

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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### EASTER

Elder Bro. Willis R. Ehnle

The Almighty God has creative power. He spoke and matter came into existence. He makes something out of nothing. This cannot be explained in the scientific laboratory, but it is true. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1.

If we go back another step we will raise the question, "Where did God come from? Who created Him?" We have no other answer but that in the beginning He was already there. Man must start somewhere in his thinking, and he cannot go farther back than God. We are told that He always did exist, "... even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalm 90:2.

Evolutionist seldom, if ever, mention God. They begin with mud or something similar, claiming that a single, one-celled animal came out of it and then developed into something of a higher level until all forms of animal life, including hu-

man beings, evolved. Where, along the line, animal life supposedly branched off into vegetation or plant life is not clear to me. For me it has been difficult to nail down just what evolutionists do believe on some of these issues. My point in this instance is that it makes much more sense, in my finite mind, to begin with God who has supreme intelligence and power than to begin with mud. Certainly the scope of our understanding is greatly limited because we are on earth and know very little about the rest of God's creation. We should all recognize that somewhere there are dimensions which are not applicable to our present planet earth.

With this kind of background to activate our faith, let's talk about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In line with thinking of the creative power of God, we find it to be readily acceptable that He can raise the dead, that a mortal

body can be raised immortal, even though that body might have been burned up in a fire. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body..." I Cor. 15:44.

It is clear that the resurrection spoken of in the above verse refers to the body and not to the spirit. Christ's decaying body was not found in the tomb after His resurrection, but it had been changed into a new and glorified body. Therefore, at Easter, we rejoice not only because Christ's resurrection proves that death does not end it all, but because it proves that Christ was indeed the Son of God who died for our sins. Also, according to His Word, we may have the assurance of someday having a new and glorified body similar to His. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2.

### CHRIST'S SUFFERING

IS IT JUST A FACT, OR DO WE APPLY IT TO OUR LIFE?

The Children's Home Staff, Doug, Bruce and Doug

In most of our minds, Christ's crucifixion is just a fact. We believe He suffered because we've read it, but the actual realization of what He went through is diminished because we know Him as the Son of God who could heal all hurt and disease and who overcame every trial and temptation with glorious victory. When, in our minds, we try to picture His death, it is at most just the factual impression of His body hanging on the cross with a small trickle of blood coming

from His hands and feet. In actuality, Christ suffered more, physically, than many of us realize.

His worst moments were those when all of mankind's sins were laid upon Him and He became separated from His Father; but prior to this mental anguish and spiritual separation, the ordeal of His physical suffering was also very torturous. The significance of His suffering is important for us to know.

In Isaiah, we are told that He

gave His back to the smiters. 1 He was scourged, and this was accomplished by using a whip made of bone, metal, and ivory tied into nine strands which not only welled, but also tore the flesh. In the same verse, we read that His hair was plucked from his cheeks (His beard was actually ripped from His face!). We know that a crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Thorns brought back from the Holy Land are much longer than the ones we often visualize

(they are rigid, sharp, and are from two to three inches long). In addition to being placed upon His head, they were driven into His scalp by being beaten with a reed.<sup>2</sup> Surely the blood must have flowed! Along with this, they spit on His face, struck Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him.<sup>3</sup>

We read that at Calvary, not only was He nailed to the cross, but that after dropping the cross into the hole, the weight of His body pulled against the nails. Every bone was moved out of joint.<sup>4</sup> It is also explained that they could see all His bones.<sup>5</sup> Visually, He was "marred more than any man," and physically, His form was distorted "more than the sons of men."<sup>6</sup> His mouth was so dry that His tongue stuck to the roof of His mouth;<sup>7</sup> but He took no drink to sedate His pain<sup>8</sup> because He knew that He had to completely finish paying the price for our sins in order to redeem us.

In all of this, as He was oppressed and afflicted, He opened not His mouth.<sup>9</sup> There was not an unkind thought in His heart. With all the cruelty shown to Him, He never sought revenge. The Bible says, "... there was no deceit found in His mouth."<sup>10</sup> He did not despise "the affliction of the afflicted";<sup>11</sup> thus, He could identify with us in all our afflictions.

Likewise we are to identify with Him in His conflict between good and evil. This is also the same conflict that Paul had in his body and with people by standing for and bearing witness of the Spirit of Christ within him. Paul wrote that we are not to believe, be saved, and then seek a life of ease or live in complacency, but that our spiritual life should have one purpose, 12 with whole-hearted surrender and total service to God. We are to expect that to us "... it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake ..." <sup>13</sup>

1. Isaiah 50:6; 2. Mark 15:17-19;
3. Isaiah 50:6, Matt. 26:67, Mark 14:65;
4. Psalms 22:14; 5. Psalms 22:17; 6. Isaiah 52:14;
7. Psalms 22:15; 8. Mark 15:23;
9. Isaiah 53:7; 10. Isaiah 53:9;
11. Psalms 22:24; 12. Acts 11:23;
13. Philippians 1:29.

Ed. Note: "A Treasury of Praise" will be continued next month. It was erroneously omitted.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

The four Willis children are making a fine adjustment in their new home with Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Aberle as their new parents. They are very active children and are "quite a handful" for Doug and Connie, but they have already settled down and responded very positively to their houseparents' consistent attention and discipline.

All four of the children are very eager to help, whether it be shoveling, planting seeds, or cleaning out the chicken house. They all want to be involed (that's a good sign). Just recently the two boys were helping me lay a walkway in the greenhouse. They were very enthused as they have been about everything since the day they arrived. They enjoy riding bikes. On a couple of occasions, Doug A. and Bruce have taken them on a little neighborhood trip. Our weather is becoming very mild, and with spring coming on, we have already started some seeds indoors and are looking forward to working in the garden.

Schooling is often a problem area in the lives of these children. Because of their struggle in younger years for attention and security, not much importance was attached to learning the A B C's. It is amazing how necessary the security of a parent's love and discipline is for the development of his child's ability to learn. We have been told that new-borns who do not get a mother's affection lose their will to live. Many of today's children's problems stem from inadequate assistance from the parents.

As children of God, we are in a similar situation. We need this same kind of reassurance from our Heavenly Father in order to grow and learn in spirit and truth. We need the security of His love and promises. In fact, last Wednesday night we read in II Peter 1:4 that it is from His given promises that we can be partakers of the divine nature of Christ. Not by our own efforts, but by giving up our own will and completely yielding in faith to God, do we allow Him to form the virtues of Christ within us. It is by believing in His promises that these promises become activated in our life; believing with the confidence that because He promised them, He wants them to be in our life and will perform them if we let Him

(Heb. 3:14).

Because of the need for academic help in the children's lives, we have been working closely with the school system and have had very good cooperation from the teachers and principal of our Leo Elementary School. In a recent meeting at our home, we received the encouraging word that, in light of the progress they witnessed in one of our former children, they believe we are providing the wholesome environment necessary for their proper development. However, we acknowledge that it has been only by God's grace and provision that any of these works have been done.

A few weeks ago the Aberle's took all of their children with them to visit their home in Forrest, IL. The children were very excited about being able to go to tell about it when they came back. One of the teachers remarked that they told her all about the trip in the classroom. These are good reports. Traveling is a worthwhile experience for them that we often take for granted. We thank everyone in Forrest for accepting the children into your homes.

There is a need for alternate houseparents to serve in both homes as required when the houseparents take their days off or are ill. This would be a full-time responsibility. Alternate houseparent applicants between the ages of 25 and 55, with the approval of their local elder, should send their resume and letter requesting an interview to:

David Bertsch  
R. 1, Grabill, IN 46741

or

John Hoerr  
6114 North Evergreen Circle  
Peoria, IL 61614

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As we write this, winter is still making a desperate attempt to prove her superiority; but in a few more weeks, nature's rebirth will become evident. The author, Shelly, said, "O wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

If the quiet time of year has had the effect of lulling us into a bit of mental apathy, let the balmy breezes and the warm sunshine revitalize our thoughts. Christ's directives included: "... take up thy bed and walk ..." (John 5:8), "... Lazarus, come forth! ..." (John 11:41).

(John 11:43), "... go and sin no more . . ." (John 8:11), and "... be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole . . ." (Matt. 9:22), all of which indicate initiative and action. Influence for good in this world is sorely needed. Here is opportunity!

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

When spring temperature does permit, outdoor exercise will be most welcome to our residents. One of the first things which is enjoyed is walks for exercise class. Soon, too, the many bicycles which have been hibernating in the storage shed will be activated. In the meantime, classes indoors will continue. Anyone interested may come to visit and observe the scope of what is being done. Much more could be done. If anyone has free time to spend with the residents, especially in the evenings, it could indeed be time profitably spent. All you need to do to obtain information about this is to contact Vi Funk, our Activity Director and Volunteer Coordinator.

The new conference room and additional office space are nearing completion. This will provide opportunity for sorely-needed expansion of the laundry facilities.

The construction of a bus port at the back of the main building has been begun. This will permit the loading of the buses away from the effects of bad weather, a much-needed improvement.

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

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Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

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Tom Sides was admitted to our Home on December 14, 1978. He was born near Bloomington, IL, to Elonza and Gladys Carpenter Sides. One brother, Sam, and one sister, Connie Clatt, make up the family. Tom's father is deceased. Tom's mother is currently living in Peoria. Applesauce and spaghetti are his favorite foods. Books, balls and music are the favorite pastimes. Birthday time is January 31.

We must live through the dreary  
Winter

If we would value the Spring;  
And the woods must be cold and  
silent

Before the robins sing;  
The flowers must be buried in  
darkness

Before they can bud and bloom,  
And the sweetest, warmest sun-  
shine

Comes after the storm and gloom.

Anonymous (as copied)

THOUGHT GEM: That best portion of a good man's life: His little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.

—William Wordsworth

### ALABAMA, ATHENS

Hazel Vibbert

Greetings, brothers and sisters in the Lord. As it has been a few months since I have written anything for the Silver Lining, I can only say I am sorry. There has been so much sickness in our family. Vickie Vibbert is doing a lot better. She still has to go to Birmingham for x-rays.

We have had many visitors. Elder Bros. David Bertsch, Dale Eisenmann, Wendell Gudeman, and Alfred Bahler were here on March 4.

Bro. Cecil Norman was chosen to be our minister. I know Bro. Lavoyd is glad to have him to help. Bro. Cecil has three children, Greg, Tim, and Donna.

Visitors from Illinois were Marge Aeschliman, Barb Landers, Lavonne Fisher, Joyce Getz, Sandy Leman, Cathy Knapp, Mark Hodel, Gary Leman, Bruce Fisher, Lynn Fisher, and Bro. and Sis. Ira Farney. The Don Schlatter family visited the Alabama churches.

Terry Vibbert is in the U. S. Navy and is stationed in California. Kevin Vibbert is taking National Guard training in Missouri.

We extend our sympathy to the Ervin Kyle family. He passed away Feb. 26. He left behind his wife,

Sis. Hazel, four daughters, Sis. Reba McBay, Mrs. (Sis.) Gene Thomas, Mrs. (Sis.) Floyd Hillard, and Dinta Reese, and one son, Irwin from Oregon.

Mary Perry passed away on the 12th after a long illness. She was 31 years old. Billy, her husband, and two sons, Jeff and Greg, are left behind. Her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Turner, seven brothers, and four sisters also remain. She was a daughter-in-law of Bro. Henry and Sis. Anis Perry.

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

### THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold, But its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold— For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither see nor hear; And in the time of trouble it is powerless to cheer. It has no ears to listen, no heart to understand. It cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand, So when you ask God for a gift, be thankful if He sends Not diamonds, pearls, or riches, but the love of real, true friends.

Helen Steiner Rice

Truly, we've been blessed with many wonderful teachings from God's Word. On Feb. 25, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) and Al Langhofer (Wichita) shared timely messages with us. Other ministering brothers this month were Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor), and Loren Knapp (Tucson). We thank each of them for sharing their time with us.

Bro. George and Sis. Christine Schuster, along with Candy and Penny, welcomed their 32nd foster child into their home. How fortunate these babies are to be loved and cared for by a Christian family.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein were blessed, Feb. 28, with the birth of Angela Jo. Jeff, Scott, Todd, and Wendy also welcome An-Curt and Sis. Jeanette Tonner (Bluffton) and Floran and Mary Ella Klopfenstein (Phoenix).

Our abundance of rain brought beautiful greenery and all colors of flowers. Hummingbirds and robins appear frequently as our days

are warm, in the 70's and 80's.

It's nice to have Sis. Lois Elsasser worship with us again. Bro. Nathan Grimm, who has been wintering here, is also assembling with us after having surgery.

**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Carol MacDonald - Shirley Witzig**

Our congregation has been greatly blessed through the following ministers who have shared God's Word with us: Ezra Feller (Cissna Park), Robert Grim (Goodfield), Sam Anliker (Madison), Tom Leman (Elgin), and Clarence Kochelmuss (Forrest). Surely our prayers were answered as the Lord spoke through each of these brothers!

Unable to assemble with us are Sis. Naomi Schwartz, who had a serious operation, and Sis. Doris Hecker. Our prayers that the Lord will renew their strength are certainly with them.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Matt. 5:14. Although this verse is familiar, as I was recently reading, the Lord really impressed the importance of it upon my heart. I, as a Christian, am compared to a city—actually not I, but Christ who liveth in me! A whole city, and on a hill. That is an enormous amount of light I carry within me.

Yet further in verse 16, Jesus reminds me that it is up to the Christian to let the light shine through to others. That is quite a responsibility when you consider the amount of light—saving light—that we would hide from others by keeping it to ourselves.

We would certainly be selfish and a disappointment to God if we kept this gift of light, meant to be shared with others, to ourselves.

What a bright world this would be if all God's cities shone!

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**  
**Carlton J. Lanz**

There is a general urge today to travel. There are many things that attract. The scenery is beautiful, and the world and creation is full of wonders. This encourages people to be on the move, so to speak. God the Creator made all of this. He made the seasons, spring, summer, autumn, and winter, which are beautiful at their time and are in perfect balance with His plan.

His wisdom and power can be seen and are shown in what many of us have seen in a range of moun-

tain peaks. That, in itself, is a glorious and magnificent sight. Looking up at their summits (one, two, three miles high), a question arises: what use is that mountain range: Their sides are robed (also their summits) with pure white snow and glaciers. No grain of wheat or blade of grass ever grows up there, and no foot treads those heights. Billions of tons of ice and snow are heaped up there; yet there is no waste in those mountains. They are a great use in many ways.

God, who built all things, knew what He was doing by pushing those summits and planting them on their immovable foundations. They are great storehouse of life. All summer long those vast snowdrifts and glaciers spin themselves into little rills which gather into streams and leap over precipices and converge into rushing, roaring cataracts and rivers and flow out over the plains, fields, and orchards in a steady irrigation.

The Psalmist in Ps. 104:10 tells, "HE SENDEST THE SPRINGS INTO THE VALLIES WHICH RUN AMONG THE HILLS." Vast populations benefit from the life of these immaculate reservoirs. Everything in nature is beautiful in its time, and those gigantic ridges, that man may have thought useless, are the shining hills of the glory of God who sends down streams of life upon the earth.

Funeral services for Frederick Spielman, Sr., 71, were held at the church. Survivors are his wife, Flora Spielman, four sons, one daughter, three brothers, and three sisters. Buriel was in Ellington Center Cemetery. He was devoted to his dairy farm in Ellington.

Death came to Sis. Minnie Weltz at a local nursing home. She was 87. Survivors are her husband, Bro. Ernest Welti, two daughters, and two sons. She was in a nursing home for some time. Funeral services were held at the church. Buriel was in Ellington Center Cemetery.

Sis. Rose Schneider is at her daughter's home after surgery at a local hospital. She is 86. Her daughter, Sis. Luwella Hoffman, who is in service at the hospital, is caring for her mother.

Sis. Martha and Bro. Werner Hany were married at a Wednesday evening service. A reception followed at his home, and they are now on a wedding trip. We wish

them well.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**  
**John and Caroline Hejja**

The Bible tells us how Jesus had to suffer to save the sinners and rise for the believers. It is evident that this was part of God's perfect plan; because not only is the story told in the New Testament, but very exact details of this event are foretold in Old Testament Prophecy. Note the following Old and New Testament comparisons. "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver." Zechariah 11:12. "And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver." Matthew 26:15.

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isaiah 53:7. "And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace . . ." Matthew 26:62, 63.

"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting." Isaiah 50:6. "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands," Matthew 26:67.

"They gave me gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." Psalm 69:21. "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink." Matthew 27:34.

"All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him; let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him." Psalm 22:7, 8. "And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." Matthew 27:39, 43.

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" Psalm 22:1. "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi,

Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Mark 15:34.

"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken." Psalm 34:20. "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs." John 19:33.

"... and they look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son..." Zechariah 12:10. "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." John 19:34.

"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." Isaiah 53:9. "When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock..." Matthew 27:57, 59, 60.

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psalm 16:10. "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6.

If we can see that the things spoken of God in the Old Testament are so exactly fulfilled in the New, we can be assured that the prophecies we have today concerning the future will come to pass with as much precision.

Our congregation's prayers are with Sis. Billie Klopfenstein and her family. Sis. Billie underwent surgery and is still in the hospital recovering from the operation.

We have enjoyed many visitors during the winter months. Several church dinners and singings were planned for all who wished to attend.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. Among them were Elder Bro. Joe Braker, Morton, IL; Elder Bro. Orville Ringger, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN; Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; Bro. Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, IN; Bro. Bob Pohl, Burlington, IA; and Bro. Paul Gasser, Akron, OH.

## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

### Elda Martin

Christian greetings have been extended to us from many parts of our nation, because our church has been filled every Sunday with many visitors. In the past five weeks, we have truly been blessed with the good Word brought to us by these visiting ministers: Bros. Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka, IL; Todd Feller, LaCrosse, IN; Paul Gasser, Akron, OH; Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, IN; Ed Aeschliman, Union City, NJ; Kenneth Sauder, Mansfield, OH; Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL; and Elder Orville Ringger, Bluffton, IN.

A precious bundle of joy has been sent from heaven to Sis. Rowena and Bro. Jim Furrer. It was a baby girl, Beth Elaine. The grandparents are Sis. Eilen and Bro. Glenn Furrer and Alice and Robert Sheldon. Also, many prayers have gone out for a precious baby, Courtney Maibach. She has come home from the hospital to be with her parents, Sharon and Alan.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven because a sinner has repented. Becky Sauder, wife of Bill Sauder, has given her heart to the Lord.

## ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

### Dixie Knapp

Through the blessings of gathering in church and sharing God's Word, God has taught us many things just in this last month. One message was on I Corinthians 12. Perhaps one of the most obvious gifts that Paul describes in this chapter that is displayed within the Apostolic Christian Church is the gift of helps—the outward conveyance of the inner presence of love. We all know of the many acts of love that are extended from one to another—the actions that have value far above any verbal philosophies of good intent. Exemplifying how we function as a family, Paul points out that when "... one member suffer(s), all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." (I Cor. 12:26)

Right now we are rejoicing with several of our family. Heather Haerr, daughter of Sis. Jeanie and Bro. Ray Haerr, and Janet Keeley, daughter of Sis. Anne and Bro. Roy Maurer of Forrest, have acknowledged a need in their lives for God's Holy Spirit. They have opened their

hearts to Jesus' knocking. The joy of these parents must be immeasurable. This is the answer to many of these parent's prayers that were whispered as these two souls grew from small infants. It's encouraging to witness, once again, God's answers to prayer.

Bro. Emil Schlipf dedicated his life to God over 50 years ago when he was 23 years old. God blessed him, as He promises to do for His children. Isn't it true that a life in Christ would be worth it all even without the glorious promise of eternal life with Christ someday? Even so, on Feb. 13, one day before Bro. Emil's 80th birthday, he went to dwell in Jesus' presence. Sis. Ella confesses the presence of the Comforter during the difficult time of the loss of her husband.

As God is calling souls to eternity, He in turn continues to breathe the spirit of life into new souls. Sis. Paula and Bro. Charlie Knapp have just been blessed by a new soul given to them to raise in the ways of the Lord. Kendra Jean was born Jan. 27, and her big 5-year-old brother, Matthew, is already helping take care of his new baby sister.

A new family will be created in our area as we were pleased to hear the announcement of Sis. Mary Bucher and Bro. Mark Huber's engagement. Sis. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher from Francesville. Bro. Mark is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber. May they grow together in the love of Christ.

Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum had an interrupted vacation in Phoenix as they found it necessary to return to Illinois. Bro. Alden re-entered the hospital for a few days. We share their happiness as improved health has returned and they can once again visit their friends in Arizona.

It's an awesome and humbling feeling to realize that God alone is the Decider of who will experience His gift of life. We have had life, death, and re-birth within our congregation. And for those of us within whom God has chosen to continue the breath of life for another day, He has a special task for us to achieve for Him. It's exciting to know that Jesus is beside us each step of the way.

## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

### Evelyn Endress

Recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Bro.

Don Wagenbach (Washington), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville). We certainly appreciated their sharing God's Word with us.

We are thankful that Bro. George Kieser and Bro. LeRoy Streitmatter, surgical patients, have been dismissed from the hospital. We are hopeful that they will soon assemble with us.

Marina Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) was hospitalized for a couple of days with a broken arm. Bro. Darel Hofsess and Sis. Violet Elsasser were recent surgical patients. May they have speedy recoveries.

### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN - URBANA

**Charlen Banwart**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31) The betrothal of Sis. Sue Herriott and Bro. Brad Gramm was made known. They plan to be married in Gridley on May 27. May the Lord bless their union.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:58) Ministering brothers who have labored here recently include: Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bob Pflederer (Morton), Ken Schneider (Remington), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville).

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Kathy Schlatter**

Bro. Gottlieb Lehman was hospitalized. He has now gone back to work. We are thankful, but we continue to pray that the Lord will watch over him and his dear wife, Sis. Emily.

Sis. Ida asked me to note the deep appreciation she and the rest of Sis. Olga Laubscher's family felt for all that was done for them during Sis. Olga's illness and in the days after her death.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Sis. Verna Stedman, whose brother, Bro. Sam Clauss, died recently. We have learned that it was in his apartment that the first Sunday services were held in Chicago some fifty years ago. We are humbly grateful for his labor in the

Lord.

"No man ever repented on his deathbed of being a Christian."

Hannah Moore

### SERMON REMEMBRANCES:

When we read a familiar passage, we dare not think we do not need it—we've read and heard it so often before. Do we often not eat the same kinds of food again and again—with relish—and receive nourishment? So will it be (even more so) with the Word.

Are we a thermostat in the world, or a thermometer? Do we reflect every sudden rise or fall in moral, a thermometer register heat gains or losses? Or are we in control, set by the Word of God and His Holy Spirit?

During wartime missions (WWII), a plane was hit. One man, ready to pull his parachute cord, looked over at his buddy, knocked out and wounded. In the few seconds he had before he had to bail out, he called him by name and shook him vigorously; then he jumped. At the end of his jump, he was taken to a concentration camp, wondering where his buddy was, dead or alive? A few weeks later, into that same camp, walked his buddy, alive. After their glorious greetings, his buddy exclaimed, "If you had not shaken me awake, I wouldn't be here today." We have prayers to pray and examples to live, for can we not think of many who are yet still sleeping? Oh, Lord, we need Thy grace and Thy increase.

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Judy Bauer**

**Mary Anderson**

We were pleasantly surprised to find Bro. Robert Beebe, Bremen, with us on Wed. evening, Feb. 21. We share his confession of apathy when all goes well; but how we entreat our Great God in times of sorrow or when cares weigh heavily upon us! May each of us be constantly aware of the price that was paid at the cross and the great sacrifice which was made for our weaknesses.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, was with us the weekend of March 3, when three dear friends gave their testimonies of faith and conversion. Added to the fold of believers were David Bauer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Arcelia) and Barbara and Marilyn Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy). Other ministers visiting us at that time were

Bros. Robert Walder, Congerville; Everett Hari, Bloomington; and Dave Wiegand, Champaign.

Sis. Betty Oberffel (Bro. Matthew) was a recent hospital-surgical patient. We are happy to report that Sis. Betty is now recuperating nicely at home.

The family of Sis. Olga Laubscher wish to extend their sincere gratitude for the many acts of love and kindness shown to them at the time of Sis. Olga's passing.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Gay Knapp**

**Pat Rinkenberger**

All of us have trials. That is one reason we are on the earth. God wants to see if we really love HIM, not just the things that He gives us. Those who experience misfortune, pain, or grief know that we learn the most during these trials of our faith. We are a very rich people to be able to listen to God's Word every Sunday and at mid-week; but do we appreciate it? I'm sure we would if it were taken away from us. Then the other books, magazines, and past-times wouldn't seem nearly so important. We hope that we don't have to lose our privilege of assembling in order to fully appreciate the gift that God has left us in His Word.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Arthur Bahler, Fairbury, and Carl Wyss, Washington. We pray that God will continue to use His servants as microphones of His message.

The engagement of Sis. Karen Schieber (Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma) to Bro. Mark Hangartner (Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma) of Eureka was made known to us. We wish them God's rich blessings during this special time in their lives.

Sis. Kathy Hasty (Bro. Richard) was a surgical patient this month. She wishes to thank those who remembered her with cards, and especially prayers. Sis. Mardell Ott (Bro. Glenn) was also hospitalized. They are both back home, and we hope they will continue to improve in health.

Sis. Erma Miller (Bro. Walt) and her family wish to thank everyone who remembered them in her recent hospitalization and convalescence.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Ruth Ann Getz**

How grateful we are when we can see the fruition of true Godly

repentance. Two souls, who saw the need of a Saviour, brought their testimonies of faith in the shed blood, sweet peace, and love that they now embrace to the congregation on the weekend of March 17 and 18. We were able to witness the baptisms and laying on of the hands of the presbytery of these newly bought souls. Our new brothers in faith are Ben Graf and Mike Warrack. Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) assisted Bro. Nathan Steffen with this work.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Warren Priess, 47, Penfield, PA. He was the son of the late Bro. Henry and Sis. Rose Priess and is survived by his wife, Alice; two daughters, Gale and Kathy; one son, Jeffrey; and six sisters, Mrs. Norman (Sis. Virginia) Schock, Mrs. Oscar (Suzanne) Bjork of Dundee, IL, Charlotte of Chicago, Janet and Dr. Cynthia of Glendale, CA, and Mrs. John (Diane) Mikitson of Senegal, Africa. He spent 24 years in military service, being stationed in Korea, Turkey, Germany, and Viet Nam.

Funeral services were held in Elgin for Bro. Samuel Clauss, 89, who lived in this area prior to moving to LaCrosse, IN. He was born May 30, 1889, in Strawn, IL, and was the son of John and Margaret Meiss Clauss. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Bertha, six sisters, and two brothers. Preceding him in death were his first wife, Mary Schwarzwalder Clauss, in 1963, and two sisters.

Minna Knupper, 95, passed away Mar. 1 in Fair Oaks Nursing Home where she had been a patient for three weeks. She was born Apr. 27, 1883, in Germany and was the daughter of Friedrich and Minna Goldke Giesselman. In 1963, she came to the United States, and in 1969, she moved to Elgin. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Sis. Lucille Knupper (Elgin), and three grandchildren. Lucille wishes to express sincere thanks for all the prayers and gifts of love bestowed on her during her bereavement.

Bro. Dan Koch, Jr., and Sis. Julie Tobler were united in holy matrimony by Dan's father, Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Sr., (Tremont) on Mar. 11. We pray that God will shower His peace and love on this young couple as they walk their pilgrimage together. Among the invited guests were ministering brethren

Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont) and Bro. Steven Rinkenberger (Cissna Park).

Jake Leuthold sustained serious injuries when he fell from a ladder while removing a heavy buildup of ice and snow from the roof of his home. Bro. Ben Knobloch also was hospitalized, and we are thankful that he is able to assemble with us again. Bro. Charles Graf remains hospitalized. May we remember all of these dear souls in our prayers.

God has entrusted the care and keeping of little Erica Janelle to Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach. Erica was born March 7 and is their first child. The grandparents are Henry and Marion Brown and Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach.

Brently Jon was born March 9 to Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach. To welcome him to their family circle are Shaena and Lynwood. Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart (West Bend) and Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach are the grandparents.

We appreciated the many holy teachings brought to us from the Word by Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton) and Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend).

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

On Sunday, March 4, Sis. Pat Stoller and Bro. Marvin Fischer of Roanoke exchanged wedding vows. Bro. Leroy Huber performed the ceremony. We hope God will richly bless them in their life together. Their parents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma Stoller and Sis. Ida Fischer of Roanoke. Bros. Jim Leman and Bill Hodel of Roanoke were with us that day. We thank Bro. Jim for his teachings in the morning and invite them to come again.

Bro. Al Aberle of Tremont, along with his family, spent a Wednesday evening with us. We thank Bro. Al for his labor of love in our behalf.

After being sick for only one day, Sis. Elda Funk of the Home was called out of this life on Feb. 19. Funeral services were held in Gridley, her home congregation. Also, Sis. Hattie Barth passed away on March 9. She, too, was sick only a few days. She had lived in one of the duplex homes. Her husband Bro. August died in December. Her funeral was in Tremont, her home church.

The engagement of Bro. Mark Hangartner and Sis. Karen Schieber of Congerville was announced on Sun., March 11. We are happy for them and wish them God's blessing as they plan for the future. They are planning a June wedding. Their parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma Schieber of Congerville and Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner of Eureka.

We have been fortunate that not many of our folks have been shut-in or hospitalized. Sis. Sharon (Bro. Robert) Stoller had surgery but is getting along all right.

#### ANSWERS

I don't know all the answers.  
Perhaps I'll never see  
The reason you have chosen  
This particular path for me.

So let me walk serenely,  
For some happy day I'll find  
All my questions answered  
If I keep my hand in Thine.

Rhena S. LeFever

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

My precious mother, Sis. Lydia Huber, slept sweetly away to be added to the role of saints in heaven four days before her 83rd birthday, March 3. She was resting and sleeping normally, knowing that my father, Bro. Edward Huber, was beside her. At a slight sound, Dad looked at her; and although she looked so comfortable and peaceful, he said he somehow knew she had gone to be absent from the body, eternally present with our Lord Jesus Christ. It was 61 years ago March 17 that she gave her testimony of faith in Jesus and was baptized. She was a member of the Fairbury church longer than any other member.

Mother and Dad were married almost 62 years ago. Mother's parents, Bro. and Sis. Conrad Fehr, had a son who died in infancy eight years before Mother was born. Mother, not having any brothers or sisters to enjoy being with, loved her family and friends exceedingly. She sacrificed so much for us and was an inspiration to us. Some of her most often spoken words in recent years were, "I love you." She quoted the 23rd Psalm hundreds of times. There are: five of us children, Sis. Katharine Fehr, Melvin Huber, Sis. Velma Jean Ifft, Sis. Virginia Blunier, and myself. Sis. Joyce; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. We are

grateful for the love of friends and relatives during this time, and may God bless each of them for it. This temporal parting with Mother is so sorrowful, even though we know Phil. 1:21 says, "... to die is gain." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint." Ps. 116:15.

Just five days after Mother's funeral, my dear father suffered a stroke, and in falling, dislocated his shoulder. He is in the hospital and is weak, but he knows us, talks to us, and is making improvements.

The engagement of Bro. Randy Steidinger and Sis. Dawn Aberle was announced. Dawn is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Bill Aberle of Forrest.

We enjoyed the messages of visiting ministers Bro. Lenard Meyer of Chicago and Bro. Kenneth Dietz of Bradford.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Lydia Kilgus and Sis. Perceda Metz have moved into Fairview Haven.

Bro. and Sis. George Broquard ask that God will bless everyone for their love expressed in cards, good wishes, gifts, and various remembrances to make their 50th Anniversary a blessed time.

The Sam Walter family wants to express their thanks and gratitude for all the cards and love given to them during the illness and passing away of their loved one. The many kind deeds will always be remembered.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Beverly Eisenmann  
Jan Bachtold

There have been several hospital patients this month. We are happy that Sis. Ida Kaisner is up and going again after a fall on the ice. Our Bros. Alf Kupferschmid and Albert Wenger are again home after short stays in the hospital. Sis. Pauline Wiegand was also a recent patient.

We have certainly missed the loving smile of our Sis. Louise Zimmerman who has been a shut-in over the past few weeks. May she always feel God's nearness and our prayers.

We rejoice to have Bro. Paul and Sis. Edna Wiegand assemble with us once again after a long absence due to serious injury in an auto accident. They can certainly testify of God's healing power.

The Oscar Schneider family is very happy to have Bro. Oscar home again. He has been receiving

therapy in a nursing home in Champaign after suffering a stroke in December. We, too, hope he can continue to recover and soon be among us.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Virginia Blunier and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft in the loss of their mother, Sis. Lydia Huber.

We appreciated the efforts of ministering Bro. Duane Kilgus from Fairbury. We also thank ministering Bros. Uriel Gehring from Burlington, IA, and Merril Laukhuf from Latty, OH.

May God bless our three couples who are making plans to begin their lives together as husband and wife. Sis. Dawn Aberle (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Randy Steidinger (Maurice and Alma) are planning a June 3 wedding. June 9 is the day picked by Jerry Koehl (Bro. Virg and Sis. Gladys) and Tami Wenger (Larry and Barb). Tom Kilgus (John and Barb) and Pam Wenger (Larry and Barb) plan to be married Aug. 25.

Our congregation is encouraged and strengthened by seeing God's power among us as He has called Paul and Loretta Zimmerman to repentance.

Percy Metz is a new resident at Fairview Haven. Her daughter, Sis. Ruth, has cared for her for many years. Even though she will be missed in her home, we are thankful for "The Home" where she can live and be cared for in her sunset years of life.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm

Why is it every springtime seems so new?

We know the crocuses will bloom again

And buttercups beside the pasture fence

Will call to golden tulips in the lane,

And yet when spring comes creeping down the trees,

We are surprised and wonder still at these.

Do we forget when winter days are long,

The marshy places where the lilies lie

Under the ground and quiet banks of snow,

Waiting for spring to call across the sky?

Do we forget because the nights are long,

The thrilling wonder of a robin's song?

Oh, yes, as long as spring comes back to earth

We will rejoice at miracles like these,

That brown wet earth can yield a lily cup

That birds will build their houses in the trees,

And every twig and bush and living thing

Will answer to the throbbing call of spring.

Edna Jaques

"As long as spring comes back to earth, we will rejoice at miracles like these" . . . and so it is with a special thrill that we announce this list of the newborn in our area:

A baby girl, Hope Elizabeth, to Bro. and Sis. George W. and Fern Knapp, Goodfield, on Feb. 20. The grandparents are Sis. Marie Goetzinger, Goodfield, and Mr. and Mrs. George C. Knapp, Congerville.

A baby boy, Chad Michael, to Mark and Virginia Wiegand, Deer Creek, on Feb. 20. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Simon and Mary Wiegand, Deer Creek, and Mr. Vance Moore, Mackinaw.

A baby girl, Amber Renee, to Bro. and Sis. Mike and Kathy Finley, Carlock on Feb. 17. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Bill and Dot Sauder, Roanoke, and Chet and Sis. Ethel Finley, Goodfield.

A baby girl, Peggy Sue, to Bill and Jan Hinrichsen, Goodfield, on Feb. 24. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene Hinrichsen, Congerville, and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Winkler, Varna.

A baby girl, Roxanne Lynn, to Bro. and Sis. Art and Pam Wiegand, Congerville, on Mar. 14. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Willis and Betty Wiegand and Bro. and Sis. Bob and Elna Grimm, all of Congerville.

Bro. Sam Hohulin, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold and Carol, Goodfield, and Sis. Cindy Grusy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grusy, Eureka, were married on Sunday, Mar. 18.

We are most happy to have our Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin back with us after having spent most of the winter in Zapata.

Our hospital patients have been Bros. Harold Plattner and Elmer Bauman, Sis. Clara Zobrist, and Connie Wiegand Zacha.

Ministering brothers who have



visited us this past month have been Don Sauder and Jim Byrd, Roanoke, and Fritz Knapp, Congerville. We thank them for their messages of inspiration.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies . . . (she) worketh willingly with her hands . . . in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed . . . A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31.

These words seem to appropriately describe our departed sister, Elda Funk. We appreciate the memories we can cherish of the exemplary life she led. As we are especially reminded at funerals, we should remember that we too are building memories that will influence others and will live on when we have departed from this life. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "How will my family and friends remember me? Will they remember a giving heart of love or indifferent selfishness? Will they remember kind words or sharp retorts? Will they remember patient forbearance or hasty intolerance? Will they remember a godly life of faith and love or the carnal pursuit of worldly pleasures?"

Sis. Elda Funk, 76, passed away Feb. 19. Surviving are a son, Bro. Virgil of Congerville, and nine grandchildren. Her daughter, Sis. Ursel Funk, preceded her in death.

Sunday, March 11, Bro. Al Hany and Sis. Keri Ringger were united in holy matrimony.

Two other couples are looking forward to taking this "second most important step in life." As we know, the first most important step is to attain salvation through repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Then we can trust in God's wise direction and the prompting of His Holy Spirit as we undertake the second most important step. Since we know God does not make mistakes, we can have confidence that our marriage will last a lifetime and our husband and wife relationship will grow richer and even more wonderful as the years go by, IF God's will was accomplished in the selection of our mate.

Bro. Brad Gramm of Gridley is

engaged to Sis. Sue Harriet of Champaign; and Bro. Dave Fehr is engaged to Sis. Vicki Steffen, both of Gridley.

Bro. Si Hohulin was in the hospital after he fell on the ice in front of his home.

We appreciated the visits of ministering brothers Vernon Leman of Eureka and Tom Leman of Elgin.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Deanna Marti

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10. Bringing ourselves down so we can be lifted up doesn't seem possible to people of the world, but this is the way it must be in our spiritual lives. For if we try to exalt ourselves and stand on our own, we will soon fall. For only when we realize how helpless and unworthy we truly are can God use us in His vineyard. As Jesus, the Son of the Living God, humbled himself by washing his disciples feet, so should we strive to keep a pure and humble spirit. True joy is when we put Jesus first, others second, and ourselves last.

We would like to thank Bro. Fred Knapp, Congerville; Bro. Chuck Hemmer, Peoria; and Bro. Bob Grimm, Goodfield, for coming and blessing us with their presence.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Joann Roecker

The blessing and privilege was ours as Bro. David Wiegand of Champaign-Urbana brought God's Word to us on Sunday, Feb. 18. We sincerely appreciate his coming and sharing. May God richly bless him and his family.

We take this time to extend our deepest sympathy to our ministering Bro. Joe Zimmerman and his entire family on the loss of his father. Our love and prayers will be with this family.

On Feb. 6, a precious bundle of joy was received by Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin. Jonathan Ray was warmly welcomed by Kevin, Kimberly, and Jason. We pray God's richest blessing on this dear family. Jonathan's grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Emanuel Babin and Mrs. Mary Gasper and the late Mr. Ed Gasper.

A baby girl, Amy Marie, has blessed the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam Martin. Two very happy brothers, Jason and Clark, welcomed their new sister home.

Amy's grandparents are Mr. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sevart.

February has brought the announcement of two forthcoming marriages. Bro. and Sis. Jim Wuthrich's daughter, Pamela Sue, and Michael Helinold, the son of Bro. and Sis. Wilbur Heinold of Goodfield, plan an April 21 wedding. Mr. Victor and Sis. Ruth Kaisner announced the coming marriage of their daughter, Linda, to Dennis Kuntz. This couple is planning to marry on April 25. May God bless these young people and their families as they begin their new lives together.

Our sympathy, love, and prayers are with the family of our dear sister, Lydia Ackerman. Sis. Lydia entered into eternal rest on Friday, Mar. 3. Services were held on Mar. 6.

We had our monthly sing on Mar. 11. Two special blessings were enjoyed. Our little ones (pre-school to third grade) sang all their favorite songs for us. Happy little faces, eager to sing, once again reminded us of sweet and innocent joy. As we have been told, "Come as little children." It's so important that we include our children in our activities. Early, we should encourage our children to seek the fellowship and pleasure of being with our brothers and sisters. We offer a special note of thanks to the brothers from Gridley who sang. We appreciated having them and their families with us.

On Mar. 2, Andrew Joseph Witzig came to bless the home of Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy. Little Andrew has a brother Teddy, 6, and a sister Wendy, 3. Bro. and Sis. Sol Rassi and Sis. Aldeine are little Andrew's grandparents. We pray a special blessing on this family, especially at this time. As of this writing, Andrew's grandfather, Bro. Joe Witzig, after a lengthy illness, has gone to be with our Lord.

Bro. Joe Witzig, 62, died on Tuesday, Mar. 13. The entire community of Morton has felt the loss of this dear loved-one. Bro. Joe served the children of Morton for 30 years. Our schools closed, and all bade our dear brother farewell on Friday, Mar. 16. We will surely miss Bro. Joe, and all of our prayers and sympathy go to his family. It was our blessing to have shared this time with him.

We want to welcome to our congregation at this time Bro. and

Sis. Don Feller and their family. They are joining us from Taylor.

We offer our sincere appreciation to Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend, IA, for being here and bringing God's Word.

A thought to share:

God often allows great adversity and trials to come upon us so that not only His presence we may feel, but that the light of His presence and love may shine through our lives.

Looking back, it seems to me  
All the grief which had to be  
Left me when the pain was o'er  
Richer than I'd been before.

Anon.

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin**

We are so thankful for our Sunday School teachers who teach the youth about God's Word. The following have been elected to serve in that capacity. Sisters Judy Hemmer, Bethany Stoller, Doris Meiss, and Mary Rieker, and Bros. Rick Plattner and Mark Meister. We hope that God will bless them and their teachings. Bro. Harry Eisenmann was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Through the miracle of birth, a beautiful baby boy was born Feb. 2 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer. Daniel Irvin is welcomed home by Alan, Craig, and Laurie.

Agnes Siebenthal, George Herncjarr, and his sister, Mrs. Ida Oberlander, were taken from this life to their reward. We extend our sympathy to their families.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. The death angel has come and taken Sis. Iola Feucht to her heavenly home. We are grieved by the loss of our sister, but rejoice in the fact that Sis. Iola has been taken out of her pain and distress. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Walter, and their children, Sharon Hopwood, Bro. Randy, Debra, Becky, and Timothy. A daughter, Diane, preceded Sis. Iola in death.

The Peoria congregation was very fortunate to have only a couple of hospital patients this month: Sis. Connie Triplett and Tom Sauder.

Sis. Eunice Kammerer wishes to extend her sincere and humble thanks to all for their many pray-

ers, gifts, letters, cards, and telephone calls. She especially thanks the elders and ministers for their faithful prayers with and for her during her illness.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Ruth Ricketts**

What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?

We were richly blessed Feb. 18 when Bro. Wallace Ramsier of Mansfield and Bro. Simon Wagenbach of Tremont were our guest ministers. Texts for meditation were Acts 19 and Romans 12. Our image reflects what others see in us, especially our own family and those we work with. We should all be of like mind: patient, loving, and considerate of one another. If it wouldn't be for the High Priest, none of us could make it to heaven.

We had a soul-stirring evening when the Peoria Choir came. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made. How precious it was to hear songs of praise to God, the blending of young and old. We trust all went home feeling that they were richly blessed.

Feb. 25 was another day of blessings. We were bountifully filled in the morning with messages from Bros. Loren Strahm of Gridley, KS, and Elmer Witzig of Gridley, IL. Many were present for afternoon services when Bro. Gary Hoerr and Sis. Cindy Beer were united in the bonds of holy matrimony. Bros. Joe Stoller and Dave Kieser shared in performing this sacred ceremony. May the Lord richly bless this union of hearts and lives.

### RECIPE FOR A HAPPY LIVING

A cup of LOVE

Add a dash of CARE

Add PATIENCE and top off with FAITH

Sprinkle liberally with UNDERSTANDING

SHARE with someone every day all year long.

Author Unknown

March 11, two young ministers, Bros. Jim Rinkenberger and Phil Stettner from Bluffton, IN, occupied the pulpit. They left us with much food for thought through their meditations of Titus 2 and Luke 20. How thankful we are that our young brothers still proclaim the Word the same as it has been proclaimed through the generations. We are always thankful for the true Word of God. If we walk

in His ways, we can all look for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. We are thankful for all those who visited us and pray the Lord will render His blessings to them.

On Valentine's Day, Mark Herrmann and Cathy Arnold announced their engagement. The parents of the couple are Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Herrmann and Ed and Nita Arnold of Edwards, IL. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they plan their future together.

Sis. Martha Stahl has been unable to worship with us the past few weeks as she sustained a badly bruised leg in a fall. We hope to see her with us again real soon.

After a long, cold winter we are anxiously looking forward to spring. It is good to have longer days and see the snow melting. How good it will be to have the birds back singing again and the flowers blooming. Helen Steiner Rice summed it up all very nicely in her following poem:

Who said the "Winter's bleakness"  
would never pass away?  
Who said the fog would never lift  
and let the sunshine through?  
Who said the skies now overcast  
would nevermore be blue?  
Why should we ever entertain  
these thoughts so dark and grim  
And let the brightness of our mind  
grow cynical and dim  
When we know beyond all question  
that winter turns to spring  
And on the notes of sorrow new  
songs are made to sing?  
For no one sheds a teardrop or suffers  
loss in vain,  
For God is always there to turn  
our losses into gain,  
And every burden born today and  
every present sorrow  
Are but God's happy harbingers  
of a joyous, bright tomorrow.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Iola Feucht who was called from this life after much suffering. Services were held in Peoria, and she was laid to rest in our church cemetery. Bro. Walter and Sis. Iola and family lived in Princeville at one time. May the Lord comfort them.

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE****Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel**

We are happy for the five souls who have found peace with God and are awaiting the opportunity to give their testimonies on Mar. 31: Jim Wiegand (Sis. Lena Wiegand), Kevin Fischer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge), Paul Fischer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat), Jim Barth (Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae), and Beth Gerber (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Matilda). We wish them God's love and grace so that they might always be a shining light to others.

Jennifer Kay was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin. The grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Katherine Klopfenstein.

Bro. Marvin Fischer and Sis. Pat Stoller (Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma), Eureka, were united in holy marriage. We welcome Sis. Pat into our congregation. Love divided, multiplies.

Dennis Rocke (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae) and Eva Schick (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schick) Morton were united in holy matrimony. May God bless them as they establish their home.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Art Baurer, Princeville.

"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

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT****Lydia Rassi****Dorothy Waggenbach**

We felt privileged to be visited by Bro. Harvey Grimm, Bern, KS, who shared God's Word and love with us.

Several of our dear ones were hospitalized this month. They were Sis. Mary Jane (Dean) Leuthold, Bro. August Bolliger and Sis. Mary Getz. Sis. Lydia Brunner has an injured arm which is improving very slowly. She has experienced much pain. We are so thankful to God that our dear ones could feel His healing power upon them.

A sweet little daughter, Janet Louise, was born, March 2, to Sis. Kathy and Bro. Nelson Rocke. She is welcomed home by sister Brenda and brother Erik. The grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Waggenbach and Bro. Virgil and Sis.

Pauline Rocke, Eureka.

We express our sympathy to the family of Sis. Hattie Barth. Sis. Hattie entered her eternal rest March 9, at age 84. Her family expresses thanks and appreciation for the love and many acts of kindness bestowed upon them.

The family of Bertha Strunk wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for the many deeds of kindness shown to them during the illness and death of their loved one.

Sis. Julie Tobler (Sis. Madelyn and Merle) and Bro. Dan Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) were united in bonds of holy matrimony on March 11 by Elder Bro. Dan Koch. May the Lord bless and be with them in their new home.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON****Valerie Kipfer**

Many times we have all read this saying: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change: Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." In reading, I came across the balance of what is actually a beautiful prayer:

"Living one day at a time:  
enjoying one moment at a time:  
Accepting hardship as the pathway  
to peace:  
Taking, as He did, this sinful  
world as it is, not as I would have  
it:  
Trusting that He will make all  
things right  
if I surrender to His will.  
That I may be reasonably happy  
in this life and  
supremely happy with Him forever  
in the next. Amen."

Reinold Niebuhr

At this time of year, we find ourselves searching for signs of spring in this beautiful world. The following poem likens God's creation to our spiritual life.

**RESPONSE**

Oh, Creator Who gives to us nature's every hue,  
We would respond with a virtue for each color that we view:  
For unknown heights of blue above,  
Our dedicated, deepest love.  
For evergreens—ever faithful  
For rich earth tones, honest labor, truthful.  
As new fallen snow in light of day,  
May we enlightened purity display.

For springtime's scarlet and autumn's crimson splendor,  
Victory in sacrifice and self denial render.

For golden grains of harvest field,  
As gold is tried so would we yield.  
In a cathedral of trees our spirits raise,

To worship Thee with gratitude and praise.

Elmer Banwart

We welcome Wayne and Marilyn Schellhemmer and their daughter from West Bend into our congregation. Also, John and Brenda Klein and family are assembling with us, and we are thankful for their fellowship.

One Saturday evening, we gathered to see slides on the World Relief works. Many learned very much that evening about what we are really doing in the form of World Relief. It also made us want to try harder to do more for all the people in this world who need so much!

Grant me the gift of laughter,  
Lord  
And the countenance of a smile.  
Let my heart be big and warm  
enough  
To walk an extra mile  
With a lonely friend who is worn  
and tired,  
And perhaps has lost his way;  
And I shall count these gifts worthwhile  
At the closing of the day.  
Grant me the understanding, Lord,  
To keep my soul serene,  
That I may share the strength of it  
When shadows intervene  
In the life of a friend whose courage lags,  
As he walks the daily road  
For I would count it an honor,  
Lord,  
To share another's load.

Velta Myrle Allen

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON****Joni Gerber - Shari Kaehr**

On February 25, Bro. Kris Frauhiger took Sis. Ann Fiechter to be his wedded wife. May they always love, honor, and cherish each other and keep serving their Lord together. We thank Bro. Theo Beer (Ann's grandfather) for sharing a message with us on that blessed day. We also thank ministering Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for serving us. Shelley Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge) and John

Brickley were united in holy wedlock by Elder Bro. Orville Ringger. We wish them much happiness.

Sometimes we wonder why tragedies must happen to our loved ones, but then we realize this is all in God's plan for each of us. Tragedy is not a new thing for Bro. Bill Stoller, and his wife, Sis. Kathy. About a year ago, they learned their daughter Stacy (now five years old) had leukemia. Stacy is doing much better now, but she still has lots of treatments and occasional hospital stays. Bro. Bill, while clearing off neighbors drive-ways of snow, got his arm caught in a snowblower. His hand has been saved, but more surgery is still required. Also hospitalized this month were Bro. Dave Reimchisel, Bro. Ted Kipfer, Bro. Roger Kaehr, Dick Troxel, Bro. David Kipfer, Bro. Joseph Steffen, Bro. Herman Aschliman, Sis. Mary Kipfer, Brett Meyer, five-month-old son of Jerry and Vicki Meyer, Chad Smekens, one-year-old son of Sis. Melissa Smekens, Bro. John Moser, Sis. Katie Gerber, and Bro. Calvin Rauch.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Kari Maller were blessed with their first child, a boy named Jeremiah Lee. The grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Maller and Wallace and Sis. Marilyn Leman.

Believing it to be the Lord's will, the engagement of Sis. Joni Gerber (Bro. Harry and Sis. Ada) and Bro. Dale Schwartz (Bro. Howard and Sis. Beulah) was announced on March 4.

#### INDIANA, BREMEN

**Norma Lehman**

As another season approaches, let us all keep in mind the One who died upon the cross. May we all go on counting our many blessings.

On March 11, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, John Bahler, and Ben Maibach with us. We are grateful to them for all the love they have shown us, giving us courage. They reminded us that "Where there is no battle, there are no victors." Bro. Carl Zeltwanger is now at home after surgery in Indianapolis. Prayers go out for loved ones who must endure afflictions of the body and are able to be with us.

We must all have our quota,  
Our portion and share  
Of "crosses to carry"  
And "burdens to bear."

No one knows God  
Through joy alone;  
It takes pain and suffering  
To make us His own.

Helen Steiner Rice

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Linda Gutwein**

**Sharon Neihouser**

The engagement of Sis. Mary Bucher (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg) to Bro. Mark Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) of Bloomington was announced. We wish them God's richest blessings.

We are happy to report that Bro. Al Getz has returned home from the hospital, and we hope he will soon be able to assemble with us again.

Along with our joy there is also sorrow. Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser and family in the passing of Sally's parents, Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Ida Nuest of LaCrosse. May they find comfort at this time of sorrow.

#### INDIANA, LA CROSSE

**Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuest**

It is with sorrow in our hearts that we report the deaths of three—two brothers and one sister—from our LaCrosse church.

Bro. Samuel Clauss, 89, died at the Parkview Haven Home in Francesville on Mar. 11, 1979. Surviving are: his wife, Sis. Bertha Heiniger Clauss; six sisters, Sis. Anna Stortz, Eureka, IL, Mrs. Lydia Kachelmuss, Elgin, IL, Mrs. Margaret Bakke, Arlington Hts., IL, Mrs. Caroline Collins Phoenix, AZ, Mrs. Nettie Wasner, Remington, IN, and Sis. Verna Steadman, Chicago; and two brothers, Bro. Alva Claus of the Parkview Haven Home and Bro. Silas Clauss of Fairbury, IL. The funeral was held on Tuesday, Mar. 13. There was also a visitation held in Elgin, IL. The funeral was the following day with burial in Elgin on Wednesday, Mar. 14.

Bro. Gilbert Nuest, 71, passed from this life on Mar. 8 at the LaPorte Hospital after a four-year illness. Surviving, besides his wife Sis. Ida, are four children: Bro. Jack Nuest, Bro. Gene Nuest, and Keith Nuest, all of Kouts, and Sis. Sally Neihouser, Francesville. Also serving are his brothers and sisters: Bro. Lester and Henry Kouts, Sis. Pearl Nuest, Sis. Lucille Nuest, Irene Nuest, and Viola DeHaven, all of LaCrosse. Funeral

services were held on Sunday, Mar. 11.

Only six days later on Mar. 14, his beloved wife, Sis. Ida Bucher Nuest, 70, passed away, having finished her earthly work. Survivors include her children mentioned above; three sisters, Sis. Ann Meyer Bluffton, Sis. Luella Jacobs, Sarasota, FL, and Sis. Olive Feller, Cissna Park; and two brothers, Bro. Bert Bucher, LaCrosse, and Orville Bucher, Valparaiso. Services were held on Saturday, Mar. 16.

We give their families our deepest sympathy and pray for grace from our Lord to face the future.

Hospitalized this month: Sis. Melva Bucher, Bro. Lester Nuest, and little Glen Gudeman. Sis. Melva remains hospitalized as of this writing with hopes of getting home very soon.

The Sam Clauss families wish to thank their friends, relatives, and neighbors for their prayers, food, flowers and other kindnesses shown them during the loss of their loved one. They ask God to bless every one.

The family of Gilbert and Ida Nuest also wish to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, and other gifts of kindness and love shown to them during their time of loss and sorrow. They also ask God to bless everyone.

#### INDIANA, LEO

**Mrs. Phil Schlatter**

**Mrs. Al Frautschi**

As high as the highest shining star,  
As deep as the sea of blue,  
As wide as the silent realms of space,

As broad as the heavens too—

So high,

So deep,

So wide

So broad

Is the wonderful Love of God!

The above lines by an unknown author measure in terms of great magnitude; but, mere words can never describe the boundless love which took Him to Calvary where He paid the price that we may have eternal life. How undeserving we are of such magnificent love!

The Leo congregation was blessed by the ministry of Bro. Roy Wieland, Bay City, MI, on Mar. 18.

Raymond and Sis. Hazel Terrill announce the marriage of their daughter, Terry, to Bill Rice, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rice, Ant-

werp, OH, Feb. 16. Best wishes are extended.

The following newcomers brought happiness to three families: Sharon Kay was born Feb. 22 and joined two sisters in the home of Bro. David and Sis. Sharon Pfister. The grandparents are Sis. Mayme Getz and Bro. Levi and Sis. Lillian Pfister.

David Lee, born Mar. 4, is the second son of James and Linda Bradley. The maternal grandparents are Lewis and Sis. Ruth Garman.

Todd Alan, third son of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Christine Klopfenstein, was born Mar. 8. The grandparents are Bro. Irwin and Sis. Leona Leman and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pearl Klopfenstein. Entrusted with little ones, parents are given the responsibility to "train up a child in the way he should go . . ." Prov. 22:6.

Congratulations go to Bro. Lynn Stieglitz, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan, upon the completion of a course in Elevator and Farm Supply Management at Michigan State University.

On March 10, Jeffery Stieglitz, son of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz, and Betty Dix, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Dix of Woodburn, exchanged wedding vows. The marriage and reception were held at the Fellowship Center with many relatives and friends wishing them much happiness.

A thought to leave with you: Every one of us should go from bed to knees every morning, and to knees before climbing between the sheets every night. Prayer should be the key in the morning and the bolt at night. Even more—Paul wrote "Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17.

Pray: God is listening!

### INDIANA, MILFORD

Connie Beer  
Sandy Beer

"Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,  
Members of His Church, your faith renew;  
Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant  
Through the chalice He pours out for you.  
Here your hands in faithfulness uniting  
And the fire of brother-love new lighting,

Let your common prayers rise to His throne.

Thank and praise Him who hath made you one."

Zion's Harp No. 26

Our communion service is planned for Mar. 17. Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) plans to be with us.

Joy was added to the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer with the arrival of a son, Neal Trenton, on Mar. 7. He has a sister Jenny and a brother Barry. The grandparents are Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary-Ann Beer and Carl and Grace Shearer.

Our loved ones, Sis. Marguerite Hoerr (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Wanda Wiesser were hospitalized recently for tests. Sis. Hulda Graff (Bro. Oscar) underwent surgery and is now recovering at home. Chad Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) spent several days at Riley's Children's Hospital undergoing tests and treatment of a bleeding disorder. May they feel his love and blessings through each trial.

His grace is sufficient, Then why need I fear  
Though the testing be hard, And the trial severe?  
He tempers each wind that upon me doth blow,  
And tenderly whispers, "Thy Father doth know."

Avis B. Christiansen

The Elmer Haab family has given us the following, which was written by a brother-in-faith at the passing of the family's dear wife and mother, ten years ago. It is in memory of "Rose."

### ROSE

As lovely as the name she bore,  
As gentle as the dew  
With kindness human hearts adore,  
This was the Rose we knew.

The hall of fame was not her choice,  
Much higher was her goal;  
She heard the tender Shepherd's voice,  
And He redeemed her soul.

Her name is in the Book of Life—  
God wrote it down up there  
And freed her from all toil and strife . . .  
She's resting in His care.

You should not grieve too much,  
Dear ones,  
E'en though you loved her so;

She suffered much till set of sun—  
It was her wish to go.

Her toil is o'er, her race is run  
She'll no more walk this way;  
But if you'll do as she has done,  
You'll meet again some day.

### THE STATELY OAK

Bro. Henry Beer

Speaking of trees, have you noticed the stately old oak standing near the highway on Hickory Lane?

It is a very old oak, yet a beautiful and stately tree, with straight trunk and wide spreading branches, reaching outward and upward, roots strongly anchored to the ground.

This stately oak has stood the wintry winds of many seasons, and again with the return of springtime, its buds have come forth with usual grandeur and beauty. Birds delight to make nests in its branches from whence we can see and hear crows mingled with the sweet melodies of the cardinal and thrush.

The fox squirrel and racoons find it a refuge from the hunter and his dogs. It has provided refreshing shade to the farmer while he has been shocking wheat or hoeing corn. This tree, if able to speak, would speak of numberless children trudging their way to school, the doctor in his horse-drawn buggy, driving hastily to minister aid to a sick patient, likewise the newly married young couples and the hearse bearing a loved one to his burial—these and many other incidents have passed in review before this stately oak. Because of its strength and vigor it may live on for many more years.

Perhaps in this allegory you will perceive what this oak represents. We have in our midst our dear cousin, Jesse Beer, for four score and ten years, an age not granted to many. Possibly the long years are in fulfillment of the promise made to obedient children, that it may be well with them and that they may live long in the land. Though cousin Jesse has risen high in the realm of learning, yet his feet have always been on the ground, rooted in the heritage of honest and hard working parents, whom he followed hard after. Though he has attained earthly wisdom, yet he has always defended his parents and shown a deep respect to them, even in old age.

Earthly wisdom was not the ul-

timate aim in Jesse; he has aspired to the heavenly wisdom by learning to know Him who is the very source of wisdom. In this relationship, he has glorified God in so many ways. Students in school, both the brilliant and slow scholar, were made to feel their potentialities by his kind and tactful encouragement—like the giant oak extending its branches to embrace all in sympathetic understanding.

While many in religious circles are scorning the old and proven pathways, our cousin will contend for the true faith once delivered to the saints.

When the life of this stately tree will come to a close, may it be granted that our aged cousin will be planted in the Heavenly Kingdom to continue his service for his Master, as he has sought to do while on earth.

**INDIANA, PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY  
(Lafayette)**

**Candy Wuethrich**

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." St. Matthew 6:33. May God richly bless Eddie Bahler (Remington) and Annette Mathew (Remington) as they have decided to serve the Lord together. Their engagement was announced on March 11.

We would also like to welcome Bro. Rick Ringger (Gridley), his wife Marla, and his daughter Amy to the Lafayette area. It is a real joy to have them with us.

We have received many blessings at our Purdue services. We appreciate those who came and shared the Word with us: Bro. Merle Bucher and Ed Frank (LaCrosse). Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington).

**INDIANA, REMINGTON  
Libby Bahler**

The Bible was "... given by inspiration of God ..." and is "... able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus ..." II Tim. 3:15, 16. How do we read it? A man by the name of J. C. Ryle in the middle 1800's spoke as follows:

"Read the Bible with child-like faith and humility. Resolve to believe implicitly whatever you find there, however much it may run counter to your own prejudices. Resolve to receive heartily every state-

ment of Truth whether you like it or not. Beware of that habit of mind into which some of its readers fall. They receive some doctrines because they like them; they reject others because they are condemning to themselves or to a friend or relative. At this rate, the Bible is useless. Are we to be judges of what ought to be in the Word? Settle it in your mind that you will receive all and believe all, and that what you cannot understand, you will take on trust. Remember when you pray, you are speaking to God, and God hears you. But, remember, when you read, God is speaking to you, and you are not to 'answer again,' but listen." May God increase our thirst for His Word and our obedience to it.

Our visiting ministers in March were Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor) and Bob Walder (Congerville) and Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Andy Virkler (Bay City). We were very thankful to be able to partake of the Lord's Supper on Mar. 11.

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Bro. Ed Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler) and Sis. Annette Mathew (Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mathew) was announced. Bro. Stan Virkler and Sis. Beth Bahler were united in holy matrimony on March 18. We pray that their lives together might be pleasing unto the Lord, our God.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel are the happy and thankful parents of a son, Timothy Chad.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO  
Susie and Marie Heinold**

How nice it was to welcome Bro. and Sis. Eunice Feller who can attend church again after many shut-in weeks.

We are sorry to know that Bro. John and Sis. Tilie Heinold are selling their home here in Valparaiso and are moving to Parkview Haven in Francesville. Bro. John will be 90 years young in August, and all of us will miss them very much. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Sis. Janet (Daryle) Hari is moved to Willow's Rehabilitation Center, 1000 Elizabeth Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Her condition remains unchanged.

Our thanks to ministering Bros. Walter Steffen and Arnold Gerst, their wives, and companions for their visits this month,

"Keep yourselves in the Love of God, looking for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life." Jude 21. This was a Bible verse that seemed to be the inspiration for a powerful message one Sunday.

**THINK ABOUT THIS**

Love that is hoarded moulds at last

Until we know some day  
The only thing we ever have  
Is what we give away.  
And kindness, that is never used  
But hidden all alone,  
Will slowly harden till it is  
As hard as any stone.  
It is the things we always hold  
That we will lose someday;  
The only things we ever keep  
Are what we give away.

Author Unknown

**IOWA, BURLINGTON  
Mayme Gerst - Judy Gehring**

**HE IS RISEN!**

"HE IS RISEN," the angel told the women at the tomb on that first glad Easter morning. And they went forth to repeat the wonderful words to everyone they met. "CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

Today, we too can know that same joy and wonder if, from the door of our old sins and sorrows, we find Him risen in our hearts.

Esther Baldwin York

As we are nearing Good Friday and Easter, it brings us both joy and sorrow as we think of our dear Lord dying on the cross for us. How can we deny Him when He suffered so much? He even gave His life. He was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. We enjoy the Easter season so much because it has so much meaning.

Our monthly song service was well attended. It is always a joy to join our voices in singing praises to God.

Mindy Taeger had minor surgery but is just fine again, for which we are very thankful.

A number of people were gone part of the winter, but as spring is here, they are coming home, which I believe is really the best part of going away. This has been a long and difficult winter for many, but with the signs of spring

(the birds singing, the trees budding, the early flowers, etc.) we can see a part of God, as only He can bring them back to life. It is certainly a beautiful time of the year.

We are happy to have Bro. Tom Broeg back with us again. He was gone for about two months, helping his brother.

#### IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

Before you receive your copy of this Silver Lining, Easter Sunday will have been a reality. St. Matthew has recorded it like this: In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 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. Matthew 28, 1-6.

Sis. Lena Schupbach's one-hundredth birthday was a pleasant day for all concerned. Many relatives and friends called at her home to extend congratulations. More than a hundred people had the pleasure of talking to Aunt Lena. Her niece, Sis. Ruth Schupbach, called me to say that her aunt wants to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and visits which added to her happiness of the day. Sis. Lena, in her life-time, offered a helping hand to many families during illnesses and other problems.

Bro. Ed Pulfer is back home after a stay at the hospital where surgery was performed. He is convalescing very nicely, for which we are grateful.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Ernest Welti family of Rockville, CT. Bro. Ernest's wife, Sis. Minnie, passed away, recently. One of the daughters is Sis. Evelyn, wife of Paul Pulfer of our congregation.

Mrs. LaVerne Schneider and Sis. Mildred Butikofer represented

our church at the World Relief meeting which was held at West Bend. They found it both interesting and informative. It was a meeting where new ideas could be picked up to use locally.

Quite a number of quilts were tied last week at Sis. Marie Butikofer's home. Sis. Edna Gehring has been very helpful in piecing quilts and laprobes for the World Relief work, and we want to commend her for her faithfulness.

Michael Butikofer, son of the William Butikofer (Bro. William and Sis. Norma), returned home recently after having spent two-and-a-half years in the Army. Most of this time was spent in Germany. He did considerable duty in a hospital and dispensary there. I haven't had a chance to visit with him as yet. I merely caught a glimpse of him in church. I hope to be able to hear him tell of his many interesting experiences during his stay in the service of our country.

The glimpse I enjoyed of Mike gave me the impression that he is a nice lad. I wish, for him, the very best of everything, both physically and spiritually.

After a long winter, we can conclude that such weather with heaps of snow is a good test of one's faith. It may be hard to look over a snowy landscape to see blue skies heralding a new spring, but by looking upward, one can visualize how longer days of sunshine will change our landscape, miraculously. I heard a robin just yesterday, and we are looking forward to seeing a bluebird real soon. Our bluebird house is ready to be fastened to a wooden post. Hopefully, it will again have occupants.

Jesus prayed and Jesus talked about prayer. How necessary it must then be for us to pray. Bring thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of the day and for all the good things you have. You will be surprised at how many there are.

The best cure for worry, depression, and brooding is to go deliberately forth and try to lift, with one's sympathy, the gloom of somebody else. I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.

The universe is centered on neither the earth nor the sun. It

is centered on God. Prayer is self-discipline which comes as a result of discovering God's will and then making the necessary adjustments within one's thoughts, feelings, and acts.

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Connie Gerst

We enjoyed having several visiting ministers in our midst this past month. They were: Bros. Ed Lanz and John Steiner, Oakville; Bill Gudeman, Elgin, IL; Burt Butikofer, Elgin, IA; Francis Rother, Morton; Jim Haer, Peoria; Vernon Leman, Eureka; and Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest. How richly the Lord has blessed us by providing servants to feed the flock.

#### IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

Due to a severe blizzard, we were unable to have church the first Sunday in March. How much we miss our worship service when we cannot attend! We should not take for granted our freedom of religion.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Bro. Ted Gerber, Bro. Ernie Metzger, Sis. Marge Feucht, Anna Knobloch, and Lois Metzger (Jim) who has been transferred to a Minneapolis hospital. Bro. Emil Knobloch is convalescing at home after recent surgery and is grateful for all who remembered him with prayers, cards, and gifts of love.

I like this little poem written by Helen Steiner Rice: Put your dearest wish in God's hands today and discuss it with Him as you faithfully pray, and you can be sure your wish will come true if God feels that your wish will be good for you; for there's no problem too big and no question too small. Just ask God in faith and He'll answer them all—not always at once—so be patient and wait for God never comes too soon or too late. So trust in His Wisdom and believe in His Word; for no prayer's unanswered and no prayer unheard.

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE Phyllis Siegle

Be kind today. Who knows where we will be tomorrow? We can be here one minute, the next in eternity.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Lor-

raine Whipple and family who recently lost her brother, Sam Rauhaus of Peoria. May God, in His infinite love and mercy, provide for them.

Bro. Kenneth Lanz and Sis. Janet Schmidgall were united in holy matrimony on March 4. May they ever feel the presence of the Heavenly Father, and may He richly bless them in this great undertaking.

Thus united and in concord  
Let us walk the path of life;  
Hand in hand, O may love bind us  
For each other's welfare strive.

UNITY—Zion's Harp

Parents of the couple are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marion Schmidgall.

Diane Eberhardt, daughter of Bro. Joseph, Jr., and Sis. Ruby gave her testimony and was then taken into the fold on March 11. We sincerely welcome her. May our dear Lord and Saviour bless her further in this new pathway of life.

The light of faith shines brightest when the way is darkest. If we will just remember these words, surely they will be of help when dreary days, full of sorrow and tribulation, overtake us.

Before the dawn of Easter, There  
came Gethsemane . . .  
Before the resurrection, There  
were hours of agony . . .  
For there can be no crown of  
stars, Without a cross to bear,  
And there is no salvation, Without  
faith and love and prayer,  
And when we take our needs to  
God, Let us pray as did His  
Son

That dark night in Gethsemane—  
Thy will, not mine, be done.

Author Unknown

St. Luke 24. ". . . Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things . . . And it came to pass, while he blessed them he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."

How thankful we should be for

our dear Lord and Saviour's dying on the cross to save us all from our sins. How heavy weighted we sometimes feel from our burdens, but can we imagine the heavy weight of all the world's sins as they bore down on the shoulders of Jesus?

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Mary Jane Knapp**  
**Ginny Wuthrich**

Once again, after what seems to have been an especially long hard winter, we can see signs of spring being "just around the corner." How we welcome the sun's warming rays which are needed to melt the huge piles of snow so that the dormant grass and plants can again come to life.

In the past month, we were blessed with a visit from Elder Bro. Ed Lanz. He again gave of himself to God's service by bringing the conclusions of the memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference to us. May God richly bless him for his labors, as each of us received many blessings from that day.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Mrs. Raymond Anliker**  
**Becky Banwart**

A World Relief meeting was held at our Fellowship Center on Saturday, Mar. 3. Churches from Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, and Iowa were represented. Along with many visitors, the following ministers planned to assemble with us on Sunday: Elder Bro. Paul Butikkofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL.), and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN.). It started snowing and blowing on Saturday afternoon, and by Saturday night a blizzard had set in. Sunday morning the roads were blocked, and the blizzard kept raging, so we couldn't get to church. We are a privileged people to have the Holy Bible in our homes, and we are thankful that we had lights and heat and could read His Word in comfort.

Little Douglas Schnieder, son of Louis and Joni, was a hospital patient for several days. We are thankful when God restores health to the afflicted.

God has blessed two couples with babies. First-time parents are Larry and Theresa Bruellman. Their little daughter, Lyndi Rose, arrived

Feb. 24. The grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman. A new son joined the family of Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger. He was born Feb. 25 and has been named Clinton Adam. The grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Edith Stoller of Latty and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger.

James and Becky Banwart have announced the engagement of their daughter, Julie Rae, to Bruce Rongved, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rongved of Bode, IA. We wish them God's nearness.

Roger and Rhonda Reker have found peace with God and man. May this priceless gift that God has shared with them be sought by many restless souls. If ye ask, ye shall find.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Sally Beutel**

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

It gives us great joy to write that the Lord has blessed our congregation with the birth of a baby girl, first-born child of Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie (Huber) Inoue, on Mar. 3. The grandparents are Sis. Tamino Inoue and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber (Francesville). When we see these little children, we see our future church and the carrying on of our faith and hope; so may God bless these new parents and give them the needed grace to raise her in the training and instruction of the Lord.

On March 10, Sis. Sally Gramm welcomed her sister and sister's husband to Japan, Sis. Holly and Bro. Steve Stahl. It was a pleasure to have them gather with us at Shioda church yesterday as we shared the Word together. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5: 22, 23. We could definitely see these fruits of the Spirit in our brother and sister from Bloomington and appreciate their coming to Japan to visit us. We pray that they will have an enjoyable two weeks here. We also look forward to more guests at the end of the month. We extend an invitation to all our dear brethren and friends to worship with us. There was a special joy given to us when,



for the first time when guests came here, we could sing together out of the well-known **Zion's Harp** hymnal. A group of Japanese brothers and sisters are in the process of translating these hymns into the Japanese language so that we can use them in church. We pray that God will bless their efforts as we certainly do receive a blessing from singing these hymns that were written for us by our forefathers.

It is written in Luke 18:1: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint . . ." One other teaching that we received was that as we certainly would "faint" and die if we did not breathe or take in air continually, so it is in our spiritual life— if we do not continue to pray, certainly we shall faint and die, spiritually. So may we do, without hesitation, what the Lord Jesus instructed us to do in Luke 11:9-10: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

We rejoice in the passing of winter months and the signs of spring being seen here and there. Such a magnificent Creator we have. ". . . and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:10.

**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
**Yoshio Yamazaki**  
**Marie Inoue**

Spring has come here in Japan and number of the boys and girls are going to graduate today. However, we shouldn't forget about a quite few young people who commit suicide most every year. Two motives of committing suicide are family problems and missed entrance school examination. It is not such a simple problem, don't you think? This is our serious responsibility today. I believe it is not enough to love our schools, families, and society, especially. We have to tell them truth, patience, and love much as we could.

Romans 5:3-5, ". . . tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God, is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy

Ghost which is given unto us." I especially teach our Sunday School children we have to love each other and help each other wherever we are in school, home and everywhere as much as possible. I believe that the Lord watches and sees what we do as best we can and accepts our honest love and prayer, especially the parents and children's matter. Most of our members enjoyed a blessed day at Shioda church on a Monday recently where we heard the report of our Brotherhood Conference. We were reminded of the things that will help us continue in our walk of faith.

**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Esther and Stella Moser**

**DEATH AT CALVARY**

Without friend, His burden heavy,  
He trod the uphill journey;  
Mocking laughter, taunting voices,  
His life on earth nearly done.  
Tears of sorrow for lost souls  
He had labored so to save.

His regal brow, so soon to wear  
The cruel crown of thorns.  
His eyes so gentle, loving,  
He reached the Hill of Crucifixion,  
Nailed to the cross, His robes rent,  
To be divided among His tormentors.

Storm clouds gathered,  
The earth trembled,  
Yet Christ had time  
To forgive the thief.  
Christ's anguished cry:  
"My father, not my will but  
Thine."  
He dropped His head—and died.  
F. V. Shirley

We have two wee joy bundles to report this month, first child for each couple.

Aaron Micah was born March 2 to Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Roke. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Florence welcome their first grandson. Aaron is also the first grandson for Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer. Joshua Keith arrived March 10 to make his home with Keith and Debbie Meyer. Sis. Pearl Meyer is the maternal grandmother.

Our guest minister was Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS).

Daniel Esslinger was a medical hospital patient (Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene).

Bro. Alpha Strahm, Sr., was hospitalized for tests and treatment. Bro. Harlan Stoller had his right arm badly mangled in a feed grinder. After extensive surgery and skin grafting, hopefully, his arm can be saved. It will be a slow and painful process, at best. May the Lord extend His healing hand.

Sis. Marie Frieden Strahm, 83, passed away Feb. 16 at the A.C. Home where she was a resident for the past two years. Survivors include her husband, Bro. John Strahm, one son, Oscar, two daughters, Sis. Pearl Stoller (Harlan), and Sis. Mavis Meyer (Louis). Marie was a quiet, cheerful sister with a friendly smile for everyone she met. Bros. Alpha Strahm, Jr., and John Lehman conducted services on February 25.

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Jan Kraft**

**REDEMPTION'S PRICE**

The sinless Lamb of God,  
Jesus of Galilee,  
Was called a transgressor  
And died on Calvary.

He suffered for the sinner  
Almost beyond belief.  
And we helped nail Him there,  
To cause Him all His grief.

To atone for our mistakes  
And His great pardon win,  
We must crucify the flesh  
And die unto all sin.

It was His great desire  
To share the cup and bread  
With His beloved disciples,  
Before dying in our stead.

With anguish in the garden  
Of dark Gethsemane  
He prayed to God, remove this cup  
Which weights so heavily.

While praying in submission,  
"Not my will but Thine"  
An angel come to strengthen Him  
At this most sorrowed time.

The Lord in all His grief  
Was forsaken of His own.  
When told to watch, they only  
slept.  
While He prayed all alone.

They led Him to the Judgment  
Hall

Crying, "Crucify Him for His Crime."

In innocence He suffered all  
To redeem your sins and mine.

Compelled to bear the cross  
Was Simon of Cyrene,  
With many following after,  
Jesus the Nazarene.

They nailed Him to the cross  
And still He was so true.  
And prayed, "Forgive them,  
Father,  
They know not what they do."  
Henry Kipfer

Jesus did arise and ascend into  
Heaven to sit on God's right hand.  
May we live to meet Him someday  
in that home on high.

Sis. Elsie Sinn was hospitalized  
this month and is again at home.  
Our prayers are with her.

We want to thank Elder Bro.  
Gene Marti and his family, Spring-  
field, MO, for sharing a Sunday  
this month with us.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

We give many thanks to our  
visiting ministers for their efforts  
in sharing God's Word—thanks to  
Bro. Harold Kraft, Fort Scott; Bro.  
Sam Huber, Sabetha; and Bro.  
Max Reimschiel, Wichita.

We extend our sympathy to Bro.  
Scott and Sis. Kathy Strahm in the  
loss of their infant daughter, Me-  
lissa Jo. Little Melissa was born  
healthy and vibrant, but several  
hours after birth she was sudden-  
ly taken from life. Flourishing  
youth! God required an additional,  
beautiful flower for his heavenly  
bouquet.

We are grateful to have our two  
dear sisters-in-faith, Leona Kraft  
and Carrie Lehman, back in our  
midst again after so many months  
spent away during our hazardous  
winter months. Warm weather,  
birds singing, and children shout-  
ing and playing are all certainly  
welcoming signs that show that a  
new season is nearing. How per-  
fect God's plan is! We are allowed  
the privilege of experiencing a  
change in the environment from  
time to time.

What meaning does "Easter"  
have for you?

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,  
this great miracle behold; see the  
King of highest merit on the cross,

so bare and cold! Out of heaven  
God has given His own Son—in  
love untold.

In humility, dear Saviour, thou  
for me, I know, has died; though  
I was thy foe, Redeemer, Thou for  
me wast crucified. Silence keep I,  
humbly weep I! Thus through Thee  
I'm justified! (Zion's Harp—"Gol-  
gotha")

#### KANSAS - MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

Be filled with the Spirit . . .  
singing and making melody in your  
heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18-19

In February we elected a board  
of trustees, a planning commit-  
tee, two Sunday School teachers,  
and two song leaders. May we  
each be willing to do our part. As  
a cross-stitch sampler I admire  
says, "Ask for God's blessings on  
your work, but don't ask Him to  
do it."

We certainly appreciated the  
fact that Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott;  
John Lehman, Bern; Ben Wysong,  
Sabetha; and Gene Marti, Spring-  
field, came to Kansas City to lead  
church services with us. We thank  
the Lord for providing brothers  
who are willing to make the drive  
here.

Church services are held the  
first and third Sundays of each  
month at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.  
in the Capitol Federal Savings  
Building, 75th and Stateline Road,  
Shawnee Mission, KS.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Judy Bahr

JOY

There's no joy on earth  
Quite so precious to me,  
And my heart has no greater re-  
ward,

Than the wonderful joy  
That comes into my heart  
When I go to the house of the Lord.  
Catherine Plumb

We wish to thank the minister-  
ing brethren who came to be with  
us this month. They were: Bros.  
Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, MI, Les-  
ter Hartter, Bern, KS, Al Lang-  
hofer, Wichita, KS, and Sam Hu-  
ber, Sabetha, KS. May God richly

bless them for sharing God's most  
precious word with us.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.  
Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.  
The purple headed mountains,  
The river flowing by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
which brighten up the sky.  
He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

We have enjoyed some extremely  
beautiful weather lately, and I  
couldn't help but think of the  
words to Hymns of Zion No. 207  
as I've listened to the birds sing  
their jubilant song, watched the  
flowers open to the warmth of the  
sunshine, and marveled at the  
lush green wheat as it sprang  
forth after the removal of its cov-  
ering of winter snow. The part  
that truly thrills me the most is  
that the Lord God did make all  
of these beautiful things. Man  
builds and creates, but compared  
to the glories of God's creation, his  
work is nothing. God's creation  
costs us nothing to enjoy, unlike  
the entertainment that the world  
has to offer. His beautiful creation  
is free, just like His plan of salva-  
tion for a dying world. All we  
need to do is believe, accept, and  
thankfully enjoy His unending  
blessings. Oh, how precious is this  
priceless gift we've been given.

We are so happy that Sis. Esther  
Miller is now home from the hospi-  
tal and hope that she will soon  
be in our midst again.

We would like to extend our  
deepest sympathy to Vanda and  
Junior Domnick and relatives at  
the sudden passing of her brother,  
Dwane Garner, Kiowa. May the  
Lord be an ever-present comfort  
to them in their grief.

We would also like to extend our  
sympathy to the family of Marie  
Diel who fell asleep in the arms  
of her Savior after many years of  
being confined to her bed. How  
thankful we are that her days of

suffering are at an end, and only peace and joy await her in her new home with her Lord. Ministering Bros. Raymond Roth and Ronald Allenbach officiated at services held here.

We enjoyed the privilege, this month, of having Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin, Goodfield, join us Sunday, Mar. 11. He lent himself and shared two blessed messages with us from God's Word. How thankful we are that God has ordained dear brethren to minister His truth, for how else would we know it?

Danny Frieden, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Mildred Frieden, was joined in marriage to Connie Cutright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Helms, Anthony. It is our fervent prayer that God will be the center of the new life they're building together.

For the past few months, Sis. Ruth Yackley has been in our midst as she has been staying with her mother, Sis. Lydia Farney. She has been such a joy to all of us, and when we learned that she will be leaving soon for an indefinite time, we were truly sorry. But we pray that God will be with dear Sis. Ruth wherever she goes and in all decisions the future holds for her.

**KANSAS, LAMONT**  
Susan Emch

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.  
Zion's Harp

After having a very severe winter, we look forward to spring and warmer weather when the earth will again bring forth her fruit.

As the blessed Easter season draws near, we take time to meditate and pray that we will be worthy of the great price that was paid for our salvation and redemption on that old rugged cross. The grave could not contain Him, and He arose a victor over death and grave.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Susan Emch (Bro. Bill) who was in for tests and Sis. Emma Wernli who has suffered severe back pains from a slipped disc. We wish them God's grace and nearness to sustain them in their every need.

**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
Mrs. Joe Steiner

CHRIST AROSE

The grave of Christ, the risen Lord,  
Is vacant where He lay;  
The Son is victor over death;  
Who-e'er believes is saved.

The wisdom of the scribes was vain,  
And though they watched with care,  
And sealed the stone before His tomb,  
In vain their efforts were.

Their cunning arts and wisdom brought.  
To them disgrace and shame  
For God's own wisdom was beyond,  
Their thoughts and earthly fame.

The way of truth which God Revealed  
Was hidden from their sight.  
For after death the living soul  
Shall rise to life and light.

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.  
Our ransom now is paid.  
The Son is victor over death,  
Who-e'er believes is saved.  
257—Hymns of Zion

We thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, for his recent visit, and for bringing us the Word of Life. It is always a pleasure to have Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene in our midst.

Bro. Otto Rauhaus, 89, passed away on Feb. 24 at the Sabetha Community Hospital where he had been a patient for two days. He was a resident of the A.C. Home in Sabetha. He is survived by one sister and one brother, Sis. Bertha Eisenman, Burlington, IA, and Bro. George Rauhaus, Peoria. Services were held on Feb. 26 by Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Ben Wysong.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Dawn Wieland, Bay City, and Bro. Phil Bahr, Detroit, son of Sis. Eloise and Bro. Willard Bahr of Sabetha. We wish them God's blessings.

**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
Judy Langhofer

The winter snow is all melted in Kansas, and signs of spring are

everywhere. We saw our first crocus about two weeks ago. Lawns are being cleaned and gardens are being planted. The earth is experiencing the resurrection of plant life, an evidence of what God has done. Romans I tells us that no man is without excuse for unbelief because God is ever present in creation. The heathen feared because they experienced the effects of the elements and their awesome forces. They attempted to pacify their gods by worshipping the creation instead of the creator. Creation is wonderful and inspiring, but I like to remember the words of the Apostles when they said, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" (Math. 8:27)

Kathleen Marie was welcomed into the Glen Funk family on March 3. She was welcomed by two brothers, Patrick and Derrick, and one sister, Glenna. Glen's mother (Sis. Violet Funk, Morton) was here for a few days with them.

Our visiting minister for the month was Bro. Roy Wernli, Lamont, KS.

Bro. George Lambert underwent surgery this week and is in St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, KS. Bro. Brent Robertson was taken by ambulance to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis where he will be for an indefinite period of time.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
Cathy Knobloch

Recently, Sis. Barbara Huber was visiting our elderly neighbors. She returned home and related the following incidents to me. As Barb visited the Gray's, she discovered that elderly Mr. Gray was ill with the flu. Poor Mr. Gray lay in his bed complaining about how terrible he felt. "Life gets so depressing, I'd just like to end it all," he stated. "Sometimes it is so burdensome."

Next, Sis. Barb walked next door and visited Mr. and Mrs. Clement. She had a good time of fellowship with Mr. Clement as they shared the goodness and joy of living.

Is Mr. Clement simply a happy man who has had an easy life? No, not really. You see, Mr. Clement is on his death-bed with cancer. What makes the difference between the two mens' attitudes? Mr. Gray can see only a dying,

crumbling world. Mr. Clement's eyes are focused on a victorious risen Lord. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice." Phil. 4:4. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Marvin Schmitgal for ministering to us. The support of visiting brethren is deeply appreciated.

In a world with so much confusion, how precious it is to see the innocence and simplicity of a new-born child. March 11, Michael John was born to Linda and Mike Johnson. Also, Tom and Carolyn (Sparks) Davidson welcomed Thomas Jr., to their family. What a responsibility parents have to physically and spiritually nurture their children.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Knochel

We have happy parents welcoming a little child into their hearts and home. Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer now have a third daughter, Janelle Rebecca, born Feb. 15. The grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer. Neil and Ginger Mosher have a baby girl, Nicole Marie, born Mar. 5. Nicole joins a little brother. The grandparents are Winsor and Sis. Loretta Mosher.

Ministering Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, brought the precious Word of Life to us on a Sunday. Their son, Bro. Lynn, just finished his schooling at MSU. He assembled with us periodically.

The Lord has enlightened and guided, through faith, two hearts. The engagement of Bro. Phillip Bahr (Detroit) and Sis. Dawn Wieland was announced. May God's blessings be with them.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psalms 100:2.

We thank the Peoria choir for visiting us on March 10 and 11. It was a special weekend of fellowship and left a song in the hearts of all who enjoyed a very blessed two days.

We are grateful for recent visits

by Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford). May the Lord bless these ministering brothers and their families.

We were happy to hear the announcement that Bro. Phil Bahr and Sis. Dawn Wieland (Bay City) plan a marriage in the Lord. May His love be abundant in the coming days.

A boy, Peter Clayton, was born to Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk. Nathan and Rachael welcome their baby brother. The grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley (Eureka) and Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora Schrenk (Phoenix).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Carlton Harbourne who passed away on March 4 at the age of 80. Carl was a brother of Sis. Lucile Maibach and leaves one daughter, Carol Matrilie, and one son, Robert. Carl spent his years in both Utica, MI, and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Bro. Floyd Wieland held the funeral services in Utica.

With the approach of Easter, I share with you this verse I read on a card:

Let me give of myself to you,  
dear Lord,  
Let me give to you my lasting  
faith and trust;  
Let me give to you my hand to do  
your will, dear Lord,  
My mind, to be completely fair  
and just.  
Let me give to you my very  
heart and soul, dear Lord;  
Forever kind and loving let me  
be—  
Let me give of myself to you, dear  
Lord,  
As you gave yourself so long ago  
for me.

Author Unknown

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

O, in misery I would have perished,  
Crushed by great affliction and  
distress,  
Had I not by Thee been found  
and cherished,  
Had I not by Thy grace been re-  
freshed.

Long a downcast spirit did depress  
me;  
Now Thou cheerest both my heart  
and mind;

Only peace and happiness possess  
me  
Since my blessed lot in Thee I  
find.

Zion's Harp

We enjoyed a blessed weekend Feb. 24 and 25 when Christine Schmidgall (Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie) gave her testimony and was baptized. We happily embrace her as our dear sister in Christ. Elder Bro. Lester Hartter from Bern, KS, assisted Elder Bro. Harold Messner in this important task. Also, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall of Morris and Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop shared God's Word with us.

The same evening, Elder Bros. Harold Messner and Lester Hartter shared the reading of the memorandum. We are very thankful that we have our elders who are concerned about their flocks and give them kind admonitions. We give a special thanks to Elder Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella for coming from Bern to spend the weekend with us.

We rejoice that Delores Sauder has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's grace, peace, and love.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

The grave is empty,  
The stone's rolled away,  
And Christ is alive in my heart,  
And death which is conquered  
in me hath no part,  
For Christ is alive in my heart.

Author Unknown

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." (I Cor. 15:19, 20)

As the Easter season nears and we rejoice over Christ's resurrection, we are also thankful to see His work begun in Wayne Koehl, his wife, Mary, and James Koehl. Wayne and James are the children of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:57)

Four families have been blessed with baby boys. Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl welcome little Matthew Joe into their home. Barry Allan is the first bundle of joy for

his parents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Lili Koehl. Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Nuest are thankful for their second son, Chad Steven. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Deb Joos welcome their newest addition, Jonathan Mark.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Della Luthi and Gary Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl).

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one soul, that repenteth. Luke 15:7. A more abundant life is promised to two more dear souls who have peace with God and man: Patti Dapper, whose parents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marcelle (her grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Julie Dapper, reside in the Eureka Home); and Dean Messner, son of Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva. A brother prayed, saying, "It was not long ago that we mourned and wept together, and now we rejoice together with these loved ones."

Winter has dealt another snowy blast to this area, closing the roads. There was no church service the first Sunday of March. Spring is close at hand, and our thoughts arise heavenward, knowing the Easter season is near. This is the time when God gave his only begotten son on the cross for remission of man's sins.

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for every one,  
And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear,  
Till death shall set me free;  
And then go home my cross to wear,  
For there's a crown for me.

Upon the crystal pavement,  
Down at Jesus' pierced feet,  
With joy I'll cast my golden crown,  
And His dear name repeat.

O precious cross! O glorious crown!  
O resurrection day!  
Ye angels, from the stars come down,  
And bear my soul away.  
Gospel Hymns, No. 112

Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner observed their 25th anniversary

with an open house, hosted by their five children.

The flu bug has hit our congregation, causing many to be seriously ill. Sis. Esther Messner (George) was hospitalized and has returned to her home. Bro. Leo Messner is hospitalized with a cracked femur bone. He fell from a snowmobile while being rescued from their snowbound farm place. May God be with him and Sis. Georgia during his lengthy recovery.

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

(See Kansas, Kansas City)

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Braker - Sandra Marti

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:11

Once again we are reminded of God's beautiful creation as spring arrives. As warm weather returns, we are thankful that Sis. Rose Widmer is able to assemble with us.

We have had several hospital patients this past month. Sis. Lydia Rentsch and Connie Marti are now home and doing well. Bro. Fred Braker, Sis. Caroline Banwart, and Walter Cordill are hospitalized at this time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of them.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

The best exercise for the heart is to lean down and pick someone up.

Guidepost

February brought much illness to our community. Hospital patients were: Sis. Charlene (Bro. Dick) Sutter; Sis. Rose Hoerr; Sis. Betty (Bro. George) Hoerr; and Bro. Dick Sutter. Doug Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie) was treated for a broken arm. All are improving and are home again, for which we are grateful. "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad." Proverbs 12:25.

Our local friends and brethren cleaned and sacked grain to contribute to the World Relief project. This will be added to five other

trailer loads of grain from Central Illinois and will be trucked to New Orleans, then sent by boat to Honduras. A close fellowship was enjoyed in doing this labour of love to help those less fortunate than most of us. "Many hands make the task lighter."

Bro. Russell Wuthrich and his wife, Sis. Caroline, Pulaski, spent Mar. 4 with us. We thank God for sending His servant to minister to us. We received a real blessing. The responsibilities of our ministers are great, and we so often take our ministers for granted. Even though the words may be few, we can show, with loving deeds and actions, our love and concern for them.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity". Philippians 6:24.

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

(and Philadelphia, Pa.)

Ed Aeschleman

As a result of a sudden illness, Sis. Mary Diggelman was admitted to the hospital for observation and tests. At last report, Sis. Mary was some improved, and we trust God that she will soon be fully recovered. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bro. John as he struggles to carry on without the aid of his helpmeet.

Now that winter is broken and spring once again brings us the experience and beauty of rebirth, we look forward to good fellowship and encouragement for our small congregations from more visiting brethren who we hope will be traveling through this area. We were happy to welcome dear Ken and Roberta Belsley who came many miles to worship with us today from their home near Washington, D.C.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

It was in dark Gethsemane  
Where Jesus in His agony,  
Endured the anguish deep and great,  
In view of His impending fate.

If we would Christ's disciples be,  
Our will with His must blended be,  
Our very self must be o'er come,  
That we may say, "Thy will be done."

As Jesus in Gethsemane  
 By prayer attained the victory,  
 So shall we, when we seek His  
 face,  
 Still find in Him abundant grace.  
 Author Unknown

At this beautiful springtime season of the year we are reminded of our Saviour's coming to this earth where He lived for a season and then shed His blood for the remission of our sins. We believe it was through prayer that He was able to endure the deep pain and anguish that He was called upon to suffer for each of us. So it is with us in this lifetime. We must look to God each day in prayer that we too can attain the great victory and seek to see His face in all eternity. We can find that in this troubled and fast world His grace is still abundant for each and every one of our daily needs.

Our hospital patients have been Pernal Virkler and Sis. Pam Herzog, both medical, and Esther Rauhe, surgical. Urban Farney has been unable to assemble with us and at the present time is an outpatient undergoing therapy at a Syracuse Hospital. Minnie Virkler has also been confined to her home for several weeks.

We enjoyed a covered-dish supper at the Croghan Church. The Naumburg congregation joined us for the supper and a song service followed.

Little Rebecca Ann has been welcomed into the home of Rick and Terri Hoch. She was born on January 19 and was adopted on March 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Norbert and Sis. Doris Steiner and Reginald and Betty Hoch. May she bring an added blessing to their home.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

##### Rachel Snyder

It is so nice to hear of those who are finding wonderful peace with God which is such an assurance that God has forgiven them and that they are accepted as children of His. We had an announcement this past Sunday that James and Linda Beyer have found this peace. James is the son of the late Bro. Ralph and Sis. Nina. Linda is the daughter of Bro. Everett and Sis. Betty Virkler.

March 3 marked a pleasant evening for all as we gathered at

church to spend the evening singing. It was the 35th wedding anniversary of Bro. Perry and Sis. Hazel. A lunch was served afterward.

Linda Beyer and Sis. Pearl Colgrove spent some time in the hospital but are able to be out again. Bro. Wilson Merz is back in again; Emma Virkler is also in again, this time with a broken ankle. Sister Rosella Schultz is having surgery. May God be with them.

Sanford and Gay Hunsberger Lehman, Goshen, IN, became parents of a daughter, Angela Gay, on Feb. 25. They have a son Douglas. Mr. and Mrs. Norman are the grandparents.

#### OHIO, AKRON

##### Gail Spangler

"I'm baptized in Christ's name, and in His death I'm buried . . ." Zions Harp, No. 43. The weekend of Feb. 18 was truly a blessed one for our Akron congregation as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of Ed and Tina Graf. What a joy it was to welcome them as our new brother and sister in Christ. Ed's parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy. Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet are Tina's parents. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) was with us to assist our Elder Bro Rudy. Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) was with us, also. We sincerely thank both of our visiting ministers for coming.

We are thankful to have Bro. Dave Maletich assembling with us again after his illness. Sis. Bonnie Bako (Bro. Zoltan) had surgery, and we're thankful that she is improving.

Ann Francis wishes to thank all the dear ones who so graciously remembered her. The beautiful cards of hope and faith gave her the spirit to fight her trials. Also, she appreciated the food brought in for her husband, Bro. Stanley (and his brother) and for the gifts of love. She asks that God will bless all of you.

#### OHIO, GIRARD

##### Kathryn Emch

We had a blessed Sunday as Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf came to share the Living Word with us. We also enjoyed Sis. Bethi and the young brothers who brought them.

We give special thanks to Bro.

Ben Hartzler who served in our pulpit so that Harold and I could spend a week in Indiana.

We had the opportunity to go to the Silver Lining office. We now have a greater appreciation for all the work that goes into the finished product, "The Silver Lining." Many things are done in our church association without thought of remuneration, but we want to say a big thank you to the people who spend so many hours getting the paper ready for publication.

Our travels took us to the Children's Home. We saw the house-parents and met all the children. We enjoyed a delicious meal with them and a fun-time with the children. This is a real responsibility, and we should all remember them in our prayers. We came away with the feeling that the children were in good hands. May God bless these parents with a double portion of love and patience.

We are happy to have Sis. Anna Enyeart back with us. She spent three months with her children in California.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION

##### Lester Manz

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Robert Beer and Kenneth Sauder from Mansfield and our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller, who spent two Sundays with us.

On Sunday, Mar. 11, Bro. John Rufener and Sis. Emily Manz became husband and wife in the Lord. The parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener from Mansfield and Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz. We surely wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together. They will be settling for a short period of time in the Girard area with plans to move to Akron, soon.

Sis. Margery Schlatter will be the Sunday School teacher, and Sis. Carolyn Manz will be the World Relief sewing committee member, both replacing Sis. Emily.

John and Maude Slane, parents of Sis. Betty Manz, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary this month. We surely wish them God's blessings as they spend the rest of their lives together.

#### OHIO, LATTY

##### Karen Klopfenstein - Susie Sinn

We were thankful to have ministering Brothers Walter Steffen

(Milford) and Ben Manz (Junction) assemble with us to bring us the true Word of God.

Hospitalized were Sis. Louise Rager and Ross Stoller, infant son of Bro. Craig and Sister Ruth. We are glad to see them both back in church.

On Feb. 17, Bill Eisenman was privileged to give his testimony of faith. On Feb. 18, the work of baptism was carried out. His parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary. Bro. Maurice Frank (Leo) helped Bro. Loren on Sat. evening with this most important work. May the Holy Spirit ever guide Bro. Bill as he continues in college.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

He knelt alone with folded hands  
In dim Gethsemane—  
He knelt beneath the shadow of  
A spreading olive tree;  
And night-swept flowers hung  
their heads,  
And night birds stilled their cry  
As, though the silence and the  
dusk,  
The centuries swept by.

His yesterdays were crowded with  
Cruel treachery and sadness—  
The morrow would hold racking  
pain  
And storm clouds and mob mad-  
ness  
And yet He knelt beneath a  
tree,  
Calm to the very last—  
And murmured, "God—Thy will  
not mine!"  
While time and space rushed past. .  
Author Unknown

**EASTER SEASON!** the lovely time of the year when we commemorate the glorious conquest of our Risen Lord. How beautiful it is each spring when we see mother earth dressed once again in lovely green and the time of the singing of the birds and God's miracle touch is seen in every tree and flower. What definite testimony that Jesus lives.

Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman) favored us with visits and shared God's living Word with us. We want to thank them for their words of comfort and encouragement.

Bro. Ed Beer and Sis. Francelia Beer have been hospitalized this

past month, and Sis. Naomi Cordrey has been at home, ill. Our prayer is that they will all soon be restored to good health again.

Sis. Barbara Bricker is now living at the Hill Crest Nursing Home due to ill health.

Joe Sabo wishes to thank all who so kindly remembered him in any way during the illness and death of his dear wife, Sis. Esther.

Ricky and Wendy Sauder are the happy parents of a new son, Justin Dale, born March 10. Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn Sauder are the grandparents.

Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier are the new grandparents of a little girl, Jessica Dawn, born Feb. 12. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Brenda Herrmann (Princeville) are the parents.

March 11 was the happy wedding day for Bro. John Rueffner and Sis. Emily Manz (Junction). May God's richest blessings be theirs.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

We were most richly blest with visitors this past month; among them was Bro. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest, IL. We thank him for his inspiring message and his many words of love and kindness. We read in Romans 10:15: ". . . as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bill and Sis. Laura Opplinger at the sudden passing away of their daughter, Norma Jean Kiefer. We also extend sympathy to her husband Charles, two sons and one daughter, and also one sister, Phyliss Wolf. "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us." Psalms 2:7, 8.

It's good to see Bro. Robert Beery back in church again. We are thankful for that. Bro. Dave Maletich, Sr., and Victor Ritzman were in the hospital, but are home again. Bro. Bill Saylor was on crutches following knee surgery. We pray God will bless all who have been ill by giving them good health.

The engagement of Dan Ram-

sier and Debbie Werntz was recently made known. Dan's parents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Aldine Ramsier. Also engaged are Sue Hartzler and Earl Nichols. Sue's parents are Bro. Forest and Sis. Helen Hartzler. We pray they will ask the Lord for guidance as they plan their future lives together.

A farewell supper was held at the Fellowship Hall for Ralph and Bev Riggenbach, Todd, and twins, Steve and Scott, as they plan to move to Texas. We will miss them in our congregation and pray the Lord will bless them in their new home and community.

We want to welcome back home Sis. Kay Beery who has spent the last couple years in the Ft. Scott, KS, area.

At this time of year, we always think of Spring coming; and with the coming of Spring, when everything comes alive, flowers, trees, grass, birds winging their way back from the south, we also think of our Lord's suffering and death on the cross. After three days in the grave, behold! He is alive again! Besides Spring, we have Easter! What a glorious time of the year! As the Lord has risen, we also shall arise on that Resurrection morn when we will be caught up with Him and be forever with our Lord!

### HE IS RISEN!!

Such news, such news as on that day, when Angels rolled the stone away,  
And through the garden, Jesus came . . . Saw Mary weep, and spoke her name,  
"Mary." What a wealth in store to look into His face once more!

And Peter, who so loudly denied then turned and hid his face and cried,  
Who thinking all was surely o'er returned to catching fish once more.  
"Peter," Jesus said, "tell him especially, I live again!"

Then there was Thomas soon to doubt, accepting now the news, cried out,  
"Unless I see, unless I feel, I can't believe the news is real!"  
"Thomas," 'twas his Lord's command, "Come closer, and stretch forth your hand!"

The two who slowly walked along  
Emmaus road—so much was  
wrong.

They trusted that Christ had been  
He who should redeem and set  
men free.

But now—but now their Christ  
was dead . . . Until He sud-  
denly broke bread!

Such news! Such news as on that  
day when angels rolled that  
stone away!

"Mary, Peter, Thomas, Men, tell  
all the earth I live again!

Take up the cry—to others give  
My message that they too  
shall live!"

Kathryn Vivian Keating

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehkla

Glory be to God in heaven,  
Praise to Christ, our Saviour  
great!

By the power of Thy Spirit  
A new man Thou didst create.  
Angels see in joyous rapture  
God's own Word in deed fulfilled;  
And amid our glad embraces  
Is this child of God revealed.  
Zion's Harp

It was a blessed weekend in Feb-  
when we heard the testimony and  
witnessed the baptism of our new  
brother, Douglas Harmon. We re-  
joice that Bro. Douglas has now be-  
come a child of the King and an  
heir of His kingdom. Our Elder  
Bro. Ben Maibach was with us for  
this holy rite.

Sis. Elsie Fetter is in the hos-  
pital. It is our prayer that God will  
be with her and watch over her in  
this time of great need.

Sis. Lydia Fetter had a hip  
injury. She is in an extended care  
facility receiving physical therapy  
treatment and appears to be im-  
proving.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

Spring! Time of beauty, and a  
new start for all the flowers and  
many trees. Every day should be  
like spring in the life of each be-  
liever, when we have a chance,  
anew, to grow and blossom for the  
Lord.

The engagement of Sis. Corrine  
Lowe and Bro. Dennis Martin was  
recently announced. We wish them

the Lord's blessings as they enter  
this second most important step in  
life. They plan a June wedding.

Our dear aged brother, Martin  
Reuter, is able to assemble with us  
again. We are so glad that the Lord  
has given him enough health and  
strength to be with us. It's always  
a joy to see him and hear his  
greeting of Christian love, with  
never a complaint, but, rather, the  
expression of how the Lord has  
been with him in the days past.

We had the blessed privilege of  
hearing the tapes of the Brother-  
hood Conference. There were so  
many wonderful and timely exhor-  
tations; if only we could remember  
and do more of them. Let us ever  
strive for the Crown that is await-  
ing.

### "FATHER, ARE YOU THERE?"

A little child lay in the dark;  
The room was strange, he saw  
nowhere;  
He was afraid; But then he called,  
"Father, are you there?"

He felt a hand, so strong and  
warm,  
Close clasping his; then calm  
and clear  
He heard his father's tender voice,  
"Yes, Laddie, I am here."

Like that small child, we some-  
times feel  
That we are in the dark of care;  
In terror of some harm, we call,  
"O, Father, are you there?"

We reach our hand to Him and  
find  
His hand holds ours; we hear His  
voice,  
"Fear not, for I am here."

So though we tremble in the dark,  
In need of strength and help and  
cheer,

We have a tender Father's word,  
"Fear not, for I am here."  
Dinnie McDole Hayes

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### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA

Tillie Kellenberger

Trust in the Lord with all thine  
heart, and lean not upon thine  
own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge  
him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5, 6

Sandy Nohl, daughter of Bro.  
Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl, was  
married to Rick Norman, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norman of  
Weslaco, TX, on Feb. 24. The wed-  
ding and reception were held in  
the home of Sandy's parents.  
Many from our church attended.  
May God bless and direct their  
life together.

Bro. James Hoerr, Peoria, was  
our visiting minister on Feb. 10.  
We thank him for his inspiring  
message.

It is spring here with the flow-  
ering trees, bushes, and lawn  
flowers. The air is fragrant and  
sweet from the many blossoms.

God's ways are wonderful ways.  
We welcome anyone coming our  
way to worship and fellowship  
with us here in Zapata.

Our new telephone number at  
the church is 512-765-6436.

A meeting was held on Mar.  
1 to replace Bro. Ernest Kellen-  
berger as trustee. Bro. Elmer Fehr  
replaces him, Bro. Willace Sauder  
is chairman of the board, Bro.  
Emil Strahm is secretary, and  
Bro. Ernest Kellenberger is Treas-  
urer.

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## SILVER THREADS

### IF JESUS CAME TODAY?

If Jesus came to your house to  
spend a day or two,  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder  
what you'd do?  
When you saw Him coming, would  
you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in wel-  
come to your heavenly  
Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your  
clothes before you let Him  
in  
Or hide some magazines and put  
your Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and  
hope He hadn't heard,  
And wish you hadn't uttered that  
last loud, hasty word?  
Would you hide your worldly mu-  
sic, and put some hymn books  
out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in,  
or would you rush about?  
And I wonder—if the Saviour



spent a day or two with you,  
 Would you go right on doing the  
 things you always do?  
 Would you go right on saying the  
 things you always say?  
 Would life for you continue as it  
 does from day to day?  
 Would your family conversation  
 keep up its usual pace?  
 And would you find it hard each  
 meal to say table grace?  
 Would you sing the songs you  
 always sing, and read the  
 books you read  
 And let Him know the things on  
 which your mind and spirit  
 feed?  
 Would you take Jesus with you  
 everywhere you've planned to  
 go?  
 Or would you, maybe, change your  
 plans for just a day or so?  
 Would you be glad for Him to stay,  
 forever on and on,  
 Or would you sigh with great re-  
 lief, when He at last was  
 gone?  
 It might be interesting to know  
 the things that you would do  
 If Jesus came in person to spend  
 some time with you.

Author Unknown

The Miracles of Easter bespeak  
 Divine Perfection,  
 And they are a living evidence of  
 Our Saviour's Resurrection.  
 With OUR EYES we see the  
 beauty of Easter as the earth  
 awakens once more . . .  
 With OUR EARS we hear the birds  
 sing sweetly to tell us Spring  
 again is here.  
 With OUR HANDS we pick daf-  
 fodils and the fragrant hya-  
 cinths . . .  
 But only with OUR HEARTS can  
 we feel the MIRACLE OF  
 GOD'S LOVE which redeems  
 all men . . .

Helen Steiner Rice

#### HELP US TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND

by Helen Steiner Rice

God, give us wider vision to see  
 and understand  
 That both "the Sun and Showers"  
 are gifts from THY GREAT  
 HAND;  
 And when our lives are overcast  
 with trouble and with care,  
 Give us faith to see beyond the  
 dark clouds of despair;  
 And give us strength to rise above  
 the mist of doubt and fear

And recognize the hidden smile  
 behind each burning tear;  
 And teach us that it takes the  
 showers to make the flowers  
 grow;  
 And only in the storms of life  
 when the wind of trouble  
 blow  
 Can man, too, reach maturity, and  
 grow in faith and grace,  
 And gain the strength and courage  
 to enable him to face  
 Sunny days as well as rain, high  
 peaks as well as low;  
 Knowing that the "April showers  
 will make the May Flowers  
 Grow"—  
 And then at last may we accept  
 "the sunshine and the show-  
 ers,"  
 Confident it takes them both to  
 make salvation ours!

#### ONE DAY AT A TIME (from West Bend)

One day at a time, with its fail-  
 ures and fears,  
 With its hurts and mistakes, with  
 its weakness and tears,  
 With its portion of pain and its  
 burden of care;  
 One day at a time we must meet  
 and must bear.  
 One day at a time to be patient and  
 strong;  
 To be calm under trial and sweet  
 under wrong;  
 Then its toiling shall pass and its  
 sorrow shall cease;  
 It shall darken and die, and the  
 night shall bring peace.  
 One day at a time—but the day is  
 so long,  
 And the heart is not brave, and  
 the soul is not strong,  
 O Thou pitiful Christ, be Thou  
 near all the way;  
 Give courage and patience and  
 strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so clear  
 and so sweet;  
 "Yea, I will be with thee, thy  
 troubles to meet;  
 I will not forget thee, nor fail  
 thee, nor grieve;  
 I will not forsake thee; I never will  
 leave."

Not yesterday's load we are called  
 on to bear,  
 Nor the morrow's uncertain and  
 shadowy care;  
 Why should we look forward or  
 back with dismay?

Our needs, as our mercies, are but  
 for the day.  
 One day at a time, and the day  
 is His day;  
 He hath numbered its hours,  
 though they haste or delay.  
 His grace is sufficient; we walk  
 not alone;  
 As the day, so the strength that  
 He giveth His own.

Annie Johnson Flint

#### HIS PLAN FOR ME

When I stand at the judgment  
 seat of Christ  
 And His plan I begin to see,  
 The plan of my life as it might  
 have been  
 Had He had his way with me.  
 I see how I blocked Him here and  
 checked Him there  
 And I would not yield my will.  
 Will there be grief in my Savior's  
 eyes—  
 Grief though He loves me still?  
 He would have me rich, and I  
 stand there poor,  
 Stripped of all but His grace,  
 While memory runs like a hunted  
 thing  
 Down paths that I cannot re-  
 trace.

Then my desolate heart will well  
 nigh break  
 With tears I cannot shed;  
 I shall cover my face with my  
 empty hands;  
 I shall bow my uncrowned head.  
 Lord, of the years that are left to  
 me,  
 I give them to Thy hand.  
 Take me and break me, and mold  
 me to fit  
 The pattern that Thou hast  
 planned.

—Unknown

#### THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN

When I reflect on precious memo-  
 ries, I treasure one day in particu-  
 lar for the tears, warning thoughts,  
 and yet shining hopes we shared.  
 That day we heard unforgetta-  
 ble words from the lips of a beloved  
 soul. 'Tis not often one returns.  
 Many years previously she had giv-  
 en her testimony in her home con-  
 gregation. By her own admission  
 she began to consider herself a bit  
 apart from her own brethren. Per-  
 haps their jobs were not so glam-  
 orous, their exposure to life more  
 "narrow." And this sister became  
 "picky," choosing this custom or  
 that as not being so important,

claiming even that these probably kept others from repenting! For various reasons, all fostered by Satan, this dissatisfaction came to a head, and our sister chose to remain no longer in our fellowship. Up to that time there was perhaps only limited backsliding, but a definite leaning toward a broader way. But once her association with the church was severed, this soul fell down, down, down.

Yet the Lord's mercy extendeth beyond our comprehension. Out on the metropolitan mountainside some years later, the Lord, through love, touched that hardened heart again. This time the agonies were deeper; this time he had to be crucified. And God's infinite grace and mercy were once more extended to this wayward soul. With Him again beside her, she has now walked in humility and obedience in our assembly for several years. Finally she could give testimony to His work. She was granted the privilege of bearing the name of Sister in our fellowship, which she deeply cherishes. She is more appreciative and full of thanksgiving at her lot than can be expressed; she who was dead is alive again.

She has prayed that her experience could be used by the Lord, for she hoped all other believers might examine their unity and be warned against the paths she once had trod. When she was drawn back into our midst, she found the customs, traditional and Scripture-based, to be a comfort now. In love and simple obedience, she could follow these ways, which represented a victory in walking more humbly, close to Him. She exhorted us to treasure that which we hold dear even more highly, above all else, with no reservations. We were reminded vividly, by example more than mere words, how our thoughts might lead us apart or even astray. We also were mightily blessed by the Lord's work in her life, and reminded to renew our prayers and hopes for others once inside the fold and now outside alone, and to know again that the Lord reigns supreme with all power and glory on earth and in heaven. May we be willing to be instructed.

Author's name withheld  
by S. L. staff

### The Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

this surely wasn't this way because it couldn't be . . ." and so forth.

We have to be careful when we

look in this Good Book. This is precious. This is the Word of Life. This is life to man. It was only made so because the Lord Jesus gave His life upon the Cross. Until He did, this Word was only a promise, not fulfilled.

When Jesus came He gave His life and God said He would restore. He said He would cause the bones to come together again and flesh to come upon those bones and it became possible; but not before. So this is something that is precious; we must be careful how we deal with it. Beloved, when our minds become filled and possibly cluttered, as we might say, with hearing this and that and reading this and that, we ought to come back to this Word.

What does it say? The writings of men have endured, but the Word of God has endured much more. It has endured through much distress, strife, and war, through the endeavor to destroy the truth of God from off the face of the earth. But we still have it here today; the wonderful Word of God.

No wonder the song writer said, "Thou hast words of life." We have many blessings, one of which is the Word of God as He speaks to us.

Nicodemus, learned in the ways of man, couldn't see how these things could be. Jesus said that after man fails, God begins to succeed. When all of man's endeavors have finally come to an end, God begins to take over. We behold that so much in the Old Testament.

If it had not been for the miracle of God, Isaac would never have been born; Issac, the promised one. Because Sarah was so aged, we would have thought it couldn't be. They thought that then—that it couldn't be. But God made it so. We are talking suppositions which may be foolish, but let us behold the power and the might of God. If Isaac had not been born, God's promise to Abraham would have ceased right there. It would have been cut off. But, no, Isaac was born from a very aged woman. Then his seed became as numerous as the stars of the heaven or as the sand of the sea.

Here, Jesus says that man must be born again, not out of the flesh, but of water and the Spirit. We see this so thoroughly. I believe that the truth contained in these few verses that we read are the basis of all of God's dealings and endeavors with His people.

John the Baptist baptized with water and he told the people that it wasn't sufficient. He said, ". . . one mightier than I cometh . . . he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Luke 3:16.

I wonder whether today there are too many baptisms of only water and not the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit of God, we are endowed with the gift of the Holy Spirit of God. Through this procedure, if we might think of it that way, it says: "If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

If He cleanses the heart, He has prepared the way for the Spirit to enter. After all, God does not do things halfway. He is a God of thoroughness, of great order.

We cannot, shall we say, jump in at this point and receive this gift of God. One, when he saw the apostles perform the miracles, offered money and said, "Give me also this power." Acts 8:19. Beloved, this cannot be purchased. As Isaiah said, "Everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat . . . without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1.

To the lame man lying by the gate of the temple, who thought he was going to receive an alm, Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have, give I thee (freely)." Acts 3:6.

It comes down to this beloved. We must be born again. We must be cleansed so that the Spirit of God can enter our hearts. Then we can receive the eternal promise. We can receive the blessings of God in this time, but much more in eternity.

Here Nicodemus says, "How can these things be?" John 3:9. That is the thinking of the fleshly mind, is it not? If you and I would ponder about how these things could be, we would possibly be driven out of our minds trying to reason; but by faith we believe that God can do this, and He will do it.

Jesus said that when we hear the leaves of the trees rustle, we do not question how those leaves move. We take it for granted, because we know and feel the breeze of the air, the movement of the air. We know that it moves the leaves. Jesus said that it is the same with the Spirit of God. Does that seem

difficult? It does to the fleshly mind if we try to reason, but not if we believe in God.

We have beheld a change in individuals (in ourselves, too) and we couldn't see how it came about, but it came! We have seen individuals whose actions and speech seemed far from Godliness suddenly change; a soul would shun former wrongdoings and confess. It confessed a living God and a need for a Redeemer. We say, "What a wonderful thing has happened; it is a miracle!" Jesus might say, "So it is; so it is—the Spirit of God."

Jesus told Nicodemus why this was, so that we need not wonder. Why have we been moved by the Spirit of God? Why has the Spirit of God pricked our hearts? Why did we become restless with the things that we enjoyed in the world and seek something else? He said that it was because of the love of God. We don't ever want to forget that.

Jesus said, "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn . . ." John 3:17. But it says: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

So often it seems that this is taken rather lightly. Note here that when Jesus talked to Nicodemus, He first told him that he must be born again. "Ye must be born again." John 3:7. He needed the Spirit of God to believe.

Then Jesus told him that He came to redeem men, that by believing in Him we can have everlasting life.

After all, I am sure that that is each person's desire at some time. It may be on the deathbed or when death comes to the door and knocks. Maybe it is only then that there is a realization of the nothingness of this world, and a feeling that surely there must be something better.

The Scripture also says that one day every knee is going to have to bow and every tongue confess before God that Jesus is His Son.

The sad part is that for some it will be too late. Nevertheless, they are going to have to acknowledge, whether they want to or not, that Jesus is the Son of God, the only Door to the Father's Heart. Jesus did not come to tell us that we are sinners and are condemned to die. He said that we condemn ourselves by our own actions. We don't have

to have someone tell us.

I wonder if that's the way it's going to be in the day of judgment. God won't have to speak a word. The Lord Jesus won't have to speak a word. The mirror will be there; we will behold our lives. The judgment will have been cast, if there is one. We will have done it. No one will have to accuse us.

Jesus brought the world a new cause for condemnation. He said, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:19.

"But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin." Galatians 3:22.

There is no question about whether you and I were sinners; the Scripture says we are concluded as sinners before God. We are in this position until we are cleansed through rebirth in the Spirit through the blood of the Lord Jesus. Until that time, we are at enmity with God. We are separated from Him.

Beloved, we can think about mercy and the love of God all we want, but God's mercy and His righteousness demand that we are separated until we have been cleansed and reconciled. This is a truth that we sometimes want mellowed or minimized.

We say that God is so merciful. How can He bring judgment? Beloved, He brought judgment in the time of the Old Testament. He will bring judgment on you and me if we are disobedient in this time. His love is great, but He does not hesitate to admonish and to punish, if need be, because He knows it is for our eternal welfare.

Perhaps some of you are unaware of a terrible tragedy that happened in a big city. The mother of a young man who had caused a killing wrote a letter. In the letter which was published in the paper, she wrote, "My love is so great that I could not hurt you. My love was so great I was fearful I might hurt you."

Beloved, the love of God is the greatest of all loves. He will not hesitate to punish if need be, because His love is so great that He does not want us to suffer. He came so that ". . . all men . . . might believe." John 1:7.

Sometimes we have to analyze His love. We say, "What is faith?" "What is believing?" Does believing mean that we would believe

that God could not bring judgment? Would believing be this: simply to believe that Jesus came into the world?

The Scripture says that the devil believes too, but not to salvation. In that faith, he quakes with fear; but he knows that the Son of God came. His belief will not give him salvation. It will give eternal destruction. So we have to think of that, beloved.

What is faith? Faith is believing every Word of God, believing that what He has set before us is for us—not for somebody else, but first for us.

If there is admonishment, it is for us, if it fits. If there is encouragement, it's for us, if we need it. The Word is so wonderful!

Jesus said also that not even a punctuation mark is going to be taken from this Word, so staunch, firm, and definitely will it stand. He set the way for us to gain salvation.

Let us think upon these things, beloved. Jesus came because of the love of God, and, right now, God's love is so great for His people! If we shun this, if we deny this light, that is what we will be judged upon. We are already judged for having been sinners. Everyone. But we will be judged further, beloved on the day of judgment, if we have denied the Son of God.

This narrows down to a very fundamental truth. As I said before, this is what the apostles based their writings on to the churches. You and I must base our thinking, our self-admonishment, our self-control, and so forth on Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as Paul said, on Him crucified.

Paul wished that he had been able to lay aside his knowledge because it interfered with the faith that he wanted to have. So he said that he would know only one thing, as he wrote to the churches there, "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2.

It is not that we must perform works. David said, ". . . thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it . . . a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psa 51:16, 17.

If we could only have that, beloved! We know that God is almighty, but he wants us to praise and honor Him; to acknowledge His Son, and live in obedience to the example which Jesus has left for us and to the Word of Life.

## SERMON BY BRO. MAURICE FRANK OF LEO, IN

Text: John 3:1-19

In the songs that we have sung this morning, we were reminded of the Words of Life and that God, in blessing His people, gave them His Holy Word. Have you ever considered what we would do in our worship if we did not have God's Word to direct our thoughts toward the truths of God? If we would come together without this Word, we would be as sheep without a shepherd, going to and fro in our minds.

The Word of God draws our thoughts and minds to Him. Even though we have become reconciled with God and have received His peace and mercy, we still need this Word which draws us. After all, we live and labor in the world. Even though our thoughts ascend above the earth to the Father heart, we live here below, so we always need this magnet to draw us to Him.

Surely then, this is one purpose which the Word serves. We need to turn to the Word of God often and, perhaps, be reminded of things that we already know, things which have benefited us. Being frail as we are and surrounded with many worldly things, we need to turn to the Word of God and be reminded of the wonderful truths.

We have been reminded today of our reconciliation with God, of the day in which we found peace. Even though we know these things, is it not good for us to think about them again, and again, and again?

Consider the soil of the field; even though there may not be a great abundance of, or great growth of the weeds, the farmer still tills the soil. He would say, "It's good for the soil." As we come together, it is good that the "soil of our hearts," if I may say that, is stirred and cultivated anew so that the truth is restored and our hearts are opened again.

If we could concentrate our thinking upon the truth and just for a moment shut out every thought, concern, and feeling pertaining to the world, and fill our

hearts and minds with what is here, it surely would be good. It would be nourishment, would it not?

Perhaps, if we could do that and forget for a moment the emotions that lead to distress and enmity, it might be, beloved, that from then on they would be out of our hearts and we could be benefited.

Why did we come to church? Surely it is not that we have not received peace from God, but rather to be renewed and fortified so that it would not slip from us.

In this chapter are several basic truths. I believe that we could say that all of the writings of the apostles are based on these fundamental truths.

One thing which Jesus told Nicodemus was that the great miracle of rebirth is by the might and power of God, the Spirit of God. He said that which is of the flesh is flesh; and that which is of the Spirit is Spirit.

What, for example, did Paul write to the Corinthians? He told them that they were carnally minded, that they were not Spiritually minded. When he wrote, they were not of the Spirit as they should have been. They were of the earth, fleshly, because they had enmities, divisions, and so forth. They could not see the real light of the Spirit of God.

What did Paul write to the other churches, to the Galatians for example? They had received the blessing of God and had peace in their hearts; but what did they do? They returned to self-righteousness, rituals, and so forth that were thrust upon them, particularly by the Jews. Paul likened that to a dog returning to its vomit, or to a hog returning to its wallow. That is how he described the returning to the beggarly elements from which they had been cleansed.

This is also for us today. When we have received the mercy, love and peace of God in our hearts, we are not to return to the things from which we have come.

Beloved, this sounds like a harsh thing that Paul said to the Galatians. Yet, we who have seen this, know how it is.

This is the likeness, then, of any who have been blessed of God, have received His peace, and then begin to doubt that the blood of Jesus had been able to cleanse them; they feel that they must accomplish works of themselves, becoming self-righteous. They then have returned to that from which they had been cleansed. Is it not well then, that we consider these things that are so fundamental and that, possibly, nominal Christendom has departed from?

We read about Nicodemus, a ruler, wise in the Scripture and in the pronouncements of God, who came to Jesus by night. He had a sincere longing but was afraid of those about him. He said that he knew that Jesus was a teacher from God and so forth. Apparently he wanted to know about the miracles. He knew that man couldn't do them, and wondered in his mind, "How can these things be?" John 3:9

Jesus told him that before he could understand, he had to be born again. He had to be born again—not of the flesh but of water and the Spirit. In other words, his thinking had to be reborn, the thing that moved his soul or the direction of his soul. It had to die, as it were, from having to see everything, or from having to have a reason for everything.

Here was Nicodemus, a wise man. He said, "How can these things be?" John 3:9. Jesus reminded him that this was of God, not of man. So how is it? We can study this Scripture from beginning to end. If we cannot do as it says, by reading and believing, then we can find no help therefrom.

I can recall reading from time to time of (so-called) Bible students disputing one with the other about technical points and saying, "Well,

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