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And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9
To Our Readers

Being Thankful and Giving Thanks

We are entering into a time of the year where we are called to Thanksgiving in our nation. Have you ever thought about the difference between being thankful and giving thanks?

Colossians 3:15 and Hebrews 12:28 command us to be thankful while 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says we should GIVE thanks for all things. Being thankful is something you are, thanksgiving is something you give.

There can be a big difference between being thankful and giving thanks. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, do you think only one of them was thankful? It would seem obvious that all 10 were thankful they no longer had leprosy. We know that only one portrayed the action of giving thanks and returned to express it to the Savior.

God is still concerned today that we give thanks, not just be thankful. Not because God needs it, but because we need it. We need to hear thanksgiving come out of our hearts through our words and actions. May giving of thanks be in our lives in the season and throughout the years of our lives.

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm, along with Greg Lehman, Counseling Elders

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Loving as Jesus Loves – Banishing fear

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

In his first letter to the churches, John writes, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.” Previous articles have discussed several ways of loving as Jesus loves, but John’s powerful statement gives us another aspect to examine. It is helpful to begin by reviewing the context and background related to John’s first letter. Scholars think John wrote this letter between about 70 and 100 A.D. At that time, he would have been an old man, perhaps the last of the original disciples. According to tradition, he was imprisoned, and an attempt had been made on his life because of the Gospel. This is a general epistle; its intended recipient was probably many churches, not an individual person or one church. At the end of the first century, false teachers had emerged. John warns the church about them and points them toward the love of God. He also repeatedly returns to the theme of love in this letter: God loving us, us loving God, and us loving the brotherhood.

When John writes that perfect love casts out fear, he discusses the idea that God lives in his people. He explains that this gives us boldness or confidence in “the day of judgment.” In context, the fear to be cast out may be the fear we would experience when thinking about the day of judgment. However, John moves from topic to topic in this epistle, sometimes without a discernible pattern. Thus, the contextual connection may not be as strong as adjacent verses would be in one of Paul’s letters. For this reason, the discussion of casting out fear could include fear in contexts other than God’s judgment.

We will first address the idea of fearing God’s judgment. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27 that all men will face God’s judgment. Regarding God’s judgment, Jesus warned, “Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.” Repetition is a sign of emphasis, so Jesus is verbally underlining this teaching’s significance. His warning is an exhortation to use the fear of judgment to recognize our need for repentance. However, once a person has experienced salvation, the Scripture’s message changes. Paul tells the church at Rome: “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Paul’s words support John’s assertion; the final judgment that all people face should not cause the follower of Christ to fear. This is because of the “perfect love” God works in us as we cooperate with him. It is important to note that “perfect” means complete or of full age. The idea is that as our love develops more fully, our fears will diminish and we will trust God completely.

In addition to the fear of God’s wrath at the final judgment, it is also reasonable to apply this verse to fears common to God’s people. Several Biblical authors address this issue, including Paul (Phil. 4:6 and Rom 8:15), Isaiah (Isa 41:10), and David (Psa. 23:4). Each of these verses contain encouragement to not fear. The psalmist seems to sum up the concept well: “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?”

And yet, as anyone who has dealt with fear knows, we can intellectually believe the Bible’s exhortation not to fear, but still struggle with feelings of fear. So, how do we mature into the perfect (completed) love that removes fear? To answer that question, consider what kinds of fear we experience. Some fears are helpful. If someone
Good morning. I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. It’s a blessing to be together this morning. I’m thankful that Jesus is immutable, unchangeable. I think most of us probably struggle with change.

It’s probably 35 years ago that I went fishing on Lake Erie, the only time I ever did. I actually went with my dad and two uncles, and I remember it was certainly rougher than we desired for that day. It probably was rougher than the captain of our boat would have even gone out on the lake to fish. It was maybe 6 ft. swells, and it didn’t take long before we were all feeling pretty ill. I was maybe 13 years old or so. I remember feeling bad, like, ‘I don’t know how much more of the change in elevation I can take.’ I didn’t want to say anything because I didn’t want to ruin the trip, but it didn’t take long before it was obvious that I was not the only one struggling with my illness. What we longed for was something solid on which to put our feet. If you’ve ever spent any time on a boat, you know that after maybe a few hours, or even a week on a boat, as soon as you step onto solid land, it still feels like you’re moving. None of us like change because change is hard. So, maybe you’re sitting at home listening or watching, and you’re thinking, ‘Boy, I am glad that I am not moving’, but you know that the earth is spinning on its axis at 1000 miles per hour. It’s rotating around the sun at 68,000 miles per hour as the sun is moving through the universe at an estimated 450,000 miles per hour. We are all moving.

We are all changing. Change is inevitable for us, so does God want us to change? Well, if we think about the fact that Jesus is unchangeable — and we are to be like him, — I could maybe arrive at the conclusion that change is bad and I want to remain unchanging. But the reality is I am not like Jesus. God is wanting me to change. In fact, Paul commands us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds into the image of Christ, and so, God therefore, though unchanging, is beckoning us toward him to change, to be like him.

But we resist that. I resist that. I don’t like change, or I like change that’s predictable, maybe change that I want because I’m selfish. I want things that make me comfortable. In reality, the change to be like Christ is one of self-sacrifice, of loss, of death. I have to die to myself. I believe with all of my heart that God uses our circumstances – our situations, our struggle, this time of fighting the coronavirus, of sheltering in place, of being changed from what we’re used to – to draw us to himself and to change us into his image. So, the question then for us is will we be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

I’ve opened to Nehemiah. Let’s look at chapter 1 together. We’re thinking about change. In Nehemiah, all of Judah are captives in Babylon.

If you’ve ever been to a foreign country, you know that the food is different, the language is different, the customs are different, and the accepted social norms are uncomfortable. I remember a time when I was in Germany, and we wanted to get some ice cream. We didn’t know the language, and we just wanted to order an ice cream cone. These little kids ran up in front of us, ordered their ice cream cones, and went away. I didn’t know how. I couldn’t exchange the money. I don’t speak the language, and yet, these little kids could easily do that task.

It was a foreign place and uncomfortable, and that’s where Judah was in Babylon. In fact, God told them, “You’re going into a land of people you don’t know, food you don’t know, food you’re uncomfortable with, but live in their houses, marry,
and continue to live.” I think God was again using that as he uses our situations. Our call to the church, our opportunity to shine, is right now when people are uncomfortable, when people are uncertain about the future, and maybe with very good reason because of lost jobs and separation from loved ones. Maybe some are trapped in a place that they can’t leave because they don’t know how to get out.

Chapter 1 in Nehemiah.

“The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.” (vs. 1-2)

Let’s set the stage a moment. Nehemiah, a Jew, is in Shushan the palace. He’s not in a prison cell. He’s in a palace and arguably, in the most powerful, and probably the most wealthy, nation of the time. I think the hanging gardens of Nebuchadnezzar were one of the ancient seven wonders of the world, so he’s in a beautiful place. You would think that it would be easy for him to sit comfortably by. That’s me projecting myself in that situation. But something inside of him wanted to know how his people were.

“And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.” (vs. 3-4)

So, he heard how they were doing. They were struggling and broken. Think for a moment: when was the last time that your heart broke for the persecuted church? I think our hearts break for our local congregation as again we’re reminded this morning of loss, loss of a family member who passed away last evening. There’s a family grieving their loss, rejoicing his gain, but they’re grieving. I think we do well grieving for one another, but especially in this time when maybe we have to rethink things.

We have to have our minds renewed of ‘who is the church?’ and ‘who am I connected to?’ That is a large group of people throughout history across the world. People suffering in lands where they don’t have the medical care that we have, or maybe even in parts of Europe, Spain and Italy, where the system that they do have is overwhelmed. People are suffering. Brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering. Do I weep? Do I mourn? It’s not enough just to mourn. Paul reminded us of that. We don’t mourn as the unbeliever. We mourn as those who have hope. So, we mourn, and it breaks our hearts, but then we turn and change.

It’s not change for the sake of change. We change towards something, towards a god. Now, do we have the right God that we’re turning towards? Our temptation, and this is true for every individual, is whether we will turn towards any god except the one true God. That is our human nature. Money. Substance. Food. Alcohol. Immorality. Entertainment. We will turn towards a god. Do we turn towards the right God?

He mourned certain days and fasted and prayed. He turned before the God of heaven, the one true God, “And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open.” (vs. 5-6)

Let’s pause a moment again. So, in verse 5, he is acknowledging God for who he is: great and terrible – not terrible the way we would use the word but terror-causing, fear-causing, awesome, standing in absolute awe of the God of heaven and earth. Again, I’m reminded that I can have many gods that attack me for my attention. I am focused in on the one true

— Please turn to pg. 61
An Old Testament Sponsored Child  
Child Sponsorship Committee

One of the oldest and most familiar stories in the Bible may be the first example of the success of a sponsored child.

We all learned at a young age about Moses being left by his mother in the reeds by the river, where Pharoah’s daughter discovered him and then raised him in Pharoah’s own household. And we know the end of the story – God used this extraordinary situation to raise up the individual who would lead his children out of the bondage of Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

In Exodus 1:7, the Bible states that “the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.” A recognition of the success of the children of Israel arose in Pharaoh, who feared that they could join an Egyptian enemy and destroy his country. His first action was to make life very difficult for them, setting taskmasters over them and forcing them to perform hard labor. But, the more they were afflicted, the more they flourished.

Pharoah’s next step was to weaken the children of Israel over time by decreeing that all male Hebrew children should be killed (Exodus 1:22 – “And Pharoah charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.”). To save Moses, his mother built an ark of bulrushes and hid him in the reeds by the river’s bank.

Pharoah’s daughter came to the river to bathe and found the ark with the baby. She recognized him as one of the Hebrews’ children and made an arrangement through Miriam, the baby’s sister, to find a nurse of the Hebrew women (the baby’s mother) to nurse the baby for a time. When the child grew, his mother brought him to Pharoah’s daughter, who took him as her son and called his name Moses, because she drew him out of the water.

As Moses grew up in the world of Pharoah, he killed an Egyptian who was “smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren” (Exodus 2:11). We know from the Bible that Moses fled Egypt, went to the land of Midian, married Zipporah, faced the burning bush, and was called into service – “Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharoah, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:10).

The rest is history. Moses was reluctant to answer the call and needed some miracles to convince him (rod turned into serpent), but was obedient and

Lost Are Called to Repentance in Europe  
Europe Committee

With the end of harvest season approaching physically, we can reflect on how God surely has granted the increase for the crops. Spiritually, he has done the same in many of our lives and those around us, despite all the changes COVID-19 and 2020 has brought with it.

Even as Christ said, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35. Many of us are thankful to have loved ones around us or heard of those that have begun in repentance or were baptized recently. This brings great joy to our hearts when we hear of souls that have taken up their cross to follow our Lord and Savior.
trusted God and embarked on one of the most powerful examples of God’s love for his people in the Bible. The story of the physical Passover in Egypt established the spiritual reference for the plan of salvation that would ultimately be revealed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

While we don’t expect that child sponsorship will produce a Moses, we do know that God works through his people yet today to accomplish his will on Earth. If you are sponsoring a child, consider sponsoring another one. If you aren’t a sponsor, this may be God’s call to you to “pull a baby out of the reeds by the river” and become a child sponsor.

**Prayer Request**

Pray with gratitude for Old Testament stories that are relevant and instructional for our behavior today. Pray that we will be responsive to God’s call in all aspects of our life where he is using our circumstance to accomplish his purpose.

*– by Ken Rinkenberger*

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If you aren’t a sponsor, this may be God’s call to you to “pull a baby out of the reeds by the river” and become a child sponsor.

We are thankful that the call to repentance still goes forth in Europe as well, and we rejoice that there are souls turning to him. It is encouraging that despite church closings and limited gatherings, God has worked in the hearts of the youth in Eastern Europe.

In several congregations, there are those that have erected their covenant with him in baptism, and we wish them God’s blessings and nearness. May many more answer the call while God’s grace is still extended to mankind.

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

*– by Christopher Indermuhle*
Parents: Pay Attention

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

Paying attention over the long run is often difficult. At this moment, I cannot tell you the name of the road I drive every day on my way to work. I have unconsciously decided it is unimportant and therefore, have not paid enough attention to recall its name. Getting to and from work is a very important part of my day, but I tend to be much more focused on the destination rather than the drive itself. I must confess I often do the same in my parenting. Very often, my goal is to make it through the week or day and lose sight of what is going on along the way. We all have daily tasks to complete, and we can get so overly focused on this task completion that the path to those goals becomes a blur. Moving from one task to another can mean we often miss the clues that help us in the mundane and challenging role of parenting.

Daily parenting those entrusted to our care means paying attention to things we want to avoid as well as things we hope to provide. Ephesians 6:4 provides specific instruction on this as it tells us to “provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”. While we know and can desire to follow these teachings, sometimes it can be difficult to know the how of doing so. Three things parents can be attentive to will help provide focus as we apply Ephesians 6:4.

These three things include: 1) your child’s behavior, 2) your child’s inner world such as their thoughts and emotions, and 3) your child’s developmental capabilities. These three facets are not Gospel truths to share with our children but can be helpful for parents as they practically consider the how, what, and when of sharing Gospel truth. By paying attention to these three aspects of our children, we gain insight into their strengths and weaknesses that then gives insight to help us avoid provoking them to anger while instructing them in truth.

In one sense, our child’s behaviors are difficult to miss and, in another sense, the behaviors can become like the sign we drive by every day but do not notice what it says. Slowing down to notice the nuances of your child’s behavior and what it communicates to you about them can be very helpful. Consider the following questions to do so:

- What does your child enjoy doing and what might this indicate about the strengths God has given them?
- How does your child interact in different settings? (Family, Academic, Social)
- How much assistance might your child need?
- How many reminders might your child need?
- How long will this task likely take your child?
- Are they able to know, remember, and complete the steps that go with a task?
- How would you describe your child to someone who has never met them?
- When they behave abnormally, what does that typically indicate?
- How does your child behave when they are sad? Angry? Happy? Hurt?

Paying attention to your child’s behavior also gives clues into their inner world of thoughts and feelings. These clues can help a parent teach a child to identify and articulate their thoughts and feelings. In addition, a parent can help a child see how their behaviors are often driven by thoughts and feeling. As parents help their child identify their inner world, they can help train their child’s inner world to align with scriptural teaching. Examples include:
• The child who is quick to feel hurt may need help to identify the lies behind their fears and instruction on how to courageously step forward into scary things.

The exciting and wonderful reality is that as a believing parent, we have the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to direct our hearts and minds through this maze. As Ephesians 6:4 instructs, we are to walk this journey in a way that is pointing our children to Christ.

The last aspect to consider is the important but often forgotten ability for parents to discern their child’s actual capabilities. It is far too easy for a parent to lose track of where their child is developmentally. Sometimes our expectations are far too high and other times our expectations are far too low. Knowing what your child is capable of in different areas of life is far more than knowing their age. Ephesians 6:4 tells us not to provoke our children to wrath. Expecting a child to do something that is beyond their capability is one of the sure ways to provoke wrath in them. One of the challenges is to discern the difference between what a child is not able to do and what a child does not believe they can do. Many times this is not a matter of asking less of a child as much as asking them to do the same task but lowering expectations for how well a task will be completed. Using the example of asking a child to do their homework, consider these few questions when thinking about your child’s current developmental capacities:

• Are they able to know, remember, and complete all the steps that go with a task?
• What are realistic expectations about how well your child is able to do this task?
• How long will this task likely take your child?
• How many reminders might your child need?
• How much assistance might your child need?

Paying attention to your child’s behavior, thoughts and emotions, and capabilities is helpful as we think about parenting according to Ephesians 6:4. These three road signs serve as a starting point for attentive parenting, but they are by no means an exhaustive list. There will always be areas to learn and grow as parents. However, raising our children to witness and embrace Ephesians 6:4 as we “provoke them not to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” is a great charge and one that offers great hope in Gospel-centered principles. It is a charge worth paying attention to.

ACCFS has a host of resources available to encourage parents in their responsibilities. We continue to conduct Parenting with a Purpose seminars and other presentations as requested. In addition, we develop and refer to many other helpful resources on our website at www.accounseling.org/category/parenting. If you have requests or would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Jan Baumgartner — Adoption Program Manager

November is National Adoption Month so I would like to share the true story of Lovena with you. The sad part is that there are thousands, if not millions, of children across the world just like Lovena who are dying from starvation, don’t have a family to love them, and have never heard about the love of Jesus. Now with international travel limited because of COVID-19, many children already matched with adoptive parents are still waiting to come home to their adoptive family.

Rick and Kim first met Lovena in Canaan, Haiti. Unlike the Biblical village of Canaan, no milk or honey flows here. It is a barren land where people migrated to after losing their homes in the earthquake. Kim noticed a little girl standing alone, crying in the middle of the street. There were other children wandering the streets but somehow, Lovena really touched both Rick and Kim’s hearts.

They inquired about her and found out Lovena was three years old, her mother died, her father was in prison, and there was no one who had the means to care for her. Lovena was suffering from malnutrition as evidenced by her big, round belly, yellow-orange hair, and lethargic state. Rick and Kim sincerely prayed for Lovena and Rick felt that God spoke to him, “this little girl is to be your daughter.”

Rick and Kim were in Canaan to plant a church as part of a mission trip. The pastor of this new church offered to take in Lovena during the adoption process, along with caring for seven other needy children.

It has been a long journey to adoption with many bumps in the road, but Lovena is now home with her loving, Christian adoptive family and is being taught the love of Jesus. Also, Lovena has welcomed two more little girls from Haiti as her sisters. With Americans, traveling to Haiti being currently prohibited, Rick and Kim had to get creative in how they brought their daughters home.

I have two pictures of Lovena on my desk. One from when they found her and another of Lovena today. In the former, Lovena has her orange-yellow hair from malnutrition, was dressed in rags, and looks very sad. In today’s photo Lovena looks healthy with dark brown hair, beautifully dressed with a bow in her hair, and smiling ear-to-ear. She not only is physically well but her spiritual health is growing as she talks about Jesus’ love for her.

This is just one story of a miracle from God in providing the perfect adoptive family for Lovena. In my decades of working with adoption, I have seen so many miracles from God in providing just the right home for an orphan child, from right across town or from across the world.

God loves Lovena and every child is precious in his sight. I pray that somehow these children will be protected and feel the love of God.

News:

- November is National Adoption Month. If you are interested in learning more about adoption, please visit our adoption website: adoptiongateway.org
- WillowBridge is looking for people to come along side their tenants and pray for them, encourage them or volunteer in other ways to bless their lives. If you are interested, please contact the WillowBridge staff today. willowbridge@gatewaywoods.org
- 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.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” Heb. 1:3

Jesus was everything God meant man to be in Creation. Adam was perfect and enjoyed perfect communion with his Creator. Then sin came and spoiled the work, and immediately (actually, before it happened) God provided a Redeemer for fallen man, the second Adam. This plan was in place before the Creation. As Bible teacher Beth Moore exclaimed, “This is NOT Plan B!”. Our loving Father envisioned, and was willing to provide us, the astounding gift of substitutionary sacrifice before we were even formed, before the earth and universe were even formed. It is a brilliant, compassionate, unwarranted plan of redemption that only God could have plotted. In our Bible study recently, it was discussed how, of the major religions of the world, the only one that does not require the worshipper to achieve his or her own betterment or elevation to another level is Christianity. While the others may have many of the same basic tenets of morality, love, patience, virtue, family orientation and may observe similar rituals, there is a fundamental difference between all of them and Christianity. Many of those teach that man is god or has god inside himself, and can control his own destiny and achieve perfection at some point, if he is good enough, strong enough, etc. Others teach of multiple gods and holds worshipers to impossible requirements. From what I know, these require sacrifice to appease multiple gods, and one never knows if that is accomplished until things happen in their lives.

The idea that man can be god, or reach a state of perfection, is the lie Satan successfully used in the Garden, and it is still effective. Only Christianity allows for the truth that man is fallen and incapable of saving himself. It provides the solution by God himself reaching down to save man. And the manner of salvation is stunning. God does not require man to accomplish any part of it. He knows we are dust. Sacrifice is involved in every major religion, however, in others it is required to be offered to the god by the follower. Only in Christianity is the offering made by God on behalf of man and, therefore, involves the only adequate sacrifice.

The discussion reminded me of a man my mother knew, who was a well-educated doctor from India. She talked with him about Jesus (as she loved to do with anyone who would listen), and his reaction (at least initially) was that he could never accept God as sacrifice. This was unthinkable to him and not even something he could consider. He understood the enormity of what was done on our behalf. And often, for me, it is yesterday’s news. I grew up under the sound of the Gospel and it can become as common in my mind as Sunday dinner. But the times I stop and consider just what it is that was done by God through Jesus on my behalf,
and there are no words to express my gratitude, my unworthiness, and my God’s mercy and compassion. He expects nothing in return except my heart. It is a natural response, when the plan is revealed, to give my heart and everything else that I can give in response to such love and deliverance.

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.” 1 Sam. 2:8-9

Both in our personal lives, as well as a church, we were challenged to acknowledge change, keep in mind our purpose, and lean into relationships as we wade through difficult times.

Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) came for Communion exhortation and we look forward to coming together in Holy Communion to remember Christ’s sacrifice for us.

We are rejoicing with Sienna Furrer (Bro. Tim and Sis. JaNon Furrer) as she has given her life to Christ and started repenting. Praying for her joy in Christ as she starts this new journey of living for the Lord.

California, San Diego
Sarah Fulop

“Eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me...This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me” 1 Cor. 11:24-26

In these times we were thankful to gather with the saints and break bread together. While we had to cancel the biannual picnic at Yorba Linda Park, a small group from San Diego and Altadena enjoyed fellowship at Huntington Beach. In true COVID-style no
physical bread was eaten, but we enjoyed worshiping together and encouraging each other in love. Last Sunday, Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) shared Communion with our congregation and implored us to face this current political storm with wisdom that rests in Jesus. Jesus is the prince of peace who though wise as a serpent was as harmless as a dove. Jesus is the way, the truth and life and we must cling to him as we navigate and shine light amidst an anxious and troubling atmosphere.

Bro. Herbie commented while many believe our generation will see Christ return, his father and grandfather believed just the same. However, this is the faith every Christian should have. While God’s perfect timing will dictate Christ’s return, we should have a sense of urgency to live and share the love of Christ.

Our prayers continue with those grieving and fearing the destruction of their homes or livelihoods due to the fires. May the peace of Christ fill each of your hearts.

**Colorado, Denver**

**Tess Leman**

Bro. Luke Zarkovacki and Sis. Sarah Lehman (Milford, IN) became one in the Lord in marriage. We are thankful to have Sarah among us and rejoice that the same Lord who brought them together will continue to lead and guide them in the years ahead!

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another,” Rom. 12:10

Congratulations to Bro. Josh and Sis. Oliva Martin as they welcomed Quinn Elizabeth Ann into their family. Big sister Addison is excited to have a baby in the house! Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn Martin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz Robinson (Bloomington, IL). What joy a precious new soul is: and what a responsibility to raise her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!

It was good to gather for our annual Sunday school picnic, although a little later in the year than usual. The weather cooperated nicely, and we enjoyed some much needed fellowship. It’s always so good to watch the students share time together and strengthen their friendships!

**Connecticut, Rockville**

**Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider**

A highlight for our congregation this month was to gather outside on a beautiful fall Sunday morning with unlimited numbers. This was the first of such opportunities since Connecticut has now transitioned to Phase 3 of reopening. It was with great joy that we were able to see many from our beloved congregation that we have not seen for many months. We thank God for this gift.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) with us to proclaim the Gospel message and to share the results of the heart of our congregation in the transition of leadership. Through God’s divine ways, he has made his will known and Bro. Brent Walder has been chosen to carry the mantle of Eldership within our Rockville congregation, pending the approval of the elder body in March. We offer our sincere prayers and support to him, his dear wife, Sis. Naomi, and their children.

Weddings have been a theme for the past month for these five dear couples. Harmony Luginbuhl (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi) and Joshua Laprise (Steve and Heather Laprise) exchanged wedding vows on September 18. John Bahler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Peggy) and Sandy Escoto (John and Marie Escoto) were united in marriage on September 26. Ryan Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn) and Lauryn Logan pledged their love and lives in marriage on October 2. Jared Schneider (Bro. Len and Sis. Deb) and Megan Steidler (David and Mary Steidler) shared their wedding vows on October 2. Douglas Bahler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole) and Daschia Auclair (Rob Clark and Monica Auclair) were wed on October 10. We wish all of these couples God’s richest blessings in their married lives together.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Rudy Virkler (Sis. Susan), Bro. John Virkler (Sis. Maureen) and their extended
families in the passing of their sister, Sis. Alice Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We pray the Lord will grant them comfort.

**District of Columbia, Washington**

*Henrietta Meyer*

Given the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation with the coming of colder weather, we will have Zoom meeting with “visiting” ministers for the rest of the year or attend services in another congregation virtually. We are investigating locations for use in the coming year.

Our belated best wishes to Johnny and Kelsey Allen on their September wedding. Kelsey’s parents are Bro. Phil and Mona Steffen.

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 Myers**

*Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger*

After serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic, Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier, along with their three young children, Oliver, Elana, and Letti have joined us in Ft. Myers. It has been delightful to see our Sunday school grow with more children. Our church family was blessed as Josh’s father, Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), shared the Word with us.

As the winter season approaches, we thank God for the safe arrival of our friends from the north.

We extend our thanks to Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL) for sharing God’s Word with us.

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Sandra Kaeb*

Our prayers are for Sis. Debbie Sauder in the passing of her nephew, Austin Pfeiffer of Mansfield, OH.

On October 4, we were blessed to witness the baptism of our dear Sis. Stefanie Hebert (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kelly). May Sis. Stefanie always treasure this day and remember the miracle God worked in her life.

The LeFevre Quartet - Between the Prayer and the Answer:

“God’s building bridges and tearing down walls, lifting his children whenever one falls, He’s turning rivers of tears back into laughter, He’s mending fences, He’s changing minds. I’ve seen him do it time after time! He’s speaking peace to a storm because he’s the Master. Yes, that is what God does in between the prayer and the answer.”

**Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere**

*Rick and Komari Aberle*

Greetings of love from Hospital Lumiere. Activity in the hospital has returned to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic. We are seeing many new patients in the hospital each day, and are thankful for the opportunity to serve them and share the word of God.

This past month, Sis. Komari and Selah Aberle returned to
the hospital for a period of time. We are also grateful to welcome Sis. Lydianne Metzger from the Silverton, OR congregation. Sis. Lydianne is serving as a short-term missionary for the next six months. She will be serving within the administration department at the hospital, participating in a variety of functions, as well as providing support to families serving here.

We were thankful for several visitors as we begin to see additional travel to and from Haiti. In the past month, several support personnel including brothers and sisters from HarvestCall Management Team, Caribbean Committee and our Hospital Lumiere Governing Board, visited the hospital to provide support, counsel and discuss plans for the future of the program. Bro. Jon Zeller, recently retired minister from Morton, IL, served our small group by sharing the Word with us during his visit here. May God continue to bless all those who provide direction and support to the program here at Hospital Lumiere!

**Haiti, Les Cayes**

**Mike and Susie Walder**

With love and appreciation, we said goodbye this month to a dear couple who have given so much of themselves to Haiti. Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders moved home to Alto, MI, after coming to serve with the Construction Department for many consecutive winters and then full-time here for the past four years. We know they will love being closer to their grandchildren and church family again and we wish them God’s richest blessings and favor during their transition.

We have had some guests come recently for the Dairy and other support. With a number of ministers present one weekend, everyone associated with HarvestCall was invited for a service and meal at Good Vision Dairy Farm. Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) were willing to serve us in the Word that day.

Bro. Mike, Sis. Susie and Grace Walder were able to safely return to Haiti recently. We were thankful to hear that the COVID-19 cases have decreased sharply, and were thankful to see that outside the airport life has gone back to fairly normal.

Schools are in session and everyone is working to make up for lost time this past year. The 2019-20 school year was finished in August and September, so students in the HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program did not lose a year of school. The 2020-21 school year officially begins in November but some schools have started already. Thanks to all the student, sponsors and school sponsors for your continued contributions and support, which were so critical through this past year. God bless you for helping a child get an education, something we take for granted that many others do not.

**Illinois, Belvidere**

**Darcy Steffen**

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” 1 John 4:13

This month, the ladies received the blessing of gathering together to do a Bible study. Our focus this time was on spiritual gifts. We each took the spiritual gifts assessment found on the ACCFS website, and researched and taught the other women on one of our gifts of the spirit. It was so encouraging and uplifting to see how God works through each one of us, giving us these gifts to further his kingdom and edify the body of Christ!

Thank you for your prayers for Bro. Brian Anliker (Sis. Peg) as he underwent surgery last month. His surgery went as expected, but his recovery process is long and painful. Please keep Bro. Brian in your prayers, as well as Sis. Peg as she is faithfully by his side!

Our hearts ache with Sis. Emily Anliker (Bro. Grant) as her grandfather Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn, Rittman, OH) passed away recently. We pray for the comfort of the Holy Spirit for them and all those suffering through loss.

**Illinois, Bloomington-Normal**

**Kinsey Dotterer, Lauren Zimmerman**

We rejoice with Riley Heiniger (Bro. Brett and Sis. Jen) who has given her heart to the Lord.
We celebrate in joy with Bro. Scott and Sis. Jenae Hermann at the birth of their son Zane Clay. He was welcomed home by older siblings, Brecken and Arwyn. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Hermann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanette Lavallier (Gridley, IL).

We mourn with the family of Sis. Norma Jean Zimmerman upon the death of her daughter Lori Zimmerman.

We enjoyed two blessed weekends hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Sis. Brianna Sauder (Bro. Court and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Joe Kaufmann (Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie), Sis. Charity Brim (Bro. Trace and Sis. Denise), Sis. Raegen Kaeb (Bro. Clint and Sis. Jami) and Sis. Megan Metz (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen).

We appreciated our visiting ministers and their wives and families who blessed us this month. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Tim Wieand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN). We pray they feel as blessed as we do when they visit.

We congratulate Bro. Rick Schmidt and Sis. Monica Frauhiger (West Lafayette, IN) on their engagement. Parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt and Bro. Grant and Sis. Maura Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Isaac Jones, Bro. Joseph Fischer, and Bro. Nick and Sis. Natalie Lanz; who have all recently joined our church family. "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually." 1 Chron. 16:11

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

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

Having this peace of God in her heart, Jessica Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) looks forward to baptism in the near future. We trust she feels the prayers of the church as she anticipates this important step in her spiritual life.

On September 20, our Bible Class hosted Princeville Bible Class for the day. On October 4, Sunday school wiener roasts were held at various teachers’ homes for the 3rd grade through Bible Class. Despite the fact that the Sunday school children may go to different schools and aren’t together throughout the week, it is always a blessing when there are opportunities for friendships to be formed and strengthened.

October 18 marked the first Sunday we all had the opportunity to attend both services. Up until then, some of the group attending afternoon church enjoyed eating picnic lunches together outdoors while others that live nearby went home for lunch. Now, the noon fellowship is slightly shortened and a small snack is provided before the afternoon service. We appreciate the dedication of the Reopening Committee as they work towards getting back to “normal” church, one step at a time. We trust that as they rely on the Spirit’s leading, God’s will can be accomplished. While working through all the complexities and decisions that the pandemic has brought into our lives, we can trust that, even in times like these, God’s time is right.

“I set my life by God’s great clock, He’s never fast or slow; He plans a perfect day For those who seek His will to know.”

God’s Clock, Children’s Harp, #4

May we not be so focused on getting back to “normal” that we forget our true goal is heaven.

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

We have enjoyed a few fall traditions with the necessary COVID-19 adjustments, including an all-church wiener roast as well as a socially distanced boxed-lunch picnic in the church parking lot. These events certainly looked different than in past years, but the fellowship is still sweet, and it is always good to gather as a church family.

We extend appreciation to Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) for visiting and sharing on the life of Peter.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

We appreciated our visiting ministers this past month: Elder
Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO). Bro. Ron assisted Bro. Brad with our fall Communion service.

Resuming Sunday school was implemented in multiple stages, and by mid-October all grades were back in session.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter hosted the annual all-church wiener roast in October with creative modifications for safety purposes. We were thankful for the ability to gather together in this way during a time when fellowship opportunities are less frequent.

We extend prayers and condolences to those who have lost loved ones in recent days. Sis. Betty Obergfel (Peoria, IL) passed away in September. She was the grandmother of Sis. Emily Fehr (Bro. Shayne). Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) passed away in October. He was a brother-in-law to Sis. Gloria Stahl (Bro. Norman).

Jade Steffen (Minneapolis, MN) and Kelbie Roe (Medicine Lake, MN) were married in October. Their parents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen (Chicago, IL) and Johnny Roe (Blanchard, OK) and Stephanie Harling (Osceola, WI). We rejoice with their families and wish them God’s blessing on their marriage.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin

We received word of the passing of Sis. Betty Obergfel from the Peoria congregation. She and her husband, Bro. Matt, were from our congregation but had moved to Peoria many years ago to be closer to their children. She and Matt raised 4 children and were a faithful part of our congregation for many years. We think of them with many fond memories and pray for the family as they go on without her.

We are rejoicing with our new sister in Christ, Abby Walder. She was added to our congregation on October 4 and we are thankful for her part in our church family! Her parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Walder. We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dana Niemann (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) for their part in the special weekend and for ministering to us. May God be with Sis. Abby and may he reward these brothers for their efforts!

We are so excited when new life safely arrives and rejoice with the families! Little Hans Fredrick Waldbeser was born on September 26 to Kaleb and Cassidy Waldbeser serving our country in Camp Pendleton, CA. Excited first-time grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser and Doug and Bethany Brucker of Fairbury, IL.

Also rejoicing are Bro. Ben and Sis. Bethann Kaeb to welcome sweet Elizabeth Grace on September 29! She is welcomed home by big brothers, Carson and Wyatt and grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb and Bro. Ben and Sis. Karol Kafer (Fairbury, IL).

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

On October 15, Bro. Doug and Sis. Michelle Schmidgall welcomed twin boys into their family! Jett Mikel and Jayden Frederick are received with much excitement and thankfulness by big sisters Cheyanne, Danielle, Olivia, and Carly, as well as grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). We wish them God’s blessings as they raise their family to faithfully serve the Lord.

Mother of Twins Prayer
Author Unknown

There’s two to wash,
There’s two to dry;
There’s two who argue,
There’s two who cry.

As I think of the events going on around us and the significance of November 4, I take courage in the words of the song A Shelter in the Time of Storm. The verses read:

“The Lord’s Our Rock,
In Him we hide,
Secure whatever ill betide.
The raging storms may round us beat,
We’ll never leave our safe retreat,
O Rock divine,
O Refuge dear,
Be Thou our helper ever near,
A shelter in the time of storm.
Oh, Jesus is a Rock In a weary land,
A shelter in the time of storm.”

A Shelter in the Time of Storm,
Tabernacle Hymns #120

Let us all take courage, we serve a great God!

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

On October 15, Bro. Doug and Sis. Michelle Schmidgall welcomed twin boys into their family! Jett Mikel and Jayden Frederick are received with much excitement and thankfulness by big sisters Cheyanne, Danielle, Olivia, and Carly, as well as grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). We wish them God’s blessings as they raise their family to faithfully serve the Lord.

Mother of Twins Prayer
Author Unknown

There’s two to wash,
There’s two to dry;
There’s two who argue,
There’s two who cry.
One’s in the mud,  
Having a ball;  
The other holds a crayon…  
Another marked wall.  
Some days seem endless,  
My patience grows thin.  
Why did God choose me  
To be a mother of twins?  
The answer comes clear-  
At the end of the day,  
As I tuck them in bed  
And to myself I say…  
There’s two to kiss,  
There’s two to hug;  
And best of all,  
Thank You, God,  
For two to love.

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth: for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Eccl. 4:9-12

Illinois, Elgin  
Amy Gasser  

Bro. Jerry Cargill (Sis. Kay) has returned home from rehab following his surgery last month, and we are thankful that they are able to assemble with us in church again. Sis. Kay had a cardiac ablation procedure. Bro. Nate Steffen underwent an angioplasty recently.

We are thankful to announce that our converts, Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena) and Alyssa Moser (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne) have found peace and are awaiting baptism.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Leann Schambach (the late Bro. Don) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Ken Banwart (West Bend, IA), on October 11. Bro. Elvis Kellenberger passed peacefully from this life on October 4. We extend sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Marilyn, and their family. Elvis and his first wife, Gail, had raised six children. In the year following Gail’s death, Elvis repented and was baptized. Then in March 1994, he married his sister-in-law, Sis. Marilyn. She had eight children from her first marriage (Bro. Jerry, dec.), including Bro. Chuck (Sis. Debbie) Kellenberger, Sis. Connie (Bro. Tom) Schambach, and Bro. Greg (Sis. Debbie) Kellenberger. Bro. Elvis is also survived by several siblings and their families, including Sis. Kathy Schifferer, (Bro. Tom) and Bro. Paul Weiss.

On Saturday, October 17, we gathered for our Communion service. We thank our local brothers, Bro. Fred Dietz and Bro. Scott Schambach, for assisting Elder Bro. Dan Moser.

Bro. Morris Young has accepted the position of Highland Oaks board member, to replace Bro. Keith Leman. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

**Note of Thanks:**
Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, texts, and calls I received during cancer treatment. It is very humbling to be remembered by so many. May God richly bless each of you.

- Sis. Edie Anliker

**Illinois, Eureka**  
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher  

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than ninety just persons, which need no repentance.” St. Luke 15:7

We are so thankful God has called Madison Knapp (Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tiffany) to repentance and we pray that she will grow in the grace of our Lord.

We welcome Sis. Brianna Sinn (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette) to our congregation from Latty, OH. We look forward to fellowshipping with her while she is completing a one year internship in our area.

“With harps and with viols,  
There stands a great throng.  
In the presence of Jesus,  
And sing this new song:  
Unto him who hath loved us  
And washed us from sin,  
Unto him be the glory forever.  
Amen.”

*The New Song, Gospel Hymns #33*

We look forward to the time when we can partake of Holy Communion with Jesus our Saviour in that new Jerusalem! We were thankful to gather together on Saturday, October 17, to be reminded of the price Jesus paid for each one of us. May we have thankful hearts for all he has done!

Bro. Leland Zimmerman (Sis. Laurene, dec.) finished his earthly
journey on October 17. We are thankful that we have the blessed hope of meeting him in those heavenly mansions some sweet day! Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Barb, and his five children and their families: Bro. Mark (Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Denise Kilgus (Bro. Kevin, Forrest, IL), Sis. Brenda Hartman (Bro Jay, Congerville, IL) Bro. Mike (Sis. Gretchen, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Matt (Sis. Sara).

Bro. Merle Rocke was inspired to share the following contribution:

“As the war continues, as lawlessness, crime, and ungodliness increase, it is not difficult to become discouraged. Let us not lose faith and courage, but rather dwell on thoughts of love and things above. For we are instructed: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (The Silver Lining, May, 1969)

The above thoughts were expressed at the end of the monthly update from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, over a half century ago. The author then departed for Vietnam, and returned one year later. He did not realize until many years later that he would have open heart surgeries and a stroke which medical experts have determined were likely caused by exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

That soldier was me. I felt moved to share that God has used a variety of unexpected challenges to get my attention and help me focus much more diligently on him. Examples: Vietnam War, unexpected health issues, COVID-19, turmoil and threats which we have not experienced before. It is such a blessing to cast all our cares upon him!

Key points:
1. Turmoil, ungodliness and earthly threats keep spreading and exploding all around us.
2. We cannot see the future, but God knows all things and has a plan for each of us.
3. We need not fear, but need to commit, listen, trust and obey.
4. The end is coming...
5. Are you ready?

Illinois, Fairbury
Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

We rejoice with Carla Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen) and Maddie Roth (Bro. Nic and Sis. Lori) as they have answered God’s call to repent.

On September 30, we remembered Christ’s death and shed blood with Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner serve us. I pray we don’t wait until Communion to remember Christ’s sacrifice for our salvation, but that we think of it every day and allow it to impact our lives and everything about us.

Sis. Colleen Walter and Bro. Dick Koehl were both hospital patients this month. We pray for these dear ones as well as others in our congregation who are facing health issues. We are thankful God is the Great Physician and we place our loved ones at his feet in prayer.

We pray for our Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Donna) with the passing of his brother, Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA). May they feel God’s nearness and love through this difficult time.

Illinois, Forrest
Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz

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

What an encouragement it was to take a step forward and gather as a whole church family on Sunday mornings starting in October. While we know the times are ever changing and of great uncertainty, it also does us good to recognize and thank God for the blessings he gives us each day!

We are always thankful for the blessing of souls who hear and answer the call to repentance. We rejoice with Kelsey Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Andrea Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie), Elise Dotterer (Bro. Jason and Sis. Lynn), and Kinzey Bachtold (Bro. Ted and Sis. Teresa) as they surrender their lives over to Christ.
Thankful for their blessing of little Boone Earnest are first-time parents Chase and Paige Wiegand.

Our prayers are with Bro. Alex Dotterer (Sis. Carmen) and Bro. Trent Schmidgall (Sis. Tiffany) who have been called to teach in Sunday School. May they feel God’s blessings that come with teaching the youth of his ways.

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

Count Your Blessings, Hymns of Zion #116.

May we all see the blessings God is giving us today. It just may surprise us when we stop and really count them!

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborer’s are few;” Matt. 9:37

As I write, harvest is in full swing. It’s such a beautiful time of year with so many brilliant fall colors and the air turning cool and crisp! We definitely serve an awesome God who is the ultimate Creator! We have much to be thankful for.

We had testimonies and baptisms the weekend of September 26-27 for four dear souls! We rejoice with Kaitlyn Wiegand (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynn), Lakin Dietrich (Bro. John Dietrich, Congerville, IL and Renae Dietrich), Bradley Glueck (George and Pauline), and Reggie Plattner (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized in Christ! It was a very encouraging weekend! We were thankful to have visiting ministers Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) share in the day.

Our church enjoyed an outdoor family hymn sing at Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand’s cabin the evening of the baptisms. It was a very nice evening to praise God in song together!

Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm (San Diego, CA) were back for a visit in early October and we enjoyed having Bro. Mike minister to us!

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;” Eccl. 3:1-2

We’ve had 2 new babies born in the last month. Bro. David and Sis. Kasey Roth welcomed a baby girl, Averie Lou, on September 17. Her big brother, Grayson, now has a little sister! Thankful grandparents of Averie are Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne Roth and Loren and Lori VanScyoc. Clayton and Lexi Wiegand were thankful for a healthy baby boy, Carson Gene, born October 7. Big sister, Adelyn, is excited for this new addition to the family. Proud grandparents are Sandra Wiegand (Bro. Mark-dec) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman.

Our dear Bro. Herman Glueck went to be with the Lord on October 15. After battling cancer for 5 years, he no longer has to fight and is in Jesus’s arms! We mourn with Sis. Sara and their girls, Miriam, Nora, and Brenna, in the loss of their loving husband and dear father, and ask for prayers for them. We also are prayerful for Doug and Pauline Glueck and their family as Herman was Doug’s brother. May the entire Herman Glueck family feel our prayers and may God grant them comfort and peace. On August 9, Bro. Herman spoke to our church and shared some encouraging thoughts that are good for all of us to remember. “God loves you and he knows what he is doing! Take that to the bank!” “God gives us peace even when our life is in pieces.” “Remember the worst thing that could happen is that we have a perfect life.” “Who are we serving? Where are we going? Heaven and hell are the reality.” “God always wins.” We are thankful for Herman’s godly attitude and the eternal perspective he kept and reminded us to keep.

Please be prayerful for Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz. Lila’s brother, Bro. George Meyer (Lester, IA) went to be with Jesus recently. His family needs prayers. Bro. Mike has been sick recently, too, and both he and Sis. Lila would appreciate prayers for a full recovery. They are thankful for a praying church family.
Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

We are sorry to report an injury to Sis. Cindy Stoller (Bro. Clark) who fell on Saturday, October 10, and broke her hip. She had surgery the next day at the Pontiac hospital, and is recovering. In life, the unexpected happens, and it can come swiftly. Sis. Jill Schlipf had surgery. Bro. Terry Miller was admitted to the hospital. Surely we pray for those with ailments, and may the Lord be with them.

Elder Bro. James Fehr (Tremont) was here on Wednesday evening, October 14 and spoke on “Stewardship and Giving”

As is happening across the nation, we are all concerned about, and focusing on COVID-19. To date, our Gridley church has had three cases, and none have been severe. I am sure God watches over us.

It is worthwhile each fall, I think, to mention the harvest. Our church is located, like many, in the heart of the rich corn and soybean belt, and several brethren are farmers. There is much to be thankful for as yields are fairly good and the harvest is plentiful. This is a necessary harvest for our mortal existence. Yet, as often mentioned we are occupied, too, in a much greater harvest which is not confined to only a month or so in the fall -- but we are occupied in an ongoing harvest for the souls of men. God is ever calling to the lost. May we all be more engaged in prayer, ongoing, for lost souls so that the cover of darkness may be lifted and they can respond in repentance to the Lord Jesus, who died on the cross for our sake.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner

Our congregation has been blessed this month as God led us through the minister selection process. September 20 it was announced that Bro. Kent Levy (Sis. Holly) received strong support which was confirmed by vote Sunday, September 27. Wednesday evening October 7, Elder Bro. Trent Meiss, (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk, (Peoria, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. with the installation service. We are so thankful for Bro. Kent and Sis. Holly’s willingness to serve in the pulpit ministry and wish them and their dear family, Forbes, Ruby and Crew, God’s richest blessings as they take on this responsibility in our Morton church family. We thank Elder Bros. Trent and Tim for serving us during this special time.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 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 10:13-15

Also on September 20, we were excited to hear the engagement of our Sis. Brianna Tanner, daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner to Bro. Kalahan Aberle, son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle, all of Washington, IL. May God bless and guide this new couple as they make plans for their January 3 wedding and lifetime together.

We thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) for ministering to us on September 27 and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for sharing the word at our Wednesday evening service on October 14. Bro. Greg reminded us that we need to have 100% faith to rest on our Heavenly Father.

As we see the farmers working diligently in the fields to bring in the harvest, we pray we may all be diligent in being lights and examples in this world that we may see a harvest of souls willing to give their lives over to God.

“Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of men today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.
Children come this grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine,
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.
Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?
He who gathers not at harvest,
Will a beggar be at last,
Therefore rise today and labor,
Gathering golden sheaves with haste!
Hasten gladly to the labor,
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
“Lord, I’ll gladly do my part.”
The Golden Harvest,
Hymns of Zion #46
Illinois, Peoria

**Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein**

New babies are a wonderful gift from God. Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch have a new grandson, Lennox Alan born to Matt and Lindsay Knobloch. Bro. Paul and Sis. Lynne Knobloch have two new granddaughters, Tannen Michele born to Derek and Chelsea Hendrick, and Everlee Jayde born to Logan Knobloch.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Meister gained a daughter-in-law, Allie Deal, when their son Gabriel and Allie married recently.

Sis. Betty Obergfel (late Bro. Matthew) went to eternity and we are prayerful for her family, including Bro. David (Sis. Kathy). Sis. Karen Dunbar (late Bro. Dave) is now with the Lord also and we pray for her children. Our heartfelt sympathies go out for the loss of these women of faith.

Weekly Spanish church services have resumed and we are thankful to have those from the community gathering with us again.

An outdoor gospel sing was at the Fellowship Hall, featuring the Sunday school, Bible Class, young group and musical group “Fourth Watch”. It was a beautiful evening of worship in song on a warm autumn evening.

We are thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ) and Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ). In these days of limited travel, it was nice to have them visit Peoria.

Our hearts are prayerful as we enter the next few weeks before the election and know God’s sovereignty will prevail, no matter what the outcome.

Illinois, Princeville

**Melinda Christ, Cherie White**

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.” Psalms 121:1-3

An all church wiener roast was held on September 13 at Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah Martin’s farm. It was an evening of blessed fellowship and singing for our congregation. We thank the Martins for opening their farm unto us.

On September 27, each Sunday school class had a wiener roast at their respective teachers house.

“Precious Memories, unseen angels, Sent from somewhere to my soul, How they linger, ever near me, And the sacred past unfolds, Precious Memories how they linger, How they ever flood my soul, In the stillness of the midnight, Precious sacred scene unfold.”

Precious Memories, Gospel Hymns # 408a.

We share in the sorrow and passing of Sis. Marie Knobloch (late Bro. Lawrence) on the passing of her brother-in-law Bro. George Meyer, (Lester, IA).

We were blessed to have Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO) and their family visiting. We thank him for bringing forth the Word and welcome them back.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland and their family were able to travel to Colorado to observe their daughter Mikaela marry Trevor Maloney at the Garden of the Gods on September 19.

“Haste and seek your soul’s salvation, Head the Word of God today! Haste to flee his condemnation; Seek the straight and narrow way. Evil are the worldly pleasure, Leading to eternal fire. Seek the everlasting treasure, Ere the day of grace expire.”

Repent Ye, Zions Harp #52

Rejoicing that two more souls have heard the call and began their repentance. Serenity Martin, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah has made a beginning as well as Peyton Martin, son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin.

Illinois, Roanoke

**Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind**

“O Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psalms 136:1

We are thankful for new life. Grandparents Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel have a new grandson. Tanner William Bertsch was born to Bro. Danny
and Sis. Sarah on September 19.
Bro. Danny and Sis. Sarah are
currently living in the Bluffton,
IN area and hope to return to
Haiti where they serve at Hospital
Lumiere. Sis. Joan Swartz
welcomed her first grandchild,
Camden Nicholas born on
September 21 to Myia Willhite and
Seth Swartz of Metamora, IL.

We are thankful for new
life in Christ. Mida Fehr and
Megan Hodel (daughter of the
late Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce)
have professed peace with God
and man, and they are looking
forward to baptism.

We are thankful for our youth
and opportunities for them to
gather for fellowship and to learn
more about Jesus. The Morton
Bible Class hosted Roanoke’s
Bible Class on September 20 for
an afternoon/evening of worship
and activities. Scripture Memory,
WOW (high school students),
ACTIVE (junior high boys) and
HOPE (junior high girls) have
begun meeting for the year.

We are thankful for the harvest
our farmers are gathering in.

We are thankful for our
elderly brethren and friends. On
October 7, Bro. Nate Hoffman,
our nursing home administrator,
gave a report on the challenging
year due to concerns with the
Coronavirus. Bro. Nate expressed
gratefulness for God’s provision
for the Home, the excellent job of
the staff in keeping the residents
occupied and engaged, and for
technology that helps the residents
stay connected to their families.

We are thankful for our
ministers and the Word that goes
out in our church and through
technology to many more. Elder
Bro. Frank Sauder had a Bible
Study on the Trinity on October
our Pre-Communion service on
Revelation 19 on October 11.

We are thankful for love.
Sis. Elly Sauder (Bro. Brad
and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Colt
Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and
Sis. Catrina) of Bluffton, IN
announced their marriage
engagement October 11.

We are thankful those we love
with health issues are in the hands
of the Great Physician. We pray
for Bro. Tim Martin (Sis. Linda),
Sis. Anna Marie Reutter, and Bro.
Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb).

In September, our family
spent a week at Daytona
Beach, FL. Our 9 month old
granddaughter, Sadie, loved to
splash in the water and play in
the sand. She was totally relaxed
as the waves came rolling in,
trusting that the strong arms
of a parent, grandparent or her
uncle would lift her to safety.

Sometimes the waves of trials
in life come rolling or crashing
in around us. We fear we will
drown! May we always remember
that the strong arms of our
Heavenly Father will lift us up,
carrying us until we safely reach
our heavenly home.

“The eternal God is thy refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting
arms.” Deut. 33:27

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

We are so thankful that we
were able to partake in Holy
Communion this month. After
being postponed, it was such
a blessing to gather with our
brothers and sisters to remember
the Lord’s suffering and death for
us. We are thankful that Elder
Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie,
Minneapolis, MN) and our
retired Elder Bro. Steve Sauder
were willing to assist Elder Bro.
James Fehr in serving.

We are thankful for God’s
blessing of healing on Bro.
Shawn Lennington (Sis. Sarah)
and Bro. Tim Aberle (Sis.
Candi) as they spent some time
in the hospital. We extend our
congratulations to Randy and
Wendy (Wagenbach) Fuller on
their recent wedding. Wendy is
the daughter of Bro. Ron and
Sis. Liz Wagenbach.

Bro. Curt Rassi presented a
topical lesson that summarized
some of the thoughts shared at the
General Conference as it relates
to brothers and sisters of Christ
fulfilling their role as Christ’s
own. Bro. Dan Koch also shared
a topical lesson on Family Night
entitled Knowledge is Power. He
reminded us that “A wise man is
strong, yea, a man of knowledge
increaseth strength.” (Prov 24:5).
He explained to us that the test of
our knowledge is summed up in 1
John 2:3, “And hereby we do know
that we know him, if we keep his
commandments.”
Illinois, Washington
Lillian Pfaffmann

“O God of wisdom, life, and love, 
Thine is the blessed plan 
In holy bonds of love to join 
The twain, created man.”

O God of Wisdom, 
Hymns of Zion #286

Bro. Jakob Spitzer and Sis. Hannah Hofstetter, both of Washington, were united in marriage! We pray the Lord will fill their lives and home with his love and grace!

Their parents are Steven and Lisa Spitzer, Karl and Angie Houck, and Bro. Keven and Sis. Ann Hofstetter, all of Washington.

Another precious blessing has been born to Bro. Micah and Sis. Olivia Pfaffmann, Natalie Elizabeth! Her two big brothers, Titus and Henry, welcome her into their family!

What a privilege to be able to worship again in our church building every Sunday now! We have Sunday school and 2 morning services. This past Sunday, Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA) served us on the pulpit. May our Heavenly Father richly reward his dependence on the Spirit!

As we face the future with all its uncertainty, let’s focus on our Father with trust and confidence knowing

“The Lord WILL provide!”
The Lord Will Provide, 
Zions Harp #86

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, 
Olivia Steffen

“For the Lord loveth judgement, 
and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off” Psa. 37:28

Bro. Danny, Sis. Sarah, Summer, Sawyer and Tucker Bertsch welcome Tanner William into their family. They are currently serving in Haiti, so it’s been good to see them again, as they returned home to give birth. Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel (Roanoke, IL) are cherishing their grandparenting moments! Bro. Aaron and Sis. Gretchen Steffen are rejoicing with the birth of Gwyneth Lou. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sherry Moser and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne Steffen.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lonny Moser, Sis. Becky Moser, Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser and their family with the passing of their son and grandson, Grant Moser. Mary Jane (Troxel) Sprunger is grieved by her family, including Bro. Dwight and Sis. Bev Troxel, Sis. Joyce Troxel, and Bro. Bill Troxel.

Many loved ones struggle with health concerns, some known and some unknown. We try to pray for and support the ones of which we are aware, and trust that our Heavenly Father will strengthen all. We lift up Bro. Aaron Gerber (Sis. Cassie), Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer, Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner (Bro. Tom, dec.), Bro. Neil Gerber (Sis. Karen), and Bro. Larry Bertsch (Sis. Laura)

Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner (Zapata, TX) were here to visit their family. Bro. Andy, Sis. Kristi, Jacob, Samuel and Nathan. We were all blessed as he ministered to us during that time! Bro. Colt Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina) is engaged to Sis. Elly Sauder (Bro. Brad and Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). May God grow them together in Him!

“And they that know Thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.” Psa. 9:10

Indiana, Bluffton North

Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen

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

We are thankful for a God who knows our needs and provides. This has been a month of multiple needs. Please pray for Mike Hollingsworth (Ann), Bro. Toby Steffen (Jayla), Sis. Cindy Shorb (Bro. Brett), and Bro. Al Ringger (Sis. Colleen) as they have struggled with various health issues this past month.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Klint and Sis. Amy Moser in the passing of their nephew Grant Moser of Valparaiso, IN.

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

We were blessed to share Communion on Saturday, October 10. It was a time to share in remembrance of how God the Father and Christ, the Son provided for our greatest need, the gift of salvation and eternal life. “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Cor. 1:24-25

We rejoice with Bro. Grant and Sis. Maura Frauhiger, who announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Monica (West Lafayette, IN) to Bro. Rick Schmidt of Bloomington, IL. Bro. Rick’s parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Schmidt. “My beloved is mine, and I am his…” Song of Sol. 2:16

Our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) for his inspiring message on Sunday, September 27. Among other teachings, he reminded us of the beauty and joy of being part of the family of God. We were blessed to have them visit Bluffton North.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

“O love of God, how strong and true
Eternal and yet ever new,
Uncomprehended and un bought,
Beyond all knowledge and all thought.
O heavenly love, how precious still
In days of weariness and ill,
In nights of pain and helplessness,
To heal, to comfort, and to bless.
O love of God, our shield and stay
Through all the perils of our way;
Eternal love, in you we rest,
Forever safe, forever blest.”
O Love of God, How Strong and True, Horatio Bonar, 1861

We were blessed by hearing God’s living Word and were encouraged to go to God’s Word for answers to all of life’s concerns. Thanks to Bro. Jason Huber (Sis. Joy, Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) for sharing with us!

There are many who deal with health struggles, and at times we aren’t even aware of what others go through. This month our prayers have been with Sis. Nola Wuethrich, Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Bro. Bob), Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry), Sis. Lisa Pedigo, and Bro. Roger Ward (Sis. Sandi). May the Lord grant them peace, encouragement, and healing as only he is able.

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

“We joy with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Rom. 12:15

It seems that we have had ample opportunities to practice the above verse this month. How wonderful that through the joys and sorrows of this life, God is ever present and unchanging.
Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children were able to travel to make the weekend extra special. Their example of faithfulness to God and to each other has been an inspiration to many.

We rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Bro. Reid Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie) to Sis. Haley Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane, Latty, OH). May God bless them with many happy years of serving him together. We look forward to having Sis. Haley join our congregation in the near future!

We were blessed to come together recently to share Holy Communion. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) who joined us and helped serve physically and spiritually throughout the weekend.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) who ministered to us this month as well.

Our hearts ached to hear of the passing of Grant Moser (Sis. Becky Moser, Valparaiso, IN, and Bro. Lonny Moser, Bluffton, IN). Our prayers are with his parents, siblings and his extended family, including his grandmother, Sis. Mary Gudeman.

We were also saddened to learn that Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank’s brother in law, Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) passed from this life into eternity. We have many close ties to Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene's family, and our prayers are with each of them as well.

Many names are being added to our individual prayer lists, with friends and family members struggling with health issues or new diagnoses. It is our fervent prayer that any who are walking a path of sorrow or struggle can feel God’s nearness, strength, and grace.

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

We have been praying for our 92-year-old Sis. Betty Schulz since her recent fall and hospitalization. Her family has had to make some difficult decisions concerning her care, and we were privileged to pray for them at their request. Sis. Betty is currently in the local nursing home, but is very frail. We cherish our elderly members, and pray for a peaceful homegoing for them, at God’s appointed time.

That time came for our beloved Bro. Pete Maxfield on Sunday morning, September 27, just about six weeks before his ninety-ninth birthday! Bro. Pete was a humble man who was a friend to all. In the past year, before he was in COVID-provoked isolation at the nursing home, he would often talk of the joys and wonder of heaven. He was ready to go! Bro. Pete’s three daughters and one son requested a private funeral service, but planned a church memorial service for Sunday afternoon, October 11. Bro. Pete left a lot of lessons for all of us. We will dearly miss him, but rejoice his race is won.

Our Sunday worship for the last few months has consisted of a 9:00 AM and a 11:00 AM service with an approximate forty-five-minute Sunday school class time, beginning at 10:12 AM.

Now that the cooler weather is threatening, our outdoor fellowship time between services may need to be altered!

Again, due to COVID-19, we have not had many visiting ministers at Leo. On October 11, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) agreed to deliver the 11:00 AM message that God had for us. Without having talked with them, I am assuming they were here to visit their son Bro. Logan and his bride, Sis. Cordin. Leo is also Sis. Marcia’s home church, and we are always happy to see them come “home”.

One thing that COVID-19 has not been able to change is God giving grace to a soul who humbly accepts his gift of salvation and wants to dedicate their life in service to him. Our sweet Abbi Kaeb recently spoke to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz about her repentance and desire to become a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. We rejoice with Abbi and her family: Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy (Hoffman), siblings Sis. Kelsie and Bro. Josiah. Abbi is a vibrant young person who will add her joy and love to our church body in a mighty way.

Despite COVID-19, Saturday evening, October 17 three souls brought their testimony to the Leo church family and were baptized the next day. They
had waited several months to be able to complete this part of their new life, and we were excited to finally be able to call them Brother and Sisters. Our new members are: Bro. Adam Klopfenstein (Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise), Sis. Marlee Steffen (Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly) and Sis. Breanna Wenninger (Bro. Brian and Sis. Mackenzie). The Holy Spirit was strongly felt at the testimonies and baptisms. We feel encouraged to have young people who will apply their God-given talents to the benefit of the church body. We thank and praise our Father in Heaven that there are some things COVID-19 cannot touch!

Indiana, Milford  
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We are thankful to have had Bro. Mark Reinhard (Sis. Angie, Bluffton, IN) as a visiting minister this month. We rejoice with Bro. Luke Zarkovaki and Sis. Sarah Lehman as they were united in marriage. The wedding was outdoors and provided an impressive setting for these unique times. Parents of the couple are Bro. George and Sis. Lilly Zarkovaki (Denver, CO) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman.

Indiana, Remington  
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful to be getting closer to “back to normal” at church with the resumption of a noon lunch and fellowship hour. Many thanks to the hospitality committee for their efforts in putting this together!

We are glad to welcome back Sis. Kayla Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette) from Mexico where she spent the summer. I’m sure the Lord was able to use her sweet and willing spirit in many ways to his glory during her time there.

We rejoice with Bro. Jesse and Sis. Maura Stoller at the birth of their daughter Sylvie Mae! Older siblings Cowen, Renna, and Romy and grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller and Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch (Lester, IA) are thankful for a new little bundle to cuddle. We pray the Lord will be near to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Maura and their dear family during this special time and that he will guide them as they seek to raise their children to know him.

We are glad that Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce) came through her surgery well. Please pray for her continued recovery.

Our hearts are sorrowful for Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch and their children Bro. Grant, Bro. Nelson, and Sis. Kedron at the death of Bro. Neil’s mother, Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra, dec, Lester, IA), from complications of COVID-19. Bro. Neil shared that Sis. Marie’s last words on this earth were words of wonder at the beauty of heaven that she saw before her, and we are humbled and encouraged that we too can hope to see that beautiful sight someday. May God grant the Knobloch family peace and healing in the difficult days ahead as they adjust to life without her.

Indiana, South Bend  
Joshua Martinez

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4

May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi) with our Communion service.

We continue to pray for both Sis. DeAnn Schlatter (Bro. Otto) and Bro. Don Lehman (Sis. Jill) who are recovering from leg fractures. We also lift up Chris, Mike and Angie Payton in prayer. Their dear mother, Sis. Jocelyn Payton, has developed a brain tumor that is bleeding, is unresponsive and not expected to live very long. We draw comfort and blessed assurance knowing that “it is well with her soul.”

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

Indiana, West Lafayette  
Libby Wahl

Greetings, church family! We are grateful for a little stability right now and for our COVID-19 task force members to have a reprieve. Currently, we are worshipping and fellowshipping together on Sunday morning with two services back to back. Our
family worship service has changed to a 9:30 AM start time. After a short break, we resume with Sunday school along with a joint adult service that includes topicals and share time. Packaged lunch follows whenever we are COVID-able.

Mixed small groups have started again for adult members, college students and friends. These groups meet during our alternate midweek service week to encourage connection, support and accountability. They are a blessing for those able to participate.

Prayer is very much appreciated for Bro. Dick Meister (Sis. Sharon) recovering from medical treatment, for Sis. Amanda Meister’s (Bro. Rustin) father, Bro. Roger Ward (Francesville, IN), undergoing cancer treatment and for Sis. Diana Norman’s daughter, Teresa Puterbaugh (Monticello, IN), receiving cancer treatment.

Once again, our brotherhood and college students were very encouraged with midweek messages from Bro. Allen Stoller, (Bluffton, IN; we were sorry to miss his dear wife) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott, IN). Thank you for loving and serving us.

From a recent share time came these thoughts: Sometimes the best thing we can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess… rather, just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best. When we come out of a storm, we won’t be the same person who walked in; that’s what this storm’s all about.

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy... To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Jude 24-25

Indiana, Wolcott

Teresa Earney, Luann Gerber

The fields are ripe for harvest here in the Wolcott community and the farmers are busy gathering it in! Being raised on a farm, this season is such a beautiful time for me to watch the farmers bring in the fruits of their labors!

We had a very blessed weekend for the testimony and baptism of Anne Wagenbach (Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica). Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Greg Lehman. Also, Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis, IA) were here. We thank these dear brothers for sharing the Word with us!

Our church was so thankful to host the funeral service for a dear friend who grew up coming to our church. Larry Farney was brought to church with his parents, Leroy (dec.) and Fran. He had not been to our church for many years, but sincerely treasured the memories he had growing up with us and knew where he wanted his funeral to be held. We praise God for the opportunity to do this for his dear family!

Marie Blume traveled to Washington, DC recently for another surgery resulting from her farm accident 1½ years ago. We are so very thankful it was successful and we can have her back in church with us! Marie started repenting the week before she left for her surgery, and her beautiful smile and loving countenance are such a blessing to all of us!

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7

The bells of heaven are ringing for our sweet friend, Gracie Kyburz, who has answered the call and wants to live her life for Jesus! She is the daughter of Bro. Phillip and Sis. Sasha.

Precious little McKenzi Jane has arrived to bless the hearts and home of Bro. Lee and Sis. Laura Blume. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume and Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Walder (Remington, IN).

Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

We have had several from our congregation in and out of the hospital for various health reasons. We continue to pray for Elder Bro. Doug Schock, Bro. Joel Wuthrich, Bro. Kenny Wuthrich, and Sis. Bethany Wettstein. Praying for God’s peace and blessing upon each.

It was made known to our church that Bro. Nathan Wettstein and Sis. Kendra
Schlatter heard God’s call and have felt his peace to be united in marriage. We are thankful for both dear souls as they begin their engagement and wish God’s richest blessings on this new couple in the days, weeks, and months to come.

We appreciated having Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) serve us the pure Word this past month.

“Thy Word is very pure, therefore thy servant loveth it.” Psa. 119:140

Sis. Denalyn Lanz and Sis. Noelle Stoller (both from Mediapolis, IA) are here during the week for continuing education at a local community college. We welcome them and trust they will feel at home for those few days each week here in Bloomfield.

We are remembering Sis. Christy Joos and her family in our prayers during this time of loss of her brother, Tom Slinkard.

Iowa, Burlington
Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

The end of September was a special time for our church family as we were finally able to partake in Holy Communion together. There were adjustments to our customs due to COVID-19, but still it was a blessing! Through the Holy Spirit in our retired minister, Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA), we were reminded that the reason we take Communion originates back to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, creating a need for a Savior. Do we daily take remembrance in our hearts, and does it impel us to obey what God commands?

Not long after Communion, we were able to listen to the conference recordings on a Wednesday evening. We are thankful for our elders that continually serve us, and we lift them up in prayer that God may grant them abundant wisdom for the time we live in.

Our church cleaning that is typically held in the spring was rescheduled for this fall. Due to some COVID-19 outbreaks, the turnout was small, but the work was accomplished.

Thank you to Bro. Matt and Sis. Stephanie Schulz who graciously hosted a wiener roast for our church family in place of the annual gathering at Starr’s Cave. Starr’s Cave was unable to be rented out this year, once again due of COVID-19.

We offer prayerful love and support to Sis. Melody Schulz (Bro. Gary) as she said good-bye to her mother, Sis. Marie Knobloch, (Lester, IA). We are so comforted that even in times of sadness God can bring Heaven closer to our hearts and give us a beautiful glimpse of the glory to come.

In place of our monthly singing, our church family gathered and caroled out of the Zion’s Harp to our shut-in brethren. We were thankful that the listeners were cheered, and the singers blessed in serving.

As a small church family, we are always excited to see visiting faces of our brothers, sisters, and friends. Thank you to those who made an effort to worship with us recently.

Finally, we continue to lift those up in our congregation who have been hospitalized and quarantined with COVID-19 or other illnesses. Whatever our lot, in sickness or health, may we be like Apostle Paul and rest in God’s promise.

“My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12:9

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isa. 40:8

We are now past the peak of fall splendor that comes to our hills this time of year. The oranges and yellows have faded to brown. All around us are reminders that the things of this life will fade, but our faith can yet grow and thrive when it is anchored in the truth of God’s Word.

We are grateful for the time Sidney McQuade spent in fellowship with us and wish her God’s blessings as she relocates to Illinois. She will be missed!

Our elder, Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) was here to read the spring memorandum. We appreciate the many timely exhortations and continue to lift up our elder brothers in prayer.

Other visitors this month include Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis.
Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

**Laura Funk**

Greetings of love through Jesus Christ.

Our congregation is thankful for those willing to travel and share the message of Jesus Christ. Serving us this past month were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Larry Bahr, Ft. Scott, KS).

As many of you are aware, a three-year-old child from our congregation was chosen by God to enter his eternal home. Our congregation is traveling through the grieving process which was made gentler with these brothers assisting Bro. Brad Funk through this process. We thank all for the prayers, calls, texts, love and support given for the Garden Grove congregation. The words “Thank you” are very small so we trust God to bless you.

Our high school Sunday school classes enjoyed a gathering in Kansas City, MO. The children voiced an enjoyable weekend and say thank you to all who attended and provided for their needs.

Fall has arrived! God’s beautiful colors surround us and harvest is underway. Bro. Vern and Sis. Boni Hostetler and family hosted a wiener roast, hayride, and games for our church family. Fellowship, food, and fun was enjoyed by all. God bless you!

**Iowa, Iowa City**

**Diana Butikofer**

Our prayers are with Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr as her father, Donald Potts, Sr., passed away.

We are thankful Jenna Gerst (Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa) has found peace with God and man. We pray the Lord will continue to guide and bless her as she awaits a time for baptism.

We recently filled the following positions at our business meeting: Trustee - Bro. Jesse Snodgrass, Women’s Committee - Sis. Diana Butikofer, HarvestCall Committee - Sis. Renae Snodgrass, and HarvestCall Representative - Bro. Christopher Eland. We are thankful for those who served this past year and those willing to serve this coming year.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends, let’s remember: “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” Psal. 95:1-6

**Iowa, Lester**

**Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler**

We rejoice in the birth of new babies. On September 23, Bro. Kent and Sis. Elyse Moser, Evie, Meredith, Madelyn, Nolan, and Ethan welcomed Hayden Eli. Happy grandparents are Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce Moser and Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer. On October 14, Chris and Erica Leuthold and Lucas were blessed with Emily Rosalie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Char Leuthold. This joyful event came just three days after Char Leuthold (Bro. Doug) lost her mother, Henrietta Haak.

Bro. George Meyer passed away on October 1. His eight children all live nearby and will miss him greatly. Sid Meyer (Tana), Sandi Ter Wee (Chad) of our congregation, Clark Meyer (fiancée Toni Stansbury), Cathi Aeschliman, Wes Meyer (Dawn), Wayne Meyer (Angie), Gwen Christie, and Glen Meyer (Heidi) along with his grandchildren mourn his loss. His siblings, Bro. Raymond Meyer (Sis. Twyla), Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Carolyn Banwart (Robert), Sis. Margaret Banwart (Bro. Eli), Sis. Irene Banwart, Sis. Paulette Zaugg (Bro. Norm) all from West Bend, IA, Earl Meyer (Barb, Brandon, SD), Sis. Lila Wirtz (Bro. Mike, Goodfield, IL) and sisters-in-law, Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL) mourn his passing as well.

October 6, our dear Sis. Marie Knobloch was taken home. Left
to cherish her memory are Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, dec.), Sis. Brenda Knobloch (Silverton, OR), Sis. Gloria Moser (Bro. Brad), Sis. Melody Schulz (Bro. Gary, Burlington, IA), Bro. Neil Knobloch (Sis. June, Remington, IN), and Bro. Lance Knobloch (Sis. Kristi) and 27 grandchildren. Marie’s sisters, Sis. Joyce Metzger (Bro. Glen) and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. James, Princeville, IL), sisters-in-law Elsie Knobloch and Sis. Loretta Rumbold (Princeville, IL) feel this loss as well.

Sis. Mariann Metzger, our oldest member, passed into eternity at age 100 on October 18. She leaves behind her children Bro. James Metzger (Sis. Lois), Bro. Gary Metzger (Sis. Beth), Bro. Ray Metzger (Kathy), Don Metzger (Pat, Hills, MN), Arlyn Metzger (Nancy, dec.), and son-in-law Bro. Lynn Doorneweerd (late Sis. Marlys, Sis. Kathy). Mariann’s siblings bidding her farewell are Bro. Frank Moser, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Janet Wysong, Sis. Evelyn Metzger (Roy, Bloomfield, IA) and in-laws Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Bro. Carl), Sis. Pearline Streitmatter, Bro. Andy Mogler all of Washington, IL, and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA) along with numerous grandchildren. We extend our loving sympathy to each family circle.

We thank visiting ministers Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) for bringing forth the Word.

Bro. Charlie Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) of West Bend, IA married Sis. Molly Knobloch (Sis. Chalea and the late Bro. Vern) on October 11. We wish them God’s blessings as they establish their new home in West Bend.

Cassie Beverage underwent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. Bro. Tony Bosch (Sis. Pam) was hospitalized after an accident. Riley Knoblock (Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha) had surgery following an accident. Little Haislee Metzger (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Masondra) underwent surgery after a fall that broke her arm. We are glad all are recovering. Sis. Alissa Messner, Kathy Knobloch, and Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome) are undergoing treatment and need continued prayers.

Iowa, Mediapolis
Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz
The time to report is here, and it has been a relatively quiet month for our Mediapolis congregation. We haven’t been able to make any major upgrades to our church service practices, as case levels still remain elevated in our area. However, with colder weather imminent, our reopening committee has made provisions to allow for social distancing when we will need to remain indoors to fellowship. Also, the kitchen committee has been doing a wonderful job providing a nutritious snack between services.

Quite a few Bible Class students and two of their teachers traveled to LifePoints to help install mulch in their landscaping. We are thankful when our youth can have opportunities like this to channel their energy and enthusiasm into service to others!

This year, we started having topical presentations one Wednesday night per quarter. We were all challenged and encouraged by Bro. Mark Schmidgall’s recent presentation of this quarter’s topic, “The Importance of Spiritual Relationships in the Church.” Let us all prayerfully endeavor to be one another’s advocate, and not accuser, as we seek to be a united body of believers: loving and serving Christ, one another, and others.

Along those same lines, I am reminded of “build up, don’t tear down”, a little phrase stemming from Proverbs 14:1 that has been impactful in my life. In these tumultuous and politicized times we find ourselves living in, let’s all seek to be a “builder-upper”, and not a “tearer-downer”, in our homes, within our church family, at work, at school, online, and within our community.

Iowa, West Bend
Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt
We continue to keep Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Bill Zaugg and Bro. Dennis Fehr (Sis. Judy) in our prayers as they have spent time in the hospital. May God grant healing according to his will.

We rejoice with Bro. Charlie Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) and Sis. Molly Knobloch (Sis.
Chalea and the late Bro. Vern, Lester, IA) as they were joined in marriage. We welcome Sis. Molly to West Bend.

On the same day God formed this new family circle he also saw fit to take our Bro. Ken Banwart to his Heavenly home. Bro. Ken was not a man of many words but was an example to many. Left to cherish his loving memories are his wife Sis. Marlene, children, Sis. Kendra Stoller (Bro. Ben, Latty, OH), Sis. LaRae Montag (Bro. Jeff), Sis. Twila Massner (Bro. Darin), Wes (Kary), and Trent (Hailey) all of West Bend. 22 grandchildren, brothers, Eldon (Karen) of West Bend and Bro. Dale (Sis. Donna, Fairbury, IL) and sister Sis. Leann Schambach, (Elgin, IL).

“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. 23:4

Also mourning the loss of loved ones are Sis. Irene Banwart, Sis. Margaret Grimm (Bro. Eli) and Sis. Polly Zaugg (Bro. Norm) in the loss of their brother, Bro. George Meyer, (Lester, IA).

Arlo and Margaret Grimm, Bro. Eli and Sis. Margaret Grimm and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr also bid farewell to their sister-in-law Mary Ann Grimm (Delano) of Bloomington, IL.

We rejoice with Bro. Isaac Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Valerie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bonita, Remington, IN) as they feel God’s leading to be joined in marriage.

**Note of thanks:**

Our hearts have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love by brethren and friends across the land, since Ken’s death. Whether a call, prayer, gift or in thought, each has helped in some way lighten our burden. May each one be blessed for what they have done. It will be remembered and cherished for a long time. We truly feel blessed to be a part of our precious faith and fellowship.

- The family of Ken Banwart

**Japan, Shioda and Tokyo**

*Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue, Carrie Ito*

The fall season has arrived, and we look forward to blue skies again after days of rain and overcast weather. We were thankful for a nice day when we had our annual church cleaning at the end of Sept. Several little girls helped clean the benches and Sunday School area. Everyone’s help was appreciated very much.

Our monthly ladies’ meetings could resume this month after a long absence. Bro. Akihiro Ito finished the first chapter of the gospel of Mark with us. He told about the leper who Jesus healed and what joy he must have felt to be healed of this dreaded disease. How we also want healing for our brethren and friends who are afflicted with diseases of the body, and most of all for the salvation of their souls for those still outside the fold of Christ.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda’s husband, Tadao, is recovering from surgery. She is thankful for prayers that the Lord would continue to provide for him.

We are very thankful for a young Swiss woman, Sibylle, who has started attending our Shioda church and has expressed desire to become a member. She is in Japanese school to learn manga, a very popular comic style drawing. She desires to write the Bible in Japanese and English in this style and other stories to spread the gospel.

Her roommate, Ni, a Chinese student also has been attending. We feel very blessed have a nice group of college aged students attending now - 4! Please pray for them as they grow in the knowledge of the Truth!

**Kansas, Bern**

*Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold*

Greetings! Trusting this finds each of you clinging to God’s grace, as we prayerfully navigate through life. It is apparent that 2020 has turned into a year that not a one of us would have predicted. I often need to remind myself that God had the year 2020, all the events of the past and things yet to come, lined up so many years ago as part of his perfect plan. We can be so thankful that no matter what, no matter when, God’s love for us is unconditional.
Special thanks to Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) for sharing God’s Word with us this month.

Our church family enjoyed a special service on Sunday evening, October 4, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our church building. It was so beautiful to watch our older brothers open the time capsule, which held memorabilia of the old church, and share memories of the old church building, along with memories of the construction of the new church. We are so thankful for the spiritual pillars in our church.

The weekend of September 26-27, the Kansas City church hosted our senior Bible Class students for Youth Fellowship Weekend. It is always a fun and encouraging weekend filled with blessings for students and teachers alike, as Christian friendships are renewed.

Following God’s direction, Bro. Travis and Sis. Leah Rokey will be relocating and worshipping with the Lamar, MO congregation. We will miss them so much, but know they will be a blessing and encouragement to the Lamar church family.

At the last writing, we wrote of the passing of Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Janet), and unintentionally failed to mention one of his children. Bro. Robert’s children are Jim, Sis. Kim Baumgartner, Matt, and Carla Meyer. We continue to lift them up in prayer.

Kansas, Kiowa

Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

“How Shall It Be?” “The hymn #146 from the Zion’s Harp came to mind as I was being prepared for my fourth surgery in six months. I was getting pretty used to it by now. The corridor’s overhead lights flashed by my eyes as my bed was being rapidly wheeled down to the surgical suite. The double swinging doors to the OR swung open to swallow me up in the all too familiar freezing cold temperature and the intensely bright lights directed down on my shivering form. A nurse appeared with a toasty warm blanket; ahhhh, maybe this was God, wrapping me close in his warm embrace! At any rate, I chose to hang on to that thought. Then the anesthesiologist leaned over close to my ear. “You will feel just a little sting, and then you will wake up back in recovery,” the doctor said. True to his word, I felt a slight sting of pain as the propofol was injected into my vein. Then I opened my eyes and there I was….back in recovery with all my fears and anxieties gone and now I was bathed in the strange glow of peaceful bliss as kind nurses hovered around me. So, is this how it shall be? This transition from earthly life into Heavenly life? “When now the soul, unfettered, goes soaring upward in unhindered flight.” Perhaps some apprehension (or maybe not) with possibly a sting of pain (or maybe not) before instantly opening our eyes to “look into that kind and smiling Face.” The very concept of being instantaneously changed from a frail and wounded earthly creature into the presence of “Angel bands with harps of gold, greeting us with their song of Hallelujahs rolling upward to the throne of God, the King.” Is this how it shall be? Such a beautiful vision for the believer! Death is completely conquered with Christ’s “pure, precious blood o’er flowing, which saved us from death’s dread and poisoned dart!” How shall it be? We can only grasp a small fragment of the glories that await the believer in Christ when we at last “behold the Son of God in all his fullness upon his throne, the Lord of All.” And that’s how it shall be.

Our congregation was so happy to welcome the inspired teachings of two visiting ministers this month, Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA). It was so uplifting to hear them expound on the living Word of God.

Several in our midst have been ill and we pray for God’s healing blessings to be lovingly bestowed upon all the aged and sick wherever they may be. May God empower and enrich all who call upon his name.

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of our Sis.
Dorothy Schrader, whom we laid to rest this month. Our sympathy goes out to Stephen Schrader (Mari), James Schrader, Bro. John Schrader (Sis. Sara), Sis. Maria Bahr (Jerry), and Matthew Schrader (Ami). We also held a memorial service for Sarah Grimm, who passed away in March and was only able to have a small funeral service at that point in time. Our sympathy continues to be with Sarah’s family.

The church enjoyed the annual Sunday school picnic at Bro. Max’s Burnham’s home where the students played games and everyone roasted hot dogs, made s’mores, and sang hymns. Our high school students also traveled to our Kansas City, MO church for Youth Fellowship Weekend. We are so grateful for the efforts of the Kansas City church to host this special event for our young people.

Recently, Isaiah 12 was read during our morning service. “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid. for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.” Isa. 12:2.

May each of us trust and not be afraid as we continue in the good fight of faith.

**Kansas, Sabetha**

**Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter**

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thes. 5:16-18

We were thankful to have Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) with us this month to share in God’s Word.

We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Ruth Hertzel who was hospitalized this month.

Our church family came together for an all-church wiener roast on October 11, which was a blessing for all!

With Thanksgiving approaching we are reminded of all the many blessings the Lord has given us. May we each count our blessings and remember to thank the Lord for them each and every day!

**Kansas, Wichita**

**Niklaus and Sara Schrader**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. As these are still very hard and challenging times for us as we head into the end of the year. The only reliable source of hope and peace is our Savior Jesus.

We continue to consider the Schrader and Funk families in prayer following the loss of Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally’s brother-in-law Clarence. We pray that the families affected can find peace in God’s grace towards his children. As the presidential election is coming up, we pray that we can trust in God’s plan for our nation and pray for the leaders that take office.

**Mexico, Ixtlán**

**Ruth Gerber**

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

One of the petitions that we as a congregation have been bringing before the Lord is that we can once again have Sunday school classes for our children. We have gone through many changes and adjustments since the start of COVID-19, and know our children have missed the focused lessons and their time with peers. We are looking forward to Sunday October 25 which is the date that has been set for starting Sunday school. We appreciate the prayers that have been offered according to his will and continued prayers for the teachers and the children that will be served.

Sis. Carmen Garcia went through a difficult medical procedure this month and we are thankful that she is recuperating. She is such an example of confidence in the Lord and of surrender to his will.

Bro. Samuel Gutierrez seems to be in stable health and is thankful for the prayers and the visitors he and Sis. Maria have received.

We are thankful to have Sis. Esthela back in Ixtlan in good health and serving the church and her neighborhood faithfully as before.

Thank the Lord, the one who is building his church!

**México, Magdalena**

**Laura Aviña**

This month, we continued having a church service each
Sunday on the patio behind Carnisimo Burgers and have been blessed by that time together! We thank each and every one of you for your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us! It has been over seven months now that we have not been able to travel freely to the USA, have family members freely visit, or have church normally. We ask that you pray that God’s will would be worked out in each of our hearts and lives during this time and that we would continue to glorify him!

A Bible verse that has encouraged me recently is 2 Cor. 5:7, “for we walk by faith, not by sight.” So much of what we see in the world today is discouraging, confusing, or unsettling, but there is so much that we do not see that is just as real! We choose to walk by faith. Faith that tells us that God is in control and is working! Sometimes we see glimpses of his work and it strengthens our faith. Sometimes we may walk years by faith before we see his work in a certain area of life, and yet how many years did the Israelites not see their Messiah? How many years did Abraham not see his promised son? Even when we may not see it, God is at work! We choose to walk by faith.

What a blessed evening we experienced as we gathered to share in Holy Communion. The desire and longing for Communion was more poignant this year than ever before, at least for me.

We wish to express our sympathy and condolences to those from Alto who have experienced the loss of a loved one this past month: Sis. Michelle Oesch’s (Bro. Tom) mother, Ruth Ann Fahrni, Bro. Dale Dunham’s (Sis. LaBeth) sister, Lydia Dunham and Josiah Grimm’s cousin, Austin Pfeiffer. Our prayer is that each one would find comfort in the everlasting arms of our Heavenly Father.

A dear brother in Alto put together a list of those in need of prayer. As we stood in a circle lifting each one up in prayer, we were reminded even more of all those in need of prayerful support. What a privilege it is to know our creator hears and answers each plea for comfort, healing, strength, and help.

Grandpa Ed and Grandma Joy Zaagman are excited to share they have a new grandson, Luca William born to first time parents Mike and Becca Zaagman. May they train up their child in the way he should go.

Congratulations to Brooke Steffen (granddaughter to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen) and Shamus Oatis as they were united in marriage. Our prayer is that the almighty one who brought them together will continue to be the one they serve and trust.

As I listened to a service recently, the minister asked if we desire to be in a certain place when our Lord returns. This question and his answer to the question was something I hadn’t ever contemplated. I had thought about where I didn’t want to be, and that I wanted to be ready for the second coming, but not where I’d like to be. Late into the night I prayed and thought about where I’d like to be if I was still on earth when he bursts through the eastern sky. Not able to fall asleep, I finally realized that God was inspiring me to write a poem or song.

“Look east and look up, the battle’s ‘bout over. Look east and look up, the war’s almost done. Look east and look up to watch for His coming. Look east and look up, our victory’s ‘bout won! Where is your heart focused? Where does your mind go? Are you distracted by the world of everything fast and nothing slow? Does confusion and deception from the cruel and crafty foe, have your heart and mind too busy...
Do you think about where you’ll be or contemplate what you might be doing, when Jesus Christ returns to earth and time will stop, there will be no more pursuing? Do you have a special place in mind where you’d like to be on that day? Is it at the grave site of a loved one, or in church where we praise and pray? Don’t wait to think about the end. Don’t let another second slip by. Don’t put off your hope of heaven for we never know our time to die. The eastern sky is going to burst wide open and our Savior will descend. His arms will be outstretched to you. He wants to gather all of us in. So look east and look up, the battle’s ‘bout over. Look east and look up, the war’s almost done. Look east and look up, to watch for His coming. Look east and look up, our victory’s ‘bout won!”

more than mere words can say. To our hearts heavy with grief, you were God’s hands and feet. In Christ’s love, Tom and Michelle Oesch and family.

**Nore of Thanks**

Bro. Dale and Sis. Labeth wish to thank the Alto Church family for the kind expressions of sympathy at the passing of Dale’s sister, Lydia. The flowers, cards, texts and prayers—all very much appreciated. May the church be blessed.

**Nore of Thanks**

Greetings, To my special church family. A hearty thank you for your prayers, cards and gifts. May God bless each one of you.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Ott Schlatter

**Michigan, Bay City**

**Sarah Knochel**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Nancy Herzberg as she mourns the loss of her daughter, Kay Herzberg and also her brother, Don Grew. We pray that God would stand by Nancy’s side and comfort her in the days ahead.

We are thankful our students have been able to return to Sunday school. We pray that their tender hearts may be eager and open to hear the Word as it is being taught to them.

In a world of turmoil and unrest, sometimes it is easier to be anxious and fearful, rather than thankful for all that God is doing for us. As we approach Thanksgiving, may we have renewed hearts of praise and thanks for God’s love for us and the abundant blessings he shares each day.

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.” Psalms 116:12,13,17

**Michigan, Detroit**

**Krista Wieland**

Hello to everyone and hope things are well with you. Many of our kids are back in school now and it has gone reasonably smoothly, at least from what our daughter says. The new normal is extremely different but I guess it shows us all that we can adapt to guidelines that a year ago would have seemed impossible to fathom. What a difference a year can make! Doesn’t it make you wonder what life will look like a year from today? It’s probably good we don’t know! God will still be in it so that is something we do know and we can rest in that.

Sunday October 4 was the ordination of Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal) as our new Elder. It was a bit bittersweet as we thanked Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr for their years of service and the extraordinary way in which they loved all of us. They will never know the difference they have made in so many lives. We are so thankful for Elder Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal, who will be willingly taking on this responsibility and
we give full support to them. The
great love they show is already an
inspiration and we want them to
know they are greatly loved as well.

Visiting ministers who
conducted the service with our
Bro. Mark Bahr were Elder Bro.
Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West
Lafayette, IN) and Elder Bro.
Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse,
IN). Other visitors included Elder
Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda,
Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. John
Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI)
and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis.
Sandy, Alto, MI). We also had
many visitors and friends of the
Frank family who came to support
them. There was a lot of love
and emotion as we went around
to share our support with Bro.
Lucas, Sis. Crystal, and their four
children in this new role.

We enjoyed being together as a
church family for our All Church
Fall Picnic and Annual Clothing
Drive this past month.

We are prayerful for the
Hitz family as Bro. Tom Hitz
is in Haiti for the next 5 weeks
supporting Hospital Lumiere
activities. Sis. Cindy was also
with Tom for a week in Haiti
and we’re thankful that she has
returned home safely.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Our church family was
blessed with the birth of Gabriel
Thomas Dill, son of Bro. Ben
and Sis. Suzy Dill. Gabriel was
welcomed home by his brothers,
Asher and Toby. Gabriel was born
on September 25 which happens
to be his Grandpa, Bro. Dewayne
Dill’s (Grandma Sis. LaRae)
birthday also. Grandparents Elder
Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle
(Altadena, CA) were here in
Minnesota to celebrate Gabriel’s
arrival. We wish God’s blessings
on this beautiful family!

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf*

“Every good and every perfect gift
is from above, and cometh down
from the Father of lights, with
whom is no variableness, neither
shadow of turning.” James 1:17

We had two of these “perfect”
gifts this month! Micah and
Elizabeth Fehr were blessed with a
sweet girl, Catalina Marie. Happy
grandparents are Bro. Gary and
Sis. Sandy Fehr (Tucson, AZ). We
are keeping them in our prayers as
little Catalina has had some health
issues. Also first-time parents, Bro.
Andrew and Sis. Kathryn Steiner
were blessed with a darling bundle
of joy, Josephine Grace. Excited
grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis.
Jill Steiner and Dave and Leann
Rufener, (Rittman, OH).

We were thankful to hear that
convert Nikki Knobloch (Kevin)
has found peace with God and
man and is awaiting baptism.
What a joy to see God’s work in
the life of a soul!

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

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

*Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll*

“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

In the midst of harvest, we see
the season beginning to change,
farmers are bringing in the fruits
of increase that God has granted.
By what fruits are we known in
our daily walk of life? Have our
lives touched others in a way that
will bear fruit for the Kingdom?

Our prayers have been with
Sis. Marcelle Dapper (Bro. Ernie)
as she has been in the hospital
recently and as she continues to
heal and gain strength in rehab.

We extend love and sympathy
to Bro. Keegan Knobloch
(Sis. Callie) in the passing of
his grandmother Sis. Marie
Knobloch, (Lester, IA).

We also extend love and
sympathy to Howard Lauwagie
(Char) in the passing of his father,
Stan Lauwagie.

“Train up a child in the way he
should go: and when he is old, he
will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

Heart congratulations to
Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan
Messner as they became first-time
grandparents to little Gavin Paul
born on October 6 to Landon and
Alyssa Messner.

Belated congratulations
to Bro. Glen and Rachel
Steiner as they had two more
granddaughters born. Bryn
Leigh was born August 24
to Bro. John and Sis. Emily
Frauhiger, (Milford, IN) and Lacey Mae was born September 29 to Bro. Zach and Sis. Claire Sinn, (Latty, OH).

Missouri, Kansas City

Katy Frantz

This month we rejoiced with Sis. Diane Smith on the birth of her first granddaughter, Karliah Rayne Smith. Karliah was born September 10 to parents Nick and Laci Smith.

Our church also hosted the regional high school fellowship weekend on September 26-27. It was a full weekend at a local campground! We were thankful to have retired Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and his son, Sunday school superintendent Bro. David Ringger (Gridley, IL), share the Word with the high schoolers and some of our church who could attend.

We also gathered to share Communion on October 17. It was a time to reflect on Christ and his sacrifice, and we are grateful for Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) helping to serve Communion and minister the next day.

Our church and Fort Scott gathered for an annual fall bonfire dinner on October 18, enjoying fellowship and singing.

Missouri, Lamar

Mindy Wettstein

Two months ago, we were blessed to have visiting ministers via Zoom, including Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi) and Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole) both of Rockville, CT, and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO). Due to local COVID-19 cases, we spent several weeks worshipping from home and enjoyed tuning in to Lamont, KS for a service - thanks Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane)!

Over Labor Day weekend we “caroled” outside the windows at the local Senior Living Center. It was a blessing to see each of their smiling faces and see their lips moving and joining us in praise!

That weekend we also enjoyed numerous visitors who were in the area for the Braker Family reunion. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle) and retired Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol) both of Bern, KS, for preaching the Word!

Bro. Alfred Banwart (Sis. Carolyn) spent several days in the hospital; we praise God for his return to good health.

Last month, we were thankful to have multiple visiting ministers this past month, including Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie and family, Ft. Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather and family, Taylor, MO).

Bro. Monte and Sis. Linda Maus (Ft. Scott, KS) blessed us by guest-serving lunch.

Jane Braker (Edd) suffered a fall this month; we’re thankful she didn’t suffer from any fractures.

Missouri, St. Louis

Michelle Rassi

We are praising God for additions to our congregation as Brent and Emma Austin have been worshipping with us and desire to be a part of our church body.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) worship with us on September 20. Bro. Kent gave us a conference update.

Missouri, Taylor

Lori Marquart, Tami Pflum

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised);” Heb. 10:23

Greetings were given from 26 Apostolic Christian churches on Sunday, October 4, as a result of the Taylor Invite. Service activities took place October 3 followed by a meal and beautiful expressions of praise and worship through song and fellowship, reinforcing that “God is Faithful.” Thank you to each who blessed our congregation by attending, and to each from Taylor who worked to make this annual event possible.

Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) challenged our congregation the evening of October 7, to consider Paul’s longing to visit the church in Rome, requesting God’s will that “…by any means…” (Rom. 1:10), he could go to them. Acts 27 details how God orchestrated that visit. Are we prepared to serve God with our entire
being, stretching us beyond our comfort level? Thank you Bro. Jeremiah, for sharing your wisdom and insight.

Sunday, October 11, brought Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) to the Taylor pulpit as they visited their son, Bro. Josh, and his family. We are grateful for this connection and for Bro. Dean’s willingness to open the Word of Life and allow the Spirit to feed us.

A word of thanks and encouragement is due to our local ministers! In addition to serving us Wednesdays and Sundays, they will be leading a Bible Study, published by the Apostolic Christian Church, entitled “Sharing the Gospel.” The nine lessons in this study will be presented Wednesday evenings beginning October 14.

We welcome Sis. Carly Rabe (Bloomington, IL) who has taken employment in Macomb, IL, and will be attending our Taylor congregation.

Several have requested prayer or had health challenges this past month. Please pray for Sis. Marjorie Sutter, Sis. Tami Pfum (Bro. Keith), Doug Hoerr (Amy), Bro. Louis Hoerr, Bro. Roger Sutter (Sis. Dianne), and Ted Hoerr.

“Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.” Job 10:12

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney

Greetings to all. Our fall foliage this year has been spectacular!

We welcome Bro. Neil, Sis. Anna and Denton Stoller, (Smithville, OH) to our Croghan/Naumburg congregation.

We were thankful for a blessed weekend on October 10-11. We were blessed to hear the testimony of our convert Paul Virklr, (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virklr). Sunday we had a short morning service, then went right into the baptismal service. With joy we welcome Bro. Paul into our beloved congregation. Retired Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern,KS) was here to help in the Lord’s work.

“Now it is accomplished; I’m no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit,
Thou makest me new.”

Now it is Done, Zion’s Harp #209

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

We are thankful to share of a new convert, Zoltan Hegedus, son of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi.

There has also been reason to rejoice with the birth of new babies. Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa Palitto are thankful for the safe arrival of a granddaughter, Eliana Lillian, born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Katie Miller (Mansfield, OH) on October 3. She joins older siblings Matthias and Ruth. Bro. Jacob and Sis. Beth Rufener welcomed Gideon John on October 8. Excited older siblings are Malachi, Melea, and Selah. Grandparents to little Gideon are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina Miller (Mansfield, OH).

It was nice having ministering Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN) join us on a recent Sunday. We always appreciate the efforts of our ministers in bringing forth the Word of Life.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

The colors this year were so beautiful for our Ohio fall; so many reds and oranges which we hadn’t had for a few years. We need to stop for a moment to view God’s artistry in the trees, the landscape and the sky. It puts a whole different perspective in our thoughts and imagery of the world today, and it makes blocking out the negativity a little easier.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month; Bro. Bryan Pallito (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jennifer, Toledo, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our dear
one, Sis. Cheryl Gehres as the assisted living facility remains closed to visitors.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder in the loss of their grandson Austin Pfeiffer in a tragic hunting accident. May his wife and family feel God’s nearness and strength during this difficult time.

**Ohio, Junction**

*Karen Schlatter*

We offer our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Linda Schrenk (Bro. Steve) and her brother Aaron lost their mother Mary Lee Hodgin on September 22. She also left behind grandchildren and several great grandchildren. They all loved her dearly and will miss her very much. She and her husband spent many years as missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Our congregation lost Sis. Joan Bauer on October 5. She was a relative to many from the Junction church. We will miss her smile and friendly spirit. We sympathize with her family as they grieve her passing.

Sis. Cheryl Schlatter (Bro. Ed) lost her father Bro. Don Wenninger on October 13. He was from the Latty, OH congregation. He also had several grandchildren and great grandchildren in our congregation. He was a wonderful example to those of us who knew him. May the Lord comfort all of these families as they adjust to the loss of their loved ones.

We are thankful for Joanna Schrenk and James Fairchild as they have found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimony and witnessing their baptism in the near future.

The weekend of September 26-27 Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL) visited and shared Holy Communion along with our Elder Bro. Tony Manz. We certainly appreciate the effort put forth to come and share in this sacred event. No matter what time of the year it is, remembering the Lord’s death and suffering should be something we are thankful for every day.

**Ohio, Latty**

*Angie Klopfenstein,*

*Carmen Stoller*

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Although we continue to find ourselves touched by the effects of COVID-19, it is comforting to know that we can still cling to the precious promises in God’s word. We rejoice with Sis. Haley Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane) as she has made her marriage engagement to Bro. Reed Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie, Lacrosse, IN) known to us. We pray God’s blessings upon this couple as they make wedding preparations.

Bro. Zach and Sis. Claire Sinn, along with big sister Lauryn, are thankful for the arrival of Lacey Mae. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn and Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Winthrop, MN). May God bless this family with much love and joy!

Our thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) for assisting us as we voted for new church leadership. Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn were given support of the church for this role and we will remain prayerful as Bro. Gary plans to be interviewed at the spring Elder Conference.

Bro. Don Wenninger has finished his fight of faith. Our love and prayers go out to his wife, Sis. Josephine and children, Larry (Joyce), Bro. Dave (Sis. Deb), Bro. Ed (Sis. Alice), Sis. Cheryl Schlatter (Bro. Ed, Junction, OH), Sis. Charlotte, Sis. Brenda McClure (Bro. Bill), Dennis (Beth), Bro. Kevin (Della), and Bro. Randy (Sis. Joni), along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our prayers and sympathies are also with Sis. Kendra Stoller (Bro. Ben) on the loss of her father, Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA), Sis. Paula Nuest (Bro. Lee) on the loss of her brother, Paul Pearl, and Sis. Betsy Dunham on the loss of her two siblings, Walter Dunham and Lydia Doerschler.
Ohio, Mansfield

**Katie Miller**

We have been lifting Shirley Roberts up in prayer through her surgery and hospitalization. May she feel our prayers and find strength from the Lord each day.

We express love and sympathy to Sis. Connie Domka in the passing of her father, Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn, Rittman, OH). We also grieve the loss of life with the families of Grant Moser and Austin Pfeiffer (Ryleigh), two young men who both grew up in our congregation. When our hearts are overwhelmed, we look to God, for:

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." Psa. 147:3-5

Eliana Lillian was born, joining Matthias and Ruth into the family of Bro. Justin and Sis. Katie Miller. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina Miller and Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa Palitto (Akron, OH). We pray for Eliana’s continued growth as she spends time in the hospital. Each new life is a precious miracle.

God blesses us by speaking to our needs through the inspiration of his Spirit.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14

We thank Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) for preaching to us the Word of God. May we each find grace to believe and power to do as we have heard.

Ohio, Rittman

**Maria Beery, Julie Steiner**

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

With grateful hearts, we report that Chase Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill) has chosen to turn his life over to the Lord. We wish him God’s grace and peace as he begins his repentance.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of 4 new babies this month. Sage Eric was welcomed by Bro. Blake and Sis. Tresa Maibach and big brother Flint. Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery added another grandson with the birth of Ivan Robert Beery. Ivan will be loved by his parents, Adrian and Alyssa, and older siblings Ezra, Ian, and Meredith. Bro. Evan and Sis. Kristin Sinn (Silverton, OR) became parents as they welcomed a baby boy, Alexander Evan, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Kathryn Steiner (Morris, MN) also became parents with the birth of Josephine Grace. Sis. Kristin and Sis. Kathryn both attended our Rittman church before their marriages and we look forward to them visiting with their new babies.

Our prayers are with Sis. Carolyn Hartzler during the passing of her husband, Bro. Dale. He will be missed by his children, Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH), Karen Laparo (Ron), Larry (LuAnn), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Camille) and Sis. Amy Dotterer (Bro. Steve, Smithville, OH) along with his siblings, Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Bro. Eugene, Akron, OH), Sis Donna Mogler (Bro. Phil, Lester, IA), Lucille Blough, Bro. Vince (Sis. Jane), and Merle (Bonnie), and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. We also extend sympathy to the family of Ken Bauman and trust God will comfort his wife, Shirley, children, Jeffrey, Mark (Michelle), David (Kelly), Melinda, and Chris (Marcie), siblings, Marion (Sis. Delores), Harold (Sharon), Sis Lois Beres (Phoenix, AZ), and the extended family and many friends.

Bro. Blake Maibach (Sis. Tresa), Ron Pertee, Sis. Jessica Riggenbach (Bro. Corban), Jeannette Woyat (Ron), Bobby Cochran (Sis. Paulette), and Sis. Bev Moore (Randy) spent time in the hospital. We are glad they are home and pray for continued healing!

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) help read the Fall Memorandum and appreciate his willingness to serve us.

Ohio, Sardis

**Renee Blough, Doris Miller**

Our annual fall gathering was held on September 26. It was a day of activities such as
apple cider making, homemade ice cream, rope making, taxidermy, chili cookoff, to name a few. What a beautiful day, weatherwise, and great fellowship with those of like mind and faith and friends of the truth of the Word of God! These times are truly a foretaste of eternity, where the redeemed shall sit together in heavenly places forevermore (Eph. 2:1-10). Special thanks to our hosts, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotsle and family (Rittman, OH), and to our Sardis Young Group who willingly stepped up to assist.

Our prayers go with Sis. Jamie Joos as she returns to Bradford, IL. We have enjoyed having her in Sardis as she was employed here for the summer. Bro. Henry Beer penned it so well years ago.

“There are friendships that we cherish
In our daily walk of life
Friends with whom we meet and labor
In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
Friends that live from us apart
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place with my heart.”

Christian Friendship,
Hymns of Zion, #91

Ohio, Smithville

Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Prov. 18:7

As I read this Proverb this morning, I realized that in the turmoil of our present world safe is exactly what we crave. To be safe is to be protected, sheltered, secure, and out of harm’s way – all of this is the reward of “running into the strong tower of the Lord”.

This month was a busy one for our church. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Seth Beard (Sis. Faith, Sardis, OH), and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) for visiting us and sharing the Word of the Lord.

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of four dear souls. We welcome Clark and RoseMary Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene), Colt Reed (Gary and Faye), and Carlie Schlatter (Bro. Carlton and Sis. Candi) as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Another young couple was united in marriage.

God’s blessings to Sis. Shayna Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa) and Bro. Chad Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) as they begin their lives together.

Babies are a special blessing from God. Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer were delighted to welcome a grandson, Dominic Mitchell into their hearts. Little Dominic’s parents are Jonathan and Claudia Hort.

We continue to lift up Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Gretchen Stoller (Bro. Tom) in prayer as they have spent time in the hospital this month.

Sis. Amy Dotterer (Bro. Steve) and her family bid an earthly farewell to her father, Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn, Rittman, OH). We share our sympathy with them and with Sis. Larissa Maibach (Bro. David), Sis. Jessica Maibach (Bro. Matt) and Bro. Seth Wenninger as they mourn the loss of their grandfather, Bro. Don Wenninger (Sis. Josephine, Latty, OH).

Bro. Adam Uhler has been chosen to serve as deacon in our church. We lend our prayers and support to Bro. Adam and Sis. Ann and their children Lane, Elise, Matthias and Brielle in the changes ahead for their family.

As we said a sad farewell to Bro. Neil, Sis. Anna and Denton Stoller, the Croghan, NY church has welcomed them with gladness. May God’s blessings go with them as they start a new phase in their lives.

Ohio, Toledo

Anne Baumann, Rebekah Witzig

Autumn greetings from Toledo. As the leaves change colors, we thank God for his artistic brush on the canvas of our landscape. In addition to such natural beauty, the loveliness of helping hands continues to raise our new church for his glory.

During this past month, we were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Regg Beer (Sis.
Bev, Milford, IN) and Bro.
Seth Beard (Sis. Faith, Sardis,
OH). In addition, we shared a
Communion exhortation in early
October to prepare our hearts
and minds for a remembrance of
Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf.

Our love and prayers go out
to the family of Bro. Jim Harmon
who passed away after being ill for
some time. Bro. Jim was a brother
to Bro. Howard Harmon (Sis.
Emily) and an uncle to ministering
Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna).

As the world seems to spin out
of control around us, we can still
know God’s peace within. For in
these uncertain times, we trust in
a God who offers the certainty of a
future with him.

“Many things about tomorrow,
I don’t seem to understand.
But I know Who holds tomorrow,
and I know Who holds my hand.”
I know Who Holds Tomorrow,
Heavenly Highways #78

Ontario, Kitchener
RoseLynn Metzger

“Buried with him in baptism,
wherein also ye are risen with
him through the faith of the
operation of God, who hath raised
him from the dead.” Col. 2:12

Greetings of love to all!
In Canada, we celebrate
Thanksgiving in October. Of
course, we thank God everyday,
but this holiday is a special time
to dig deeper and really reflect
and refocus on our God who
blesses us so abundantly. Despite
everything going on, there is
still so much we can find to be
thankful for. We have a God
who cares for us. His love for us
is not based on our performance,
instead it is unconditional. We can
look around us and see God in
every area of our lives. He walks
through the valleys with us, he
stands on mountain tops with us.
He feels our pain and shares our
joys. He sent his only Son to die
for us so that we can share eternity
with him. Yes, we do have a lot to
be thankful for!

On Thanksgiving weekend,
we had a very special baptism
(Saturday, October 10). Emily
Mathiesen shared a beautiful
testimony of her journey and
God’s love, and then made
a covenant with God in the
baptismal waters. After having
to cancel the initial baptism in
April, we were excited to go ahead
and replan the ceremony! We
are so thankful that local friends
and family could join us for the
evening, and equally as thankful
for friends and family who joined
in online. God’s presence was felt
deeply, tears of joy were shed, and
we know the angel’s in heaven
were rejoicing with us. A special
thank you to Elder Bro. Mark
Bahr (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Lucas
Frank (Sis. Crystal) from Detroit,
MI for conducting the service.
We continue to keep Emily in our
prayers, and trust God will use her
to further his kingdom!

This month, we have again
been blessed by visiting ministers
through Zoom. Technology can
be a challenge at times, you know
the story, "can’t live with it and
can’t live without it", but during
this time we are so thankful for
the people who understand it
and take the time to work out
the kinks so we can continue
to worship together. Thank
you to Bro. Chad Leman (Sis.
Kim, Faribury, IL), Bro. Brad
Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford,
IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda,
Philadelphia, PA) for bringing us
the Word this month.

A special thank you to Bro.
Elmer Gingrich who brings us the
Word on the weekends that we
don’t have a visiting minister. We
appreciate you very much and all
you do for our congregation!

On October 4, we called
into Clarendon, VT to witness
Gabrielle Reutter’s baptism. With
many of us being family or having
close connections, we wanted
to be "present" and join in their
rejoicing! It was a beautiful service
and yet another encouraging day
to hear a testimony and witness
God’s faithfulness.

Reflecting on the past month,
God’s presence and faithfulness is
oh so evident. I pray that you can
feel his presence and love today
and forever!

"Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things are
become new.” 2 Cor 5:17

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

As the pandemic continues to
take its toll, our hearts and prayers
go out to those seriously affected
by the virus. No doubt, many of us
have grown weary of the disruption and health threat COVID-19 continues to cause in our daily lives. May the Lord continue to give us strength and patience to persevere. Our prayers continue also for those in the medical field.

We still have church services with a limited number in attendance and safety protocol in place.

Those not able to join are thankful for the Zoom technology and AC Central to enjoy sermons and special events from home.

May God bless us as we carry on.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

We enjoyed a beautiful evening together celebrating the Lord’s communion this month. In a time where gatherings are limited, it was an evening of remembrance and sweet fellowship. Thank you to Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), for sharing in the special weekend and speaking the Gospel message to us.

Our congregation welcomed three newborns this month!

Bro. Josh and Sis. Tresa Hansen were blessed with their eighth child on September 21, Lucas Zane. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Tim and Carol Hansen.

September 27, Bro. Darren and Sis. Rachel Sinn welcomed their third child, Zion Alan. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rossworm (Latty, OH), and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

Bro. Evan and Sis. Kristin Sinn welcomed their first child, Alexander Evan on October 6. Grandparents are John and Emily Rufener from OH, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn.

Sis. Brenda Knobloch’s mother, Sis. Marie Knobloch from Lester, IA, recently passed away. Please pray for Sis. Brenda and the entire family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. We are thankful we have confidence that Jesus has a place prepared for each one of us in heaven with him!

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” I Pet 3:18

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion this month. We appreciate Elder Bro. Steve Ringger, (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) being with us for this special time. Bro. Steve reminded us that Christ, the just, suffered for us, the unjust, when he died on the cross. While it is good for us to reflect on the cross daily, Communion is a special time to remember Christ’s sacrifice for us and draw our hearts closer to one another.

We were also blessed to have retired Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS) with us to share the word this month. May God bless him for his willingness to speak the truth.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We have been blessed by the willing service of our recent visiting ministers, who have included Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of visitors from Eureka and Roanoke, IL; Leo, IN; and Philadelphia, PA; as well as local visitors.

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.

After church Bro. Lincoln Brummitt told me how he loved the beautiful harmony and words of the song At Calvary, Hymns of Zion #151.

“Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not is was for me He died
On Calvary!

Isn’t that so true for all of us?
and then think of the words of
the chorus!
“Mercy there was great,
and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened
soul found liberty,
At Calvary”

We experienced great joy in
listening to the testimony and
witnessing the outdoor baptism
of our Bro. Jesse Fischer. We
welcome him into our fold
and are thankful that Elder
Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen,
Sabetha, KS) and Ordained
Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner
(Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) were
here to serve us. A picnic was
enjoyed following the baptism.
We were thankful that many
of Bro. Jesse’s family were able
to join us for the weekend. We
were blessed by Bro. Klint Beyer,
(Sabetha, KS) who ministered
to us for one of our Wednesday
evening services via Zoom.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bill
Berg and his dear wife, Sis Mary,
as he had back surgery this past
week. We will continue to lift him
up in prayer as he recovers.

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

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Sheena Pelsy

“Preach the word; be instant
in season, out of season; reprove,
rebuke, exhort with all long
suffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim 4:2

Greetings and love from the
Dallas church. We were blessed
to have Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis.
Mary, Zapata, TX) visit and
minister to us for our monthly
Leland’s message reminded us how
we all are messengers of Christ.

Just like Paul commands
Timothy to use his gift to
preach the Gospel, we too are
commanded to share the Gospel
with others through the gifts
God has given us. Whether it
be through preaching, teaching,
serving, or encouraging, God is
able to work through us and reach
those that are lost. Loved one, how
is God using you in this season?
What gifts has he given you that
can be used to bring Christ to
others around you?

Vermont, Clarendon
Sarah Wagenbach

We are so grateful for the
love and support we have felt
in the past month. We were
served remotely by Bro. Michael
Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction,
OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis.
Cindy, Junction, OH) and Elder
Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna,
Remington, IN).

We were able to take part
in the service/announcement
regarding leadership changes
affecting Rockville, CT and
our church here. We are blessed
that Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis.
Cheryl) is continuing as elder for
our congregation.

We welcomed Gabrielle
Reutter (Bro. Nathan and Sis.
Miriam) as a sister-in-the-Lord
the first weekend of October. It
was a blessing to join together
for outdoor services and Sis.
Gabrielle’s baptism with brethren
and friends from near and also
Rockville, CT and Ohio. Elder
Bro. Kevin and Bro. Brent Walder
(Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT) were
able to be with us for the 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 burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or 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,
For 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
Reflecting God’s Image as a Sister in Christ
by Sis. Lori Baumgartner - Bern, KS

We live in a broken world where popular culture has twisted womanhood into an image that our Creator never intended. Cultural womanhood boldly shouts, “Look at me!” Biblical womanhood quietly articulates, “Look at God!” As sisters in Christ, God has given us the very high calling of reflecting his image to a hurting world that is blinded to his truths.

We are Created in His Image:

To understand our high calling of being reflectors of God’s image, going back to our beginning is helpful. God created males and females as equal bearers of his image. The Scriptures clearly emphasize that God values both genders equally (Galatians 3:28, Romans 2:11). “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female, created he them.” (Genesis 1:27) Yet, God gave women a distinction from men. After creating Adam from the dust of the earth, he took a rib out of Adam’s side and created woman for the man.

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18) Our culture often views this distinction of being a “helper” for man negatively, suggesting that it is a secondary, demeaning role. Our study of God’s Word tells us the opposite! According to Strong’s Concordance, the Hebrew word for “help” in Genesis 2:18 is “ezar.” The Bible most often uses it when referring to the Lord being our helper (Psalms 33:20 and 115:9,10,11). “Ezer” (from the primitive root word “azar”) signifies an absolutely necessary and very essential type of help that surrounds, protects, aids, and offers succor. God saw that it was essential to create woman as an “ezar” or “an essential partner” to man. Both share the responsibility of stewarding his creation and ultimately displaying certain characteristics of God and his Son.

How can we accomplish and maintain this honorable privilege of representing God here on earth? We must live a redeemed and overcoming life in Christ, commune with God daily, and intimately know him and his desires. Sin entered Eve’s life when she broke communication with God, listened to Satan’s lies, and sought to elevate herself by satisfying her own selfish desires. She no longer reflected God’s perfect image! If we, as sisters in Christ, try to mimic the self-fulfilled, unyielding, proud, and self-sufficient female image that culture elevates, we will not reflect the image of God. When we operate within God’s intended design for us, we can enjoy true peace and joy! We can thrive! We can live out his intended purpose for us! We can pass the gospel message on to others and ultimately glorify him!

What Characteristics has God Designed us to Reflect?

• Behaviour as Becometh Holiness (Titus 2:3):
  Strong’s Concordance defines this as reverent behavior. When we revere the Holy One who
created us, this can spill out into all of our human relationships here on earth. These include our marriage relationships, where the Bible instructs us to reverence our husbands; our parent/child relationships, where the Word instructs us to honor our parents; and our relationships with other believers, whom Scriptures encourage us to esteem above ourselves.

**Submissiveness** (James 4:7, Ephesians 5:21-33): God designed us to bear the image of submission. This reflects the relationship we should have towards God, the relationship that exists between God and his Son, and the relationship between Christ and the Church. In Philippians 2:5-11, we read about the perfect example Christ set for us. As one with and equal to his Father, he willingly came to earth to complete his Father’s will and submit to death on the cross. Essentially, he relinquished his own desires and rights for our benefit! Likewise, we benefit others when we willingly submit to those who are in authority over us (our spouse, our church leaders, our employers, our neighbors, our fellow believers). This showcases God’s ordained order and the beautiful gospel story. Others can glimpse the beautiful partnership of God, the Head, granting us salvation through the work and submission of Jesus Christ, who has equality with God!

**A Spirit of Unconditional Love and Compassion** (1 John 4:7-21, Isaiah 49:15): We get a small glimpse into God’s unfathomable love for us when we witness the tender, nurturing love of a mother for her child. We, as sisters in Christ, have a beautiful opportunity to mirror the love God has placed within us. Through our gentle words and kind, sacrificial actions, we can reflect this love to members of our own families, the hurting, the lost, and countless others (including the unlovable).

**Faithfulness** (Deuteronomy 7:9): God has promised to remain faithful to all who love him and keep his commandments unto a thousand generations. We can reflect this attribute in our faithful devotion and loyalty to our God, to our spouse, to our family members, to our church family, and to those we attend to in our occupations.

**Trustworthiness** (Numbers 23:19): When our walk matches our talk, we refrain from misrepresenting ourselves to others. We avoid bearing false witness and spreading hurtful information about others. In this way, we show our trustworthiness and magnify God as being trustworthy.

**A Merciful and Forgiving Nature** (Luke 6:36, Ephesians 4:32): Forgiveness involves letting go of a hurt that someone else has inflicted on us. Mercy extends undue kindness. When we choose to forgive and repay the offender with mercy, we are treating others with an undeserved favor similar to what God has graciously given to us through Christ.

**Adorned with a Meek and Quiet Spirit** (1 Peter 3:3-4): Especially when provoked by the irritating triggers of everyday life, our humble and restrained reactions exhibit inner beauty. With God’s help, we’re reflecting an attitude that he values greatly.

**A Nature to Help** (Matthew 10:8): The Scriptures, describe Phebe (Romans 16) as a “succourer of many” and Lydia (Acts 16:12-15), whose hospitality helped to further the gospel. As God has freely given to us, we can freely give to others. This happens when we open our hearts, homes, and hands in gracious hospitality, serve in mentoring relationships, share encouraging words and written notes that edify, and help wherever we sense deep need in our church and in our communities.

Just as this article cannot adequately convey the countless ways that sisters in Christ can reflect God, neither can any of our lives fully exemplify the personage of God. We are bound by our humanness. Yet God, in his infinite grace and wisdom, chose us to help represent his image here on earth. When we, as sisters in Christ, submit to this high calling, heads will turn, not towards us, but towards the One who created us — our almighty God!

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News and Notices

AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content

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

Check Google Play or the App Store

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

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

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

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

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

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

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acpublications.org
After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
### 2021 Team Schedule

**Mexico**

**Reynosa:** Construction  
Jan 5-12  
Trenton Edelman trentonedelman@gmail.com

**Magdalena:** Silverton, OR  
March 20-27, 2021  
Magdalena: Congerville, IL  
May 28-June 3, 2021  
Magdalena: Washington, IL  
June 11-17, 2021  
Magdalena: 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

**CCCD - JDV**  
June 4-12, 2021  
40

Mark Lindberg  
815-641-9065 lindma@hotmail.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 Ronp@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 hklanoak@msn.com  
503-932-3128

Les Cayes MEBSH/Construction/Roanoke  
Feb 12-19  
12

Josh Moser joshmoser92@gmail.com  
309-573-6398

Les Cayes MEBVSH/Construction/Peoria  
Feb 19-26  
12

Wes Sutter wasutter@icloud.com  
309-863-1309

Les Cayes / Torberck Haiti Dairy  
Feb 26-Mar 5  
12

Brent Hodel htf94@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 Wuethrich, 219.863.4163
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 pursued 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
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.

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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: amiiller@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:

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

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DIRECTOR OF NURSING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Amber Miller - Missionary Care Coordinator
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti

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

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

Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti

MISSIONARY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

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

There are many service and ministry opportunities at HL. The most important qualification is that the brother and/or sister is called by God to serve at the hospital. The service opportunity and placement will be developed to match the candidate's interest and experience. Potential service roles for non-medical candidates:
- Business office management
- Finance and Accounting
- Hospital Administration
- Facilities Operations and/or Maintenance
- Hospital Operations (non-medical)
- Hospital Technical Support
- Information Technology Support
- Missionary School Teacher or Teacher Aid
- Campus and Hospitality Management
- Missionary Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Now Available**

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

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

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


**Another way to pray for our missionaries.**

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

Visit: www.harvestcall.org/our-missionaries

**PROCLAIM CHRIST & SERVE OTHERS**
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

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

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

Isaiah 54:13

To Sponsor a Child or School

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

Name _________________________

☐ 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
Email: childsponsorship@harvestcall.org

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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)
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• Ability to prepare an outline and interview sources for articles/stories
• Organizational skills to work with others to meet deadlines

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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.

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Loving as Jesus Loves

— Continued from pg. 3

does not go drinking with his coworkers because he fears alcohol addiction, that fear can prevent him from putting himself in a position to give in to an addiction. We might consider this kind of fear to be an adaptive fear. That means it’s a fear that can produce a good result. However, if fear of a coworker’s anger prevents me from sharing the Gospel with them, that is a maladaptive fear. We want to focus on how “completed love” will help us overcome maladaptive fears. To do this, let’s consider how David overcame fear.

The story of David’s early life and his rise to prominence in the kingdom of Israel is told in 1 Samuel 16-17. As a young man, he was sent to deliver food and get news of the war between the Israelites and the Philistines. He arrived at the camp in time to hear Goliath issue his daily challenge. It’s helpful to recognize that anyone in the Israelite army could have answered that challenge. There was a reward for anyone who did, but none had answered the call. This showed that all the men in the Israelite army were afraid. And why not? Goliath was huge, had armor that weighed over 100 pounds, and had a spear that could likely penetrate any Israelite challenger’s armor. But David wasn’t concerned about Goliath’s abilities. He was motivated by his previous experiences as a shepherd fighting wild animals and his desire to prevent God from being dishonored. One other detail demonstrates David’s confidence in contrast to the other soldiers’ fear. Military use of slings is described before David’s time and after David’s time.7,8 “Thus, it’s likely there were slingers in the army facing Goliath. Yet, none of them thought to use a sling to fight him. But David did.

There are lessons about dealing with fear that we can take from what David did in this story. First, God had been preparing him for this battle in what we might consider unexpected ways. David probably gained his expertise using a sling while he was a shepherd, protecting his sheep. Similarly, the Lord can use the trials you face and overcome today to equip you for challenges in the future. This is also true for our fears. As a young man, facing lions and bears by himself forced David to face situations that made him afraid. Often, facing our fears is the best way to deal with them; we will usually find they are not as large as we think they are. A quote about fear summarizes this well: ‘Fear has a large shadow but he himself is small’.

A final lesson we can take from this story has to do with David’s perspective of God. David repeats his concern that a Philistine would dishonor the “armies of the living God” several times.9 David’s zeal to honor God and his complete trust (perfect love) toward God motivated him to act despite the fear of those around him. The Bible has many other examples of people who did brave things under similar causes. Consistently asking the Lord to help us have the same motivation will allow God to work the same kind of courage in us. May God grant each of us the grace to trust him entirely, overcoming our fear as we settle in his perfect love.

Endnotes

1 1 John 4:18
2 1 John 4:17
3 Luke 12:4-5
4 Rom 8:1
5 Psalm 118:6
6 1 Sam. 17:35-36
7 Judges 20:16
8 2 Kings 3:25
9 1 Samuel 17:26, 36, 45-47
God, the one who causes terror, the one who is completely above and utterly greater than anything I can comprehend. I’m focused on that God that ‘keepeth covenant.’ Okay, so maybe he’s thinking of Israel, and the promises God had made to the descendants of Israel, in saying, “God, I know who you are: you keep your promise, and I remember there was a promise that we would go into captivity and also a promise we would come out of the captivity. Also, you made a promise to Abraham that all the nations of the world would be blessed. You made a promise to David that someone would sit on his throne for all eternity. That God is full of mercy, yet we deserve to be here in Babylon, in captivity.”

Think of America for a moment. I think leading up to this situation, all of us could’ve looked and said there’s probably many reasons that God could judge this nation and that we would have no ground on which to stand. We are guilty as charged, deserving whatever punishment that would be given to us.

Nehemiah calls out for his mercy, “Please, covenant-keeping God.” This God, the one who kept his promises to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and to the children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness and yet still let them into the promise land. This God, who kept his promise to the ones that kept turning to the gods of the people that were in the land. This God, that even though his chosen people continued to rebel against him, yet he shows mercy. That’s probably the Hebrew word ‘Chesed’ which is the term of love, unconditional love, paralleled to ‘Agape’ in the New Testament in the Greek. It would be ‘Chesed’ in the Old Testament Hebrew which is an undeserved mercy, love, or kindness towards a people that have been rebellious and do not deserve it.

“And mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:” – certainly to those that love him and even those who have rebelled as now Israel is in judgment – “let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel” (v. 6). We’ve established the God to whom we’re praying. We’ve established his character and his nature. Now, we’re confessing that we’ve sinned.

“Confess the sins of the children of Israel, which WE have sinned” (v. 6, emphasis added). It’s not ‘those that sinned and I’m righteous now and interceding for them.’ He’s connecting to the people and saying ‘WE have sinned!’ We have sinned; I’ve joined in the children of Israel’s sin against a holy God. “We have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned” (v. 6). He’s identifying himself with his people, saying we are in the same boat, and that is us, church, in need of a savior.

We come and confess our sin and our propensity to rebel and turn to other gods. Turn back! Confess your sin. Acknowledge it. If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just – both faithful and just, justified – to forgive us our sins. He’s asking us to acknowledge we need a savior. We’ve sinned. We deserve judgment. We need a savior. “We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.” (v. 7) There is absolutely no self-justification on Nehemiah’s part. That is very difficult to simply acknowledge “I’m guilty, and I deserve judgment.”

“Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandest thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations” (v. 8). Who does Nehemiah appeal to? He appealing to God, by

— Please turn to pg. 62
God’s nature, because, “God you don’t change, and I want you to remember.” I want you to remember? Did God forget? No, God didn’t forget. “I want you to remember what you said to Moses. I know what you said to Moses, so I’m appealing to your nature, your steadfastness as the rock, the unchanging, immutable God, the one who will keep his promise. I want you to remember the promise you made to Moses.”

“If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: But if ye turn unto me and keep my commandments, and do them” (vv. 8-9). Repent. Turn. Turn away from sin back towards God. Turn to me. Keep my commandments and do them. So, it’s not just an intellectual exercise. That starts there, absolutely. We have to change the way that we think. That is at the very base of repentance, to change your thinking. That’s what happened in Babylon. Nehemiah’s saying, “We went our own way, and that’s how we got here. Now, I’m turning back, God. I’m confessing the sins of myself and my people and turning back to you, and you are justified to send us here into captivity. Completely justified. I have nothing to justify our actions. We were wrong, period.

But now, I’m appealing to your mercy. Now, I’m appealing to your unchanging nature and the promise that you made to Moses that if we disobey, you will scatter us, and after that has happened: “If ye will turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of heaven,” – no matter how far you get scattered, even to the uttermost part of heaven – “yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.” (v. 9) Nehemiah was appealing to God because he doesn’t change. That’s amazing.

It’s assumed that the sun is traveling through space at 450,000 miles per hour. They don’t have a fixed point of reference to measure that speed against, and you need a fixed point to be able to measure how fast something is traveling. Everything’s moving. Everything’s changing, except God. Constant. A rock. “I am appealing to your nature, and I want that for your glory.”

God says, “Yet will I gather them.” So, you’ve scattered your nation because we rebelled, and you’re going to gather them together again. He “will bring them into the place that I have chosen to set my name.” God chose Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, to set his name. He is going to gather them together to glorify his name.

The largest, most recent fulfillment of prophecy is the regathering of Israel in 1948. They were scattered really from this time. Some came back, but they never really re-established strongly as a nation. The Greeks came and then when the Romans came, they just were scattered. I think they were part of the Ottoman Empire for a while. I don’t know my history real well, but in 1948, after WW2, after the Jews had been slaughtered in Germany, it was probably one of the lowest times possibly on the scope or maybe similar to what it was like when they went into Babylon. In a day, they became a nation as Isaiah prophesied. What group of people scattered for greater than 2000 years, in a day is brought back together as a nation? Especially when all the nations of the world hate them. How did that happen? He’s a covenant-keeping God. That is the God that we appeal to when we come to our senses and realize that we have sinned and we deserve judgment.

“Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive
to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire” – who desire! – “to fear thy name” (vv. 10-11). I thought about that this morning as I was reading a Psalm and just the fact that I almost feel I don’t fear God like I should. I want to, but it’s just not something you can manufacture. “I want to fear your name” because then I understand my relationship correctly and my need for his mercy and for a savior.

“I pray thee, thy servant this day, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper” (v. 11). Interesting that those things seem to be connected. We have to fear correctly to enter into a right relationship through his mercy and through his sacrifice. Then we prosper. It may not be materially or it may not be in ways that we expect or anticipate, but certainly spiritually with peace. “I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer” (v. 11). Nehemiah in a position of influence in this nation.

I’m thankful for Godly men in positions of authority who will make decisions the best that they can in situations of crisis, and isn’t it interesting that in this crisis, God has placed men there for us. We didn’t know that this was coming. God has placed godly men in those positions to direct the leaders of the land, to give us the best opportunity to do God’s will, to submit ourselves to his sovereign will in his kingdom and to turn ourselves in his direction.

We are now going to listen together to Hymn #188 from the Zion’s Harp, verses 1-4, 6, and 10. I’ve opened to Titus 3 and Philemon. I’m not sure which one to read. Let’s read Titus 3.

This is a letter to Titus; it’d be a pastoral epistle. It’s Paul teaching Titus, preparing him, for the responsibilities of leading a church. Great leaders are not born; they are fashioned. They are made. I’ve worked in industry long enough to recognize this. I’ve worked for good bosses. I’ve worked for bad bosses. In looking back on it, the good ones probably weren’t that great, and the bad ones probably weren’t that bad. They did things I didn’t like; that doesn’t make them good or bad. One illustration or thought I have would’ve been at my second job. The boss that hired me was very encouraging. The wheels could’ve just fallen off the wagon, and if you were upside down in the ditch, he would come in with, “Come on, guys, we can do this.” That sense of optimism and vision and hope was unrealistic, but it was effective as it made me think “Yeah, I think we can do this!” Even though it seemed impossible, it was amazing how much you could accomplish when you focus on a goal and pursue it. The man that replaced him was the exact opposite, and when you had a bad meeting, it was, “We’re doomed.” And you know what? We thought, ‘Yeah, we can’t do this. I’m convinced.’ It makes me think of Joshua. Take courage. Be strong and courageous. We can do this. I know where the vision is. I know who we’re following. We are Christ-followers; if anybody should be optimistic with a sense of purpose and vision, it should be us. I know where I’m going. Let’s go.

So, in Chapter 3, we’re wrapping up the teachings.

“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work” (v. 1). I will say, as this pandemic started, I was appreciative and impressed with not only Bro. Vic, but the elder body’s direction of “Hey, look, we need to submit ourselves to the guidelines that are being given to us, and we need to follow them, not only to the letter of the law, but with the intent of doing what’s best for mankind. We’re thankful there are godly men in positions of authority that could point us in the right direction, but we

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need to try to be part of the solution.” I’m paraphrasing. There was a subject to government authority even when it wasn’t convenient. We’ve had situations that required us to make judgment because things change so fast that you couldn’t just say ‘never get together.’ We’ve struggled together as a church; we’ve had a funeral. We’ve rejoiced together as a church; we had a wedding. Now we’re facing another funeral, and yet I think the desire has been over and over, even as we look forward with hope and optimism, that we’ll be able to gather together again. We still have a desire, but Bro Vic shared with us that the elder body has said “Hey, listen to the magistrates and follow what they’re saying.” It’s so very appropriate and practical teaching to us at this time and a reminder to me in my own personal life be respectful of authority.

“To speak evil of no man” (v. 2). Oh, boy. As James says, “Tame the tongue.” There’s such a temptation to belittle other people, probably with the desire that ‘I will feel better about myself.’ I have to understand the source of my value is at the root of that. My value comes from being a child of God through knowing his son Jesus Christ. That’s where I get my value, not from people around me that I belittle so that I look better than them.

“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers,” – don’t fight – “but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men” (v. 2). There’re definitely times where I’m tempted to exert myself when I feel like I’ve been violated. Don’t be a brawler. Be gentle. It makes me think of yesterday. My wife, Ann, and my daughter sold something on eBay. They had checked to make sure it worked, and when it sold, they sent it out. Then they got an email back, and the person said it didn’t work. They’re like, Uh oh. So, we were discussing yesterday how should we respond to this because we checked it. We had gotten asked about it and checked it again before we sold it. I said, “what would Amazon do? They would let them return it and refund the money.” I thought, ‘Wow, if I can take instruction from Amazon, I should be able to take instruction from the Bible and answer gently.’ Ann responded gently. The person responded in kind that actually, yes, the item did work. They’re like, Uh oh. So, we were discussing yesterday how should we respond to this because we checked it. We had gotten asked about it and checked it again before we sold it. I said, “what would Amazon do? They would let them return it and refund the money.” I thought, ‘Wow, if I can take instruction from Amazon, I should be able to take instruction from the Bible and answer gently.’ Ann responded gently. The person responded in kind that actually, yes, the item did work. They’re like, Uh oh. So, we were discussing yesterday how should we respond to this because we checked it. We had gotten asked about it and checked it again before we sold it.

“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish” (v. 3). Back to Nehemiah: he was recognizing their sin, even though he could’ve been in a position of thinking, “You know what, God? I don’t know about these people.” Like Moses called them stiff-necked, stubborn people, saying, “Who can lead them?” Nehemiah identified with the people instead and said “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish.”

I’ve been “foolish, disobedient, deceived,” – sometimes deceiving myself and not wanting to see the truth. “Serving divers lusts and pleasures,” (v. 3). Ooh. In an affluent, wealthy society – “divers lusts and pleasures” – to entertain and dull my senses probably at the exact time when I need to be elevating and sharpening my senses in order to be aware of what God is doing. I can be drawn away to “divers lusts and pleasures.”

“Living in malice and envy” (v. 3). Where is my heart? Am I jealous? Am I angry?

“Hateful, and hating one another” (v. 3). Wow, we see that in our society, and it is elevating. We are drawn into that because that’s where our natural flesh will take us. We will tend to follow our society, so don’t just glance over these, thinking, ‘Well, that’s
not me.’ That’s all of us. We are all drawn into these things. That’s where we were. We’ve been there so we should be able to relate to the person that’s there now. We’re not so different from that person.

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared” (v. 4). We recognize who we are. We turn from that, and we turn towards a God of kindness and love who gave us a savior, so that we could be reconciled to him. That’s it. That’s our message of hope. That’s the purpose of the church. That’s the purpose of preaching. So that you would be reconciled to God through a Savior.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done” (v. 5). None of us can accomplish it on our own. We verbally say that. I think we all acknowledge it. I don’t think there’s one person in our church that, if I would ask, ‘Are you saved by your own righteousness?’, would answer yes. I would be shocked if anybody said, “Yes, yep, I am amazing.” We don’t verbalize it, but it’s easy for me to think it and to cut other people down again to build myself up. This is a temptation. “Not by works of righteousness which I have done”, but when I identify myself rightly and with other people who are fallen, then I can recognize my need for a savior, that I am saved – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (v. 5). That’s that ‘Chesed’ – merciful love of God – offering his own sacrifice to satisfy his own justice for my rebellion.

“According to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration” (v. 5). I’m a new creature. I’ve been given a new life. I’m born again.

“And the renewing of the Holy Ghost” (v. 5). I’m born again, and then he fills me with the Holy Spirit. Maybe today you need a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. I believe the Holy Spirit is with every believer. That’s what makes us believers, but sometimes I can push it down with these other things of the flesh that we just talked about; maybe I need to evaluate my life and ask, “okay, where do I need to change to become more like Christ and let the Holy Spirit have more power in my life?”

“Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour” (v. 6). Abundantly he’s given him to us. He’s given the Holy Spirit to live in us.

“That being justified” – made righteous – “by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (v. 7). This is that vision, eternal life and hope through Jesus Christ. We’re justified by his grace.

“This is a faithful saying.” Amen. “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly” (v. 8). Do you know where we can put our confidence? In churches? But churches go wrong also and churches fail. Don’t assume that this church can’t fail. “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly” (v. 8). It’s our, I’ll say desire – I wanted to say ability, but that’s not right – to seek because we will quickly lose sight of the gospel message. When we lose sight of the gospel message, we lose sight of the gospel. When we lose sight of the gospel, we are quickly back into foolish, disobedient, deceived, lusts and pleasures, malice and envy. Quickly! Every day, constantly, we keep our eyes focused on the gospel, and where we are failing in that, recognize it, acknowledge our sin, repent, and turn back to God. Be renewed. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind through the power of the Holy Spirit. God bless.

It’s been a pleasure to share the Word this morning, and I trust that the Word will wash over you. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. We have hope. We have peace. We have grace. We have a good end. We have a good end. Stay focused. God bless.
Bro. Willis Ehnle, originally of Princeville, IL, spent several decades in the Lord’s work in Japan. His wife, the former Sis. Lois Beer, of Milford, IN, was at his side during this time. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict (in Japan), he had a vision to preach the Word in the nation of Japan. He was baptized on June 23, 1946. He became a minister of August 23, 1955, and an ordained deacon on August 20, 1958. On July 24, 1977, he was ordained as an Elder. The Lord blessed his (and Sis. Lois’) efforts and churches were established.

New Churches

The first church of our faith in Japan was in Shiodo. Elders Noah Schrock (Oakville, IA) and David Mangold (Roanoke, IL) recommended a church be built here. They were very impressed with the nearly two hundred children in Sunday Schools in the area. The land and new church cost $10,000. A $2,000 dwelling was built next to the church. Dedication was held in July, 1956, with Willis Ehnle speaking on the parable of the sower. Joseph Yamamura of the Japanese Bible Society translated the message. The Shioda church is eighty miles west of Tokyo.

A church was built three years later at Tokyo in 1959. It is located in the suburbs just outside of Tokyo in an area called “Azalea Hill.” It is an hour by train from downtown Tokyo. The church and land cost $9,000, and the dwelling beside the church cost $4,000. The value of the land in 1982 increased to $500,000. The Ehnles lived here until June, 1966, when they moved to Shiodo. The Tamahata church was built in 1962. It was twelve miles west of the Shioda church and cost $9,300 for the land and the church. Tamahata was the family home of the Inoue family. Because that family lived next to the church, no residence was built there, as was the case at Shiodo and Tokyo. By the fall of 1973, the Tamahata church was closed, although the building was still used for singings once every two months in 1982.

Ministers

Yoshito Inoue was placed in the ministry at Shioda during the church’s formative years. He was Willis Ehnle’s great hope for this church. Sadly, he died from cancer of the chest at age twenty-four. It was a major setback. Later, his brother, Akito, was placed into the ministry. On July 31, 1977, he became the first native Japanese Elder of the Apostolic Christian Church (in Japan).

Kindergarten

A major activity of the mission project and one that allowed the church to make numerous contacts with the Japanese society was the Shioda American Kindergarten. An earlier elementary school had been established, but closed in 1977. By 1981 it had two teachers and twenty-seven students. Teachers from America went to Japan to teach in this school for a two-year term. Nancy Roth Pfiefer, Fairbury, IL, was the first. The second was Marie Neihouser, Francesville, IN, who became the wife of Akito Inoue. By 1980, a total of seventeen sisters in the church taught in the school in Japan. The kindergarten eventually closed.

A Solemn Plea

In the early days at Japan, a local minister, Yoshito Inoue, made a touching and heart-felt plea to Elder Noah Schrock: “Brother Schrock, you are our Elder and we want you to tell us whatever you see as needful so we can maintain a true church.” (Silver Lining, May, 1964).

Willis Ehnle’s Words in 1981

“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 when he is to depart this life.”

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

Beaming Forth

In dark, unfamiliar territory – distanced from customary comforts, determined pilgrims advance together. Enlightened by God to seek a better kingdom, they unite in faith to trust his promises. Their mutually supportive group reflects Christ’s light abroad by co-investing their hearts’ treasure in eternal hope.

As Judeans adjusted to unwelcome Roman decrees, wise men presented a higher purpose: yoking together to find and worship the Source of Light! “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him (Matthew 2:2).” As witnesses who troubled all of Jerusalem, their mission of discovery and devotion involved traversing great distance, heeding prophetic writings, and enduring hardness. They followed the light onward with exceeding great joy, brightened by their hope of falling down worshipfully before the Messiah. They reserved their threefold treasure to open and present before him. That gloriously weighty, eternal ambition could make any current affliction seem light and momentary (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

As our surroundings darken with undesirable changes, can we jointly purpose to glorify God by loving as Jesus loves? Our fourfold mission involves presenting the Gospel, nurturing believers, preserving sound doctrine, and serving one another. As a body of believers, bound together by our love for Christ and his Word, let’s envision ourselves reflecting God’s love, grace, and truth. Mirroring the wise men, we can harmonize to proclaim the power of Zion’s Harp #79. The same Spirit who inspired 19th-century author George M. Mangold illuminates how the “light of hope” can still beam forth with widespread radiance today. The Lord wants flames of love to ignite pure and upright hearts. Then, the bond of faith unites us even more firmly, and hope’s light invites partaking heavenly blessings (verse 1).

Amid our present darkness, this light of hope shines like the bright, full moon. It radiates when loving hearts truly find each other and let faith’s bond firmly join us together. To all neighbors witnessing such fellowship, hope’s light invites enjoying its divine and blessed peace.

Our hopeful light beams forth through principles that guide us to glorify God. With Jesus’ love as our foundation and motivation, we seek to live his Word’s entire counsel through Christ-like thoughts, actions, and character. Following the Great Commission, we share Christ’s love and truth in our homes, churches, communities, and throughout the world as God calls us to serve. Our committed church body disciplenes and cares for one another. We apply spiritual discernment to our daily decisions based on the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit’s direction, and fellow believers’ Godly counsel. We see God’s value in each individual and joyfully reflect Jesus’ peaceful spirit. Believing God inspired the Bible as true and timeless, our church contends for Christ’s teachings and Word. We freely give as we have freely received, recognizing God owns our lives and resources. Thus united in hopeful concord, it’s a bright idea to devote our all to him.

Eventually, a numberless multitude from all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues will proclaim salvation and stand before God’s throne and the Lamb, where all the angels fall down and worship him. Coming out of great tribulation with white robes washed in that Lamb’s blood, they shall dwell tearlessly with God as the Lamb feeds and leads them to living waters (Revelation 7:9-17). From ancient wise men to current saints and beyond to his return, may Christ find our light of hope … beaming forth!

-by Sam Manz
"Sit and pause awhile, my spirit..."