

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 28

MARCH 1978

NUMBER 5

This article represents Part 3 of the continuing series:

## A CONDENSED OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF SAMUEL H. FROEHLICH

### NEW BEGINNING

An invitation to Wilhelmsdorf in Wurttemberg (Germany) seemed a sign from heaven for Froehlich, and he preached there for a congregation that had separated from the state church. However, this church was not receptive to his doctrine, for it clung to infant baptism, and had left the state church only because of the liturgical baptismal formula.

In this new beginning, Froehlich served several families at various places as private tutor. In addition, he associated with the old Baptists (Mennonites) and preached in their circles (in 1831) and kept in contact with his former congregation at Leutwil.

### CONTINENTAL SOCIETY IN LONDON

Through a preacher in Frankfurt-on-Main, Froehlich learned to know the Continental Society of London which supported ministers and teachers. One of these, Pastor Bost, who had been expelled from the state church, was active in Geneva. Through his meditation, Froehlich offered himself in 1831 for a diaspora-preaching place in the Rhineland.

In February, 1832, Froehlich was baptized at the hands of Bost in Geneva, and thereupon, at private meetings, proclaimed the true Gospel here and there. He pointed men to Christ for repentance, faith, and baptism according to the words of Christ as the first Christians had done.

On Jan. 9, 1836, Froehlich wrote: "It never entered my mind that I

should found a sect here on earth; rather, it was in my purpose to gather children to God. If I could not place my confidence in the Lord my God, that He had called me to His Gospel, I would indeed repent for having begun something upon which the Lord could not place His blessing or with which He could not be pleased. However, I now place myself wholly into His hands that He might lead me according to His good pleasure."

### EVANGELIZATION FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY IN AARGAU

Froehlich began his missionary work in Leutwil, his former congregation. Hardly had the news spread that he was there than from 200 to 300 persons gathered every evening that he might preach the Word of Christ to them. Some also came to spy on him; the majority, however, came from desire. Within a week, many hearers, whom he had instructed before and in whom God had prepared the way, requested baptism. Froehlich examined them carefully to be convinced of their faith and of their knowledge, and admonished them to count the cost of following Christ. Then he baptized them according to the instruction of the Lord; and on Palm Sunday he could, for the first time, celebrate the Lord's Supper with 38 members.

Meanwhile the foe was not idle. When many were gathered together, a gendarme appeared and ordered that all who had sheltered Froehlich must appear before the district magistrate. Froehlich did not allow himself to be intimidated

and continued to preach the good tidings. A summons followed and he was told to leave the village at once and to return to his native Brugg. In vain did he refer to the highest Aargau court. He traveled to Aargau to the magistrate and was dismissed with a warning.

Later on, a gendarme dragged Froehlich out of a meeting and brought him to the magistrate at Lenzburg. In answer to the question, "Who commanded you to preach?" his reply was calmly: "Christ." The angry official raised his hand to strike him, but withdrew it under a stream of profanity. Finally, he tore Froehlich's clothes and emptied his pockets in order to find his books; then he ordered the gendarme to put him in prison. When Froehlich appealed to the fact that the magistrate at Aargau had not arrested him, he was finally allowed to go free, and began his wearisome journey to Brugg.

### SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY IN THE CANTON BERNE

Since it seemed impossible to be active further in Aargau, Froehlich once more turned to Pastor Bost at Geneva: "I have been declared scot-free. In Aargau I was arrested and banned. Where shall I go?" In the mission field he felt himself a beginner and a novice. He would like to go with Paul to learn of him "how with simplicity and shrewdness the Gospel might best be spread."

The new constitution had granted religious freedom and freedom of conscience. When Froehlich re-

ferred to it before the officials, he was told that he could believe what he chose, but that he could not convey it to others.

In July 1832, Froehlich journeyed to Berne to meet with Bost. But Bost had departed because those who would prevent the interview had informed him that Froehlich was behind bars in Aargau. That the wearisome and costly journey might not have been undertaken in vain, Froehlich resolved to go to a missionary journey from Berne.

### THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY IN EMMENTAL

On Aug. 11, 1832, Froehlich made contact by letter with Christian Gerber, Langnau in Emmental, elder of the Baptist church there, whom he had never seen, but of whom he had been told. Agreement of their views on baptism attracted him thither.

Ten days later he himself traveled to Langnau and visited Christian Gerber who then was nearly seventy years old. At a meeting of all the deacons, Froehlich laid before them, by way of introduction, a copy of the letter to the English Continental Society in which he, on Mar. 14 of that year had answered six questions. The gathering seemed to agree with these explanations.

Froehlich held daily meetings in the area, and was generally accompanied by the elder of the church. The attendance grew larger and larger. On Sunday, Sept. 2, the number of hearers at Langnau was between four and five hundred. According to the custom of the time, he preached for three hours. The word was not without fruit, but the foe sensed the danger. On the following morning the state church pastor raised his voice in warning during a meeting of the citizens. Despite the fact that a deacon who was present defended the accused fearlessly, Froehlich was hailed before the magistrate, who decided after a brief hearing that Froehlich was to leave the territory within 24 hours.

Back at Brugg, Froehlich could not, in spite of the prohibition, keep from visiting the persecuted churches in Aargau. In Leutwil where there were 45 baptized souls, a penalty had been placed upon any who would permit meetings in their homes. "We have a great cloud of

witnesses before us, who, for the sake of freedom in Christ, were ready to sacrifice goods and blood, whose imitators we should be in patience and faith," he wrote on Sept. 24, 1832.

### FOURTH MISSIONARY JOURNEY TO ZURICH AND EAST SWITZERLAND

In October, 1832, Froehlich began his activity in Zurich, where two of his sisters lived. They were, as yet, undecided to go his way, but they were no longer offended by him. He found no hearing, however, among his former acquaintances.

Great was the joy of seeing one another again when he, in Canton Thurgau, visited the congregation Wagenhausen at Stein on the Rhein where he had served as vicar four years before. Although the teaching of the baptism of believers met with opposition, he parted from them in the good hope that they would finally find the way.

In St. Gall, also, he met with the opposition on the question while he found many receptive hearts in Herisau. On Nov. 21, 1832, he reached Wattwil, where a year before, a common laborer, Adolph, of Zurich, who was active in the Word of God, had worked after his expulsion by the authorities and had left many awakened ones behind. Here Froehlich remained several weeks, during which time he held meetings and strengthened the knowledge of the baptism of faith and deepened it. In Hauptwil (Thurgau), where he had never been, he learned to know the Brunschwiler family who sought the divine truth and were deeply touched by his word and teaching concerning the baptism of faith. A daughter of this family, Susette, he chose in 1836 as his life's partner.

### LONDON

In Hauptwil, Froehlich received an invitation from the Continental Society of London for a visit of three months. First he concluded his visitations in the area and then returned to his home. At the end of January, 1833, Froehlich went to London where he stayed almost five months. The journey led him down the Rhine, over to Antwerp, via Paris. In the archives of the "Strict Baptist Church," which upheld the baptism of faith, there are records of his stay. Froehlich felt very lone-

ly in London. He felt like Elias on Mt. Horeb, and wrote: "Behold, what doest thou here in England? I do not rightly know why I came here, and yet I was called hither, and by the will and guidance of the Lord. I have been zealous for the Lord, and I am here now, and wait as to what I am to do."

As much as Froehlich treasured it to have support (\$100.00 per year), he saw that it was bound up with difficulties. The Continental Society was now suffering from financial cares, so that it was not in a position to support him nor to pay Bost's salary in Geneva. On its advice, he returned to the continent to work "where the Gospel is not known or preached and where one may find tolerance and entry." The recommendation that the zealous missionary might work in Strasbourg (as only in France was the freedom of preaching the Gospel permitted) was not possible, likely for political reasons. Froehlich returned to Brugg.

### RETURN

Boldly, Froehlich once more took up his work in his native city after his London visit, in midyear 1833. During his absence two brothers from Wurttemberg had directed the congregation in Aargau. One of these had been arrested at a meeting, the other, during a visitation of the sick, and were held for weeks in the Lenzburg prison. In September, 1833, both were brought to the border. Their personal property was sold at public auction to defray the costs.

A Berne brother was banned from the Canton Aargau and moved to Toggenburg, from where he sent an urgent call to Froehlich when several souls requested baptism. "Bitter experiences have taught me not to be too hasty in this matter," he wrote in his diary in September, 1833 "for some whom we have baptized have apostatized when Satan began to rage. Everyone who permits himself to be baptized must be ready, not only to receive the blessings of the Cross of Christ, but also to take up the Cross of Christ."

### STORMS

In the beginning of October, 1833, a message came from the English Continental Society stating that for lack of funds it had to be dissolved. Froehlich did not allow

himself to be discouraged for that reason. Bravely he started on a journey through Aargau to Suhr, Ruppertswil, Hunzenschwil, Schafisheim, Aesch, and Teufental. He held meetings everywhere despite the persecutions that followed his very step. "As long as I kept silent I was left alone; as soon as I began to testify of Christ I was persecuted." For the first time three elders were ordained to serve the churches of Aargau.

In Hauptwil (Thurgau) also, where Froehlich continued the

work which had been begun, the Word found response. The meetings were attended by 200 persons, and by the beginning of the year 1834, the number of baptisms had risen to 60. This development was bound to bring the opponents to the fore. There were public warnings from the pulpits, also threats. The newspapers decried the enthusiasts and sectarians. Participants at the meetings were manhandled to the shedding of blood with stones and sticks. Twelve state church pastors demanded the removal of Froeh-

lich from Hauptwil. At the end of February, a mob of several hundred people destroyed a house, the occupants of which barely saved their lives.

Now the storm broke loose ubiquitously. All newspapers carried reports so that Froehlich became known and was reviled throughout Switzerland. He had to flee from Thurgau and on his passport it was noted that he had been expelled as a sectarian. The police watched him wherever he went.

## THE BENEFITS OF SUFFERING

Ministering Bro. Harold Gramm

"He has born our griefs and carried our sorrow. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him." Such suffering; but here from the greatest of all sufferings flows the greatest of all blessings.

In our life many are suffering with terminal illness, grievous disappointments with disobedient children, etc., etc. We go along so little touched by the tragedies of life, and suddenly the impossible happens to us. Then what do we do? Do we seek refuge in self-pity,

rebellion, or do we turn to God for divine help?

When Jesus faced the Cross, He was human enough to want to escape "the cup," but there was something He wanted even more and that was to do the will of God—what a wonderful illustration of obedience! "He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." There's an old saying that God fits the burden to the back, and aren't we strengthened when we see the many "victories of faith."

No-one should seek the pathway

of suffering, yet at times we see some benefits: salvation of sinners, correction of His children, the bringing about of a compassion for others, and an ability and desire to comfort one another. The final answer to the question of suffering lies beyond this present time. "I reckon that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18) if we have faith in Him, His shed blood, and His miraculous resurrection. What a day that will be when we can be together with all the "overcomers!"

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

We are surely looking forward to warmer weather. Our snowbanks are still high, and even when the ice does melt it can't run off, but freezes right back in place. Our rabbits would also like some thawing weather so that they could have their pens cleaned.

We are also looking forward to seeing our 50 fruit trees bud out and blossom this spring, as well as the blackberries and grapes in our arbor. There will be garden planting, trellis and planter construction, as well as finishing touches on our playground area to be done in the near future for anyone interested in coming out to help. Actually, our hands are full with running here and there with children's needs, and we still need volunteer help.

The children we have are

troubled with a much poorer background of circumstances than we ever had, or could understand, and as a result have personal difficulties stemming from them. But one thing is for sure; they all show potential, and just to witness their good points and capabilities gives us hope and enthusiasm to believe that the project has been a success so far.

Our next annual quilt sale is scheduled for Sept. 9. We are looking forward to it already. The children will have ceramics made and painted for the craft sale and we are looking forward to your nice quilts also. Please have them ready two weeks in advance and have them wrapped in plastic ready for display with the filling described on the I.D. tag along with it's size, etc.

Moving? Let us know both old and new addresses.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Hopefully and prayerfully we intend that within the walls of this facility there is a sanctuary of love, discipline and meaningful living for those who find this their home. Having often been made aware that there is an urgent need for such a refuge for many more "special" people, we are grateful that the time will soon be here when our new addition will make it possible for us to accept new residents. As we slowly absorb new people into our family, we pray for the wisdom equivalent to each challenge. Many times it is the insignificant deed or word which conveys our love and assistance. We think of Scripture which says, "... for whosoever shall give a cup of water to drink in My name shall not lose his reward. . ." This gesture of kindness seems small

until we remember that in Jesus' time, it was not possible to go to a refrigerator for a cup of cold water. To give a cup of cold water often meant going to a spring, maybe far up on a rocky ledge, or walking a distance to a deep well and pulling up a heavy bucket. Realizing this, we know that more important than a deed or gift is the sacrificial love which motivates it. It is written that judgment will be according to the "thoughts and intents of the heart." Fortunately here at the Home, we are presented with many opportunities to "give a cup of water in His name . . ."

This month we would like all of you to meet our resident, Anna M. Stichling, who came to be a part of our family in August of 1975. Her parents, both deceased, were Carl and Mina Yeutter Stichling. Though they were both born in Germany, they lived for many years in the Princeville area where many of her relatives still reside.

Scheduled activities and various duties around the Home occupy much of Anna's time. Then, too, hardly a day goes by without seeing evidence of her willingness to lend a helping hand. Anna says she enjoys living here, and we enjoy having her. Birthday time is May 13.

Though winter with its snow and cold is still with us, the residents, who have long been housebound, are eagerly awaiting spring so they can again enjoy warm sunshine. Morton has broken all past records with the amount of snowfall this winter.

Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

**Phoenix, Arizona . . . Julie Haerr:** "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." Our visiting ministers for February were Elder Bros. Roy Sauder (Peoria) and Dave Kieser (Princeville); also Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Paul Gasser (Akron), and Raymond Roth (Kiowa). We are most thankful to each of you for your visit and lending yourselves to God's Word.

David Joseph was born Feb. 20 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. Nancy, Bob, and Beth were happy to show him to Grandpa Joe and Grandma Lavina Dotterer here in Phoenix. David's maternal grand-

parents are Bro. and Sis. Howard Stettner (Bluffton).

On Feb. 26, a beautiful, sunny day, we rejoiced with Sis. Carol Stoller as her engagement to Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein (Princeville) was announced. Bro. Albert and Sis. Emily Stoller of Gridley and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein of Latty are their parents.

We're happy our friend Ella Harmon is able to be back in church after hip surgery and that Sis. Lois Elsasser is able to worship after a lengthy hospital stay.

Certainly we are going to miss our winter visitors as they return home. Many of our visitors seem like family as we enjoy their annual visits; some have journeyed to our valley for 20 years.

Christian character is not mere moral or legal correctness, but possession and manifestation of nine graces: Love, Peace, Joy, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Longsuffering, Meekness and Temperance.

**Tucson, Arizona . . . Caro'ine Kaufman:** While our dear winter visitors were enjoying our weather, we were able to share with them our annual pancake supper. The men have full charge of this tasty event while everyone enjoys pancakes and sausage.

It was once again time for Tucson to host California and Phoenix church youth groups. We want to thank the Lord for sending us a beautiful week-end amidst all the rainy weather we have been having. We all received a warm and moving message from Bro. Roy Sauder.

Bro. Elmer Witzig from Gridley, Ill., and Bro. Paul Gasser from Akron, Ohio, have shared God's word with us. We know they come to Arizona to rest from their toil, but we enjoy their blessed teachings.

As Easter approaches, may we with prayerful hearts remember that the cross is where our sins were forgiven.

**Altadena, California . . . Linda Cooper:** God ever blesses us through the inspired words of visiting ministers. Elders Akito Inoue and Roy Sauder and ministers Noah Gerber and Joe Kaisner served us recently on the pulpit.

Brethren and friends who have been sick and/or confined are Bros. Reuben Farney, Bill Hecker; Sisters Martha Slenker, Marie Rupp,

Clara Bahler; and Gene Alexander. We are thankful for those who can be with us again in the Lord's house of worship.

Many thanks go to the Tucson congregation for the wonderful time we enjoyed there one February week-end. Our Sunday school children and young members met with the Phoenix young people and the fellowship the three churches enjoyed together was truly a blessing for all.

Dale and Laurie Hackenjos and their son Daniel moved to Portland, Oregon. We ask the Lord to keep them in His care and bless them there.

Sis. Mabel Graf is now living in a retirement center in Rosemead, Calif.

Often we hear people say, including ourselves, "Oh, I wish I could do something for the Lord!" Do you know that the Lord doesn't always require us to do some big dramatic work for Him, but wants us to do some of the little things for His children? One of the things we can do requires little money, doesn't necessitate our leaving home, and usually takes only a few minutes of our time to do. That is sending a cheerful card, note, or letter to our sick or aged friends. This little service of love brings much happiness to the receivers, and is a good deed for housewives and mothers especially, as they cannot leave their responsibilities to perform great time-consuming services. Don't always long for big works to do and then do nothing, but watch for the small works and at least offer them to the Lord. Do you know, you will be doing

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor-News Correspondent: Ed Souder.

Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741.

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741.

The subscription rate is \$3.00 per year.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address (including zip No.).



something for Him because you have done it unto His children.

**Rockville, Connecticut . . .Carlton J. Lanz:** We have come through this devastating winter with its crippling and tragic affects, it has had on many areas: stopping nearly all movements of travel; clogging highways and driveways; causing all to come to a near standstill in our New England states and surrounding areas. When these violent storms and inclement weather came over the country it became evident to us that man is so helpless. It is not only Nature, as many would call it, but the true Believer goes further; he is convinced that it is the work of an Almighty God and Creator. The Scriptures prove this with two outstanding events: (1) when the voice of God separated the waters for the Israelites to pass through the Red Sea (we are all familiar with this great wonder when the pursuing Egyptians perished as the waters were returned; (2) when Christ calmed the mighty waves. This is the wondrous work of the Creator, God.

Recently, we listened to the tapes which contained the summary of the memorandum at the Conference at Rittman, O. It was felt that many were sincere in this work as they came up with these decisions and timely warnings. We all are aware and know that all across the land and nations warnings are being posted for the sole purpose of dangers ahead. With this in mind, we believe these brethren were given wisdom from God to hold the precious established traditions we have so dearly cherished. One of these decisions we read in the book of Hebrews (Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever) stands out as important.

**Birth:** Feb. 13, 1978, a daughter, Rebecca Vi, to Sis. Heidi and Bro. Thomas Luginbuhl. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lois (Hoffman) Klotle, Altadena, Ca., and Sis. Vi and Bro. Ervin Luginbuhl, Ellington, Ct. Rebecca is a first child to the Luginbuhls and a first grandchild to the Klotzles.

On Apr. 1, 1978, our Elder Bro. John Bahler and his wife, Sis. Julia, are to observe their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. With some hesitancy on his part, I was able to get his version of his married life. The following is in poetic form

and spells out pretty clearly the feelings of his heart. Having been our elder for thirty-five years, a touch of sadness strikes us in realizing how swiftly our time is passing on to eternity. In behalf of our beloved church and congregation we wish them a most blessed Golden Anniversary. Our prayers are that God may see fit that we may continue to embrace the love which Bro. Bahler has promoted.

### A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

As the Golden Wedding Day draws nigh,

Our thoughts arise to God on high.  
Who through His loving Son,  
Eternal life for us has won.

As we reflect upon the fifty years  
of past,  
Our hearts are moved with grateful  
thoughts that last,  
To God be praise, honor and glory  
ever,  
For His endless love and mercy,  
which failed us never.

As we count the many blessings  
one by one,  
We praise Him, for every trial  
through Him we have overcome.  
We thank Him for ever being at  
our side  
And every need did help and grace  
provide.

In our care, for His most precious  
flock,  
He in compassion and mercy His  
love did unlock,  
He provided a helpmate most  
precious dear,  
A constant pillar always near.

When the wayfaring would appear  
at the door,  
With a welcome she would meet  
them, to remember evermore;  
May her reward be eternal on that  
glorious day,  
When we meet in Heaven, forever  
there to stay.

As we see the sunset of life draw  
nigh,  
We behold the evening red in the  
sky,  
A yearning overtakes our weary  
soul,  
To meet our loved ones in the  
heavenly role.

And then a burden rests upon us  
for those we love,  
Who have not given their heart to  
Him above,  
Oh may it be, while it is today,  
They find the Father heart,  
through Jesus who is the way.

May God keep His holy flock in His  
tender care,  
And keep it in His love, safe from  
the enemy's snare.  
May His love and peace be ever  
precious dear,  
And on that glorious day, wipe away  
that last tear.

John Bahler

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida . . .**  
**Caroline Akel:** "Then Jesus said  
unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto  
you, except ye eat the flesh of  
the Son of man, and drink his  
blood, ye have no life in you."  
(John 6:53).

What a blessed time we share  
when we come together to partake  
of the Lord's Supper. We were glad  
to have our Elder Bros. Ben Maibach  
and Joe Braker in our midst.  
They shared the conclusions of the  
Conference with us. On Sunday we  
partook of Holy Communion. A  
dinner and church service were  
held in the evening.

"Whoso eateth my flesh and  
drinketh my blood, hath eternal  
life; and I will raise him up at the  
last day." (John 6:54)

" . . . this do in remembrance of  
me." (St. Luke 22:19)

What a wonderful opportunity  
this afforded us to recall the love  
of our Lord as we look forward to  
the coming Easter Season.

We respect a person who has a  
profession and does a job well.  
Now, think of Jesus. He performed  
in numerous roles simultaneously  
and yet was able to carry each role  
out to its perfection. Consider just  
a few of Jesus' tasks, and then  
think of the great sacrifice this remarkable  
Lord made to save you  
and me.

He was the greatest counselor.  
He brought peace, hope, and joy  
into the hearts of sinful men in a  
troubled world. He freed men of  
their guilt and pain and turned  
their sorrow into gladness. Yet, on  
Calvary, He took all sin and pain  
upon Himself.

He was the greatest physician  
this world has ever known. With  
the word of His mouth He healed

the sick, made the blind see, the lame walk, and the dumb speak. Yet, He chose to suffer all human pain for sinful man.

He was the greatest teacher. He taught men the greatest truths they were ever to realize. His teachings are as practical and relevant today as they were when first spoken. He taught men how to love and live a worthwhile life here upon earth. He did not stop short of death in order to give men the greatest example of love ever offered.

He was a most successful fisherman. He trained others to become "Fishers of Men". He gathered many into His Father's Kingdom. And even from the cross He did not fail to reach out and claim the heart of a penitent thief for His own.

He was the greatest orator. What speeches can compare with the wonderful words of life which flowed from Jesus' lips? Centuries later men still realize that the Sermon on the Mount contains some of the most meaningful words ever uttered. Crowds gathered when He spoke. Yet, at the face of death, He chose to remain silent and pay the price for our sin.

He was the most loving Shepherd. He promised to lead us on the straight and narrow path and keep His sheep from harm and evil. He allowed man entrance into His sheepfold. He did this, when, as the Lamb of God, He became the sacrifice for our sins.

We are grateful for the many visiting ministering brothers who have come to us. Among our visitors were Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit), Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Henry Beer (Milford), Bro. Ray Luginbuhl (Rockville), and Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville).

**Sarasota, Florida . . . Kathryn Schroeder:** From The Acts: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call . . . and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the

Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord . . .

"Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

The baptism of each new convert gives us a quiet certitude of the continuity of God's design, and our souls are filled with harmony, peace, and serenity. Once again we experienced this when, with the testimony and the baptism of our beloved Lois Melendreras by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, she became a member of the beloved congregation on Mar. 5.

A beautiful supper was held in the home of Bro. Chris and Sis. Viola Leman for our dear Sis. Lois after the baptismal services. It was a period of quiet happiness which was followed by evening services and singing in the church.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers: Bros. Robert Meyer, Bluffton, Henry Grimm, Morton, Robert Beer, Mansfield, Joe Waibel (Elder), Bay City, Edwin Bahler, Remington, Dan Koch (Elder), Tremont, Joseph Stoller, Princeville, John Wagler, Huntsville, Gene Lehman, Wolcott, and Homer Reineck, Toledo.

We regret the need to tell of the death of young Bro. Bernie Hilty who attended the church before he came here to live for the winter with our minister, Bro. Phil Wingeier. He was in the hospital for several days where his death occurred. Bro. Phil attended his funeral in Ohio, Feb. 12.

In a beautiful and serene tone, Elder Bro. Joe Waibel, Bay City, reviewed the only way that we should live our lives. In summary:

**Romans, 12:1-21. Verse 2** " . . . be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Bro. Joe spoke of faith. Man must think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. All do not receive, and it is very precious when we have been given this gift.

Many think of a church as an edifice made of wood mortar and stone. The true Church, the Holy Church, is the body of Christ. For the human body to function as God

intended, all its members must work together in harmony. So it is with the body of the Church; all members must work together in harmony. Through Paul's evangelism we were given the knowledge to be able to follow this wonderful way of life. In soul-searching, never be ashamed of what is asked of us as children of God. It is through the mercy of God that man is lead to repentance.

We are bound together by our faith and love for one another. All are tested by some means such as poverty and illness. To remain in harmony with all men, and function as one body in Christ, the Church, we must learn to control our actions and conquer any desire for retaliation by recompense of good for evil. Always, we may have the help of prayers; no matter where we are, God is always available, a ready help in emergencies.

We must pray for this wonderful nation of ours where the observance of our faith is sacred. Man should use works in this world for the honor and glory of God.

**Bloomington - Normal, Illinois . . . Holly Stahl - Jean O'Shea:** We were pleased to have Bro. Virgil Metzger from Champaign with us on Feb. 19 and to hear the gospel message spoken through him.

Our monthly hymn sing was held Feb. 26, and a special women's group from Morton sang for us. We always appreciate the talent from these special groups, as well as the opportunity for all to sing praises together and enjoy such blessed fellowship.

It was a joy to hear the testimonies of three young souls on the evening of Mar. 11. It is always inspiring as we think back to our beginning as a lamb in God's flock and reflect on how He has guided us step by step, never failing us or leading us astray. Our friends David Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris), Gail Hari (Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev), and Liz Johnson (a student from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing who was introduced to our church by some of our sisters who also attended there) were baptized on Sunday, Mar. 12, and welcomed into the fold. Visiting ministers Bro. Alfred Bahler from Wolcott, Indiana, and Bro. Edmund Kloter from Goodfield shared this special day with us.

**Bradford, Illinois . . . Jane Le-man:** Two new little sunbeams have joined our congregation. Chad Jeremy, born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles, has two brothers and three sisters to welcome him. Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich are the grandparents.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger have named their new little daughter Julie May after her maternal great-grandmothers. Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger are the grandparents.

We happily welcome newlyweds Bro. Darel and Sis. Mary Alyce (Witzig) Hofsess to worship with us—at least for several months as Mary Alyce is teaching in our area.

Our guest minister, Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, Illinois), was appreciated.

The engagement of Sis. Sue Ringger was announced 'ministering Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola) to Bro. Bill Sanders (Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma) from Phoenix, Arizona.

**Champaign - Urbana, Illinois . . . Charlen Banwart:**

#### AT DAYBREAK

Every morning lean thy arms awhile

Upon the window sill of heaven  
And gaze upon thy Lord.  
Then, with the vision in thy heart,  
Turn strong to meet the day.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" as it is written, and "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park), Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park), Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), and Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield).

The Sunday School students are preparing to present their Easter Program on Palm Sunday. May we all remember that "God expects from men that their Easter devotions would in some measure come up to their Easter dress."

**Chicago, Illinois . . . Kathy Schlatter:** Thought from an "afterword": Perhaps we're watching our electricity and gas consumption more closely lately, but are we wasting our spiritual energy? Do we have a great deal on Sunday and lose it all by Monday morning?

Let's conserve so that we may use it instead. After all, it takes energy—**spiritual energy**—to brighten the corner where we are.

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation." (Psalm 11:1) With words of thanksgiving we wish to mention the many brothers we've been privileged to have minister to us: Bros. Maurice Frank, Leo, IN (Feb. 13), Marvin Schmidgal, Eureka, IL (Feb. 26); Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, IN (Feb. 19); and Roy Wieland and Jim Ramseyer, both from Bay City, MI (Mar. 5). We appreciate all the visitors who have worshipped and fellowshiped with us, but the Bay City choir members have a special place in our heart. Their inspirational song service and their voices lifted in congregational singing added to the multitude of blessings we felt because of their visit.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today." We rejoice that Jeanne Plattner, now a converted soul, could give testimony to her faith and be baptized Sunday, Feb. 19. We welcome her as our new sister in faith. And in her testimony it was encouraging to hear that the six years she and her husband Jake spent in the Rockville, Connecticut, area attending our church there, gave her both inspiration and conviction towards her recent spiritual turn-around. We also want to welcome Bruce and Joyce (Rocke) Huber. Back from Europe, they will be living in our area. We're glad to see them again!

Sis. Mariam Lockwood has undergone serious surgery. We pray that the Lord will hold her in the hollow of His hand. We sorrow with Gene and LaVirra Lehman, whose son, Dennis, died Feb. 14. Surviving him are also a wife and four young children. His cousin Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) held the funeral services. We, who cannot always see the reason behind death, pray that the Lord will comfort Dennis' loved ones and let them know that the Lord is God, and even so, it is well.

We must never think we are unneeded, nor that the Lord cannot bless even stumbling efforts. When the Bay City choir sang for us, I had reason to remember myself when I was unconverted. Though I could be very harsh to various

ministers, shutting out the Word and Spirit and picking at grammar or style, I was almost always convicted and uplifted by the hymns of the congregation. The music of our hymns can reach even farther into hearts sometimes than words. And each Christian has a song to sing.

**Cissna Park, Illinois . . . Marilyn Knapp - Judy Bauer:**

#### "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH"

They ask me how I know it's true  
That the Saviour lived and died. . .  
And if I believe the story  
That the Lord was crucified?  
And I have so many answers  
To prove His Holy Being,  
Answers that are everywhere  
Within the realm of seeing . . .  
The leaves that fell at Autumn  
And were buried in the sod  
Now budding on the tree boughs  
To lift their arms to God . . .  
The flowers that were covered  
And entombed beneath the snow  
Pushing through the "darkness"  
To bid the Spring "hello" . . .  
On every side Great Nature  
Retells the Easter Story—  
So who am I to question  
"The Resurrection Glory."

We are glad when the sun shines bright and with its strength melts the snow. We are looking forward to Spring.

We have had several hospital patients. Bro. Joe Waldbeser is home after having eye surgery. Bro. Brenner had minor surgery. Sis. Laura (Henry) Hodel had surgery and remains a patient in the hospital. Sis. Sylvia (Lynn) Knapp spent a few days in the hospital for tests. Ben Merkle is a medical patient. Charles Reutter is also a medical patient. Bro. Alvin Hari Drayer is a hospital patient. Sis. Ollie (Ezra) Feller had surgery and is now home recuperating. She thanks everyone who remembered her with cards and prayers.

Sis. Priscilla Knapp has been unable to assemble with us for some time. She has been down with arthritis. We hope that she can assemble with us soon.

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Job 19:25, 26

**Congerville, Illinois . . . Judy Wettstein - Gay Knapp:** Easter is a favorite season of the year for many, a time when we especially think of Jesus' words, "I am the resurrection and the life."

He carried the cross to Calvary,  
Carried it's burden for you and me;  
There on the cross He was crucified,  
And because He suffered and bled  
and died,  
We know that whatever our cross  
may be,  
It leads to God and eternity;  
With faith in your heart, take the  
path He trod,  
For the way of the cross is the way  
to God.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, Kansas), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Everett Hari (Normal), and Vernon Leman (Eureka). We know that God will reward them for their efforts in our behalf.

A reception was held at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall, Feb. 26, for Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Zimmerman. They were united in holy matrimony Feb. 12 at Gridley, Kansas, by Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. Parents are Bro. Orville and Sis. Luella Zimmerman and Bro. Lloyd and Nadine Kraft. We wish them God's blessing in their new life together.

Among those hospitalized are Sis. Irma Miller, Bro. Ralph Zobrist and Ruth Miller. Our prayers are with them, and we wish that God will help each of them to bear this cross.

#### **Elgin, Illinois . . . Mary Moser:**

The engagement of Bro. Brad Gudeman (son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Theresa Stoller (daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller of Bradford) was made known. An April wedding is being planned.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Al Scheitlin, Jr., Ed Lohbauer and Bro. Gene Moser. We are thankful they are able to be back home again.

At this Easter season we are reminded of Christ's death and suffering. We would gladly bear our own cross; then with God's grace we shall reach our heavenly home. We sing in a hymn, "To suffer makes us pure."

The Christian's robe and badge of  
love  
It is the cross of Christ.  
And he who knows the worth  
there-of  
Will bear it without sighs.

**Eureka, Illinois . . . Melba Mangold:** Our community, as well as many other places across the states, was again impressed with the awesome power of God. Man is indeed helpless against the mighty forces of the elements. How thankful we were to reach a warm shelter from the fierce winds and driving snow! We were fortunate in that there was no loss of life or any serious injury in our area. We were always able to assemble for church services in spite of the weather.

We thank Bro. Lenny Meyer of Chicago and Bro. Bob Walder of Congerville for sharing God's word, speaking by the power of the Spirit. We also were pleasantly surprised one Wednesday evening to have Bro. Noah Herman of Tucson with us. He gave us many teachings from the "Faith" chapter in Hebrews.

Our best wishes go to Clark Weyeneth and Barbara Miller who were married Feb. 10. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Walter Anliker at the bride's home. Their parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Leona Weyeneth of Eureka and Bro. Jake and Sis. Marian Miller of Congerville. The young couple is making their home in Eureka.

Our dear Sis. Frieda Streitmatter was called to her Eternal Home on Feb. 22. She had lived at the Home in Eureka for eight and one-half years. Services were held in Princeville.

We have had a number of hospital and surgical patients this month. Our friend Melvin Martin had open heart surgery but is home again doing well, for which we are thankful. Sisters Kathryn (John) Schumacher, Minnie Martin, Ladine (Bob) Hinrichsen, and Tillie (John) Wittmer have been medical patients in the hospital. Also Sis. Lydia Aberle from the Home is in the hospital. Sis. Ruth (Lester) Martin, Bro. Leroy Locke and Bro. Walter Schumacher all have had surgery but are all home again.

We have two new residents in the Home: Sis. Sophia Schlipf from Gridley and Sis. Katie Heinold of Goodfield.

Build a little fence of trust  
around today.  
Fill the space with loving work  
and therein stay;  
Look not through the sheltering  
bars

upon tomorrow—  
God will help thee bear what comes,  
of joy or sorrow.

**Fairbury, Illinois . . . Joyce Huber:** Bro. Ronald and Sis. Barbara Schaffer were blessed with their first little baby girl and named her Alesha Ann. They also have 2 boys: Galen and Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

Sis. Lydia Broquard, 73, passed away. Her prayer was answered that she would not be a care to someone as she died suddenly; but she will especially be missed by her sister, Sis. Leona, since they lived together through the years. Surviving are 5 sisters: Sis. Leona, Kathryn, Sis. Perseda Moser, Sis. Ella Kuerth, Sis. Esther Herrmann, and 4 brothers, Elder Bro. Joshua, Bro. George, Joe and Ben, and several nieces and nephews.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Steidinger have a new baby named Troy Henry. The little boy has brothers and sisters: Elizabeth, Rebecca, Richard, Beverly, and Rodney. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Urban Steidinger.

Bro. and Sis. Donald Steidinger and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Steidinger and Mr. and Mrs. John Menold, and others are spending a couple weeks in Europe.

Andy Steffen, 81, passed away unexpectedly at his home, leaving a vacant spot in the hearts of those in his home: his wife, Sis. Sarah (Streitmatter), and daughter, Sis. Dorothy. He also has 2 sons: Bro. Emmanuel and Robert. His brothers are Bro. Sam, Bro. Alph, Bro. Ezra; and his sisters are Sis. Lena Steffen, Sis. Lydia Bachtold, Sis. Louise Sabo. He has 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

We are sorry Sis. Mary Traub became ill and is in the hospital.

#### **Forrest, Illinois . . . Kathryn Steidinger - Beverly Eisenmann:**

Easter is God's promise which  
His Son came to fulfill,  
A promise of eternal life for all  
who do His will;  
Season of the budding trees, the  
lily in its glory,



The greening hills, the daffodills,  
the holy Easter story—  
Easter is the flowering earth  
released from winter's prison  
Reminding mankind to rejoice, for  
Christ the Lord has risen.

We are ever thankful when we can gather around God's word and are appreciative of visiting brothers who served us so well. Our guest ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Rinkenberger and Kenneth Weerts from Cissna Park, Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS), and Sam Schlatter of the Junction, Ohio, congregation.

Sis. Irene Traub was in the hospital for surgery, also Sis. Lorene Geyer. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who must suffer afflictions of the body as Bro. Bill Kupferschmid recently had to go to the hospital again. Bro. Oscar Schneider wishes to thank all those who remembered him when he had eye surgery.

A faithful brother and pillar in the church was called home suddenly on Mar. 1. Our hearts are saddened, but we rejoice for Bro. William Honegger, 73, that he could lay his armour down and trust that he can now rest at home forever more. We shall all miss him, as he portrayed the fruits of the spirit and set a good example for all. He and Sis. Esther (Bach) shared 44 years together and were blessed with 6 children—Mary Edinger, Pontiac, Elaine Jorpeland, Arlington, Va., Margaret Waibel and Sis. Janice Steffen of Forrest, Robert of Lake Zurich and Bro. Lloyd of Forrest.

Karen Kupferschmid (Bro. Orville and Sis. Marlene) and Gary Moser have announced their engagement with wedding plans for July.

Our community, as many others, has experienced a cold winter with much snow, and we eagerly look forward to the hope of spring when—

He sends His word and melts the snow;  
The fields no longer mourn;  
He calls the warmer gales to blow,  
And bids the spring return.

**Goodfield, Illinois . . . Elna Grimm - Verna Hartter:** Our Illinois weather has been unusually cold this winter, with heaps and heaps of snow falling to form a beautiful thick, white blanket, thus

enhancing our otherwise barren landscape. It's truly beautiful, but a rather bitter season for those who were forced to be out in it. The springtime sunshine has been thrusting its warmth upon us the past few days, and almost everyone is anxiously awaiting the time of crocuses and daffodils. Along with this, we always find the miracle of birth and rebirth more intriguing. And we are happy to report some of each to you.

Bro. and Sis. Kent and Janell Kloter, Goodfield, are the happy parents of a baby girl, Gwen Andrea, who was born to them on Feb. 19. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Edwin and Lorene Kloter, R. R., Carlock, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Rinkenberger, Gridley.

Also, on Feb. 19 a baby girl was born to Jake and Kris Bauman, Congerville. She has been named Suzanne Marie. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Mildred Bauman, Congerville, and Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Christopherson, Eureka.

John R. and Linda Rokey, Eureka, were blessed with a baby boy, Matthew Ryan, on Feb. 21. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. John and Ruth Rokey, Goodfield, and Mr. & Mrs. Al Goken, Delavan.

Debbie Hohulin (Bro. and Sis. Bill and Lydia), Pam Hinrichsen (Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene), Kenda Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine), and Sue Core (Mr. and Mrs. Graham Core) have confessed peace with God and man, and are scheduled to bring their testimonies before the church in the near future.

Our dear Sis. Katie Heinold was transferred from the Eureka Hospital to our Eureka A.C. Home, where she is convalescing nicely.

Cara Deann, little 14-mo.-old daughter of Bro. and Sis. Dennis and Carol Martin, was hospitalized for about 10 days. She is back home and getting along real well.

**Gridley, Illinois . . . Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein:** It was heart-warming to gather with a full church of brethren and friends to witness the vows and baptism of our new sister in faith, Kathy Schlipf. Certainly there isn't any other event that can occur in one's life that is more noteworthy and deserving of our utmost attention than a soul's conversion and subsequent baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. Nothing can compare to

the joy of hearing the testimony of one who was lost and pitifully submerged in the miry clay of sin and darkness and through God's infinite love and mercy was rescued and given the wonderful hope of life eternal. We were glad to have Bro. Leroy Martin of Peoria with us the evening of the proving.

Sis. Mary Alyce Witzig and Bro. Darel Hofsess of Peoria were united in holy matrimony on Feb. 26. Those who are looking forward to the blessed marriage union are Sis. Cathy Klopfenstein, whose engagement was announced to Bro. Tim Hohulin of Roanoke, and Sis. Carol Stoller, who is engaged to Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein of Peoria.

Our hospital patients were Karin Kiefer, five-year-old daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb, Sis. Ida Rinkenberger, and Sis. Matilda Stortz.

"I need the prayers of those I love" are the very true words of the familiar hymn. In the struggle for righteousness in which we must keep our flesh in subjection and continue to press on the upward way, we often need to pray for much grace and strength for our own selves. How easy it is to almost forget our brother's needs as we become so concerned with our own weaknesses. But we have been reminded by our ministering brothers that the true blessings come when we pray and sincerely care about our fellow man. We can read of the example of Job: "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." If we want to be free of Satan's snares and rise above our trials and temptations, instead of praying only for ourselves, we, like Job, should pray for our friends. Then the Lord will also turn our captivity and bless us with twice as much joy and peace as we had before.

**Illinois State University . . . Ann Stoller:** We have been busy practicing for the I.S.U. Easter program which will be held on Thursday, Mar. 16, at 8:00 p.m. at Old Main in the Union. Everyone is invited to be with us for this special occasion.

I.S.U. students are all looking forward to spring break, which will be the week before Easter. Because of break, there will be no Bible study on Mar. 23.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Vernon Leman from Eureka, Byron Stoller from Gridley, Jim Hoerr from Peoria, and Roy Wieland from Bay City. We really appreciate the time and effort that all the ministers put forth to be with us on Thursday nights and know that God will bless them for it.

**Morton, Illinois . . . Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock:** Bro. Ken Hoerr from Peoria was our only visiting minister during the past month. We thank him for the inspiring message he brought us.

Sis. Sarah Denne, 94, passed away Feb. 12. She had been a resident of Restmor Nursing Home for the past 5½ years and was the last living member of her immediate family. Her parents were Simon and Eva Schmallenberger Denne.

Results of recent elections of various church offices are as follows: church trustee, Bro. Ken Getz; Sunday ushers, Bro. Jan Neukomm and Bro. Randy Schick; funeral usher, Bro. Herman Menold; cemetery committee, Bro. Bill Grimm; and building aid, Bro. Herman Schmidt.

We have three marriages to report. Marcy Coddington and Kieth Roeschley were united in marriage at our church Fellowship Hall on Feb. 11. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Edward and Mrs. Mabel Roeschley.

On Feb. 12, Sis. Barbara Getz and Bro. Joseph Zimmerman III were united in marriage. Bro. Bob and Sis. Lillian Metz and Bro. Joe and Sis. Milly Zimmerman are parents of the newlyweds.

Jacquette McKelvey and Brad Menold were married on Feb. 25. Ray and Helen McKelvey and Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleta Menold are their parents.

Our prayers for these couples is for much happiness and God's special blessings.

Darah Marie Tetrault, the first child of Sis. Debbie and Bro. Doug, was born on Mar. 2. Her proud grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Lois Aberle and Mr. Farrell Tetrault.

At our February Hymn Sing, our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade choir sang for us. Also, we were privileged to have the Goodfield choir sing several beautiful numbers, including one in German.

Those hospitalized recently were Sisters Mona (Elmer) Stoller, and Rose Stetzler, Bro. Chris Hauter and Ivan Steiner.

**Peoria, Illinois . . . Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin:**

"Christ is risen from the dead" The angel upon the tombstone said; "He has risen just as he said." Quickly now go to tell his disciples That Jesus Christ is no longer dead. Joy to the World!

On Mar. 4 the Peoria and Roanoke choirs combined in singing the Easter Cantata. The Cantata is a story in song about the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Mar. 5 we were privileged to witness the beautiful wedding ceremony of Sis. Debby Waibel (daughter of Bill and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Carl Hoerr (son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn). We wish them God's richest blessings in their new walk of life together.

A precious baby girl was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhorda Meister. The grandparents of Kari Jo are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel and their three sons have been transferred to Geneva, Switzerland. The Peoria congregation will surely miss the Ginzels in our fellowship, and we wish them God's blessings in establishing their new home so far away.

This month we were very privileged to have many visiting ministers: Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Bill Kupferschmid of Bloomington; Bro. Edwin Klotter of Goodfield; Bro. Noah Herman of Tucson; Bro. Edwin Baylor of Remington; and Bro. Art Bauer of Princeville.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lois Hamann, Sis. Martha Hemmer, Bro. Mel Plattner, Bro. Jack Koehl, and Karl Pfaffman.

**Princeville, Illinois . . . Ruth Ricketts:** The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way a man uses them.

We welcome Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Hari Romersberger to our worship and fellowship. They were recently married and live in a neighboring town making Princeville their home church. We sincerely

hope they will be happy with us and enjoy the blessings we do.

Our oldest member was called to her rest Feb. 22, after waiting for several years to be called by the death angel. Early in the morning Sis. Frieda Streitmatter quietly slept away after being in failing health for several years. After the death of her husband, William, she went to live at the Apostolic Christian Church Home in Eureka and was there for eight years. A fitting tribute was paid her when Bro. Walter Anliker and Vernon Leman of Eureka assisted our ministers in conducting memorial services for her on Feb. 25. She had been a member of the church for over 71 years and always very faithful and a firm pillar of the church.

She was born in Finsteroth, Wurttemberg, Germany, Dec. 25, 1883, the daughter of Johann and Jacobena Schambach Fuet. She married William E. Streitmatter, who died Oct. 8, 1969. Surviving are two sons, Bros. Harold and Burton; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren, a number of nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

She enjoyed having her family come to visit her and they were a devoted family who went often to be with her. The grandchildren, too, spent much time with her and cheered her spirits.

Bros. Dave Wiegand of Champaign and Leroy Ehnle of Bradford spent a Sunday with us recently. Many gems of thought lingered in our minds after hearing the softly spoken words by them. We were told that if we let Christ be the center of all things and stay close to Him, all things work out for good. We thank our brothers for their visit and ask the dear Lord to further reward them for their efforts.

Even though there have been many records broken this past winter for cold weather and snow, others have had it much worse than we. Needless to say, everyone is anxiously awaiting spring. The other day I heard a robin, and there in a tree was a pair of them. There have been many sick folks with some spending time in the hospital. Daren Blunier, the young son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce, spent several days in the hospital receiving treatment for pneumonia. He has recovered and able to attend school again. We are happy to

have Bro. Robert Wieland in our midst again after having back surgery. Although he will not be able to do hard work for several weeks, he has been relieved of the severe pain he had suffered. His family wishes to thank everyone who remembered him. Bro. Herbert (Dick) Gerst is making satisfactory recovery following major surgery. Bro. Phillip Musselmann is still in the hospital and sorry to say is not doing so well at the time of this writing. He was taken in because of a slight stroke and while there had to have surgery for the removal of a kidney stone. He was improving but now has infection and feeling quite ill. May the Lord be near him and his family during these trying days.

Days get long when one is confined to his home for months without being able to worship with loved ones. Cards, visits, telephone calls, and gifts are all most welcome. Sis. Emma Asel, who has been shut in for several months feels this way. She appreciates all the acts of love shown her during these past months following eye surgery. Hopefully she will make more rapid improvement now that she has her new glasses. She is most patient and always cheerful when we visit her. She has not lost her smile and warms one's heart when we spend a few minutes with her.

Bro. Wm. Stahl is making slow, but satisfactory recovery since returning home following recent heart surgery.

Have you taken a little time to write a note or perhaps stop for a few minutes to see a shut-in? They miss the fellowship of meeting loved ones when not able to attend church and enjoy the blessings we do.

Sis. Mary Leuthold is happy to be in her home after being in the hospital and then in the church home in Eureka for several weeks. Bro. Silas is happy to have his beloved wife with him again.

On Feb. 15 a little girl, Wanda Lou, was born to Bro. Raymond and Sis. Jana Lou Baer. A little brother, Kerry, welcomed her as did grandparents Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer of here, and Sis. Marilyn Schieler of Wolcott.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Marge Rumbold also welcomed a daughter, Feb. 28. A little sister, Stephanie, welcomed Stacie Nicole, as did

grandparents, Bro. Louie and Sis. Anna Rumbold and Bro. Sidney and Sis. Helen Leman of Forrest, Ill.

Our Fellowship Hall is nearing completion and we are looking forward to enjoying a supper, singing and fellowship together next Sunday. We are also looking forward to being hosts for the annual World Relief Meeting for Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Kansas churches Mar. 18. There have been many willing workers who have spent many hours working together to complete this building, which is located a short distance behind our church building. We trust the Lord will be present whenever we gather and that all can be conducted to His name's praise and honor.

The family of Frieda Streitmatter wishes to thank their friends, neighbors and relatives who remembered their dear Mother and Grandmother during her illness and for the many prayers, cards, gifts, memorials and deeds of kindness shown at the time of her death. They offer a special "thank you" to the anonymous giver of a generous memorial gift of money. All is deeply appreciated.

**Roanoke, Illinois . . . Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel:**

May I love Thee faithfully,  
Childlike and obediently;  
May my mind ever find  
Favor to submit to  
Thy will, Lord so kind!

Keep me ever spotless, free,  
And that I may watchful be,  
Oft to pray, Night and day,  
And to travel faithfully the narrow way.

This hymn of dedication was sung for the new lambs in our flock. We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptism of our Sisters Julie and Jill Schumacher (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Cheryl Rocke (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae) and our Brothers Ed Stoller (Bro. Rich and Sis. Barbara), Doug Hohulin (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Shirley), and Wayne Leman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rach). It is always such a blessing to hear of the joy they have in their hearts. May God richly endow them with abundant grace to let their lights shine. We thank our dear Elder

Bros. Dan Koch, Dale Eisenmann, and Edwin Ringger for helping Bro. Don Sauder in this most important work.

A little son was born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Beverly Bertschi. He has been named Samuel Eugene for both grandfathers. Bro. Sam and Sis. Anne Leman and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi are the little one's grandparents.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Rita Hodel have a new little son, Rodney Alan. He is welcomed by his brother Kevin. Carl and Betty Hodel and Bro. Ray and Sis. Emily Eisenmann are the grandparents. May God bless these little ones.

John Knepp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp) and Jackie Sengpiel have announced their engagement.

Bro. Tim Hohulin (Bro. Robert and Sis. Marie) and Sis. Kathy Klopfenstein (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Kathryn) of Gridley are engaged and are planning a May wedding.

Bro. Herbert Hodel (Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth Ann Hodel) and Sis. Susie Feller (Bro. Don and Sis. Judy Feller) of Taylor, Mo., have announced their engagement.

Sis. Annie Leman and Bro. Eugene Bertschi are hospitalized at this time.

We have certainly had much sickness in our congregation. Sis. Helen (Elton) Rapp has been confined to her home for several weeks. Bro. Vernon Koch is hospitalized with back problems. Bro. George Frank was hospitalized, also, and Sis. Emma (John) Greiner was injured in a car accident. Sis. Vera (Walt) Aberle had foot surgery, and at this writing, she is improving some each day.

Bro. Bill Kupferschmid, Normal, spent a Wednesday evening in our midst. We thank him for his labor unto us.

Friends Judy Bollinger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Alma) and John Dohman of Fairbury started a new life and home together. They were married Mar. 4 in our fellowship hall. We hope that they will seek God's direction in all they undertake to accomplish so that their ways can be blessed.

When I remember the cross that He bore, When I remember the thorns He wore, His blood that ran, from the nails that were driven in His hands; When I remember His agony great, and all that He suffered for you and me, then



I remember how thankful I should be. Then I remember He arose there too. that now we might find life anew. Then I remember His promise that day, "My body, my blood do remember," He did say.

Let us remember and seek to do all that He wills, so that we can gain heaven, too.

Wes and Nancy Koch are the parents of a son, Jeffery Wesley, born Jan. 26. He has a sister, Melissa. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Til Koch and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zobel of Darien.

**Washington, Illinois . . . Linda Ziegenhorn - Valerie Kipfer:** Recently, I was reading through a Fourth Grade Reader printed in 1857. What a pity they don't print school books like they used to. The following lesson was entitled "The Creator".

"Come and I will show you what is beautiful. It is a rose fully blown. See how she sits upon her mossy stem, the queen of flowers. Her leaves glow like fire. The air is filled with her sweet odor. She is the delight of every eye. But there is one fairer than the rose. He that made the rose is more beautiful than the rose. He is altogether lovely. He is the delight of every heart.

"I will show you what is strong. The lion is strong. When he raiseth himself up from his lair, when he shaketh his main, when the voice of his roaring is heard, the cattle of the field flee, and the wild beasts of the desert hide themselves; for he is terrible. But He who made the lion is stronger than the lion. He can do all things. He gave us life, and, in a moment can take it away, and no one can save us from His hand.

"I will show you what is glorious. The sun is glorious. When he shineth in the clear sky, when he sitteth on his throne in the heavens, and looketh abroad over the earth, he is the most glorious and excellent object the eye can behold. But He who made the sun is more glorious than the sun. The eye cannot look on His dazzling brightness. He seeth all dark places, by night as well as by day. The light of His countenance is over all the world.

"This great being is God. He made all things, but He is more excellent than all that He has made. He is the Creator, they are the creatures. They may be beautiful,

but He is beauty. They may be strong, but He is strength. They may be perfect, but He is perfection."

We at Washington anxiously await our first service in our new church. We are hoping to be able to meet for the first time sometime in March. We welcome any visitors to the area to worship with us.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have come to proclaim God's word. They are Bros. Joe Stoller, Princeville, Ben Fehr, and Bruce Leman, Roanoke, Dan Cook and Simon Wagenbach, Tremont, and Everett Hari, Bloomington-Normal.

Sunday evening, Feb. 19, the Goodfield choir was our guest for our monthly hymn sing. We had a blessed evening singing hymns and praising our Lord.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger were blessed with a son on Feb. 8. David John is welcomed home by a brother and a sister.

David Ziegenhorn, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Linda, was hospitalized for a few days. We are happy to know he is well again.

Our congregation has been truly blessed during the past year. We have learned to share and to give and to love. We look to the coming year as one of joy where we can thank God and praise Him in our new building. Thanks to all who have helped make this possible.

**Bluffton, Indiana . . . Connie Troxel - Teresa Fiechter:**

Learning to lean, learning to lean,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.  
Feeling more power than I've ever dreamed,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

This was the theme song of the Peoria Choir as they presented our church with a program of hymn singing Feb. 18 and 19. We thank them for the visit which we truly enjoyed.

There is something truly precious about singing hymns to God together—we can feel God's love flowing from heart to heart, see it in the smiles and expressions on each other's faces, and hear it in the beautiful harmony that comes forth.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Simon Waggenbach from Tremont and Bro. Richard Aberle of Indian-

apolis.

Our one hospital patient was Bill Tonner.

On Feb. 26, Sis. Barb Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys) and Bro. Gary Schwartz (Bro. Howard and Sis. Beulah) were joined in holy matrimony.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard were blessed with another girl, Stephanie Lee. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger welcomed a little baby girl, Jenny, to their family. Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead have a new little boy, Eric Michael. Ryan Ned was welcomed home by Bro. Arlin and Sis. Sue Heyerly and their other children. Our church just keeps growing!

At this Blessed Eastertime, may you find—

#### NEW HAPPINESS

May you ever find life brighter  
As each year comes and goes  
With new happiness unfolding  
Like the petals of a rose.

**Bremen, Indiana . . . Norma Lehman:**

If we put our problems in God's hands,  
There is nothing we need understand . . .  
It is enough to just believe  
That what we need we will receive.

We were blessed in having visiting elders on Feb. 11 and 12 for the reading of the memorandum. Those Bros. were Edwin Ringger from Gridley, Ill., Loren Stoller from Latty, Ohio, and Wendell Gudeman from Francesville. We thank them for sharing their love with us.

Sis. Marge Mangold spent a few days in Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota. She is back home now and able to be back in church. We thank God for hearing our prayers.

Bridget Biesbroeck and Steve Johnson were united in holy matrimony on Feb. 25. May God bless them in their life together.

Sis. Shirley Meister has graduated from Memorial School of Nursing this January.

**Francesville, Indiana . . . Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser:** On Feb. 5, we were privileged to have visiting ministers, Bros. Harold Gramm and Alphi Moser, from the Morris congregation. We thank



them for coming and sharing the precious Word of God with us.

A little boy, Brook Matthew, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein. This is their first child. Bro. Nate and Sis. Ad Gutwein and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm of Taylor are the grandparents. Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman were blest with a boy, Philip Douglas. He has one sister, Tanessa. Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman are the grandparents.

Sis. Martha Pelsy was hospitalized for treatment. We pray that God's Grace will be sufficient for those who must suffer pain and sickness.

**Indianapolis, Indiana . . . Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank:**

'Twas a great change for me, a  
great change for me!  
O now I am happy, from sin I'm  
set free!  
From out of the darkness I've  
stepped into light,  
And O 'twas a great change for  
me!

—Oatman

These are the thoughts of a soul who has found a new life in Christ and who has repented of his sins.

Recently two friends, Linda Andrews and Vicki Bellis (Hitte), gave their testimony and were baptized. Bros. Alfred Bahler and Perry Zimmerman from Forrest, along with their families, shared a blessed day with us.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ed Alt from Cissna Park, Illinois, and Bro. Elmer Witzig from Gridley, Illinois. We thank them for bringing us the Word.

**LaCrosse, Indiana . . . Grace Heihold - Lois Bucher:** On the weekend of Feb. 26 we were privileged to have a number of young folk with us from various churches. Sunday afternoon they sang to some who have not been able to attend church for some time, who are Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Wittmer and Sis. Henrietta Heininger.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank have been ill and missed church. Even though they are able to assemble with us again, Bro. Ed has not been able to minister the word because of a throat condition.

Florence Swing (Ed) is a hospital patient for medical reasons.

**Leo, Indiana . . . Mrs. Phill Schlatter - Mrs. Al Frautschi:**

I see Him as my substitute  
Upon the cursed tree,  
Five bleeding wounds for me He  
bore;  
He died to set me free.

And as I saw Him hanging there  
And there beheld His face,  
My heart in gratitude exclaimed,  
Thank God! He took my place.  
(Selected)

Easter, with its reality of the Risen Christ, is the triumphant answer to suffering and death. It is the answer to our question of what lies beyond this life. It is the golden key to the meaning for now and eternity.

William Klopfenstein was recently hospitalized. May this brother, as well as the many who are ill, know the touch of His healing.

A happy note: Jacquelyn Alane was welcomed by her parents, Kenneth and Jyl (Maxfield) Norr, and little sister, Jodi, Feb. 15. What an advantage such a baby has to be born in a Christian home! A very sobering thought to all parents: Every baby is born to live forever, somewhere—in heaven or hell.

In a recent election, Al Frautschi was elected trustee; Loren Klopfenstein, treasurer; Mark Souder, usher; Beth Stieglitz, secretary; insurance representatives are Ernest Stoller, property, and Lloyd Klopfenstein, contents.

Think about it. Are we doing the work that will pay the greatest dividend one hundred years from now? "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last."

**Milford, Indiana . . . Paula Haab:**

After so much snow and cold weather, we surely are glad that God has given the promise of springtime in His Word.

On Feb. 12 we welcomed into the fold as our brother and sister, John and Mayedene Lehman. It was especially encouraging for us to know that the Lord is still calling even grandparents to Him.

Bro. John and Sis. Aline Hoerr have gone back to Peoria to take up residence in our church home there. Even though we'll miss John at our services, we are glad God provided them with this opportunity. Sis. Aline has needed medical

care for nearly two years, and the home in Milford is no longer open. May God bless them in this move and give them Godly contentment.

Sis. Colleen Beer and Bro. Don Leman of Roanoke were united in holy matrimony on Mar. 5. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jess and Sis. Shirley and Don and Sis. Pearl. Visiting ministers were Bros. Don Sauder of Roanoke, Vernon Lehman of Eureka, and Harold Emch from Girard, along with many friends and relatives of the couple.

## KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

After receiving my letter from the Silver Lining where it encouraged articles on "Know Each Other Better," I found myself thinking of my neighbors, Bro. Oscar and Sis. Hulda (Beer) Graff. In January they were married sixty-one years. They recall taking a horse and buggy to Milford and then a streetcar from there to Warsaw to be married. In the evening, the Beer and Graff families had a meal together in honor of their marriage. They were blessed with five daughters and two sons—Mildred, Helen, Raymond, Robert, Kathryn, Clara, and Phyllis. Before the birth of her first son, Hulda repented and was baptized along with her sister-in-law and brother-in-law. This son was only permitted to live seven months. No doubt she tried her new found faith, but she stood firm on the Solid Rock. She had to be an example to her husband. The second son became ill and needed a lot of care and medicine. The Lord came for him at the age of seven. With the country in depression and their medical bills increasing, Oscar not only farmed but took a maintenance job at a gravel pit. Through it all Hulda's faith and prayers for her family seemed to sustain them. When Helen and her husband surrendered to the Lord, Oscar also saw his need for repentance. Other daughters also were taken into the fold. Nine years ago a daughter was unexpectedly taken into eternity, followed soon by a grandson's wife and then a granddaughter. Surely they understand Job when he said, "The Lord has given and the Lord has taken. Blessed be the name of the Lord." By their faithfulness to their God and the church, They are such good examples for us.

Bro. Oscar is from a large fam-

ily, and some of them have already been called away, while nearly all of Sis. Hulda's family are living. Four of her brothers have also enjoyed over fifty years of married life—Bros. Ezra, Theo, Henry and Peter Beer.

**Purdue University . . . Luann Bahler:** The mighty power of God has surely been evident during this past month as man has had no control over the blizzard that has struck many areas. Church services were held at Bro. Al and Sis. Evelyn Knochel's house on Sunday, Jan. 29, when the Lafayette area was snowed shut. It was a cold week-end, but the love of God in our hearts kept us spiritually warm.

We have had many visitors for our Purdue services and were richly blessed when ministering brothers from LaCrosse (Bro. Merle Bucher) and Bluffton (Bro. Carroll Gerber) brought to us the wonderful Words of Life.

We are sorry to see those leave who took the Ag. short course at Purdue, but hope they take with them happy memories of another event in their lives.

**Remington, Indiana . . . Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss:** During the past months we have seen more of winter's storms, and we are anxious for the warmth and new growth that comes with spring! "Mysterious rebirth in God's nature domain is His way of saying . . . spring is here once again." Our only visiting minister in the past month was Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest, on Feb. 19. We thank him for coming and for sharing God's Word with us.

Sis Tilly Frey is now a resident of Rensselaer Care Center. We pray that she will find courage and strength in the promises of God to His own.

Our friend, Elmer Wasner, has been a patient at Jasper County Hospital, having suffered a stroke on Feb. 15. We thank God that he is improving.

Barry and Jackie Bahler welcome their first child into their home, Brandon Craig, who was born Jan. 13. Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois are paternal grandparents.

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker have a baby girl, Rena Nicole, born Jan. 26. The baby has three sisters, Lori, Kim and Rachel.

A daughter, Shalom Renee, was

born Feb. 11 to Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knoblach. They also have another daughter, Cherise.

Easter thought: The Lamb who died to save us is the Shepherd who lives to lead us.

**Valparaiso, Indiana . . . Marie Heinold:**

The heart finds hope at Eastertime  
And faith anew is born  
As something rare and beautiful  
On every Easter morn.

The soul looks up at Eastertime  
While humbly men recall  
The glory of a victory  
The Master won for all.  
Virginia Oliver

After a long, hard winter with snowbound homes and roads here in the Midwest, we so look forward and find hope at Eastertime. Already the days are noticeably longer; lights need not be turned on at five. Soon the birds will be singing and Spring will be here again.

We appreciated all who came to fellowship with us this past month. Bros. Don and Art Gudeman and Ed Frank were our visiting ministers.

I do not know what next may come  
Across my pilgrim way.  
I do not know tomorrow's road  
Nor see beyond today.  
BUT THIS I KNOW—MY SAVIOR  
KNOWS  
THE PATH I CANNOT SEE,  
And I can trust His wounded hand  
To guide and care for me.

I do not know what may befall  
Of sunshine or of rain.  
I do not know what may be mine  
Of pleasure or of pain.  
BUT THIS I KNOW—MY SAVIOR  
KNOWS,  
AND WHATSOEVER IT BE,  
Still I can trust His love to give  
What will be best for me.  
—Author Unknown—

**Wolcott, Indiana . . . Laurel Widmer:** As this long winter ends, we look forward to the coming of Spring—the reawakening of life. After having survived this winter with only a few minor hardships, we should be thankful when warm weather comes again. We need to be aware of and thankful for the little things.

For uneventful pleasures  
On quiet unhurried days,  
Amidst a thankless world  
I pause to give God praise  
For wayside blessings sent  
And each fleeting joy,  
My voice in endless praises lift,  
For half-forgotten pleasure  
I in my own small way  
Give thanks in double  
measure.

Thought for the day: He who succeeds in living for self is a very successful failure.

**Burlington, Iowa . . . Judy Gehring:**

**HOW GOOD TO REMEMBER**  
By Bro. Uriel Gehring

As the Easter season is near at hand, I wonder if we fully grasp the meaning of the resurrection of the Saviour of the world from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was the final victory, which proves that death itself could not contain the Son of God. This was an evident token to the world that the power of Satan and the wickedness of his followers could be overcome and put to shame by faithfulness in Almighty God. Jesus proved that faithfulness to God had its eternal reward (for today He sitteth at the right hand of God), and He is our Example. How long was He faithful? Until the end; this is why He said when He was living, "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." He knew that He would have to endure to complete the mission that the Father had given Him. When we promise our Heavenly Father to be faithful till life's end, we must endure to the end if we expect to be saved in all eternity.

Oh, the joy that must have filled the hearts of the women that came to the sepulchre, where Jesus body was laid, and they didn't find it; but the men in shining garments said to them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words.

How good for us to remember His words and obey them. By doing this we can properly commemorate and grasp the true meaning of Easter, and this is not of ourselves; it must be revealed to us.

A visiting minister this month was Bro. Simon Wagenbach from Tremont, Ill. We were also privileged to have our Oakville Bros. John Steiner and Jerry Kuntz. This was the first time some have heard Bro. Jerry. The Lord surely does provide for His own.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Kenneth Scheitlin's family in the passing of his father, Bro. Gus, who labored in the Lord's vineyard for many years.

At our last election, Bros. Marvin Woodward was put on the cemetery committee, Bill Obermann was elected trustee and Sis. Judy Gehring, Silver Lining reporter.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Rosella Obermann's son, Greg, was accepted in Dental School at Iowa City. Bro. Kent Obermann, Greg's brother, is in his sophomore year in Dental School.

Bro. Blaine Applegarth spent a few days in the hospital but is back assembling with us again.

Some of the Massner family had a surprise 25th anniversary for Kenneth and Rose Massner. They have one son, Kirk.

What does Easter mean to us? It should be a renewing to every true believer. If there was ever necessity for fervent prayer it is now. Prayer is a privilege. Christ made use of this blessed privilege in Gethsemane and on the cross. We made use of it when we were seeking peace, why not now? Let's search our hearts and dig deeply. Is there any root of bitterness there? If so, let's forgive and forget, whether friend or foe. Christ did. For then, and then only, can we have peace and joy on Easter morning.

Elgin, Iowa . . . Eleanor Butikofer:

### EACH SPRING GOD RENEWS HIS PROMISE

Long, long ago in a land far away,  
There came the dawn of the first  
Easter day,  
And each year we see that promise  
reborn  
That God gave the world on that  
first Easter morn . . .  
For in each waking flower and each  
singing bird,  
The promise of Easter is witnessed  
and heard,  
And spring is God's way of  
speaking to men

And renewing the promise of  
Easter again,  
For death is a season that man  
must pass through  
And just like the flowers, God  
wakens him too . . .  
So why should we grieve when our  
loved ones die;  
For we'll meet them again in a  
"cloudless sky"—  
For Easter is more than a  
beautiful story,  
It's the promise of life and Eternal  
Glory.

We are happy to report that George Schupbach submitted to a successful knee operation at Waterloo and is feeling much improved.

It was most heart-warming to see how much Sis. Lena Schupbach enjoyed seeing the carolers and listen to them render the old familiar seasonal songs. She, due to physical weakness, has been absent from Sunday services for awhile. Needless to say, we miss her presence. Sis. Lena will have her 99th birthday on the 10th of March.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Krugger are the parents of a boy, born on the 23rd of February. He has been named Christopher Lee. Bro. Wm. and Sis. Norma Butikofer and Mrs. Ruth Krugger are the grandparents.

Bro. Noah Gerber from West Bend was our guest minister in February. We thank him kindly for his explanation of the scriptures. His kind ways are appreciated.

People are very interesting. I would like to write a few paragraphs pertaining to a dear sister in faith, Sis. Celia Butikofer, who is now a widow and lives in Elgin by herself. She makes it a point to assemble at church whenever her physical condition permits, and this is most of the time. Her birthday is on the 16th of September. She was born in Clayton County in 1887. Her father was the late Bro. Ben Frieden and her mother the late Sis. Leah. She was the oldest of eight who were namely, William, Louisa (passed away at the age of 3), Ida, Esther, Levi, Bertha, and Emil.

William and Sis. Celia are now the only ones of the family living.

In 1904 she, with a group of twenty-one others, repented and were baptized in our local Turkey River. It was Elder Gottlieb Maibach from Michigan that took care of the testimonies and baptisms

within two days time.

Sis. Celia assisted Grandma Schneider in keeping the home for herself and Grandpa for about three and one-half years. Then in 1912 she became the wife of Bro. Dan Butikofer. The following are their children: Carrie, Tillie, Ben, Leah, Elmer, Lorraine, Mabel, Silas, and Dan, Jr.

In 1953 they left the farm, moving to Elgin. In 1962 Bro. Dan passed away. She informed us that there are 24 grandchildren and eleven or twelve great-grandchildren. Besides her devoted interest in her family, she loves flowers and usually has some beautiful African violets in her window. Humility and quietness describe Sis. Celia very well. It does a person a lot of good to see her listen to the Christmas carols as she stands in the doorway of her home when the carolers sing for her. Her pleasure is very evident as she thanks them for their appearance.

Writing about the beauty which each season brings to Iowa, we would like to picture a winter day when the outside world is a vastness of white as far as the eye can see; fact is one has a scene so majestic that one doesn't even try to describe it. We have free entertainment in view of our living room and kitchen windows through which we see much wildlife, squirrels, rabbits, and birds too numerous to count, settling down to partake of a buffet of grains and suet. The newest visitors have been some tree sparrows. The bright splashes of color which the cardinals give us help to lighten the cold days.

### BECAUSE HE LIVES . . . WE TOO SHALL LIVE

In this restless world of struggle  
it is very hard to find  
Answers to the questions  
that daily come to mind—  
We cannot see the future  
what's beyond is still unknown,  
For the secret of God's kingdom  
still belongs to Him alone—  
But He granted us salvation  
when His Son was crucified,  
For life became immortal  
because our Saviour died.

Iowa City, Iowa . . . Twila Whipple - Connie Gerst: Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor), Kenneth Dietz

(Bradford), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), John Steiner (Oakville), Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski), and Leroy Hartman (Peoria). Can we be thankful enough for the Words of Truth spoken by God's inspiration?

We felt privileged to listen to the Conference tapes this past month. We should always strive to obey the warnings of our elders so that we can keep our spiritual life in order.

Mar. 4 was the wedding day for Harriet Mogler, daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma of West Bend, and Bruce Metzger, son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice of Lester. Harriet has made her home in Iowa City for the past five years. We wish Harriet and Bruce God's richest blessings.

Plans are being made for a reunion on Labor Day weekend for all those who have lived and worked in the Iowa City area. Details will be forthcoming; however, anyone wishing for more information at this time may contact Bro. Gary Anliker, 3310 Shamrock, Iowa City 52242.

**Lester, Iowa . . . Alice Metzger - Joyce Knoblock:** This is a most precious season when the earth begins to show signs of life after a cold, severe winter. It is the Easter season when we remember Christ's suffering on the cross for you and me. The grave could not hold Him and the promise was fulfilled that He would rise again. It is a promise for everyone and I personally hold it very dear.

They borrowed a bed to lay His head  
When Christ the Lord came down;  
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass  
For Him to ride to town;  
But the crown that He wore and the Cross that He bore  
Were His own—  
The Cross was His own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd He fed  
On the grassy mountain side,  
He borrowed the dish of broken fish  
With which He satisfied.  
But the crown that He wore and the Cross that He bore  
Were His own  
The Cross was His own.

Sis. Evelyn Stickling was a re-

cent surgical patient and is recuperating at home.

We welcomed the bride of Bruce Metzger into our congregation. Harriet is the daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler of West Bend and had lived in Iowa City for some time.

#### Oakville, Iowa . . . Phyllis Siegle:

"We are going down the valley one by one, with our faces toward the setting of the sun."

We have recently laid to rest two dear brothers in faith. Even though they were up in years and death is sure to come at His appointed time, we are going to miss them both so very much. We are thankful to God for the faithfulness and the godly walk of life they have left us now, in fondest memories, so we may have strength to walk in their footsteps and one day be found as they. They were truly pillars in the House of God.

Bro. Gustav A Scheitlin, 83, died in Burlington Medical Center, Feb. 10. He was born Oct. 6, 1894, at Tremont, Ill., the son of Adolph and Marie Miller Scheitlin. Nov. 16, 1919 he married Sis. Elizabeth Messner at Morris, Minn., who passed away June 6, 1969. Surviving: three sons, Donald, Arvado, Colo., Rollan, Mediapolis, and Bro. Kenneth, Burlington; three daughters, Sis. Lucille Rauhaus, Oakville, and Sis. Mildred Scheitlin and Sis. Arlene Weissinger, both of Burlington; brother, Bro. Albert, Elgin, Ill.; sister, Sis. Emma Rapp, Peoria, Ill.; 16 grandchildren. Bro. Gust was a retired minister, and how wonderful to still remember how he taught us often "to place first things first." As he often led us in prayer he invariably pleaded to our loving Father to "make us more sincerely Thine," on our behalf. May he now be rewarded for his labor of love in service to us.

Bro. Louis Aberle, 91, died Feb. 16, at Wapello Nursing Home. He was born July 31, 1886, at Morton, Ill., to Henry and Caroline Hoperly Aberle. On May 15, 1913, he married Sis. Elizabeth Enz. She passed away in 1969. Surviving: daughter, Mrs. Paul (Viola) Hardin; six grandchildren; 15 great - grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Bro. Louie was able to drive to church himself until about a year ago, when his health did not permit him to do so. He was almost always found to be one

of the very first to arrive at God's house of worship on Sunday mornings. It seemed Bro. Louis always was found wearing a ready smile.

There is a sad but kind remembrance,  
Cherished memories fond and true.  
There is a token of love and affection,  
When we the days and years review.  
They have taken their final voyage,  
In God's beautiful ship called Rest,  
Away from the world of sorrow,  
To their Eternal Home with the Blest.

Friends Chris Grimm and Debbie Smith are engaged. Parents of Chris are Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm and parents of Debbie are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith of Wapello. We surely wish them much happiness.

Carrie Lynn is the new little sunbeam in the home of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen Gerst. She also has two sisters, Heidi Jo, 6, and Heather Renee, 3.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall are first-time parents. To them was born a son, Mark Albert. May he bring much happiness into their home.

Thoughts at Eastertime. . .

"He made the forests whence there sprung  
The tree on which His body hung;  
He died upon a cross of wood,  
Yet made the hill on which it stood!  
The sky which darkened o'er His head,  
By Him above the earth was spread;  
The sun which hid from Him its face  
By His decree was poised in space!  
The spear which spilt His precious blood  
Was tempered in the fires of God;  
The grave in which His form was laid  
Was hewed in rocks His hands had made!  
The throne on which He now appears  
Was His from everlasting years!  
Forever glory crowns His brow,  
And every knee to Him shall bow!"

West Bend, Iowa . . . Mrs. Raymond Anliker - Beck y Banwart:



In the quietness of the night, a dear sister was suddenly called Home. Funeral services were held Feb. 21 for Sis. Mabel Zaugg, with local ministers officiating. She is survived by her husband, Walter, one son, Darrell, her mother, Sis. Ella Banwart (of Fort Scott, Kansas), three brothers and three sisters. We all may find comfort in knowing that "what God does is well done." Walter and Darrell wish to thank all who remembered them in this time of sadness.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ed Zaugg and Sam Mogler. We all should remember our aged loved ones in the nursing homes with a prayer that God will be with them, bless them, and help each one through trying, lonely days.

Our brothers and sisters gathered together to break bread and drink from the cup; remembering our dear Lord's crucifixion and His precious blood that flowed at Calvary. This Holy Sacrament was served on Mar. 4 by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, Ohio) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, Ia.). We hope that each soul will retain the true meaning and blessing of the Communion Service. We ask God to bless and uplift our elder brothers as they labor sincerely to fulfill God's work and will.

Mar. 4 was the wedding of Harriet Mogler (daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma) and Bruce Metzger (son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice) of Lester Ia. They were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Leo Moser at the Fellowship Center. May God richly bless their hearts and home.

After the cold winter we are looking forward to Spring . . . with green grass and budding trees. It reminds us of the Easter Story, when Christ arose victorious over death and grave. It's a beautiful season to remember "God is Love."

#### Shioda, Japan . . . Sally Gramm:

It was late, and I was tired when I stepped down from the bus. As the bus pulled away with a rumble, I trudged slowly down the narrow road to my apartment in the gathering dusk. My heart, as well as my body, was tired that chilly evening. I was thinking about how weak we human beings seem to be, and how many problems and stumbling blocks we seem to encounter in our Christian walk of life. I

had become discouraged, as the hurried, demanding week had spun out, almost draining me of the power to hang on. Now, as I plodded home through the shadows, I was mulling over the many problems that seemed to be lurking in the path. My head was sinking so low, in fact, that I nearly collided with a low-hanging branch in the pathway. I stopped, startled by the gnarled intruder that brushed my face. It was the branch of an old plum tree, bare and weather-beaten by the long, harsh winter. I sighed, and began to move around the obstruction, when suddenly my eyes caught sight of a small, pale blossom sprouting from the end of one of the branch's twigs. It was the first sign of Spring! I paused to look at the little flower, and my heavy thoughts were arrested momentarily. Suddenly, as I gazed in awe at the brave little flower that dared to bloom in the discouraging cold, my own courage mounted. My heart was flooded with hope and vigor, and I remembered the words of Jesus, "A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. . . I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."

The Hope in our hearts is so much like that courageous little flower, blithely proclaiming the coming of spring while the chill of winter still clutches the rest of the world. The people of this world depend upon their frail faulty, human senses for their joy, and so their hearts are always clutched in the icy winter of despair, as they allow themselves to be influenced and bound by the world. But we, as Children of God, live by Faith! With what glad abandon we can bloom in any circumstances, for we know that Jesus lives! As Easter approaches, let us continue to treasure and nurture this wonderful source of Life that wells up within us and can not help but to burst forth into blossoms. "For we are not as others, who have no hope . . ."

The daughter of our dear Bro. and Sis. Uchida passed away in a fire in her home, early this month.

We extend our sympathy to the family, and pray that God will comfort and strengthen them. We should always be mindful of the brevity of life, and of the importance of spending the few brief days we are given in glorifying God and serving Him.

The following was submitted by Bro. Willis Ehnle:

It was very early in the morning of Feb. 14, 1978. There was a man lying on his back in bed, thinking, with the prospect of dozing off again. There was a surge of power under him and he said to himself, "Here we go again." He felt himself being lifted up and up and up, still in a horizontal position. Then he came down again, still in a horizontal position, but as he came near to what he supposed to be the earth's surface, he leveled off like a giant bird that plummets toward earth and then levels off with complete gracefulness and dignity. Even while all this was happening he had the strong feeling that this was from God. He had the assurance that underneath were the everlasting arms.

"Here we go again." When these words raced through his mind, they made sense to him as he immediately recalled a spiritual experience he had 30 years ago when he felt himself go soaring off in a wonderful uninhibited flight and heard so clearly the words, "This is the way it will be when you go to meet the Lord in the air."

If that is really the way death is in the Lord, I am certainly looking forward to it. It is hard to imagine that it can really be such a wonderful and fulfilling sensation and experience, to go soaring off in complete comfort with an overwhelming feeling of well-being.

How terrible it would be if the opposite were true, if, upon our departure from this world we experienced a gloomy and all encompassing despair as we sink away into outer darkness, for eternity, with no recourse, all because we did not do the simple thing of surrendering our lives to Christ openly, in true repentance with faith, believing, or because we were not sufficiently careful to abide in Christ after our conversion.

Tokyo, Japan . . . Ycsh'o Yamazaki: We had our Bro. Conference meeting here in Tokyo on Feb. 11, Saturday, and quite a few members

attended in Tokyo Church. In the morning, Bro. Willis Ehnle spoke, and in the afternoon, Bro. Akito reported about the Bro. Conference in U.S. We believe that the Lord blessed us on that day. Our small congregations will be much stronger someday.

We had a young girl, named Karen Krieger from Rockville church, last Sunday here in Tokyo. She is very fine young girl and we hope our fellowship gave her good example and it will help her come to true repentance someday. She is presently studying in Tokyo. Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie were married on Jan. 8 in the States and returned here on Jan. 20. They are living at the apartment near Tokyo church. We wish and pray the Lord always gives them love and grace. We believe that they will give us wonderful example and influence through their daily life. Also we wish they have very fine Christian family, same as Hisato's brother, Akito Inoue.

**Bern, Kansas . . . Esther Moser - Stella Moser:**

A crown of thorns  
Upon His head,  
To that awful cross  
Our Christ was led.  
He did not hate,  
But forgave instead,  
Even though  
His blood was shed.  
Loving forgiveness,  
Not hate infernal—  
That's the Easter promise  
And life eternal.

Winter with its snow and cold has arrived with a vengeance. We have had three major snow storms in as many weeks. Snow is heaped up high along the streets and roadways. It creates a hardship for the livestock farmers, as they must put in many hours feeding and caring for their animals. Driving on the roads is quite hazardous, as there is only one lane through some of the huge drifts.

However, the Lord keeps us in the shadow of His love and protection, as our sisters, Gertrude and Patsy Esslinger experienced. They met another car in a narrow lane, the car was totaled. Gertrude had a cut on her head and bruises, Patsy an injured ankle, and 11 month old baby Fawn was untouched.

Sis. Janet Meyer (Bro. Robert)

caught a finger between the sections of the garage door. The finger was flattened and split open requiring stitches—very painful.

A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall, Sabetha, in honor of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gertrude (Messner) Esslinger, recent newlyweds.

**Fort Scott, Kansas . . . Jan Kraft:**

As thus we sat in darkness,  
Each one busy in his prayers—  
"We are lost!" the captain shouted,  
As he staggered down the stairs.  
But his little daughter whispered,  
As she took his icy hands,  
"Isn't God upon the ocean,  
Just the same as on the land?"

James T. Field

Ballad of the Tempest

How wonderful to know that God is everywhere if only we turn to Him as our three new converts have. They are Roger Kraft (Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda Kraft), a high school mid-term graduate, and Stephen and Lynne Fischer (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer). It is reassuring to know that God is still calling souls into His fold.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Ella Banwart and family in the passing of her daughter, Mabel Zaugg, West Bend.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our hospitalized patient, Elsie Sinn.

Feb. 5 was our turn to have short services at the three Nursing Homes in Fort Scott. We are thankful for the opportunity when we can see a smile planted on their faces and the word of God in their hearts. It means so much to them and takes so little of our time. May we always remember them.

**Gridley, Kansas . . . Julie Strahm**

- **Doris Bahr:** What is your thought of the Easter Season? In one of our services we heard a story: A man carrying a large cross felt that as the time trudged by and the cross' load grew heavier, he needed to repeatedly cut off a little from the end to lighten his load. Upon coming to a wide chasm in his path, the man decided to use his cross to make a crosswalk, but to his despair, his cross had been cut short once too often! We were reminded of the Saviour who gladly bore His entire load and that we must be very careful not to try to cut our cross too short. Someday

we will need that cross to carry us from our shore to the other. The 'Cross' will open Heaven's Door!

Hospitalized this month were ministering Bro. Loren Strahm; Barry Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene); and Bro. Doug Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine).

A special thanks to Bro. Walter Anliker for sharing God's word with us.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the beloved family of Sis. Elizabeth Beyer who passed away Mar. 5 at the home of her daughter in Los Angeles, Calif. Sis. Elizabeth was missing from our assembly for several months. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Frank Beyer, in 1976. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Beulah Wenger, Los Angeles, Calif.; three sons, Bro. Ivan Beyer, Willis Beyer, and Vernon Beyer, all of Gridley; a sister Mrs. Kathryn Harrington Los Angeles; two brothers, Bro. Fred Luthi, Lamont, and Bill Luthi, Panorama City, Calif.

Our annual business meeting was conducted by our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. New replacements for offices were as follows: Bro. Gary Herr, cemetery board; Bro. Albert Edelman, Sr. Hi Bible Class; Bro. Rudy Bahr, Superintendent; Sis. Gail Strahm, Primary Class; Sis. Dorene Metzger, substitute teacher; Bro. Phil Strahm, usher. May God bestow His blessings on those who hold these new duties.

Our dear older brother, Felder Young, experienced a nice surprise from family and friends to celebrate his birthday of 90 years! Praise God when our older ones are granted grace sufficient to live fruitful for so many years.

Wither Thou goest I will go—Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. We are happy to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of our Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) to Sis. Kathy Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma) Morris, Minn. An Apr. 2 wedding is planned.

Sis. Barbara Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula) were united in marriage. The couple plan to reside in Burling-ton, KS.

**Moving? Let us know both old and new addresses.**

**Kansas State University . . . Cynthia Meyer:** We were privileged to have Bros. Carl Hartman and Roger Aberle (Sabetha) with us for services here in Manhattan. It really is a blessing when we can fellowship together and hear God's word expounded upon.

Jeri Luthi (Lamont) has turned to God in repentance. We wish her God's blessings and guidance. We pray that many more of our friends will see the need to place their life in God's hands while they yet have the opportunity.

I AM THE WAY  
so just follow ME  
Though the way can be rough  
and you cannot see . . .

I AM THE TRUTH  
which all men seek  
So heed not "false prophets"  
nor the words that they  
speak . . .

I AM THE LIFE  
and I hold the key  
That opens the door  
to ETERNITY. . .

And in this dark world  
I AM THE LIGHT  
TO THE PROMISED LAND  
WHERE THERE IS NO  
NIGHT!

**Kiowa, Kansas . . . Janice Frieden:** As the blessed Easter season draws near and we remember what our Savior did for us our eyes fill with tears and our hearts break to think of the suffering He had to endure. Jesus was perfect, yet, He was beaten, spit upon, mocked, and crowned with thorns. He gave His love but received hatred in return, and as He was nailed to a cruel cross He cried only for God's forgiveness for those responsible. That's us, you know!! Our indifference drives the nails, our willfulness puts on the thorns, our selfishness mocks and spits upon Him, and our sin sheds His precious blood. We should praise the Lord for His plea of forgiveness for us. Through God's mercy and Christ's shed blood we are forgiven, if, through a true repentance we seek it with all our heart. Then comes the most beautiful part: Christ overcame death and the grave that first Easter morning so long ago. Those in Christ will someday also overcome death and the grave and

will abide with the Lord forever. What a blessed promise for us, especially since we are nothing.

I'm nothing, I'm nobody, no one,  
but Someone made something  
of me.

He put on my flesh and walked in  
my bones, and He saw all the  
grief that I see.

He knows what I know of torme-  
tors. This howling and halting  
within—

Of the blood that can spill, and the  
bones that can break,  
And the flesh with the nails driven  
in.

He hung on the cross as a creature,  
wearing my sin spattered  
clothes,

And my vile flesh died with Him  
when He died, and my raiment  
was new when He rose.

This garment I wear with a dif-  
ference. It's the flesh that  
the King entered in.

He put there His love, His almighty  
love, and it never can be what  
it's been.

I'm nothing, I'm nobody, no one.  
I'm something in Christ Who's  
in me.

And I'll put on His flesh and walk  
in His bones, and a part of His  
body I'll be.

Our hospital patients this past month included Bros. Sam Schrock and Pete Farney. Bro. Sam was hospitalized for cardiac problems, but we are thankful he is again home. Bro. Pete had a stroke and is still in the hospital. It is our prayer that he will be able to return soon.

We don't always express the joy we feel when we fellowship with another in the Lord's name, but we are so grateful for our Bible Study evenings and our monthly singing evening. We thank our Lord for the freedom we have in this nation to worship as we wish.

**Lamont, Kansas . . . Susan Emch:**

Our hearts rejoice with friend Jeri Luthi who has turned her back to the world and answered the Saviour's call. Jeri is the daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Joann Luthi.

We were privileged to have Bros. George Lambert, Wichita, Ks., and Walter Anliker, Eureka Ill., as visiting ministers. Our hearts were truly blessed by the messages that the Lord inspired them to bring to us.

Easter is most joyous to the believer, as it holds the story of our life in Christ from its beginning. If it were not for an empty tomb and a risen Lord, we would have no hope for tomorrow.

We welcome now the Hero,  
Who lay in calm repose,  
For over death He triumphed  
And from the grave He arose.

**Sabetha, Kansas . . . Mrs. Joe Steiner:** We had the pleasure of a visit from Bro. Gene Marti and family. Bro. Gene brought us many timely warnings.

Sis. Leah Fechter has been transferred from the Sabetha Community Hospital to the Sabetha Manor Nursing Home. Our A.C. Home is filled to capacity, so she was unable to enter there at present.

There are others who have been ill and in the hospitals. Sis. Louise Hartman is in the Sabetha Hospital at the present time.

"Nature is advertising the Power and Glory of God."

We have had a very cold winter, and at present, the snow is heaped everywhere with very little bare ground showing. But we know it will only be a matter of time until Spring arrives, and the Easter season will be here.

## REJOICE WITH SPRING

By Helen Keller

Precious as are all the seasons of the year, none so rejoices the heart as Spring. There is about Spring a gladness that thrills the soul and lifts it up into regions of spiritual sunshine.

The natural world is suddenly transformed into an orchestra of silver trumpets, singing birds, laughing streams and a fairyland of bursting buds. Snowdrops, crocuses, violets, primroses, buttercups and daisies tint the earth with purple, yellow and blue. Each tree and bush puts out tiny leaves of tender green loveliness. It is the festival of Eastertide, and Easter bells of joy ring softly in every heart.

The listening ear of faith hears again the voice of Jesus proclaiming the victory of Life over Death. "Go and tell the Brethren I am risen," He said to Mary, and with every return of Easter the human soul is renewed by His Message.



**Lexington, Kentucky . . . Cathy Knobloch:** Our little church house has been blanketed again and again with glittering white snow the past several months. Due to the weather conditions we have been forced to cancel numerous church services. School children have missed about 6 weeks of school already, and the winter is not over yet! Isn't it amazing how little tiny flakes of snow can completely immobilize the complex activities of mankind. Surely we must say—"He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." (Luke 8:25)

We are happy to welcome another member to our assembly. Bro. Dan Steffen from Bluffton, Indiana, has moved to Lexington. He plans to work awhile and then begin studies at the University of Kentucky. He is residing at 476 Locust Avenue, Lexington, Ky. 40505.

Recently our faithful Bro. S. T. Smallwood experienced tragedy in his family. The sister and brother-in-law of S. T. were shot and killed in their home by an angry neighbor. S. T. testified that it has been a difficult time, but God has blessed him through it all. Relatives were dismayed to discover that the couple did not have any insurance to cover funeral expenses. After much deliberation they made plans to collect donations from the community. Even with donations, they did not see how they could possibly collect the several thousand dollars which they needed. Everyone discussing the situation was in such despair. S. T. suddenly realized it was time for God to take the lead. S. T. stepped forward and witnessed to friends and relatives about the power of Jesus Christ to care for them. He then led them in prayer before they began seeking donations. **By the next day**, there was more than enough money to cover all the expenses! The funeral director, having lived in the community for many years, stated he had never seen such an outpouring of giving from the community. Why had it occurred? Because **one man** had the simple faith to believe that "... God hath the power to help ..." (II Chronicles 25:8)

**Bay City, Michigan . . . Carolyn Schambach - Patsy Knochel:** Our news is a bit spare this month, but

here we are anyway! Some who have been sick are: Sis. Inez Grew, Sis. Cathy Wieland, Sis. Mary Ramseyer, Clinton Wackerle, and Marshall Rylance. Our last report was that all of them are doing fine.

We haven't seen a robin yet, but days are getting longer, the sun warmer; and, 'tho the nights still go down to minus zero. I can't remember a year when spring didn't come!

Correction from the January issue: LOST: Navy blue "Northlander" coat on the weekend of Oct. 16. Another coat left in its place. Contact: Martha Repmer, 3750 So. Bern Dr., Bay City, MI (517) 686-8019.

**Detroit, Michigan . . . Bonnie Popp:** As the winter days are nearing their end, we look forward to God's ways of bringing the breath of Spring upon earth. And it is also at this time that we celebrate Easter—a time we all share one thing in common: Jesus loves us. Our Sunday School is preparing a program to tell of the story of God's love to us.

We in Detroit wish all of you faith to make your heart serene; hope to keep it light; peace alone that Christ can give to make the hours bright. May these, along with other joys be yours.

We are grateful that Sis. Perseda Wieland, Sis. Katie Barolf, and Sis. Joan Varga are recovering well. We continue to pray that they'll be blessed with tender care and needed rest, warm thoughts of friends that mean so much, and most of all, God's healing touch.

There is so much to be grateful for, our elders, ministers, Sunday School teachers, all our brothers and sisters, those who have worked diligently to continue to bring us the Silver Lining. Let us remember to support one another in prayer, and from time to time, tell each other of our appreciation for each other. Above all, let's express our appreciation to God. "Tis a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

**Morris, Minnesota . . . Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall:**

Easter—what a beautiful time of the year, when we are reminded that Christ died for our sins, and on the third day He arose! What a wonderful plan of salvation. If we but answer His call and do His

commandments, we will be with Him someday. We also look forward to Easter as a time of the year when soon the earth takes on a new appearance—grass becomes green, trees start to blossom, and little plants soon start to grow. What beauty there is all around!

Those hospitalized were: Minnie Schlupp (W.N. Dutch), Sis. Jan Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma), Bro. Michael Schmidgall, Guy Koehl (Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois), Neil Joos (David Sr.).

We thank the visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us: Bros. Loren Strom, Gridley, Kansas; Leo Moser, Lester, Iowa; Dennis Warner, Lester, Iowa; Steve Rinkenberger, Cissna Park, Ill.; bana, Ill.

We enjoyed having the Sunday School children of the Sabetha, Bern and Minneapolis churches visit us the week-end of Feb. 19.

Even the angels rejoice over one sinner that repents. We also are happy that Maxine Sauder has surrendered her life to the Lord. We pray that God will grant her much grace.

Mrs. Calvin Moser wishes to express her thanks for all the love, prayers, cards and kindness shown to her in the loss of her dear husband.

**Winthrop, Minnesota . . . Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper:** We share this message of hope conveyed by the resurrection story:

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb.  
He is the great "I was, I am".  
Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,  
He conquered over death and tomb.  
He rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky.  
If you have found the Christ—His way,  
Then you can keep this Easter Day.  
H. B.

Our sympathy is extended to Barb and Pat in the passing of his father, George Mattis, and to Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt with the loss of her mother.

Joy floods my soul, for Jesus has saved me,  
Freed me from sin that long had enslaved me;  
His precious blood He gave to redeem—  
Now I belong to Him!!



This so wonderful—expresses the joy our dear sister in faith, Jill Nelson (Sis. Donnabell and Alvin), felt as she gave her testimony and was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We thank Bro. Leo Moser for his loving exhortations. Many friends witnessed this precious time in Sis. Jill's life, but of All, only ONE soul felt it worthwhile to give up the things of this world to follow our Lord and Saviour. Yet we felt the angels in heaven rejoiced over this one soul. How precious are these teachings in His Holy Word.

Brenda, daughter of Sis. Mary Ann and Darold Thiem was injured in an auto accident. She was alone and crawled over frozen snow for help. Surely God watched over Brenda in this most trying time. May she ever give Him all the thanks due our heavenly Father. Also hospitalized is Bro. Roland Messner for hip surgery. We pray these dear ones will soon be able to assemble with us.

Vickey and Vernon were united in marriage by his father, Bro. Harold Messner, Saturday, Feb. 25.

**Lamar, Missouri . . . Sandra Marti - Janice Braker:**

Flowers sleeping 'neath the snow,  
Awakening when the spring winds  
blow;

Leafless trees so bare before,  
Gowned in lacy green once more;  
Hard, unyielding, frozen sod  
Now softly carpeted by God;  
Still streams melting in the Spring,  
Rippling over rocks that sing;  
Barren, windswept, lonely hills  
Turning gold with daffodills . . .  
These miracles are all around  
Within our sight and touch and  
sound,

As true and wonderful today  
As when "the stone was rolled  
away"

Proclaiming to all doubting men  
That in God all things live again.

And so it seems that we are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of Spring, and the time when "all things live again." As we see the Easter season is near let us go back in humble remembrance to Calvary, ever embracing the hope that someday we too may "rise again!"

Our dear Sis. Marie Marti has once again been hospitalized, and at the present time, she is at

Mayo's for tests. Also, Sis. Fern Braker (Bro. Lester) is a hospital patient this month. Let us remember these dear ones in our prayers, and may they find much comfort in trusting in God—for God knows the reason why!

**Taylor, Missouri . . . Lena M.**

**Haerr:** And so Pilate—released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus—to be crucified. Mark 15:15

His death became the greatest Blessing, for He took upon Himself our sins to set us free.

And as I saw Him hanging there,  
In faith beheld His face;  
My heart in gratitude exclaimed,  
"Thank God! HE TOOK MY  
PLACE!"

Christ took the guilt of our sin that we might have the gift of Salvation. Christ's empty tomb is the shining gateway to Heaven.

We have a new dear sister in faith. Barbara Uppinghouse gave her testimony of her conversion and repentance Feb. 11 and 12. Bro. Ed Lantz, Oakville, helped Bro. Roy Grimm with this precious work.

Bro. Gerald Sutter is explaining the Revelations in the Bible S. S. class and the Wed. eve. Bible class. It is so deep and impressive. We hope all of us will be ready before the Rapture.

Feb. 26 announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Susie Feller (daughter of Don and Judy) and Bro. Herb Hodel (son of Ben and Ruth Ann) of Roanoke. We wish them God's blessings.

We enjoyed having Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka, with us last week-end. It was so nice to have my sister and some of the family here.

Some one said if it snows Jan. 27, then it will snow 27 times. Today we are having the 27th snow, five to nine inches of new snow. I believe that since Easter is early, we will have nice spring weather then.

**Naumburg, New York . . . Corrine Virkler:** Jacob and Rachel Hirschey, children of Bruce and Gayle Hirschey, have been patients in the Lewis Co. Hospital, Lowville, for treatment.

Today when Easter's in the air,  
God bless you with His loving care;  
Tomorrow may He bless you, too,  
With joys that mean the most to  
you;

And always may He richly bless  
Your life with peace and happiness.

We had a beautiful month of February, being sunny nearly every day, but cold. We are all looking forward to spring when we can see God's hand in the new season.

**Akron, Ohio . . . Gail Spangler:**

The week-end of Feb. 18, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness baptism of four dear friends. Bob and Barbara Ritzman (Sis. Marie), and Jeff and Charlotte Graf (Bro. Ells and Sis. Esther) are our new brothers and sisters in Christ. It was really a wonderful week-end and was so uplifting for all of us. Elder Bros. Theo Beer (Milford) and Joe Ramsier (Rittman) assisted Elder Bro. Rudy. Bro. Merrill Laukauf (Latty) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) were with us on Sunday also.

Richard Messner was hospitalized recently, but is home and was able to assemble with us again. Richard appreciated very much the prayers, cards, thoughts, and deeds of kindness shown him during his stay in the hospital and wishes to thank everyone.

**Girard, Ohio . . . Kathryn Emch:**

Time brings many changes—the last member of the Isaac Emch family was laid to rest as Harold Emch was called on to have a service for ninety-one year old Sam Emch. William G. Bell went to meet his maker Feb. 23. He leaves his wife Mildred (the late Jess Emch's daughter) and his family.

Sis. Helen Emch is confined to her home after spending three weeks in the hospital with a broken pelvis she received in a fall. A number of our brethren have missed church because of colds and flu.

Bro. Rudolph Graf and Bro. Henry Dotterer have each spent a Sunday with us. We are always happy to have visitors.

**Junction, Ohio . . . Gwen Manz:**

We appreciated the efforts put forth by Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) on Mar. 1 when he showed slides of India and Haiti and brought us up to date on World Relief activities. Bro. Leman and Bro. Ray Sinn ministered to us the following evening.

**Latty, Ohio . . . Karen Klopfenstein:**

"Lord, train us well," I heard a young man pray,  
And wondered if he knew for what he asked,  
For not by books we read, nor sermons heard,  
Are we best fitted for the Master's tasks.

The ones who followed Him while here on earth,  
So often failed to grasp the message brought,  
Until they shared His cup of grief and pain,  
And then they understood just what He taught.

So we today, through pain and heartache, too,  
More clearly learn the things He meant to tell,  
And in our hearts the love of Christ abides,  
When we can humbly pray, "Lord train us well."

We rejoice with Sis. Katie Breitweiser since her husband, Henry, has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance.

We thank Bros. Ben and Don Manz in their efforts of ministering unto us on several Wed. evenings.

To every thing there is a season and to every purpose there is a time: the engagement of Bro. Wayne Klopfenstein (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen) to Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Emily) from Gridley, Ill., was announced. Wayne is living in Peoria, and Carol has been in Phoenix.

In 1977 we had 6 weddings, 18 births, 30 baptisms and 2 deaths.

**Mansfield, Ohio . . . Lucille Groh:**  
HE HAD SEEN THE LORD IN THE WAY. (Acts 9:27).

Someone recently wrote, "In every adversity there is seed to greater success". The same day someone else wrote . . . "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly" . . . Perhaps, some of our readers are going through dark valleys at this particular moment . . . do not fear . . . God walks very near His children and leads them through the valley.

In the time of deepest sorrow,  
When life seems without a ray

And the wound is fresh and opened,  
Can you see Him "in the way?"

When your plans and dearest projects  
Shattered fell and broken lay,  
And you vainly try to mend them,  
Can you see Him "in the way?"

When your prayers remain unanswered  
And you almost cease to pray,  
Feeling that the heavens are brazen—  
Can you see Him "in the way?"

When your dearest hope has vanished,  
When your friends forsake, betray,  
And all earthly props are broken—  
Can you see Him "in the way?"

Broken rays become a rainbow;  
Broken clods a fruitful meadow;  
Pruned vines bear richest clusters;  
Cut and polished gems, rare lustres;  
Harvests rise from buried grain;  
Lives are born through grief and pain;  
God dwells in the broken clay.  
He alone leads "in the way."

Loved ones hospitalized this past month are Sis. Freda (Bro. Ben) Beer (broken wrist from a fall on the ice), Bro. Robert Sauder (became ill while vacationing in Texas and required hospitalization), Sis. Martha Streitmatter, and our dear friend, Frank Bertka.

The week-end of Feb. 26 was a very blessed one with the visits of Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier. They spoke many wonderful words of wisdom and, in the afternoon, read and shared with us the memorandum of the conference held at Rittman last August. We thank them for their kindly advice and love shown to us.

**Rittman, Ohio . . . Mary Jane Winkler - Margaret Winkler:** On Feb. 11 our congregation was saddened by the funeral of our dear Bro. Bernie Hilty. Bro. Dave Roberts (Philadelphia) and Bro. Phil Wingeier (Sarasota) had the service, and Bro. Dave told us that Bro. Bernie said that he knew where he was going when he died. Knowing that Bernie had the promise of eternal life, our hearts were comforted. We know that the family also will be comforted at this time.

The Herbert Hilty family has said that many from coast to coast have remembered them with loving deeds, gifts, cards, sympathy, and prayers in the past years, and, now, during Bernard's passing. There are no words that can fully express the thanks and appreciation for the love they have felt. They have confidence that our Heavenly Father has seen every deed of love and will be the rewarder.

As I think of Bro. Bernie's words, can all of us say, as he did, that we know where we are going when we die? Let's all prepare our hearts so that when we pass from this life we may also see our dear Saviour.

We have had many dear ones in the hospital this month. They are Sis. Betty Baltic (Bro. Dan), Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman, Bro. Eugene Bachman (Sis. Kathryn), friends Glenn Miller (Sis. Ella), Bradley Hartzler (Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen), and Ronnie Riggensbach (Vernon and Sis. Martha Jane). They all have returned home and all have felt the healing power of the Lord. We hope that they all continue to improve.

Two bundles from heaven have arrived to gladden the homes of dear ones. Gregory Paul was born Feb. 13 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz (Junction). Grandparents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Louise Manz (Junction) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier of our congregation. Ryan Michael arrived the same day to the Tom Baumanns. Grandparents are Richard and Gladys Bauman.

It is not good for man to be alone . . . the engagement of Sis. Dawn Widmer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann) to Bro. Rick Dotterer (Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha) was made known to the congregation. An Apr. 2 wedding is being planned. May the Lord bless them as they plan their lives together.

We hope that the Lord will bless Bro. Merle Laukhauf (Latty) for bringing the word of Truth to us. We pray that Bro. Phil Wingeier and Bro. Dave Roberts will also be blessed through their bringing words of comfort to us in our time of sorrow.

#### HISTORY OF THE HARTZLER FAMILY By Ben Hartzler

There are a good many Hartzlers in the Rittman church, and they

all descended from my grandparents, Soloman and Martha 'Lanz' Hartzler. Jacob Hertzler, as it was then spelled, was born in 1703 in Switzerland. He came to America, and I was told, became the first Amish bishop in this country. He eventually settled in Pennsylvania.

About five generations later, Soloman was born. When he grew to manhood, he married Martha Lanz. It seems she had a brother living in Illinois in the Congerville area. She learned of the Apostolic Christian faith and church while visiting her brother, and not being satisfied with the faith or beliefs or practices of her husband's church, she embraced the faith she heard of in Illinois. Through correspondence with members and visits of ministers who visited them in Pennsylvania, she was finally baptized at her home by an elder and probably others with him of the Apostolic Christian Church.

All of their children became interested in their mother's faith, and as they grew to adulthood sought opportunity to move West where they could go to church. Noah, the oldest went to Illinois and spent some time with the Ackermans at Morton, and went to German school probably at Congerville with Bro. Hohulin as the teacher. He seemed to appreciate very much the experience he had there, as he often spoke of that time. Later he came to the Rittman vicinity where brothers lived that visited them in Pennsylvania. Dan Steiner, who was the first minister at the Rittman church, had several daughters, and Noah married one of them. I am not sure where he was baptized, whether in Rittman or in Illinois, but he eventually became a minister, and, some years later, the first elder at the Rittman A. C. church. He died in 1947 from the effects of an automobile accident.

Joseph, the second son, came to Akron, Ohio, where he worked as a blacksmith and, for many years, as a carpenter. He married Elizabeth Brenner of Akron. They had two sons and three daughters. His wife died, and he was married again to Clara Bollinger of Girard, Ohio. They then had one son and one daughter, and during this time he became a minister at the Akron church until his health failed. He passed away the day after Bro. Noah died, and was buried the day

after Noah's funeral.

Amos, who was my father, came to the Rittman area about 1895 or 1896 and worked as a carpenter. In 1898 he was married to Sarah Horn, who was a granddaughter of Anna Steiner, the first member of the Rittman Apostolic Christian church. Anna Steiner was born in Alsace, France. Her father was a Mennonite bishop, and later Anna married John Steiner, who also became a Mennonite bishop. Amos, my father, also became a minister at the Rittman church, serving in that capacity until old age and health overtook him. He died at age 92.

Isaac and two sisters, Mary and Lydia, never married. They, with their parents, moved from Pennsylvania to the Rittman area in 1902 and lived there together. Grandmother died in 1912, and grandfather in 1921. He never left the Amish or Mennonite faith, and his funeral services were held in the Mennonite church where he attended. The ministers who had the services were from the Akron A.C. church, the Mennonite bishop sitting with them on the pulpit.

The Rittman church was earlier known as the Chippewa church, and later as the Wayne County church, and finally as the Rittman, Ohio, church.

Some of these things and dates are rather vague, but this seems to be as near as can be ascertained. One often wonders what the reasons were that my grandmother Hartzler and my great-grandmother Steiner were dissatisfied with their early church or faith, but we must believe it must have been the work and goodness of Almighty God. We pray that He will keep us in His grace and help us to grow in faith and in the things that are an honor to Him, which is our reasonable service.

**Sardis, Ohio . . . Joyce Indermuhle:** "Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go, to hear the words He speaks, to see Him in His woe . . . He bowed His head and cried, 'tis finished . . . all is done . . . Oh God receive my soul . . . Life's victory is done'."

"And one called Joseph came and took the body of Jesus and laid it in a sepulchre wherein never a man before was laid." On the first day of the week, women came to the tomb bringing spices and oint-

ments. They found the grave empty. An angel of the Lord said unto them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen."

"We welcome now the Hero, who lay in calm repose, for over death He triumphed and from the grave He rose. Hallelujah, Christ Arose." He is still with us today. Let us heed His every call.

"Lord, for this great salvation be Thou forever praised, that after life's temptations to heaven we'll be raised."

**Portland, Oregon . . . Connie Steffen:** Where does time go? It seems only yesterday it was the beginning of the year, and now we are well into 1978. How will we spend it? Each day is so fast passing, it makes us think of the hymn writer saying:

"My lifetime doth pass away."

Learn by faith to overcome, Saying, "My Redeemer liveth". "With these eyes I'll see Him come When eternal life He giveth." "It is finished," He did call, Triumphed over death and all.

Even though we do draw hourly nearer our eternal home, we have nothing to fear for Jesus our Risen Redeemer has gone on before us to prepare our mansion. Let's try to be more aware of what manner of person we should be, knowing that today He may call our name.

We are looking forward. Lord willing, to ten brothers and friends from Illinois and Indiana to come and visit our Oregon churches and give of their time and talents to help us finish our cabin by the ocean. We trust the Lord will richly bless each of them.

We would like to extend an invitation to you to come visit us. We really appreciate company and would like to suggest you plan to spend two Sundays—one at each church.

**Union City, New Jersey - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . . Ed Aeschleman:** Everyone is anxious for a break in the long cold and snowy winter. We especially think of our dear shut-ins in Union City, Sisters Bertha Weisert, Louise Buhler, and Emily Schoenleber. We pray often that God will sustain and nourish all of our dear brethren who are confined for one reason or another.

Spring is beautiful in the East

and we long for it to come. First the Crocus and Daffodil begin to bloom, then the Forsythia in its yellow glory, followed by hundreds of pink and white dogwood and other flowering trees, and, finally, the beautiful Azalea blends its many shades of red with the new green grass and trees. It all so perfectly fits the time of the year when our Lord arose victor over the grave making possible the full bloom of life in every human soul.

#### **Zapata, Texas . . . Tillie Kellenberger:**

Thus united and in concord. Let us walk the path of life;

Hand in hand, O may love bind us, for each others welfare strive.

Just about a year ago. Feb. 14, the ground was broken for our new church here in Zapata, Texas.

The first service was held on Sept. 8, 1977, by Bro. Harry Sutter.

On Feb. 12, 1978, we had our open house. Visiting ministers were: Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, Ia.; Bro. Harvey Heininger,

Oakville, Ia.; and Bro. James Hoer, Peoria, Ill.

Dedication of our church was Feb. 19, 1978, with Elder Sam Anliker, Lamont, Ks., having dedication services. He was assisted by Elder Ed Lanz of Oakville, Ia., and Elder Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Ia. He stressed in his service that we are the church and not the building in which we gather to worship.

We are grateful to the brothers and their wives who came from Peoria to do the landscaping for the church. We thank all who helped in the smallest way, and we hope that God will bless you.

#### **New Martinsville, West Virginia . . . Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey:**

Our weather in this area has improved a bit: when the sun shines it is warm, the many inches of snow we have had are melting (more than 50 inches in all), and dangers of floods are lessening. We are all looking forward to April and better weather. This is Mar. 1 and another 30 days will soon roll around; then spring will be here.

Bonnie Riggensbach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Riggensbach,

was a patient in the local hospital for several days during February.

Nellie and Hazel Schlobohn, former residents of Limestone Ridge, are getting up in their later years, and are both patients in a hospital in Wheeling. Their many friends here are hoping for their improvement.

Mrs. Sylvia Bachman, widow of Edward Bachman of Sardis, Ohio, passed away Feb. 18. She is survived by one daughter, one grandson, and several sisters and brothers.

I visited with Della Witschey on Feb. 28 and found her quilting a quilt for a neighbor and enjoying her work. She will observe a birthday on Mar. 16. Send her a card and say a big "Hello".

The robins are back, so spring is not too far away.

Mrs. Raymond Barth will enter a Cleveland, Ohio, hospital on Mar. 14 and have major surgery on Mar. 16. She has had two such operations in Pittsburgh, Pa., and we are praying that she will have complete recovery this time. She is a daughter-in-law of Frank Barth and the late Blanche Barth.

## SILVER THREADS

### **IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

Before the dawn of Easter  
There came Gethsemane . . .  
Before the Resurrection  
There were hours of agony,  
For there can be no crown of stars  
Without a cross to bear,  
And there is no salvation  
Without FAITH and LOVE and  
PRAYER:

And when we take our needs to God  
Let us pray as did His Son  
That dark night in Gethsemane,  
"THY WILL, NOT MINE, BE  
DONE."

### **WHY SHOULD HE DIE FOR SUCH AS I?**

In everything both great and small  
We see the Hand of God in all;  
And in the miracle of Spring,  
When EVERYWHERE in  
EVERYTHING,  
His handiwork is all around  
And every lovely sight and sound

Proclaims the God of earth and sky;  
I ask myself "JUST WHO AM I"  
That God should send His only Son  
That my salvation would be won  
Upon a CROSS by a sinless man  
To bring fulfillment to God's

Plan—

For Jesus suffered, bled and died  
That sinners might be sanctified,  
And to grant God's children SUCH  
AS I

Eternal life in that HOME ON  
HIGH.

### **A CHRISTIAN**

Would I be called a Christian,  
If everybody knew  
My secret thoughts and feelings  
And everything I do?  
Oh, could they see the likeness  
Of Christ in me each day?  
Oh, could they hear Him speaking  
In every word I say?  
Would I be called a Christian  
If everyone would know  
That I am found in places  
Where Jesus would not go?

Oh, could they hear His echo  
In every song I sing;  
In eating, drinking, dressing,  
Could they see Christ, "My King?"  
Would I be called a Christian,  
If judged by what I read  
By all my many actions  
And every thought and deed?  
Could I be called Christ-like;  
As I now work and pray,  
Unselfish, kind, forgiving  
To others, every day?

### **INSURANCE FOR SALE**

I'm a salesperson for the Lord  
today—  
There are many samples to give  
away,  
Samples of joy—no fear at night!  
A magnificent crown—a robe of  
white.

Life Insurance! Sale of Sales!  
Read further for all details—  
You give a promise, He gives His  
Word;  
No! It's not silly, and it's not  
absurd.



The premium was paid by a  
Heavenly King  
Who has many mansions where  
angels sing:  
He's offering life everlasting to  
you—  
Prophets saw visions and declared  
it was true.

He'll protect you and guide you  
into the fold;  
The devil claims all on the outside,  
I'm told;  
You'll have to repent, keep your  
garments clean;  
There's work to do, a light to be  
seen.

With alms to give, homes open  
wide  
To brothers and sisters who want  
to abide;  
What? Your family and friends  
come to church steady?  
But it states here clearly—each  
must say, "Lord, I'm ready."

How sad! You don't want to accept  
the King?  
You'd rather have pleasures this  
life will bring  
And play with the devil while he  
keeps you bound?  
But I must warn you! When  
Heaven's books are opened—  
your name won't be found—

Insurance For Sale!  
Louise Ella Akel  
(Carolyn Akel's mother)

### NOT GROWING OLD

They say that I am growing old,  
I've heard them tell it times untold  
In language plain and bold—  
But I'm NOT growing old.

This frail old shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well—  
But I am NOT the shell.

What if my hair is turning grey?  
Grey hairs are honorable, they say,  
What if my eyesight's growing  
dim?  
I still can see to follow Him  
Who sacrificed His Life for me  
Upon the cross of Calvary.

What though I falter in my walk?  
What though my tongue refused to  
talk?  
I still can tread the narrow way,  
I still can watch and praise and  
pray.

My hearing may not be so keen  
As in the past it may have been.  
Still, I can hear my Savior say  
In whispers soft, "This is the Way."  
That life is good and friends are  
kind. . .  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

The outward man—I do what I can  
To lengthen my life's short span—  
Shall perish, and return to dust,  
As everything in nature must.

The inward man, the Scriptures  
say,  
Is growing stronger every day.  
Then how can I be growing old  
When I'm safe within my Savior's  
fold.  
Ere long my soul shall fly away,  
And leave this tenement of clay,  
"This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise  
To seize the everlasting prize"—  
I'll meet you on the Streets of  
Gold,  
And PROVE that I'm not growing  
old.

### FROM MANSFIELD

O Lord, there sit apart in lonely  
places.  
On this, the gladdest night of all  
the year,  
Some stricken ones with sad and  
weary faces,  
To whom the thought of Christmas  
brings no cheer.  
For these, O Father, our petition  
hear,  
And send the pitying Christ-child  
very near.  
Lord, some sit by lonely hearth-  
stones, sobbing,  
Who feel this night all earthly love  
denied,  
Who hear but dirges in the loud  
bells' throbbing  
For loved ones lost who blessed  
this Christmastide;  
For these, O Father, our petition  
hear,  
And send the loving Christ-child  
very near.

### FROM LAMAR

The more you give, the more you  
get—  
The more you laugh, the less you  
fret—  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you live abundantly . . .  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to  
spare—  
The more you love, the more you'll  
find

### FROM LATTY

#### THE LIFE OF FAITH

The life of faith is a life of Rest  
And heavenly balm:  
No anxious thoughts disturb the  
breast,  
Nor fears alarm.  
The soul that fully trusts is blest  
With perfect calm.

The life of faith is a life of Joy  
And real delight:  
Of pleasure pure, without alloy,  
Gladsome and bright.  
Heart melodies the lips employ  
Morn, moon, and night.

The life of faith is a life of Love  
To love's own King;  
Whose yearning purpose fain  
would move  
On swiftest wing,  
Its fervency and depth to prove  
In everything,

The life of faith is a life of power  
And strength divine;  
Of triumph in temptation's hour  
For soul of mine.  
O precious life! God's priceless  
dower.  
Is this life thine?

### THIS DAY

This day of days brought promises  
of love and peace to man,  
Which God renews at Easter  
time according to His Plan.  
Our help is needed every hour, and  
each must do his part  
To spread love's message far and  
wide with a cheerful friendly  
heart.

### FROM MANSFIELD

Have you entered your closet today  
my friend?  
Have you prayed alone with your  
God?  
Have you worshipped the Lord to-  
day my friend?  
Have you told Him the secrets  
alone?  
Have you entered your closet today  
my friend?  
Have you told Him all on your  
heart?

Have you thanked Him for love  
and peace sublime,  
And remembered that friend by  
your side?  
Have you entered your closet today  
my friend?

Have you called for the help you  
need?  
Have you told Him of troubles too  
heavy to bear?  
Have you your petitions made  
clear?

If you enter your closet today my  
friend,  
You will find the solace you need;  
He is ready to hear each loving  
child,  
And is willing to answer, too.

### THE WONDERS OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US

#### ABUNDANT LIFE

"I am come that they might  
have life, and that they might  
have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

#### UNSPEAKABLE JOY

"Whom having not seen, ye love;  
... yet believing, ye rejoice with  
joy unspeakable and full of glory."

1 Peter 1:8

#### ABOUNDING GRACE

"God is able to make all grace  
abound toward you: that ye, al-  
ways having all sufficiency in all  
things, may abound to every good  
work."

2 Corinthians 9:8

#### PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING

"The peace of God, which pass-  
eth all understanding, shall keep  
your hearts and minds through  
Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

#### GREAT MERCY

"For as the heaven is high above  
the earth, so great is his mercy  
toward them that fear him."

Psalm 103:11

#### SOOTHING COMFORT

"I will fear no evil: for thou art  
with me; thy rod and thy staff  
they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4

#### CLEANSING FROM UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

"If we confess our sins, he is  
faithful and just to forgive us our  
sins, and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

#### SOUND WISDOM

"For the Lord giveth wisdom:  
out of his mouth cometh knowledge  
and understanding. He layeth up  
sound wisdom for the righteous."

Proverbs 2:6 & 7

#### PHYSICAL HEALTH

"Beloved, I wish above all things  
that thou mayest prosper and be in  
health, even so as thy soul prosper-  
eth."

3 John 2

### SAVING STRENGTH

"The Lord will give strength un-  
to his people."

Psalm 29:11

### PROSPERITY IN ALL THINGS

"He shall be like a tree planted  
by the rivers of water . . . and  
whatsoever he doeth shall pros-  
per."

Psalm 1:3

### PERFECT PEACE

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect  
peace, whose mind is stayed on  
thee; because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

### ALL YOUR NEEDS MET

"But my God shall supply all  
your need according to his riches  
in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

### KEEPS HIS COVENANT

"My covenant will I not break,  
nor alter the thing that is gone out  
of my lips."

Psalm 89:34

### CHRIST AROSE!

Low in the grave He lay—

Jesus, my Saviour!

Waiting the coming day—

Jesus, my Lord!

Vainly they watch His bed—

Jesus, my Saviour—

Vainly they seal the dead—

Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey—

Jesus, my Saviour!

He tore the bars away—

Jesus, my Lord!

Chorus:

Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph

o'er His foes;

He arose a Victor

from the dark domain,

And He lives for ever

with His saints to reign;

He arose! He arose!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Moving? Let us know both old and  
new addresses.

### IN THE GARDEN

I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear,  
Falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His  
voice

Is so sweet the birds hush their  
singing,

And the melody

That He gave to me,

Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be  
falling,

But He bids me go;

Thro' the voice of woe

His voice to me is calling.

Chorus:

And He walks with me,

and He talks with me,

And He tells me I am His own;

And the joy we share as we tarry  
there,

None other has ever known.

### Sermon by BRO. WILLIS R. EHNLE

(Continued from page 28)

True, we are instructed when we  
are baptized—and it is scriptural—  
that if we are concerned about oth-  
ers, we should go to them and tell  
them, but we are not to speak evil  
of them. Tonight we have the com-  
mandment straight and clear;  
"... speak evil of no man," Titus  
3:2, of nobody, ever!

If we live according to this  
teaching, we will be happier  
throughout our lives on earth and  
throughout eternity. Why do I say  
"throughout eternity"? Because,  
when we make it safely through  
those gates into the next World,  
we will remember whether or not  
we went about in this present life-  
time (be fore and after our conver-  
sion, especially after) speaking evil  
of others. And we will regret any  
evil speech.

Do you remember the parable in

which the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of Lazarus and the rich man? God said to the rich man through Abraham, "Son, remember . . . thou in thy lifetime . . . ?" This was a soul who was lost. We definitely know that someone who is lost can remember his failings. When I say, "we will remember our failings as believers," I am making an assumption—I am not positive. But it may well be because " . . . every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36. In any case, it is very serious, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10. This was written to believers!

No, we don't repent, come into the fellowship, and then just relax completely and live carelessly. We are called into holiness and righteousness and unto a tremendous love for one another where we speak evil of no man. What a blessed thought!

Well, what do we speak about then? It is so easy to talk about the failings of others—that they wore something odd, or that they drive such an automobile. and we don't understand why. This is such easy conversation. If we can't talk about this what can we talk about? Malachi gives the answer. He says: "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Malachi 3:16. The more we can think and speak of spiritual things the more we can ask one another about a Bible verse, the more we can speak one to another as Malachi says, how precious and blessed it IS!

Do you know that where the love flows, where the fellowship is united where there is no schism whatsoever, the Holy Spirit works so much better? Where we can just fold our arms around one another, where there's **really** love for each other, where we do not speak evil of each other, the Holy Spirit works magnificently?

But where there is a division and where there is tension between brethren in the Lord, those outside of Christ can see it. It is not

good. Therefore, we should never speak evil of each other, in order to be a better testimony for the Lord. When we can just naturally embrace each other in the Lord, the Holy Spirit works marvelously. We're so happy we came to church; we're so happy to see a brother or sister; we're so happy we can identify with our own group of believers and can say, "I have brethren who care for me! I love them all! I really love them all!" If, throughout this great land of ours, all the brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ will follow this one commandment, " . . . speak evil of no man," Titus 3:2, there will be a greater out pouring of the Holy Spirit!

In my own experience in Japan, I remember all the adjustments that the people there had to make to me and to our church, and all the adjustments that I had to make to them, and the frustrations involved on both sides of the fence. When we could come to the place where we no longer spoke evil of each other, of each other's customs, of our country's history, of our country's condition, of our own nationality, and could simply love each other and greet each other with a holy kiss, the Holy Spirit blessed our services. We thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

Remember that the same Holy Spirit that works in our small congregation in Japan, works even more mightily here because of your numbers and your stability over many years. But it is very important that you " . . . speak evil of no man." Titus 3:2.

You should speak good things, encourage one another, help one another, visit the sick, and be a laborer in the vineyard, for we are all to be laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. No one here tonight, who is a brother or sister in our fellowship, should in any way feel that he is not a laborer in the Lord's vineyard. You should, by all means, in some way be a laborer.

If you could see the vineyards in Japan, you would know that the laborers work hard. We live right in the center of the grape growing area, the heart of Japan's grape vineyard. They have the vineyards up over the heads, and you walk in under them and look up. The workers have to take each bunch of grapes and handle it carefully as they dip it into some liquid so the seeds will not form so they can

have seedless grapes. They clip off some of the grapes so the rest have plenty of room to grow large. The vines are pruned very severely, so severely you might think the vine would die, but it doesn't. It shoots forth new growth and goes on, just as we do.

The more we give up for the Lord Jesus Christ, the more fruit we can bear. True holiness comes only by suffering. God may allow you to suffer mournfully, but, through it all, always keep in mind that you are going to climb on top of it. Every experience of suffering, every experience of frustration, can be surmounted. It will raise you higher in the ladder of spiritual growth.

If you do not help in the vineyard, how is it that you want to partake of the grapes when it is harvest time? If you are a brother or a sister in our fellowship and you want to partake of the grapes of the fruit of the harvest, of the love, joy, peace and all the other good fruits, and want to see more souls come in, then encourage the brothers and sisters.

Don't be discouraged. Don't think that you have all the problems. The person beside you may have more. Do something. Offer yourself to the brethren who have responsibilities. Some are secretaries, some can type, some can help clean, some can do something else. Everybody in the vineyard is a willing worker. No one is lazy in the household of God.

To support the Brotherhood, to build up the faith, " . . . to speak evil of no man;" such love, such conduct, such faith will help us all the way through!

Hold yourself down. I have to, too—I have to so much. It is so easy to speak evil of others.

Also, don't complain. It is taught in the Scripture that we should not complain: "When the people complained, it displeased the Lord." Numbers 11:1. Don't complain. The world is tired of complaining. The world is sick of hearing evil about us. No! No! No! Don't do it. As a child of God, be joyful; be cheerful. Remember the Lord Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Be of good cheer!

Jesus loves you. We should love one another and " . . . speak evil of no man," Titus 3:2.



## SERMON BY BRO. WILLIS EHNLE

Text: Titus 3

"To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." Titus 3:2

God tells us to speak evil of no man. The Apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write to Titus, among other things, "To speak evil of no man . . ." Titus 3:2. Have we failed in this regard today? This is a hard saying. As we read the Holy Scriptures together this evening and my eyes fell upon this phrase, "Speak evil of no man," I accepted it as a challenge. It is a guideline that I believe we would do well to take careful note of.

"Speak evil of no man." Titus 3:2. Let us say, first of all, that we would not speak evil of men in high places. We would not speak evil of those who have great responsibilities in the world. Why? Because it says here that we ourselves were at one time in the world; we ourselves were thrust about with sin; "we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving diverse lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy . . ." Titus 3:3. This hating, this biting, this criticizing drives you to the ground. It does no one any good at all. It is contrary to the Word of God. So, we are instructed first of all, as we read together tonight, "To speak evil of no man!" Titus 3:2.

Especially, we have no right whatsoever to speak evil of those who have not been converted, because they have not been converted. They are living for the devil in a greater or lesser degree. Some people are just floating along. You cannot tell that they are living for the devil, but they are. If they have not surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, they have no promise of being in the fold according to the Words of the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

"To speak evil of no man," Titus

3:2, then, is a tremendous challenge that is handed down to you and to me. It is not just given to us as something we should consider or ponder upon but that we should do. We should carry it out! Why? Because we ourselves are only saved by the grace of God. This is the same reason that we should be so loving and forgiving to everyone.

There was a certain person, I heard about, who sought the Lord, who sought His forgiveness. She wanted to repent; she wanted to live for the Lord; she wanted forgiveness; she wanted a clean heart; she wanted into the household of God. She wanted to know if she was ready to meet God if she should die suddenly in an automobile accident or in some great tragedy that should befall her unbeknown, be it sickness or accident. She wanted to know that she was ready to meet the living God. But she had a terrible time. She could never find peace or forgiveness and was troubled in her heart, on and on and on, until one day, someone said to her, "Have you forgiven everyone?" We know about making restitution. We know all about asking for forgiveness where we have done wrong. But this person forgot one thing—forgot to be forgiving. You know, the Lord says, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15.

Neither you nor I could ever find forgiveness, unless we were willing to forgive others. Why? For the same reason that we are not supposed to speak evil of others. Because, if God forgives us, the least we can do is forgive others. We must never be hesitant to forgive others. As individuals, we should gladly forgive them for anything—even if they want to kill us. Didn't the Lord say, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do," Luke 23:34, when they nailed Him to the cross? And aren't we supposed to follow in His

footsteps?

This is no baby's play. We are supposed to be followers of Jesus Christ, not some vain philosophy that tunes in and tunes out according to the whims of the individual. Then we have two things straight tonight: one, we are NOT supposed to speak evil of anyone; and two, we ARE supposed to forgive them, willingly and gladly!

Without the forgiveness that we have received, we would be doomed to an eternity of suffering and outer darkness. How, then, can we possibly say we will not forgive? So we forgive—gladly! We forgive; but it doesn't mean that we condone, and, someday, if offenders go completely away from God, the church will have to judge. But no brother or sister, to my understanding, is ever asked to judge, by himself, any other brother or sister or wayfaring soul. The church may be called upon, a group of brethren may be called upon, but no individual is called upon to pass judgment on another or to be unforgiving! If you do have to make a judgment it is not because you are not forgiving. It is to keep order in the church and to keep the bride of Christ clean and pure.

So, as we run across the Scriptures tonight, "To speak evil of no man," Titus 3:2, we have it straight. We are not supposed to speak evil of others because they haven't been converted. We are talking about those outside of Christ now. But when we come to the household of faith, the precious brothers and sisters in Christ who gather here, who are in the faith, how could we dare speak evil of them to somebody else? If we are not allowed to speak evil of our president, unless it be with tears in our eyes, a prayer in our heart, and an attitude of concern rather than criticism, then how can we speak evil of our leaders and our brothers in the church? It should **never** be! It **cannot** be!

(Continued on page 26)