

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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**This article represents the conclusion of the series:**

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

This article represents Part IV, the final portion of the series "A Condensed Outline of the Life of Samuel H. Froehlich". In a given year this brother in faith held upwards of 450 meetings, undertook innumerable visits and tiring journeys, and wrote from 200 to 300 letters (in duplicate) in addition to keeping exhaustive diaries—under conditions of health often so frail he had to be assisted to the pulpit.

#### **GROWTH**

Persecution brought Froehlich in Oct., 1832, to Zurich to his sisters where he could remain a week. In Zurich the truth began to find a way. The movement spread farther and farther through Froehlich's tireless activity and reached over into other areas. Even the newspapers could not stop it, though they agitated: "The sect of the Re-baptizers is growing in the Cantons of St. Gall, Appenzell, Thurgau, and Zurich." They publicly called upon the government of the Canton of Aargau to prevent the "dangerous sectarian" S. H. Froehlich from moving about. In Appenzell believers were beaten till blood flowed and fined up to 100 gold pieces.

Froehlich's delivery in his addresses and talks was earnest, clear, and positive, awakening the lukewarm and chastening the opponents of the truth. This led to a decision of the spirits: the one to repentance, the other to enmity.

#### **EXPULSIONS AND DEPARTURE**

Early in 1837 Froehlich was

forced to the realization that he could not long remain in his native city because his marriage had taken place without state-church sanction, having been blessed instead by the united prayer of the congregation at Hauptwil. As this was not according to state-church order, its validity was not recognized by the civil authorities. The home (state church) congregation at Brugg denied the young woman the right of citizenship, although the publication of the banns had taken place, and the marriage license and the immigration papers had been issued. All petitions to the authorities of Cantons Aargau and Thurgau, as well as an interview with the federal president at Berne, for recognition of the marriage were of no avail.

On Mar. 20, 1843, Froehlich was expelled from the city of Zurich as a sectarian, five months after he completed his series of sermons on the Epistles of John. He appealed, only to be denied on Apr. 10th, after an interim of five days. He traveled to Wil, Hauptwil, and later to St. Gall, where his family visited him by day. It was not possible for him to stay in Hauptwil as a reward had been offered for his capture. On June 27 he was also expelled from St. Gall. He fled by night to Rapperswil and sought refuge at Hirzel, a small village on the Lake of Zurich.

In June, 1844, Froehlich made one more attempt in Brugg to bring his marriage papers in order. He was told that the marriage could be recognized only if he would permit the baptism and confirmation of his children. As his conscience

forbade him this, there was nothing to do but to leave his fatherland and settle in Strasbourg, where, at last, he had the prospect of setting up a home. For the time being, he could not take his family with him. That was not possible until June, 1846, when he finally succeeded in obtaining legal recognition of his marriage. After seven years of enforced separation, he was united with his family in a home in Strasbourg. Although Froehlich could achieve nothing for himself in Switzerland for legal recognition of his marriage, he was a pioneer for others in a matter which weighed down heavily upon the believers.

#### **DETERMINATION**

The brotherhood met in the Rohr on July 10, 1843, to make petition for the recognition of their society. It was resolved that in accordance with the Word of God, the congregations should hold fast to their principles and carry them out whatever the cost. Opposition was asserting itself everywhere, yet it was not possible to repel the light that had appeared. The good seed had been sown and had brought forth its fruits.

After Froehlich had been expelled from Canton Zurich in September, 1843, he could not abide in one place for long without exposing himself to arrest and penalties. In his distress, he remembered the advice given to him ten years before in London: to settle in Strasbourg where there was freedom of speech. This course he now took.

Froehlich's departure was a se-

vere trial for the congregations in Switzerland. In the storm of those years his experience was invaluable. An active correspondence shortened the distance that separated them, for which a messenger service of traveling or visiting brothers was utilized. Of one of these trips, it is reported that a package of 70 letters was delivered. By means of mutual visits the bond was kept close, and especially were the various extended journeys which Froehlich made from his new home into Switzerland a blessing and joy to the churches.

Typical of the depth of his letters, here are excerpts from letters written in September, 1856, a few months before his death:

Zurich, September 3-6, 1856  
To the Church in Berne:

"I received an invitation to a conference of Baptist preachers from Germany, France, and Switzerland which will be held here from the 4th to the 8th of this month. It concerns unification of all the various and separated parties among the Baptists. However, as this union could be only an outward one, without the inward one of the Spirit of Christ and the truth, I cannot take part in the conference: and have, therefore, written them a detailed reply outlining my reasons for declining.

"Such a formal union would have the result that we would have to allow all such who differ with us in doctrine to teach in our meetings, for thus they expressly write: 'That the various bodies, regardless of the differences of their views, ought to work together for the one great purpose of the kingdom of God.' Thus the matter has a good appearance and a fine title but, in itself, a destructive character and poison.

"Is it according to the apostolic rule and evangelical truth that men of the most varied opinion and views should unite for one purpose in the kingdom of God? Is not this Satan in the form of an angel of light? I believe that here applies our Savior's warning that in the last days the seduction would be so subtle that, if it were possible, even the elect would be drawn into error.

"We can insist upon nothing so much as that all brethren in the Lord be of one mind, endowed with one doctrine; and now it is declared that this difference has nothing to

do with working together for the kingdom of God.

"I am therefore writing to you so that if anyone should trouble you about it, you may know the true state of affairs. For example, the Brothers L——— (\*editorial deletion) received the invitation before I did, and until I came here, were willing to accept it and to attend the conference.

"To me, my life in itself is not precious. However, I do rejoice if through me the Lord does things for the comfort and well-being of the brotherhood; for the church is everything to me, and for her I will present what I am able to do, and I also would be presented as a sacrifice, if it is the will of our Father in heaven.

"All is grace, and Christ does all things for His Father's sake, to the glory of His name, when He bestows gifts and powers upon his servant and messengers, for it concerns the destruction of Satan's kingdom and government on this earth and the restoration of God's kingdom and glory. To this end the Son came and, by His victory, paved the way to victory. It may be gradual, slow, as long as the Gospel is preached: and much is done in a false guise that it might have prestige, as if it were for God's kingdom and the hurt of Adam were healed (in the easiest way), as if nothing more were necessary than to believe; but if the whole world remains in enmity against God in the disposition of the flesh, that matters not at all."

Zurich, September 4, 1856  
To the Honorable Baptist Preachers' Conference,  
Esteemed Friends:

"You have honored me with a written invitation to your conference. But because I am not in position to accept this invitation, I at least feel obligated to reply to your letter, giving a few reasons. First, and in general I have a poor opinion of the benefit and results of such a conference especially as they concern the truth and the kingdom of God. They remind me too much of the erstwhile church synods and councils in which men desired to replace the missing truth with human inventions and wisdom, to the great harm of the truth and the church of God. For even as there is but one truth, so also is the true church in itself but one. and this oneness (unity) has not

first to be discovered or established by means of conferences.

"Here, the words of the prayer of the Lord (John 17:21) do not at all apply, for Jesus prayed to the Father not that many existing organizations, each resting on its own foundation, be merged into one, for under none of these organizations could another foundation be laid than that on which it already rests. Rather, this was the prayer of the Son: that all who are converted to Him and, through the word of the apostles, become believers on Him be in their entirety one, even as He and the Father are truly one. This unity, accordingly, is given and exists in the true faith (by virtue of the intercession of Jesus) and should not first be achieved later on between various separately-established organizations by means of conferences and all sorts of human endeavor.

"On the basis of the divine truth, therefore, such an intended union is not possible because the divine truth is not the foundation of these individual organizations; otherwise, one would not have to bring it into existence artfully. If a church rests on the foundation of the truth it will not afterwards confer with other organizations; otherwise, it would mix the truth with strange additions and errors, and, what is worse, no organization resting on a foundation of error is inclined to relinquish its false principles.

"How is it possible then to have a union based on the truth? Where the foundation is one, there the hearts are already one; and where the foundation is false, the individual hearts must make a new beginning. Many have passed the judgment on me, that the foundation upon which I build the church, namely, my doctrine and my baptism, is wrong, in that I ascribe too much to baptism and do not permit it to be an 'opus operatum' or a formal confession of the believer; and that as a result I, for 25 years, teach that he who by baptism is born again is no longer a sinner, but has become a child of God to walk in a new life as a righteous and holy person. Otherwise God, like the devil, would be a father of sinners.

"In general, different churches cannot become one in Christ; although the many local churches in the time of the apostles, it is true,

were but one church of Christ. This is my answer and I now leave to you what you may think of it. It is a matter of indifference to me whether I am judged by you, or, in a human way, for it is the Lord Who judges me aright. To Him I commit the matter until He comes. Then will each one receive of God the praise that is due him. This I know, that true brotherly love rests only in the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, and I would not deceive myself with another kind of brotherly love. Where the truth is and conquers, there of itself, and without conferences, is found a community of saints."

### TOILING ENDED

Samuel Heinrich Froehlich died January 15, 1857, aged 53½ years. His last words were:

"I shall die, Lord my God. Mayest Thou keep Thy holy ones from the temptation that is in the world, that they perish not but abide in Thee; and give them eternal life, For the prince of this world is prepared with his whole power of darkness and all his preachers of unrighteousness to seek to destroy Thy work, to mislead Thy elect. Thou knowest that I have not sought glory before men, but only the furtherance of Thy glory, and have declared Thy name before all; and that I have not been ashamed of Thee, and have fought until this hour."

Then after speaking with Brother Weiler, who watched at his bedside, about experiences of faith and his fears, about the congregations and his family, he committed himself to the Lord, saying, ". . . I do not regret our going out; we would and

should let nothing frighten us; and if all unite to honor God, there is no enmity and no foreign spirit can work among us. My soul is saved and I am comforted in the Lord."

The mortal remains of Samuel Heinrich Froehlich were buried in Strasbourg, "the city of his refuge". A simple gravestone in the St. Helena Cemetery which stands to this day, marks the end of his earthly pilgrimage.

### NOTE:

A library of the writings of S. H. Froehlich will be available for purchase either by individual title or in a matched hard cover set of 10 volumes in the near future. Send inquiries to—

Apostolic Christian Publications  
610 West Cruger St.  
Eureka, Illinois 61530

### THE SILVER LINING

There's gladness when we receive  
the Silver Lining,  
As when the sun through the clouds  
is shining—  
Many wholesome teachings written  
by inspiration  
Which throw light on the plan of  
salvation.

It brings forth treasures old and  
new  
As one reads these nice pages  
through;  
Good teachings which make it  
apparent  
Brethren have made use of their  
talent.

It reminds us of loved ones east  
and west,  
If they become ill, or when they go  
to rest,  
As we all reminisce the years of  
yore,  
Many loved ones have gone before.

"Pray" Lord send labourers, the  
harvest is great,  
That many may enter through the  
pearly gate.  
Now we hope the sun will keep  
shining  
Down through the pages of the  
SILVER LINING.

Elder Bro. Ezra Feller

### MOTHER

Ministering Bro. Edwin Bahler  
A young Mother who was busy  
dressing and feeding her little brood

exclaimed to her mother who happened to stop by, "You just give them your whole life, don't you!" The older, matured seasoned Mother replied, "Yes, my daughter, this is true. You give them your whole life."

Jesus said, "No greater love hath any man than this, to lay down his life for his friend." What can compare with the dedication and devotion of a Godly Mother. Jesus even likened it to the love of Christ for His church. We can never fully comprehend the love our believing parents have for us, until we see them covered over with sod and we have children of our own.

Here at home, we have the greatest mission field in the world. No language barriers, no outside intervention. God is faithful to supply His Grace and every other need to accomplish the task. Proverbs reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." This is a tremendous promise if we will submit ourselves to the word of God and let His spirit and love pervade our life and home.

"Some parents wonder why the streams are bitter when they themselves have polluted the fountain." If we want our children to go in the right direction, we ourselves must go ahead and set the example. "It isn't the call of the wild duck, but its flight that causes the flock to fly and to follow."

Dear friend, do you have a Moth-

er whose tears and prayers are still lying at the Throne of Grace unanswered. You are wasting your substance in seeking solace in the fleeting pleasures of this vain world. Perhaps the author is expressing your heart's feeling as he writes:

My mother's hand is on my brow  
Her gentle voice is pleading now  
Across the years so marred by sin  
What memories of her love  
crowd in.

Oh, Mother when I think of thee  
'Tis but one step to Calvary  
Thy gentle hand upon my brow  
Is leading me to Jesus now!  
Author Unknown

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Editor-News Correspondent: Ed Souder.

Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

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## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

### Ministering Bro. Edwin Bahler

For about the last six to eight years, our young, single people (mostly converted) have gathered twice a year for a weekend of Christian fellowship and worship. These meetings alternate between three university towns—Champaign, Illinois, Normal, Illinois, and West Lafayette, Indiana. The young people call this "college weekend". However, this fellowship has never been limited to college students but includes all young, interested believers and friends. Probably less than half of the people attending are college students. The size of the group varies but usually ranges from 100-150 including 10-12 area ministers and/or elders.

The last meeting was held Mar. 12, 1978, at West Lafayette. The theme for the weekend was "Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21. Registration (\$2.50/person to cover expenses) began at 2:30 P.M. at a rented hall. Following instruction and an opening prayer, three of our ministers meditated for about five minutes each on I John 2:16—"For all that is in the world, (a) the lust of the flesh, (b) the lust of the eyes, (c) the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world." The group then dispersed into ten study groups with an elder or minister presiding over each using Romans 12 and the guidelines below on how to overcome temptation as their text.

A cafeteria-style supper was served by the host group at 4:00 P.M. We reassembled at about 6:00 for an hour of song service. At approximately 7:00, after a prayer for God's presence and blessing, each minister or elder chose a topic from the list below and spoke to the group as inspired by the Holy Spirit. In closing, three brothers volunteered to read verses from Scripture on the rewards of the overcomer and the fate of those who are overcome. The host group provided accommodations for overnight guests.

Church services on Sunday were held at the YWCA chapel with Bro. Uriel Gehring and Bro. James Ramseyer lending themselves to the Lord. The greeting, church order and dress were encouraged and

observed. After church the young people split into two groups for song service at two local nursing homes. A church supper was provided at 4:30 P.M.

Our thought in this endeavor is not to bring in anything new. Rather, we wish by God's grace to instill in our young people a better understanding of our wonderful faith that they can share with us in the rich blessings that are showered on those who are obedient and faithful to His word.

**"BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD." ROMANS 12:21**

- I. How to Overcome Temptation—
  - I Cor. 10:13
  - a. Keep busy. I Tim. 5:13, Ezek. 16:49
  - b. Have consistent prayer life. Rom. 12:12
  - c. Keep your conscience pure. Confess shortcomings before falling into bigger sins. James 5:16, I John 1:9
  - d. Study scriptures. Memorize key verses. Psalm 119:11, II Tim. 2:15
  - e. Count your blessings daily, and give thanks unto the Lord for your salvation. Psalm 107:1-6, Phil. 4:6,7
  - f. Seek fellowship and opportunity to worship. Heb. 10:25, Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19
  - g. Cultivate the mind to dwell on good thoughts. Pro. 23:7, Phil. 4:6-8
  - h. In time of temptation use scripture to repulse the devil. St. Luke 4:1-13
  - i. Don't blame God for your temptation. Put the blame where it belongs and deal with yourself. James 1:12-16
  - j. Avoid questionable places, evil company, sensual (rock) music. Do not read profane literature or let the god of this world entertain you through the medium of television. Romans 13:12-14, Psalm 101:3, Psalm 147:10,11, I Cor. 15:33, Eph. 5:10, II Cor. 4:3,4
  - k. Ask the Lord to reveal to you people who need your help and encouragement. Pray that the Lord may reveal how you can help them by a visit, phone call or letter. Heb. 13:1-3, Gal. 6:7-10, I Tim. 6:17-19, II Cor. 5:20

- II. Temptations Common to Man
  - a. Greed, avarice. I Tim. 6:10
  - b. Anger, wrath, malice. Col. 3:8, Eph. 4:31
  - c. Variance, inward rebellion toward church order and doctrine. Rom. 1:31, Prov. 6:19, Isa. 15:23, Prov. 17:11
  - d. Discouragement, depression. Psalm 37
  - e. Worldly pride. II Tim. 3:4, Rom. 11:20, I Tim. 6:17
  - f. Spiritual pride, self-righteousness. Matt. 5:20
  - g. Envy, jealousy. James 4:5, Song of Sol. 8:6
  - h. Covetousness. Col. 3:5, Isa. 5:8
  - i. Gossip, backbiting. Psalm 101:5, Prov. 26:20
  - j. Complacency, lukewarmness. Rev. 3:16
  - l. Lack of faith (worry and doubt). Matt. 6:29, 30
  - m. Worldly-mindedness. Rom. 12:2, I Cor. 3:19, James 4:4

### III. Rewards for the Overcomer

- a. Peace. St. John 16:33
- b. Eternal life. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26
- c. White raiment and a place in heaven. Rev. 3:5, 12, 21
- d. Inheritance. Rev. 21:7

### IV. Fate of Those Who Are Overcome With Evil

- a. Bondage. II Peter 2:19-22
- b. Eternal punishment. Psalm 9:17, Rev. 21:8

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee—I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

It's finally warming up and we are getting ready for summer. The children will soon be home all day and we will have to have a full schedule to keep them busy. We would appreciate having anyone volunteer his time and talent, and come and help us with work and activities.

We are also in deep need of houseparents. If you feel the still small voice talking to you, please trust the Lord to provide for your

needs for whatever you have to give up and leave at home. Be encouraged and "believe only" for, after all, we have to trust Him for the more important task of saving our souls.

One of our boys went home and that brings the number back to 7. One reason for not having more children is that it is the middle of the school year; and another is that we don't have sufficient help to maintain 2 full houses of children. The apostle Paul also experienced our condition and was not discouraged. He stood alone but remained steadfast in faith. Having only Luke with him and asking Timothy to bring Mark along to help, he wrote: "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened me. . ."

We have no confidence in ourselves but have much in the Lord's ability to provide.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As Spring unlocks the ice in the river and sends it on its way, it somehow unleashes a new inspiration and enthusiasm in each of us. We often marvel at nature and try to unlock its secrets, so that our understanding and appreciation of it can be realized to a greater extent. This parallels the thoughts of a mother, who, though close to her child, often ponders the look of depth in her child's eyes. Here at the Home, also, many unknowns are hidden deep within. To fathom those depths requires wisdom from the Creator of these our "special" dear ones. Those who care for them will probably obtain the answers to many questions One Great Day. In the interim, we shall continue to care for, mold, mend, and instruct with all the love our Heavenly Father would have to give them. We realize that a house is not a home unless it provides food for the soul as well as the body.

Our Ray Virkler came to live at our Home in September, 1975. Previous to coming here, he had lived with his sister, Mary Ramseyer, in Bay City, Mich.

His parents, both deceased, were Silas and Amanda Virkler from Croghan, N.Y. Three sisters, two brothers and many nieces and ne-

phews make up Ray's family. Mail and visits from them and friends are the highlights of his day, especially after a day's work at the Peoria Community Workshop.

Loving his work at the workshop makes time go rapidly. Free time is often spent taking care of his plants and listening to records.

Birthday time for Ray is May 17.

Kennan Knapp son of Glen and Laura Knapp of Fairbury, Illinois, has come to be a part of our family. We welcome him and hope he will be happy here.

The new addition will be ready for occupancy as soon as State Inspections are passed and license granted.

### SPECIAL REPORT ON SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA Bro. Paul Butikofer

As the long winter of 1977-78 is coming to a close, we have once more commemorated the suffering and cruel death of our loving Saviour, including his triumphant and glorious resurrection. This gives us a new surge of hope. That which has been dormant for a season will come to life again.

Our brethren who have gone south for the winter are returning North, one by one. This is a reminder that we are to resume our schedule of visiting our brethren in Regina. They have also had a hard winter and by now must be very hungry for the Word. The small band of believers there, as well as several other places in our country, are deprived of the blessed fellowship which we take so much for granted in our sizable congregations. In Regina they have two families: Bro. Keith and Sis. Myrna Shipley (who have five small children), and Bro. George and Sis. Mary Nesbitt. They have one son, Robin, who is farming with his father. Normally a few friends come in to worship with them.

This northern outpost began thirteen years ago when two sisters migrated from Yugoslavia to Canada. They began searching for their father's church in America. Through some church publication they learned of our faith and came in contact with some of our brothers in the Midwest. The Schrocks especially became interested and made frequent trips to Canada. I personally heard Bro. Noah tell a group when asked why he would go so far for such a small gather-

ing, "I would go to the ends of the earth for one soul."

While the Simeon sisters have now left us, seemingly God has used them to draw other souls who were really searching for the truth. This little group, as you may know, has weathered many storms and remains faithful.

Through the years, many of our brethren have lent themselves to help them, and we want to thank them all. God is a rich rewarder. We would like to encourage brethren who plan to vacation in the North this summer to plan a weekend in Regina. Some of the most beautiful scenery is only a days drive Northwest of Regina, in the Canadian Rockies.

For an address or phone number, consult your church directory.

Regina, as well as others should be given prayerful consideration when brethren are contemplating relocating. This large city has many opportunities and offers the special benefit of strengthening the fellowship there.

**Athens, Alabama . . . Hazel Vibbert:** It seems that winter may be over. Today was the warmest day since October. We have had many visitors: Bro. and Sis. Eugene Huber, Indiana, Bro. and Sis. Earl Steffin, Ohio, Bro. and Sis. Ira Farny, Illinois, Bro. and Sis. George Laidig, Ohio, Bro. David Bertsch, Indiana, and Bro. and Sis. Loren Stoller, Ohio.

Gary Vibbert is home on leave from Germany. He is the son of Charles and Hazel Vibbert.

Kevin Vibbert and Alice Rouse were married Mar. 4 by Bro. John Wagler at Kevin's grandparents' home (Bro. Henry and Sis. Anis Perry). Kevin is the son of Charles and Sis. Hazel Vibbert. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Rouse.

Dewey Perry had surgery again and will have to again take treatments. He is my brother. Sister-in-law, Mary Perry, is in the Huntsville Hospital where she had emergency brain surgery. She has improved some, but she still can't use the right side of her body. Sis. Cathy Holt is glad to have her husband, Herman, home. He has been discharged from the Navy.

**Phoenix, Arizona . . . Julie Haerr:** "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife . . ." Mar. 5

the engagement of Bro. Bill Sanders and Sis. Sue Ringger of Bradford was announced. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Sanders and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger. On Mar. 25 Bro. Dave Hodges and Sis. Jane Greenbank's engagement was announced. Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank are Jane's parents.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley). Bro. Jim Ringger (Bradford) was with us for Good Friday and Easter services.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you . . ." Our friends Al and Jay Yackley are looking forward to their testimonies and baptisms Apr. 22 and 23.

We are rejoicing over another soul who has turned her back on the world. Jody Knochel (Bro. Herb and Sis. Joanne) is happy in her new walk.

Bro. Alvin Laukhuf had surgery. Sis. Gladys Fisher was hospitalized for studies.

#### WHAT IS A MOTHER

It takes a Mother's love to make a house a home,  
A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam . . .  
It takes a Mother's KINDNESS to forgive us when we err,  
To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer . . .  
It takes a Mother's WISDOM to recognize our needs,  
And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds . . .  
And that is why in all this world there could not be another  
Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER!

Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer became proud parents of Mark John on Mar. 27. Little Jill is staying with happy grandparents Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina Dotterer and Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick.

**Rockville, Connecticut . . . Carlton J. Lanz:**

#### FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

"Father, forgive," the Saviour said,  
"They know not what they do,"  
His heart was moved when thus He prayed  
For me, my friends, and you.

He saw that as the Jews abused  
And crucified His flesh;  
So He, by us, would be refused,  
And crucified afresh.

Through love of sin, we long were prone  
To act as Satan bid;  
But now with grief and shame we own,  
We knew not what we did.

We knew not the desert of sin,  
Nor whom we thus defied;  
Nor where our guilty souls had been,  
If Jesus had not died.

We knew not what a law we broke,  
How holy, just, and pure!  
Nor what a God we durst provoke,  
But thought ourselves secure.

But Jesus all our guilt foresaw,  
And shed His precious blood,  
To satisfy the holy law,  
And make our peace with God.

My sin, dear Saviour, made Thee bleed,  
Yet didst Thou pray for me!  
I knew not what I did, indeed,  
When I was ignorant of Thee.

This beautiful poem was written some hundred and fifty years ago. (Author unknown) It coincides with our Good Friday services when we were taken back and could reflect on Christ's sufferings when He, even in sympathy to His tormentors, uttered those words. The weather was somewhat dismal and threatening, yet many had come to be present at the Easter Service. All who were present were privileged, and had the opportunity to hear the beautiful and impressive message of Christ's resurrection: His loved ones finding His tomb empty, His walking to Emmaus, His appearing in person at several places, and His gladdening the hearts of many sorrowing ones who had been with Him at His crucifixion. One can go on and on; it's an endless story. He had fulfilled everything that had been promised in His noble mission on Earth. He is now in heaven as Lord, God, Saviour, and Redeemer. He has opened the gateway for all to the heart of God.

Returning from a fifteen day visit to the Holy Land, Bros. Edwin Hoffman and Corbin Bahler, and their wives, counted it inspir-

ing and rewarding. In his sermon, Bro. Corbin related to the audience several of their findings and experiences, which included a few of the stories and places in the Scriptures.

We are looking forward to a visit here from a delegation of brethren who serve on the committee of the World Relief. They will come from various states to work on matters concerning that organization.

It is indeed a pleasure to see the last traces of snow leaving us here at Rockville and to observe the true signs of Spring before us. Robins and other seasonal birds are appearing, and we are hearing their cheerful warbling. It is truly a welcome proof that the stern winter we experienced has gone by. How wonderful God's ways are—a time for all, at the time appointed. We can believe that He speaks to us by many unnatural prodigies. How helpless man becomes when confronted with some of these weird occurrences.

Death has come to Sis. Rosali (Wutrich) Hany, 75. She had been under a doctor's care for some time and was to undergo surgery when she was stricken with a blood clot that caused her death. Rose, as she was known, had a pleasant greeting for all, and a friendly nature. She will be missed by her many friends. Besides her husband, Bro. Warner Hany, she leaves one sister, Minnie (Mrs. Ernest) Welti and a brother, Ernest Wutrich and several nephews and nieces. Officiating at the services were Bros. Roy Luginbuhl and Albert Schneider. The graveside prayer was offered by Bro. Roy Weil and of Bay City Michigan.

**Sarasota, Florida . . . Kathryn Schroeder (with assistance, due to an accident):**

#### HE IS RISEN

Resurrection and Spiritual Life  
O Thou who in the grave didst lay,  
O sacred be to us this day,  
For on this day our Lord arose  
In glory from His death repose.

May, Lord, Thy holy love to us  
Keep our hearts true and virtuous.  
Thou image of the Father dear,  
Make us like Thee, so pure and clear!

Zion's Harp

St. Mark, 16:4,5

"And when they (Mary Magda-

lene, and Mary the mother of James) looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment, and they were affrighted."

St. Matthew, 28:2, 5, 6, 7

"... for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

"... and the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

"And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you."

St. Mark, from chapter 16: "... he appeared first to Mary Magdalene ... after that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country ... Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart ... And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

St. John, from chapter 20:

"But Mary stood without the sepulchre weeping ... she turned herself back and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus ... Jesus said unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

"... Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

The angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. We re-

joice also with our dear friend, Henry Breitweiser, a winter resident from Latty, Ohio. Friend Henry and his wife, Sis. Kathrine, are eagerly waiting for his baptism. Truly having a wonderful peace in our heart, as he has, draws us closer to our Heavenly Father.

Our dear Elmer Jacobs is in Saratoga Memorial Hospital undergoing delicate surgery on his hip. We wish God's blessings for him.

Dear Sis. Kathryn Schroeder, our reporter for the Silver Lining, met with an unfortunate fall while walking home one evening. She fractured her finger in her right hand which is in a cast. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We give many thanks for the wonderful words of life that were spoken from our willing servants. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest; Bro. Elmer Hartter, Milford; and Bro. Mark Bahr, Sabetha.

Bradford, Illinois ... Jane Le-man: We were blessed with many visiting ministers during the past month and thank them for their efforts. Among them was Bro. Don Manz (Junction).

On Good Friday evening Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend) ministered to us after which our Sunday School students sang beautiful praises of the Easter story.

Then, on the following Sunday, though icy without, it was heartwarming as Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) shared Easter with us.

A busload of Bible Class students, teachers and ministers journeyed from Forrest to spend a weekend. We were spiritually fed by Bros. Earl Gerber and Wayne Anliker. Did you know that there is a weed or tare that grows so similar to wheat that it is impossible to tell them apart until the head or fruit comes out? So when the Lord sends His Angels to harvest the true wheat and burn the tares we will surely want to be identified with those who have brought forth the fruits of righteousness. We also were grateful for Bro. Art Baurer's (Princeville) help on that Sunday.

A large group of us gathered to house-clean our church. It also reminds us to examine our hearts as it was announced that Communion will soon be served.

Chicago, Illinois ... Kathy Schlatter: There are some signs sold which say, and rightly so: Bloom where you are planted. But even more bluntly to the converted person is the same thought expressed in this saying, "If your Christianity won't work where you are, it won't work anywhere."

We are grateful that Bro. Virgil Metzger was able to be with us Good Friday evening and Easter Sunday. Since he and his family traveled from Champaign, their staying over for Sunday was unexpected because of the ice storm, but we were thankful for his extra ministry.

We wish Bro. Mark Gerst (Chicago) and Sis. Jae Roth (Goodfield) the Lord's blessings in their walk of life together. They were married Mar. 19, Palm Sunday, in Goodfield. They will live in Bloomington-Normal.

We pray that both Bro. Ray Young and Sis. Mariam Lockwood will recover quickly from their surgery. We regret that Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk's name was misspelled in the January issue.

Something I read recently made a big impression: Barrels of paint, later used to make dividing lines on highways and to be applied to barricades, first journey to a dark warehouse. There, a trained expert closes the doors, removes the lids, and after taking protective safeguards, holds a tiny vial over each barrel for just a moment before replacing the covers. The vial contains radium, and by the man's actions, the basic ingredients are transformed so that they become luminescent and will shine in the dark. Thus, not through ourselves, but through Christ and His resurrection, we can be transformed, so that, as His reflectors, we, too, can become sons of God with His power.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida ... Caroline Akel: "April Showers Bring May Flowers."

Perhaps God teaches us a lesson through nature. God sends His sweet, refreshing rain upon the Earth. He expects it to flower and bloom. Seeds bring forth leaves, buds open in flowering beauty, and trees bring forth their fruits.

Likewise, God rains showers of blessings upon His people. Wouldn't He be disappointed if we contin-

ually soaked in His goodness and refreshment and did not yield fruit. Those of us who have received the many blessings of the Lord are expected to yield the fruits-of-the-spirit and offer a sweet smell unto the Lord.

The Ft. Lauderdale congregation enjoyed a blessed Easter weekend. What a privilege to gather around the Word of God on Good Friday evening and, together with Christian brethren, consider the price our Savior paid to free us from our sins. Likewise, we appreciated the wonderful Resurrection message brought to us on Easter Sunday. Hearing it again stirs hope in each of our hearts. Sunday evening a picnic was held for anyone who wished to attend.

We are rejoicing with the angels in heaven over our two converts. They are Kim Troxel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel) and Dave Mueller (Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Mueller). Dave is Sis. Denise Mueller's brother. We wish them much grace as they seek to journey forward on the straight and narrow way.

We are thankful for each visiting minister who has come our way and shared God's Precious Word with us. Visitors to Ft. Lauderdale included Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, Ill.), Bro. Homer Reinich (Toledo, OH), and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT).

**Cissna Park, Illinois . . . Marilyn Knapp - Judy Bauer:** The Easter season brought many special blessings for us. Our Sunday School program was held Palm Sunday evening. It was truly a blessing to hear the well-known story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection told by our future church. The young people presented the story very well. Services were held Good Friday evening to commemorate our Lord's death on the cross.

Bro. Josh Broquard (Fairbury) assisted in serving Holy Communion Wednesday evening before Easter. We could certainly feel God's presence and blessing. We are renewed in desire to serve the Lord faithfully. We thank Bro. Josh for his services.

We thank Bro. Gene Leman (Wolcott) for spending Easter Sunday with us. We always appreciate his sharing God's Word with us.

Several from our congregation

have been ill. Bro. Al Hari, Sis. Laura Hodel, Sis. Esther Neukomm, and our friend Bill Drayer all underwent surgery. We are glad to say that they are all at home now. Kate Enz is a medical patient.

Ben Merkle is now a resident of the Hawthorne Lodge Nursing Home at Watseka.

**Congerville, Illinois . . . Judy Wettstein - Gay Knapp:** In Spring-time and harvest, in season and out of season, a minister's labor is that of faith and love. He tills the soil of the hearts of man and plants the seed of God's word in faith that the new life will burst the ground. We thank Bro. Dave Wiegand of Champaign for his visit. We pray that he and all true ministers will have plenty toiling power, that the harvest might be great.

The snow had all melted away and we thought winter time had gone. The joy of watching the new life burst through the warm sod was interrupted by a march ice storm, but we were able to worship together on Good Friday evening.

We are glad to have Sis. Erma Miller back with us after her surgery, but were sorry that Sis. Naomi Schrock broke her ankle. James Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) was hospitalized for tests.

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

We were blessed with the following visiting ministers the past month: Bro. Bob Grimm from Goodfield; Bro. Leonard Meyer of Chicago and Bro. Nathan Stoller and Bro. James Ringger from the Bradford congregation. We thank each one for their labors.

On March 5, Bro. Les Schambach (Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Alison Brown (Henry and Marion) were announced for engagement. May God's blessings be with them. A June wedding is being planned.

Bro. Henry Kellenberger and Daniel Moser were hospitalized for surgery. Bill Schambach fell from a scaffold while doing construction work and was in the hospital for several days.

**Eureka, Illinois . . . Melba Mangold:** "I will sing of my Redeemer, and His wondrous love to me, on the cruel cross He suffered, from the curse to set me free." We had a blessed week-end when Ginny

Knecht (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Judy), Carol Anliker (Bro. Walter and Sis. Mina) and Elaine and Dale Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie) gave their testimonies and were baptized Mar. 11. Bro. Dave Kieser of Princeville assisted in this important work.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Dale Moore, Elgin, Ia., and Bro. Bruce Leman, Roanoke. We appreciated their visits.

"What God has joined together let not man rent asunder". On Mar. 19, Sis. Judy Leman (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma) and Bro. Roy Braker (Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta) of Lamar, Mo., were united in holy matrimony. Bro. Leroy Huber performed the ceremony. We will miss Sis. Judy in our congregation but know she will be welcomed in Lamar. We wish them much happiness in their new life together.

We have had a number of hospital patients this month, among them Matthew, little son of Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke. Also, Sis. Elizabeth Gudeman and Bro. Manny Jacob of the "Home". Sis. Minnie Martin wishes to thank all who remembered her while she was in the hospital.

Sis. Ladene Hinrichsen (Bro. Bob), Bro. Carl Knepp and Bro. Ed Grusy were surgical patients but are home again.

Although the weather outside was snowy and icy, not our usual Easter weather, inside we could still rejoice in hearing again of the Resurrection of our Savior.

"Go tell that He is risen from the dead.

The blessed Son of God whose sacred head

has now redemption brought to all oppressed.

The Lord is risen, is risen from the dead—

On Calvary's mountain His blood was freely shed.

The Lord is risen, is risen as He said.

Hallelujah, the Lord is risen!"

Two of our dear ones at the "Home" were relieved of their suffering and could go to their rest. Services were held at Fairbury for Sis. Lydia Aberle, and services were held at Remington, Indiana, for Sis. Emma Beckley.



**Fairbury, Illinois . . . Joyce Huber:** Sis. Lydia Aberle, 80, passed away after a 15-month illness and residing at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. Surviving are 4 sons: Bro. William, Reuben, Harold, Ezra; 5 daughters: Elizabeth Culkin, Sis. Ann Maurer, Sis. Rose Huetter, Lois Aberle, Sis. Leota Byrd; a sister, Anna Imhof; 31 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson have moved to Eureka, and we are sorry to see them leave, but know they feel the Lord led them to make the move.

We are sorry that Bro. Eli Meiss, Sis. Gertie Moser, and Sis. Donna Huber were hospitalized.

Our Sunday School classes presented an inspiring program on Palm Sunday telling the Easter story.

We enjoyed Bro. Ron Heininger's inspiring sermon when visiting us.

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

We are thankful God's Word has again been shared to us through visiting ministers—Bros. Paul Buttkofer (Elgin, Ia.), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), and Bob Walder (Congerville). Also Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit) and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury) were with us for Good Friday Services after which the Sunday School presented an Easter program.

Hospital patients have been Tonya Farney (Dale and Harriett), Elda Mae Rieger, Bro. Emil Sohn, and LuAnn Stoller (Stanley).

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin welcome their second little boy, Andrew Glen. Scott is his brother, and grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Willard and Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna). Bro. Marv and Sis. Mary Bachtold welcome their second little girl, Melanie Elizabeth. Marsha is her sister and grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia Wenger and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold.

Sheri Metz and Sam Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean) have announced their engagement with plans for a July 8 wedding.

The Forrest Bible Class and their teachers enjoyed a blessed weekend with the Bradford Bible Class and the brethren there. We appreciate all their efforts.

As we observe a day of tribute

to our mothers, our thoughts are of Christian mothers who strive to teach and guide their children in God's precious ways. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

**Goodfield, Illinois . . . Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm:** May God richly bless the union of Sis. Jae Roth and Bro. Mark Gerst who were united in marriage on Mar. 19. Their parents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marjorie Gerst of Chicago, and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth. We welcome Bro. Mark to our Goodfield congregation.

Bruce and Charlene Hohulin have a new little girl, Anna Marie, born on Mar. 18. She has two sisters, Holly and Gretchen. Grandparents are the Robert VanNattans of Pekin, and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Laura Hohulin.

We did appreciate our visitors during the past month: Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago; Bro. Jim Rinkemberger, Bluffton; Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha; and Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke. We feel the Lord truly speaks through his servants.

"Drink this wine, as a token of my blood divine". Our Communion service was held on Good Friday evening when we could feel a very special nearness to our God and Saviour as we were served the wine representing His shed blood, and the bread, His broken body. **WHAT A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR!**

On Easter Sunday, we heard the testimonies of four friends and witnessed their baptisms. Our new sisters in faith are: Sue Core, daughter of the Graham Cores, Eureka; Kinda Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine); Pam Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene); and Debbie Hohulin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia).

"Angels see in joyous rapture  
God's own Word in-deed fulfilled;  
And amid our glad embraces  
Is this child of God revealed."

Bro. Doug Schwank has been wearing a cast on his left ankle for some weeks (having fallen on ice near the church), and we are happy to report it is soon to be removed. Sis. Lydia Hollinger is a patient in the Eureka Hospital. Sis. Norma Bauman submitted to knee surgery at the Mayo Clinic, and we are happy to have her worshipping

with us again. She wants to thank everyone for all the kind deeds, prayers, cards and gifts. She wishes God's Blessings to all.

The engagement has been made known of Peggy Freeman, daughter of the C. Edward Freemans of Peoria, and Ken Hartter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Verna). We wish God's blessings upon them.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Sam Heininger in the death of his sister, Sis. Lucy Steiner, and also to Sis. Lioda Knapp in the loss of her step-mother.

**Gridley, Illinois . . . Perry Klopfenstein - Carol Klopfenstein:** After enduring the chill of a long and snowy winter, the first mellow breezes of spring offered a welcome respite. Warm and sunny weather has ushered in a flurry of activity. Farmers are busy preparing the soil for planting, and townspeople are readying their gardens.

Nature, too, is being transformed into greenery, with trees and shrubs budding and the grass turning green. The beauty and fragrance of springtime points to the glory of God, particularly as we contemplate the fact that nature's appeal is His handiwork.

The struggle of winter has given way to the pleasantness of spring, much the same as the burden of sin under which many of us struggled was finally lifted and we could feel lighthearted in the peace and grace of God.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Darrel Hodel to Sis. Debbie Leman of Roanoke was announced.

Our hospital patients were: Bro. Willis (Butch) Gramm, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein and Bro. Pete Meiss.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Bob Meyer of Bluffton.

**Illinois State University . . . Ann Stoller:** There was a large crowd present for our Easter program, which was held at I.S.U. on Mar. 16. The choir, led by Bro. Earl Ringger of Gridley, sang several hymns, and we also enjoyed some special numbers sung by Sis. Susie and Jenny Gramm and Holly (Gramm) Stahl. Bro. Paul Klopfenstein also shared with us a poem about Easter. Then we were all privileged to hear the Word of God spoken through Bro. Bob Grimm, who had a very inspiring Easter message. I'm sure we all received

a real blessing and had many good thoughts to take with us and apply to our lives.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Leman of Roanoke, Bob Grimm of Goodfield, and Bruce Leman of Roanoke.

**Morton, Illinois . . . Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock:** On Mar. 12 the engagement of Bro. Greg Getz (son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) to Sis. Sara Neukomm (daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry) and the engagement of Bro. Scott Schafer (son of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice) to Sis. Gigi Powley (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Powley) were announced.

On the same Sunday, Rudy Kilgus was baptized into the fold. His wife is Sis. Lavina. We welcome him as our dear brother in faith. In the evening we had our monthly Hymn Sing and were privileged to have the Bloomington choir and several groups from our Sunday School with us.

Funeral services for Sis. Lucy Steiner were held Mar. 17. She was 91 years of age. She is survived by two sons, Melvin and Ivan of Morton, and ten step-children, including Sis. Kathryn (Henry) Grimm, Sis. Marie (Dan) Kaufman and Sis. Wilma (Al) Weidman of our congregation.

A daughter, Keri Sue, was born on Mar. 17 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jill Kaufman. She has a brother, Christopher, and grandparents, Ben and Sis. Marge Kaufman and Bro. Willis and Sis. Ella Geiger.

Among those who have been hospitalized the past month were Bros. Richard Greene and Emanuel Jacob, Sisters Ruth Domnick, Lydia Miller and Emma Zimmermann, and Janet (Kilgus) Simpson. We hope that they will soon be blessed with good health if it is God's will.

We thank Bro. Andrew Virkler, Bay City, who was with us on Sunday, Mar. 19.

Our Sis. Lydia Welk, age 87, passed away on Mar. 21. She is survived by two sisters, Sis. Emma (Jack) Stieglitz and Eliza Belsley, both of Morton.

On Easter Sunday, Mar. 26, Bro. Ed Kaiser, son of Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne and Sis. Barb Herman, daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma, announced their engagement.

Our Sunday School held a breakfast on Easter Sunday for all the High School students at our Fellow-

ship Hall. Following the breakfast, Bro. Bob Pflederer held services for the students.

Sis. Irene Farney wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while she was in the hospital and since returning home.

**Peoria, Illinois . . . Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin:** And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. There fore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh. Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Joan, to Bro. Bill Schick of Washington. Their wedding is planned for June 11. The engagement of Bro. Kevin Plattner, son of Bro. Melvin & Sis. Mardell, and Sis. Mary Messner of Winthrop, Minn., was announced. A June 25 wedding is planned. The engagement of Sis. Karen Getz to Bro. Dan Waibel was announced. Their parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Margaret Getz and Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel. They are planning a June 18 wedding.

A daughter, Penny Lynn, was born on Easter Sunday to Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie Geyer. Deanna welcomes her new sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geyer. On Mar. 22, Justin was born. Parents are Sharon and Steve Hopwood. Justin is welcomed home by Jeremy and Jason. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Iola Feucht.

We thank Bro. Hartzel Kaisner from Detroit for ministering to us Easter Sunday.

Many of our brethren and friends have been hospitalized and we wish them a quick recovery. They are Sis. Clara Kahler, Sis. Dorothy Hohulin, Sis. Ida Schmidgall, Sis. Mayme Erkert, Bro. Silas Sauder, Bro. Art Sutter, Bro. Les Bittner, Bro. Warner Bauman, Willis Sauder, Mike Lane, Milton Dallinger.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wilbur Hoerr and his family upon the the death of his mother, Sis. Aline Hoerr.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Sophie Hoerr celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They wish to thank all of their friends and relatives for the many cards they received.

With deep appreciation Sis. Dorothy Hohulin thanks all who re-

membered her with prayers, gifts, visits, and cards during her hospital stay. She asks that God will be their rich rewarder.

To all who so kindly remembered her with prayers, gifts, cards, and visits during her illness, Sis. Martha Hemmer wishes to say, "Many thanks, and may God bless you."

The following was submitted by Bro. Ken Hoerr:

### The Lord's Supper—Holy Communion

To grasp the depth of Holy Communion we need to better understand Jesus and His mission on earth.

Suppose you were a scientist and you were aware of people on another planet who had an incurable and fatal disease. You also knew the remedy that would save them, however, you could not trick them or force them into taking this remedy. How would you go about saving them? How about sending some one in person to the planet? In effect this is what God did when he saw all mankind with the incurable disease of sin that would result in death. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the Earth as a human to warn them of their disease and show them the remedy. We must realize that this Jesus, in effect, was God incarnated in human flesh. As always, we learn that there is no compromising by God with respect to justice and righteousness. God saw the problem: how could He destroy sin (the fatal disease) without the sinner (all mankind)? God could bear the penalty of death as a remedy for man's fatal disease. This was realized when Jesus, as God incarnated, bore flesh and blood and died on the cross, the penalty for our death.

To the believer then, the celebration of the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion) has the deepest significance when we understand the background of Jesus and His mission.

The fact that both the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion don't have anything to do with the salvation of our souls does not minimize them. The fact is, they are of great importance since they picture the way we are saved—through the death and resurrection of Jesus. They draw our hearts closer to Him and give us a more vivid understanding of our rela-

tionship with Him.

The Lord's Supper apparently was observed often in the early church. In Acts 20:7, it appears to have been observed on the first day of each week. We later find that this sacrament fell into abuse and necessitated the writing of Paul in I Corinthians 11:17-26 about how this supper was to be observed. Paul was not with the twelve disciples in the upper room that night when Jesus broke the bread and drank from the cup. Therefore, God saw the need to reveal the proper understanding to Paul so that we might all benefit from his instructions.

Paul begins in I Corinthians 11:23 with the reminder that the Lord Jesus was betrayed on the night that he took bread. This brings to mind the wickedness and dishonesty of the human heart, and yet, for the believer it is a vivid reminder of Jesus' love which was shown by His giving His life for sinful man.

The bread signifies the body of Jesus Christ (His flesh) and, accordingly, is only for true believers. As we eat the bread, we call to remembrance His broken body in death. When we drink of the cup, we recall His shed blood. It was only through His precious atoning blood that we have redemption today.

Paul says, "As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." In other words, we are to continue in this sacrament 'till Jesus comes, and in so doing, we are proclaiming His death as a sacrifice for sinners.

So important is the significance of partaking in this sacrament that Paul concludes with a solemn warning that it should be done only after we first examine ourselves and make sure we are right with God. The failure to do this will only bring judgement and damnation.

We are told to take the Lord's Supper "in remembrance of Me." It is like a loved one who is dying, and, before passing away, calls his children around his bed and hands each one a photograph of himself. He tells them he is leaving and won't see them for a while, but they should take his picture and look at it from time to time and cherish it. If we loved that individual we would gladly look at it

again and again and say, "I loved him and I'm glad I can still remember him." This, then, is what the Lord's Supper does for the believer who loves the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Princeville, Illinois . . . Ruth Ricketts:** "You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know when it will be too late."

We gladly welcome the beautiful warm Spring weather we have experienced the past few days. The month of March set new records in temperature as the coldest and, also, the hottest on record. On the last day the temperature reached 80 degrees. Our snow that covered the ground most of the winter is now gone and farmers are anxious to begin Spring work. The early Spring flowers are just now beginning to bloom, and the robins are back again.

A goodly number assembled with us Wed. evening, Mar. 8, with Bros. Noah Herman of Tucson, Arizona, and LeRoy Hartman of Peoria ministering. Many blessings were received by those who attended. We were reminded to live by faith as Abraham of old, with the true love of God. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to become a ransom for our souls. Believe on the shed blood and be strong in the Lord.

Many willing hands labored untiringly, working together in love, to complete work on our new Fellowship Hall which stands on the hill behind our church building. On Mar. 12, nearly every family and many friends from our congregation enjoyed a supper in the new Fellowship Hall. It was truly a blessed evening, and all thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and singing praises to God. Brother Dave Kieser spoke a few words while dedicating the new building. We trust many blessed times can be spent here with the blessings of God showered upon us. We pray that it will be used to His honor.

On Mar. 18, a beautiful sunny day, the second annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church World Relief Sewing Groups from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and our western churches was held in our Fellowship Hall. Bradford assisted the Princeville congregation in hosting this pleasant affair. Twenty-five churches were represented, with 320 registering. We were pleased

with the response and were happy to hear comments from those who were present for the first time that they were interested in taking part in the future. Many very interesting reports were given, and slides were shown of the Children's Home in Leo, Indiana, Haiti, India, and from Guatemala. When we see such poverty, it makes us want to do more for the unfortunate ones. We sincerely thank everyone who came to make this day a success. We appreciate the nice displays from the different sewing groups, and we feel that more interest has been created. Hopefully, in the future more will take part to carry on this needy work. We could feel the Lord's presence among us, and are thankful for His blessings.

We had another blessed day which Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern, Kansas, spent with us. It is always so good to have him minister to us; we welcome his timely messages. We pray that the Lord will bless all of our visitors and our own ministers whom we love and appreciate.

Gretchen Diane is the name given to the first child of Roger and Lynn Feucht. She was born Dec. 22, 1977. Happy grandparents are Brother Reuben and Sis. Natalia Feucht and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Szafanko.

Recently Bro. Silas Leuthold expressed thanks to all who showed concern for them during Sis. Mary's surgery at Mayo's, during her convalescence at Eureka Church Home, and at her own home. We are all so thankful that she is able to worship with us again. It is always a blessing when those who have been unable to worship with us for a time can return.

Bro. Herbert (Dick) Gerst has recovered from his major surgery and is able to worship with us again. We are thankful, too, for the recovery of Bro. Wm. Stahl from open-heart surgery. He has been able to spend part of the worship service with us.

Sis. Nellie Woertz is able to worship occasionally, and we think of her when she must stay home.

We often think of our dear Sis. Emma Asal who has been confined to her home since August, following a cornea transplant in her eye. Days get long when confined to your home when you are not able to do household chores as you were once accustomed to do. Then, too,

when you are not able to read, you miss so much. Sis. Emma finds comfort in listening to tapes of services. She also has the words of the New Testament on tape, which proves very comforting. She has kept her sunny smile and always looks on the bright side. She accepts whatever is in store for her. Emma is now able to do a few light tasks that make the days seem shorter. With warmer weather, she hopes to be able to attend church services. She wishes to thank everyone for all the kind deeds that were done for her and her family during her shut-in days. The many cards, gifts, and visits mean so much; and she deeply appreciates the prayers of her many dear ones.

Good Friday, the darkest day in all the world, was also a dark day here with snow, rain, and ice storms. Services were held Friday evening when the crucifixion story was again reviewed. Our Saviour suffered untold agony, gave His life willingly on the cross, and shed His precious blood for the remission of our sins. What great love He had for us! Do we appreciate it as we should, and do we show our love for Him? Easter, the brightest day in all the world, was also a dark gloomy day with snow and rain, yet inside it was radiant and bright. We were happy to have Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend, Iowa, minister to us. He brought the beautiful Resurrection Story and its glory. We need only to believe and trust Him, meet Him at the foot of the cross, and live faithfully; then we can dwell with Him in all eternity. In the afternoon the Beatitudes were beautifully portrayed by Bro. Clifford. It was such a blessed day, and we thank him for lending himself in our behalf. May the Lord continue to bless him.

**Roanoke, Illinois . . . Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel:** "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is above rubies!" We ask a special blessing for all the dear mothers across this land of ours. They have a precious privilege and a big responsibility in times like these.

The Easter program was held in Roanoke. We enjoyed the songs which told of the wondrous story of Christ's resurrection. A special "Thank you" to the Eureka Bible Class for singing with our Bible

Class.

Elder Bros. David Kieser, Princeville and Eugene Marti, Lamar shared the Word with us and served the Lord's Supper. We thank them for helping Bro. Don Sauder. Bro. Ed Aeschleman, Union City and Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka were visiting ministers this month.

The engagement of Bro. Daryl Hodel (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean Hodel) and Sis. Deborah Leman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman) has been announced. They plan a summer wedding.

We are thankful that three of our dear friends have found peace through a true repentance. They will give their testimonies this week-end. They are Gary Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra), John Wiegand (Bro. Morris and Sis. Lena), and Mary Farney (Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris).

"For such is the kindness of God." We have five new babies to report this month: A son, Adam Jeffrey, to Mark and Connie Rocke. His brothers, Luke and Jed, welcome him; a son, Jeffrey Allen, to Jim and Julie Tibbs. (his brother, Jason, is happy to have a little playmate); a son, Marc Douglas, to Richard and Janet Knepp, (he is their first child); a daughter, Heidi Michelle, to Robert and Marilyn Ott (she has a little brother, David); a daughter, Amanda Lee (who is the first child of Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl). May God bless all these little ones and their parents.

"The Joyful Noise," Morton, and the choir from the Bloomington-Normal congregation were our guests at the family sing. What a joy it is to sing praises to God.

The following was submitted by Bro. Don Sauder:

#### **Three Steps To Mental-Physical Spiritual Health For The Believer**

One must come to judgement and repentance as in the day when we first turned to God. We must judge ourselves daily (not pointing our finger at others as Adam and Eve did; what they said was true, but no good resulted). As David did, we should admit our guilt and failure, humble ourselves before God and find mercy, pardon, and relief. (Psalms 51).

We must forgive others their debts as in the Lord's prayer (St. Matt. 6:9-15), and, then, we'll be forgiven.

When self-willed, we'll be frustrated and will be affected physically, mentally, or spiritually (or all three) until we do as directed by God's word. We cannot thwart the Word or will of God—we only frustrate ourselves. So, then, we must surrender all of "self" into the perfect will of God.

#### **Tremont, Illinois . . . Lydia Rasi - Mary Jane Leuthold:**

"Now it is accomplished! My soul  
He hath healed;  
A portion of heaven to me He hath  
sealed.  
O, may He direct me through joy  
and through ill;  
I'll never forsake Him, but follow  
Him still."

This was the accomplishment of a blessed week-end, Mar. 26, Easter Sunday, when we heard the testimonies, a renewing to all our hearts and minds, and witnessed the baptism of six beloved souls: Karen Wagonbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy), Paula Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice), Mary Zuercher (Bro. Curt and Sis. June), Dean Beutel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice), Phillip Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol), and David Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene). It fills our hearts to overflowing to see and hear again of God's miraculous love and power in the hearts of our dear ones.

We are grateful for the visits of Bro. Edwin Ringger and Bro. Roy Sauder who assisted our Bro. Dan in this work. Also, Bro. John Steiner, Bro. Vernon Wettstein, and Bro. Marvin Steiglitz visited and shared His teachings with us.

Our Easter program was held Mar. 19. It was a blessing to enjoy the many hymns of praise sung to our great God by so many eager, loving children, from the youngest to the oldest classes. God surely must have been pleased.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Meister are the happy parents of a sweet little daughter, Elizabeth Mary, born Mar. 23. She has two brothers, Mark and Benjamin to love her—also grandparents, Virginia and Peter Bossert, New Jersey, and Dave Meister, Jr., Peoria.

The engagement of Sis. Susan Huetter and Bro. Rick Berchtold has been announced. Sis. Susan's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn and Bro. Rick's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Berchtold. We wish

them the Lord's blessings in planning a June 4th wedding.

The Lord called our dear Bro. John Sauder from the household of faith to his eternal home, Apr. 1. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Sophia, sons Joe and Bro. Dale, and daughters, Sis. Carol (Bro. Dan) Koch and Sis. Donna (Ellsworth) Martin. The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the prayers and expressions of love given during his illness and death.

Bro. Leslie Pulfer had the misfortune of falling and injuring his left arm. He needed a cast; his arm has healed nicely. Sis. Margaret Frank fell and cracked a bone in her leg. She has a walking cast. We pray she will heal quickly. Sis. Emma (Bro. Al) Aberle fell and broke her leg and has been in a cast. She is getting along well. Sis. Emma wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, love and concern for her. Sis. Iva (Bro. Merle) Getz had an eye implant. She is getting along nicely. We are thankful and praise His name. Our Sisters, Helen (Bro. Elton) Rapp, Vera (Bro. Walter) Aberle, and Emma (Bro. John) Greiner are gaining health again. We miss them and wish them much grace, peace, and love. Bro. Vernon Koch wishes to express heartfelt thanks for all who remembered him with prayers, good wishes, gifts and love.

Many gathered for the wedding, Apr. 2, of Bro. Randall Schmidgall and Sis. Marjorie Kaiser. We wish them the Lord's rich blessings in their life together.

#### KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER Kathy Schlatter

Apr. 19 is the birthday of a very special Sister in Tremont. Hanna Koch, a Sunday School teacher for some thirty years, doesn't forget our birthdays. On her past students' birthdays, they (we) always receive a card from Hanna. I remember being in her Sunday School class in the 5th and 6th grade. She taught us our Bible lessons and then reinforced thoughts with little object lessons—that I still remember now, over 15 years later. She was so loving and patient with our class (we were not always angelic). And in the spring, one Sunday she treated us to a fried chicken feast at her house. 'Twas close enough to walk there and a very special treat. Han-

na also traditionally had the high school group's lunch after Christmas carolling. I remember still the warmth of the hot chocolate and the cozy, Christian atmosphere. When I was a young convert, Hanna made a special effort to speak with me and she may even have written to me. I know she wrote to my parents when they started repenting. As a young child I read her letter of encouragement to them several times.

At work, too, Hanna was a Christian witness by her walk of life. For many years she worked as a bookkeeper-teller at the First National Bank of Tremont. She compiled the 1961 edition of the Getz-Koch-Wick genealogy, a monumental task. Now Hanna is retired, keeping house for her brother, Bro. Ed. But she's still busy helping others. She has done volunteer work at Restmor, especially in crafts. (Our daughter is fortunate enough to have two samples of Hanna's skill—a crocheted panda and a crocheted doll.) Also, she's done World Relief sewing and worked several years as a cashier at Handicapped Home Benefit Bake Sale.

Just a week or so ago, when we were in Tremont, Hanna shared with me another "object lesson." We were discussing the hazards of the thick ice coating outside, and she mentioned a year long ago when there was lots of ice all winter long. She had to walk from her home to the bank each morning and evening. Naturally, she walked very carefully and avoided any problems. But when the ice began to melt, she didn't watch so carefully and one day she slipped and fell on an unexpected patch of ice. May we always watch and pray.

Washington, Illinois . . . Linda Ziegenhorn - Valerie Kipfer: On Mar. 12, we had services in our new church. What a blessing it was! Bro. Carl Wyss had a moving sermon comparing the building of the physical church with the building of a spiritual life. We must start with a strong foundation and keep it strong as it grows.

One of the brothers helping with the brick work stepped back to examine the work and noticed a few bricks out of line. He immediately removed them and set them straight while the mortar was still soft. How important it is that we examine our lives and set straight

any mistakes we make, no matter how small, before we become set in ways that are not righteous. We must stay close to the Lord each and every day, because a few inches can soon become a mile, and how much harder it is to come back that mile than just a few inches.

Tom and Carol Schick welcome Nathan John, born Mar. 8. He has one sister, Jessica. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick.

Easter Sunday, Bro. Henry Grimm was with us to tell the wonderful Easter Story. Although we've heard it so often, it always has a new and fresh promise for all who will listen.

Other visiting ministers were: Fred Knapp, Vernon Wettstein, Vernon Leman, Walter Anliker, Ralph Garber, Russell Rapp, Edmund Kloter, and Roy Sauder.

We would like to say a very grateful thank you to all of the many brothers, sisters, and friends who so willingly volunteered their time to help us with our church.

Bluffton, Indiana . . . Connie Troxel - Teresa Fiechter: Elder Bros. Theo Beer of Milford and Joe Remseyer of Rittman were in Bluffton March 11 and 12 as twelve dear souls were added to the fold. They were: Tami and Tim Fiechter (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley), Ann Fiechter (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary), Jeff and Jodi Isch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn), Vicki Isch (Bro. Al and Sis. Carol), Joni Fiechter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy), Carla (Geisel) Girod (Bro. Everett and Sis. Alice), Jenny and Peggy Gerber (Bro. Les and Sis. Rose), Peggy Neuenschwander (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred), and Vicki Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat).

Then, again on April 1 and 2, eleven more souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. Elder Bros. Don Sauder from Roanoke and Roy Grimm from Taylor were here to help and also ministered God's word to us on Sunday. The angels in Heaven rejoiced for these souls: Patsy Pfister (Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb), Shari Kaehr (Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy), Karen Gerber (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille), Lori Steffen (Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty), Lisa Shirley (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sally), Lori and Lisa Clark (Bro. Richard and Sis. Beulah), Anne and John Baumgartner (Bro. Truman and Sis.

Marjorie), Julie Baumgartner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce), and Tim Geisel (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Luella).

We were very privileged to hear these beautiful testimonies and joyful to know that Jesus is still tenderly calling, "Come unto me".

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Rodney Steiner, both of Rittman.

Hospital patients were Sis. Sada Gerber, Sis. Alice (Russel) Steffen, Sis. Linda Stultz, Sis. Goldie (Art), Kipfer, and Sis. Mabel (Jay) Rauch.

On March 25, Roxanne Bertsch (Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Anita) and Jeffrey Roop were joined in marriage at our fellowship hall.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Cindy Fiechter had a new baby boy, Landon Dean, who Lindsey helped welcome home. Bro. Alan and Sis. Cheryl Ringger had a daughter, Alison Jean. Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank were blessed with a son, Jason Herbert. Bruce and Cindy Gehring are the first-time parents of a little girl, Isis Deona.

We want to welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn Roberts from Philadelphia to our congregation.

Our Bluffton Choir gave an inspiring medley of hymns the evening of March 22. Surely they have already received a blessing for their special efforts to praise the Lord. We could see this in their smiling faces.

#### **Bremen, Indiana . . . Norma Le- man:**

God, how little I was aware  
Of the pain and the trouble and  
deep despair  
That floods the hearts of those in  
pain  
As they struggle to cope but feel  
it's in vain,  
Crushed with frustration and with  
"no haven to seek,"  
With broken spirits and bodies so  
weak . . .  
And yet they forget Christ suf-  
fered and died  
And hung on the cross and was  
crucified,  
And HE did it all so that some  
happy day,  
When the sorrows of earth have  
all passed away,  
We who have suffered will for-  
ever be free  
To live with GOD IN ETERNITY!

Let us pray each and every day that everyone could experience a personal relationship with the Savior who died for you and me.

In spite of the icy roads, our Sunrise Service was well attended. The message brightened up our hearts and compensated for the gloomy weather.

Bro. George and Sis. Peggy Grant have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Brenda Grant (Lexington, Ky.), to Bro. Doug Suttor, son of Bro. Al and Sis. Verla Suttor. They plan an August 13 wedding.

Sis. Mirian Germann was hospitalized for surgery and is now doing very well. We are all praying that she will be able to assemble with us again real soon.

**Francesville, Indiana . . . Linda  
Gutwein - Sharon Neihs:**  
Roger and Sandy Ward were blessed with a little girl, Amber Leigh. She has a sister, Erica. Sis. Lena Ward is the paternal grandmother. Rodney and Donna Gutwein were blessed with a little boy, Patrick Wayne. He has a sister, Stephanie. Sis. Mary Gutwein is the paternal grandmother. Virgil and Sharon Von Tobel have adopted Vincent Craig. This is their first child. Bro. Virgil and Sis. Ellen Gutwein are the parents of a son, Stuart Robert. He has two sisters to welcome him home.

Our dear Sister Martha Pelsy passed away, Mar. 6, at the Rensselaer Care Center where she has been a patient for several years. Surviving are two sisters, Sis. Barb Wuethrich, and Louise Pelsy, and one brother, Bro. Emil, also many nieces and nephews. She was a dear aunt to many of us.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Nola Wuethrich, Sis. Louise Anliker, and Curt Anliker, son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky.

On Good Friday evening, we assembled to be reminded of the suffering of our Lord and Saviour. Then, on Easter Sunday, the Sunday School told us in word and song of His death, burial, and resurrection.

On April 2, we were richly blessed when the Mansfield Choir visited us. Also, Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Todd Feller (La Cross) came to share the Word of God with us. We thank them, each one, and appreciate

their efforts in coming to visit us.

**La Crosse, Indiana . . . Lois  
Bucher - Grace Heinold:** Bro. Art Ringger was our visiting minister this month. We are grateful for his many teachings.

We are so happy to report that Sis. Henrietta Heining is now able to congregate with us. She hopes to move back into her own home after staying several weeks in the care of Sis. Martha Peters.

After a long stay in bed, Linda Albrecht is also able to be up and around some of the time. Lance Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) had surgery, but is doing well again. We thank God for His healing hand.

Louise Alt remains hospitalized but hopes to be home soon.

**A Time of Many Miracles**  
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.  
Helen Steiner Rice

**Leo, Indiana . . . Mrs. Phil  
Schlatter - Mrs. Al Frautschi:** "A traveler in Switzerland, uncertain of his way, asked a small lad by the wayside where Kandersteg was, and received, so he remarks, the most significant answer ever given to him. 'I do not know, sir,' said the boy, 'where Kandersteg is, but there is the road to it.' There are a great many things I cannot tell about life to come. but I know where lies the road. As I know Christ, the hope of glory, I have the certain assurance of immortality."

Aaron Schwartz has recently

moved from Glenacres to the Golden Years Nursing Home, 8300 Maysville Rd., Fort Wayne.

Recently hospitalized were Terry, young son of the Gene Stollers', Katherine Norr, and Lavada Stieglitz. The good news is that these are able to attend services again. Shut-in for a longer time, ill at home, is another dear sister, Rose Conrad. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth those who trust in him. Nahum 1:7.

Welcome to two baby girls! Katherine Ann (Katy) blessed the home of Steve and Carolyn (Miller) Bollier, Mar. 15.

Sasha Sue is the wee one born to Larry and Beth (Souder) Hullinger.

The Easter program was held Palm Sunday. Sunrise services and breakfast at the Fellowship Center were quite well attended despite the inclement weather. Thoughts turn to Mother's Day in the following few lines and poem:

**A PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD**  
A partnership with God is Motherhood;  
What strength, what purity, what self-control;  
What love, what wisdom should belong to her  
Who helps God fashion an immortal soul.

(Anonymous)

An exercise in priority appraisal for Christians: Think about it? What are the five most important things in your life? Beneath that list, write an estimate of the proportion of time given to each priority. Each of us has 24 hours in the day. How are we using those hours?

#### I LOVE YOU, JOHNNY

"I love you, Johnny," said Mother one day.

"I love you more than I can say." Then she answered his question with, "Don't bother me now," And just didn't have time to show him how

To tie his truck to his tractor and plow.

But she washed her windows and scrubbed the floor  
And baked and cooked and cleaned some more.

"Bring the neighbors in? Well I should say not.

You'd track up my floors and I don't want a spot.

No, we won't have time for a story today.

Mother's cooking for company, so run out and play.

Maybe tomorrow," she said with a sigh,

And Johnny went out almost ready to cry.

"I love you, Johnny," again she said  
As she washed his face and sent him to bed.

Now how do you think that Johnny guessed

Whether 'twas he or the house that she loved best?

(Paraphrased from the poem, "Which Loved Her Best" by Joy Allison)

**Milford, Indiana . . . Sandy Beer - Paula Haab:** "Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

"He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth . . ." Isaiah 53:4-7

In these verses God foretold of His only Son and His suffering and grief He would endure as He gave His life for our sins. As the Easter season passes, let us not put aside the great price Christ paid for each of us.

We held Communion services the Wednesday evening before Easter. As Jesus partook of His last pass-over supper, He told His disciples, "this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19. We appreciated Bro. Orville Ringger's serving us. Also, Bro. Uriel Gehring was with us for our Good Friday observance and Easter Sunday. We want to thank both of them again.

Due to an icy winter storm, the Sunrise Service planned for Easter morning was cancelled. We're all anxious for Spring after such a harsh winter.

Sis. Inez Brooks has undergone surgery and Sis. Frieda Rusch has been hospitalized. Sis. Wanda Weiser visited Mayo Clinic for more

tests. We wish them all God's nearness.

We are all thankful that little Jenny, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie Beer, has recovered from her bad fall. She was hospitalized overnight.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. John Hoerr in the passing of his wife Sis. Aline. They recently moved to the Peoria Home where she died Mar. 19. Their children are Bro. Robert, Milford, and Bro. Wilbur, Peoria, Ill. She is survived by five sisters, three brothers, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Remington, Indiana . . . Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss:** "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2)

Our dear Sis. Emma Beckley, who had been a resident at the Apostolic Home in Eureka for the past three years, passed away from this life into eternity on Mar. 30. Having been in failing health, we thank God that her earthly suffering is past. How wonderful to know that she, in her youth, sought salvation in the precious shed blood of Jesus, and has now gone to be with Him. Four sisters and a brother survive: Bro. Herman Beckley, Sis. Elsie Kilgus, Sis. Anna Beckley, of Remington, and Sisters Laura Zahner and Clara Zahner of Rockville, Conn.

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

There have been a thousand  
Easters

Since the Man of Galilee  
Came to write the crowning news  
of history.

But I never knew an Easter  
Like that glad first dawn could be—  
Till the Lord of all the Easters  
lived in me!

Lloyd M. Hearn

We enjoyed a very meaningful Easter program Good Friday evening.

A first granddaughter came to

bless the family of Marvin and Mary Moser. Steve and Connie Moser of South Bend are the proud parents of Maryellen, born Mar. 12.

Evening church services are held the 1st and 3rd Wed. eve of each month. We heartily invite anyone in the area to come and worship with us.

Thanks to our visiting minister this month, Bro. Elmer Witzig, Gridley, and ALL who came to worship with us.

Dear Sis. Tillie Heinold has undergone major surgery. We are happy she could return home. She is getting along very well.

Our beloved Jan Hari remains hospitalized. How thankful we can be that their dear little girls are so well cared for.

**Wolcott, Indiana . . . Laurel Widmer:** Bros. Rudy Graf and John Bahler were with us for evening services on Mar. 12. We were happy that they shared some of their time with us.

"And they called her and said, 'Wilt though go with this man.' And she said, 'I will go.'" On Mar. 19 the engagement of Sis. Luann Bahler (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances) was announced to Bro. Bob Gerber (Bluffton). They plan a summer wedding.

Sis. Jean Kyburz is again able to assemble with us after being hospitalized for tests.

At last it seemed like spring had come, but winter got in one last blast. An ice storm in our area caused treacherous travel and the delay of our Easter program. It was held the Wednesday after Easter. The songs and recitations of all ages were still very beneficial to all of us.

**Burlington, Iowa . . . Mayme Gerst - Judy Gehring:**

#### FULFILLMENT

Appleblossoms bursting wide  
now beautify the tree  
And make a Springtime picture  
that is beautiful to see . . .  
Oh, fragrant lovely blossoms,  
you'll make a bright bouquet  
If I but break your branches  
from the apple tree today . . .  
But if I break your branches  
and make your beauty mine,  
You'll bear no fruit in season  
when severed from the vine . . .  
And when we cut ourselves away  
from guidance that's divine,

Our lives will be as fruitless  
as the branch without the vine.  
For as the flowering branches  
depend upon the tree  
To nourish and fulfill them  
till they reach futurity,  
We too must be dependent  
on our Father up above,  
For we are but the BRANCHES  
and HE's THE TREE OF LOVE.  
Helen Steiner Rice

With spring here at last, after a long winter, we see God everywhere in the lovely flowers, green grass and the trees coming to life. May we again rededicate our lives ever striving to do better, staying so close to God that nothing can come between us.

We were privileged to have Bros. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury, and Leroy Huber, Eureka, bring us the precious Word of God. Bro. Merle said that we should have the spirit of meekness as a little child, and we should be an example. As they look up to us, we look to God. Bro. Leroy stressed humbleness, being like-minded, having faith, charity and holiness.

**Elgin, Iowa . . . Eleanor Butikofer:** Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Luke 11:28.

It must really be spring; the snow and ice have disappeared, there is a mildness in the air, a softness in the soil, the sun is somewhat warmer and something seems to tell the heart that life is fresh and new. The robins have returned and the bluebirds, too, are giving us their lovely songs. All in all, springtime seems to fill our soul with new faith and hope. "All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for what I have not seen."

Our usual spring church cleaning took place yesterday. The old adage of how cleanliness is next to Godliness is very fitting, be it in God's house or in our own homes. We are very thankful to all who partook in the work of cleaning our church.

A productive get-together was held at Sis. Marie Butikofer's home in the interest of the World Relief project. Ten quilts were tied, and a considerable bit of bandage work was done.

Bro. Noah Gerber was our guest minister for March. We thank him very kindly for his effort.

Bro. Bert Butikofer spent a few

days in the hospital. He is feeling better, and we are thankful for that.

Brother Jake Gehring had the misfortune of falling from a ladder while doing some tree pruning. He suffered a fracture of an ankle. A cast has been put on, and, hopefully, it will heal properly.

We have found it pleasant to have Sis. Louise Unzicker assemble with us from time to time. She is attending Northern Iowa College at Cedar Falls. Sis. Dena Hunzicker from Independence quite often finds it convenient to ride with her to attend our services. It's always a treat to greet Sis. Dena.

The brightest and most enduring flowers along the wayside of life are smiles, loving words, little acts of kindness . . . they never wholly fade from memory. Often, after years, they are brighter than on the day we first beheld them.

Be still, and know that I am God. Psa. 46:10.

**Lester, Iowa . . . Alice Metzger:**

A most heart-warming and inspiring experience was enjoyed by our congregation the week-end of Mar. 12 when Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, was here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in the proving and baptism of our young married couple, Rod and Twyla Bajema. They told so beautifully of the wonderful change God has brought into their lives since their repentance. Twyla, the daughter of Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty, and Rod, who was raised in another faith, were welcomed into the brotherhood and are a wonderful asset to our church. We are grateful to Bro. Sam for his message of faith and hope.

Our flock was fed the heavenly manna when Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, Wolcott, was directed into our midst on a recent Sunday. He gave us much food for thought in his sermons, and we appreciate his visit.

Dean Roeman, son of Amelia and Ed, was hospitalized following an auto accident. He was very fortunate that his injuries were not serious. Also hospitalized were Joni, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf, and Lance, son of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch. Both are feeling fine again.

**Oakville, Iowa . . . Phyllis Siegle:**

As the trees bud and the flowers



burst into bloom, we can see that God's power and love surround us, because man could never create such beauty. All of nature's miracles unfold with newborn hope, that are filled with newborn hope, that after death's sleep, we, too, shall rise again.

May is the month in which we commemorate our mothers. Many are fortunate to have their mothers, while others don't. Let us try to be more loving, kind and helpful to our mothers, and other mothers, too.

She's a little old fashioned,  
That sweet mother of mine;  
There are those whose beauty  
Will my mother's outshine.  
She's a little old-fashioned,  
As I plainly can see,  
But she is forever  
Sweetest to me.

She's a little old-fashioned,  
That sweet mother of mine,  
Tho' even her plainness  
Now my heartstrings entwine;  
Other hands may be whiter,  
But none other so dear,  
For they smoothed my pillow  
For many a year.

We were richly blessed as Bro. Rod Huber shared the Holy Word with us. Our thanks go to him and all who accompanied him from Valparaiso, Ind.

**West Bend, Iowa . . . Mrs. Raymond Anliker - Becky Banwart:**  
On Mar. 11, Larry Bruellman and Teresa Frazee were united in marriage by Bro. Noah Gerber at the Fellowship Center. Parents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Frazee (of Algona). May God bless this union of hearts.

Hospitalized last month were Leslie and Doug Schneider (sons of Louis and Joni) and Sis. Ida (Earnie) Schmidt. Sam Mogler has been transferred from the hospital to Clear View Manor Nursing Home. We trust that God will continue to bless them with restored health. When we have a reasonable measure of health, we have much to be thankful for.

We were happy to have Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester) and Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski) minister to us. May our hearts always be a fit place for the tender seeds

to fall. We thank the brothers for coming to West Bend.

New babes are such a blessing. Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr are the parents of a son, Barry Lynn, born Mar. 11, and Ron and Rosemary Schafer are the parents of a son, Kasey Christopher, born Mar. 22.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Rinkenberger and their sons, Scott, Jeremy, and Jesse, will surely be missed by our congregation as they move from Mason City to Davenport, Iowa. We ask the Lord to abide with them and bless them as they go.

**Tokyo, Japan . . . Yoshio Yamazaki:** It was a wonderful Easter morning, and the weather was nice. Several of us went to the park near our Tokyo Church and had Resurrection service there. After that, Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue went to the country church because the third Sunday is his turn to visit the country there.

Bro. Willis Ehnle and his family came to Tokyo church with Bro. Toshio Uchida and our friend, Moriyuki Shimura.

We hope to have the testimonies of our friends, Mrs. Shizuko Utsuki, who is Bro. Saburo Utsuki's wife, and Mrs. Haruyo Onoda the first Sunday of April after the morning service. Then we'll have the baptismal service if it's the Lord's will. We had four sisters from Illinois and also two young brothers who are Sis. Sally Gramm's cousins. All of them are wonderful brethren. We so much appreciate that the Lord sent us such nice brethren.

The following was submitted by Bro. Willis Ehnle:

It was very early in the morning of February 4, 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.

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

#### GOD CREATOR

Who can hang the earth in air  
And cause the moon to shine?  
Who can make the stars fair  
And snow white and fields of pine?

Who can make the light and dark,  
And flowers and trees and bees—  
And trail the sky, the rainbow arc,  
And birds of red and blue and green?

Who can give birds voice to sing  
And make clouds of rain and snow?  
Who can make creeks and  
streams—

Better yet, who can make a soul?

If God can hang this earth in air  
And make my sins as snow,  
He knows my every need and care:  
The world's in God's control.

Judith Miller Reaves

We assembled with the Sabetha congregation for Good Friday services. Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) was our guest minister. Bro. Joe

led us out to Calvary where we could very vividly see our Saviour hanging on the cruel cross, suffer and die, that we might live.

On Easter Sunday, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton) was our guest minister. We give our thanks to the brothers. Visitors are always welcome.

On Apr. 2, at Fellowship Hall, Elder Bro. Lester Hartter united in marriage Mary Lehman (Bro. Edw. and Sis. Leola) and Elwin Strahm (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Mildred). We extend our best wishes along with the Lord's blessing as they start their married life on a farm near Sabetha.

Hospitalized for tonsillectomies were Ted and Becky Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona).

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

How much we welcome the coming of spring.

"For, lo! the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of the singing  
of birds is come, and the voice of  
the turtle is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

The Fort Scott choir traveled to Kiowa, Kansas, Mar. 11 and 12 to sing with the Wichita choir. It was a very heart-warming occasion, and how true—those that sing, pray to God twice. Let us always sing in our hearts to the Lord and praise Him for His goodness. O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1

Christ's dying on the cross and arising three days later was relived by the Sunday School classes and an inspiring story! Christ died on the cross for our sins. I wish that all would remember what one minister expressed, "No-one ever dies." We go from here into the wonderful home above, or into a lake of fire. God gave us the opportunity to make the decision. It is our decision. Let us make the right choice.

We were also privileged on Good Friday to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Roy Wernli (and wives) (Lamont) for being with us on this special occasion.

Also, on Sunday morning, Bro. John Lehman (Bern) was here for Sunrise Services at the park which were followed by breakfast for the

two upper Sunday School classes and young members. It was very inspiring to see the classes wanting to be a part of such an occasion.

Ministering Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) was also here to share Easter with us.

Another gift from God was given to the family of Paul and Debbie Johnston. Erica Clarise was born Mar. 27. Adine Rodane is at home awaiting the arrival of her new sister. The grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith.

#### Gridley, Kansas . . . Julie Strahm

- Doris Bahr: We have been having some lovely warm weather. Everything is springing forth with new life—a time of Resurrection!

A dear friend, whom we had not seen or heard from in many years, passed away recently. In passing he left this testimony: the Apostolic Christian Church had always been his church, but feeling that his clothes were not good enough, he failed to attend. Had this inner fear of attire been shared with someone, the way of salvation could possibly have been known. For in Christ, our rags are turned to riches. Associates had this to say: he would pattern his life's decisions and actions on "whether or not the Apostolics would do it." Doesn't this show what kind of light we need to be? We never know who will be using its glow to find his own path through life.

A daughter, Regina Marie, was born Mar. 14 to Sis. Rose and Terry Schiesser. Two others welcome her home, Carrie Ann, 4, and Travis, 3. The grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm.

A baby girl, Stacy Ann, was born Mar. 16 to Marsha and Henry Hoelting. A daughter, Lynn, age 2, welcomes her home. The maternal grandparents are Vernon and Rose Marie Beyer.

We give many thanks to ministering Bro. Raymond Roth, Kiowa, for sharing God's word with us.

Easter services were spent assembling together with our neighboring congregation in Lamont.

Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) and Sis. Kathy Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sister Thelma), Morris, were united in marriage on Apr. 2. What a beautiful union it is when two are joined together by God. The couple will reside in Emporia.

Kansas State University, Kansas . . . Cynthia Meyer: "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Rev. 21:6, 7

We were happy to have Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) minister God's word to us. Bro. Joe stressed to us that death can be very beautiful if we are prepared to enter into God's eternal rest.

On the "WINGS of DEATH"  
the "SOUL" takes "FLIGHT"  
Into the land where  
"THERE IS NO NIGHT"—

For those who believe  
what the Savior said  
Will rise in glory  
though they be dead . . .

So death comes to us  
just to "OPEN THE DOOR"  
To the KINGDOM OF GOD  
and LIFE EVERMORE.

Helen Steiner Rice

Kiowa, Kansas . . . Janice Frieden: What does praising the Lord through singing mean to you? How do you sing? Do His songs of praise thrill you so much that you sing with a heart full of love and joy, thanking Him for all His wondrous gifts? Or do you sing the words, little realizing their true beauty? I truly hope it's with love and with joy that we sing, for the Word tells us to "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing." The Psalms in many instances tell us to sing unto the Lord: for His salvation, His victory, His judgment, His strength, blessing His name, and mostly to give our Lord the glory and honor due His name.

We were privileged this past month to experience singing like this when the Wichita Choir gathered here with us to sing and fellowship. Besides the thrill of the beautiful singing, we were uplifted by the messages of ministering Bros. George Lambert, Wichita, and Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott. We are so thankful for the freedom of worship that we share with one another, and praise the Lord for letting it be so.

It was our appointed time to

hold services at the Kiowa Manor again this month. Afterwards, as we sang for a dear sister who is bedfast, we witnessed what the songs of praise can mean to a soul. Sis. Marie Diel has been in a Home for almost 7½ years. She is now blind and hears very little, but when asked which song she wanted to hear, she replied that she had helped sing all of them, and one was as beautiful as another. Then, as we sang "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," we noticed that her lips were moving with us as we sang the words. She may not see nor hear, but those beautiful words are in her heart.

Our hospital patients this past month included Todd Nelson, son of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Shirley Nelson; Sis. Betsy Diel; Sis. Lucy Hoffman; and Bro. Pete Farney. We are thankful that Todd, who was hospitalized for observation, Sis. Lucy, who underwent surgery, and Bro. Pete, still suffering from a stroke, are at home. We hope that Sis. Betsy, who is undergoing tests, will be up and about again soon.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Sis. Lydia Farney at the passing of Lydia's son, Jake Farney. We would pray that God's Word could be a comfort to each of them during this time of sadness.

#### Lamont, Kansas . . . Susan Emch:

We are thankful to Bro. Steve Gutwein, Francesville, for spending a Sunday with us. May he ever experience encouragement in lending himself to speak God's most precious Word.

On Mar. 13, Bro. Max and Sis. Kathy Burnham were blessed with a daughter, Rebekah Lynn. She has two brothers, Jason and Jeffrey, and one sister, Kristan, to welcome her home.

We thank Elder Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, Iowa, and Lester Hartter, Bern, for expounding the Word to us on Mar. 19, the Sunday of our Open House. We also appreciated the visits of Bros. Raymond Roth, Kiowa, and Ben Wy-song, Sabetha.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dena Fechter in the loss of her sister, Sis. Leah Fechter. Sis. Leah's funeral was held Mar. 27 at Lamont church which she attended for many years. Upon failing

health the sisters moved to Sabetha, Kansas in 1972. Sis. Leah, having turned to the Lord in repentance and faith at an early age, remained true and faithful for over 60 years. Indeed, we rejoice for each one who has kept the faith unto the end.

On Apr. 2 it was our privilege to dedicate our new house of worship to the honor and praise of Almighty God. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller, Latty, Ohio, with us. He delivered the dedication sermon. Also present were Elder Bros. Paul Butikof, Elgin, Iowa, Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, Ks., and our home Elder, Bro. Sam Anliker. There were also many other visiting ministers and guests. Bros. Earl Banwart, West Bend, and Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, Ind., expounded the Word for our evening service. Our hearts were filled with thanks to God for the many rich blessings we received throughout the day. We pray that the impressive teachings may never be forgotten.

A sincere "thank you" to all our brethren and friends throughout the land who in any way contributed to help make our new church a reality; also to those who came to share the blessings of our Open House and Dedication.

Sabetha, Kansas . . . Mrs. Joe Steiner: Sis. Leah Fechter passed away Mar. 24, 1978, at the Sabetha Manor Rest Home where she lived six weeks prior to her death. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Dena Fechter, who resides at the Apostolic Christian Home Apartments in Sabetha. Services were held with Bros. Sam Huber and Carl Hartman officiating. Further services were held by Bros. Sam Anliker and Roy Wernli at the church in Lamont.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Joe Braker, Morton, and Bro. Clarence Dietrich, Silvertown. We thank them for bringing us the Word of Life.

As is our custom, we have discontinued mid-week services for the summer months and are again having our Sunday evening song services. They are held every two weeks, alternating with Bern. The time is 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Wichita, Kansas . . . Glenis Alenbach: Easter came to our Wi-

chita Church in a beautiful way: a beautiful day, beautiful fellowship, and a beautiful wedding of Sis. Mary Langhofer and Bro. Bruce Stoller. These are the pluses in a Christian life, for they are from the Father, and we are His handiwork.

My plans to do a "Know Each Other Better" article didn't work out, so I am including a personal testimony on a timely subject.

We hear much about the cross at this time, and we hear about a personal cross that this one or that one has to bear, but I've found my ultimate cross is giving up myself. Along with this spiritual discernment, the Lord has given me a wonderful truth. I don't have to do it myself, in fact, it's impossible for me. I only have to be willing, and the Lord will work it out for me in His own good time. Now, we've heard many times that we should do away with "self", but seeing and hearing are two different things. We also hear that there is liberty in Christ. How manifest this becomes, for if we don't relate to self, we're immune to many of the things that bother us. We're actually free of them. I don't say I've actually accomplished this, but I'm willing, and the Lord is working on it!

Alto, Michigan . . . Mrs. Ronald Erisman: . . . having a desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better. Philippians 1:23

Our dear Sis. Lena Roth passed away Mar. 5. Her gentle smile and quiet disposition will be missed by all of us. Words can't describe our admiration and affection felt for her. She was a real example of a true Christian. We offer our sympathy to her children.

Also, our friend, Geraldine Wingeier, passed away. She is a niece to Sisters Mary and Lydia Wingeier.

Our Sunday School children enjoyed a swim party at an indoor pool on Mar. 11, arranged by Ferd Grawberg.

Friends Rhonda Blough (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise) and Greg Rairigh were united in marriage Feb. 18. We wish them God's blessings.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Ken Schneider, Remington, Bro. Don Manz, Junction, and Bro. Ray Sinn, Latty, for being with us.

**Bay City, Michigan . . . Carolyn Schamback - Patsy Knochel:** He is risen! As the first flowers peek through the snow, we are reminded of His Resurrection and the sacrifice He made for us.

We thank visiting ministers Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Tom Lehman (Elgin) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) for sharing the Word with us this month.

**Detroit Michigan . . . Bonnie Popp:** "The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." And so are we blessed in so many ways to receive His counsel and thoughts of heart . . . through prayer, scripture, ministering of the Word, and sharing with one another. We are grateful for the visit of Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin, Illinois) and for having him minister to us.

Our assembly was nearly filled and our hearts were filled to overflowing as we listened to the Sunday School present the Easter message in word and song. As a Sunday School teacher, I have opportunities to see the dedication and effort of the children. It is touching to see that it all comes from their heart and that they are sincere and humble in their participation. I know they will be blessed—we were certainly blessed by having them share with us on Palm Sunday evening.

We are thankful that Sis. Linda Shaw is able to assemble with us following recent hospitalization. Bro. Paul Sabados, Sr., is in the hospital for observation.

"Surely as He hears each prayer we have been saying for you, He'll bless your heart and send you strength as only He can do."

A special word of encouragement to those who continue to lend themselves in preparing the Silver Lining during the past several months. It has been a difficult and time-consuming task to continue publication, and we in Detroit are thankful to God and to those whose efforts have been expended to continue its publication.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota . . . Josephine Esterling:** Thank God every day that He gladdened the earth with little children. God sends children for many other purposes than merely to keep up the race: to enlarge our hearts, to make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and affections, to give our

souls higher aims, and to bring 'round our firesides bright faces, happy smiles, and loving, tender hearts.

And so it is at the home of Sis. Debbie and Bro. Jim Tilbury who flew to Guatemala to pick up 2-year-old Charity Ruth, whom they will adopt as their very own daughter. May God bless this new family union.

Ministering Bro. Noah Miller Comments on Freedom in Christ:

Freedom in Christ is having no fear of death and having great joy in knowing that there is a heavenly reward awaiting for everyone that believes and obeys God's word. Freedom in Christ means to be free from the bondage of sin where the pleasures of this world have no more joys for us. Freedom in Christ also means that when we are in church and hear God's word proclaimed, we are no longer condemned for our past life or present life, but have a peaceful feeling in our heart and mind.

Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:16 & 17, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the Power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Gentile). For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Faith is to believe without need of certain proofs. The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God.

**Morris, Minnesota . . . Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall:** We enjoyed and were blessed on the evening of Mar. 22 to hear the Easter program that our Sunday School children presented to us.

Those hospitalized were: Dan Eisel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall), Sis. Rose Moser, Dale Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barb) and Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald & Sis. Karen).

The engagement of LuJean Nohl (Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley) to Randy Thielke, of Hancock, was made known. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their forthcoming marriage.

Mar. 23 was the wedding date chosen by our dear friends, Linda Ebnet of Morris and Jerry Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi). We also witnessed the marriage of Sis. Kathy Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sis.

Thelma) to Bro. Scott Strom (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) of Gridley, Kansas. Their wedding date was Apr. 2. Our prayers are that God will lead them in their new life together.

A little bundle from heaven was received on Mar. 9 into the home of Kevin and Marilyn Schmidgall. They named her Melissa Lee. Her grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Pearl Moser and Sis. Mabel Schmidgall.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed with inspiring messages brought to us by our visiting ministers, Bro. Todd Feller of La-Crosse, Indiana, and Bro. Ken Lawson of Minneapolis, Minn. The following Sunday, Bro. Loren Strom of Gridley, Kansas, was with us.

Our annual brother and sister meetings were held. Those elected to writing for the Silver Lining were Sis. Pam Sutter and Sis. Lillie Koehl. Two sisters were also elected for the World Relief. They were: Sis. Minnie Kussatz and Sis. Ann Meiss. The brothers elected to the insurance committees were Bro. Ken Koehl and Bro. Steve Schaefer. We pray that God will grant His grace to each one of us so we can carry out our duties for the Lord.

**Winthrop, Minnesota . . . Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper:** After a long, cold winter, it makes us glad to see signs of spring. We look forward to seeing the snow melting and the emerging of the black fields. We are looking for the first robin to return from the south, and the buds to appear on the trees. How we appreciate the warm sun and look forward to summer and know it is nigh, even at the door. So it is in a Christian's life. As we serve God day by day, we see slow but sure, and sometimes fast, the signs and wonders that Christ talks about in the end-time. It makes us glad to know that we are in good standing with our God. It is such a beautiful hope that when the Lord once again appears in the clouds we will go to meet Him. Only God knows when that special flight will take place, but the time and season (we believe) is close. We received communion exhortations from our Elder Bro. Harold based on scriptures in I Corinthians 11. To prepare for this sacred sacrament we as individuals

should examine ourselves and then set our spiritual house in order.

Sis. Emma Schmidt was hospitalized for treatment and Bro. Roland Messner is able to worship with us following hip surgery. He wishes to thank all those who remembered him with cards and prayers while he was hospitalized. Bro. Ray Messner had surgery on the injured nerves in his arms. Bro. and Sis. Dennis Messner's little daughter Stephanie was hospitalized with pneumonia. God is a wonderful healing power.

God is my help in every need,  
God does my every hunger feed;  
God walks beside me, guides my way

Through every moment of the day.

Author Unknown

The engagement of Sis. Mary to Bro. Kevin Plattner was made known. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Don Messner, and Kevin's parents are Bro. and Sis. Melvin Plattner of the Peoria congregation. May God bless them as they plan their future life together.

Our beloved Bro. George and Sis. Esther Messner recently celebrated their 50 years of married life together. They wish to thank their children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for the lovely cards, gifts and congratulations on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. "God Bless you one and all," they said.

The following thoughts were submitted by Bro. LeRoy Messner. The special days set aside by the government to honor and respect our parents will soon be here. Read in Ex. 20:12, "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Let us heed and obey this precious teaching, and examine ourselves. Are we truly God-fearing parents? Do we let our light shine in this dark and dreary, sin-filled world? Prov. 13:1, "A wise son heareth his father's instructions," and Col. 3:20, "Children obey your parents in all things." God's Word is referring to Christian parents when he tells the children to follow them.

Lamar, Missouri . . . Janice Braker - Sandra Marti: Several from our congregation had the privilege of traveling to Eureka for the wedding of Bro. Roy Braker and Sis. Judy Leman, on Mar. 19. We all certainly welcome Sis. Judy to our

congregation. Ivan Frieden, son of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice, and Linda Poteet were united in marriage on Mar. 23. We wish these couples God's blessings in their new homes.

Sis. Emma Lanz was hospitalized for several days this past month. We pray that God will send His grace and help to all who have afflictions.

The Easter season is now past for another year, yet we need to remember our dear Savior's death and suffering daily. As we departed from our Good Friday service, we were left with these thoughts to ponder in our hearts. Am I being a Peter, a Pilate, or a Judas? Am I denying or betraying Christ in any way?

Taylor, Missouri . . . Lena M. Haerr: Let me talk with Jesus. Jer. 12:1. "O, I love to talk with Jesus."

Several sisters went to Princeville for a World Relief meeting. We find much can be done to help the needy.

On Palm Sunday, Bro. Ray Banwart (Ft. Scott) helped Bro. Roy Grimm serve Communion. It was very impressive, and it really humbles us to partake of this holy sacrament.

We had four inches of new snow on Easter. With ice, sleet, and snow, traveling was bad. Our Sunday School Easter program was postponed from Good Friday until Easter Sunday afternoon. Every one of us enjoyed hearing from the youngest children to the Bible Class. The Easter story was told from start to finish; it behooves us to live for Christ in love and humility.

We are happy to have new converts: Donnie Grimm and Stephanie Gerber.

A son was born to Dean and Gaye (Riney) Redd on Mar. 3.

Hospital patients were Bro. Roy Grimm, Sis. Emma D. Hoerr, and Travis Cottrell. There has been much sickness with our severe winter.

Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) had the services on Wednesday evening during Easter vacation. How nice it was to have both my girls and families home for a few days.

The following was submitted by Bro. Gerald Sutter.

## I STOOD OUTSIDE THE GATE

We never cease to marvel how God deals with man here on earth. In this season of the year when we see our youth caught up in the basketball tournament fever, it takes me back to another day when I, too, was caught up in it's frenzy.

After many days of anxious waiting, the big night came when the home team was playing in the sectional finals. We arrived at the gym with great anticipation, but to our dismay, as we were the next in line, the door closed because there was no more room. So instead of sharing the joys of the game, we stood outside in the cold only to hear the cheers of the crowd inside.

At that moment the thought came to me how terrible it would be to be left outside of heaven forever. Though it was several months before I finally surrendered my life to the Lord, yet 30 years later that fateful night still lingers with me. We should not lose faith that the Lord will also draw all our loved ones to Him by love unfeigned.

I stood outside the gate,  
A poor, wayfaring child;  
Within my heart there beat  
A tempest loud and wild;  
A fear oppressed my soul,  
That I might be too late;  
And oh, I trembled sore,  
And prayed outside the gate.

In Mercy's guise I knew  
The Saviour long abused,  
Who often sought my heart,  
And wept when I refused;  
Oh! what a blest return  
For all my years of sin!  
I stood outside the gate,  
And Jesus let me in.

Union City New Jersey - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . . Ed Aeschleman: A farewell dinner for Bro. Dave and Sis. Caroline Roberts was served by Bro. John and Sis. Kathy Clough at their house on Saturday, Mar. 18. All Philadelphia brethren and three of our friends' families attended. The next day was our last Sunday together with the Roberts family at the Philadelphia church. We were pleased to have Bro. Carroll Gerber from Bluffton minister to us. He helped us through the sad and difficult day with his inspired

words of teaching and encouragement. Bro. Dave and his family moved from our area to their new home in Bluffton on Wednesday, Mar. 22.

Easter services were held at the Union City, N. J., church. The day was cold and rainy; but the usual warmth and love was experienced in God's house as we heard about our Lord's unjust conviction and cruel crucifixion, glorious resurrection from the grave at the hand of God, and, finally, His ascension to his father and our father on high. God's special gift to us was the attendance of Sis. Emily Schoenleber who is no longer able to come and go at will. With the help of her son she made a great effort to be with us on Easter Sunday.

Sis. Marie Walsh entered the hospital on Mar. 27 for minor surgery.

**Croghan, New York . . . Alice Virkler:** Our Sunday School children presented their Easter program of song and verse on Sunday, Apr. 2. The program was postponed from Easter Sunday as we attended funeral services for Sis. Lena Virkler at the Naumberg Church. For the first time since I have been a Sunday School teacher, I had to miss this program as I was hospitalized having undergone surgery during the week. What a blessing it is to know that the prayers of our loved ones go out to each and everyone in sickness, and we can truly be comforted by the many prayers, visits and cards received from all.

Other hospital patients included Ryan Lehman, son of Clif and Kathy, Hope Graves, daughter of Bro. Floyd, Jr. and Sis. Linda, and Sis. Mabel Ebersol.

Our congregations enjoyed fellowship having a pot luck supper and hour of singing at both the Croghan and Naumberg churches.

**Naumberg, New York . . . Corrine Virkler:**

There are times in our lives  
When we think we're alone,  
But always remember  
God cares for His own.  
In His wisdom and mercy  
He knows how we feel,  
And He has the Power  
To comfort and heal.  
So, trust in His goodness

And soon you'll be blessed  
With the joy of good health  
And with everything best.  
Author Unknown

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Magdalena Virkler, the widow of Michael F. Virkler, who passed away on Mar. 24 at the Lewis County Hospital after a long illness. She was 87 years old. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Norman (Helen) King, Rochester; Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Corrigan, Castorland; and a son, Phillip, Castorland. She was predeceased by four sons, one daughter, and one brother, Rev. Phillip Beyer of Castorland.

We are glad to have Sis. Viola Karcher assemble with us again. She was absent due to surgery and the severe weather. Also, Sis. Clara Merz is with us again after a fall in her home. Bro. Elmer Taube is a patient in the Carthage Area Hospital. John Schultz was hospitalized with a broken nose.

Sis. Ivah Poling has left to spend some time with her daughter, Sis. Cora Schamback and her family in Elgin, Ill.

Bro. and Sis. Everett and Betty Virkler and their grandson, Adam were in an accident on their way home from church. No one was seriously hurt.

**Akron, Ohio . . . Gail Spangler:**  
"He is not here, but is risen . . ." Luke 24:6. As often as we read the Easter story, it should give us renewed faith and zeal to do better and work harder for our Saviour who did so much for us.

Our friend, Larry Baumgartner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Evelyn), was involved in a serious accident recently. May our Father in heaven touch him with His healing hand. Sis. Louise Graf (Bro. Ernest) was hospitalized for tests recently. It was so nice to have her assemble with us again last Sunday. Bro. Charles Novatny is feeling better again after his surgery, and wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and love shown while he was in the hospital.

Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows thine every care; knows thy deep contrition, hears thy feeblest prayers; do not fear to trust Him, tell Him all thy grief; cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief. Our sympathy goes out to the family of our friend Clarence Kaufman

who was relieved of his earthly suffering and was laid to rest Mar. 27.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) visited us this month.

**Junction, Ohio . . . Gwen Manz:**  
Little Gregory Manz, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra, was hospitalized recently. We are glad he is now at home and doing well.

We thank Bros. Eugene Fetter, Toledo; Henry Dotterer, Rittman; and Roy Ehnle, Bradford, for their recent visits and for sharing the Word of God with us.

**Latty, Ohio . . . Karen Klopfenstein - Susie Sinn:** Robert Scott Parady is the newborn son of Sis. Sharon and Robert. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Rager. We pray that the Lord will direct them in rearing their children.

On Mar. 18-19 we were privileged to have ministering Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Ed Frank and Art Gudeman (La Crosse), Earl Zeltwanger (Breman), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Earnest Graf (Akron), Sam and Bill Schlatter, Ben Manz (Junction) for our dedication of the new part of our church. May the Lord bless them for their efforts in coming and sharing this day with us.

Glenna Stoller, Wesley Stoller, Bro. Carl Laukhuf, and Sis. Martha Stoller were all hospital patients, but they are all home now. Catherine Yoh, who is still in the hospital, is recovering nicely, and we hope she will soon be able to gather with us again.

Bro. Walter Rager brought us the Easter Story of how our Saviour died so we might live and have eternal life in the glorious realms above.

We were recently reminded how we should pick up our cross daily and live a life of self-denial, so that when we lay our cross down at the end of the road, it will reach heaven's door.

"Then bear thy woes with Jesus gladly,  
And fear the cross of life no more,  
For when thy journey here is ended,  
The cross will open heaven's door!"

**Mansfield, Ohio . . . Lucille Groh:**  
What a blessed Easter week-end we had when Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen visited our congregations.

gation. Bro. Aaron brought us God's word, which is ever new, and we were truly lead by the spirit out to Calvary to visualize the empty tomb and hear the Lord call, "Mary".

Our annual Easter Sunday School program was held on Palm Sunday, and it was truly an inspiring evening when we heard the children sing songs of praise to our risen Lord and tell of His love for all.

Loving sympathy is extended to Sis. Louise Sabo in the loss of her brother, Andy Steffen; to Sis. Dorothy Stavenik in the death of her brother; to Sis. Kathrine Bocka in the loss of her sister; and to David and Elaine Tuttle in the loss of their baby son, Marc, born Mar. 15. Little Marc was the grandson of Sis. Leora Bocka.

The engagement was announced of our friend Debbie Dotterer to Garry Bridges. Friends Arthur and Alice Dotterer are Debbie's parents. An August wedding is planned.

Loved ones experiencing hospitalization and illness since our last report are: Sis. Elsie Beer, surgery; Jerry Roberts, surgery; and Eldon Zody, broken wrist.

Carolyn and Mike Batten are the happy parents of a baby boy born Apr. 1. Little Andrew Michael is the grandson of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka and the great-grandson of Sis. Louise Sabo.

A close friend of a godly aging saint reminded him that he was whitening fast. When the minister stood up to preach, he said, "There is a little white flower which blooms only in early spring. It often comes up through the frost and snow, but we always rejoice to see the little white snow-drop, because it proclaims that winter is past and summer is at hand. A friend reminded me that I am 'whitening' fast. But it disturbs me not, for it is but proof that my winter will soon be over. I will soon be done with the cold winds and frosts of earth. My summer, my never ending summer is at hand". A few more frosty nights and then sunshine of heaven for eternity. Will we meet Mom and Dad in the Summerland?

**Rittman, Ohio . . . Mary Jane Winkler - Margaret Winkler:** "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know

that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matt. 28:5,6.

Truly, at this Easter season we can be thankful that our Lord did rise from the dead and did ascend to heaven. He is on the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of all of us. The Lord understands our needs, and in all our trials and temptations He will give us an abundance of strength and grace to overcome, if we but ask in His name. May we all strive daily to do the Master's will.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means." 2 Thess. 3:16. We have three dear souls who have found peace with God and who are looking forward to baptism. They are Randy and Shirley Miller and Martha Zollinger (Carl). May the Lord continue to lead and guide them.

Another dear friend is seeking her salvation. Friend Brenda Zollinger (Bro. Rudy) felt the need, as we all did, to come to the Lord and repent. May she find much grace as she seeks the peace of God.

Again we had many dear souls who were in the hospital. Bro. Orin Rufener (Sis. Anna), Bill Young (Sis. Donna), Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella), Cindy Blough (Bro. Dan and Sis. Janette), and Sis. Margaret Winkler (Bro. Stan) had surgery but have returned home. May the Lord continue to restore them to good health.

Others in the hospital for various reasons were Sis. Ella Widmer (Bro. Fred), John Calame (Sis. Margaret), Vicki (Saylor) Pelfry (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma), and Bro. Stanley Winkler (Sis. Margaret). Sis. Ella is now residing in our "Home" since her fall. The other dear ones have all returned home.

Sometimes things happen in our lives that we don't understand. We have to endure hardships and we don't know why, but the Lord knows best in all things, and He never makes a mistake. May we always put our full trust in Him, and, even if we don't understand all things now, we will in all eternity.

Two little bundles have arrived from heaven. On Mar. 7, Audrey Marie arrived at the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic.

Danny, Matthew, and Aaron welcome their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggerbach, and Bro. Mitchel and Sis. Violet Baltic. On Mar. 16, Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Sardis) had a little son, Mylan Dean. Dana and Carla welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser (Rittman), and Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha Indermuhle (Sardis).

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Velma Hartzler celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a host of friends and relatives at the fellowship hall on Mar. 25. May the Lord continue to bless them with many years together.

Two shall be one . . . On Apr. 2 Bro. Rick Dotterer (Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha) and Sis. Dawn Widmer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann) became one on their wedding day. May the Lord bless them as they start their lives together. Visiting ministers for this joyous occasion were Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction). May the Lord bless them for their efforts of love.

Our other visiting minister for this month was Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield). May the Lord add His blessing to that which was spoken.

I failed to mention earlier that Sis. Lydia Hassig is now living in our "Home." May the Lord bless her there.

**Sardis, Ohio . . . Joyce Indermuhle:** Greetings to you, our brethren and our sisters in the Lord. Once again we rejoice that spring is here. How happy we are that the visiting time is here again. Our hearts and arms welcome and thank all who come to worship with us.

We are thankful that the Lord has led Bro. John Figel through another successful surgery. He is looking forward to the doctor's "okay" to go back to work. When we are reminded of someone who has had to slow down because of accident or illness, it should behoove us all to sit back and take each day a little slower. I am reminded of the following lines from a song: "One day at a time sweet Jesus, is all that I'm asking from you. Help me each day; show me the way, while I'm passing through."

Toledo, Ohio . . . Josephine Rehk-precious Word to us.  
 lau: "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isa. 41:13.

Bro. George Laidig is in the hospital and has had recent surgery. It is our hope and prayer that he will have a good recovery.

A girl, Suzanne Elizabeth, has joined the family of Sis. GERALYN and David Beard.

Silverton, Oregon . . . Mildred Dietrich: We were a fortunate congregation and have been richly blessed by the inspired message of Bro. Walt Steffen, Milford, Ind., who shared God's precious Word with us.

"Give faithful servants ever  
 Who have but one endeavor,  
 Thy gospel to proclaim . . ."

After services, fellowship and a potluck supper were enjoyed with the Portland congregation.

On Mar. 26 our Sunday School children presented their Easter program to us by word and song. "Out of the mouth of babes Thou hast perfected praise."

Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy Dietrich happily welcomed 14 month old Aaron into their home as their second foster child. We hope God will give them the wisdom and understanding to bring him up in the fear of the Lord and bless them in their undertaking.

Thursday evening the Portland church joined us for services to hear the inspiring message of Bro. Glen Hackenjos, Altadena, Calif. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us with faithful brothers who are willing to proclaim God's

Zapata, Texas . . . Tillie Kellenberger: He is Risen! With sadness and joy we observed Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin gave exhortation before Holy Communion encouraging us to cleanse and purify our hearts and minds before partaking of it. Holy Communion was served by Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger and Elder Bro. Paul Fehr.

We were happy to have Bro. Harry Sutter and his wife, Florence, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., with us for ten days. Bro. Harry brought the message "clear and plain."

How thankful we can be that the Lord has chosen and provided a minister for us here in Zapata—Bro. Leland Plattner. We all give him our prayerful support.

Elder Bro. John Bahler and Sis. Julia are visiting us from Rockville, Conn. Bro. John spoke of the wickedness of the times we are living in and of the deceiving spirit. We must always be on guard and constantly in prayer.

It is evident that spring is here in all of its beauty and glory. It makes one feel thankful that nature also worships the risen Lord.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis. Elsie, and Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and Sis. Anna have left for their homes.

We want to thank all who have so willingly given of themselves by proclaiming God's Word.

The love in your heart  
 Wasn't put there to stay;  
 Love isn't love  
 'Till it's given away.

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

Spring has come in many ways, but the winds are still cool. Most of the trees and bushes will soon begin to show new life. The snow is all gone, but there are heavy winds at times; and there is very little rainfall.

Miss Della Witschey has been a hospital patient for several weeks, but she is now back in the Nursing Home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, OH, have returned to their home from Bradenton, Florida, where they spent several weeks. Frank Barth of Parkersburg has also returned to his home after spending the winter months in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giles and family of Alfred, N. Y., were Easter guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riggenschach.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Crane of Durham, N. C., spent Easter here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Wade, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Brothers of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, were holiday guests of Minnie Weltz and Mary Ann Brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Riggenschach of Paden City were involved in a car wreck the last of March, a three car affair. His was the middle car, and quite a bit of damage was done to it. No one was injured. The driver of the first car was at fault.

"Uncle Bill" is past 93 years of age and enjoys fairly good health. Mrs. Riggenschach is past 89 years of age.

## SILVER THREADS

### THERE'S A REASON

There's a reason; no matter what we face  
 We can always overcome if we will  
 only ask for Grace.

There's a reason; no sigh, no tear,  
 no pain  
 Is overlooked by God for our  
 prayers are not in vain.

There's a reason; sometimes we  
 don't know why  
 But we are promised all the answers  
 to our questions by and by.

There's a reason for our joy and  
 always for our gladness, too,  
 Though when we're happy we don't  
 question; we don't even seek a  
 clue.

There's a reason for a friendship  
 or a gain;  
 For partings between loved ones;  
 for much sunshine or for rain.

There's a reason for our living  
 here on earth.  
 God breathes the breath of life  
 into each soul that's given  
 birth.

There's a reason; never lose the  
 faith to see  
 That our God up in heaven always  
 cares for you and me.

Sue Beebe

### EASTER THOUGHTS

God sent His Son Jesus down to  
 man,  
 To prepare for him a retirement  
 plan.  
 Looking up to His cross, from down  
 below;  
 From His wounded side the blood  
 did flow.



"It is finished!" He cried—the roll unfurled,  
 Unfolding the plan: It's out of this world!  
 A reborn Christian you must become,  
 If ever you'll see that Heavenly Home!

Bro. Irvin Leman

From Oakville, Iowa . . .

Down in a green and shady bed  
 A modest violet grew,  
 Its stalk was bent; it hung its head  
 As if to hide from view.

And yet it was a lovely flower,  
 Its color bright and fair;  
 It might have graced a rosy bower,  
 Instead of hiding there.

Yet there it was content to bloom,  
 In modest tints arrayed,  
 And there diffused a sweet perfume,  
 Within the silent shade.

Then let me to the valley go,  
 This pretty flower to see,  
 That I may also learn to grow  
 In sweet humility.

Author Unknown

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden . . ." Eccl. 12:5. So, on it goes. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who made it." Eccl. 12:7. God, we know, took man from the dust of the earth and formed a lifeless piece of clay there. But He formed it in perfection. How must God have felt when He stood and beheld His creation before Him, perfect in every way. When we think of the way our bodies are made, how they function, what takes place within our systems to make our body work, it is a masterpiece of creation. Man could never have done such a thing.

Then the Bible tells us that God breathed into the nostrils of that lifeless bit of clay His own breath. And man became a living soul. The soul shall return to God who gave it—your soul and mine, and the soul of everyone who ever lived in any country, of any tribe, kindred, nation, tongue or people.

Everyone who bears the breath of human life shall stand before his Creator on that day and give an account of how he has lived.

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." Eccl. 12:8. What is this life, dear ones? What is it? We struggle; we work; we labor so that we can have the good things of life. We're not here to condemn work or labor. The apostle said that if you don't work, you shouldn't eat. But there is a place and a time for everything. It's a matter of getting our priorities in order and of putting things in their proper perspective.

Jesus didn't say that it was not right to have money. He said "The love of money is the root of all evil." 1 Tim. 6:10. If a man's heart is fixed upon money, he is wrong. The sin is in placing our heart on things of this world. "Where your treasure is," Jesus said, "there will your heart be also." Luke 12:3.

I'm quite sure that on the day of judgment, we're going to wish that our hearts had been in the proper place. We're going to wish that we had done better while we were here on this earth. Have you ever reached a point in your life when you looked back over something that you did and said, "Well, if I had only taken a little more time." "If I had just worked a little harder, put forth a little more effort." "Now, I can't tell how long I worked, but I can certainly see how well I did and it could have been done a little bit better." I'm afraid that on the great day of judgment, that's how we're all going to stand. We're all going to be a little bit lacking.

Recently, the brothers came to Remington and told of their trip to India and Japan. They showed us pictures, and one picture taken in the country of India was a simple balance scale. It had a weight on one end, and on the other end was placed the product that they were seeking to weigh. The brother who was showing the pictures and explaining them said he thought, as he looked at that one of Belshazzar in the days of Daniel, when the hand writing came on the wall. It said, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27.

Dear ones, the scales of God are a balance and they are a perfect balance. What is on the balance side is what is contained within the pages of God's Sacred Word. That's what we're going to be measured against. When we are placed

on the other side, will we balance? Will we have sufficient? I can tell you that I won't have an ounce too much. Nor, dear ones, if we're honest with ourselves, will any of us? "The righteous," it says, "(shall) scarcely be saved." 1 Peter 4:18.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13-14. You can't put it any plainer than that. It doesn't say some things are going to be hidden. It simply says that every work is going to be brought into judgment and God sees every secret thing. Regardless of whether somebody else sees or knows, God knows and He sees.

"A false balance is (an) abomination to the Lord." Prov. 11:1. When we do not follow the Words of the Scripture, when we do not conform to the Word of God, when we do not take advantage of the plan of salvation, we are, in a sense, making a false balance. It is an abomination to God. It certainly leaves us at a point where there is no room for pride, dear ones. When Adam and Eve sinned and clothed themselves with fig leaves, it wasn't good enough for a covering.

Do you remember when Jesus and His disciples came to a fig tree and Jesus cursed it because it didn't have any fruit? The next morning when they walked by, it was withered. Do you remember that story? I thought about it for a lot of years, dear ones, until it dawned on me what it might also mean. The reason that Jesus cursed the fig tree was because the covering of the fig leaves was not enough. Jesus was the perfect covering. An animal had to shed its blood so that the man and woman in the garden of Eden could be clothed. Something living had to give up its life because someone who was guilty needed to be covered. So it was when Jesus came. God made man in His own image, but after the sin of disobedience, the closeness was destroyed and a new and living way was needed. Jesus said, "Many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see." Luke 10:24. He told the people then and

through the Bible He's telling us. He's telling you and me.

In Ecclesiastes the wise preacher wrote wonderful words and we are talking to you about them today. He did not have the advantage that you and I have of living in the day of grace. He did not have our history of Jesus; His life here, the agony, the suffering, and the price that He paid. That preacher did not have the advantage of the day of grace. But he still wrote these wonderful words and told us what is right. The preacher said also, that "... much study is a weariness of the flesh." Eccl. 12:12.

Dear hearts, God made man in His own image. Then He sent His Son, and He made God in man's image. God, Himself, had to come here and be made in the image of man. When that happened, the circle was complete: Man in God's image—God in man's image. The price was about to be paid for salvation, once and for all. It is a beautiful picture. It is the greatest story ever told.

We like love stories, all of us. We like to read wonderful words of love. There is no greater love story to be found than the story of Jesus Christ, coming into this world and shedding His blood for wretched lost sinners.

Those of you who sit under the sound of this gospel from Sunday to Sunday—as you come in and go out and go home again, what are you thinking about?

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32, 33. Now, do we want to be confessed before God who is in heaven? Do we want to be denied? Again there is a choice. That's the story that Jesus told. That's the story the apostles told. That's the message of the generations. The choice is really yours, yours to make, whether you do it or whether you don't.

A story has been told of a woman who came weeping to her pastor and said, "I am afraid that my husband has irredeemably sold himself to the devil." With tears she related the account of how she was brought under conviction years back and he, also. She found grace to repent and became converted.

Her husband, who was a member of the legislature, told her, "Wife, I have a bill that I wish to push through the legislature that would not be the proper thing for a Christian to do. So, I am going to get the bill passed and then I will repent." She said, "From that day forward, the man never said one more word about being reconciled to his God." Let there be no misunderstanding about it, dear ones. He was denying Christ before men. He was not willing to stand up and be counted. The bill that he wanted passed was the most costly thing in his whole lifetime.

Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul." Mark 8:36, 37. Have you ever thought of that? What would it profit us if we owned the world, if we gained it all, and lost our soul in eternity?

We've lived long enough to see the brevity of life, to know its uncertainties and frailties, to see and to understand that we have no continuing city or abiding place here.

We have no reason to boast. We have nothing to be proud of. We have rather to be ashamed that we, who have been given so much, give so little. We who have been blessed with so much, take so much for granted. Those of us to whom the message is retold Sunday after Sunday, deny it again and turn away, and cast it over our shoulder and say, "No, I'll repent another day. It's not the time today."

The story is told, it's just a story but it has a ring of truth in it, that there was a day when Satan's lieutenants were gathered together. They examined themselves and Satan said, "We are not being successful enough in deceiving the children of men. Too many of them are taking advantage of what God has to offer and are not following what we have to offer." They talked among themselves to see what they should do about it. One of them said, "Let us tell the people that God lived at one time. We can explain creation by saying that God made it and that He performed all these things, but let's say that He grew o'd and He died. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to worship Him anymore."

Another one said, "No, let's not do that. Let's not deny the coming

of Jesus. Let's tell them about it, that He came here, that there was such a Man. But let's tell them that He was just a good man, like others. Tell them if they are as others, that's good enough."

But the third one said, "I think I have the best idea of all. Let's tell them that Jesus Christ was sent to this world to save sinners. Let's tell them that unless they repent, they're going to be lost. But let's tell them that tomorrow will be soon enough to do it."

That's what he's telling you. That's what he's telling us today—tomorrow is soon enough. We don't have to do it today. We've got all kinds of good intentions. Tomorrow is the time to do it. You can't repent tomorrow. It's not possible, dear ones. The only time you can repent is today! We can tell you that if tomorrow you are still found among the living, if tomorrow you are in full possession of all your faculties, if tomorrow the door of grace is still standing open, you'll get another chance.

This Sunday, you're getting another chance. You had one last Sunday, and you turned it down. Now, it's being offered to you again. If you wake up tomorrow, you'll have it again. But there's going to come a day when one of those three "ifs", it doesn't make any difference which one, is no longer true. Then it's going to be for YOU, forever too late. Then, what are you going to do? How are you going to stand?

Day follows night, and night follows day,  
And farther and farther I roam.  
What will my answer be? What will I say  
When Jesus beckons me home?

When He calls, are we going to answer? Are we going to be among those who turn their backs on the world? Or are we going to take the pleasures of sin for a season?

Come now, saith the Lord, let us reason.

Come now and His purpose declare.

Is it pleasures of sin for a season. Or the pleasures the glorified share?

Whichever pleasures you want, you can have. Isn't that a liberal

God? Isn't that a God of mercy who gives you the opportunity to have whatever you want? He doesn't force or compel you to do anything. But He clearly sets forth what the consequences are going to be.

During the time of the Civil War, a young man was condemned to death because of treason, because he had betrayed his country. His mother went to the general who was in charge of the affair and she said, "Sir, I beg you to have mercy on my son." He said, "Madam, your son deserves to die." She said, "General, I know that. I ask you for mercy, not for justice."

Today, that's what we want. Let's confess it and be honest about it. We don't want justice, we want mercy.

Today we are able to find it because Jesus is sitting on the mercy seat beside the throne of God, His Father. He is dispensing mercy. But if we wait until the day of judgment, we are going to find nothing but justice.

Now do you want justice or do you want mercy? I'd rather take my chances today with mercy, with mercy that cries, with mercy that pleads for us, with mercy that recognizes and understands.

Remember the five sparrows. The fifth was added without charge but was as valuable as the others. Not one of them falls to the ground without God's knowledge.

Dear ones, let us strive; let us walk a little closer; let us pray a little harder; let us follow a little nearer to the Word of God, to His dictates, and to His commandments. There's something here for all of us, for you and for me alike. We have nothing to be proud of.

Why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

Like a swift fleeting meteor, a fast flying cloud.

A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,

He passes from life to his rest in the grave.

'Tis the wink of an eye; 'Tis the draught of a breath.

From the blossoms of life to the paleness of death.

From the gilded salon, to burial in the shroud.

Oh! Why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

Dear ones, there's no pride in being called before magistrates and rulers. There's no pride in being whipped with a whip that cuts to the bone, leaving gaping wounds and sores. There's no pride in being spat upon. There's no pride when somebody crams a crown of thorns down over the forehead, which pricks and cuts the skin so that the blood drops run down the face and off the cheeks and the chin, perhaps even getting in the eyes.

And then to be taken, mocked, and hung upon a cross. Is there any pride in that? Would you feel proud if it happened to you? Would you feel like you were a big man, somebody who was really doing something, if something like that was done to you? But that is what was done to Jesus, and Jesus permitted it for our salvation.

We spoke this morning about the departure to heaven of the Saviour. Let us talk this afternoon about the re-entry into heaven. A song writer said,

Ring the bells of heaven!  
There is joy today,  
For a soul returning from the wild!

Dear ones, when Jesus came back to heaven, after His labors and toils were over, He had conquered sin and Satan, and death and hell. He had destroyed the power of Satan; He had annihilated the forces of evil; and He rose from the grave triumphant, a victor—The greatest victor that heaven and earth has ever known, or ever shall know! How the bells of heaven must have rung!

How the Father must have rejoiced, and the angels have sung when Jesus came back to heaven after those thirty-three years on this earth, which culminated in His crucifixion and His glorious resurrection!

On that great and notable day of the Lord, when the great books are opened, we will be exposed just as we are, weighed in the balance with every secret thing brought out into judgment. Where will we stand? Will we be separated with the goats upon the left hand or with the sheep upon the right? Where will we stand? Where will you? Where will I?

Dear ones, we spoke of a general

of Civil War times. During that war, which was, perhaps, one of the darkest and most sorrowful occurrences in the history of the United States of America, brother fought against brother and they fought for four bloody wretched years. A woman wrote a hymn called, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
Of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage,  
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
Of His terrible swift sword.  
His truth is marching on.

Are you aware that today it is not the boys in the blue fighting against their brothers in the gray? In the Middle East, the prime minister of Israel just recently beamed an address to the government and people of Egypt, and pointed to their common ancestor, Abraham. The children of Abraham: on one side, those of Isaac; on the other side, those of Ishmael are lined up.

Sooner or later in the Middle East, this thing is going to come to a head. I don't know when; I'm not a prophet. But I know what the Word says about it. That's the place where it all began, and that's the place where it's all going to end. We are seeing it shape up in our generation and in our time.

The Word tells us there will be seven great kingdoms. Six of them, we have seen. The seventh one is yet to come. But as the descendants of Abraham line up for battle, sooner or later, one of the guns that is fired will again produce a shot heard 'round the world, and this time it will bring the ultimate disaster and doom upon the children of men.

There is another verse of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" that says this:

He hath sounded forth the trumpet  
That shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men  
Before the judgment seat;  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him;  
Be jubilant, my feet,

## SERMON BY BRO. GENE I. LEHMAN

For God is marching on.

Readings: Ecclesiastes 12 and Matthew 10:29-42.

Dear hearts, Jesus said in this passage from Matthew that two sparrows are sold for a farthing. In another place, He says that "... five sparrows are sold for two farthings." Luke 12:6. If we analyze that, we find that two sparrows are sold for one farthing, but two farthings purchase five sparrows. In both cases he said that if a single one of them falls to the ground, God in heaven knows it.

When we have five sparrows for two farthings, we've got one that was thrown in "for free". The value of that fifth sparrow, in a material way, is not very much. Yet, it says that not a single one of them shall fall to the ground unknown to God. This should be one of the most encouraging verses which Jesus spoke, dear ones.

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.  
What more could He say, than to you He has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus hath fled:  
"Fear not, I am with thee. Oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, keep thee and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My gracious omnipotent hand!"

So there it is, dear ones, You and I are of more value than many sparrows. What value do we place on sparrows today? Those of you who are farmers regard them as pests. Even around the house, dear ones, we consider them quite pesky. We don't value them very highly at all. But their little chirpings are heard by Almighty God although He made them, perhaps, the least of the birds. Yet, God remembers and knows them all.

How much more shall He love

us, "ye of little faith?" Matt. 6:30. When Jesus said that, as He said it time after time, He was speaking to me. I'm glad it's written there, because I need it. It says, "O ye of little faith". Matt. 6:30.

Remember that He who spoke to the winds of the sea and to the raging waves saying "Peace be still" (Mark 4:39) and brought calm, also said in the next sentence, "How is it that ye have no faith?" Matt. 4:40. So, beloved ones, that's the message that goes out to believers today. As servants of God, we have to speak not only to the friends of the truth who need to come, to taste and to see what we have, but we must also feed the brethren. We must feed the church as Jesus Christ said to Peter, "Lovest thou me? ... feed My lambs ... Lovest thou me? ... Feed my sheep ..." John 21.

So, dear hearts, we stand before you and read, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Eccl. 12:1. Good advice it is. There is no greater choice. Nothing is more important that you will do in your life than making the choice to follow Jesus Christ and to accept Him within your heart. He will accept us if we come with a broken spirit and a contrite heart. His Word tells us so. We repeat it. God will accept you if you come with a broken spirit and a contrite heart. But He will not force it upon you.

Remember that the day will come, it says, "... when the keepers of the house shall tremble." Eccl. 12:3. Solomon is speaking of old age here. A number in our midst have come into this age and can see perhaps the days when, "... the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened." Eccl. 12:3. He speaks of the frailty of man and the futility of life. Though a man would live a thousand years, it is but a day in the sight of the Almighty God.

There will come a day when

time shall be no more. Then, dear ones, how sad, horrible, and wretched it will be for those who have been left behind, for those who will have to suffer condemnation in hell forever.

Scripture tells us of the rich man and Lazarus—how they both died. The rich man, having had plenty, died and went to hell where he was in torment and flames. Lazarus, it says, died and went to the bosom of Abraham where he was comforted.

The rich man could see Lazarus and he saw that he was comforted and he pleaded for something. Think of what that man wanted, the one who had, when he was in this life, servants at his disposal to bring him anything that he wanted or needed. He was accustomed to having only the best and lacking nothing! Not to be hungry! Not to be thirsty!

What did the rich man ask when he saw Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham? He said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:24. That's what he asked. He didn't even ask for a cup of water. He just asked for as much water as would adhere to the tip of the beggar's finger to cool his tongue because he was suffering in the flame. Quite a come down!

There's a lot of difference, dear ones, from the time when they were both alive and Lazarus lay at the gate of that rich man, full of sores which the dogs licked. The situation was completely reversed. Which one would you rather be, dear ones, the rich man or Lazarus? Now they're both gone. One is in hell and one is comforted. You and I are here but we also are going to leave this world some day.

"When they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree

(Continued on page 25)