Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:1
In true fellowship we grow

Sometimes we think of fellowship mainly as spending time with others in our age group, those in our same stage of life. But one of the great distinctive blessings of our brotherhood is the opportunity for cross-generational friendships as young, middle-aged, and old worship together and fellowship together each week.

How has your walk of faith been enriched by fellowshipping with believers of other generations? That is our next special topic.

Send your contributions answering that question to features@acsilverlining.org by November 16. Please keep them to no more than 600 words. This section will be published in January 2021.

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm and Greg Lehman, Counseling Elders
Loving as Jesus Loves - Loving in Deed and Truth

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Society is often confused about the meaning of love. What the world calls love is often merely the expression of personal desires and needs. Love of others ends up being simply another way to love oneself. No wonder a world that speaks so much of love ends up with so much pain, hatred, and division. This is the kind of love that all of us foster in our natural selves.

What a beautiful gift it is to know true love. In our theme verse we see that Jesus showed us true love and how to express it to each other when he gave his life for us on the cross. Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Then he showed us a love—God’s love—that is greater than man’s best love by laying down his life for us while we were yet sinners, his “enemies.” What a priceless treasure it is to know and experience this magnificent love! It is a wonderful thing to spend time worshiping God for such a gift. But this gift was not intended to simply remain with us. John also tells us that it is because God loves us that we love others. Receiving this gift of true love from Jesus inspires and enables us to love others as Jesus loves. So it is that God’s love reproduces itself in our own lives. It is like a never-ending fountain that flows from God, through us, and into the lives of others.

As with Jesus, true love will find its expression in how the Christian treats his brother and sister. In fact, 1 John 3:17 teaches us that we cannot claim to have God’s love within us if we do not express love in tangible ways. “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” The ancient world imagined the bowels as the center and source of a person’s emotions. In this verse, a person may feel great emotional affection for another person in need, but if that affection does not result in helping that person in tangible ways whenever possible, it is likely the affection falls short of authentic love. Like Jesus, if we love truly, we will willingly make the necessary sacrifices to demonstrate the truth of that love.

We might naturally, and maybe wisely, read this as a warning, thinking that we had better show practical love or our love is not real, and we cannot claim to know God’s love. But John in this chapter goes in a more positive direction. He points out that loving in deed and in truth can be a source of comfort for us; for by loving in deed and truth, “We know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.” Have you, in the name of Jesus, shown real love to a person in need? Be encouraged: your loving service is evidence of God’s love within you!

Our obedience could never earn for us our eternal salvation. Salvation was won by Jesus on the cross, and our access to that salvation comes through our faith in Jesus. But our obedience demonstrates that our faith is alive and not dead. James, much like John, warns us that if our faith does not result in active care for our brother, our “Faith is dead, being alone.” The opposite must then also be true. Faith in Jesus that results in practical care for the needy indicates that our faith is a saving and living faith. Like James, John is writing of a love that comes from Jesus, which means that when it comes through us, we must have gotten it from Jesus. We are his!

But what if our expression of love is imperfect or fails? Perhaps we tried to love someone in a

— Please turn to pg. 63
Greetings and good morning to each of you. It’s good to be together and be gathered around the Word of God here. We do this often, and I think we often say we want to be mindful as we do it. We certainly don’t want to take for granted the blessing of gathering together. We don’t want to take for granted the blessing of life. We’ve certainly been reminded in recent days that it is fleeting.

God knows our needs, the needs each one of us has. He knows the joys and sorrows. He knows the plans that we have. He knows the hopes and prayers on our hearts for ourselves and for our loved ones. His love exceeds what we feel in our hearts, and his care and his compassion for each of us is without bound.

As many of you know, we were at the elder conference this past week in Phoenix. We appreciate your prayers. We certainly felt the Holy Spirit of God, and we spent a lot of time, loved ones, reminding ourselves and thinking about how can we grow in our purpose to love as Jesus loves. What a beautiful example that is for each of us. Whether it’s in a setting like that, which I realize not all of us will find ourselves, or as we think about our individual lives, our families, our church, our congregation here, it’s so important that we go to God’s word and be reminded of how Jesus did love when he was here and how he loves yet today. We’re reminded what we as believers are called to and rejoice in the gospel that “today is the day of salvation” and that the time is at hand to repent and believe the gospel.

So, it’s open here to Psalm 34, and we’ll read this together. We trust the Lord knows our need. There are many needs represented here with just the number that is gathered. Whether we be small or great in number and whether we just pray to the Lord as individuals, God knows our hearts.

Let’s sing #134 in the Zion’s Harp – “The Grace of God.”

It’s opened here to Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Let’s read from Chapter 2, a beautiful, perhaps familiar chapter. I know that many of these words will be familiar to most of us as we read them. It’s good to be reminded of the grace of God, the power of God in our lives, when we come to him by faith. Didn’t you appreciate that Psalm as we read it together? It’s a call to praise. It was a call to holiness. It was a call to faith. It was a promise, many promises, of the assurances of God’s word and of his care for us.

“\textit{The Lord is nigh}” (Psalm 34:18). The Lord is nearby. The Lord is here. We sing in a hymn, “God with us, we need not fear.” (Zion’s Harp #100) The Lord is nigh. Unto who? It says, “unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (v 18) Loved ones, when we don’t recognize our need, when we’re self-sufficient, or when we go our own way, we cannot be helped. We can’t be helped by those that love us because we’re resisting and because we know better. We’re all subject to that, but God’s promises are sure. “Call unto me, and I will answer you; I will hear your prayer.” So, let’s read Ephesians 2 here together.

He’s speaking to Gentiles. He’s speaking to those who were formerly outside the covenant of grace, as we all were, loved ones.

I’m not going to spend any time talking about the context of the letter here and the fact that he was writing to former Gentiles and their relationship to the Jews. It’s very interesting and instructive to do that, but I think what we want to focus on this morning is the fact that we all – regardless of any of that, regardless of upbringing, regardless of our exposure to the truth – were once “afar off”. This is very detailed and impactful language that Paul uses in describing
the stage we found ourselves in at the time we came to understand that we knew right and wrong. We had enough sense about us to comprehend what mom and dad had been talking about, perhaps, if we had that upbringing, or just the thoughts that come through the power of God’s Spirit across the face of the earth as one whose creation itself speaks of God.

“Dead” is the word that Paul uses. “Dead in sin” – walking according to the ways of the prince of the power of the air, Satan, the tempter, the one who was in the heavenly places where he exalted himself and had to be cast out. Satan wanted to be cast out. There’s a lie told sometimes that God just casts out. Satan willfully disobeyed and exalted himself. Likewise, Eve and Adam did so and so on down the line to you and me.

God has given us every opportunity to be obedient. Again, this is regardless of where we might be on some sort of spectrum of the degree of knowledge that we had. Certainly, the more we know is important. “To whom much is given, much will be required.” I’m thankful God’s the judge of those things.

As I said, he uses pretty graphic language: in the flesh and aliens. I’m not talking about outer space. We use that phrase sometimes pejoratively to describe people not from around here, not from our country. We should be careful of that, but what Paul is talking about is the covenant of grace and the household of God.

Beautiful words at the end, aren’t they, about God’s household and about his temple? We can’t be both inside and outside of a house or a family or a covenant. God’s message is the most inclusionary one ever told because all are invited in, but the choice is for each one. So, to be outside is to be an alien, a stranger, and in words here that have always chilled me, verse 12 includes, “Having no hope, and without God in the world.” It’s like an equivalency, isn’t it? Without God: no hope.

“Enmity” is not a word we use a lot. To be at enmity with something or someone is similar to being the enemy of them through opposing or resisting. It’s a terrible thing to comprehend the thought of being an enemy of God. Paul talks in one place about “the enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil 3:18).

We talked this week about the cross and how it’s, as we sing in that beautiful hymn, ”The Old Rugged Cross,” an emblem, or a symbol, of suffering and shame. We’re called to identify with it. Paul said his desire was to know him, to know Jesus and the power, yes, of his resurrection, but also his suffering and his cross. In identifying with that, loved ones, we see not just the crucified Lord hanging on that cross, bleeding and dying, – and we need to see that, – but then, when we believe, it’s so simple here.

It says, “you were made nigh”, so all that are outside of this covenant were brought nigh. By what? By the blood of Christ. So, we must gaze upon him on that cross and see the blood flowing from his hands and feet, certainly the pricks of the thorns in his head, and then the side riven by that spear with the outflowing of blood and water. We have to see him there and comprehend and know – apprehend even – and bring into our own hearts, make it our own, that that was for me. It was for us. It was for you.

He didn’t stay on the cross. He lives today, praise God.

As we read here, Paul lays out what it is to be outside the covenant, outside the household, outside the family. I remember so clearly from my own experience when my own grandfather was ill in the latter stages of life, and I was thinking of his passing as an imminent thing, the relationships in the earthly family became so powerfully representative of those in God’s family. In the thinking of that separation and loss in an earthly sense, I was, by God’s grace, able to comprehend a little more of my own state of being outside of the family of God.

So many times here, as Paul describes that terrible state, he says, “but God.” Paul talks in another place

— Please turn to pg. 64
Ministry Program Updates

KAIROS – the Opportune or Decisive Moment

We were taught in church recently that a journey has two elements: 1) you are not where you want to be and 2) you are moving towards where you want to be. A spiritual journey also has two elements: 1) you are not where God wants you to be and 2) you are moving towards where He wants you to be. This journey is Spirit led. God meets us and leads us. Steps of discovery to begin your spiritual journey begin with prayer: pray with no specific plan in mind; God opens doors and removes obstacles; prayerfully identify key priorities; act by following the leading of the Spirit.

A valuable principle learned at the buffet: Plate #1: Start with a small amount of everything that LOOKS good, and then: Plate #2: go back for more of the stuff that actually IS good. Why is this principle so important? Because we can’t know what’s best without experience. God calls us to use the gifts and opportunities He’s given us to invest as deeply as we possibly can to proclaim Christ and serve others! “Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” 1 Cor 4:2

HarvestCall has many ministries we can become involved in, i.e. short-term mission trips to places like Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico; longer-term commitments at places like Hospital Lumiere and CVE; and local projects like helping at a distribution center, making soap, etc. Take plate #1 and go on a short-term mission trip; help with a local project and go on a discovery trip to Haiti or Jamaica. Once you’ve experienced a number of ministry opportunities, pray like King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 19:14-19. Spread out before the Lord all the ministries that “tasted good”. With God’s direction, begin to move forward. He’ll show you what to put on Plate #2!

We are called to bring the greatest return on the talents and opportunities we’ve been given by our Master. If we stay at the buffet line with Plate #1 we can have a “50 mile impact” but be only “1/2 inch

Refugee and Asylee Crisis

Medical Committee

She averts her gaze, and so I do the same. Her second language is Spanish. My second language is Spanish. So at least we have that much in common. She traversed 5 countries for this moment. Her countenance is pale with horrors too unspeakable for words. “What did the judge say?” I ask softly. She doesn’t answer. She no longer has to. At this point, silence is a more efficient (and accurate) form of communication. We both know, following her return, she will be at immediate risk for execution. Or, if she is fortunate enough to survive, she is likely to be trafficked for her body. I will pray, I mumble. As tears swell her sunken eyes, I move onto the next name on my list. There’s 50 more people to talk to before my shift ends. Where’s the church? I wonder.

Didn’t Jesus say something about the least of these? About binding up the wounds of the broken hearted? But there’s no time to think theology. The next patient is delirious from sleep deprivation, heat exhaustion, and chronic dehydration.

According to recent statistics, over seventy million people are currently displaced from their home countries around the globe. This tremendous number continues to increase as the horrors of corrupt governments, war, poverty, and religious persecution become more commonplace in our world.

As is well known to many of us, a great deal of these refugees and asylum seekers attempt to enter the United States, both legally and illegally, in order to seek a better life from themselves and their families. Unfortunately, what is not well known to us is how to help or even that the need exists on a daily basis.
deep”. That’s okay, IF that’s your calling, but it might be he wants to give you something more specific to do in his kingdom.

KAIROS (the opportune or decisive moment), a HarvestCall ministry, began in 2015 to minister to Muslims and those who encounter Muslims at school, work or in the neighborhood and want to know more about what they believe and how to approach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Almost one fourth of the world’s population self-identifies as Muslim; sources put the number of Muslims living in America at around three and a half million. What is God’s heart toward them? What is our role in ministering to them?

The KAIROS ministry finds itself at the opportune or decisive moment. The opportune moment: two of our committee members have moved on to mission work in foreign countries. Two couples that agreed to limited terms to help get KAIROS started have completed their agreed terms. This is the “opportune moment” for you to put KAIROS on Plate #1, see if it “tastes good” and pray whether it should be on Plate #2. The decisive moment: KAIROS wants to expand into additional cross-cultural ministry. America is described as the “melting pot of the world” and we see a great diversity of people, even in our smaller communities. We seek committee members and especially someone who will oversee this ministry and move it forward with a broader focus in our multi-cultural society. For more information on becoming involved with the KAIROS committee, contact us at kairos@harvestcall.org.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Rev 7:9-10
– by Tim Hohulin

This refugee crisis, most notably at the southern border of the United States, has become a highly political and emotional topic with far-reaching implications. While the political solution is multifaceted and debatable, the heart of our Heavenly Father for the people of this crisis is not: we are called to reach out to the fatherless, the widows, and the outcasts of this world. Jesus’ mission on earth was to “preach the gospel to the poor” and to “heal the brokenhearted” (Luke 4:18).

Although we have confidence that the body of Christ is living this out throughout the country in our communities, perhaps noticing the specific target group of refugees and asylees can lend more opportunities to love as Jesus loves. How can we start this outreach? And if we have started, how can we make it grow? From comments we have received from those down on the southern border, it appears that the need is incredible, and the help and resources are limited.

Furthermore, individuals who are actually able to successfully enter the US from different places around the world find themselves lost in the American culture and lifestyle that many of us find familiar. Perhaps offering an open home and an open ear in this time of adjustment can allow opportunities for the sharing of the gospel. To be honest, we do not have the answers. But we need to find them together. If you have any interest, questions, or advice, please reach out to the Medical Committee at medical@harvestcall.org as we walk this road together trying to live into the practical love manifested by the church: “to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unsotted from the world” (James 1:27).

– by Anthony Baumann
She was used, discarded, and cast away — an unwanted slave girl. Young, afraid and newly pregnant with no place to call home. No one wanted her. No one thought she mattered enough to protect her, to fight for her. Yes, of all the people who have lived on this Earth, Hagar understood rejection more than most. She found herself without favor in the eyes of her master Sarai, her husband Abraham and even perhaps, in the eyes of her God. After all, she was the bond woman who Paul would later say should be “cast out,” because her child should not be heir with the free (Galatians 4). It is this deep pain, rejection and desperation that gives Hagar a voice to speak to the world. And what she has to say is a very welcome gift to us all. It is an announcement of who God is.

We pick up with Hagar’s story in Genesis 16:6. She flees from the face of Sarai who has dealt harshly with her. In many ways Hagar lives out the meaning of her name — flight. She fled Egypt. Now she flees Sarai. Hagar is the epitome of a woman “out of place.” An icon for any who feel more out-of-place than in-place or who feel more outside-the-norm than inside.

In verse 7, we read that “the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness.” Maybe for everyone else in Hagar’s life, her being out-of-sight and out-of-mind was satisfying. But not with God. God is a finder. God is a seeker. Hagar’s flight marked the beginning of God’s pursuit.

In verse 8, God addresses Hagar by name. He salutes her as Sarai’s maid. In this salutation, we learn that God knew Hagar. He did not need...
She was used, discarded, and cast away — an unwanted slave girl. Young, afraid and newly pregnant with no place to call home. No one wanted her. No one thought she mattered enough to protect her, to fight for her. Yes, of all the people who have lived on this Earth, Hagar understood rejection more than most. She found herself without favor in the eyes of her master Sarai, her husband Abraham and even perhaps, in the eyes of her God. After all, she was the bond woman who Paul would later say should be “cast out,” because her child should not be heir with the free (Galatians 4).

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In verse 8, God addresses Hagar by name. He salutes her as Sarai’s maid. In this salutation, we learn that God knew Hagar. He did not need an introduction, resume, or letter of reference to understand to whom he was talking. This was his child. He understood her backstory, ancestry and present predicament.

Yet God asks Hagar questions. “Whence camest thou? And whither wilt thou go?” God did not ask Hagar questions so He would learn information. He knew all that. God asked Hagar questions to get her talking. To allow her to level her complaint. To facilitate lament. To get her to spill it.

God’s story reaches the pinnacle in verse 11. God turns his attention to the child in her womb. After all, this was the source of the problem. The consequence of faithless, rash, human scheming. And He names it. God names the mistake: “…and thou shalt hear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.” Ishmael means “I hear.” God wanted this child to remind Hagar and all humanity that He is a God who hears. Every time Hagar would call after her son “Ishmael! Come eat!” or “Ishmael! Go fetch water.” or “Ishmael. I love you.” She would remember God hears. Ishmael would remember God hears. Sarai and Abraham would remember — God hears.

And so, Hagar offers us this caricature of God:

- God seeks and finds us.
- God knows us.
- God wants to hear from us.
- God directs us with promise.
- God hears.

All of this moved Hagar to the core. In verse 13 Hagar responds — “And she called the name of the Lord…Thou God [that] seest me.” Hagar named God out of her experience. Hagar teaches the world that God sees and that God hears. Hagar, perhaps more than any other, has the credentials to name God as such. After all, Hagar was a castaway, a vagabond. She was unwanted by everyone. Everyone that is, except the One who sees and hears each of us… including Hagar.

ACCFS continues to develop resources to help women in their walk with the Lord. These resources are found on our website at www.accounseling.org/women. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
What do you place your value in? Family. Job. God. When we value something, we invest time, energy and sometimes money. And, we usually anticipate some type of a return on that investment. What about our service to God? What is the return on that? Thankfully, we can’t quantify an answer…only to say, it’s limitless…because the work we do for God is “God’s work”. It’s God’s power and the work of the Holy Spirit that give the increase. As we share the gospel, our work is never in vain. It will not return void, but will accomplish that which God pleases. He will prosper it. (Isaiah 55:11)

With the passing of long time missionary to Japan, Bro. Willis Ehnle, we are reminded of the years he, Sis. Lois, and others labored to share the gospel and plant the churches in Japan. Early Japanese converts and families, in collaboration and obedience to the Gospel with the Ehnles, formed the initial core of the church. Today, we are grateful that through the selfless service of the brethren in Japan and the blessings of God, the gospel continues to be shared from generation to generation and the churches further established. In Mexico, a similar story is shared of how God has worked through many brethren over the years to plant the seeds of the gospel to form the churches today in Ixtlan, Magdalena and Barra Vieja. And, for our small churches being bolstered in Lamar, Prescott and Kitchener, they have also seen God’s power moving in mighty ways. People have physically moved to support the Prescott congregation. In Kitchener and Lamar, growth has occurred internally among their members through developing vision statements and intentional plans to share the gospel in their communities. In Jamaica, the E3 Bible Study Fellowship gathers regularly to share the gospel with those who are deaf. And the list could go on and on…

To further the work of establishing new churches and bolstering existing ones, HarvestCall and the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) continue to serve as resources to the Apostolic Christian Elder Body (who set direction for this work). Although there is an ebb and flow in planting new churches (and currently we’re in an ebb), the responsibility for discipleship and evangelism never wanes, and the CEC will assist in these areas.

**What’s Next for the CEC?**
Recently, the HarvestCall organization released a 3-5 year strategic plan to provide guidance for the ministries to work together toward common goals. Establishing and nurturing churches is part of this longer-term vision. The CEC will focus in three key areas to help realize the vision.

- **Centrality of the church.** The church is Christ’s primary means (central) to preach the gospel to the lost and nurture new believers. Fulfilling the Great Commission necessitates both new church planting and working through the local church to enable brothers and sisters to reach out to their communities with the gospel. Planting churches can be in the US or international … rural or inner city. In preparation, the CEC will continue to refine the church planting framework to be ready to assist as God opens doors. They will also continue the work to establish small churches.

- **Clarity of the gospel.** As HarvestCall/CEC help plant and bolster churches, embracing local cultures, traditions, customs and language will be imperative to effectively reach people with the gospel. The goal is for local seekers to see Christ, the gospel and the word in their native language and be able to worship in a form sensitive to their culture. This work also necessitates that we bring clarity to applying doctrine and practices in our churches today to those locations and doing it in a way that exalts the Kingdom of God.

   To prepare, the CEC has added new committee members with more experience in different cultures — Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington,
IL), Sis. Nicole Knobloch (Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico), Bro. Seth and Sis. Andreen Kaeb (Jamaica) and Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico). They join current committee members including Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN - Chair), Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Peachtree City, GA - Counseling Elder), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Chad Leman (Fairbury, IL), Sis. Gwen Leuthold (Tremont, IL), Bro. Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette, IN - HC Mgmt Team Liaison) and Bro. Arlan Miller (Gridley, IL - ACCFS Liaison).

As the Committee embarks upon this overall journey, they would greatly appreciate the prayers of the entire brotherhood for wisdom, discernment and for God to open doors according to his will. If you have learnings or input that you would like to share, please reach out to any of the Committee members listed above.

Within each of us, may the gospel always be burning brightly such that it necessitates sharing and not being hid. (Matthew 5:15-16). All that we can do for God can never be enough. When he prospers the work, we know it is His work and give him all honor and glory for he is truly worthy. (Revelation 7:12)

If you have questions or would like to inquire more about the CEC, please send an e-mail to the CEC@harvestcall.org. Additionally, look for the planting and bolstering section of the HarvestCall website to be updated soon to reflect the work underway.

**Our journey of learning.** The enlarged Committee will learn together about other cultures and critical attitudes that impact biblical evangelism, discipleship and church establishment. They look forward to sharing these learnings and incorporating them to further assist HC and the Elder Body in planting churches and developing a culture of outreach for our churches globally.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. Ephesians 1:17, 19
I was recently in the grocery store and met an employee who reminded me that I had not sent something inspirational to staff for a while, and she missed those emails. I had been thinking about sharing this message, and her reminder prompted me to actually do so. This interaction was a reminder to me that staff need encouragement and to know they are appreciated. This is what I shared with our staff:

“Yesterday in church, a man gave me a small devotional book. It was given to his father at Christmas in 1942. His father was in the army as a medic. I am pretty sure that is because he signed up as a “noncombatant” and was assigned as a medic. This is someone who was willing to serve his country when drafted, but did not think he should carry weapons or take a life. His father was one of the most gentle and meek men I knew. I tried to picture him in battle, but I can’t picture it. He said his father carried the devotional during the Battle of the Bulge, one of the famous battles of World War II. I tried to picture him as a young man in the midst of war, caring for the wounded. I am moved to have his book.

“When I got home, I opened it to the devotion for August 2. It was written by the pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Los Angeles. He told the story of a young man who played in the Rose Bowl. He had gotten confused and ran the wrong way. It doesn’t say if he had the football or not, but he was so embarrassed that he left the field and went to the locker room. It describes him as “suffering in the agony of his terrible blunder.” The coach came in and said, “Roy, get up! You are going out on the field to play again. The game isn’t over.”

“There are several examples in the Bible of people that felt like they failed, felt that they weren’t good enough or just plain didn’t want to do what God called them to. God told them to get back up and go. Their “game” wasn’t over. In the confusion of the present times, we are all making mistakes. We need to be patient with each other. We need to be patient with public health leaders who change their minds, coworkers who make mistakes, leadership who make a decision and then change it, and we need to be patient with ourselves when we get tired, scared, stressed or just make a mistake. If we quit when we make mistakes, there will be none left to serve.

“We need to encourage each other. “Get back up, the game isn’t over.” You are still needed to serve in whatever way God has called and blessed you to serve.”

I think this is a timely message for all of us wherever we are being used. For the most recent updates regarding our residents and staff, please see the News page on our website.
me with a passion. She made my days miserable until one evening I pulled her aside. “Macie, even though you seem to have an issue with me, I don’t have one with you. You need to figure out what your problem with me is or just get over it because if you’re looking for me to not like you, it isn’t working.” That conversation changed everything. Slowly we became friends, and as our relationship deepened, she began to open up and share her heart with me. Slowly, she was opening up to the Gospel.

By the time she left, she had made a full confession of faith. She honestly wanted to live a better life and wanted God to be a part of it. Like most of our kids, life is difficult for them once they leave. Poor choices are made. Mistakes happen. Macie is no different. But what is different is that she will always reach out to me. She checks up on me several times a month, sometimes weekly. Whether she has a medical concern or a random question, she’ll reach out to me. But when it matters most to her - when she is lost, scared, lonely - she lets me know. Macie trusts the words I will speak to her. The truth I will share with her.

This is why we house parents do what we do. We are called, for the sake of the Gospel and the mission of Gateway Woods, to plant the seeds of faith in those we serve. In residential, we are lucky if we see our kiddos attempt to ‘water the seeds’. But we have faith that in some point of their lives, our kids will remember us and the truth we planted in their hearts.

**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 this 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, 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**

“Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrances of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Psa. 30:4-5

It seems outside of COVID-19, there has been much heartache and unrest in the past weeks. We are praying we can rest assured in the hope and joy that God will provide us as we continue to acknowledge him, and his grace and mercy. We continue to lift up those who are weeping, and pray the morning could bring a sweet relief of joy.

We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis as she is continuing a newer chemotherapy her Oncologist reassures is keeping her cancer at bay. We ask specifically for prayers to help minimize the side effects.
of this therapy. We also ask for prayers for all those affected by the hurricanes impacting our region.

As always, we would love to have y’all visit, even if you’re traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815.674.5411.

Arizona, Phoenix

Marge Lindenbaum

“… how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?” 2 Kings 5:13

What a beautiful illustration of God’s plan of salvation is the story of Naaman. He realized he was terribly sick and there was no cure. He was given a suggestion from an unlikely source and followed it, showing faith. He pursued his course until his pride was assaulted when the prophet did not personally respond to him and sent instructions that seemed far too simple to have any benefit. Further, he felt the rivers in his own land were surely as good or better than those of Israel. He no longer loved or revered his home country above all others. Then it occurred to him that he was required to go into a pagan temple when his master would worship a pagan god. He was troubled and asked Elisha for forgiveness for having to bow down to that god in carrying out his duties.

Elisha replied that he should go in peace. It gives me comfort that Elisha told Naaman to go in peace. Naaman would never again believe the pagan god had any power and would continue to recognize the God of Israel is the one true God, but would necessarily have to accompany his master into that temple. Christians may have to face similar conflicts and ask forgiveness and guidance for how we respond to various current situations. We closed our churches and complied with governmental mandates in the spirit of 1 Cor 8:9, in deference to the more vulnerable among us. Then we found ourselves, in most instances, unable to fully re-open with the blessing of the government. The restrictions will not likely be lifted or lessened soon. They may become more onerous and possibly even drive us to worship in secret, as our brothers and sisters around the world have done for years.

Our Father knows our heart, and nothing touches us that does not first pass through his hands. Just as Naaman’s leprosy was washed from him and he was given pure, newborn skin, even more we are cleansed after being washed in the blood of Jesus. If our heart is true and our motives pure, we can worship in secret or openly, alone or together, as the Holy Spirit leads and God provides. And one day (soon, I believe) we will be worshiping fully in person, redeemed, forever in the presence of God.

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

Our congregation continues to meet in person, although our services are reduced, we are grateful for the opportunity to fellowship with one another. We have a women’s Bible study starting up and our young group continues to enjoy time together on the weekends. We bid farewell to a dear sister, Sis. Carolyn Hari, and mourn her loss along with her family members.
We remember our brethren in areas that have been impacted by the recent fires and hurricanes and offer prayers for them, as well as for all who have been impacted by COVID-19. We look forward to our winter visitors returning soon.

**Arizona, Prescott**

**Autumn Rokey**

At the beginning of Acts, Peter gives a speech to the men of Israel after healing a lame man. He calls the people to “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” Acts 3:19.

When thinking about seasons of refreshment, I yearn for crisp fall air after a hot summer, a new calendar year to look forward to, or the sweet smell of a newborn. Yet the only true refreshment can come by repentance and conversion through Jesus Christ.

As for newborns, my husband and I (Bro. Jacob and Sis. Autumn Rokey) welcomed our first son, Wyatt J Rokey, into this world on September 1. We pray that we can show him the love of Christ and that someday he can know the refreshing presence of the Lord.

**California, Los Angeles/Altadena**

**Kali Sauder**

“The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is Zion’s treasure.” Isa 33:5-6

Not much has felt stable this year: the pandemic, the disruption of our ability to gather for worship in person, political divisiveness, and most recently wildfires and an earthquake. All that has happened, and much more when we zoom in on our church family’s individual needs and personal circumstances, may seem to threaten our joy or shake our faith. But, no. More than ever I am reassured, God never promised us stability in our life’s circumstances; he promised to be our stability. Hope might seem scarce, but he’s promised an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. He still dwells on high, exalted, over it all.

Sometimes, with all that is happening locally here in the Los Angeles area, I wonder how people who do not trust in God cope and make any sense of it all. Then I am burdened to pray for the people of my city and partner with God to share the good news with my neighbors. There is hope! Not in the results of an election, but in God! There is stability even when everything, including the literal ground beneath our feet is shaking! Oh God, let us be a people compelled to shine the message of light come into the darkness!

We continue to gather and worship weekly via technology, and it is so sweet. The fellowship and connection to each other is richer than ever. This week, many of us were able to also meet in person for an afternoon at the beach. The smoke that has hung heavy the past few weeks cleared, and it was a glorious sunny, warm afternoon. Nothing is more able to remind us of the constancy of God than the continuous roar of ocean waves. It was good for the soul.

Our small church family continues to find many ways to reach out to each other and also the greater community in these strange times. Please pray for our upcoming outdoor community event, that we would be a blessing to our church neighborhood and be a beacon of hope in Jesus reflected to the hurting around us.

**California, San Diego**

**Sarah Fulop**

The Arizonans have left San Diego for their desert homes, but left a heat wave in their tracks. On September 9, we hit record...
temperatures of 110 degrees in Escondido! Our fire season kicked off raining ash down on Labor Day festivities. The alpine fires raged for days with little containment. Wearing masks and inhaling smoke for a week straight made for unpleasant outings. We were thankful to escape the heat and surf the cool waves at South Ponto beach with Bro. Jedd Rocke’s family and Bible class visitors. Hopefully we didn’t scare off our Goodfield visitors; we promise it’s not always like this. Please pray for the health and safety of California and the entire west coast as our fire season has begun with a vengeance. Thankfully this week, blue skies are the forecast.

We are thankful to enjoy a new baby in church. Hudson Fulop was born to Bro. Denny and Sis Allison. While rejoicing we also weep with those who weep. Our hearts go out to Sis. Mary Theim in the passing of her sister, Sis. Vi Messner, (Bro. Don, Peoria, IL). We pray God can comfort your grieving hearts.

Singing now rings in our church walls as the county approved inside worship gatherings. We are continuing our one service routine, beginning at 10 am, but Wednesday services are now onsite as well. Things may change soon depending on state guidelines, but it feels good to blend our voices and sit in the cool air-conditioned room. However, I concur that all of us have realized the church is made up of God’s people and whether we are virtual, in homes, on patios or in grand cathedrals, the holy spirit resides in the hearts of God’s people.

We wish all of you a safe month ahead, and pray that God will carry all of us through whatever tomorrow brings.

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman
“... this do in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

With joy we shared the bread and wine in Holy Communion. It looked different this year, but it was much needed and beneficial. We contemplated the sufferings of Christ and how he understands us in our times of suffering. His love is boundless!

Our Bro. Ryan Schlipf and Sis. Alisha Bahler (West Lafayette, IN) were united in marriage. We are excited to welcome Sis. Alisha and we’ll be praying for them as they settle into this new phase of life; remembering that “… a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecc. 4:12.

Thank you to Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and several of their children for sharing the day with us and serving in the pulpit ministry. We were encouraged!

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider

Kaden James was welcomed into the hearts and home of Adam and Annaliese Falkowski and big brother Jaxson. Sis. Joanne Eleiott is happy to have another grandson to love.

We rejoice that a heavenly victory has been won for Bro. Harry Hunt. We extend our thoughts and prayers to his sons, Ken Hunt and Bro. Jeff Hunt, daughters, Sis. Jody Spielman and Tammy Meyer, daughter-in-law Sis. Karen Hunt, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

The sale of our church building has been completed. Sis. Doreen has visited with the new owners and feels the house and grounds will be well cared for.

Currently we have been unable to find a new place to meet due to the COVID-19 crisis. A few of us have met informally to listen to services, practicing social distancing.

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 if, when and where services are to be held.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We had no visiting ministers this past month. We are continuing to meet Sundays for first service only church and Thursday evening Zoom meetings for those that can attend. Although the pandemic has definitely impacted all of us, it’s normal for those of us that are full time residents in Florida to travel for vacations or visit family
during the summer, and several
of us have been blessed to be able
to safely do that.

God continues to hold us in
his hands and he brings peace, joy
and blessings to us even while we
grow spiritually stronger through
the challenges we face.

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and
so fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2.

It’s so true that the word of
God is a living gift that gives
to us according to whatever our
individual needs may be. This
past Sunday, Ps. 33:6 was read.

“By the word of the Lord were the
heavens made; and all the host of
them by the breath of His mouth.”

So we breathe, pray, and trust in
our Heavenly Father.

Florida, Fort Myers

Addison Steidinger, Carrie
Steidinger

We were blessed to have
two visiting ministers this past
month: Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis.
Brenda) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis.
Kathy) both of Tremont, IL.

God has continued to be
faithful as two new couples begin to
worship with us. We are delighted
to welcome Tom and Lynn Keith
along with Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie
Bahr (Morton, IL). Brian’s father,
Bro. Roy Bahr, has also joined us.

We continue to praise God
for the health and well-being of
our church family.

Florida, Sarasota

Sandra Kaeb

“Let us greet with a song of hope
each day; Tho’ the moments be
cloudy or fair; Let us trust in our
Saviour always; Who keepeth
everyone in his care. Keep on the
sunny side, always on the sunny
side, keep on the sunny side of
life, it will help us every day, it
will brighten all the way, if we
keep on the sunny side of life.”

Keep on the Sunny Side of
Lift, Ada Blenkhorn

Our prayers continue for
our loved ones. Sis. Pearl Bozzay
spent time in the hospital and
Bro. Glenn Ott is still struggling
with health complications.

We were saddened to hear
of the passing of Bro. Lawrence
Wagenbach, (Princeville IL) as he
transitioned to his heavenly home.
He wintered many years with us
and our prayers will be with his
wife Sis. Elaine and the family.

Sarasota is now in phase two
so we’re thankful we can have a
second service with a short break
in between.

Bro. Gabriel and Sis. Haley
Streitmatter plan to live in
Gainesville while pursuing
graduate studies with Sarasota
being their home church. Through
all the changes and things that
have occurred this year with
COVID-19, we haven’t had the
opportunity to welcome Sis. Haley
to our church yet. We are looking
forward to getting to know her in
the near future.

Haiti, Bonne Fin-
Hospital Lumiere

Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings of love from
Haiti! We give God the praise
as COVID-19 concerns are
diminishing here in Haiti,
including the hospital, so life
is beginning to resemble some
normalcy. The pandemic continues
to impact us however, as we had
a team cancel for this month. We
trust that the patients, who come
to the hospital for care, can continue
to find their suffering alleviated.

Sis. Carrie Stoller has spent
the past several weeks on furlough
in the U.S. Ruth Feucht and Sis.
Trinity Walder, as well as Bro.
Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann
and their family returned from their
furloughs in the past month. We
are thankful to have more of our
missionary family back on campus.

We also want to offer thanks
and praise as Bro. Lucas and Sis.
Raya Nussbaum finished their
service here at the hospital. We
trust God’s grace will be with
them as they transition back to
life in the U.S.

Haiti, Les Cayes

Mike and Susie Walder

Greetings from Les Cayes!

We are thankful that Sis.
Sheila Moser, along with Bro. Isaac
and Sis. Brittany Steiner’s family
of six, arrived back safely after
their visits to the U.S. The older
children have already settled into
their homeschooling schedule. We
wish them all the blessings and the
strength of the Lord as they resume
their places and calling to serve
him and many people in Haiti.

God is worthy of our very best.
Whatever we have to offer; our
lives, our time, and our talents, we
lay before him. We offer him our hearts in praise and worship because he alone is trustworthy. We can tell others of the great redemption story so all nations, races and languages will be gathered in worship in heaven someday.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried out with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” Rev. 7:9-10

Illinois, Belvidere
Darcy Steffen

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.” 1 Thes. 5:24

This was our verse on the whiteboard in Sunday school this past Sunday. The brother discussing the verse drew out of the children that God is faithful and he does what he says he will. God is to be trusted. He is reliable. Webster’s 1928 dictionary says that faithful means, “observant of compact, treaties, contracts, vows or other engagements; true to one’s word.” This discussion was so impactful for me, because the brother expounding on this verse is currently facing some extremely uncertain times. As another teacher brought out, if we want to trust that God will do as he says he will do, we must read his Word to find his promises. As we all face various trials and circumstances, may we be reminded that our God will never fail us nor forsake us.

Our dear Bro. Brian Anliker (Sis. Peg) is scheduled for an invasive surgery in Madison in a couple weeks. He will have a tumor removed on his jaw. As of now he is required to stay in Madison for a week, and then have a lengthy recovery process as skin grafting is involved. Please keep this family in your prayers as they face this additional trial. May they place their trust in our ever present God.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen feel very blessed as they welcome a new granddaughter into the world! Addison Joy was born on September 12 to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Charity Oswald, (Tremont, IL). Big sister Joelle loves babies, and is very excited to have her own baby to take care of!

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN). We are always thankful to have Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille with us as they visit their daughter, son-in-law, and grandson in Belvidere. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Duane for inviting us to Minneapolis’ Zoom meeting on a Wednesday night as he expounded on the guiding principles that the elders have recently submitted to us.

Our Bible class (and a few extra people) enjoyed a kayak trip on a recent Saturday. Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller graciously invited them all to their barn for a meal afterwards.

"The Lord, He is my shepherd true, Who leadeth me securely.

On pleasant pastures to and fro, With joys and blessings surely.
He leads me to the fount of life, My soul to comfort and revive.
His staff is ever my support, On pathways lone and dreary.
My consolation is His Word, And, lest I might grow weary.
A table is prepared for me, In presence of mine enemy.
Lo, He anoints my head with oil, And heals my wounded spirit.
He stays my soul, and after toil, He never fails to cheer it.
He makes my cup to overflow, That I, refreshed, may onward go.
This Shepherd ne’er forsakes His fold, In joy nor yet in sorrow.
But shares to us His love untold, Each day and each tomorrow.
Then let us follow to the end, And with Him enter heaven’s land.”
The Faith Shepherd, Jesus Christ, Zion’s Harp, #116

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Sara Anliker, Kinsey Dotterer

“To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecc. 3:1

As we continue to move toward the routine of Sunday school and Bible class we are cautiously optimistic. It has been wonderful for the children to be back with classmates and teachers. Though fellowship during our lunch hour looks different, we are still able to come together and share and lift one another up.

We have much to celebrate this month as we share in the joy of a
new grandson, Archer David, to Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann.

We are thankful for Cade Luginbuhl (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy), Livia Schumacher (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle), Elle Kieser (Bro. Tater and Sis. Haley), and Riley Heiniger (Bro. Brett and Sis. Jen) as they answered the prompting of the Spirit and give their hearts to the Lord.

Our love and sympathy are with Sis. Jay Martin at the passing of her husband, Bro. Tom Martin. We surround their family with the love of God and pray for peace during this season of life.

We would like to lift up those that are unable to attend or are dealing with illness or loneliness. May God blanket each one in his unfailing love and mercy. May God bless you and keep you!

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

“At Home ‘tis well!…
When this short life is o’er,
New life shall bloom for us and never wither.”
At Home ‘Tis Well,
Zion’s Harp #170

One by one, those we know and love come to that final day on earth and depart for the Homeland. We will miss Sis. Audrey Ehnle’s sweet cheerfulness when we visit Eureka Home. Natives of the Bradford area, Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey retired to our church home in Eureka. She was preceded in death by husband ‘Benny,’ parents Neil and Sis. Bertha Reed, and son Bro. Randy. Cherishing her memory are two daughters, Sis. Pat Plattner (Bro. Sam, Goodfield, IL), Sis. Connie Manz (Bro. Don, Junction, OH), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon, August 23, at the Bradford church.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Kristal Stahl (Bro. Bill) and children as her father, Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach (Sis. Elaine, Princeville, IL) was suddenly called home this month. Sis. Betsy Endress (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Wendy Ringger (Bro. Tim) also lost their grandmother, Sis. Dorothy Schulz of Burlington, IA.

A long line of cars paraded past our Sis. Lucille (Stoller) Endress, masked and seated in a lawn chair in front of Peoria Skylines Home and surrounded by daughters-in-law and daughter Sis. Pam Endress. Her sons, Bro. Dale and Bro. Denny Endress directed the parade which culminated in a treat from Kamaela’s ice cream trailer. The occasion was Sis. Lutz’s 100th birthday! After many months staying close to home, I think we all enjoyed the event as much as she did!

Our church was blessed by hearing the spring memorandum presented by Elder Bro. Bruce Endress. We thank Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) for visiting and bringing us the Word on recent Sundays.

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

We are grateful to have the University of Illinois and Parkland College students back for the fall semester. In lieu of our normal welcome picnic, we were able to have the students introduce themselves and their parents after a Sunday service. Our student officers this year are Bro. Brandon Edelman, Bro. Joe Metz, Bro. Milan Leman, and Sis. Kirsten Finch. We lift them and all our students up in prayer for the new school year. One special benefit of having the college students back is their continued willingness to invest in our Sunday school children, including hosting them at a park recently on a Sunday afternoon.

We appreciate Bro. Darren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) visiting and sharing from the Word on the life of Abraham. Like Abraham, all we set out to do is inspired by a promise from God. Bro. Darren and Sis. Rita were visiting their son, Bro. Joe Metz, who has now made Champaign his home church while pursuing a master’s degree. It is a tremendous blessing when UI students decide to stay!

We enjoyed the great blessing of gathering as a family to share Communion. It is always a good reminder of how our Lord Jesus has bought us with his very life. It is almost too grand to even comprehend, yet we believe, and we are his. When we left for church, the CD in our van started on a song quoting Isa. 43:1: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”
**Illinois, Chicago**

*Diana Eisenmann*

We extend thanks to our visiting minister Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Ryan Eisenmann has replaced Bro. Dave Westfall as the Emergency Response Team Leader.

We enjoyed another virtual Fellowship Night at the end of August. In September, Bro. Greg Rassi presented a topical Bible study on prayer. We also resumed Sunday school in September, starting with grades 3-12. We hope to resume with the younger grades in the upcoming weeks, as we learn how to implement proper precautions and protocols.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**

*Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin*

Our dear 96-year-old, Sis. Carolyn Hari (late Bro. Marvin J. Hari) of Phoenix, who has been a part of our Cissna Park congregation most of her life, recently passed away. Her funeral was held at our local church. Sympathies are extended to her family, especially to her sister, Sis. Virginia Ehman.

As older ones leave us, new life joins us. Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen welcome a new little granddaughter into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Mary Currier (Art, dec.) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Hermann (Princeville, IL).

Trusting the Lord’s guiding hand, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Julie Schrock have announced their intention of moving to Haiti to serve at Hospital Lumiere. We will miss them and their dear children, but we have confidence that they will be used in God’s plan to share the Gospel and be of aid to hurting souls.

> "We say: “I here, you yonder, You go, and I remain,” And yet are not asunder, But links of one great chain. In tones of deep affection “Our ways part here,” we say, Yet go in one direction And in the selfsame way."  
> *Why Should Ye All Be Weeping, Hymns of Zion #255*

**Illinois, Elgin**

*Amy Gasser*

We thank Bro. Dale Frank (Sis Tina, Mediapolis IA) for ministering to us recently.

On Sunday, August 23, we sang a farewell hymn for Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby Leman, who have

> “May we be cheerful now and blest,  
And sojourn side by side;  
Our path leads to eternal rest,  
To heaven’s paradise.”  
> *Farewell Song, Zion’s Harp, #143*
relocated to Peachtree City, GA, to be closer to their daughter’s family. Klint Wewetzer, son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy, moved to Winter Park, CO to start a new job. We will certainly miss them but wish them God’s blessings.

On Wednesday evening, August 26, Elder Bro. Dan Moser read the Spring Memorandum to our congregation.

Our Bible class students hosted the annual pancake breakfast on September 12 at the Fellowship Center to raise money for their ACYF bus trips and other activities. May God bless them for their efforts.

We pray for Bro. Jerry Cargill (Sis. Kay), who recently had surgery.

Congratulations to Taylor Kellenberger and Kenzie Morris, who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger and Joe and Marily Mukite of Elgin.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

“Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Col. 1:11

Searching for a verse mentioning “patience,” I discovered that there are 33 in the KJV Bible! Surely God in all times, and maybe especially in this unprecedented time, over and over again encourages all of us to be patient – and joyful. Better times are ahead!

We were saddened by the death on August 15 of our newest brother in faith, Bro. Lyn Kempf, but are thankful that his suffering is over and that he was able to find peace and be baptized in the last weeks of his life. He was the cousin of Sis. Carol Anliker (Bro. Art). Likewise we extend sympathy to the family of Sis. Audrey Ehnle. She passed away August 20, having resided at the Eureka Home for many years. She will be remembered for her smile and her patience. Sis. Heidi Wettstein (Bro. Bill) was her granddaughter.

We rejoice with Sis. Molly Wettstein and Bro. Cade Knoblach of Lester, Iowa, as they have faith that the Lord has led them to be married. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein and he is the son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knoblach. A November 8 wedding is planned.

Surely the angels rejoice with us over our two newest converts. Josie Wettstein, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein, and Ailey Leman, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Leman, have begun their walk of faith. May they follow the leading of the Lord all the days that he grants to them.

Several of our loved ones have had recent procedures or experienced hospital stays. Our prayers are with Bro. George Baer, who was recently hospitalized but has been discharged and is recovering, as well as others. Always, we are so thankful for the gifts of healing and health, as well as the skills of medical staff.

We again experienced sadness mixed with thankfulness, as Sis. Gail Getz’s (Bro. Gary) father, Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach (Sis. Elaine, Princeville, IL) died suddenly on September 7. Our deepest sympathy goes to her and to his sister, Sis. Mary Ellen Martin (Bro. Nelson, dec.), along with all the family. We all long for heaven, but sometimes it comes so suddenly for our loved ones. We are so thankful when they are prepared to meet their Saviour, even if we are not as prepared to let them go on ahead.

Illinois, Fairbury
Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

“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.”
Ring the Bells of Heaven,
Tabernacle Hymns, #202

There is joy in our church as two souls have recently come to Jesus in repentance. We are thankful that Owen Moser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara) and Tyler Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) have answered the call. We offer up prayers on their behalf as they begin their walk with Jesus and turn their back on the world. We were thankful to hear the engagement of Sis. Hannah Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) to Bro. Jacob Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise) of Forrest. We pray the Lord will bless this dear couple as they plan for a November wedding.
We also rejoice with Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janelle) and Sis. Lily Blunier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara) who were able to give their testimonies and be baptized September 12-13. We are thankful Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) was able to share in the Saturday evening with us and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) ministered the baptism service to us on Sunday.

It was a blessing to have the Spring memorandum read to us Wednesday evening, September 16. We thank Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL) for coming to share in the reading with our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner.

Our prayers are with those that have spent some time in the hospital recently. We pray for continued healing for Sis. Colleen Walter (Bro. Rich, dec.), Bro. Dick Koehl (Sis. Esther, dec.) and Bro. Nick Kaeb.

As fall is upon us and there is a nip in the air, we look forward to being able to appreciate the amazing colors that God uses to paint the leaves during this season! It is so beautiful to view the yellows and golds of entire fields of corn and soybeans here in the midwest, ready for harvest! How encouraging to behold his handiwork and beauty in each new season! Likewise, may we always be able to behold and appreciate his handiwork and beauty in each changing season of our lives.

Illinois, Forrest
Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz

Amid the uncertainty and unrest of the times we are living in, it was an encouraging reminder of God’s faithfulness to witness the baptism of three dear souls: Mary Bradley, Heidi Kelson (Bro. Nate and Sis. Paula) and Alayna Nussbaum (Bro. Lucas and Sis. Raya). We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) for assisting during that special weekend. We also appreciate his help in serving Communion the following weekend. Though COVID-19 brings extra challenges, it was a special time of reflection and thankfulness. Also sharing the gospel with us this month was Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO).

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Rom. 10:15

Thankful for God’s provision, we rejoice with two dear couples on their engagements: Bro. Jacob Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Hannah Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Chad Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Heather Jamison (Delmar and Barb Nunamaker). May they continue to turn to God for guidance as they serve him as one.

We rejoice with first-time parents Bro. Myron and Sis. Marcy Kaeb as they welcome little Kendra Elizabeth into their hearts and home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Bonnie Bahler, (Rockville, CT).

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had hospital stays this month: Bro. John Schmidgall (Sis. Janet), Sis. Judy Kemp, retired Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) and Sis. Lille Moore. The needs are many and varied but we know God is faithful and hears his children when they pray.

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

“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. 41:10

Greetings of love to all! Six months ago, as I sat down to write the article for the April issue of the Silver Lining, we had just entered a time in history that we none will soon forget - the pandemic of COVID-19! If you are like me, you thought it would run its course and be over within a few short weeks. Well, God has a different plan and it has truly put some of us to the test! I pray for all of the parents who entered uncharted waters of teaching their children at home via “E-learning” with no advanced notice or training and many were working from home as well. How do you set up an office for you and/or your husband as well as multiple classrooms for the children that are
conducive to learning? Then there is the question of masks: when and where to wear them, the confusion and unrest this causes, and the list goes on! Let's not let Satan win this battle, because we all know he is behind all the unrest and confusion that we are surrounded with right now. God just wants us to submit to the authorities of our nation, right or wrong, and continue to love as he loves and live our lives as he directs. Also, let's thank our church leaders who are lovingly trying to lead as they are directed both by the government and the Holy Spirit. Let us love one another and not let these issues divide us.

We have resumed Sunday school and the children are so excited to be back in the classrooms even with a different look than before. We appreciate all the efforts of our teachers and the superintendent to secure a safe environment for the students and continue to pray that we can continue in this effort. Most of our children are back to their school classrooms as well and we pray that they will be able to continue this avenue of learning.

Our church family came together for Holy Communion on Wednesday evening, September 9. We normally hold Communion after our Good Friday evening service, so we were quite delayed this year because of the virus. The event looked different, but what a blessing to be united together as family as we shared this holy sacrament. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS) came to help Bro. Jeff serve Communion and we thank him for laboring on our behalf and invite them to visit again!

Our dear Bro. Herman Glueck was admitted to the hospital just a few days ago. Please pray with us for him and his dear little family; Sis. Sara and their 3 daughters, that they might be granted grace and peace in the journey.

Several of our loved ones have experienced the loss of a loved one this past month. Mike Bowen (Sis. Leigh) lost his father, Jerry Bowen, and we extend sympathies to their family. Our love to Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Bro. Morrie) as she said farewell to her brother, Bro. Tom Martin (Sis. Jay) from Bloomington, IL. We rejoice in the victory for Sis. Audrey Ehnle (Bro. Ben, dec.) as she entered her heavenly home. Our love and sympathy goes out to Sis. Pat Plattner (Bro. Sam) as she will surely miss her dear mother. Grandma will also be missed by Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan) and Sis. Heather Swords (Bro. Kris) and their families, all of our congregation. We hope and pray that each of these families felt the love and prayers from their church family.

Four souls have come to the foot of the cross, are at peace and awaiting baptism. Lord willing, we plan to have testimonies and baptisms the last weekend this month for Bradley Glueck (George and Pauline), Reggie Plattner (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan), Lakin Dietrich (Bro. John, Congerville and Renae Dietrich), Kaitlyn Wiegand (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynn). We also rejoice with Valerie Roth and her thankful parents, Bro. Derek and Sis. Joy Roth, as she has shared her need of a saviour.

On September 6, the engagement of our Sis. Mallory Bauman to Bro. Brandon Rose (Tremont, IL) was announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita Bauman and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marla Rose (Tremont, IL). We rejoice with this dear couple and wish them God’s richest blessings as they join their lives and plan for their future together. Blessings to all.

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

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Five souls were taken into the fold on Sunday, August 23. Now counted as brothers and sisters in Christ are the following: Bro. Jeremy Knapp (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Payton Romersberger (Bro. Philip and Sis. Becky), Sis. Elle Baner (Bro. Jon and Sis. Ashley), Sis. Hillary Gramm (Bro. Paul and Sis. Arriane), and Sis. Autumn Schlipf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy). We wish them the blessings of a godly walk, and the benefits of brotherhood. Here for the occasion was Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and ministering brothers, Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Sally, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. John Bradle, (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). These souls were
baptized outside under a tent that has been used periodically for our outside services.

Bro. Fred Witzig, (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) was here on Wednesday, August 26, to speak on “Citizenship.” His remarks were timely as citizenship in the nation is undergoing a time of much turmoil in an election year; and in all of this the believer in Christ lives in obligation to the duties and obediences as being a part of God’s people with his/her citizenship in heaven. Encouragement was given to being willing to advance the kingdom of God, as the fields are white unto harvest. As ambassadors for Christ we have a high calling.

I read an interesting poem, whose author was unnamed: 

"When as a child I slept and wept - time crept! When as a youth I laughed and talked - time walked! When I became a full-grown man - time ran! And older, as I daily grew - time flew! Soon, I shall find, in traveling on - time gone!"

May we redeem the time, for the days are evil (Eph 5:16). Our life is even a vapour (James 4:14). Whatever we do, may we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17).

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner

We are thankful that so many were able to gather Saturday evening, August 29 to partake of Holy Communion. One of the many events which had to be postponed because of the pandemic. Such a special time to remember the Lord’s Supper. It was also a special evening with our retired Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. being able to assist with the service as our new Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. was serving Holy Communion for the first time.

Then, with mixed emotions, we heard retired Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. preach his last sermon from our pulpit on Sunday, August 30. Even as his vocation was being a Junior High teacher, he has taught us the truth from God’s Word for 37 years as a minister and led us as our Elder for the past 19 years. We thank Bro. Ted, Sr. and Sis. Cindy for their many years of service to our Morton congregation and wish them God’s richest blessings in their retirement.

We welcome Bro. Joe Bauman who has moved here from Phoenix, AZ and is making Morton his home church.

On August 22, Sis. Carolyn Hari of Phoenix, AZ, formerly of Cisna Park, IL, passed to her heavenly home. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Al Neukomm (Sis. Geri) of our Morton church family who is her surviving brother.

On September 2, we were once again able to gather at our Fellowship Hall for our Family Worship Night. The new theme for these nights are: “The God of Miracles”. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) spoke on the topic, “Obedience”, teaching from Exodus 14, the story of Moses leading the children of Israel through the Red Sea. We were asked three questions: 1. Do we believe? 2. Do we believe enough to trust? 3. Do we believe enough to trust and obey?

“Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that just work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.” Ex. 14:30-31

We are happy that our Sunday school students and their teachers have been able to begin another year of “in-person” learning. Let us pray that lessons can be taught and hearts opened to the truth of God’s Word.

As it was hard for the children of Israel to trust Moses, sometimes it is hard for us to trust our future to the Lord. Let us not forget that God is in control, and we need to lean on him every day.

“When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word What a glory He sheds on our Way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away; Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief nor a los,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.
But we never can prove
The delights of His Love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we’ll walk by His side in the way:
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey.
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, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

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

Here in central Illinois we are enjoying early autumn weather. We used the good weather to meet outdoors at the Fellowship Hall for family night. After a simple meal, Bro. Mike Rieker had the message and used such good props to illustrate to young and old that all gods will bow to the one true God! We look forward to a Gospel Sing around the lake at the Fellowship Hall soon.

Our church is beginning an all church Bible study on Acts. Learning about the early church will be helpful as we walk in this world trying to effectively share the hope of the Gospel!

Bro. Steve Staley passed into eternity. We extend our support to his wife Sis. Rose and his children. Two other members of our church family have passed away, Bro. Adolph (Junior) Roecker and Sis. Vi Messner. Prayers of sympathy are for Junior’s two sisters Marie Hoerr (Jerry) and Louise Roecker and for Vi’s husband Bro. Don and children including Sis. Carol Christ (Bro. Ron) of our congregation.

Others in our church have lost loved ones. Bro. Dean Martin lost his brother Bro. Tom Martin (Sis. Jay) of Bloomington, IL. Bob Coburn’s (Sis. Michelle) brother Gary Coburn passed away. Bro. Bob Scholl of Princeville, IL who was brother to Bro. Bill Scholl (Sis. Joanne) and brother in law to Sis. Carol Scholl has gone into eternity. Sis. Cheryl Grassi’s father, Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach, (Princeville, IL), passed away quite suddenly. May these loved ones and their families feel God’s nearness.

As this year 2020 continues, we have so many in need of prayer. We remember our Skylines nursing home during these challenging times. Our hearts hurt for those suffering due to fires and hurricanes. Prayers continue for those dealing with illness. How thankful we can be that God is in control!

Illinois, Princeville
Melinda Christ, Cherie White

“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

Even in the midst of the pandemic, hurricanes, rioting and forest fires, we can seek a quiet spot and reflect upon the great omnipotence of God.

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” Psa. 121:1

We rejoice with several grandparents on the birth of grandchildren. On August 24, Gavin Daniel was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Victoria Walburn (Indianapolis, IN). Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller. Zane Clay was born on September 12 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Jenae Herrmann (Bloomington, IL). Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann. Baby Kason Levi was born on September 17 to Bro. Braden and Sis. Lydia Streitmatter. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder.

“… as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” I Cor. 15:49

We were thankful to hear the testimony and witness the baptism
of Bro. Ben White (Bro. Craig and Sis. Cherie). Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) was with us to help preach the gospel message. May we all run the race to the end finishing with the help and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On September 13, it was a blessing that Sunday school as a whole was able to be restarted. May God’s blessing be upon the teachers that teach and on the students who learn.

We lift up in prayer those that have been sick or hospitalized, Sis. Sharon Menold (Bro. Mike), Sis. Darlene Herrmann (Bro. Roger), Bro. George Baer and Diane Stahl.

“When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!”
The Death Of A Christian, Hymns of Zion, #248

Bro. Bob Scholl leaves his dear wife Sis. Arlene and children Kyle (Jane) of Dunlap, Kevin (Joyce) of Wyoming, Sis. Karen Scholl (Washington, IL) and Sis. Krista Kieser (Bro. Perry, Princeville, IL). We said goodbye to our Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach (Sis. Elaine). May God’s comfort be with Sis. Elaine and her children, Sis. Cheryl Grassi (late Bro. John, Peoria, IL), Sis. Pam Graham (Bro. Bruce, Princeville, IL), Kevin (Sara, Princeville, IL), Sis. Gail Getz (Bro. Gary, Eureka, IL), Bro. Tim (Sis. Trish, Princeville, IL), Bro. Troy (Sis. June, Princeville, IL) and Sis. Kristal Stahl (Bro. Bill, Bradford, IL). Sis. Viola Messner passed away leaving her husband, Bro. Don (Peoria, IL), and children, Philip Messner (Sandi, Hutchinson, MN), Mary Rosenak (Mark, Pekin, IL), Elder Bro. Paul (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Sis. Ruth Herrmann (Bro. Keith, Princeville, IL) and Sis. Carol Christ (Bro. Ron, Peoria, IL). May God grant strength for all of these family circles sorrowing the loss of their dear loved ones.

Illinois, Roanoke
Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

Our annual Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home “Homecoming Days” benefit looked a little different this year due to COVID-19. Generous donors offered a wide array of goods and services for an on-line auction on August 21-22. A drive through fish fry was also held on the 21 and on August 22, an evening of musical entertainment was held at our local park as a way of thanking the community for their continuing generous support of our Home. There was a bake sale, farmer’s market, and ice cream truck providing treats throughout the evening. We thank all those who helped make it another blessed and successful weekend of raising much needed funds for our nursing home. Bro. Nate Hoffman, administrator, was encouraged to report that the event surpassed the nursing home’s fundraising goal. We give God the glory!

We were so sorry to hear that Mindy Wenger (Damien) of El Paso, IL, passed away on August 23. She was the mother of Sis. Natalie Hoffman (Bro. Nick). May the Lord comfort this dear family in their loss and help to fill the vacancy that remains in their family circle.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) was our visiting minister on August 26 and again on August 30 when he and Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) summarized the Brotherhood Conference.

“… that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.” Eph. 4: 1-3

Bro. Mike expounded on the fact that our church exists in a far different culture than when it was established 150 years ago. We have far more interactions with those around us and therefore need to be able to relate to those of different ethnicities. The elders are also trying to help our church to be prepared for what might lie ahead, particularly coming deception. In our second service, Bro. Mike encouraged us to be pro-active in caring for the “strangers” or foreigners that God brings into our lives.

Bro. Ben Lindberg (Sis. Anneliese, Taylor MO) was our guest minister on September 6. He spoke on Proverbs 14 and Titus 3.

“There is a way which seemeth to be right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Prov. 14:12

Bro. Ben encouraged us that sometimes what seems to be right and good in our eyes does indeed lead to sorrow and death.
“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us…” Titus 3:5

Bro. Ben also exhorted us that we are all broken, and we are foolish if we rely on our good works. It is Christ alone, his mercy shown through his shed blood that saves us. We thank these brothers for their faithful service to us.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 30. We wish them God’s rich blessings at this special milestone and throughout the coming years.

Our Sunday school resumed on September 6. It is wonderful to see our youth assembled together again. We pray for a blessing upon each student and teacher as they worship together and learn more about the Lord and his ways.

Bro. Josh Moser left on September 11 for six months in Antarctica at the McMurdo research station. We pray for God’s blessings upon him in this new undertaking. We will miss you, Bro. Josh!

Over the last couple months our church has had opportunities to serve the flood victims in our community. The parents of one of the victims wrote a thank you to our church expressing their deep appreciation for all the work that was done at their daughter’s home. They felt led to give a donation to our church charity fund so that others could also receive help when needed. What a blessing to be able to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We give God the glory!

We want to lift up Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb), in prayer for our Lord’s continued healing mercies and also for his peace and provision. What a privilege to bring our loved ones before God’s throne, knowing he hears and answers prayer.

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser**

“I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend; And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.”

_Tis so sweet to Trust in Jesus, Hymns of Zion 147_

What a comfort this brings to those who know Jesus as our Friend!

We appreciate visitors, though few at this time. Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) came for a family night presentation on Practical Marriage and Parenting. We also appreciated Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) spending a Sunday with us, and ministering to us.

Our prayers this month continue to be with Greg Baker (Christy) as he is receiving treatment for Leukemia. Sis. Christine Koch (Bro. Terry) submitted to surgery, and Bro. Richard Steiner (Sis. Ann) spent a few days in the hospital. May God grant his divine healing.

We were excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Brandon Rose (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marla) to Sis. Mallory Bauman (Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita, Goodfield, IL.) We wish them much joy as they plan their life together as one.

With joy Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Charity Oswald welcomed Addison Joy to their family. Joelle is excited about her new baby sister! Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle Oswald, and Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen (Belvidere, IL.)

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Rev. 21:4

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika Koch in the death of Erika’s brother-in-law Robert Meszaros (Hungary.) What a blessed hope we can have in Jesus and being reunited again someday!

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lillian Pfaffmann**

In these days of COVID-19, a visiting minister is almost an anomaly! We were thankful to have Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) and sons with us for a Sunday morning service as he allowed the Holy Spirit to speak thru him to us. May our Heavenly Father bless him for his willingness to serve!

We continue to have outside tent services though it’s getting chilly! Sunday school has started inside.

Sis. Mary Metzger fractured her arm, but hopefully the sling she’s wearing will soon be gone! We’re so happy to have her, Bro. Virg, and their son, Bro. Darin,
worshiping with us and a part of our fellowship here!

Obviously, here in Washington, COVID-19 has not hindered the marriage portion of the Lord’s work! Bro. Kalahan Aberle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine) was announced to Sis. Brianna Tanner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn, Morton, IL). We truly wish them God’s blessings as they plan their lives together!

**Indiana, Bluffton**

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen

“Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Thro’ eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God!”

*Standing on the Promises,*
Tabernacle Hymns #164

We are so thankful for the many promises throughout the Bible that we can stand on in all seasons of life.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.” Titus 2:11

It was such a joy for us to have a new convert this month. We are praying for William Fiechter, son of Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda. May he rest in the promise of salvation by grace!

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matt. 28:19-20

Our love and support are with Bro. Nick and Sis. Amber Steffen (Bluffton North, IN) as they moved overseas for mission work. We remember their parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia Steffen and Sis. Lori Steffen (Bro. Mark-dec.). We are thankful they are following God’s call of the great commission and trusting in the promise of his presence wherever he leads them.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.” Isa. 61:1-3

We are prayerful for a family mourning the loss of a loved one. Bro. Stan and Genny Isch’s great-grandson, Wyatt Moser, age 3, was killed unexpectedly in a gator accident.

Wyatt leaves behind parents, Bro. Clint and Sis. Moonlight (Garden Grove, IA), and a brother Ty. Sis. Gail Szabo (Bay City, MI) is his grandmother. May God’s promise of comfort be near unto them in this dark time.

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” I John 4:16

Bro. Alec Schneider (Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea, Francesville, IN) was married to Sis. Dana Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy, Latty, OH). We wish them God’s blessings in their future together as a couple. They will be attending our Bluffton church and we welcome Sis. Dana!

Our appreciation is extended to Bluffton North for hosting the Annual ACCFS Cultivating Connections Marriage Conference. The theme this year was Cherish and it was a blessing to all who attended whether in person or virtually. We are thankful for the Lord’s promise to dwell in our hearts and our marriages as we grow in love for each other.

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

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Deone Gerber are in our prayers during her pregnancy, as they face the potential of their baby being born very prematurely. This is a very similar situation they faced with their son, Decklin, a few years ago. May Jesus’ arms surround them and protect their little one who he loves so much.
Indiana, Bluffton North
Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"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

After much prayer and consideration, we are thankful to announce that Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry) has been selected to serve as a co-elder with our Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra). The Lord was faithful and provided clear direction in this process, and we are confident that the Lord is going to continue to lead our church. We are prayerful for Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry as they take on this new responsibility.

We recently had two young men that chose to surrender their lives fully to Jesus. We rejoice with Kaden Bussel, son of Bro. Travis and Sis. Missy, and Hayden Craighead, son of Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen, and pray for them as they deepen their relationship with Christ.

Bluffton North was excited to host the Cultivating Connections 2020 Marriage Conference facilitated by ACCFS. This was a live event but also could be accessed virtually. A strong family makes for a strong church, so we are thankful for the good attendance and for the resources that were made available. We are prayerful that what was taught will be applied into daily life.

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful evening to enjoy our annual church family picnic.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

These past few mornings, I have been sitting on my porch during my Bible study. It is so lovely, I often wonder how a person could not believe in God. Fall and harvest time seem to be soon upon us. I have already observed the squirrels and birds hurrying around to gather supplies for the winter. We must be ready to help with the harvest of souls as well as the grain.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:37-38

On a recent Saturday evening we were blessed to hear the testimonies of our dear Sis. Louise Topp and Sis. Lisa Pedigo and welcome them into our fellowship!

We began holding a modified second service on Sunday, September 9 and hope to reinstate a safe way for the serving of lunch soon. As these many decisions come before our elders and ministers, may we remember to hold them up before God in prayer.

We rejoice at the engagement of Bro. Trevor Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami) and Sis. Audrey Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy, Junction, OH).

We continue to hold Bro. Roger Ward (Sis. Sandi) and family, up in prayer, as Bro. Roger recovers from a serious surgery. Also seeking prayers, are those who continue to have health concerns: Sis. Lisa Pedigo, Bro. Chris Welker, Sis. Connie Linback, and Jerry Hendershot, brother to Sis. Karen Albrecht.

Notes of Thanks

Sis. Sharon Neihouser sent a note of thanks for the many birthday cards and gifts sent to her for her recent card shower.

Notes of Thanks

The family of Bro. Roger Ward (Sis. Sandi) expressed appreciation for the heartfelt prayers and messages of sympathy and deeds of kindness that were shown to them at the passing of Sis. Sandi’s Dad (Bill Long).

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

"…Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.” Jer. 5:24

As our children return to school in one form or another, the farmers begin to look to the fields. In the first, the seeds will be planted; in the second, the crop will be gathered.
In whatever stage of the growing process we find ourselves, praise be to God that we can trust him with the journey and the results!

We have so enjoyed having a few visitors recently! Our heartfelt thanks go to Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) for ministering the Word to us.

Our convert Carol Ailes recently went through surgery, but we are so thankful that she is doing well, and we have been able to see her in church for the first time in many months. We continue to pray that God will bless her with physical and spiritual strength!

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

Currently the weather here in northeast Indiana has been a string of days with dazzling, clear blue sky, heart cheering sunshine and temperatures a bit cooler. With all the focus and frazzle of COVID-19 in our life, it feels like God has sent us a very special gift of peace and joy with this weather. Do you think it might be that last fall had some weather like this, but I failed to notice or appreciate it? There can be a “silver lining”, even with COVID-19!

I apologize for my error in an earlier report regarding Bro. Lucas and Sis. Andrea Gerber returning to the Bluffton fellowship at the end of their time as Gateway Woods house parents. To our delight, they and their children have chosen to remain in our Leo church family!

A recent unpleasant situation did not keep the word of God from being preached, thanks to modern technology. All of our ministers were quarantined because of exposure to COVID-19, so no church services could be held on Wednesday, August 25 and Sunday, August 30. A minister was able to go to the church building to deliver the message to be streamed. We are grateful that none of our ministering brothers required hospitalization, and are now feeling well. However, Bro. Brace Wieland has informed us that the COVID-19 disruption of “normal” church services, which necessitated his lack of attendance for months, made it clear to him that he should retire, effective immediately. He and Sis. Brenda will always be thankful for the opportunity they had to serve in the minister capacity. We give our gratitude and appreciation to both of them, and are sorry that the present world health conditions prevent us from displaying our affection to them.

Our Sunday school children returned to a modified form of class on Sunday, September 6. The teachers are doing what is necessary to follow state guidelines, and we appreciate their extra efforts. It is important for our little ones and youth to be able to assemble for study of God’s word. May he bless the planting, watering and nurturing that is being done in each heart.

Prayers are being offered for Sis. Betty Schultz, who suffered two broken bones and an infection. She spent some time in the hospital, was transferred to a therapy facility and is currently residing at our local nursing home, The Cedars. Bro. Pete Maxfield has been a resident of The Cedars for some time, but during the recent COVID-19 outbreak there, he is requesting prayer that his oxygen numbers would increase. Both of these dear souls have lived many years and are anticipating the joy of heaven, but God gives us the privilege to lift them up to him in earnest prayer until he calls them home. We are praying for the administration, staff and all the residents of The Cedars during this particular time of fighting the virus.

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers this past month. We appreciate Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Latty, OH) and Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) for serving and preaching the Word.

We rejoice with Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf as their son, Bro. Ryan, was married to Sis. Alisha Bahler (West Lafayette, IN). The wedding took place in West Lafayette, IN and the couple will reside in Denver, CO.

Praise God for the birth of Bryn Leigh Frauhiger to Bro. John and Sis. Emily Frauhiger. We welcome her to our church family.

We have had multiple people in our congregation injure fingers recently. As was mentioned in a recent sermon, when one small part
of the body isn’t working correctly, the rest of the body suffers and is affected. From preparing food, getting dressed, working, and driving, so much is impacted. God’s people were placed here for a reason and declared good, loved, and precious by our Creator. May we be faithful to our calling and be a blessing to the rest of our body no matter the position.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler
Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) was a visiting minister this month. We always appreciate Bro. Ryan bringing Sis. Melanie “home” to visit and we’re always thankful for his presence on the pulpit. May God bless them for their efforts.

With no other news to report this month, I’ve been thinking a lot about the song from the Hymns of Zion #124 entitled, “Ready”. This time we’re living in seems like a lot of waiting and watching. Many of our activities are resuming, albeit in a different format than usual, but many activities are still curtailed, especially ones outside our own community. That can be hard for us, as most of us are used to being active and doing a lot of visiting instead. I take a lot of encouragement from the idea that I am still doing his will when I stay at home while he sends others, when I watch and pray, and when I stand aside and give. Even if I’m not doing anything visible, I’m still “ready.”

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez
“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 1:2

Our prayers for healing this month have been with: Sis. Sharon Flis (for back and neck pain), Sis. Kelcie Lehman (back pain) and Bro. Don Lehman (Sis. Jill) (recovering from kidney stone surgery and a broken leg). On August 23, we celebrated the end of another joyful Sunday school year with our annual picnic at Gramm Pond. May the Lord bless Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm for blessing our church family with their kindness and hospitality.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”. Rom. 16:24

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss
Our verse for the month is: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3:16

Bible study is back in person at church and we are continuing the study of evangelism. Picking up where we left off before the pandemic and everyone is glad to be back.

Bro. Joe Feller has reported that the Gateway Woods auction had a record year! Thanks to all who supported this event.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Becky Moser, Sis. Lauren, Shane, and Aaron Moser and the whole Gudeman family. Grant Moser son of Sis. Becky passed away September 18, 2020. They need our love and prayers to help comfort them during this time.

We received the great news that Carol Ailes, (mother to Sis. Dawn Ailes) has decided to give her life to our Lord Jesus Christ in repentance. She also had a successful heart procedure and is recovering well. Keep her in your prayers as she goes through recovery and new life. Sis. Tasia Weiss and her family still need prayer, Moses made it back into the country but there are some complicated issues that have come up. Praise the Lord Sis. Marguerite Hoerr is feeling much better, she and Bro. Bob could still use your prayers.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl
Congratulations to Bro. Troy and Sis. Andrea (Leuthold) Tonner on the arrival of their second daughter, Emmersen (Emmie) Lanae. Big sister Ellie is, no doubt, quite wide-eyed and excited.

Congratulations also to Bro. Ryan Schlipf (Denver, CO) and Sis. Alisha Bahler, on their covenant marriage vows made in Christ to always care for each other.

College students are off and running, almost literally, with a shortened semester and limited breaks or events. Our theme for this year is ‘He must increase, I must decrease’. Traditional midweek services continue to be scheduled every other week with special ministries on the off
weeks. We have been blessed so far with midweek messages from Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN). Thank you for your support.

We rejoice in the victory won as we extend loving sympathy to Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris) and their children and grandchildren on the loss of Bro. Neal’s kind father, Bro. Edward (Ed) Widmer (Wolcott, IN). Bro. Ed was 95 yrs old and had been residing in a care facility the last couple years here in West Lafayette.

We trust our congregation was encouraged as we shared COVID-19 style Communion; we pray each person feels renewed in strength and courage.

Note to self: 1) Today, instead of complaining about all that is wrong, I will be thankful for all that is right. 2) Have I just incorporated Jesus into my life, or have I totally surrendered to him that I might actually reflect his Glory?

Indiana, Wolcott

Teresa Earney, Luann Gerber

“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.” John 14:2 (Try inserting your name where it says you.)

Greetings of love to you all! Danny Lehman (Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) had knee surgery this month. Sis. Glenna Minneir (Bro. Mike) had ankle replacement surgery. Sis. Karla Bahler had shoulder replacement surgery. Praise to God they are all recovering well.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa Blume welcomed a new baby girl. Eloise Kate was born on August 21. She was welcomed warmly by her 6 older siblings; Sis. Emma, Levi, Marie, Orrin, Elsa and Jackie. Her grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume and Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler welcomed twin grandchildren in their family on September 10. Andrew and Hannah Salazar are the parents of Penelope Geneva and Romeo Jeffrey. Big siblings are Arabella and Orlando. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Furrer have a new granddaughter. Maya Indigo was born to Bro. Alex and Sis. Mindy Steffen (Elgin, IA).

Bro. Jerry Kyburz was dealing with health issues for many months. He reached his heavenly home on August 29. He lived his life as an example of how to be a Christian. Surviving is his dear wife, Sis. Nancy, sons Duane (Tara) and Bro. Phillip (Sis. Sasha) and 8 grandchildren. His motto was “decisions determine destiny”.

Bro. Ed Widmer quietly entered heavens gates on September 9. His wife of almost 69 nine years, Sis. Gladys, died in September of 2019. Their children are Sis. Laurel and Bro. Neal (Sis. Kris). He is also survived by 5 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Bro. Ed was known to the children in church as the “candy man”.

We are rejoicing that Edie Lehman (Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth), Emily Johnson (Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany), Hannah Drayer (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany) and Marie Blume (Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa) have confessed a need for a Savior and have begun their repentance.

Two sisters that grew up in our Wolcott church but currently attend other Apostolic churches were recently married. Sis. Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) and Bro. Ezra Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica, Nashville, TN), were united in marriage in Indianapolis on September 5. They intend to make the Indianapolis, IN church their home church. Sis. Alisha Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Ryan Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, Milford, IN) were married in West Lafayette on September 12. They intend to make Denver, CO their church home.

Takara Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Tamara and the late Sis. Ruth) and Samuel Frost are engaged and busy planning their upcoming wedding.

We were thankful to have a visiting minister. Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) came to visit and was willing to share the good news of the Gospel with us.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson and their daughters, Emily, Erin and Ava have recently moved to this area from Wichita, KS and are calling
Wolcott their home church. We are delighted to have them.

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

Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Kenny Wuthrich (Sis. Lori) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara) as they both have been hospitalized this month. May God grant healing to both of them according to his will.

We were thankful to hear the conference recordings and appreciate the hours spent on our behalf by our elder brothers. May God be their rich rewarder.

Iowa, Burlington

Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

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

We are so thankful for his faithfulness to each of us individually as time continues to unfold with blessings and struggles. We rejoice with our new sister in Christ, Ashley Anderson! After waiting many months, she was finally able to give her testimony of how Christ was faithful to call her to repentance and conversion. God has also been doing “wonderful things” in the hearts of our converts Courage Steiner and his younger sister, Blessing. Our church family is thankful they have found peace and anticipating another baptism in the near future.

Along with spiritual birth, we are excited for the new physical birth of baby Keenan Duane Schulz born on August 24 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Stephanie. He was welcomed home by older siblings Levi, Micah and Joanna, as well as happy grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Louis Massner (Mediapolis, IA).

As the Lord is faithful to bring grace and joy with new life, He is also faithful to bring comfort with the death of loved ones. We lift up Sis. Ingrid Buster in prayer with the passing of her brother, Kit Johnson from the southwest Iowa area.

After many months, the project to replace our church parking lot has finally been completed. We are appreciating the new pavement and happy to put it to use.

Thank you to our few visitors that we had sprinkled throughout the month. It’s always a blessing to share our special events or Sunday worship with others. Although many are attending church again, we also want to remember those who are still shut-in and unable to join us. Once again, we praise God that He is faithful to be near us and meet our needs wherever we are!

Note of thanks:

We would like to extend our thanks to each one of you for the prayers and expressions of sympathy to our family.

The family of Dorothy Schulz

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

“O how I love Thy holy law! ‘Tis daily my delight; And thence my meditations draw Divine advice by night. When nature sinks, And spirits droop, Thy promises of grace Are pillars to support my hope, And there I write Thy praise.”

O How I Love Thy Holy Law, Hymns of Zion #119

We don’t have news to report this month, rather encouragement from a hymn. May we gladly press on, daily guided by the word of God and trusting in the promises therein.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

Greetings from Iowa!

Our congregation is thankful ministers and their families are willing to travel and proclaim the Word of God. Our visitors include Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Duane Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). We thank God these brothers rescheduled their rotation visit from the COVID-19 restrictions.

We are rejoicing as two dear souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray God will form and mold them to his likeness.

“Jesus has taken a beautiful bud, Out of our garden of love,

Note of thanks:

We would like to extend our thanks to each one of you for the prayers and expressions of sympathy to our family.

The family of Dorothy Schulz
Borne it away to the city of God,  
Home of the angels above."

Three year old Wyatt Moser,  
son of Bro. Clint and Sis.  
Moonlight Moser and brother Ty  
was taken to his Heavenly Home  
the morning of September 6 from  
an accident. Being from a small  
congregation, we have all lost a  
family member. Several mentioned  
evening Wyatt in Heaven running and playing with a huge  
smile on his face. We covet your  
prayers for the family and the  
whole congregation as we travel  
through Wyatt’s Home going.  
Grandparents are Bro. Tom and  
Sis. Dawn Moser and Sis. Gail  
Szabo (Bay City, MI). Wyatt has  
many uncles, aunts and cousins  
supporting this dear family.  
"Full blooming flowers  
alone will not do,  
Some must be young and ungrown;  
So the frail buds He is  
gathering, too,  
Beautiful gems for His throne.  
Blooming in beauty in  
heaven they are,  
Blooming for you and for me;  
Follow the Lord, tho’ the city be far,  
Till our bright blossoms we see.”  
Gathering Buds, James Rowe

Iowa, Iowa City  
Diana Butikofer

Congratulations to Kyle and  
Laura Burkle on the birth of Levi  
James on August 27. Excited  
siblings are Ashton, Connor,  
and Natalie, and thankful  
grandparents are Ron and Sis.  
Audrey Landherr. We pray for  
God’s wisdom and grace for Kyle  
and Laura to raise their children  
to also know and trust our Lord.  
Thanks again to those who  
helped clean up damage this past  
month from the “derecho”! There  
were many expressions of gratitude  
from relieved recipients that  
included both words and tears. It  
was humbling to realize just how  
much less stress we have because  
we trust in God and are part of a  
network of believers who respond  
to the Spirit’s prompting!

Iowa, Lester  
Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

Several families in our  
congregation are experiencing  
changes in their households. With  
thankful hearts we are grateful  
that Carter, Kelsey and Isabella,  
foster children of Bro. Marti and  
Sis. Martha Knoblock are in the  
process of being adopted by Jake  
and Marissa Rainey, Sis. Martha’s  
sister, of Oregon. Our prayers  
go with them as they adapt to a  
new home. Prayers also go out to  
Jason and Sis. Trela, Kiersten,  
Treyven and Jaxon Knueven as  
Jason has been deployed to Kosovo  
for a year. May God provide and  
watch between them while they  
are separated. We welcome Taiyo  
Kleinhapel, Hamburg, Germany,  
foreign exchange student of Bro.  
Dwight, Sis. Donna and Evan  
Mogler. We hope his experience  
here in the U.S., and especially our  
community, is a blessing to him.  
Making known their  
engagements are Bro. Brooks  
Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis.  
Julie) and Sis. Kiana Knoblock  
(Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy) and  
Bro. Cade Knoblock (Bro. Stan  
and Sis. Dawn) to Sis. Molly  
Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis.  
Heidi, Eureka, IL). Alex Moser  
(Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) is  
engaged to Katherine Ritchie.  
Sis. Alissa Messner and Sis.  
Nancy Gerber (Bro. Bob) recently  
had surgery. Bro. George Meyer  
is hospitalized with complications  
from COVID-19. We hold them  
up in prayer along with many  
others who continue to battle the  
afflictions the earthly body bears.  
“Blessed are they that mourn: for  
they shall be comforted.” Matt. 5:4  
Our sympathy is extended  
to two families on the death of  
their loved one. Bro. George  
Meyer and Bro. Pat and Sis.  
Twyla Meyer bid farewell  
to their brother-in-law, Bro.  
Lawrence Wagenbach (Sis.  
Elaine, Princeville, IL). Sympathy  
also goes to Sis. Donna Mogler  
(Bro. Phil) as her brother, Bro.  
Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn,  
Rittman, OH), passed away. Sis.  
Donna Barber (Bro. Mike), Sis.  
Chalea Knobloch and Sis. Linda  
Klostergaard (late Bro. Brad) are  
Sis. Carolyn’s siblings.  
We were able to listen to our  
Elder Bro. Rod Bajema read the  
Memorandum recently. All were  
encouraged to live out our faith  
in Jesus by God’s power through  
the Holy Spirit.  
“Therefore, brethren, stand fast,  
and hold the traditions which  
ye have been taught, whether by  
word, or our epistle.” 2 Thes. 2:15
Iowa, Mediapolis  
*Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz*

Once again the seasons are changing, and the fields are ripe with harvest. The hot days of summer are drifting away and are now being replaced by crispness in the air, turning the midwest into a brilliant display of autumn colors. In a world that is challenged by the effects of natural disasters and the unrest of so many situations out of our control, it is so good to be able to sit and pause a while in the beauty of nature, and lay down all our burdens and fears at the feet of the one who holds us in his hand. What peace to surrender it all to him, and know we can trust him to care for us.

The freshness of a new arrival from heaven is bringing joy to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois Massner, who are enjoying their new grandson, Keenan Duane Schulz. He is the son of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Stephanie Schulz (Burlington, IA). We pray for God’s blessings on this family.

It is also joyous to announce when our converts have found peace with God and man. Olivia Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally) and Keegan Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris) have done so, and we are thankful they have found the greatest treasure on earth. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Terry Goodpaster, as he has said good-bye to his mother, Sylvia Chamberlain, of Rochester, IN. Bro. Terry, Sis. Jaclyn and their children, Gideon and Felicity, will all miss her presence in their lives, and we pray they can feel the love and support of their church family.

We gathered together on a Wednesday night to hear the recordings of the Elder Conference. We are thankful for the wise counsel given by the elders who spoke. May we take it to heart and use it to further align ourselves with the Word of God.

Even though we are not back to normal yet, our church did have a day of modified church cleaning, which was good. Some of our brethren also traveled a bit north of us to help with clean-up from the derecho that swept through our state, causing much destruction. It is amazing how each generation, when presented with challenges, is able to adapt, even though it may not always be pleasant. Perhaps God gives us these opportunities of challenge to remind us we are only passing through and need not worry ourselves with pounding in our tent stakes too far.

Iowa, West Bend  
*Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt*

“In spite of all the calamities our nation is currently experiencing, we are blessed to have peace in the knowledge that God holds all in the palm of his hand.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Patricia Banwart in the loss of her son, Steve (Mason City, IA). Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler are also grieving the loss of Bro. Andy’s sister, Sis. Alice Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). May God provide comfort as he alone can.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr have both spent time in the hospital due to illness.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Tim. 2:1-4

Kansas, Bern  
*Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold*

Our church family has shared times of rejoicing and times of sorrow this past month. Two brothers in faith were taken to their reward and four souls have testified of their belief in God and of their changed lives.

Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Janet) took his last breath on earth and we had his funeral service on August 28. We offer our sincerest prayers to his dear wife and all of his children: Sis.
Kim Baumgartner, Matt Meyer, and Sis. Carla Meyer as well as all of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. James Menold’s (Sis. Lou) funeral service was on August 29. Our sincerest prayers are with Sis. Lou and all of their children: Dean, Victor, Bro. Dayton, Bro. Terry, Sis. Diane Strahm, and Bro. Christopher, Myreon, Rodney, and Sis Jamie Bahr as well as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On August 29, we heard testimonies and then witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Lynn Hartter, Bro. Gabe Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), Bro. Blane Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue), and Bro. Dillon Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita). How the angels in heaven must have rejoiced over four sinners who turned their life to the Lord!

Our Sunday school began meeting again after a summer break. The children were excited for new teachers and a new beginning!

Finally we want to thank Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) as well as Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for sharing God’s word with us. During the regional minister meeting we appreciated having Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS). It’s always a blessing to gather around God’s word and prepare to spread the Gospel! May God join all of us in proclaiming God’s word to the lost.

Note of Thanks:
The family of James Menold would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for the calls, cards, flowers, food and memorial donations and the love and prayers shown to us during this time of loss.

Note of Thanks:
Many thanks from Sis. Janet Meyer and family for the numerous acts of love shown to us at the time of Robert’s passing.

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden
"Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly; Call aloud and spare them not! Jesus wants a faithful witness; Teachers not confessing Jesus Have stern judgment as their lot. Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly; Call aloud and spare them not. Truly stones could not help crying If the watchmen’s call would cease, And the very rocks about us, Every one a crying witness Could no longer hold their peace. Truly stones could not help crying If the watchmen’s call would cease! Therefore rise, all ye, His servants; For Elijah’s spirit pray! If as Lord ye would address Him, Faithfully ye must confess Him, And His holy will obey! Therefore rise, all ye, His servants; For Elijah’s spirit pray! Speak the gospel of salvation Boldly in the wilderness! In the Saviour’s blood there’s healing Grace and pardon He’s revealing}

To the sinner in distress.
Speak the gospel of salvation
Boldly in the wilderness!"

The Watchmen’s Call,
Zion’s Harp #112

We are still only having one service in Kiowa, and no fellowship hour, but we have started having Sunday school again. We truly thank those who come to share the Gospel of God with us even though we only have the one service, and this past month we had the privilege of having two ministers and their wives join us for a Sunday: Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy and family, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Justin Isch (Sis Liz, Lamont, KS). We appreciate those who are watchmen on our behalf, but one thing we should always remember: we are all watchmen for our Lord. It is so important to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation, and that we hold one another up daily in prayer, because our wonderful God hears and answers sincere prayer. I read an account once of a mother who had a son overseas in the service of our country. One night she woke from sleep with a strong urge to pray for her son. She immediately held him up in prayer and asked the Lord to protect and keep him safe. Only later did she find out that at that exact moment her son heard a voice say, “STOP!” As he did so, he discovered a sign on a tree that said mine field. Another step would have ended his life. One of my favorite verses that I repeat
daily when praying for my loved ones is Psa 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Praise God for the priceless gift of prayer.

As we continue experiencing the pandemic, may we consider the welfare of others and show the love of Jesus to all; whether wearing masks, social distancing, or heeding local guidance.

"... whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: ..." Matt. 7:12

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

Greetings to each of you!

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) shared with us “The Way of Peace” presentation this month. We are thankful for the many teachings and thoughts that it brought to our hearts and minds!

We partook together of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) were here to help with this sacred work. It was a blessing to be reminded of the complete and willing sacrifice that Jesus gave for us!

"Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrifice, which we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.”

Communion Hymn,
Zion's Harp, #200

Our church hosted the regional elder, deacon, and minister meetings. We are thankful for each one who was able to be here for it.

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

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Leland Plattner shared the word of God with us.

Our Sunday school session has resumed for the year. May God provide wisdom for the teachers and open hearts for the children as they attend each week!

Kansas, Wichita

Niklaus and Sara Schrader

Greetings in the name of Christ our Savior:

As school is fully in session, we want to lift our students and teachers up in prayer. This year is of course going to be a challenge for everyone, but God has an ultimate plan that we can rest in. We pray that school can return to some form of normalcy as soon as possible. Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson and family have made the tough decision to move to Indiana to be closer to family. We will miss them dearly and will pray for their journey and God’s peace throughout the transition.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Sara Schrader and family, as well as Steve and Maria Schrader, in the loss of their mother, Sis. Dorothy Schrader. We pray the family can find God’s peace and comfort. At these times we certainly find comfort in the fact that we as Christians have salvation through Jesus our Lord and need not fear death.

This Sunday we enjoyed adding back lunch in the form of sack lunches and tables outside. It was great to have that form of fellowship back. We pray for all those who are struggling during this time and are so thankful for our church family and their support.
Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.” Isa. 38:19

This prayer of Hezekiah’s is so inspiring, and his story has become a comfort to Bro. Samuel Gutierrez as he has been diagnosed with cancer in a very advanced state. It saddens us to see him declining physically, but we are thankful for his sound mind and for the restored relationships in his family. It is encouraging to see his children caring for him and Sis. Maria. We pray that this can be a time of making God’s truth known to his daughters, Raquel and Margarita, and his son, Samuel Jr.

We’ve missed Sis. Estela Salcedo since she went to Morelia for an appointment with a cardiologist. Her visit was extended due to coming down with COVID-19. We are so thankful to know that she is recovering, and pray that she would continue to be a light as she stays there with her daughters.

Sis. Berta de Gonzalez is back from visiting her daughters in the U.S. and we are thankful for her encouraging presence.

“For now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him” 1 Cor. 12:18

México, Magdalena

Laura Aviña

We are thankful to have begun church services again outdoors on the patio behind Carnisimo Burgers in Magdalena. We are still required to wear masks and keep a safe distance, but it has been heart-warming to gather again and fellowship with our church family after nearly six months!

We want to extend a welcome to Sis. Myca Joy Steffen who has joined our church family from Princeville, IL. We pray that she would feel God’s presence and peace as she adjusts to her new community.

Our church service this week focused on Philippians 4, with a reminder of three key things necessary to maintain peace in our hearts through tribulation. First, we must pray, voicing our complaints and feelings to God, but ultimately thanking him for what he has given us (vs. 4-7). Secondly, we shouldn’t give into the temptation to criticize or think negatively, but meditate on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous and praise-worthy (vs. 8). And lastly, we must place our trust in God and find contentment in our circumstances, knowing that we are able to do so through the strength that Christ gives to us (vs. 9-13).

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

We appreciate each one’s prayers for us and for our community. Please pray for the teachers and students who are working to continue education virtually. Please pray that our church family will be encouraged through the church services and that more people can hear the good news of hope through Jesus Christ! Please pray that the number of COVID-19 cases in Sonora would continue to decrease and these privileges of gathering together would continue. May God bless each of you!

Michigan, Alto

Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

“The time flies on and death draws nigh,
Unite us Lord with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with
Thee forever in eternity.
Thou knowest, Lord, the every need
Of them who for Thy mercy plead.
With helping hand Thine aid bestow
To guide Thy children here below.
Deny us not the truth and light,
Thy precious gift so dear and bright,
The Word of truth to teach us true,
And nourish heart and soul anew.”
Re redeeming our Time,
Zion’s Harp #188

As this precious hymn flows through my heart and mind, I am reminded that all help, answers and comfort come from the one true living God! We are all experiencing changes in life right now, but many are grieving the loss of loved ones and it is a change like this that puts other changes into perspective for me. Our sincere sympathy, prayers and love go out to Bro. Clint, Sis. Moonlight and big brother Tyrel who are experiencing the loss of a son and little brother, Wyatt.
Moser (Garden Grove, IA). Sis. Moonlight lived in our area for several years and we are all sharing in the loss with this family. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Dale Dunham (Sis. LaBeth) in the loss of his brother Walt Dunham. Our prayer is that our Father, who understands the pain of parting, would grant the compassionate comfort that only he can.

With autumn just around the corner we are starting to see some leaves change color and feel that nip in the air. Yet again, more changes. In this season of fall, we are reminded that dormancy is a part of God’s perfect plan for plants and animals but not for us as believers. May we not lie dormant nor lack in growth spiritually, but press on and grow in love, faith and grace.

With prayerful hearts, we continue to lift up those who have been hospitalized, going through treatment, or are experiencing struggles with other health related changes.

Last weekend we witnessed a beautiful example of a heart change! Sis. Elaine Wingeier (Stan) gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on Sunday. Oh what joy this change brought to all of us here in Alto, but even more so to the heart of our dear Sis. Elaine! We know that the angels in heaven are rejoicing along with us. Our prayer is that many more will desire to know Jesus Christ as their personal savior and come to him in humility, seeking forgiveness for their sins.

“HE never changes! Our Father never gets weary or weak. He never gets frustrated or blue. He never gets discouraged by the choices we make, but is always faithful and true. Our Father never changes His mind, or decides another way is better. He’ll never leave nor forsake us as it states in the Hebrews letter. His love is more pure than we can ever understand and He never gives up on us. So may we strive to love as Jesus does and mirror Him, in whom we fully trust.” ibG.res

**Michigan, Bay City**

**Sarah Knochel**

Sweet little Hope Wackerle joined the family circle of Aaron and Shannon and older brothers Wyatt and Wade. We rejoice with the Wackerles and pray that God will continue to bless and provide for their family.

Our hearts ache with sadness for Sis. Gail Szabo as she mourns the loss of her grandson, Wyatt Moser. Wyatt’s family, Bro. Clint and Sis. Moonlight Moser and older brother Ty are from Garden Grove, IA.

We also want to remember the family of Sis. Lois Wieland as she passed away on September 4. Even as Sis. Lois’s wish was realized, and her faith became sight, we pray for her children as they reflect on their dear mother’s life.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Lynn and Gordon Kimmerly in the passing of Gordon’s brother, Kent Kimmerly.

Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) presented a topical study on “Give us Oil for Our Lamps.” We appreciate the time he took to prepare and deliver the message. We also appreciate Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH) including Bay City in their travel plans.

**Michigan, Detroit**

**Krista Wieland**

Hello and greetings in the name of Jesus! A couple weekends ago we were staying at Andy’s parents in Bay City. My mother-in-law has always loved flowers. This year either the flowers looked different or I developed more appreciation for their beauty, because I spent more time just looking at all of them. At a distance, I saw a mass of sheer beauty and every sort of color in this flower garden (it’s actually more like a flower field, I think). As I walked closer, I started to see this wasn’t just a mass of colors, but (stating the obvious here) it was hundreds of different flowers that made up the whole field. I don’t know a lot about flowers, save our yearly geraniums, cannas, and impatiens that we plant at our house. I do know enough to know that many families of many species of flowers were represented here, some of which I had never seen before. They were so different: different colors, different leaves,
different heights, different shapes, different petals. I picked a daisy (it looked like one to me, anyway) and examined it closely. It was so special and intricate! As I looked longer, I noticed that there were groupings of certain kinds of flowers with others and some flowers growing more solo but still part of the picture. They were all part of something bigger - the beautiful field.

I guess flowers are like people, in a way, each uniquely formed and different. When you put them all together you have a beautiful image. This is especially true for God’s kingdom of believers on earth. We each bring unique gifts and talents to the church body and when blended, we become more beautiful and useful. And whose idea was all this? God! The Creator!

Our Livonia church body had a very special Communion service earlier this month where we had a sweet drawing near to Jesus and one another. With all of the uncertainty of the past several months, it was very meaningful to be together and share in this remembrance of our Savior’s loving sacrifice for each of us.

We were thankful to be able to receive an overview of the recent conference letter that was presented by our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bro. Lucas Frank.

We said farewell to Bro. Brett Greiner this month as he is moving to Bloomington, IL for a job transfer. It was really a joy to have had him as part of our fellowship, and he will be missed. We wish him the Lord’s continued guidance and direction in his new location.

Our prayers and love go to Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr and their family in the passing of Sis. Jamie’s father, Bro. James Menold, (Bern, KS).

We also extend our love and sympathy to Mark and Joy Wieland in the passing of Mark’s mother, Sis. Lois Wieland, (Bay City, MI).

Some exciting news that Bro. Abraham and Sis. Sarah Nolan have a new grandchild, Sloan, adopted by their daughter Helen and her husband Rob Pierce.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Kristie Meyer, who is recovering from recent knee surgery. We also think often of those who have not been able to assemble with us for an extended period due to health concerns and border travel restrictions and look forward to when we can be together face-to-face again.

We remain prayerful for Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank and their entire family in the upcoming Elder Ordination service scheduled for October 4.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Sunday, August 23 was the marriage reception for Bro. Adrian and Sis. Charity Rocke here in Minneapolis church fellowship room. Parents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke and Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer from Leo, IN. We welcome the newlyweds to our congregation and wish them God’s blessings as they start their life together.

After much planning and praying, our ministers were able to administer the holy sacrament of Communion to our church members. We had a beautiful evening on Saturday, September 19 listening to our Elder Bro. Duane Rocke read and ponder on Isaiah 53 and Luke 23.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf*

Greetings from the church at Morris. We trust you are waiting with assurance that God is in control during this pandemic and time of great change.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psa. 27:14

We wait with eagerness to be brought together under the roof of the church. We long for Sunday greetings. We want so badly to hear prayers spoken by our brothers. We long for familiar voice singing by our side. We need the fellowship and the sustenance of a meal shared together. And the smiles of the little ones, they just can’t come soon enough. Through it all we are encouraged to call upon the Lord to strengthen us in our time of need. Let us do that with ample courage, for God promises to be with us always.
“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. 41:10

Our prayers for healing are with Sis. Noreen Moser (Bro. Carl) who recently had hip surgery. We pray also for all students returning to school to let the light of Christ shine.

We joyfully celebrated the drive-thru wedding reception for Bro. Trent and Sis. LaNae Wulf on August 27 in Morris. Blessings to the couple as they build their lives and home together.

Connor and Abbey Metzger celebrated the arrival of their infant daughter, Ruby on September 1. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Gail Metzger and great-grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall. Welcome little one!

We rejoice in the marriage of Bro. Christoph and Sis. Angie Werner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr). The wedding ceremony took place on Sunday September 13 with a drive through reception following.

Congratulations to Ryan Ascheman and Devin Fuhrman on their engagement. The couple will wed in September 2021 in Morris. Ryan is the son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Peggy Ascheman.

To God be all the glory for these gifts and blessings.

Praise His faithfulness!
Sing praises to Him,
Who first showed us His favor;
His loving kindness
In your song express!”

Now And Then, Zion’s Harp #191

Minnesota, Morris North
Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger

It has been a quiet season for us this summer. Not many visitors and not a lot of in person gathering. It is a special joy to welcome a new little one to our congregation. Congratulations to Travis and Jilaine Strahm on the arrival of their firstborn, Reynold Banks. We look forward to watching you grow!

‘And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:9-10

Minnesota, Winthrop
Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll

‘The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”’ Psa 23

Sympathy and prayers to Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner and their family and Sis. Bernadine Messner in the loss of their mother, grandmother and sister, Sis. Viola Messner (Bro. Don, Peoria, IL). Bro. Don and Sis. Viola lived 27 years of their married life in Winthrop and it was always a joy to have them come back to visit.

Our Sunday school students were able to begin having class again. It brings joy to see the children eager to attend, even while having to wear a face mask.

Many in our congregation have battled with ailments. Our convert Betty Milam has spent some time in the hospital and we are thankful she has been able to return home and regain strength.

Congratulations to Luke and Samantha Holmquist on the birth of their baby, Oaklynn Mae, born on July 27. Grandparents are Jerry and Melissa Isaacson and great-grandmother is Sis. Dorothy Jacobson.

Note of Thanks:
A special thank you for all the cards, prayers, phone calls and deeds of kindness after my surgery and for my 85th birthday. God bless each of you!

Sis Georgia and Sis Dixie
Missouri, Kansas City

Katy Frantz

School has begun, different this year than usual, but the kids are excited to be back with friends and activities.

Even though many things are different we are rejoicing that the salvation of Christ is constant. We are thankful that Betty Sinn is at peace with the Lord and her baptism is planned for November 15.

Two new converts, engaged to be married in early November, Dominic Webel (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie) and Holly Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky, Silvertown, OR), have surrendered their hearts to our Lord in repentance as well.

Our church welcomed a visit from the Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann and family as they shared about Haiti and got a chance to visit with all of us at an all church potluck. We pray for them on a regular basis and for their work at Hospital Lumiere.

Our church gathered outdoors with the Fort Scott congregation for a Sunday school picnic earlier in September. The kids enjoyed nature hikes and hay rides during the beautiful evening.

We are thankful to still welcome visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Matt Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL).

We trust in God with the present and for the future as well.

“O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.” Psalms 66:8-9

Missouri, St. Louis

Michelle Rassi

The children started the Sunday school year on August 16. It is such a blessing to witness their enthusiasm and to see how many children we have in St. Louis now. 22 kids might not sound like a lot to some of our bigger churches but it is huge for us! Just taking a trip down memory lane… my husband moved to St. Louis in 2005 and at 24 years old he was the youngest attendee! God works in AMAZING ways!

Although we haven’t had our usual amount of “summer visitors,” we have been blessed with various visitors in the past month and are appreciative of the blessing of fellowship.

Is the love of Jesus flowing out of you as contagious as COVID-19? It is a question that I have pondered throughout the pandemic. If someone is within 6 feet of me, can they see and feel Jesus inside me? Are they affected by just a brief encounter? If I show the love of Jesus to just one person today, how far reaching are the effects?

Missouri, Taylor

Lori Marquart

On Wednesday, August 19, Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) pointed out that Paul expressed concerns in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, that are still prevalent today. It was a needed reminder that our attitude can either bring glory or shame to our Lord and Saviour.

Joy was tangible on Sunday, August 23, at the ordination service for Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) who will assume the responsibilities of Deacon. Elder Bro. John Lehman, (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) served encouragement to the church, the active ministers, and specifically to Bro. Tim’s family.

Praise to God for continuing to call souls to himself! Ring the Bells of Heaven (Hymns of Zion, #496) was sung Sunday morning, August 23, to celebrate salvation with Jacob Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen).

Church membership was reinstated to Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie Krzesinski after hearing their testimony and journey of faith on Saturday, August 29. Originally from the Latty, OH church, Keith and Connie followed God’s lead to be near their children in Newark, MO. Eventually their desire for Apostolic Christian fellowship and hymns brought them to Taylor. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) took part in the Saturday evening interview and then served our church on Sunday as well. Also serving from the pulpit on Sunday, August 30, was retired Elder Bro. Earl
Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). Thank you to these brothers who tirelessly serve.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Jim Gottman (Sis. Sally) whose brother, Clif (San Antonio, TX) passed away on August 27.

New Sunday school teachers were welcomed by students on September 13 when classes resumed. These new teachers are Bro. Kyle Grimm, Bro. Joe Knochel, Bro. Cooper Sutter, Sis. Jennifer Hoerr, Sis. Lindsey Knochel, and Sis. Shania Sutter.

Those who recently requested prayer and/or expressed praise for healing were, Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen Gehring, Sis. Kris Sutter (Bro. Jim), Presley Sutter (Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Rachel), Sis. Dianne Sutter (Bro. Roger), and Sis. Marge Sutter (Bro. Gerald, dec.).

Bro. Jordan and Sis. Shelby Steidinger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger and Tom and Sis. Jolene Young) have moved to Troy, MO, from Kansas City, MO. It is a blessing to have them back in the Taylor fellowship! On the other hand it’s with regret to learn that Christina Richardson will be moving to the Nashville, Tennessee, area for a change in employment. Just like the Israelites who traveled with their portable tabernacle, we can be thankful that God will travel with us in the portable tabernacle of our hearts.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Karen Farney

Our thoughts and prayers are with the children as they have started back to school and those who are going to college. We pray for their health and safety. Our lives have changed with this pandemic, but we have a loving God who will see us through.

Wednesday evening September 2, we gathered to hear the spring memorandum read by our Elder Bro. Duane Farney, and Bro. Floyd Graves Jr. helped in the reading. We are thankful for the guidance of our elder brothers as we journey through this life. As God gives them the wisdom to direct their flocks, to be prepared for the heavenly kingdom.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Sis. Alice Virkler who passed from this life into all eternity September 9. She is survived by her two sisters: Carol Foti, Sis. Eleanor Herzig (Bro. Ron), three brothers Bro. Andrew Virkler (Sis. Becky), Bro. John Virkler (Sis. Maureen), Bro. Rudolph Virkler (Sis. Susan), 16 nephews, nieces, many great nephews and nieces, cousins and an aunt, Sis. Betty Virkler.

Ohio, Akron

Joelle Indermuhle

We have so many reasons to be thankful for our never-changing Heavenly Father.

On July 25 we were blessed to take part in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dave Graf.

It was a privilege to witness two weddings this month. Bro. Steven Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Melissa Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira) were wed August 2. On August 16, Bro. Trent Wulf (Stan and Sis. Pam, Morris, MN) and Sis. LaNae Schar (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne) were joined as one. May these couples feel the Lord’s blessings as they go forth in their new lives!

It was so nice to once again have a full church and visitors on the wedding Sundays. We would like to extend appreciation to ministering brothers, Bro. Matthew Wulf (Sis. Tara, Morris, MN), and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), for being willing to feed us spiritually.

Also, Bro. Matthew Pamer (Steve and Arliss) and Sis. Rachel Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer, Rittman) were united as one in the Lord on August 28. Although current circumstances inhibited their original wedding date and other events about us, we are thankful that the Lord’s work continues on.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Gail and Bro. Ned Spangler as Sis. Gail’s mother, Sis. Alma Maibach (Smithville, OH), recently passed from this life into eternity. Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Bro. Eugene) also lost a brother with the passing of Bro. Dale
Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn, Rittman). Our love and sympathies go out to both of these families.

John Gallagher (Sis. Margi) spent time in the hospital this month and we pray that he could have healing.

**Ohio, Columbus**  
**Nancy Banks**

It seems as the months of COVID-19 continue, the words “content” or “contentment” pop up often in our Bible readings. One dictionary defines the word "content" as being pleased or willing. There are many times of the day that I fail miserably at being willing or content, even as I begin to put my mask on as I enter into a grocery store, and suddenly remember I left it in the car (or worse yet, at home!). As we study Paul’s journey, we are reminded that he was able to be thankful for all things even when he was in prison.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phillip. 4:11-13

We will feel ourselves growing stronger as long as we keep our eyes and hearts focused on him during this time of chaos and uncertainty.

Several ministers visited us to help on the pulpit this month. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) for being with us.

**Ohio, Junction**  
**Karen Schlatter**

The engagement of Sis. Audrey Manz (Bro. Mark and Cathy) to Bro. Trevor Pott (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami, Francesville, IN) was announced to the church. May the Lord guide and direct their lives during these busy months of making wedding plans.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH). We are thankful for brothers who are willing to come and share the word of God with us.

Bro. Travis and Sis. Lilly Schlatter welcomed a new little girl, Melanie Iris, into their family on September 7. Siblings welcoming little Melanie are Joshua, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Stephanie. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie Schlatter and Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz.

Those having surgery in recent weeks are Eli Manz (Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura), and Caleb Manz (Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise). We wish them continued healing!

**Ohio, Latty**  
**Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller**

“The strength to overcome  
From Thy strong hands I borrow.  
The longings of my heart  
Will bring me naught but pain,  
Unless the grace to live  
Anew from Thee I gain.”  
Repentance, Zion’s Harp # 45

We rejoice with Dennis Wenninger (Beth) as he begins his repentance through the strength of the Lord. Our prayers are with him and his family as he finds the grace to live life anew through Christ.

Bro. Alec and Sis. Dana (Rosswurm) Schneider were united in marriage. May God bless them as they establish their new home. We appreciate Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter’s (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) willingness to share the word with us on their special day.

On a recent Saturday evening, our Sis. Carrie Stoller informed us about the work that is going on at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Sis. Carrie is a missionary at the hospital and was willing to share details about the hospital and how God is working in the lives and hearts of those living in Haiti.

We appreciate the time and efforts of Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) as they visited us on a Wednesday night to give us guidance and direction in the process of seeking new leadership for Latty. We appreciate the
service of our Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia) and are prayerful for God’s perfect will to be done for our church.

Ohio, Mansfield

Katie Miller

Quinton and Makenzie Foss and big sister Natalie welcomed a sweet baby, Nicole Quinn. Nicole’s loving grandparents are Rick and Sis. Susan Foss and Brian and Danyelle Sauder. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin Beer are thankful for the safe arrival of precious granddaughters, Blake Anne and Chanara Beer. What joy each new baby brings! We pray for God’s blessing upon all who love and care for these souls.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psa. 23:1-4

God promises to be with us through everything, and what a comfort that is as we see our loved ones walking through the valley of death. Sis. Lillian Miller passed from this life into the heavenly realm of which she so fondly spoke. We remember her children, Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Dorina) and Lois Miller and their families.

There are still several of our loved ones who are unable to come to church. We want each one to know they are missed. Sis. Kelly Beard, Bro. Wally Ramsier, and Sis. Katie Miller spent time in the hospital this month. May they feel God’s tender mercies.

It is a special occasion to gather together for an evening of Holy Communion. We were thankful for an opportunity to do so.

“And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.” Luke 22:15-16

We were reminded of the yearning that Jesus had to partake of his last supper with the disciples. Likewise we can have a longing for intimate fellowship with Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

Ohio, Rittman

Maria Beery, Julie Steiner

The days of just “going to church” are quite different! Enjoying fellowship over noon lunch, and greeting with the holy kiss, are two things we miss often. Though life has changed, let’s stay focused during this time. Approximately 165 years ago, the Rittman Apostolic Christian Church began. Many generations have passed, up till today. Yet, we are still given the opportunity to worship God, at church. Just as our forefathers were concerned about a place of true and simple worship, so must we be sure that those who seek the truth can be guided to their soul’s salvation. Then, the work of God will continue to future generations.

Four souls were baptized, all of them over 70 years old. Bro. Denny and Sis. Sandra Franks, and Bro. Boyd and Sis. Barbara Acker willingly received the gift of baptism. One of them shared in their testimony that their favorite part of the day is “prayer time”. Even though physically limited, no prayer limitations can be placed on a soft heart.

Through pain and uncertainty, God has upheld our Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn), and our Bro. Blake Maibach (Sis. Tresa), who recently spent time in the hospital. May they feel our prayers and support during their difficult times.

We wish God’s richest blessings on two couples married this past month. Sis. Rachel Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer) became the wife of Bro. Matthew Pamer (Steve and Arliss, Akron, OH) on August 28. Then, on September 19, Bro. Chad Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni) and Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa, Smithville, OH) became one in the Lord.

On September 7, Joe Riggenbach passed away, after a time of extended illness. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Karen, four children, Lisa Tänner (Lonnie), Julie Hostettler (Matt), Jerry (Sarah), and Dustin (Beth), many grandchildren, as well as siblings Sis. Ruth Steiner (Bro. Ron), Sis. Ellen Gasser (Bro. Jerry), John Riggenbach (Thelma), Sis. Luella Stoller, Ralph Riggenbach.
In our congregation this past month, we were blessed with three new babies. On August 28, Zelie Bee Stoller was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Brienna Stoller. She is welcomed by siblings Breton, Malaya, Quinlin, and Kenley, and grandparents Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller, and Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle. On September 3, Gabriel Joseph Dotterer was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Greta Dotterer. He joins sisters Corinne, Clara, and Ellen, and thankful grandparents Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Dotterer and Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery. On September 12, Karissa Beth Stoller was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller. Her siblings are Lauren, Kaitlyn, Caleb, Christopher, Heather, Jordan, Victoria, and Leigha, and her grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller, and John and Emily Rufener. Thank you to the brothers who willingly traveled here to share the word this past month, Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), and Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington, IN). Though times are different than normal, we are thankful that the way of truth is still preached, and lived out in our community.

Ohio, Sardis

Renee Blough, Doris Miller

Our Sunday school classes are reorganizing with the start of a new school year. Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Bro. Dana) and Bro. Garth Maibach (Sis. Hannah) are turning their classes over to Sis. Taryn Indermuhle (Bro. Caleb) and Bro. Alan Blough (Sis. Renee), respectively. It is so important that we impress on our youth the message in 2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” We appreciate the willingness of all who teach! We have enjoyed having Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier, along with their children Oliver, Elana, and Lettie, spend the summer with us following their time in the Dominican Republic. Our prayers go with them as they set up their home in Florida. Blest Be the Tie #156 in Hymns of Zion comes to mind. It was good to be reminded that the God we trust is the God we desire to obey. Special thanks to the elder brothers who spoke and labored on behalf of the church at the Elder Conference.

Ohio, Smithville

Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

Sis. Alma Maibach went to be with Jesus for all of eternity on August 20. Our sympathy goes to her children, Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Gail Spangler (Bro. Ned, Akron OH). Also surviving is her sister, Sis. Delphine Nieman, sisters-in-law, Sis. Ruth and Sis. Marie Beery and brother-in-law, Don Glessner. Also feeling the pain of parting are Sis. Luella Stoller (Bro. Harold, dec), Bro. Art Riggenbach (Lynne), Bro. Donnie Riggenbach (Sis. Gail) at the death of their brother Joe Riggenbach (Sis. Karen, Rittman, OH).

Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim, dec.), Sis. Marjorie Zollinger (Bro. John, dec.), and Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Steve) have spent time in the hospital this month. We will continue to be prayerful for those with afflictions of the body.

Babies are always a miracle, and Bro. Dave and Sis Kathy Ault welcomed a grandson, Isaiah Mitchell who joined the family of Mitchell and April Ault.

Ohio, Toledo

Anne Baumann, Rebekah Witzig

Our church was thankful to have Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Seth Beard (Sis. Faith, Sardis, OH) share God’s Word with us this past month, as they were visiting their children attending the University of Toledo. As a welcome to all of our college students this semester, we had our annual College Welcome Picnic. We are so thankful for all our college students and even more appreciative of their wonderful families.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Audrey Manz (Junction, OH), one of our college students, who recently got engaged to Bro. Trevor Putt (Francesville, IN). What a joyous time for both of them and their families as they look to their wedding and future lives together.
During a couple midweek services, we were able to listen to the General Conference recordings. It is always exciting to hear how our church is striving to encourage each one of us to emulate Christ more and more in our daily lives. In a recent sermon, we read about the armor of God (Eph. 6) and I was reminded that God has given each of us our own sword, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The only way each one of us can sharpen our sword is to know the Word of God. I pray that we can foster a hunger for God’s Word so that we are not caught unprepared by the darkness of this world.

Ontario, Kitchener
RoseLynn Metzger

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

We bring heartfelt greetings from Kitchener and hope everyone is doing well! Thinking about the above verses, we can appreciate the true love of God. It is unconditional, but in our human nature, we often doubt this constant promise. Some people may ask, “If God is so loving, why does he allow losses, trials and disappointments?” To be honest, I have struggled with an answer to this question. In reading the book “Lies Women Believe” by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, she states that “He (God) cares deeply for his children, protects them, and has their best interests at heart. That doesn’t mean he gives us everything we want – no wise father would do that for his children. It doesn’t mean we can always understand his decisions – he is far too great for that. It doesn’t mean he never allows us to suffer pain – he sees the bigger picture and values our growth and our sanctification more than he values our comfort.” When we look at it this way, it is easy to see that God is indeed, very good! His love is bigger, deeper and wider than we could ever imagine. Our job is to receive this love, and share it with others (Mark 16:15), so that even more people can experience just how loving our amazing God is!

This month we were once again blessed by visiting ministers through zoom: Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN). We can not thank you enough for taking the time to minister to us! During this time, we definitely feel a disconnect with our church family in the U.S., as we cannot travel, but appreciate all the efforts made to stay in contact. We are very thankful for the connection we have through the Spirit!

On September 12, we participated in Communion with the Detroit church. Since the borders are still closed, technology allowed us to interact and still be able to take Communion, even if we couldn’t be there in person! As always, it was a wonderful time to pause and reflect what Jesus did for all of humanity on the cross.

The children were able to go back to school on September 14, and we ask for prayers of safety and calmness as this is not an easy transition after being home for 6 months!

This brings me to the end of the letter, wishing everyone a wonderful month enjoying the fall season!

“For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name’s sake, lead me, and guide me.” Psa. 31:3

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

We thank our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Spring Memorandum via Zoom. May the Lord bless the elder body for their labors on our behalf. We appreciate the technology which enabled us to have this event during the pandemic.

Several of our families have had to evacuate their homes because of the numerous wildfires that have been raging in our region. The heavy smoke forced those with lung issues to try and find a refuge some where with better air quality. Thankfully we had some rain, which improved the situation. Our prayers go
out to those in our area who lost homes and loved ones. Our church building was spared and no one in our congregation lost their home. We are truly thankful for that. Our gratitude also to the firefighters, who worked long hours to try and contain the fires. We trust The Lord will see us through these trying times.

Oregon, Silverton  
*Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn*  
Our congregation enjoyed listening to Bro. Denver Slagel (Sis. Katie) from Magdalena, MX give a presentation and an update on the mission work going on at CVE. We’re thankful to be able to support Bro. Denver and Sis. Katie, and will continue to pray that God will guide and bless them as they serve him.

Thank you to Bro. Jeremy Leman (Sis. Shara, Forest, IL), for sharing the gospel message with us Wednesday, September 2. We pray for God’s blessing and guidance for you and your family as you continue to serve him.

Sis. Lydianne Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) is planning to move to Haiti for the next several months and will be working at Hospital Lumiere as well as providing support for missionary families. We are prayerful for Sis. Lydianne as she follows the Lord’s direction and look forward to her return!

Sunday school has resumed; however, due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, it is much different from normal. Please pray for the Sunday school teachers as well as the students that God will use these changes for the furtherance of his glory and that his word may be planted and grow in each heart.

Many have heard of the wildfires racing across the northwest this summer. Recently we have seen just how quickly they can spread and devastate everything in their path. Our congregation had several families who evacuated from their homes and all of us have been heavily affected by the lingering smoke/fog. It has been over a week since we’ve had a glimpse of the sun and visibility is very poor. It’s times like these when we understand that Jesus is the one true light! He is the only one we can turn to in uncertain times. Thanks be to God for his omnipresence and the love he continues to shower down on us.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
*Laura Isch*  
"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jer. 31:3

We rejoice with our new Sis. Cami Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle) who shared her testimony and was baptized the weekend of July 25-26. It is so encouraging to see a young soul make a covenant with the Lord and be brought into the fold!

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) with us this month. We appreciate him being willing to share the word with us.

September 12 was the wedding day of Dillin Holub and Mallory Metzger (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy). We wish the new couple God’s richest blessings as they look to the future as husband and wife.

September 13 was our annual Sunday school picnic. It was a blessing to enjoy a time of fellowship together.

May each one feel God’s “everlasting love” as we seek to serve him more faithfully!

Tennessee, Nashville  
*Mike Fritz*  
Much of our congregation was privileged to travel to Indianapolis, IN to attend the wedding of Sis. Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ezra Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica). We rejoice with them and pray that the Lord will richly bless their life together.

We are thankful for our recent visiting ministers who have so willingly shared God’s Word with us: Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Greg Schambach (Sis. Heather, Elgin, IL). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of visitors from Eureka, IL; Philadelphia, PA; and Knoxville, TN.

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

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

**Candy Meiss**

Sending our love and greetings from Austin/Bastrop!

“Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness. Psa.30:4

Are you a life-giver or a life-taker. In our devotional this morning we read that thankful people are refreshing, life-giving springs, while unthankful people are life-takers and joy-robbers. Even in the midst of this pandemic we can be a joyful life-giver and be thankful. We continue to have Sunday morning services for a limited number at church along with a Zoom service to those at home on Sunday and Wednesday evening. We were blessed by the Word as our ordained deacon, Bro. Leland Plattner, joined our Zoom Wednesday evening service this month.

“Therefore take no thought, say, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Matt. 6:31-34.

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

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

**Sheena Pelsy**

“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.” Prov. 15:15

The Dallas church was grateful to have Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX) join us for services last month. Bro. Dennis read from Proverbs 15 and shared how God teaches us we can be joyful with very little and still feel full. To be filled with a merry heart is only possible because we are being filled with Christ himself! But what about when we are going through hardships and trials, can we still be full of joy? Bro. Dennis explained that throughout life we are all called to journey down a path chosen by God. We may not like the path, can’t bear it, or unsure how to navigate it, but that doesn’t mean we are walking it alone because God is right by our side. As we press on through the journey, we can have merry hearts and find hope at the end because eventually all our paths will lead us to Jesus.

So, the next time your path starts to get a little rocky or you find yourself in a valley, don’t run away from life’s problems. Instead, run toward Jesus because he is where you will find the strength to endure, the fullness of a merry heart, and the presence of our Lord God Almighty.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

**Sarah Wagenbach**

Greetings from Vermont! We have enjoyed beautiful weather for our outdoor Sunday worship services this past month. We are thankful for our remote visiting ministers: Bro. Brad Wiegand (Sis. Deanna, Rockville, CT); Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA); Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT); Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH). May God richly bless them for the time and effort to join us virtually.

Gabrielle Reutter (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam) was announced for peace and baptism. We rejoice with her and look forward to her proving and baptism on the weekend of October 3-4.
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News and Notices

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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).
Your bids can provide medical care to needy Haitians.

HarvestCall is renovating and managing a mission hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti. The annual benefit auction is an important part of Hospital Lumiere’s annual funding. Please consider participating in this year’s online event.

Available Items
- Toys
- Gift Baskets
- Electronics
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- Recreational Equipment
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.harvestcall.org/benefit-auction

PLACE YOUR AUCTION BIDS ONLINE AT
www.32auctions.com/HospitalLumiere

Winning bidders can pick up items at the Sam Leman Chevrolet-Buick dealership in Eureka, beginning on Monday Nov. 9. If winning bidders are from a distance, we can arrange shipping and/or delivery.

If you are unable to participate but would like to donate to Hospital Lumiere please visit: www.harvestcall.org/donate

LOCAL AUCTION REPRESENTATIVES
- Bluffton, IN – Leon & Pat Gerber
  leongerber249@gmail.com or 260-273-3811
- Eureka, IL – Colin & Kyla Knapp
  kylajoknapp@gmail.com – 309-712-6323
- Forrest, IL – Ted & Teresa Bachtold
  tbachtold@route24.net or 815-848-706
- Goodfield, IL – Jill & Greg Wagner
  wagner73@juno.com
- Mediapolis, IA – Joel & Abigail Steiner
  Jts@hpct.com – 515-441-2797
- Morton, IL – Michael & Tami Leman
  Mleman@lemanauto.com 309-988-6035
- Princeville, IL – Carol Martin
  carolmartin1126@gmail.com or 309-337-0031
- Rittman, OH – Alice Widmer
  awidmer0818@gmail.com or 330-464-7402
- Sabetha, KS – Don Plattner
  nekspromos@gmail.com or 785-532-9206
- Silverton, OR – Evan & Emily Schmidgall
  schmidgall.emily@gmail.com or 503-871-4286
- South Bend, IN – Bob & Sue Beebe
  rbert.beebe1@gmail.com or 574-291-2158
- Washington, IL – Jon & Cheryl Ricketts
  jonricketts7@gmail.com or 309-444-9061

TO DONATE: Contact Rich Bertschi
Phone: 309-467-2351
Email: hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
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  12
Loren Dettwyler  503-580-9629 lmdettwyler@gmail.com
*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  ron@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/Silverton 29-Feb 5  12
Harvey Kuenzi  hhkloanoak@msn.com  503-932-3128
Les Cayes  MEBSH/Construction/Roanoke Feb 12-19  12
Josh Moser  joshmoser92@gmail.com  309-573-6398
Les Cayes  MEBVS/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  httf94@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 26-April 2  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 Wuetrich, 219.863.4163

PROCLAIM CHRIST & SERVE OTHERS
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

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

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

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

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED:

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

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

Amber Miller - Missionary Care Coordinator
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
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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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Phone: 309-965-2141
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Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
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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

Apostolic Christian
HarvestCall
FACILITIES MANAGER
OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

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

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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

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**Now Available**

**Missionary Support Card Packs**
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- Communication via
  - E-mail & Texting
  - Letters
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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
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 _________________________
Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

Spouse ________________________

Address _______________________

City ____________St ___ Zip _____

Home Ph ______________________

Cell Ph ______________________

Email _________________________

Please check preference:

☐ Haiti Student  ☐ Jamaica
☐ Haiti School  ☐ Guatemala
☐ Mexico  ☐ Zambia
☐ Wherever needed

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
Fax: 309-266-5281
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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
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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.

Additional information available on AC Central under "Job Postings"

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

Interested parties, contact:

Paul Kelson - ACLP Board President
2730 Sedona Dr. Normal, IL 61761
Email: pkelson@route24.net
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Loving as Jesus Loves
— Continued from pg. 3

practical way and things did not work out how we intended. Thankfully, God is greater than our conscience, and he knows everything, including our intent to love as Jesus loves.8 And if we fail to show true love to someone God has brought our way, God’s love is so great that he has provided forgiveness through Jesus so that His love can overcome our failure and flow through us again.9

As we grasp and appreciate the visible testimony that our life has been changed by Jesus such that we have been able to love as Jesus loves, we become bold to bring our requests to Him. “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”10 And what is His commandment? What is pleasing in His sight? John says, “This is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”11

This is wonderfully circular reasoning. As we know God and His love, we begin to love as Jesus loves. As we love as Jesus loves, we have the comfort of seeing Jesus working through us. This comfort emboldens us to ask for more of what we need; to love truly. Because we have loved truly and given of ourselves, Jesus replenishes us with all that we need to love even more. What a beautiful promise! We can have confidence that the fountain of His love will always be sufficient to flow through us to those around us.

Notice that we are not the center of any of this love. Our worldly motive of loving because we want something for ourselves gives way to loving because Jesus first loved us. Jesus, not our desires or passions, is the source of our love. Other people are the objects of our love, and meeting their needs is the goal of our love. What is in this for us? Jesus is our reward. Knowing Him, enjoying His presence, bringing Him glory, and having the power to extend His invitation to others are the rewards of loving as Jesus loves. Those rewards are greater than anything worldly we might desire.

John concludes by confirming that, “He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”12 Let us worship God the Father for giving us such a good and beautiful commandment to love others with His true love. Let us praise God the Son for showing us what that true love looks like in our world. And let us be ever grateful for God the Holy Spirit who comforts us, emboldens us, and enables us to love as Jesus loves. As we do, we will bless a lost and confused world with the clarity and truth of genuine love indeed.

Endnotes
1 1 John 3:16
2 John 15:13
3 Romans 5:8
4 1 John 4:19, 21
5 1 John 3:17
6 1 John 3:19
7 James 2:20
8 1 John 3:20
9 1 John 1:9
10 1 John 3:21-22
11 1 John 3:23
12 1 John 3:24
Continued from pg. 5

that we’re born into sin. We have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death, but, praise God, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins” (Eph 2:4-5). Loved ones, we weren’t calling him. We weren’t asking for help when he went to that cross. Paul writes to the Romans that God commended his love toward us. He demonstrated his love. He articulated it, showed it without a shadow of a doubt. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)

Paul talked in another place about someone who would give his life for his friend. I think it’s John that writes, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13). It’s a touching thing, isn’t it? How about for an enemy? How about for all of us who were at enmity with him? Could there be greater love than that? While we were dead in sins, he made us alive – quickened us – together in Christ.

“By grace are ye saved” (v8). Paul’s about to give us those famous words in verses 8-9 about “by grace are ye saved through faith”, but it’s almost like he can’t wait because he’s talking about “being dead in trespasses and sins, but you’ve been made alive.” We opened the chapter with that. He says, “You who were once afar off and walked according to Satan’s work and disobedience and having your lifestyle in times past in the flesh and the desires of the flesh and were even by your nature the children of wrath even as others.”

God loved us, and while we were dead, in that state, he made us alive by grace. “By grace are ye saved” – it’s in parentheses in verse 5 – “and raised us up together.” That’s what is put before us to bring us up out of that, to raise us up together, to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and he finishes this beautiful chapter with that thought, “No more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (v19).

See how inclusive that is? See how entreating God is? Come into the family. Come into the nation. Come into the household: all the way to the point that you and I, that the church, would be a habitation, a house, a home for the Holy Spirit.

Today is the day of salvation. “To day”, it says over and over, “if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Heb 3:15). A lot of us had that experience of hearing the call and saying not today. Some more convenient day. One place it talks about a banquet being prepared, and one would say, ‘I bought a field, and I need to go see it.’ Another would say, ‘I just got married, and I need to tend to my wife.’ All good things. When Martha was cumbered about many things and serving, Jesus didn’t in any way rebuke her for serving, but he elevated her view and said that Mary, who at that time was sitting at his feet in heavenly places, had chosen the better part, the more excellent way. If you read Bro Dave Wiegand’s obituary, you were reminded of how he often spoke and lived the more excellent way, the way of love, loving as Jesus loved.

But we made excuses, didn’t we? We found another reason to put it off, but the goodness of God leads us to repentance. It draws us. Satan would have us believe that things God asks of us are hard. When Jesus called Paul, there called Saul, on the road to Damascus, he said something contradictory to that. He said, “Saul, why are you resisting me? Why are you persecuting me? Don’t you know it’s hard for you to resist me and that the things I have for you are for your good?” That’s why it’s God’s goodness that calls and leads, and he’s patient – oh, so patient. We need only read those familiar accounts in the Old Testament of God’s people. It’s where we began to learn about
what it is to be inside the covenant of grace through the stories of the children of Abraham, Jewish people, there in the wilderness and how God “suffered”, it says in one place, their manners. He put up with their attitudes and their stiff-necked resistance and rebellion, and he reached out to them over and over again.

We don’t know our time. We had the grandchildren yesterday, and sometime during the afternoon, as we were talking about Bro Dave and the funeral today, Dale said, “How old do you have to be to die?” Cindy said what you would say to a four-year-old, “Oh, 90 or 95.” Bro Dave was 91. It couldn’t have been two hours later when the news came that a young girl in her 20s had met with fatal accident – someone known to us and loved by some here, many here.

Man knows not his time, but we do know the principles of God’s word and that it says “Today is the day.” Today, if you will hear his voice, don’t turn away again. For the believers, it’s a reminder that we should be watching our heart and thinking daily of the cross and what it cost Jesus to purchase our redemption. To be renewed in mind and heart and spirit day by day. To love as Jesus loves. To live for him and glorify him. To remember that the field is white unto harvest and that the laborers sometimes are few. To remember that we live in a world that, for the most part, is rejecting the simple message of the cross and has found it offensive or just not necessary.

Maybe it won’t be words. Often, that’s true because you and I get those wrong pretty often. We worry. We wonder. We tremble a little bit about the fact that our lives and our example are so important. We should tend to that not because we can find perfection; maybe, actually, because as those that seek to serve God sincerely, when we do err or sin, we don’t gloss it over. We talked about that too at conference: this reality that life is messy, and we make messes of our lives as unbeliever and believer alike. We mess it up pretty badly sometimes in our relationships, but if we’re following Jesus, we don’t ever leave it there. We don’t ever say, ‘it’s okay; it’s just messy.” That’s just an excuse. We don’t ever dilute the cross of Christ because if sin were something to be casual about, if it really didn’t matter how you and I behaved ourselves, he wouldn’t have had to be crucified. It wouldn’t have taken that much to pay for it, but it did. And it does. And it’s enough. Sufficient.

“By grace” – what is grace? You know, we ask our converts that. We had the experience again this week of interviewing several brothers who are called to serve in an ordained capacity in our churches. The first question we ask is, “Are you walking in grace?” As believers, we hear that question, and we know the answer should be yes. We quickly go to our own lives, and in the light of God’s word, we see things that aren’t what they ought to be. But it’s in all of that, we receive grace.

We were just singing with the children on the way here. It keeps them occupied. They suggest a song to sing, and I don’t remember who suggested Amazing Grace, but one verse says that it was grace that taught my heart to fear. It’s because sin is what has us outside of the covenant, outside of the household, outside of God’s habitation, and ultimately outside of heaven. Remember the goodness of God leads us to repentance? “‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.” Can it be both? Of course. God brings the conviction; that’s a good thing. With faith in the power of the shed blood of Jesus, we can be made nigh, brought back. Restored. Redeemed. Saved. No more “without hope in the world” (v12).
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

This continues the series on the experiences of recently deceased Elder Bro. Willis Enhle, who spent several decades preaching and helping to establish churches in Japan. The intent of this series is to draw attention to the outreach work in that faraway, non-Christian nation. Serving in the U. S. Army (in Japan) during the Korean War, Bro. Willis was moved to remain in that land to do the Lord’s work. I am sure it would be the wish of Bro. Willis that any mention of the Lord’s work would be credited to God, and not to him. He lived from 1925 to 2020.

Early On
As mentioned in last month’s article, Bro. Willis Ehnle told a Japanese guard at the hospital where he worked that Jesus is the Son of God. The guard replied, “I don’t believe it.” He told him it didn’t matter if he thought it wasn’t true...it was still true. The young man was Hajime Utsuki. The Utsuki family helped the Ehnle family during the early phases of the missionary project in Japan. Bro. Willis had returned to America to claim his new bride, Sis. Lois Beer, Milford, Indiana. Arriving back in Japan, they lived near the Utsuki home for a few weeks before purchasing a home of their own.

The Work Begins
He entered the International Christian University at Mitaka under the G. I. Bill of Rights. It was at this time that church efforts began to accelerate. The Ehnles hosted church services in their home every other Sunday. On the alternative Sundays they would travel to Yamanashi Prefecture and, along with others, teach Sunday School classes. Eventually, nearly two hundred children were being taught in classes scattered throughout the countryside. Initially, the Ehnles were limited in their use of the Japanese language, so they received able assistance from the Utsuki family, who gave of themselves unsparingly.

First Baptism in Japan - 1955
The first baptism occurred on August 14, 1955. Elder Bros. Noah Schrock (Oakville, IA) and David Mangold (Roanoke, IL) came for the occasion. The first soul baptized was a woman, Kazuko Utsuki. She was baptized in a lake by Bro. Noah, and later the laying on of hands took place in a nearby apartment, conducted by Bro. Dave. She was remembered as being very calm and composed. About 25 persons witnessed these ceremonies. A week later on Sunday, August 21, Lynn Rinkenberger of Gridley, Illinois, a serviceman serving in Japan was baptized by Bro. Noah. He writes of this occasion, “In the presence of about 150 to 200, Bro. Dave had a prayer asking God’s blessing upon the baptism and asked the usual questions which Akira Utsuki translated into Japanese after each question. He was then baptized in the usual manner. I (Noah) offered the prayer of consecration on the river bank.

Vision
The Ehnles worked tirelessly in the task of promoting God’s work in Japan. Bro. Willis was prompted by a sincere conviction to spread the message of salvation. In 1981 he wrote, “If the Gospel of Jesus Christ is really true, it should be shared with others throughout the world. To have no opportunity throughout a lifetime to put that conviction into practice would leave a terrible regret in one’s heart at the time he is to depart this life.” It was against great odds and an endless sea of unbelief, both entrenched by centuries of changeless tradition, the work of the Ehnle couple and this little band of Christian believers began. Similar to the Apostle Paul, they sought to plant the Word of God in areas unfamiliar with the true Christian message.

To be continued in the next issue.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
What Joy?

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

How often have these verses inspired you? The image it creates in the mind is certainly appropriate. Running, striving, yet with restraint, knowing endurance is necessary. Fixing our eyes upon the goal, heaven and Jesus. Remembering that he did it as well and knowing with certainty that we should pattern our race after his example. Then, thinking of the joy of heaven that is promised.

This is an appropriate interpretive response to the verses from Hebrews. It is good to focus on heaven as the goal of our earthly race. But are you one who at times, or perhaps often, finds it difficult to focus on heaven as the goal? Be assured, this is not uncommon. As a child of God, we should be working always to imagine heaven’s beauty and the glory of being in the presence of our Creator God. It is easy to think that this was “the ‘joy’ that was set before” Jesus. However, could that ‘joy’ have meant other ‘joys’ as well? Let us consider what those other ‘joys’ could have been that were possibly set before Jesus. They can be encouraging to us in those times when we find heaven hard to picture as the goal.

Could “the joy that was set before him” have been the fulfillment that comes from obedience to your master? We experience this on earth when we simply have done what is asked of us, with no honor or glory given to us. This can be found in simply doing our job daily. Or being a godly mother, a loving husband, or an obedient son or daughter.

Or might “the joy” have been the understanding that his two natures, that of God and that of man, would be reunited and the painful separation that he must have felt in the flesh would be forever gone? Have you experienced this separation? Hopefully you have. It comes in times where we feel that we do not belong here in this life, and long to be relieved of earthly cares or temptations we experience daily in our flesh.

Or maybe “the joy” was knowing that he was completely the clay in the hands of the potter. Job said “though he slay me, yet will I trust in him …” Job 13:15. This is the joy that comes to us when we can say to God “use me, consume me, my life, my all, only for your purpose” How wonderful is that thought?

Or perhaps “the joy” was the knowledge that by enduring the cross and the shame that was his, he would be the instrument that defeated death and sin? This is maybe the most glorious, humbling way to think on “the joy”. Because in this context, it becomes about us. You and me. Personally and individually, Jesus wanted us to be returned to him and his Father. Enduring the cross made that way open!

What a vision that is! Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit standing, waiting, at one side of a great chasm, spanned by the bridge that is the cross. His arms are open to you. And you are running.…

-by Rick Aberle
And this is love, that we walk after his commandments.

2 John 1:6