive Director in mid-2021, Apostolic Christian LifePoints (ACLP), a mission of the Apostolic Christian Church of America and an Illinois General Not-For-Profit Corporation, is seeking to fill the position of Executive Director. ACLP provides a range of services to the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) community, both within and without the Apostolic Christian Church of America. The Executive Director is employed by the Elder Body of the Apostolic Christian Church of America, reports to the ACLP Board of Directors, and provides leadership in all aspects of the activities of ACLP.

The Executive Director will perform the following functions on an on-going basis:
- Manage and oversee the financial matters of ACLP, to ensure the financial health of the organization.
- Acquire and implement appropriate resources to ensure that the operation of the organization meets its goals and needs.
- Ensure compliance with governmental regulations pertaining to the organization.
- Develop operational, financial, statistical, and accountability reports as necessary.
- Participate in local, regional, and national industry groups, to stay abreast of issues that impact ACLP.
- Interface with the Elder Body of the Apostolic Christian Church, the ACLP Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

Key Attributes Desired:
- Provide leadership of all types and in all aspects, so that the goals of ACLP are met.
- Promote and communicate the vision and mission of ACLP.
- Engage in productive communications with all stakeholders within the ACLP organization; the Apostolic Christian Church at large; and the general public.
- Serve as an effective representative of ACLP.
- Possess a desire for the development and growth of all ACLP staff.

Required Qualifications:
- A member in good standing in the Apostolic Christian Church.
- Education in a relevant area of study suitable to the position, or equivalent work experience.
- A passion for serving the I/DD community.
- Demonstrated skills in the attributes and functions described above.

Interested parties, contact:
Paul Kelson - ACLP Board President
2730 Sedona Dr. Normal, IL 61761
Email: pkelson@route24.net

Provide a letter of interest and a resume by November 1, 2020

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Our Call to Love One Another
— Continued from pg. 3

live godly in Christ Jesus and suffer persecution, while evil men and seducers wax worse in deceit, we continue confidently in what we have learned and believe, knowing the Source is true.\(^\text{16}\)

We’ve learned from Christ’s sermons, on the mount and plain, that his Kingdom operates far differently than the world. Unbelievers can respond either negatively or positively when we love as Jesus loves. In response to Jesus loving the adulterous woman, the scribes and Pharisees realized their own sin and walked away without throwing a stone.\(^\text{17}\) Society often opposed Jesus’ regard for marginalized souls, including lepers, children, women, Samaritans, the blind, etc. Yet, his example of unrelenting love amid prejudice and resistance still resounds today.

Jesus introduced divine power as the ultimate source of love in the face of hate. He glorified God by bearing reproach,\(^\text{18}\) suffering loss as a meek lamb, and choosing to forgive the evil and the ignorant instead of retaliating.\(^\text{19}\) When the mob demanded his crucifixion, they unknowingly fulfilled God’s plan. Blindly advocating Jesus’ death could not take away the condemnation their hearts felt from his presence. In addition to their rejection, Christ felt removed from God’s help and attention\(^\text{20}\) as he lamented, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me.”\(^\text{21}\) He endured the cross and despised its shame,\(^\text{22}\) so mankind can surrender to him in faith and not be forsaken.

Rather than forsaking the disciples who had abandoned him, the resurrected Jesus sought out and empowered them to radiate his gospel.\(^\text{23}\) Jesus lovingly forgave Pilate and those who crucified him. The Word indicates that many souls, perhaps even some of those among that angry mob, later became believers and disciples of Jesus Christ.\(^\text{24}\) What if Jesus had reacted by adding to the darkness around him instead of shining God’s light? Rather than retaliating, Jesus’ non-resistant love fulfilled God’s redemptive will. His subjection invited his haters to become converted lovers of him and others. Hateful Saul, who wickedly persecuted Christ’s righteous brethren, passed from death to life, being transformed by Jesus into loving Paul. Today, society is full of people making misguided choices. They don’t seem to comprehend the degree of spiritual damage that may result. Yet, our meek, Christ-like response to the world around us can be ‘salt and light’, used by God to transform souls.

God’s love is so great that he desires all people to be saved through his Son Jesus Christ, thus becoming his adopted children\(^\text{25}\). None of us would dare to destroy life and take away anyone’s opportunity to abide in God’s fold. Yet, any careless hate we express is comparable to spiritual murder if it disconnects someone from seeing God’s light and living in Christ’s love. If we disciples have inadvertently concealed his light and love, Jesus seeks to awaken us. Thus, we overcome any hateful impulses to let the light of God’s love shine and beckon all toward eternal life. It’s a message worth embracing!

Endnotes

1 1 John 3:11-15
3 1 John 1:5-7
4 1 John 3:11
5 Luke 6:45
6 Psalm 139:23-24
7 1 John 4:11
8 Proverbs 28:13
9 Colossians 3:5-7
10 1 Peter 2:9
11 Revelation 2:4
12 Luke 6:40
13 John 17:14
14 Mark 4:16-17
15 2 Timothy 2:3
16 2 Timothy 3:12-14
17 John 8:1-11
18 Hebrews 13:12-13
19 Luke 23:34
20 Psalm 22:1
21 Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34
22 Hebrews 12:2
23 Matthew 26:32, 28:7, 28:18-20
24 Acts 6:7, 15:5
25 1 Timothy 2:4
— Continued from pg. 5

Now, I believe there are many angels right here with us. God’s presence is mighty among us. You know that? Think about it for a moment. I have no idea how many angels are here, but you know what? Angels are amazing. Yeah, they’re amazing, but there’s one thing they cannot say in truth, and what is that thing? They can’t say, like the rest of us can say, “I was saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, by his grace.” Someone made this comment about the angel Gabriel, but it can refer to any angel. An angel cannot say that, but we can if we are at peace with God after repenting of our sins. We can say it if we are at peace. That’s one distinct difference between us and the angels.

There’s another story about Moody. I think his name is Dwight Moody. He started a church up in Chicago and the Moody Bible Institute, I believe. This man, back many years ago, was on a ship traveling from Europe to America. I don’t know if you’ve ever been on a big boat or a big ship; everything’s just nice and smooth. He’s in his cabin. He’s praying to the Lord and reading the scriptures. Just think about your time at home when you’re just praying to the Lord, and all of a sudden, an interruption comes. We think, “Whoa, where’d that come from?” Well, here he’s on this ship. You’d think everything should be peaceful and great, praying to the Lord, spending time in secret – that doesn’t mean everything’s just going to be hunky dory, necessarily, although often times it is – but all of a sudden, this ship hits a rock. It gets grounded there, and it’s like, “Uh oh.” You think of the Titanic or something, you know, a big ship. Here, he’s praying, and it kind of jolts him, like, “Uh oh. What’s going on here?” Everybody on the ship at that point is thinking ‘what are we going to do’ because the ship is teetering back and forth on this rock. Everybody’s thinking we’re stuck in the middle of the ocean here, and that night, no one could sleep on this ship. It’s one of those things like “are we going to die? when’s the ship going to tip over? Lots of fear, I would think, at that time. A couple days passed there.

In the area of the first class cabins, there’s the saloon. Now, what’s the saloon? That’s where a lot of people go to drink. Well, here, they’re meeting in the saloon. Moody goes and asks the captain of the ship, “Hey, hey! Can we have a service – a church service – here?” And he said, “Sure!” So Moody gathers everybody, whoever wants to be there; basically, the whole ship came. They gather in the saloon of the ship, and Moody said, “We’re going to have a service. Let’s look to the Lord.”

There were Jews. There were Christians, and probably atheists. You name it, they were all there. It didn’t matter at this point; they’re on the brink of death, and they knew any hope they can have they’re going to go after. So, they all gather together, and he starts praying. He’s starts reading the scripture, and that scripture comes out again: Psalm 91:11. As they prayed, looking to the Lord, he trusts the Lord to provide, and what does the Lord do? He sends his angels to watch over them. “They are protected, and – within I don’t know however long, not too much later, – a ship comes and is able to find them and rescue everyone. Isn’t that amazing? You think, ‘Oh, it’s just a story. They didn’t have to be praying. That ship could’ve just come.’ Well, you know what? No. God took care of them. He sent his angels to watch over them. Were any of them greater than anyone of us here? No. No. God loves us, and he takes care of each and every one of us, just the same as he did those people on that ship.

Those are just a few examples in the Bible and in real life. He does the same thing today. Isn’t that amazing? Isn’t that amazing? So, if you’re not at peace today, ask God for help. Ask him for his Holy Spirit to give peace, to give you joy, to give you courage to do what he has called you do.
Before we continue on, let’s sing a song here. Let’s sing #86 The Lord Will Provide. I’m going to read the first verse:

_Though troubles assail_
_and dangers affright_
_Though friends should all fail and foes all unite_
_Yet one thing secures us whatever betide_
_This promise assures us the Lord will provide_

Let’s sing this in faith and confidence to the Lord.

One thing I’ve been thinking about here recently is the word time. T-I-M-E. What is time? For those of you that don’t know, there’s a little clock right here. It says 10:31. I know there’s a clock up there, and I don’t know if they are matched up or not. Hopefully, they’re really close. It’s for reference. Just to keep time. It’s really nice to have. You know, if there’s someone that’s too long-winded, we have this clock. It doesn’t flash bright lights, at least I haven’t seen that yet. It’s a reference. It’s just to kind of keep track of things. It’s nice to have.

We all have our times, don’t we? We have cellphones or watches or clocks. Say you’re going to make an appointment with somebody: “Let’s meet at noon for lunch.” Well, how are you going to know it’s noon unless you have a watch or a clock, right? So, time is good.

We’re all given time on this earth. The average age is usually in the 70s in America and is different elsewhere. Different countries have different lengths. It’s just an average; you could live a lot longer or you could live a lot shorter. That’s just kind of average. The Bible says God sets the bounds of our lives. He knows the beginning of our life, and he knows when we’re going to die. When you look at tombstones, you see there’s a little dash or a little squiggly mark or something after the date you were born, and after you’re dead, your death date goes on there, right? It’s usually what happens, so basically, it says your name for whomever you are and then it says you lived this length of time. You were on earth and alive for that long.

Let’s look at time for a moment. It was explained to me a long time ago that it’s kind of like we’re in this little bubble, this circle of time. Here we are, you know with the beginning: In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. Then there’s the end of time. It’s all kind of right here in one little circle or little ball, however you want to look at it. Then think of God. Where did God come from? I don’t know, but when God looks at time, at this bubble, he can see from all angles. He can see every detail of it.

Also, let’s look at it this way: God is an on-time God at all times because he knows our lives. He knows what’s best for us. He knows when something should happen or when it shouldn’t happen. In answering prayers, he knows what we need. First of all, he’s going to answer in his own way. He’s going to answer every one of our prayers, but how he answers it may not agree with what we think or our timing. Timing is important.

Now, look at that story we read about how the angels were there. Elisha had prayed for the eyes of the servant to open up and to see. God was very present even though his servant couldn’t see it at the time. So, it’s the same way for us. We’ve just got to believe that God is very present with us right now, that he hears every prayer of ours, that he sees everything, and that he’s very active whether we see it or not.

Time is very important to God, and let’s read a little bit about time today. I want to read in the book of Mark in the New Testament. Open up to the book of Mark in Chapter 5.

As we think about time, we say God is an on-time God. You know, maybe we pray for something, but it just doesn’t happen, and it’s like ‘What?! God, what is the deal here? What’s going on?’

— Please turn to pg. 66
I heard about this story, I think in the last year or so, in Japan. For those of you that have ever been there or heard about Japan, you’ll know there are trains. A lot of people go by train and public transportation of different sorts. So, first of all, the times in Japan are very, very accurate; they’re down to the second, I believe. As far as the schedule goes, it’s by minutes, but I think they actually have it down to the second.

There was a train line in Japan that I read about that departed early. Uh-oh. Early. I think it was like a minute early, and if people are going to work or to school, that could be a problem. When we took the trains to school, it was very on time; occasionally, there might be a late train if there was some issue, but overall, you could count on it like clockwork. So, there was a train that left early. Ooh. Bad deal, isn’t it?

Early? Something left early? Do you know what this company did? They actually apologized to the public, “We’re sorry we left a minute early from our schedule.” In America, we’d probably laugh about it and say, “What?” To be early is a pretty good thing. They are so precise, they try as much as possible to be on time. Now, there are delays; it is possible, but when we look at God, he is not one minute early, and he’s not one minute late in our life. He’s an exactly on-time God.

So, let’s think about that as we read in Mark 5, and let’s read from verse 21. There’s an issue here in this story, a problem. Let’s read about this problem here:

“And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,” (vv 21-22).

Here’s a ruler of the synagogue, so he’s got some authority there.

Jairus. He comes to Jesus and falls down at his feet, “And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.” (vv 23-24)

So, we’ve got an issue. Here’s this man, this leader, and his little daughter. It didn’t just say ‘daughter’, it’s his ‘little daughter.’ Later, I believe, it says she’s 12-years-old. A little daughter that is 12-years-old, and she’s about to die. Now, think about it. Picture yourself, especially parents, but anyone for that matter. There’s a big issue in life. There’s someone you love that’s just about to die.

It goes on and says “And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?” (vv25-30)

There are all these people around, mobbing him if you will, and he says, “Who touched my clothes?”

And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? (v 31) They were thinking, “Are you crazy?”

“And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler
of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.” (vv 32-39)

What? Sleepeth?

And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.” (vv 40-43)

Alright, so what happens in this story here? Here’s this ruler that comes to Jesus, falls at his feet, and says, “Jesus, help me. My daughter’s going to die. She’s this close to death; she’s taking her last breaths. Please. I know you can do it. I have faith. Please, Jesus, come and heal her.”

So, what happens? They go together traveling on the way. I don’t know how far exactly it was that they traveled, and there are all these crowds of people going too. It might be thousands of people – I have no idea how many – and then, there’s someone else with a need. At least, there’s one other person that gets pointed out. There may have been other needs too that were taken care of, but there is this one specific need that’s addressed here.

What is it? There’s a woman that had an issue of blood – a health issue – and I don’t know what all that was, but it could’ve been something that made her unclean. Maybe she couldn’t worship in the temple. It was with her for a long period of time, and she’s desperate. She needed something to happen, and it was going to happen right now, if she had anything to do with it.

So, here’s this man, in authority in a sense, a ruler in the synagogue, and there’s this lady who for 12 years has had a problem. Was one problem bigger than the other? The ruler’s daughter was about to die. It didn’t say this lady was about to die, just that she had a problem, and she was sick and tired of this problem. She had had enough. So, there’s a lady with a problem for 12 years, and then there’s a 12-year-old girl. Both problems Jesus knew, and he wasn’t dumb. But what happens?

You would think Jesus was on this mission, “Okay, I’m going to go to Jairus’ house. I’m going to heal this girl.” I don’t know what was going through Jesus’ mind, but I think that his incentive was to go heal this daughter, but there was a little, shall I say, delay that came. Now, this lady reached out in faith, desperate, thinking, “All I need to do is touch the hem of his garment. Just touch it, and I’m going to be healed.” That was some strong faith, wasn’t it?

Do you believe that all you have to do it just touch the hem of his garment, maybe not physically, but touch the hand of God and say, “God, heal me.” Sometimes it happens immediately like this, sometimes it’s delayed, as far as humans go, and sometimes it doesn’t happen on this earth. Here, it happened immediately, and Jesus knew it had happened. There was something that went on, and he says, “Who touched my clothes?” It could’ve been to make a point with the people. Jesus was fully God and fully human at the same time, but Jesus knew something was going on here. So, they asked him, “Jesus, what’s the deal here? All these people here touching you, and you say someone touched you? Are you going crazy?”

He calls her out, and the story of what’s going on — Please turn to pg. 68
comes out. She says she’s desperate after having this sickness for 12 years, and what does Jesus say? “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (v 34). He’s saying, “Go in peace. Have peace about it. You’re taken care of because I’ve got this. You’re done. You’re healed. All is good now.”

Everything is really good in her life, isn’t it? But, wait a minute. There’s still this ruler of the synagogue. I don’t know what’s going through his mind. He’s probably thinking, “Hey, Jesus, come on. Look at the time here. I told you already; didn’t you hear me? My daughter’s about to die. Come on. Yeah, maybe she’s an issue, but I asked first. I asked you first, Jesus. Come on. Let’s move it.” And what happens here? “While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?” (v 35) So, Jairus had this faith. He came to Jesus’ feet and called out, but he didn’t receive his miracle as he thought was going to happen, and now, he gets the news that his daughter’s dead.

How would you feel? How would you feel? Hopeless? Bitter? Maybe you’re bitter at Jesus? Maybe not at peace. Maybe you’d just want to give up in life, and say, “Come on, Jesus. I believed you. I trusted you, but you didn’t answer me. Come on.” I don’t know if he said any of those things. Maybe he kept a strong faith throughout; I don’t see anything where it says either way what was going through his mind. You would think a ruler of the synagogue would be close to God, would be following God. I would sure hope he was walking with the Lord. Here he’s told, “Thy daughter is dead.”

Sometimes we get some bad news and just want to give up. “Jesus, come on. I prayed and I prayed about this situation. I came to you. I bowed before you. I poured my heart out to you, Jesus. Why did you let this happen? Why?!” We’re all human. I dare say, everyone here has come to God and poured out their heart about some sort of request: ‘God please’, and then didn’t get the reply we expected. I didn’t get all the replies I’ve expected in life. At least, not how I thought they were going to be.

What happens? So, let’s go on a little bit further. In verse 36, it says, “As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.” Don’t freak out. Just trust me. That’s what he says. It’s going to be okay. And then it goes on with “And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James” (v 37), and they went to this house where this 12-year-old girl, this little girl, was. Then he sees the tumult and those that wept and wailed.

Now, when somebody died back in this day, they made a huge deal about it going through the streets, maybe carrying the coffin through the streets, and more. People were even hired, at times, to weep and wail for the dead. That was their job. I don’t know how many people were going about weeping and wailing, but it said ‘greatly’. So, think about this: they saw this amazing miracle of this woman where all she had to do was just touch the hem the of his garment to be healed, and now they come upon all this commotion, all these people just crying and wailing and weeping.

Jesus says, “Why make ye this ado,” – or all this going on here – “and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth” (v 39). Now, wait a minute. I think, I dare say, she was dead as a doornail at that point, in the human sense. Okay? But Jesus says, “the damsel is not dead but sleepeth.” Now, was that a lie from Jesus? Was he telling a lie? Well, Jesus knew what was going to happen. He knew that this was a temporary issue, so through this, maybe in the physical sense, she died, but it was not going to last. She was going to come back. It was just
a temporary death, and she was going to come back. She sleeps. Doesn't mean she's dead for good; she may be dead in a sense, but she's coming back. Don't worry, she's going to wake up.

Then there’s this laughing that goes on. Jesus is giving this encouragement not to worry, and then he gets laughed at for doing that because these people think ‘Oh no, she's dead. There’s no way. She’s gone.’

He puts them all out. He takes mom and dad and those three that were with him and enters in to where this 12-year-old girl was lying down. He basically says, “Young lady, get up. Arise!” And straightaway, or immediately, this daughter, this damsel, gets up. She walks. And all these people are astonished now. They were astonished with a great astonishment. They were amazed!

I think Jesus purposely delayed for this to happen. He could’ve just run, just beelined out of there, all the way to this house not looking at anybody. He could’ve even taken a shortcut around to get away from these crowds. No. That’s not the way Jesus works. Maybe when we pray for something, something else in our lives has to die or go to sleep first before we see the amazing happen. I know this lady that was healed dealt with the problem for 12 years. Twelve years!! That’s a long time.

Think about the story of Lazarus. It kind of goes along with this. Jesus hears the word after Lazarus passes away, and he just takes his time. Why didn’t he rush over there and say, “Lazarus, it’s been a day or two. It’s time to get up and wake up. Come back to life.” No. He waited four days. Four days! I believe it’s after three days, maybe on the fourth day – don’t quote me on this – the Jews believed that there’s no hope of coming back to life. Well, Jesus wanted to show off a little bit. It’s okay if Jesus shows off, okay? He meant it for God’s glory; it wasn’t for earthly glory. He took his time on purpose to prove a point. We know Lazarus came back to life.

We look back at the word TIME again. In everything, God is not a minute too early and not a minute too late. We may look at ourselves and say, “You know what? I messed up time in my life. I didn’t become a Christian until 50 years old. I wasted all those years. Why didn’t I give my life to Jesus earlier?” But God’s in the work of taking lost time that we’ve messed up and bringing it into now time.

When Jesus was at Cana at the beginning of his miracles, it tells of how he turned the water to wine. Now, wine takes some time to make. What did Jesus do? He brought that water to wine, which takes all this time, in a matter of ‘immediately’. He took that lost time it was going to take and just brought it to his time. It can be the same way if we look at our lives and say, “God, I wasted my time. I shouldn’t have done that.” God can bring it up to where he wants, to his will, just like that. It may be a process to get back to there, but God can do it.

We only have today. We can’t fix yesterday. We can only live for today and for the future. We don’t know how long we have left in this life. Let’s commit our time to God. Let’s trust him. Things don’t, and won’t, always happen the way we expect or in the time we expect, but that’s okay because God is in charge. He loves us. He takes care of us. Let’s just surrender our future and everything in our lives because this time on earth is short, but time in eternity is going to be so much longer.

If you’re not at peace today, if you have not found salvation, come to Jesus today. Today is your opportunity. You are not promised tomorrow. You’re not promised this afternoon. The Holy Spirit’s speaking to you in one way or another: answer the call. Trust him. Come, follow Jesus, and if you have given your life to him, live for him. Keep your heart focused on him. To God be the glory.
Bro. Willis Ehnle, 94, passed away on August 4, 2020, at the Apostolic Christian Skylines, Peoria, IL. His obituary included the sentence: “He was a missionary serving in Japan from 1952 to 2008.” This column is intended to make reference to his God-led (and empowered) efforts. This is not intended as a eulogy, but to list what God did through Bro. Willis’ life. Excerpts from the church history book “Marching To Zion” are included.

Willis Ehnle, 1925-2020
He was born on October 16, 1925, in Kickapoo Township near Princeville, Illinois. He was baptized at that congregation. His elder at that time was Bro. Emil Schubert, originally of Rodlitz, Saxony, Germany. In 1906, Bro. Schubert and his wife immigrated to America. Bro. Willis married Sis. Lois M. Beer on November 8, 1953 in Milford, IN. She was at his side during the Ehnle years of ministry in Japan.

Alabama
Initial activities of the church in Japan find root in the life and work of Bro. Willis Ehnle, formerly of the Princeville congregation. In 1950, he was in Alabama teaching Bible classes in the homes of believers. This work soon ended abruptly. The outbreak of the Korean War in June of that year resulted in his being called into the United States Army. On January 9, 1951, he was sent on a troop ship, the Marine Lynx, to Toyko, Japan, where he worked at St. Luke’s Hospital, a United States Army facility.

A Beginning in Toyko
After World War II, General Douglas McArthur asked for one thousand Christian missionaries to come to Japan to distribute Bibles and disseminate its teachings. He felt this was essential if the Japanese people were to embrace democracy. His summons was not addressed to the Apostolic Christian Church specifically, although it set a background for the eventual work of Bro. Willis Ehnle and others as time unfolded.

By 1951, the Japan populace, to some degree, continued to be hungry for Scriptures. Reading materials were scarce, and many were willing to read virtually anything. It was in this context that Bro. Willis, still a serviceman, felt moved to distribute Scriptures. And was moved to work in the furtherance to spreading God’s word.

“Christ Gives Peace In Your Heart”
He made a sign about one meter high and eighty centimeters wide which read, “Christ Gives Peace In Your heart.” He took the sign and Scriptures to the Shinjuku train station in Toyko and began handing out materials to persons getting on and off the train.

One day a young man came up to him on the platform and said, “I want to help you work for God.” Bro. Willis tried to decipher his broken English and responded, “That’s fine.” The man began helping pass out literature. Bro. Willis tried to make sure they distributed the literature reverently because they were dealing with the Word of God. The young man’s name was Toshiaki Asakawa. His mother eventually became a member of the church in Japan.

Forthright Expression
One time in Japan, Willis Ehnle was helping unload injured soldiers from Korea that came to the hospital where he worked. One of the guards spoke English, and was friendly. Willis told the guard that Jesus was the son of God. The guard replied, “I don’t believe it.” Bro. Ehnle then told him that whether he believes it or not, it is true.

To be continued in the next issue.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
Come Unto Me

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

Jesus invites us to come to Him in the midst of our labors. He promises to give us rest! We read it on the page. We know it in our minds. But have we experienced it in our hearts? Let’s take a closer look at what He means when He asks us to come and rest in Him.

First of all He asks us to come, to stop and acknowledge His presence. As it says in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God....” Stop and ponder. “Because He is God, He knows what I’m facing. Because He is God, He is in control of this difficult situation.” Picture your quiet place. Is it in the middle of nature, in a cozy corner, or at the table with a cup of coffee? We all need those precious times of stillness. And that’s often what we picture when we think of rest. But do we need to put rest on hold when chaos comes and our quiet corner goes unvisited?

In the second sentence, He asks us to put on His yoke. When oxen plowed the fields, younger oxen were yoked to older oxen to train. The younger ox would try to lag behind or push ahead, but the older ox would teach him the right pace. Jesus says to take His yoke upon us and learn of Him, just as a young ox learns from an older ox. When the chaos of life pushes us to race or the uncertain future pulls us back in fear, He promises to gently lead us. In times of busyness, we can still find that quiet rest in our hearts by walking in step with Him!

He gives us a glimpse of his pace when He says, “...for I am meek and lowly in heart...” The modern definition of meek carries a connotation of fearful submissiveness. But when the Bible speaks of meekness, it refers to strength under control. A meek person is like an obedient ox or a gentle horse. These animals could easily flee or destroy, but they have been trained to work for their master. A meek person has power, but restrains it. Jesus had all power in heaven and on earth and yet He chose to give up His personal interests and sacrifice Himself for us. He calls us to do the same, using the energy, power, and will He has given us for His glory. Psalm 15:9 says, “The meek will he guide in judgement; and the meek will he teach his way.”

Yoked with Jesus and stepping along with Him, the burden becomes light because we no longer carry it alone! We can come to Him in stillness and find rest. We can walk with Him in difficult, even chaotic times, and find rest. We can surrender our selfishness and learn His meekness for His glory. In Matthew 28:20 it says, “...I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” In any situation, we can find rest as we acknowledge His presence and walk in step with Him.

-by Sis. Laura Aviña
And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:29