



Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light

unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

"....the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

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TALENTS AS WE PASS BY THE WAY

The good we do as we go through life will not be forgotten when we are gone, but will linger on and on as the years go by. Don't put off doing nice things, because the smallest deed is better than the grandest good intention.

* * * *

Is there a kindness you may do,
A helping message you could send,
A cheering word of comfort true?
Don't wait, but do it now, my friend.

Somebody now your help may need,
Delayed intentions you may mend,
A hungry life that you may feed.
Don't wait but do it now my friend.

Whate'er the duties we may face,
Let us at once to them attend.
Our Father bids us serve the race—
Don't wait—let's do it now, my friend.

The good way to use what we have: We should all live in a way that our life will be in harmony with the teaching of God's holy word.

* * * *

Time goes, but what we do doth live eternally.
In building character for right or wrong,
May give to others peace and joy or misery,
May hinder or may help some soul along.

Eternity! Eternity! There is no end.
We know our time on earth will not be long;
While here, let's build on Christ the Solid Rock, our Friend;
He saves and keeps—where we are weak, He's strong.

* * * *

My life shall touch a dozen lives
Before this day is done.
Leave countless marks for good or ill
Ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
The prayer I always pray:
Lord, may my life help other lives
It touches by the way.

* * * *

Time wasted can never be recov-

ered; no man ever possessed the same moment twice.

Of Such As These

Grandmother's dishes were old and plain,
Mine were banded with gold,
But the love she gave with her service
Made mine seem gaudy and bold.

Her hands were thin and knotted with toil,
Mine showed a beautician's care,
But I hid them under the table
When she folded hers in prayer.

Her face glowed with inward faith
As she served with a queenly touch,
And I thought I heard the Master say
My kingdom is built of such.

Talent can do:

Plant a dream. . . give authentic tidings of invisible things. . . love is a fire that throws its warm glow . . . holding the hand of an invalid, who count the strokes of midnight hours, where the wall flashes and flickers, of dim lamps. . . so much to do . . . Encourage; you can, my wavering heart hears, and I shall. . .

Talent In Sorrow, Beautiful, Shining . . .

How fragrant the air is at night. Passing through a garden or a field of clover, the very atmosphere is laden with delightful perfumes. Certain varieties of roses are from 30-40% more fragrant at night than in the day, and other varieties of flowers show an almost equally large percentage.

It is not the flowers alone that give out their heaviest fragrance in the darkness. It is true of human lives also. It takes the night of sorrow to call forth their sweetest fragrance. Patience, sympathy, love, forgiveness—these and other rare perfumes are exhaled most freely when the skies are overcast and the way is hard to our feet. Many a one who has gone to the sick chamber to impart a word of encouragement of hope has testified that he has brought away infinitely more than he has given.

* * * *

Do not keep the alabaster boxes

of your love and tenderness sealed until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things you meant to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you meant to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave. If my friends have any alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfume of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered while I need them.

I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Postmortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

* * * *

Billows of trouble and nights of sorrow cannot drown out the song of the Lord in our hearts. A prosperous Christian lived in Foochow. Each evening his family met for worship, and the sound of their happy singing would drift over to his pagan neighbors, carrying with it a sweet testimony of praise to God. One day the Lord blessed the union of his son and daughter-in-law, and he held in his arms his first grandchild. "No wonder he is

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so cheerful," said his associates, "God always smiles upon him." Soon however, trouble struck. The beloved little grandson became ill and died. As he walked in his garden the next morning with a heavy heart, he overheard the man next door say, "Look! In sorrow he is like all the rest of us! Tonight we will hear no glad singing over the garden wall!" He recognized immediately that he must face this new challenge to his faith like a true believer. He determined therefore not to lose his song of victory. That evening when the family gathered for fellowship, he suggested that in their hour of adversity they still had much for which they should give thanks. To the astonishment of their unsaved neighbors, they sang their usual hymns of praise. Later one of them was heard to say, "Never until that moment did I understand what being a Christian really meant."

* * * *

In school or out, opportunity is golden:

Mark—

Just writing to say goodbye and thanks. Janet and I were talking the other day and we both wish you'd come back next year . . . we couldn't think of anyone who would be so competent . . . in his columns. It's been a good year and you're one of the people who's made it good. My first semester was rather frustrating because as a Christian I didn't know quite how I should react to everyone on the paper and in Student Government and I always sort of looked up to you as an example. But the second semester was best because I came out of my shyness a little more and turned from what I was—a "Jesus freak" to what I am now. . .

Thanks for friendship—and when we meet again maybe tomorrow—maybe not 'til Heaven—may we still be friends. . . Mary.

* * * *

Turning the talent. Finding things to do:

Greetings in Jesus name,

Oct. 31, 1972

Enclosed you will find. . . for Philip Webber c/o The Mennonite Home, Rittman Ohio and for Lydia Steiner Marshallville. . .

Philip's health remains very much the same; he can come to church every Sunday afternoon; he reads the Bible to a number of the residents at the Home who are unable to read anymore. He also runs the elevator at mealtime to haul those who are not able to walk the stairs. This way he feels needed and keeps busy. . . we all go down the Valley one by one and do what we can to help one another. . . Hearty Greetings to you all,

In Faith Emma Webber.
(Marshallville Ohio)

* * * *

Filling the moments with good:
May 20, 1964

Enclosed. . . in currency are. . . which our 11-year-old gave to me to send to you for 1 yr. subscription of the Silver Lining to Fred Hermann RR 1 Morton, Ill. That is his birthday gift for his father. Our son has a paper route and he saved this money for that gift.

* * * *

Send out a cheerful smile to folks who seem cast down;
They'll bless you and the smile will multiply,
Directing hearts from heavy crosses to the crown,
And from them dark discouragement will fly.

Send out, with loving word and smile, a helpful deed,
Relieving want or suffering and pain;
Give aid, in Jesus' name to hopeless ones in need—
Somewhere, sometime, 'twill come to you again.

* * * *

Sometimes You Only Get One Chance

. . . to put aside your pride and say, humbly, I was wrong. . . to explain a misunderstanding that, if ignored, would sour a friendship. . . to hear what a child very much needs to tell you. . . to defend a person when slighting remarks are being made against him. . . to accept a shy but sincere offer of friendship. . . to stand up and be counted when you don't agree with the crowd.

* * * *

Shamgar had an ox-goad,
Rahab had a string,
Gideon had a trumpet,

David had a sling,
Samson had a jaw bone,
Moses had a rod,
Dorcas had a needle—
All were used for God.

* * * *

How about talent in talking, conversation. We will give account for every non-working word. How rich are words to turn the talent.

It has been estimated that most people speak enough in one week to fill a large 500-page book. In the average lifetime this would amount to 3000 volumes or 1,500,000 pages.

* * * *

It was during the days of the Revolutionary War. A corporal was having his men struggling, to lift a heavy timber that needed to be moved. A fine-looking stranger approached on horseback. He looked the situation over and saw how hard the men were working and how beyond their strength the task seemed to be.

"You don't seem to have many men for such a hard task," he commented to the impatient corporal, who took the opportunity to air his irritation at the fact that there were so few. Imagine his surprise when the man on horseback said, "Why don't you help a little yourself?" The corporal was stunned. "Me?" "I am a corporal sir!"

The man dismounted and joined the group of toiling men, staying on the job until all the timber was moved. Then he mounted his horse and said very quietly to the corporal, who hadn't lifted a finger to help, "When you have any hard work, corporal, and not enough men to do it, you had better send for the commander-in-chief. I will come again!" Only then, as he watched him riding away, did the corporal realize that his "extra hand" had been General George Washington.

To us, the little homely moment is priceless! Working with our hands is talent.

* * * *

I shall pass through this world but once.
If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show,
or any good thing I can do, let me do it now;
let me not defer it or neglect it,
for I shall not pass this way again.

MINNEAPOLIS

Kathryn Olson — Karen Metzger

Springtime

Some people just think springtime
A seasonable event,
With birds and bees and flowers,
Which nature's hand has sent.
To me spring is the season
When heaven does bestow
On earth its tenderest blessings
And causes things to grow.

If things which are created
Are truly fair to see,
How beautiful and perfect
Must the Creator be!
I hope to live in heaven,
Its joys sublime to share
For its excels in beauty—
It's always springtime there!

Jennifer and Richard welcome their new sister, Jerri Kristine. The happy parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Kellenberger.

We are sorry to have the Ralph Lanz family leave our congregation. Their new address is: Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Lanz, 536 Fairlane Ave., Smithville, Ohio 44677.

PURDUE

Kris Leman

Faith Is Forever

It's the faith of our fathers, the
joy of our youth,
The priceless reward of the seeker
of truth.
It's the comfort of knowing God's
grace is enough
To help us through when the going
gets rough.
It's the source of all hope and the
channel of love.
The greatest of gifts from our Fa-
ther above.
Faith always guides and sustains
us somehow—
For faith is forever and faith is for
now.

Bros. Edwin Bahler from Remington and Elmer Bucher, Francesville, were with us for our March services. Our spiritual strength can be renewed if we follow these teachings: Be patient so the Lord can show us a perfect way . . . Be still and know God, so He can work in and through us.

Pat and Russ Mickel brought their new baby daughter to church

services. We know Lisa Jean will bring them many joys.

The engagement of Sis. Darlene Neuenschwander and Bro. Sam Haggenger was announced in their home church, Bluffton. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to them.

SILVERTON

Judith Knecht

We were thankful to have with us Bro. Noah Shrock and Bro. Carl Kinsinger over the week-end of March 16-19. Many precious teachings and timely warnings were brought forth.

Sunday evening, March 18, Portland joined Silverton for a church supper and church services in the evening. Following services, Holy Communion was served by elders, Bro. Noah and Bro. Carl. We were so clearly reminded of the agony and painful death our Saviour suffered, that we might have that blessed hope of life eternal.

Thought—The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have.

WOLCOTT

Marjean Lehman - Arles Kropf

Bro. Jerry and Nancy Kyburz are thankful for their new little son, Phillip Lee, born March 7. His big brother, Duane also welcomes him.

We received many good teachings through the visits of Ministering Bros. Merle Bucher of LaCrosse and Charles Hemmer of Peoria.

Sis. Irene Lehman, 68, passed away March 15, after an illness of several months. She was born Nov. 10, 1904, eldest daughter of Nathan and Mary Kaiser Farney. Her husband, Bro. Edward, preceded her in death in 1958. Surviving are five sons, Russell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Harold and Bro. Nathan of Wolcott; Bro. Wayne of Nappanee; Bro. Verne of Bremen; four daughters. Sis. Mary Baumgartner of Bluffton, Shirley Justice of Kokome. Annette Rodkev of Lafayette, and Sis. Marjean of Wolcott. Also surviving are two sisters, Sis. Emma Furrer of Wolcott, and Sis. Mary (Carl) Gutwein of Francesville.

Funeral services were held at the church on March 17, Bro. Wendell Gudeman officiating. Sis. Irene repented young, and spent 50 years in the service of the Lord. She now

receives her eternal rest. Thank-You Note: We sincerely thank each one who extended their love and concern during our mother's illness by the many thoughtful words, deeds, and prayers. Your kind expressions of sympathy since her passing are deeply appreciated. The family of Irene Lehman.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMALKayleen Heiniger
Eunice Schupbach

Our little congregation is growing! A new baby girl, Mona Marie, was born to Hank and Jeanice Young on Feb. 28. Grandparents are the Art Baurers, who have moved to Bloomington recently from Cissna Park. The Virgil Funk family also welcome a new daughter, Miriam Louise, who was born on March 14.

During the month of March, the following brothers visited and proclaimed the word to us: Earl Gerber from the Forrest church, Nathan Steffen from the Elgin congregation, Leroy Hartman from nearby Peoria, and William Funk from Garden Grove, Iowa.

We all remember to thank God for important matters, for answered prayer to personal problems or heartaches, but at this beautiful time of the year, we become more aware of the closeness of God. Everywhere we see His handiwork, when the whole earth is responding to the warmth of the sun. This is the season we remember to say, "Thank you, Lord, for this lovely spring morning, for the budding trees and little flowers, for the sweet song of the birds. Open our eyes to all this beauty, that we not take for granted all these things that may seem small and trivial. Thank you, God, that some day you will take us through the dismal winter of death to that Eternal Spring."

GRIDLEY

Dixie Ringger

Many of the sisters in our congregation have again had a busy season quilting. They do their beautiful work at the church, and have quilted over 300 quilts since the project was started.

Larry and Barb Kiefer are the happy parents of a precious little girl, Karen Kay. She was born March 22 and is welcomed home by three brothers.

The Cissna Choir and quartet presented several songs of praise at our monthly singing. Their young voices were an inspiration to us. We also were privileged to listen to our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders.

Sisters Ida Kuerth and Lena Funk have been hospitalized. Sis. Lena will soon be living at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Bloomington.

Thank you notes: My sincere thanks for cards, gifts, visits and prayers while in the hospital and since going to my sister in Eureka. Everything was greatly appreciated. Sis. Sophia Kaupp. . . I wish to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, visits, prayers, and many deeds of kindness while I was in the hospital and since returning home. Sis. Wilma Kuntz.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY Karen Martin

When one moves about the country, for whatever the reason (in our case it was business, but there are many reasons) there are lessons to be learned and pleasant surprises along the way. The first surprise is the kindness and thoughtfulness found in people never before met. It tends to amaze and inspire, and proves to be a lesson, because you cannot help but say to yourself, "I must be more thoughtful and kind to those I meet each day."

We were delighted to have our minister, John Diggelmann, back with us after his recuperation from surgery. When one of our congregation is missing, it is like a puzzle with one piece missing. The picture is not complete until the piece is back in place.

There is no better exercise for strengthening the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

ALTO Joyleen Blough

God is omnipresent (everywhere at the same time). God's power during the March 16 week-end was strongly felt by all. Wet, heavy snowflakes began to fall Friday evening, and continued throughout the night and the following day. A strong wind began to blow, causing a blizzard which completely closed most roads.

It turned out to be an exciting week-end for Iowans from the West Bend area, who braved the storm and arrived here safely Saturday evening. On Sunday, the snowplows were unable to plow out the roads to church, so services were canceled; a handful of us, including the Iowans, assembled for afternoon and evening services at the Bryan Center Hall. The message was brought to us by Bro. Earl Banwart. We surely felt God's mighty hand, as Bro. Earl put it, "It isn't where we worship; but HOW we worship."

Our whole congregation helped Sis. Anna Wingeier celebrate her 75th birthday. We rejoice with Anna, who has spent 56 of these serving her Lord. It saddens the heart to think that many people spend their entire life without knowing the Lord.

Love is a gift that cannot be demanded,

A blessing that comes from the heart,

And those who are sharing it find their thoughts turning

To heaven, where love had its start.

Love is a pledge that will never be broken,

A trust that will ever be true,
And when it is sent from an unselfish heart,

It's returned in full measure to you!

On March 31 Margaret Feldman, daughter of Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian, became the bride of Paul Jackson. The ceremony was conducted by Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman.

AMES Carol Schmidgall

Our visiting minister for February was Bro. Duane Metzger of West Bend. We were reminded to ever strive for our Heavenly goal and how ". . . in the twinkling of an eye. . ." we will be taken. We must always be watching at the post.

In March, Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville preached to us from God's word. He expounded on St. Luke 9. He read, ". . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." This is a very important teaching which we must do daily.

LATTY

Connie Stoller — LeAnn Laukhuf

Prayer

May you search your heart and find the peace and understanding that comes from a quiet rapport, when we share this harmony with God. Peace is found in a garden when dew is fresh on the grass, and the lovely flowers turn their faces to the heavens and the dawn of a new day. Hope fills the hungry heart with love. . . Love that we should share with all mankind . . . For we know that God reigns over all.

On March 10, Ed Wenninger and Alice Coomer were united in marriage. Ed is the son of Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine, and Alice is the daughter of Cletus and Alice . . . The engagement of Kay Stoller and Roger Miller has been announced. Kay is the daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther, and Roger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Miller of Topeka, Indiana. . . Also announced was the engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Kupfersmith and Bro. Oliver Spangler. They plan to be married April 8.

ALTADENA Judy Hackenjoes

March winds are blowing us from winter into spring, and everywhere we can see new life spring forth. The showers of rain are truly a blessing, for they bring the green beauty of God's creation. Each day is a new experience for we who are new creatures in Christ Jesus.

The Lord has united the hearts of our dear sister and brother, Penny Julien and Ron Erismann, as one in Him. Our elder, Bro. Carl Kinsinger, aided by elder Bro. John Bahler of Rockville conducted the marriage on March 4, in Maywood. The service and wedding was led by the Spirit and touched many souls. Sis. Penny and Bro. Ron are making their home in Michigan.

Bro. Al and Sis Marjorie Fruitschi returned to their home in Indiana, after spending several months in California.

Bro. John Dapper, of Maywood was hospitalized. Bro. Bill Schwartz was found to have bone cancer and recently broke his arm.

Bro. Noah Schrock spent a Wednesday evening with us. How won-

derful that God provides a time of fellowship and worship for us.

On Saturday, March 24, the two oldest Sunday School classes made a trip to the mountains.

S/P 4 Emil Minger, 549-92-2526
EGSMC, APO New York 09054.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Carol Ringger

Spring is here! Since we have had so much rain, our grass is very green and pretty. Just as God washes the earth with the rain and renews nature, so must we clean our souls and refresh our spiritual lives from time to time. The ministering brothers, who have come to speak to us at ISU bring us messages of encouragement, chastisement and repentance that continue to revive us throughout the school year. We are very thankful that the ministering brothers, Uriel Gehring, Lynn Klopfenstein, Ed Hohulin, Ben Fehr, Frances Rother, Elmer Witzig, and Joe Schrock could be with us. The Gridley Choir also came and presented us a message in song, that was not only beautiful but very inspiring. As always, we meet every Thursday night at 8:00 in the third floor lounge of the University Union. Everyone is always welcome, and we will look forward to meeting new faces and greeting old ones.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Danke schon (Thank You) . . . We give thanks to our Bros. Pete Neihouser of here, Alex Babo of Akron and Ed Haas of Elgin, who have willingly given of their time to visit in Hungary, and bring back a report of the needs of our members living there.

We are so thankful that Indianapolis is in the midst of getting a new church building, Lord willing. One of our brothers, Joe Gray, had motored there for a day of work, and it kept raining, so while he was waiting in his motel room for the weather to clear, he was given the ability to write ABC's of salvation, which he is given many "Thanks" for doing.

A—Allow Jesus to come into your heart . . . B—Believe that Jesus Christ is your Saviour . . . C—Come to the Cross at Calvary . . . D—Decide to follow the Lord . . .

E—Erect a covenant with your God . . . F—Forget all your old sinful ways . . . G—God is our Father . . . H—Hear the word of God . . . I—Invite Jesus to live in your heart . . . J—Jesus Christ is the Son of God . . . K—Keep following Jesus Christ . . . L—Love one another . . . M—Mingle with believers . . . N—Never lose your faith . . . O—Only through faith in Jesus will save you . . . P—Promise to follow the straight and narrow way . . . Q—Quench your thirst for living water by reading the Bible . . . R—Repent for your sins . . . S—Salvation is only through faith in Jesus . . . T—Thank God for all blessings . . . U—Unite yourself with God and Jesus . . . W—Work with and for the Lord . . . X—X-ray your heart . . . Y—Yearn for the coming of Christ . . . Z—Zealously watch and pray each day.

Again want to say "Danke schon" . . . Auf Wiedersehen (See you again).

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

We thank Bro. Noah Miller of Minneapolis for his words of inspiration and admonishment and too for the blessed fellowship we shared. Another Sunday this precious fellowship was shared again with couples from Lester. Do we at all times make enough effort to enjoy this blessed privilege from the Lord? It renews and gives us added zeal, encouragement to keep on the narrow path of life.

Candice Pederson (Jerry), daughter of Al and Sis. Donnabell Nelson, has been announced as having peace with God and is awaiting her proving and baptism. The waters are troubled here among the youth, and dear souls have answered the call to repentance to be cleansed and healed.

What kind of foundation are we building on earth? Is it a strong foundation in Christ, or as the years go by does it become decayed and will we decay with it? Will the Lord find our house worth saving, or will our house be worthless and be destroyed?

REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel

Sis. Anna (Bro. George) Waibel received word that her twin sister, Sis. Kathryn (Bro. Sam) An-

liker passed away (Madison Kansas). Quite a number of relatives attended the funeral. Our sympathy goes out to all concerned.

On March 18, the Indiana churches were to meet here for Christian Endeavor, but due to a severe snowstorm to the east of us, most of the churches couldn't come. LaCrosse and Francesville had the largest number. We've had very little snow here all winter.

Sis. Eunice Knochel is recovering satisfactorily after surgery. Bro. Ray Steffen was in the hospital several days.

The Message of the Resurrection

"Come. . . see. . . go. . . tell . . ." The first word is a word of invitation. It's the first step in the experience of the benefits of the resurrection. The tomb is the symbol of death, and it speaks of the Cross. We must first come before we can see the tomb and the cross. The symbol of Christ's redemption is the empty cross and tomb. Together they speak of the finished work of Christ—Christ died for our sins. Don't let Easter be just a "Decoration Day". Make it a go and tell experience.

BLUFFTON

Melanie Gerber — Donna Drayer

Sunday, March 4, Bro. Ernest Gerber of Forrest worshipped with us around God's spiritual table. Much food, and some to spare, was brought unto us through our dear brother.

Many guests were in our midst on March 11 to witness the marriage of Sis. Imogene Steffen and Bro. Barry Isch. Their parents are Wilmer and Sis. Ida Steffen, and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Anna Isch.

We are happy to announce that little Wes Wayne arrived on March 19 to be loved and cared for by Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and family.

Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild,
See! the Father meets him out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child."

Bros. Al Fisher (Chicago) and David Bertsch (Leo) assembled with us the week-end of March 25 to assist in the provings and bap-

tisms of twelve precious souls. They are Diane Gilliom (daughter-in-law of Sis. Hazel Gilliom), Keith (Floyd) Gerber, Jay (Alvin) Gerber, Renee (Claire) Yergler, Kent (Homer) Fiechter, John (Aaron) Reinhard, Tony (Dale) Fiechter, Kim (Truman) Yergler, Rick (Richard) Yergler, Ed (Eugene) Maller, and Neil (Lloyd) and Karen Gerber. We rejoice along with them and their families.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Friend Joel Schwartz, who passed away. May his dear wife, Sis. Sarah, and children, Bros. Howard, Kenneth, Lester and Sisters Luella (Vernon) Geisel and Mildred (Paul) Schladenhauffen find much comfort from our Lord.

Sis. Leah (Calvin) Rauch is in a Ft. Wayne hospital, and Sis. Mary (Sylvan) Gerber has submitted to surgery. Sis. Clara (Wilmer) Gerber and Friend Glen Fiechter were also hospitalized. We are happy to report for Clara, that she can again be at home and be recuperating.

Sis. Darlene Neuenschwander and Bro. Sam Habegger's engagement was made known to the congregation on March 25. Parents of the couple are Bro. William and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger. We wish them a flower-strewn pathway, with just enough rain-drops to help them grow in their most precious faith as they walk together.

Thank you: We wish to express our sincere gratitude to our many friends and relatives who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Eli and Sis. Rose Gerber.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Edna Pohl — Elaine Eisenmann

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

After being gone the past 2½ months, it is good to be in our home and church again. Home is where the heart is, and to be in that eternal Home is our hope to life's end.

In our travels, we marveled at God's beautiful creation of earth. The majestic mountains, the fertile plains and valleys brought to mind,

Abraham chose these, while Lot preferred the plain. The valleys, in contrast, are peaceful to the noise of the cities.

Leaving Tucson on a snowy March morn, we pulled our trailer through Palto Canyon, through a snow-filled national forest of 12" snow the night before, yet the roads were all cleared. We rode on as two babes in the woods, not realizing the mountainous path we took, yet one marveled at God's handiwork . . . and with deep thanks for His guiding us safely through. A redeemed child of God can see His wonders, where those yet in blindness take it all for granted.

The last lap of our journey, after pausing the Sabbath at Burlington, Okla. (and a blessed day), we drove all day through rain, a heavy shower of hail just ahead, and very dark in the north with rain . . . yet that beautiful arch of God's promise shone across the dark, as the sun came out in the west at late afternoon . . . again reminding us of God's promise to Noah, the earth would never again be flooded.

God be praised for His merciful goodness to the children of men!

It is our intention to take a 2-mile walk to "limber up" and visit our sister, Lena Kuntz, who was recently hospitalized.

We are thankful for our church and little flock here.

ELGIN, IOWA Eleanor Butikofer

Now we are assured that the springtime of the year is here, for the bluebirds and robins have arrived. We are hoping that the latter will nest in some of our houses which have been put up expressly for them. We generally have a pair or two of the robins nest real close to our home, and we do enjoy hearing them carol evenings and in the early morning hours.

Let our eyes be raised to heaven
Where the sun is shining bright,
And on hill and dale and meadow
Is dispensing life and light;
But far more than sun in space
Beams the Saviour's kindly face;
Truth and kindness, peaceful
nearness
Shine out in eternal clearness.

Having Bro. Leroy Huber in our midst was indeed a real blessing. One thought he left with us was,

how pride can be the cause of many sins and how we must be on the guard, not to fall a victim of harboring thoughts of self, high esteem.

One of our sisters-in-faith who has reached quite an age has expressed herself in this wise. "We must just take one day at a time and not worry about tomorrow." Seemingly she has never felt forsaken by the Lord, even though many trials have come her way.

Another name has been placed on the list of those who serve noon-day lunch at our church. It is that of Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Schneider. We are happy for them, as our Grandma Gehring used to say in speaking of serving, "There is a blessing in so doing."

By the time this column appears, the wedding of Bro. John Schupbach and Sis. Janet Steiner will have taken place. May God's blessing rest upon this important event in their lives, and we wish them much happiness. The date is set for the 8th of April.

Our mother, Sis. Elizabeth Schneider, hasn't been able to come to church service as yet, but is getting along real well in her home, with the aid of a walker.

Sis. Karla Moore is employed in the R. Hach home at Solon, Iowa. If her plans materialize, she will be taking up a course in nursing sometime this year.

March 10 marked the 94th birthday for Sis. Lena Schupbach. Friends and relatives came to her home in observance of the day. One of her main concerns is the spiritual welfare of everyone. She has been blessed with unusually good health, for even now she hardly ever has to miss a Sunday service.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS Edna Somerhalder—Wilma Young

When a Christian dies Precious is the prize!
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follow when he dies.

Our sympathy is extended to our Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker and family, in the passing of his wife, Sis. Kathryn. Her kind and friendly manner shall be greatly missed by all.

How nice to see Bro. Sam and Sis. Esther Kraft back in our as-

sembly after and absence of ten weeks. Sister Sarah Beyer spent a week in the hospital, now is recuperating with her daughter, Mary Ann Hoyt in Tulsa, Okla. Sis. Dorothy Young is back in church, after being hospitalized for tests and observation.

Announcement was made that Rose Ann (Terry) Shiesser and Julie Strahm, daughters of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten are waiting to give their testimonies of faith and be baptized.

Sis. Ella Raaf is retiring, after 22 years of service for an elderly lady, 95 years old. The past ten years she was on duty day and night, with the exception of attending church services.

A workday was held in Newton for our six churches in the midwest, to mend and bale articles for World Relief. Several from here attended, others were sorry it was impossible to be there.

Thanks to Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker and Bro. Roy Wernli for visiting us.

Due to excessive moisture, spring field work is behind schedule. The countryside is a pretty sight, fruit trees blooming, lawns ready to be mowed, and many flowers in bloom. As we are about to observe the resurrection of our dear Saviour, we have observed the resurrection of the fruits of the earth.

MILFORD

Sue Scheiler — Sandie Price

In springtime and harvest, in season and out of season, a minister's labor is that of faith and love. He tills the soil of the hearts of man and plants the seed of God's word, in faith that new life will burst the grounds. We thank Bro. Ed Alt of Cissna Park for his visit. We pray that he and all true ministers will have plenty of toiling power, that the harvest might be great. Those absent from our midst have been Bro. Elmer Hartter, Bro. Charlie Weisser, Bro. Elmer Haab and Bro. Glenn Price Sr. Sis. Naomi Beer entered the Cleveland Clinic on March 26.

The snow had all melted away, and we thought wintertime had gone. The joy of watching the new life burst through the warm sod was interrupted by a March blizzard. We were unable to worship together on March 18. This caused us to be more thankful than usual

as we wended our way to church the next Sunday.

During the week-end storm there was a transplant being made . . . we warmly welcome Bro. Kip and Sis. Carol Weiland and their family of Bay City. As they join the Milford brotherhood, may we each try to stand strong graciously, smile sincerely, love always, and seek understanding wisdom. . . these are the worthy ambitions of a life worth living and a church filled with souls that have the true goal in mind. . . HEAVEN!

On March 27, Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Haab were beaming grandparents, as their children, Alvin and Carol, announced the arrival of little Matthew David.

AKRON

Katherine Ries

On March 4 we enjoyed the visit of the students of Mansfield Hi Sunday School class, and Bro. Jack and Sis. Joyce Cordray who accompanied them.

On March 11, the announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Carolyn Palitto and Bro. Randy Miller of Sterling. Carolyn is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Martha. Randy is the son of Glenn and Sis. Ella.

On Mar. 17-18 we experienced one of our very rare crippling snowstorms. Beginning late Saturday afternoon, a fine snow started to fall, and by midnight the drifts had closed most of our roads. Word went out at 8 o'clock Sunday morning that services were cancelled, after Bro. Paul Gangel struggled through waist-high drifts from his car on the road to the church entrance. With 12 inches of snow on the ground and 3 to 5 feet drifts in the streets and driveways, it looked like we would be snow-bound for some time. However, by Monday evening all roads and driveways were open, and we were able to attend our regular Thursday services. By that time, spring had arrived, and we could see the crocus and daffodils in bloom.

On March 29, when elder Bro. Theo. Beer of Milford visited our congregation, many brethren and friends from Rittman and Girard were in attendance. The services by Bro. Theo. and the summation by Bro. Harold Emch of Girard were inspiring.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Rose Pamer,

Sis. Anna Hanla, and Sis. Edna Von Gunten are able to assemble with us again. Bro. Stanley and Ann Francis are still confined at home.

THANK-YOU NOTE: I wish to express my thanks for the prayers, get-well cards, gifts, visits and love shown me during my stay in the hospital. Sis. Edna Von Gunten

BAY CITY

Carolyn Schamback

Sing unto the Lord!

Oh ye saints of His,

Sing! Sing! Sing

Unto the Lord. . .

How surely the Lord must rejoice to hear voices raised in His honor, when these voices come from hearts that are pure and upright. We received many, many blessings when the Peoria choir spent a week-end here in early March. Not only did we enjoy the beautiful songs, but the blessed fellowship of their company; truly we can never appreciate enough that the Lord lets us come and go as we please.

On March 4, Bro. Ron Erismann and Sis. Penny Julien (Maywood) were united in marriage in the Maywood church. Ron's parents, Bro. Erwin and Sis. Della held a reception here for them, where all were pleased to meet Penny and welcome her.

March 25th was the date on which we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Bill Waibel and Sis. Carol Ramseyer. Parents of the couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Waibel and Bro. Herb and Sis. Naomi Ramseyer.

Hospitalized were Sis. Florence Wieland, Sis. Alice Wieland, and Friend Eugene Meylan. All seem to be recovering.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

Our monthly news letter asked for remarks on the beauty of spring. However, after three days of steady rain fall on fields under water, creeks overflowing, bottomless feed lots and farmyards, it is a little hard to see much beauty. Then you can see the crocus blooming, tulip and tree buds ready to burst into flower and leaf—hope springs eternal in the human heart. Maybe the sun will shine this week. The following poem learned as a child comes to mind.

The years at the spring
 And days at the morn
 Mornings at seven
 The hillsides dew pearled,
 The larks on the wing;
 The snails on the thorn;
 God's in His heaven
 All's right with the world.

Jim and Jeanne Meyer have a new son, Larry Dean, born March 21. Little brother Allen is happy for a future playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Pearl Meyer and Bro. and Sis. Ervan and Ruth Metzger, Elgin, Iowa.

Our guest minister was Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka. . . always happy for visitors.

The happy smile on Peggy Baumgartner's face clearly reflects the inner joy and contentment she has in her heart since turning to the Lord in repentance. Parents are Leslie and Leora . . . grandparents Bro. Lou and Sis. Lena, Bro. Lou and Sis. Sarah Meyer.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Jan Blunier

Christianity

Christianity is not the religion of sorrow and gloom; it is the religion of the morning, and it carries in its heart the happiness of heaven.

Christianity is not a weight but wings.

Christianity brings bloom for faded hearts, rejuvenation for the prematurely old, imagination for the dry, literal mind.

Christianity is not a kill-joy at the feast of life; it bristles with great affirmations, fires the soul with permanent enthusiasms and durable loyalties.

Christianity leaves a trail of light wherever it goes; it can keep you cool under any confusion, bring you up smiling from any depths, and utterly banish your fret and worry.

Christianity brings zest and sparkle to life; it is sunshine on the flowers; it is life abundant; it is leaving the little narrow life behind and leaving it forever.

Christianity is all these things, and can be all these things only because of Christ. Without Him, it would be just another religion, just another way of man trying to reach

God. In Christianity, God reaches down to man, bringing salvation through faith in the shed blood of His only begotten Son. As a result, all of these things are possible in our life.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

On March 24 and 25, we enjoyed a wonderful week-end with visitors from the Chicago congregation, with Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago and Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville bringing us the blessings of His word.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Ed Hohulin of Goodfield, Francis Rother of Morton, Marvin Schmidgall of Eureka, Charles Sauder of Tremont, Edwin Bahler of Remington, and Ed Alt of Cissna Park.

We are rejoicing as the angels in heaven, in that our friend, Larry Bocka, has sought the Lord in repentance and faith. Larry has been a student here at the University of Illinois. His home is Mansfield.

BREMEN

Pauline Laidig

Just as the weather in March has been blustery, then sunny. . . dear ones in our congregation have experienced sorrow and others, special joy. Paul tells us, "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." May these words be very real to them and to all of us in the coming days.

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the passing away of Bro. Eugene Zimmer, who seemingly was in good health until a few weeks before his going to a better home. He will be missed by all of us, but especially by his wife, Sis. Leah (Leman), his family, brothers and sisters. Eugene was the loving father of one daughter, Sis. Mary Ann Steele, and two sons, Bro. Bill and Eugene Jr. Thirteen grandchildren will miss "Gramps" very much, as will his sisters, Sis. Rosena Hueni, and Sis. Emma Lou Gerber, and brother, Bro. George Zimmer.

We also wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bros. Verne and Wayne Lehman and their families in the passing away of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Irene Lehman of Wolcott. She bravely

endured her afflictions, and no one but Gods knows of the cross she carried. Even though her passing causes sorrow, yet there is comfort in knowing all her suffering has ceased, and that she is in a far better place.

We were happy to hear of the coming marriage of Bro. John Schini and Sis. Jan Hunziker, and pray God's blessings will be on them always. Bro. Dan and Sis. Viola are John's parents. Jan is the daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Virginia Hunziker of Morton.

Even though we are miles apart, our thoughts were with Bro. Don Cremer and Sis. Judy Hackenjos, as they were united in Holy Matrimony in Altadena. We pray the Lord's presence will be with them as they walk life's pathway together. Don was taken into the fold here just before going to California last August, so we've had a special interest in him and are thankful the Lord has given him a loving, Christian companion.

Bro. Lou and Sis. Emma Lou Gerber and Sis. Clara Klopfenstein are all thankful to be able to assemble with us again, and we are happy to have them, as each one is missed when they aren't able to attend services. Sis. Pauline Clauss must still endure the afflictions of the aged. We trust she can find comfort in God's promise that He will never leave or forsake His children.

Spring is such lovely time of the year, with new life springing up everywhere. There doesn't seem to be a more appropriate time for our dear Saviour to have made the Supreme Sacrifice, that all mankind might have new life if they will follow Him.

Rejoice

Rejoice ye Christians everywhere!
 From that dark tomb so sad
 Christ is risen; He's not there!
 Rejoice and be ye glad!

CONGERVILLE

Linda Knapp — Arlene Banwart

Oh what have you done with your beautiful day?
 God gave it to you, did you throw it away?
 He gave it to you to use just as you would.

Did you do what is wicked, or
do what was good?
Did you hand out a smile or just
give them a frown?
Did you lift someone up or push
someone down?
Did you lighten some load or some
progress impede?
Did you look for a rose or just
gather a weed?
Oh what have you done with your
beautiful day?
God gave it to you. . . did you throw
it away?

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Edgar and Sis. Mary Sides in the death of her father, Sam Smith from Tennessee who passed away March 7 at age 93.

Bro. Jake Miller has returned home from Mayo's.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Thus ended the message brought by Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott). We want to thank him and Bro. Karl Westfall (Francesville) for their inspiring messages brought to us March 4.

Some of the teachings brought forth from our ministering brothers this month included:

Every time you pray, thank God for His plan of salvation.

Look up the meanings of the fruits of the flesh:

Some of them: adultery — sexual intercourse in which one of the persons is married; fornication — illicit sexual intercourse of unmarried persons; uncleanness — characterized by impure thoughts, unchaste; lasciviousness — having wanton desires, lustful, lewd; idoltry — worship of idols, excessive admiration; witchcraft — practice of witch power in dealing with evil spirits or devils; hatred — bitter dislike or aversion, enmity, antipathy; variance — discord, dissention.

Some of the fruits of the Spirit: meekness — gentle long-suffering disposition, compliant, submissive, humble, lowly. . . temperance — habitual moderation, especially as regarding appetite; having everything about us under control.

The Zion's Harp hymnals \$2.50 gold edge, \$2.25 white edge, post-paid. Contact Ray Gerber, R R 4, Bluffton Ind 46714 or Sam Aeschlieman, R R 3, Bluffton Ind 46714.

CROGHAN—NAUMBURG Alice Virkler — Eleanor Herzig

Seek Him among the living,
Who's risen over strife. . .
His glorious resurrection
Brought man eternal life.

How true it is at this Easter season that we should **Seek Him among the living**. Surely we can all be assured that through His death and resurrection He brought eternal life to all who will surrender their hearts unto Him. We are reminded at this season how He bore all our sins and how He shed His innocent blood for each of us. May we all be renewed and strive to live each day for Him, in remembrance of the sacrifice He made for each of us.

Sis. Sarah Farney was hospitalized several days as the result of a fall. She suffered a broken ankle, but we are glad she has been able to return to her home, where the bone can heal. She will be unable to assemble with us for some time. Betty Schneider was a surgical patient; she has been able to assemble with us again. Sis. Ivah Pohling has been hospitalized and has been unable to assemble with us for several weeks.

We had several visitors from Rockville, who came to enjoy the maple syrup season with us.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss

We give Thee thanks, O Lamb of God,
That on the cross beam Thou hast brought
For us salvation, peace and grace
With Thee in heaven's resting-place!
We give Thee thanks!

Back home with their loved ones after hospitalization are Edward Moser, Gregory Gudeman and Bro. Carl Weiss. In the hospital are Bro. Charles Graf, 402 Washburn St., Elgin Ill. 60120, Friend, George Schellenberger, 887 Kramer, Elgin Ill 60120, and Sis. Rose (Ezra) Steffen, 164 N. Gifford St., Elgin Ill 60120. Rose will be going home today.

On March 10, Constance Kellenberger and Thomas Schambach were united in marriage in the

home of her parents. They reside in Ft. Leonardwood, Mo., where he is stationed with the U.S. Army.

Bro. Elmer Bucher of Francesville and Bro. Walter Steffen of Milford were our guest ministers. Walter had planned to come over here the Sunday before, but they were snowbound at Milford, all roads were closed, they had no church services, everything was tied up, and they experienced again how God can change man's plans. We were richly blessed with God's precious word, and in mediating upon God's help, one of the brothers was reminded of and quoted this little poem, "Yesterday He helped me, Today I'll praise His name, Because I know tomorrow He'll help me just the same."

We have two aged sisters approaching birthdays. Sis. Ricka Sttetter, 719 W. Highland Ave. Apt. 42, Elgin Ill 60120, will reach 90 years on April 13, God willing, and Sis. Karoline Kuehner, 530 S. Liberty St., Elgin Ill 60120, will reach 95 years on May 4, God willing. We wish them a blessed birthday, and may God continue to be with them.

Vicki, daughter of Merle and Sis. Madeline Tobler, and Scott Brooks of Elgin were married on March 24. The newlyweds reside at 405 Dixon, Elgin Ill 60120. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

EUREKA Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

The Book of Life
Life is a book in volumes three—
The past, the present and the yet to be,
The first is done and laid away;
The second we're writing day by day,
But the third and last of the volumes three
Is locked from sight. God Keeps the Key.

Our visiting ministers have been: Bros. Edwin Ringger — Gridley, Wendell Gudeman — Francesville, Noah Hermann — Tuscon.

The following have been in the hospital, but have returned home: Sis. Salome Hartter — medical — Eureka Hospital. . . Sis. Tillie Wittmer, Proctor Hospital. She is Bro. John's wife. . . Sis Marjorie

Clauss — medical — Eureka Hospital. . . Merle Weyeneth — injured in car accident, but home again. Bro. George Hodel remains in Eureka Hospital.

Three friends were given their opportunity to tell of their experiences in repenting Saturday evening March 17. They were Charlotte Mangold, daughter of the Charlie Mangolds; Valerie Martin, daughter of the Melvin Martins; and Debra Blunier, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Lewis and Clara Blunier. The next day they were baptized and are now our sisters in faith. Bro. Edwin Ringger assisted Bro. Leroy Huber in this important work.

March 18, Sunday morning was a beautiful, sunshiny morning. However, tragedy hit the Bro Melvin Weyeneth family on their way to church. Their sons, Merle and Jim were involved in a car accident, and Jim was taken out of life. The parents were in a second car behind the boys. He is survived by his parents and three brothers — Clarke, Keith and Merle. His funeral was on March 21, with Bro. Leroy Huber in charge. Burial was in Roanoke cemetery. . . The day of March 18 was a day of sorrow and joy for our Eureka congregation. Bro. Leroy mentioned, that someone told him once that sometimes sorrow and joy live just across the street. How true this can be at times.

Two souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. How wonderful! They are Donna (Martin) Carr (her parents are Bro. and Sis. Lester and Ruth Martin) and Karen Hodel (her parents are Bro. and Sis. Harold and Mildred Hodel)

Birth: Bro. Roger and Sis. Ida Bradle are the happy parents of their first child, a boy, Daniel Jay, born March 30.

Two service addresses: PV2 Samuel G. Mogler 321-48-8572. TRP I 3/2 ACR, APO New York 09452 . . . SP4 Samuel D. Fehr 339-44-9354, CBTRY 2nd Bn. 2nd FA, Ft. Sill Oklahoma 73503.

FORT LAUDERDALE Henry H. Schwartz

As the winter cold lessens up North, the number of visitors assembling with us diminishes. We were blessed, however, with two visiting ministers and are grateful for the messages they brought

us. Bro. Corbin Bahler from Rockville was here to share one mid-week service with us. Bro. Dale Eisenmann from Chicago was with us for several services during the last part of March.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Vi Gerber hosted a picnic for the church and our visitors in honor of their daughter, Faye, from Purdue, and ten of her friends from churches in Indiana. It was uplifting to us all to see these young people dedicating their lives to the Lord and rejoicing in their new-found hope. What greater miracle is there than this miracle of rebirth? Our young converts especially enjoyed many hours of fellowship with these visitors. We thank God for watching over them on their long journey home.

The approaching spring brings the memory of the beautiful Easter story, with its message of a glorious resurrection to a new and eternal life. Although here in Florida our trees and lawns are green the year round, we too notice seasonal changes marking the end of our winter and beginning of summer. Now is the time of year when the air is laden with sweet smell of the orange blossoms, the trees are putting forth new growth, and lawns are awakening from a winter rest to grow with vigor. As we watch the passing of the winter season give way to the joy of spring, we remember that the dark day of crucifixion too passed and gave way to the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. It is in this miracle, this rebirth, that we can find our hope of life everlasting.

INDIANAPOLIS Eric and Ginny Zeller

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

We want to praise the Lord for his goodness in providing a minister to speak his word every Sunday, and we want to thank all those who the Lord has used in this service. On March 11, Bro. Edwin Bahler from Remington and his family were with us. On March 18 we were blessed by the sage words of Bro. George Yergler of LaCrosse, and on March 25 we were doubly blessed by the presence of Ed Hohulin of Goodfield and Bob Meyer of Bluffton.

Our congregation is growing. We want to congratulate Bro. and Sis. Tom and Carolyn Frank on the birth of their first son, Clay Thomas Frank, who was born on March 18. He is the grandson of Bro. Joe and Sis. Mary Metz of Forrest, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank of La Crosse.

We had our monthly sewing on March 13, at which time we all worked to make dolls for the Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. All of the children who come to the hospital for treatment or surgery are given a doll to share their experience in the hospital, and then to take home with them as they recover. The hospital is always in need of more of these dolls, which is a service they could not provide with their own funds. We've really been blessed by our participation in this project.

As Mother's Day approaches we think of all of our mothers, here and at rest, and we wish to submit this poem which was written by Bro. and Sis. Chuck and Doris (Fiechter) Neuenschwander of Indianapolis in loving memory of their mothers: Lydia Fiechter of Bluffton and Lizzie Neuenschwander.

Two years have passed
Since that sad day,
When the telephone rang
And I heard, "Mother passed away."

A year later we heard
The phone ring again
"Mother has been relieved
Of her misery and pain."

Mother's how we miss you,
Your smiles and cares.
May we all meet again
In Heaven so fair.

JUNCTION

Betty Manz — Henrietta Manz

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Bro. Oliver Spangler and Sis. Elizabeth Kupfersmith of Latty. The wedding has been set for April 8.

Bro. Isaac Dotterer is improving slowly. He has been returned to his home, and has expressed appreciation for the many cards and visits.

On Saturday, March 17, the Children's Home Committee was scheduled to meet at our church. We were sorry that not all the

brethren could make it, due to the extreme weather conditions. Friday, during the night, and on Saturday we had the most severe blizzard of the season. Some of the brothers got only part way, and had to turn around and go back home. However, God provided the way that sufficient brothers could get here to hold a meeting. Sunday morning, many of our faithful brothers came with tractor blades and shovels to clear the way so we could hold services. The Children's Home Committee gave very informative talks to the congregation, following Sunday afternoon services.

Sis. Mary Sauder, who has spent the winter with her daughter, Sis. Evelyn Manz, has returned to Mansfield for a few week's visit. She is much improved. Bro. Adam and Sis. Kate Manz have both been very ill with the flu, as have also several others of our number. Most are back in church with us. . . Also good to see Ed Schatter, son of Sis. Juliet, back with us and getting around real good from his misfortune.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Aaron Steffan of Alto, Eugene Fetter of Toledo, Henry Dotterer of Rittman, Kenneth Sauder of Mansfield, Homer Reineck of Toledo, and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller of Latty. We were richly blest!

Sis. Martha Laukhuf reached her 90th birthday; she appreciated the cards.

K. S. U. Libby Meyer

Oh wonderful, wonderful word of
the Lord

Our only salvation is there;
It carries conviction down deep in
the heart,

And shows us ourselves as we are.
It tells of a Saviour and points to
the cross,

Where pardon we now may secure;
For we know that when time and
the world pass away,

God's word shall forever endure.

It fills our hearts with joy that
our friends, Karen and Ricky Kel-
lenberger have turned to the Lord
in repentance. We pray that God's
blessings will be upon them in
their new walk of life, strengthen-
ing and helping them to grow in
His ways.

We were again blessed with many visitors, and would like to thank all for coming, especially Bro. Gene Marti and Bro. George Lambert for their services.

LAMAR

Mrs. Raymond Braker
Mrs. Art Banwart

What occupation relies on the blessings of God more completely than that of farming? We look to Him for the sunshine and rain in due season. Here in the midwest, we continue to receive an oversupply of moisture, more than twice the amount normally during the month of March. Even when adverse weather conditions such as this prevail, we still look to God—trusting that He will provide that which is needful and again bring pleasing weather, so the soil can be prepared and spring planting accomplished.

Our aged sister in faith, Lizzie Remm, has been a hospital patient for several weeks. She has had light strokes and a general declining of health. Her 91st birthday was observed in February.

Shut-ins with the mumps were Pam Braker, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Cecile, and Todd Robertson, son of Dale and Connie. They are back in Sunday School.

Sam and Sis. Betty Baker, accompanied by his mother, were able to assemble with us, after 2 months' absence due to illness. We were glad and thankful that they could make the trip from Bentonville again.

In a recent sermon this question was asked—"If the story of your life was written down in black and white by the hand of God, would you want to read it?"

OAKVILLE

Martha Steiner

Damian David is the first son of David and Sue Eisenmann, born March 16. He is also the first grandson of his paternal grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann. May he bring much joy to his family.

We appreciate the evening visit of Elder Bro. John Bahler (Rockville, and on another evening, Bro. Raymond Roth (Burlington, Oklahoma). In the quiet of the evening hour at our midweek services, we receive rich blessings by sitting under the sound of God's word,

brought to us by faithful brethren.

Carol Massner Bonnesen has moved to Germany to join her husband in the armed forces. They are stationed about 15 miles from Frankfurt, and would enjoy seeing anyone who visits Germany. . .

PFC Francis J. Bonnesen 484-68-6885, B-btry 3rd BN, 61st ADA 34d Arm Div, New York APO 09091. . . (Budigen, Germany).

PORTLAND

Art and Betty Metz

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." We appreciated having our elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Carl Kinsinger with us March 16-19. After church, Sunday March 18, the Portland congregation traveled to Silverton, where the combined congregation were served Holy Communion. May we always show our appreciation by being obedient.

The important duty of preaching God's word was placed upon Bro. Garth Steffen, after church services on Monday evening, March 19. Garth will share in this work with Ministering Bro. Robert Miller. Our prayers are that the Lord, through His Holy Spirit will inspire Bro. Garth to speak His precious word in season and out. We thank the Lord He has given us servants to proclaim His word as food for our inner soul.

Bro. Garth's mother, Sis. Rose Steffen, of Elgin, Ill. and Bro. Keith Schmidgall of Morris, have both returned to their home. . . in our small congregation, especially appreciate the visits of our friends and brethren from across the land.

PULASKI

Nancy Musselman
Ernestine Wuthrich

Bro. Harvey Heiniger of Oakville spent Sunday, March 11 with us to read and expound on the memorandum. It was truly a blessed day.

It is good to see Roger Wuthrich, son of Bro. Russel and Sis. Karoline, home after being away at school for a few months. In our small congregation, we really need and enjoy all our young folks.

We have had a lot of rain lately, which makes it look like the farmers may be late getting in the fields.

We hear so many complaints about the rain and the resulting

mud. . . But spring comes so beautifully on the farm, and God is just doing His spring cleaning and greening the grass and the pastures. We know He is making the flowers and trees happy. The time for the great awakening of nature is here!

RITTMAN
Florence Hartzler

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you . . ." This wonderful gift from God, peace, given to our dear friends who have been in repentance, and now are awaiting baptism. We are so thankful more of our loved ones are still answering the call of the Lord, as our friends Dave and Dottie, Steve and Karen Ramsier have found grace to repent. Dave and Steve are sons of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Aldine; Dottie's folks are Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Hartzler; Karen's folks are the W. J. Baisdens. The Lord also said, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

God has sent His love to earth in the form of a baby, a sweet and precious little one for us to care for: A son, born to Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and named Samuel Reuben. He has one sister and three brothers to help care for him. . . A son to Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler, their first child, named Frederick Allen. . . A son, also their first child, to Stan and Gloria Hartzler and named Bryon Keith. . . One little girl among these boys was born to Tom and Mary Lou Saurers, and has been named Rhonda Yvette. Little Dawn is happy for a playmate.

Into each life some rain must fall . . . as Sis. Inez Ramsier, Sis. Margaret Marty, Sis. Janet Indermuhle, Sis. Jean Bauman spent some days in the hospital. Bro. Noah Bauman attends church again after his stay in the hospital.

Our sympathy is extended to the Bro. Mitchell Baltic family at the passing away of his mother. Funeral services were held in Barberton.

It's good to have Bro. Richard Steiner home for awhile. He is stationed in San Francisco, and doesn't get to church too often. Leon Rufener would sure enjoy hearing from folks back home, and his address has a few changes as follows: Pfc Leon Rufener 274-44-5488, 31st

Combat Support Hospital, APO New York 09045.

The engagement of Bro. Randy Miller and Sis. Carolyn Palitto of Akron was made known to us. . . .

With spring comes the flowers and buds, new life springing up. Christ gives new life, too, as the risen, making the pulse bound with an ecstasy of joy to the hope-inspiring message, **He is Risen!**

E—Easter, Jesus died new life to give,
A—Angels said, He is risen and does now live;
S—Saviour of mankind, no matter if small or great,
T—Things alive: trees, grass, flowers, God did create;
E—Eternal life He did impart,
R—Redeemer, Jesus, friend of all who keep Him in their heart!

When I see our dear old faithful brethren, especially those past eighty, I'm reminded of something I read recently: Wrinkles are only the bypaths of many smiles, and some tears; gray hair is the silverdust of the stars, and growing gracefully slower of step is only walking nearer to God.

ROANOKE
Doris Mangold — Erma Moser

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore. . . .

Little Bryan Blunier passed away March 3, at the age of ten months and 28 days. He was the only child of Bro. Herb and Sis. Joyce (Aeschliman) Blunier.

The annual spring cleaning of the church was completed with the help of many willing brothers, sisters and friends. Also, the cemetery was cleaned with the cooperation of our Eureka and Roanoke brothers.

Ben Leman, son of Bro Sam and Sis. Ann, gave his testimony of repentance and conversion on Sat., March 10, and was baptized on Sunday, the 11th.

Our sympathy to the Melvin Weyeneth family, whose son Jim lost his life in an automobile accident while on the way to Sunday School. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Weyeneth of this congregation.

Sis. Lena Martin suffered a

broken hip and is in the Proctor Hospital in Peoria.

We were blessed with three visiting ministers, Sunday, March 25: Elder Bro. Josh Broquard and Bro. Art Bahler from Fairbury and Bro. Albert Wuthrich from Pulaski.

Little Dawn Marie has come to be a part of the family of Bro. Roger & Sis. Kathy Leman. She has three brothers to welcome her home, Mark, Brad and Neil.

SARASOTA
Phil Wingeier

The month of March has been a very active and inspiring month, even though the number of visitors is getting less as spring approaches. We had only one visiting minister this month, Bro. Ben Stavenik of Mansfield. We had many good, sound and upbuilding teachings.

With a great deal of prayer, discussions, and meetings, it is believed that God's hand has guided the Sarasota need for a church of their own.

Several years ago, a lot was purchased, with no thought to build at that time, but wait until God's hand moves in that direction. Everything seems to be pointing in that direction now. The Women's Club building that had been used a number of years has now been sold and is available only until June 1973.

There has been a good deal of progress made toward going ahead with the building, and Sunday, March 25, the ground-breaking ceremony was exercised, with the hope and belief that the new building will be ready for fall and winter services for 1973-74.

Bro. Robert Huber of Ft. Lauderdale and his wife, Sis. Doris are drawing the plans and will supervise the building as it progresses.

Bro. Phil Wingeier is willing to serve as minister on a full-time basis. He and Sis. Fern plan on moving to Sarasota this fall. They have the unanimous support of the Sarasota congregation.

TREMONT
Lydia Rassi
Mary Jane Leuthold

We thank our dear Bros. Joe Braker, Morton; Charles Hemmer, Peoria; Noah Herman, Tucson; Joe Stoller, Princeville; and Nathan Stoller, Bradford for visiting in March and sharing with us the

Lord's precious teachings which we are in need of every hour.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Margaret Lee Luers, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. Luers, Nebraska, to Gary Alan Koch, son of Bro. Cleo and Hal Koch.

Linda Lee Price and Kenneth A. Rowell were united in marriage Feb. 24. Linda is the daughter of Mrs. Mildred Price of Mangnolia, Maryland, and the late Roger Price. Kenneth is the son of Harold and Eunice Rowell.

An infant son, Christopher Wayne, was welcomed into the home of Roger and Becky Schweigert on March 21. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Howard.

Sis. Katie Oertle had the misfortune to fall and break some bones in her wrist. She will be wearing a cast for six weeks. May we all be mindful of her, the sick and the less fortunate.

VALPARAISO Sis. Camille Feller

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Our Heavenly Father has granted His favor upon our small flock the privilege to gather in his name at various homes on Wednesday evenings. We have felt blessed and our hearts enlightened, as our faith was renewed through the reading of the holy scriptures.

Our God has blessed us with the fellowship of Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher. . .

God's inspiration dwelt within as we heard the gospel ministered by Bro. Merle. We all are very humbled and joyed to have the fellowship of our dearly beloved.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." In these moments of affliction and tribulation, we indeed view the fulfilling of the prophecies by our Lord Jesus Christ. In accordance to the instruction and will of the Lord shall we encourage and help those in need. May the grace of

the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

WEST BEND Mrs. Melvin Fehr Mrs. A. Banwart

Our hopes are that Raymond Wilson and Walter Zaugg will be able to assemble with us as they have come home from the hospital. We are thankful to report that Sis. Ida (Earnie) Schmidt, Sis. Lilly Mogler (Nathan), and Bro. Noah Anliker are able to worship with us again. Our regrets and prayers for those that still remain in the hospital: Sis. Lucille (Dwaine) Schmidt and Lynn, daughter of Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille Schmidt.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Al Langhofer of Wichita, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf of Latty and Bro. Dennis Warner of Lester certainly left us with much food for thought, as they ministered from God's Holy word.

As spring bursts forth in its tender beauty, so must our efforts to work in His vineyard be awakened to new life. This ties in so well with the Easter story, which is dear to the heart of each child of His. Life bursting from tiny seeds reminds us over and over of the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

A Thank-you: I wish to thank all my relatives and friends for their prayers, letters, cards, flowers and other gifts while I was a surgical patient at the Methodist Hospital in Rochester, Minn. and since my return home. Letters and notes are so much appreciated at a time like this. Mrs. Earnie (Ida Banwart) Schmidt.

WICHITA Glennis Allenbach

For Me

Under an eastern sky,
Amid a rabble cry,
A man went for to die
For me

Thus wert Thou made all mine;
Lord makes me wholly thine,
Give grace and strength divine
To me!

It was a pleasant sight the other evening, just at dusk, to approach the church and see the arches

standing for the new addition to our church.

We were saddened by the loss of our dear Sis. Katherine Anliker. She had a special gift of kindness and was greatly loved by all her brothers and sisters in faith.

Since this is the season Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. I would include a portion of a poem called — "Gethsemane".

In golden youth when seems the earth,
A summer-land of singing mirth,
When souls are glad and hearts are light,
And not a shadow lurks in sight,
We do not know it, but there lies,
Somewhere veiled under evening skies,
A garden which we all must see—
The Garden of Gethsemane.

Down shadowy lanes across strange streams,
Bridged over by our broken dreams;
Behind the misty caps of years,
Beyond the great salt forest of tears,
The garden lies. Strive as you may,
You cannot miss it in your way.
All paths that have been or shall be,
Pass somewhere through Gethsemane.

All those who journey soon or late
Must pass within the garden's gate,
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.
God pity those who cannot say,
Not mine, but thine. . . who only pray,
Let this cup pass, and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane.

CHICAGO

The engagement of Sis. Jan Hunziker and Bro. John Schini of Bremen was announced.

March 18 was a day of rejoicing as Patty Meyer, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Marie of Ft. Lauderdale gave her testimony and was baptized and welcomed into the fold. Bro. Maurice Frank of Leo, as well as many relatives and friends of Patty were in attendance for this blessed occasion.

We are in sympathy with Bro. Jim Schlatter, whose mother went to her eternal rest.

Bro. Frank Fisher has been hos-

pitalized, and we hope will soon be feeling well again.

On April 1 we shared together the blessed rite of Holy Communion. Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton assisted Bro. Al. Bro. Earl Zeltwanger of Bremen, as well as many other visitors, were also present.

CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

"And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." There is resurrection power. Common days are holy, and years an Eastertide, to those who with the living Lord in living faith abide. We are thankful our friends, Gary Rudin and his wife Elizabeth found grace to repent. They confess peace with God and man, and hope to bring their testimonies before the congregation soon. Gary is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Evelyn Rudin. Elizabeth is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Marie Laubscher.

A baby boy, Daniel Lee, was born to Sis. Wilma and Bro. Charles Walder March 13. He has two sisters and a brother to welcome him. George and Sis. Helen Baer are the grandparents. . . A baby girl, Jessica Marie, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Reutter. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Reutter and Sis. Marcella Markwalder are the grandparents.

We thank our Brothers: Jim Hoerr, Arthur Gudeman, Henry Beer, Kenney Knepp, Raymond Roth for their inspiring messages, and hope they will visit us again soon.

Our sick: Sis. Rachel Samet has gone to make her home at the Apostolic Christian Home. Sis. Leah Aeschliman has gone to Fairhaven Resident Home at Fairbury. Mark Waldbeser, son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan, had surgery and is getting along fine. Bro. John Lackey was a hospital medical patient. Sis. Elsie Bauer was a surgical patient. My Co-worker, Sis. Mary Young is also a hospital patient for obseration and tests.

Our friend Leslie Kaufmann, age 49 passed away March 6 at Carle Memorial Hospital. Survivors are his wife, Irene; one son, Leslie Jr; three daughters, Mrs. Dianna Pickens, Debra and Sherry. His mother, Sis. Lillian Kauffmann; two broth-

ers, Marvin and Harry; six sisters, Evelyn Hartman, Erma Martin, Viola Redman, Arlene Gutwein, Wilma Light, and Dorothy Koonce. Funeral services were held March 9.

Funeral services were held March 17 for Sis. Emma Reutter, age 77, who passed away March 14 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, after several months illness. Survivors include: one son, Don; three daughters, Sis. Marion Reutter, Sis. Evelyn Hoerr, and Charlene Somerhalter; 1 brother, Bro. Wm.; 4 sisters, Lena, Rose Sauder, Mary Lawless and Hulda Rentsch. We shall miss Sis. Emma in our midst. She suffered much and had a longing to go home.

DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over three young souls who have found that peace that passeth all understanding. Wendy Marsh, Cheryl and Cindy Maibach have found this peace and have expressed the desire to go further in the will of the Father and plan of salvation, in the waters of baptism. It is a time of refreshing to hear the words of joy and happiness from these souls. What a miracle to behold purification of a soul and to see them led to be united with their Heavenly Father.

It is also very humbling to see them move one step at a time, completely relying on Him who leads the way. It is marvellous to see Him provide, as the steps incline or as obstacles appear. How truly He watches and cares for those who put their trust in Him. Let us, as believers, have a prayer in our heart and words of encouragement on our lips for those who desire to live in Christ. We have such a responsibility to be an example and to let our light shine to them always.

We share in the happiness with Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcia Belsley. Their first little baby and precious bundle, Matthew Lee, born March 1, has warmed our hearts already.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dee Steffen and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lois Belsley are the happy grandparents.

Signs of spring are approaching, and the earth seems to come alive in so many ways. One of our young souls in repentance shared with me how much different things of na-

ture look now. She said that she never before noticed all the beautiful things created by God, and appreciates so very much the beauty of nature that spring unfolds.

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
Our Lord God made them all.

FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

We enjoyed having a group from Francesville visit us, including Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, who gave us inspiring messages of love . . . and the brothers in a sextet, sharing with us inspirational hymns in the song service in the evening. Fred and Judy Haas came for the first time to the evening song service, and we rejoice that they have returned, seeking Jesus as their Saviour for their salvation.

Visiting ministers sharing their love with us were Bob Grimm, Don Sauder, Jim Leman of Roanoke, and Phil Wingeier of Alto.

Sis Esther Kiefer fell in her home and is hospitalized, having received injuries. Sis. Louise Furrer had surgery; Sis. Tillie Kaiser has returned to the Home from the hospital.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Ione Broquard for the passing away of her mother, Sis. Anliker of Kansas.

Funeral services were held for Louise (Cammerer) Wenger, who passed away following surgery. Surviving are her husband, Elmer; and a daughter Mildred Brucker,

In Memory Of Robbie Moser (April 1972)

Bertha Heuni Annis

He came for just a little while,
And brought such love and joy.
You also found how wonderful
Can be a little boy.

He started school so recently
His baby days were passed.
Small children have a certain way
Of growing up so fast.

But other plans were made for him
An angel came one day
And very unexpectedly
Your Robbie went away.

The tender love he holds for you,
The love you have for him

Will live throughout the coming
years
Nor ever fade or dim.

The time for him will not seem
long;
He only went before.
A thousand years are as one day
On that eternal shore. . .

And there he learns far greater
things
Than we on earth can know,
Grieve not too much, for in his joy
He would not have it so.

He added one more flower rare
To Heaven's sweet bouquet,
The fragrance of his precious love
Wafts down to you today.

And meanwhile God with love di-
vine
Cares for your cherished one,
He knows your grief so very well. . .
He gave His only Son.

And when at last you meet again,
In that fair, happy land
Where God wipes all the tears away,
You then will understand.

FT. SCOTT
Ida Sinn

We extend our heartfelt sym-
pathy to Sis. Elsie Sinn in the death
of her brother, Fred Eberle, of
Princeville.

Our area churches met again at
Newton, to help with the World Re-
lief work at the center there. Our
count was down this time, but four
from our congregation went.

Lydia Hawkins has been hospi-
talized. She is much improved and
is at home now.

FORREST
Juanita Schneider
Eleanor Honegger

Christ took His sorrow to the hills
Where ancient shrubs grew tall,
To the garden of Gethsemane,
And a tender hush lay over all.
How quietly the winged things
And every lifted blade of grass!
How suetly the winged things
Listened, stilled, to see Him pass!
While there in lonely solitude,
Away from hatred in the town,
Jesus knelt in anguished prayer
And with compassion God looked
down.

We thank our visiting ministers,

Dave Wiegand, Frederick Knapp,
Vernon Leman and Bob Walder for
the teachings of God's word; may
each one heed them, so when our
life book is open, our pages will be
clean and spotless by our love for
Jesus. Prayer changes things.

Sis. Leona Ricketts spent some
time at the Ottawa Hospital. Lit-
tle Sarah Ricketts, daughter of
Bro. Nick and Sis. Jeanne, and
Sis. Lavonne Lanz were patients
at Fairbury Hospital. Sis. Ann
Maurer was a surgical patient at
a Peoria Hospital. Sis. Carrie Wie-
gand was a hospital patient. Little
Scott Bachtold, son of the Jerry
Bachtold's, received a bad cut on
his leg that required several
stitches. Sis Bertha Kilgus remains
a patient at a Champaign hospital.

Thank God for friends attuned to
God
Who quickly come to share,
With words of cheer and prayers
of faith,
The burdens that we bear.
How sweet to hear the voice of
friends,
As clouds around us roll;
Their pleasant words, like honey-
comb,
Are sweetness to the soul.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Schlatter, 59,
has gone to her great reward, after
a lingering illness. We certainly
will miss her love and kindness
and her warm smile. Ruth was
ready to meet her God and said,
"Jesus is mine." What a comfort
to those she left on this side of
eternity. Surviving are her hus-
band, Bro. Dan; daughters, Cheryl
Mangers of Dixon and Jeanne of
Urbana; sons Bro. James of Chi-
cago and Tom of Normal; three
sisters, Sis. Esther Honegger, Sis.
Marie Schrof, Forrest; Sis. Louise
Joos, Princeville; and four brothers,
George and Bro. Edward, Forrest;
Carl, Monticello, Iowa; and Bro.
Reuben, Fairbury.

Lydia Armbruster, 90 passed
away March 14 at Fairview Haven,
where she resided the past three
years. She was a former resident
of Syracuse, Ind., and Forrest. Sur-
viving are three sisters, Sis. Mary
Ebach, Fairview Haven; Kathryn
Hatch, Joliet and Carrie Moser,
Dwight; and three brothers, Chris
Haab, Fairbury; Ed Haab, For-
rest; and Sam Haab, Decatur.

We welcome Bro. Greg Stoller
back in our midst, since his re-
lease from military service spent
in Texas.

The engagement of Daryl Anliker
and Rebecca Smith has been an-
nounced. Daryl is the son of Bro.
Si and Sis. Marie Hohulin.

The family of Ruth Schlatter
wishes to thank everyone who had
a hand in the many thoughts,
prayers, and other acts of love ex-
tended to them during the illness
and death of their loved one.

What man calls fortune is from
God.

FT. WAYNE
Pam Steffen — Eleanor Stieglitz

How many of us stop during our
busy life to listen to the beauty of
the bird's singing? With Milford
as our host at the singing of the
month, Bro. Henry Beer talked
about the wonders of nature that
God has created. We halted our
busy lives that Sunday evening
to hear many birds join in a melody
of song that Bro. Henry captured
on a tape recorder. We want to
thank Bro. Henry, the Milford
adult choir, Sunday School choir,
and men's group for the inspiring
program.

We also want to thank the Mor-
tonaires for a Spirit-filled message
in song. Our congregation enjoyed
two programs—Saturday evening
and Sunday afternoon.

We welcome Sis. Hulda Gerber
(Bro. Noah) back to our worship
services, after an injury which kept
her home for several weeks. Bro.
Gene Stoller was a surgical patient
at Parkview Hospital. Five-year-
old Chris Pulver (Bro. Lester and
Sis. Florence) has rheumatic fever.
His Sunday School class really
misses him.

Bro. Lester and Sis. Florence
Pulver welcome a new grandson
into their family. Slane Thomas
was born on March 7 to Stan and
Wendy Pulver.

Our visiting ministers have been
Bros. Joe Zimmerman (Morton),
Walter Steffen (Milford), Harold
Zeltwanger, and Verdon Feldman
(Bremen). Verdon challenged each
of us to say "I love you" to at least
five people before we left our wor-
ship service. Have you told anyone
lately that you love them? Let's
all work to fill our world with love!

GOODFIELD Elna Grimm

On Sat. evening March 10, many brothers and sisters congregated in our Goodfield church to hear the testimonies of four friends, who are now Sisters Jacki Grimm, Joyce Zobrist, Gerri Roth, and Susan Knapp. Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park) and Bro. Henry Grimm (Morton) helped Bro. Ed with this inspired work. We were stirred by the testimonies given. The unspeakable beauty of His marvelous ways never cease to amaze us. How surely He brings the souls to feel their convictions; how thoroughly He purges and teaches. What miraculous confessions of His mighty works these four souls brought forth. What lessons we can learn through prayer and the reading of His word.

The Lord I love went on ahead
To make a home for me. He said
He would come back again, and
He—

Oh, gracious love—He wrote to me!
He knew I was so weak and blind
And foolish that I could not find
The road alone. He told me things
That all earth's wise men and its
kings,

Have never guessed, yet I foreknow
If I but read His word, And oh,
Such depths of love on every sheet!
My soul is trembling at His feet!
What would He think of me
If when I saw Him I should say:
I was too busy every day
To read what Thou didst write to
me;

I really hadn't time for Thee!

On Sunday March 11, these four souls were baptized. Other ministers present for the week-end were Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor) and Bro. Art Baurer from Princeville.

Bro. John Rokey suffered a broken arm when working with cattle; Sis. Gerry Plattner fell and broke her arm. Bro. Dan Plattner tore some tendons in his thumb, in an accident at home. . . Sis. Luann Knapp (Mike Knapp Jr.) is at home recuperating, having had major surgery the middle of March. Little Lynne Binkele, daughter of Friends Jerry and Ann Brinkele, has been a patient in the hospital several times this past winter, but she is at home now and getting along well.

LACROSSE

Gwen Bucher — Lorene Moser

We have had several sisters hospitalized, Sis. Melva (Vernon) Bucher, Sis. Louise (Ed) Wittmer and Sis. Sylvia (Harvey Banwart).

Our friend, Ann Meiss is now a resident at Canterbury Place in Valparaiso.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Gayle Bucher are the parents of their first child, Rochelle Lea, born on March 6. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Vernon Bucher, and Bro. and Sis. Bob Aeschliman of Bluffton.

Bro. Steve Rinkenberger of Cissna Park ministered to us on March 12. One of the benefits of our modern age has to be the added blessing of fellowship with those of like faith, from what used to be considered a great distance.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

We had a surprise snow blizzard here March 17 & 18. All churches were closed, roads were blocked, our young people were not able to attend the Christian Endeavor at Remington. We had been enjoying beautiful spring weather up until then.

Bro. Alfred Bahler of the Wolcott congregation assisted Bro. David Bertsch in the Communion service we were able to partake of.

Bro. John Bollier fell from a truck and broke his wrist. It is mending nicely. Bro. Edw. Bertsch had to have several stitches on his head, from a fall he took while strolling out from the nursing home where he stays. Sis. Leah Schwartz is on our sick list.

We made our monthly visits to the three nursing homes at Butler the first Sunday of the month. The people there all seem to welcome the spring weather.

We welcome Albert and Marjorie Frautschi home. Their address is now Grabill, Ind. 46741.

This month we find our serviceman Ernest B. Stoller in California: Ernest B. Stoller San Fr. 30962 9055, 5th Plt. Co C DLIWC Monterey California 93940.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Donna Metzger

The return of spring is in the air in northwest Iowa, and with the coming of spring our thoughts turn to the resurrection of our Saviour. The Easter season has a special

meaning this year for four dear young souls who have repented. They are Jeryl Mogler, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia; Becky Leuthold, daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean; and Darlene and Julie Wulf, daughters of Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona. It strengthens us to know the door of grace is still open for those who seek Him.

We have resumed mid-week services and are thankful for this interlude of quiet serenity in our busy lives.

Within a matter of a few months, tragedy again struck the family of Eleanor (Metzger) Popkes. Last summer they lost their small son in a drowning accident. While still recovering from this grief, her husband, Ed Popkes, was killed when he fell from a scaffold while working on a construction project at Morris. Our sympathy goes to Eleanor and five little boys who had to say 'good-bye' to their daddy.

After singing hymns for residents at the rest home, a group of young sisters went to the home of Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser for more singing. Sis. Rose was released recently from the hospital and is learning to get around with the help of a walker.

Thank you: I wish to thank everyone for cards, visits, gifts and prayers which were very much appreciated during my recent surgery. Bro. Dale Metzger. . . Bro. Dale is progressing nicely, after his back surgery.

Sis. Edna Mogler expresses her thanks to all who remembered her on her 80th birthday.

A new baby girl, Amy Jean, was born to Ronnie and Sandy Feucht on March 23. She has a brother and sister, and grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold and Emil and Ruby Feucht.

Larry Leuthold was discharged, after serving six years in the National Guard.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz Miss Della Witschey

On March 11 we had 3-4 inches of snow, and very cold, freezing all shrubs, flowers and fruits that were far enough along to be in bud.

Kenneth Potts, a son of the late Anna Emch Potts and A. M. Potts, passed away very unexpectedly on March 13. He is survived by his

widow, one son, four daughters, one sister and five brothers.

Clarence E. Rothlisberger, a son of the late Jacob and Pauline Rothlisberger, died in Greensburg Pa., on March 18 following a lengthy illness. The remains were brought here for services and interment.

Nell Riggerbach Blair, daughter of the late Fred and Bertha Riggerbach, died on March 26 after a brief illness. She leaves her husband, Albert Blair; three sons; one sister, Kate Kellar; four brothers, Carl, Clyde, Robert and Fred . . . services and interment here on March 28.

Albert Hassig has returned to his home on R. 7, after spending the winter with a daughter in Ashland, Ohio. He also attended the funeral services of his brother, John Hassig in Rittman several weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Edw. Berger, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade, Mrs. Elza Ritz and Mrs. Gus Wertz attended services at the Sardis church on March 11.

Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock Jr. and baby of Huntington, W. Va., visited home folks here on March 18.

Timothy Lee Murdock, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock Sr., and Miss Marilyn Hyde will be married on April seven in Atlanta, Ga. He is in the Air Force and stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

Mrs. Elza Ritz and Mrs. C. O. Wade were among a group of ladies that took a bus trip to Washington D. C. on April 5, returning home on April 7. They had a 10-hour tour of Washington on April 6.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron will observe their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 4. Because of one son not being able to come at that time from Florida, they will have open house on April 15. They are the parents of two daughters, four sons, 19 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Williams is a daughter of the late Mrs. Emma Barth.

PEORIA

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

The engagement of Sis. Mary Lynn Unsicker, daughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Eunice Unsicker, and Bro. Steve Steitmatter, son of Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmat-

ter, was announced to our congregation.

Guest ministers were Bros. Cleo Rinkenberger, Noah Herman, Harold Schmidtgal and Harvey Grimm. It was also a pleasure to see the Bible Class students and their teachers and all who accompanied our brethren in our assembled congregation. The Goodfield Choir joined us for our March Hymn Sing. We thank all our visitors for coming, and enjoyed the precious hours in Christian fellowship with one another.

Sis. Pauline Knobloch has moved to the A. C. Home, 7023 NE Skyline Drive, 61614, following a four-week period of hospitalization. Sis. Emma Messer and Bro. Al Thomas are hospital patients.

Sis. Louise Simon died March 9, on her 66th birthday, at St. Francis Hospital. Surviving are two brothers, Jacob and Bro. Henry Simon, and four sisters, Sisters Margaret, Emily and Martha, and Edna Simon. **Thank you note:** We wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the many kind deeds and expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of our dear sister Louise. The Simon Family.

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Marian Reutter and Evelyn Hoerr; their mother, Sis. Emma Reutter of Cissna Park died March 14. Also Sis. Mary Lawless, who is a sister of Emma's.

Sis. Frieda Neeser, 95, died March 28 at the A. C. Home on Skyline Drive. She was such a dear, sweet, gracious lady. And very patient, whenever you asked her how she was, her answer was "Ich bin zu Frieden." **I am satisfied.** A true example of Godliness with contentment is great gain. Surviving are one son, Otto Neeser of Peoria; one daughter, Mrs. Hannah Zeller of Santa Ana, Calif.; one sister, Miss Irma Lienhard in Switzerland; a half brother, Alfred Lienhard of Austria. . .

Spring is such a lovely time of year! Warm sunny days are so welcome. . . love to see the crocus, the first spring flowers to appear on the scene. The forsythia are at their peak now; soon the tulip trees will be in full bloom; today I noticed the apricot trees are blooming. . . Lovely reminder of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We can not be thankful enough for all He has done for us. He was crucified on

the cross, shed his blood for the redemption of our sins, and arose victorious over death and grave. Let us watch and pray so we may be counted among the blest when He comes again, so we may enjoy the beautiful home in heaven, which He has gone to prepare for all who remain faithful to the end.

PHOENIX

Mrs. Allan Freed

The unusual abundance of rainfall we have had in the past several months has transformed our normally dry, dusty desert and mountain areas. It is a rare sight to see so much green ground cover, and the many varieties of wild flowers and blooming cacti provides a colorful picture. The citrus trees are also blooming, and soon the valley will be filled with their sweet fragrance.

We have missed several from our congregation who have been confined. Teddy Knochel, young son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Madelyn, is back in Sunday School again, after having had quite an ordeal from a cat-bite on his hand. He had to have surgery to drain the infected area. Nathan Knochel, son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Joann, was laid up for awhile with a badly infected broken toe. Sis. Wilma Pulfer was a hospital patient, when she had surgery on her hand. Thankfully, they are all on the mend. One of our converts, Drenda Turner is a patient in Veteran's Hospital.

Thank you note: I wish to express my sincere thanks to all for the kindness shown to us through Bro. Ernest's long illness and the loss of my beloved husband. For the prayers, kind deeds, cards and flowers all were appreciated very much. Sis. Lois Elsasser.

Our Sunday School classes and teachers enjoyed an outing on Saturday the 24th. A noon picnic was held at Papago Park, and afterward they spent the remainder of the day at the zoo which adjoins the park.

ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

. . . To whom then will ye liken God? . . . Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, THAT the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth. . . THERE IS no searching of his understanding. . . Bro. Simon Wagen-

bach of Tremont ended his sermon here with these impressive words. We have always enjoyed meeting and greeting brethren who have come to worship with us at Rockville. Bro. Simon, with his traveling companions, spent several days here with his daughter and son in law, Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider. We were also glad to have our elder, Bro. John Bahler with us again, after having made a long trip across the country, where he and his wife Sis. Julia had visited relatives and churches.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

We enjoyed having Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka, visit us.

Our annual business meeting was held, with Bro. John Plattner re-elected for another three-year term as trustee of the church. Bro. Ben Aberle has also been re-elected for another three-year term on the committee for the Fellowship Hall.

Hospitalized were Sis. Ollie Strahm (with a broken hip), Sis. Elizabeth Marti, Sis. Mayme Roke, Bro. Velmer Meyer. Bro. Sol Wenger was in a Topeka hospital, as was Terry Edelman, 17-month-old son of Sis. Barbara & Clifford Edelman.

Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer are the parents of their second son, born March 7. He has been named Keith Wayne. . . Gale Gene was the name selected by Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger for their new son, born March 8. He has three brothers and two sisters to welcome him into the family. . . Kenneth and Sandra Aberle are the parents of their first child, a girl. She was born March 12 and has been named Brenna Sue. Bro. Ben and Sis. Liseten Aberle are the paternal grandparents.

We are to assemble this Saturday evening to hear the testimonies of our four friends, Judy Hartter, Jerome Hartter, Arlene (Metzger) and Rodney Grimm. May the Lord be with them, so that they may make their covenant in baptism on Sunday.

SARDIS

Karen Indermuhle

After such beautiful weather, the snowstorm of last week surprised everyone. Despite almost impassible roads, we assembled Sunday afternoon to hear from Bro. Perry

Zimmerman, Forrest. What a blessing was to be had, especially since the extra effort was put forth due to bad weather. May we always have that earnest desire to thirst after the word of God.

Clifford Brake, one year old, welcomed home his new baby sister, Lisa Marie born on March 20. Her parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam (Hilty) Brake. (Working in labor and delivery, I was able to again see the miracle of birth.)

The Lord continues to call souls into His service. Isaac Gehring has made a beginning in his commitment for the Lord.

Having discovered we only had one more day to live, everyone of us would be calling other people to tell we love them. Why wait until that last day? Share Christ's love today with someone you care for. The blessings of witnessing for Christ are immeasurable.

IOWA CITY

Joan Mogler — Patty Stoller

With God's hand in the approaching springtime, we marvel as we see His creations budding forth and blooming. A small plant must be rooted into the soil, watered and cared for. You can apply this to your spiritual life. **You can keep faith only as you can keep a plant, by rooting it into your life and making it grow there.**

Bros. Bob Pohl (Burlington), Roy Grimm and Gerald Sutter (Taylor) taught us of God's love. The people back in Moses' time believed about the serpent that Moses raised and were saved; so in this day we, too, can be saved if we believe on Jesus whom God raised up. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

TAYLOR

Elizabeth Sutter—Marie Butikofer

Bro. Arnold Gerst was sent here by his company for several days. Sis. Margie and son, John, accompanied him. Bro. Arnold served us from God's holy word, which was appreciated by all.

Because of so much rain, it is too wet for farmers to get in the fields, but it has brought the lush green grass and beautiful spring flowers—magnolia trees, forsythia, narcissus, tulips, and many others.

Sis. Elizabeth Sutter was taken to Blessing Hospital quite unexpectedly for tests and observance.

Children and teachers in Sunday School are busy preparing for their Easter Program. The message that Christ arose gives us much to rejoice. The program will be on Palm Sunday.

BRADFORD

Rebecca Endress

We have four new brothers and sisters in faith: Dennis and Becky (Guingrich) Pyles, and Steve and Rose Staley. Becky is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich. Their testimonies the night before were proof that, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Asked how they knew the brethren loved them, one said, "I can look back on so many times, when someone would speak with me, I knew he couldn't give me this feeling in my heart, unless he had love in his. They were interested in me, and my soul's salvation." Another answered, "So many times, I have felt it."

Elder Bro. Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke) was here to assist Bro. Dan Kieser. We also appreciate having Bro. Ben Fehr (Roanoke) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) with us for the day. Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein (Alabama) was visiting minister one Wednesday evening.

We sympathize with Cheryl Mangers, whose mother, Sis. Ruth Schlatter of Forrest was taken from this life. Dennis and Cheryl and their little son have moved from Princeton to Rt. 3 Dixon, Illinois. They will not be as close to Bradford, but we hope they will assemble with us whenever they can.

Nathan Hercejar is home from the hospital, but still is confined to his home. Many of our little folks have been shut in with chicken pox.

GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

Winter left us reluctantly, so much snow on March 18 that we had to cancel church. The following Wednesday we had mid-week services at the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Emch. We enjoyed this change so much that the next week we assembled at Sis. Mini Emch's home.

Moving? Write . . . Let know both new and old addresses.

LAMONT Betty Wernli

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." It is with this consolation and comfort that in less than a week we laid to rest two of our beloved sisters, both of whom endured the afflictions of this our earthly dwelling, ever looking in faith and patience to the one true God who could relieve them, and through His grace attain life and peace eternal.

Sis. Kathryn Anliker passed from this life on March 12, at the age of 69 after a lingering illness. She leaves to mourn her passing our elder, Bro. Sam; one son, Glenn of Lamont; one daughter, Sis. Ione (Donald) Broquard of Fairbury; three sisters, Sis. Hulda Jacobs, of our congregation; Sis. Anna Waibel of Remington, Sis. Leah Farney of Wolcott, and one brother, Sam Gruber of Remington. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock of Oakville and Bro. Roy Wernli. There were also numerous elders and ministering brothers who took part in presence and prayer . . . **Note of Thanks:** Seems so little to say, "Thank you." Only God knows our deep appreciation for the many deeds of love and sympathy, also the many prayers that were offered throughout the illness and death of our loved one. The Family of Kathryn Anliker.

Sis. Clara Ott passed from this life on March 18 at the age of 87. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. John in 1954, and by two sons and one daughter. She is survived by four daughters and one son. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Loren Strahm and George Lambert. Clara was a widow for many years, but always trusted in God to provide, which he did abundantly and kept her in His loving care, until this longing to be with the Lord could be fulfilled.

We were so blessed with the visit of Bro. Carl Hartman of Sabetha.

Sis. Matilda Emch has been in the hospital for a time, but is again in our midst.

MANSFIELD Aaron A. Sauder

The Easter season is with us again, reminding us of the boundless love of our wonderful Lord.

We have experienced spiritual blessings. Our Elder Bro. Rudy Graf was with us last evening when

our friend, Linda Miller testified how she had sought God and found Him; and today (April 1), she was immersed in the waters of baptism. It is with love and prayers that we welcome our dear Sis. Linda into our fellowship. In addition to Bro. Graf, Bro. Aaron Steffen from Alto was with us for services today. Bro. Carl Kipfer ministered to us on March 22. We appreciate the visits of each one.

We are thankful that Dan Domka (son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Sabo Domka) has completed his time in the service of our government. Welcome home, Dan, we are happy to have you back.

Those who have been hospital patients are Sisters Tillie Bucher, Frieda Dinger (Fred), Alice "Peg" Graszl (Frank), Bros. Charles Sauder and Dave Beer. Although not hospitalized, Sis. Nellie Groh (Herman) was confined to her home for several weeks, and we are thankful she is again able to worship with us.

We are also pleased to have Sis. Mary Sauder (Wm.) home again, after spending several months with her daughter, Sis. Evelyn Manz and family of Paulding.

MAYWOOD

Mrs. Leonard Locher

Recent visiting ministers were: Jesse Schrock, Congerville; Clarence Dietrich, Silverton; Vernon Leman, Eureka; Clarence Yackley, Phoenix; John Bahler, Rockville. We thank them for their many teachings which are so important for our spiritual food.

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow . . . was the song chosen by Sis. Penny Julien and Bro. Ron Erismann when they were united in marriage. Our church overflowed with visitors; we wish this was the way every Sunday. Our congregation will miss Sis. Penny, especially the children she taught so lovingly in Sunday School. We extend our love and blessings to her and Bro. Ron in their new life as one in Christ.

My father, Bro. John Dapper was recently hospitalized with a heart condition. He is slowly improving, and we are thankful God saw it fit to leave him with us awhile longer. The ministering brothers from Altadena are serving us, for which we are thankful.

Sis. Eva Fuhrer was hospitalized

for tests, and Friend Fred Erhart is in the hospital in traction.

Our family made a short trip through the desert. It was a beautiful sight to behold the beauty of the desert in the spring, with the many wildflowers blooming. We have had an excessive amount of moisture, and everything was green and colorful; it makes one wonder how people can question God's power and creation.

MORTON

Mrs. Keith Stevig Mrs. Harry Kaiser

Our visiting ministers were Alphi Moser, Morris; Ed Hohulin, Goodfield; Dave Wiegand, Champaign.

A baby daughter, Michelle Lynn was born to Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz on March 6. She was welcomed home by a brother, Douglas, and a sister, Denise. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig of Gridley, Ill. and Sis. Martha Fritz of Morton.

The engagement of Sis. Janet Hunzicker to Bro. John Schini was made known on March 11. Jan is the daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Virginia Hunzicker of Morton. A July wedding is being planned, and we wish them God's blessings in their life together.

The death angel has come in to our midst and taken not only the old, but the young, as a bud of a flower.

Bro. Joseph C. Belsley, 89, died March 6 at Restmor Nursing Home. He married Emma Wuthrich, and she survives. Also surviving are six sons, Clarence, Willis, Edward and Robert, all of Morton, Willard and Benjamin, both of Detroit; a daughter Mrs. Ben (Lorene Mae) Maibach Jr. of Detroit; a brother, George Belsley; and a sister, Mrs. John J. (Emma) Zimmerman, both of Morton.

Also March 6, little 2-year-old Rodney Gene Strunk, son of Eugene and Joyce Kaufman Strunk, passed away. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a brother, Jeffery, at home. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William C. Strunk, Morton; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kaufman, Cissna Park; great-grandparents, Albert A. Kaufman, Cissna Park, and Mrs. Sophia Witzig of Gridley.

Mrs. Alma Bluhm (74) died March 20. Her husband, Mr. Frederick Bluhm, preceded her in death in 1951.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Lenard (Betty) Martin of Washington, Ill.; Mrs. Glen (Sis. Wilma) Stieglitz of Morton, and Mrs. Lawrence (Ramona) Wubbels of Racoon, Mich.; a brother, Harry Olson of Pekin; and two sisters, Mrs. John (Esther) Siddons of Alamo, Tex., and Mrs. Casey (Anna) Jones of Green Valley.

Bro. Chris P. Kaiser (80) passed away March 25. He married Bertha Stieglitz, and she preceded him in death on Dec. 1961. Surviving are five sons, Jesse, Emery, Roy, and Wayne, all of Morton, and Warren of Deer Creek; two daughters, Mrs. Jacob (Mary) Koehl of Hancock and Mrs. Harry (Helen) Schmidgall of Morton; a brother, Joe, and a sister, Nettie, both of Morton.

On April 1, three dear souls were taken into the fold. They were Steve Thannert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Thannert of Morton; Douglas Zimmerman, son of Sis. Edith Zimmerman; and Dave Zeller, son of Henry and Sis. Norma Zeller, all of Morton.

Those sick and convalescing are Sis. Mona Stoller, Sis. Norma Zeller, Bro. Harry Wick, Larry Stephens and Rebecca Rumbold.

TUCSON

Mrs. Loren Knapp

As we advance into spring, most of our winter visitors are returning to their homes.

Some of the Tucson congregation were able to attend funeral services at Phoenix for our dear brother-in-faith, Ernest Elsasser. After such long time suffering, may he rest in blissful peace. We'll always remember Bro. Ernie's friendly smile and his warm, loving way. He will certainly be missed by all.

"For the physical welfare of our earthly bodies, we must replenish it daily with the foods of the earth. So, for our spiritual body, should we not also replenish it daily, but with the spiritual food from the word of life, The Bible." This was the thought conveyed to us as one of our visiting brothers lent himself to proclaim the word.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Clarence Yackley and Richard Schupbach of Phoenix.

Bro. Noah and Sis. Lorraine Herman returned from a short trip.

Our monthly potluck and fellowship dinner was held on March 7 in the church dining-room. We were

fortunate to have many visiting friends and brethren with us.

SHIODA, JAPAN

Willis R. Ehle

I listened to a taped sermon spoken by Bro. Harold Zeltwanger (in Chicago on Sept. 5, 1971). He said, "Everyone of you who are here today is here because someone was concerned about you." It naturally follows then that we should be very concerned for others, should bring them to church and hopefully to Christ, in whom there is salvation and forgiveness, whether they are our children or strangers.

A brother from our Peoria congregation wrote to me, "God uses various means to lead people to Himself." I've been thinking that one of those means is the closeness of God's children one with another, within a given congregation or brotherhood, when they are in unity. We put our faith in Christ because we are convicted of our lost condition and desire forgiveness and redemption. Some are drawn by love, some are drawn by fear and some say, "I felt drawn neither by love nor fear, but God called me and that was it." In any case, Christ must recreate us, and He can't do it unless we die unto sin and self.

On March 21, a national holiday because of the spring equinox, our three churches got together for fellowship. We talked about the importance of singing hymns as a spiritual exercise, and we did quite a lot of singing. Every believer should sing a hymn of some kind every day.

My family and I, as well as our two teaching sisters, were invited to the home of a good friend of ours who attends our church. He wanted to speak almost entirely of spiritual things, and of course I was all for it. I mentioned the importance of making a clean break with anything that even approaches being idolatry and he told the following story: There was a young lady 20 years of age living in Yamanashi-Shi, about a 15 minute drive from our Shioda Church. Being a professing Christian with a firm determination, she refused to participate or to have anything to do with the Buddhist funeral which her family arranged when her mother passed away. Her family took issue with her, to the extent that she des-

paired and walked up into the mountains at midnight in the winter-time, and died there from exposure. She was wrong to seek death before her time, but her family was also wrong.

TAMAHATA

Akito and Marie Inoue

Spring has made its beginning again here in Japan, with blossoming fruit trees. The much admired white 'ume' blossom, or Japanese plum, is the earliest, and often used as a decorative pattern in kimonos, vases, and china. The cherry and peach blossoms will soon be coming out. These, together with spring flowers, show forth the glory of the Lord in their radiant colors, bowing from side to side in the wind.

On March 21 we enjoyed our spring fellowship meeting, held in a quiet mountainous area on the edge of Tokyo. The theme chosen by the Shioda church, who were our hosts, concerned the importance of singing hymns in the believer's life. Passages of Scripture in Psalms and Colossians were read and meditated upon by our ministering brothers . . . Bro. Yamazaki mentioning that singing with a humble attitude and from the heart is what's important. Singing a song everyday with our families was mentioned as another good habit to cultivate. These meetings made us more aware of the value in praising the Lord with spiritual songs and hymns.

As much as possible, those of us who don't understand Japanese services gather at Shioda church on Sunday evenings for an English worship service. We are usually ministered to by our ministering brothers, but recently we listened to a taped sermon from the U.S. The brother meditated on Revelation, on things to expect in heaven and hell. Sometimes in our lives we have possibly been in a situation which reminded us of the terrible-ness of hell. The brother gave an illustration of this, while harvesting mint on his father's farm as a youth. To process the oil from mint, it was put in a huge bin where hot steam was applied. After the oil was extracted, the boys took turns cleaning out the refuse from the bottom of the bin, a very unpleasant situation on a hot day. When it was his turn to climb in and clean out the bin, his uncle turned on the

steam for a few seconds, which was extremely hot. He was caught by surprise with the hot blast and made great haste to escape. He was happy to be able to escape. May our friends take advantage now of the opportunity they have to escape from the condemnation of hell, and repent and believe, living in faith to be forever with the Lord.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mary Lynn Unsicker

We count it a blessing that Bro. Art Baurer, Princeville, could come and be with us on April 4. He ministered from Isaiah 25 and St. Matthew 16, leaving us with a very inspiring and relevant message. As students, we are placed in the midst of evil, being tempted and tried from every side, yet the Lord doesn't give us burdens too great to bear.

Many times it depresses us to see how few really serve him, but only the child of God knows the joy of serving the Lord. As Bro. Art pointed out, we must believe we have a purpose on campus and ever strive to be a shining light though no other light is seen! It the Lord wills our next meeting will be May 2 in the New Salem Room, of the University Union at 8:00 PM.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Janice Frieden — Janice Springer

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." These could have been the words of Bro. John Schupbach, who passed away at the age of 92. Our ministering brethren officiated at the funeral and graveside services.

Our monthly singing, to praise our Lord, was held in the home of Sis. Mabel and Sis. Janice Springer on March 4. Then, on the week-end of March 10-11, Elder Bro. Roy Farney of Phoenix and Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart of Ft. Scott were with us and provided a two-fold blessing: The memorandum was read Saturday night, and it was wonderful to see the concern of our elder body, that our doctrine remain truly and steadfastly based upon God's word. Especially is their concern wonderful in this age when so many false doctrines are prevalent. Then on Sunday, after two inspiring messages from God's

word, we were further blessed when we partook of Holy Communion, in remembrance of the bitter death our Lord suffered that we might have life everlasting.

This was also the month for our World Relief workers to meet at Newton, Kansas, to bundle the articles they have made for those in need. Although it was a tiring trip, each one had a very rewarding day.

Several of our congregation were hospitalized: Sis. Helen Kircher underwent tests, as did Sis. Martha Roth, and Sis. Helen Farney was hospitalized for several weeks after she underwent surgery. We are thankful that Sis. Helen Farney and Sis. Helen Kircher are able to worship with us again, and hope that Sis. Martha who is temporarily recuperating in the Kiowa Manor, will soon be among us again.

FT. SAM HOUSTON

Dan Fehr

Our small and ever-changing group has been richly blessed with many visiting ministers. Those taking time to bring the word unto us have been Carl Fuecht of Lester, Lester Hartter of Bern, Ezra Feller of Cissna Park, Raymond Roth of Kiowa, Elmer Bucher of Francesville, Paul Gasser of Akron, and Charles Marti of Lamar. We are hoping to have ministers here from Chicago and Morton in this month of April.

Those who have recently taken training here and have since been stationed elsewhere are now quite scattered about. Bros. Chuck Schafer of Princeville and Jim Gramm of Gridley are now in Germany, along with Bro. Tom and Sis. Tammy Speicher of Milford, Convert Leon Rufener of Rittman, and Friend George Sauder of Morris. Friends Dave Schneider of West Bend and Tom Schambach of Elgin, Ill., are now stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Bluffton friends, Steve Maller and Randy Reinhard are at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington D.C., and Chicago Afees Station, respectively. Friend Tom Moser of Elgin, Ill., is stationed at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. Bros. Gary Stoller of Forrest and Mike Gramm of Gridley have been discharged from the Army and are now at home again. We are so very happy for them! It never seemed

so true that absence makes the heart grow fonder, as we long for our families, friends, and church at home.

John Dotterer

How wonderful it is when we can hear God's word on Sunday, and then ponder over it during the week, when earthly trials and cares confront us. We can't express our gratefulness for the inspired words which have been brought to us.

We welcome Brad and Sis. Joyce (Frank) Eland and their two children, Christopher and Wendy, form Oakville. He received a reassignment at Fort Sam.

On April 27, Bro. John Dotterer will be leaving to go to his permanent duty station at Letterman's Army Institute of Research at the Presidio in San Francisco. The selective service draft ended in January and he was the last one from church to be inducted. Therefore, the church apartment will be terminated at the end of April. However, Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland and Roger and Becky Roeschley will be here till November. I'm sure they would appreciate a visit from anyone who comes to San Antonio.

On behalf of the other brothers and friends who have been in the service, I want to thank the church for providing an apartment for us, as well as sending ministers here every other week. The apartment is definitely a place of refuge from army life in general and from the barracks in particular. Words cannot express our sincere thanks to everyone who has made this possible. Also a special thanks to Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, who has had the oversight of the Ft. Sam group and the church apartment.

This will probably be the last report from Ft. Sam. Let us all pray that no more church boys will have to be inducted into the service.

May God be with us all!

MORRIS

Ann Meiss — Esther Schafer

Bro. Karl Koehl, son of Bro. Edward and Sis. Lillian, and Marilyn Feuchtenberger, daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma, were united in marriage by our elder, Bro. Paul Fehr, on March 11. They will be at home on a farm near Hancock.

Mary Lyn is the name chosen for the new little daughter of Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall.

Bro. and Sis. Warren Hartman of Fairbury and Bro. and Sis. Wayne Schmidgall are the grandparents.

Many good teachings were given to us through the Spirit, when Bro. Duane Metzger of West Bend and Bro. Kenneth Lawson of Minneapolis ministered to us on March 18.

Ed Heil is a patient in a hospital in Minneapolis, where he is receiving treatments. Bro. Orville Nohl has undergone surgery and is hospitalized in Minneapolis. We hope they will both soon be able to enjoy better health.

We are happy to have Bro. Keith Schmidgall in our midst again. He has moved back home, after spending the past several years in the Portland area.

We sympathize with Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Koehl in the death of Mary's father, Bro. Chris Kaiser of Morton.

In God Is Our Strength

It's a troubled world we live in
And we wish that we might find
Not only happiness of heart
But longed for peace of mind. . .
Have we lost our own identity
and allowed our souls to rest?
Have we forgotten Babylon
and Egypt, Rome and Greece
And all the mighty rulers
who lived by war, not peace.
Who built their thrones and em-
pires
on power and man-made things
And never God's Greatness
or that He is King of Kings?
But we have God's Easter promise,
So let us seek a goal
That opens up new vistas
for man's eternal soul—
For our strength and our security
lies not in earthly things,
But in Christ the Lord,
who died for us
And arose as King of Kings!

PRINCEVILLE Ruth Ricketts

Live life today as though today
were all. . .
Our yesterdays are days beyond
recall.
Rest not upon the victories you
have won—
Your yesterday was ended with the
sun.
If you have failed, surrender not
to fear—
Tomorrow has not come; today is
here.

We are enjoying springlike weather, the beautiful green grass, early spring flowers, and the songs of birds. The trees are budding and will soon shoot forth new leaves. One's soul is thrilled with the awakening, proving that God is not dead. As we view the marvels of nature, it should not be hard to believe in the resurrection of our Lord, God's great gift to mankind.

We welcomed visitors from Roanoke and various places, including Bro. Don Sauder, who warmed our hearts with precious teachings in such a kindly manner. We were reminded that God did so much and had so much love for us, that He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross and shed His blood for us all. He was even forsaken of His Father for a time. What a deep joy we can have in our hearts when we live for the Lord.

We have a new grave in our cemetery. Bro. Ernest Elsasser was laid to rest March 3 near the graves of his parents, Bro. William and Sis. Marie Elsasser. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lois, the brothers and sisters, other relatives and those near to him **Note of thanks:** We wish to humbly express our sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the deeds of kindness, love, prayers, cards, and letters during the time of our dear brother's long illness and during our bereavement. Ernest Elsasser's brothers and sisters.

We are sorry to report that Ernest's brother, Bro. Chris Elsasser is a hospital patient, following what seemed to be a stroke. He has made good improvement, but is under observation. We sincerely hope he will soon be able to be at home and not suffer any ill effects. Becky, the young daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal had eye surgery, has recovered nicely, and is coming to Sunday School again, with her smiling little face beaming.

It is so good to have Bro. Eddie Woertz doing his regular jobs about the church. Others took care of the work nicely during his absence for surgery but it seems natural to have Eddie checking the themostats etc., since he has been doing it for so many years.

Family members helped Sis. Josephine Endress enjoy her 90th birthday March 19. She is able to take care of herself, does her

own cooking, and enjoys listening to tapes. She is unable to attend church, as she is nearly blind and quite hard of hearing. Her hair is still quite dark, and she appreciates company. She is glad to have one of her sons living with her.

We are glad to see Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach, who had been absent for several weeks with bronchitis, back with us. We are happy too that Lydia Stisser is able to worship with us, following major surgery several weeks ago.

We had a blessed week-end March 17 and 18, when many relatives and friends came to witness the provings and baptism of Jill Ehnlé, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah, and Loris Knobloch, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille. Saturday evening, Bro. Paul Fehr of Morris ably assisted Bro. Dave Kieser in hearing the testimonies of our two young friends. Ours souls were refreshed as we heard of their experiences, so similar to ours. How thankful we are that God works in the same way, troubling souls until they cannot go any longer in sin, then must pray as they never had before, then the wonderful feeling of peace. There were many touching moments, when a number of friends met the two dear Children of God.

Bro. Marvin Schmidgal of Eureka was with us too on Sunday, and we have many precious memories of both his and Bro. Paul's messages. The members were reminded of their duties. As the lights in the church are visible and all are needful, it can easily be seen when one is out. So it is in each Christian's life; all are needful, and must keep our lights burning brightly, so there are no dark places among us.

We were happy to have Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch and their children accompany her parents for this memorable week-end, when Jack's brother was added to the fold. Many of Jill's relatives were also present to rejoice with her family and friends.

The engagement of Bro. Steven Streitmatter, son of Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha of our congregation, and Sis. Mary Lynn Unsicker, daughter of Bro. Leslie and Sis. Eunice of Peoria was made known. We rejoice with this young couple and wish them God's richest blessing.

W W Ramsier
RR 2
Jeromesville Ohio 44840

As the warm winds are drying the earth, farmers are busy in the fields preparing the ground for planting.

How would it be, if I had to go into the dark alone?

What would I do, if the Lord had not made my last pathway known?

How would it be, if the Lord had not fashioned a place for me?

What would I do, should His love not last throughout eternity?

How would it be if I could not greet

Him, and my loved ones, There?

What would I do, if it could not be He is my answered prayer?

How would it be, had He not assured, so I could always know

If it were not as I promised you, I would have told you so!

TURNING THE TALENT

Henry Souder, Jr.

Jesus went into heaven. He has great interests down here. His work is here. It is really wonderful. We don't work for ourself, we work for Him. What we work with is His. It is a real organization, and real-for-sure life. "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."

He knows what we can do. He never overloads. Yet he gives enough. A challenge. We get into action. Some talents are in the regular way we look at things. Yet some, like the gift of wisdom, may be found in ordinary, matter-of-fact living, in the humblest of circumstances. (Don't miss them!) None are excluded: a mother's tender care to baby, the earnest moments of service of an employee, one on retirement still seeking to do good. "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

It's going to be wonderful up there, when we can at last say, **We're here!** The time schedules, pressures, hours of labor, all past . . . everything, an unbroken blue of heavenly vacation, and home at His best. Yet, these hours of opportunity will be past. Rich and golden, once-in-a-lifetime. We can do for Him who has done so much for us. "Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents."

These few shining hours in the

way of the cross. We gain for Him. He is rich in mercy and lovingkindness. We owe our life and breath for eternity to Him. That's going to be something: When we can look into that kind and loving face. Do for Him. "And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two."

The profit sheet for the one could have been just as beautiful. There was a defect in his heart. What did he do with his time? Could he be heard, joining in with the cheers of the throngs? He absented himself from the suffering that could have brought the joy of the ages. He was lazy and a coward in heart. "But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money."

Time goes by. Every second pushes and pulls us toward the certain end. Inescapable! Circle a day. We soon speed past it. So will that day be present and vivid, when we stand in His presence. "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them."

Can you kind if picture what a feeling of heart that will be? The gold has abided the fire. The fruits remain. And what beautiful fruits! The Master loves them. "And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more."

It will be worth it all and so much more, these few toiling hours in the way of the cross. How great He is,

and such a wonderful Person. A dream moment it will be, when we really see Jesus. Clear and distinct, there He will be. And His smile of approval! Wealth the world knows not of. "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

The one with the two talents, who gained other two, received the same words of approval. The last one could have, too. Everyone could be a worker for Him. Read further in St. Matthew 25. . . we look indeed into a beautiful place, a place of His joy. Into the Ages of Ages, His happiness. Constant, rich, wonderful. . .

We need to consider a somber contrast. "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

The one missing all: There is the sharp pain of seeing beautiful gain forever gone. There is the depressed knowing that one could have been with such a wonderful God, in His joy. There is the fact of horrible living with self forever, a self laden with sin, let alone the wretched company. What is there to reap? There is the statement of awful punishment: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Depression which knows no bottom.

Let us work, for His rest will be glorious!