

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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WHO WAS RIGHT—GOD OR THE PROFESSOR?

The following article is reprinted from the July, 1963, issue of *The Silver Lining*. It was written by Bro. Willis R. Ehnle.

Six or seven years ago I was told by a university professor that it is practically a hopeless case to try to bind them together as a family and establish churches in rural Japan which will continue on down through the years; the old, old customs of the Japanese people which as a group of families eventually smother out the church as time goes on. He cited an example of a rural community, which some 50 years ago had a rather active, professing Christian church, but today very little, if any, trace is found of it.

In the cities, the customs are not so strong, but the barriers are still numerous. People hesitate to go to a strange place unless they are accompanied by a person who knows the place, or unless they have a particular reason for going there which is acceptable in their society.

Obviously then in order to reach

more people with God's Word, we must find a way to make friendly, personal contact with them. It is at this point that the intense desire of the Japanese people to learn the English language becomes of interest to us.

God has so destined that you and I were born in the United States, where we have the greatest wealth with which to do good that has ever been known to man since his creation. But we also have the English language, that great asset which so much of the world covets, but which we acquired naturally from our earliest youth. The Holy Scriptures teach us that we must give an account to our Master as to how we have used our talents, and surely our material wealth and our mother tongue, the English language, are talents for which we will need to give an account. The English language is a valuable tool in the hands of God's people. No other means of expressing oneself is so widely accepted throughout the world.

Presently we have classes where lessons from the Holy Scriptures are taught in the English language. While it is true that God has not commissioned us to be teachers of language, what a blessed opportunity is ours by this avenue, to reach men and women with the message of the condemnation of sin and its forgiveness, cleansing, joy and peace to be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. When a person comes to one of our classes to learn English, he is exposed to the power of the Holy Spirit through God's Word, and the barrier which has kept him away from the house of prayer has been broken. Church attendance has increased as a result of our classes in English.

Surely, God is just beginning to use us. Greater avenues of service lie ahead, if we faithfully and prayerfully, seek to be led, when the Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, graciously opens the door for us to be a greater witness and testimony for Him.

A TREASURY OF PRAISE

A History of The Zion's Harp Hymnal (continued)

Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

Special attention is given to Count von Zinzendorf, not so much for his contribution to the Zion's Harp, but because of all the authors included in this hymnal, aside from Martin Luther, he was a religious leader of some renown.

This man, of "noble" descent, helped to reorganize what is known as the Moravian Brethren Church in the early 18th century.

He was born May 26, 1700 and later became a prolific and influential hymn writer. He was a descendant of one of the most noble fam-

ilies of the Archduchy of Austria. His father, a Saxon Minister of State, died six weeks after his birth. He studied at the University of Wittenberg. His education was Pietist. In fact, his "godfather" was Philip Jacob Spener, the leader of the Pietist movement.

He received a license to preach from the Theological Faculty at the University of Tubingen in 1734. In 1737, he was consecrated as Bishop of the Moravian Brethren's Unity at Berlin.

Between 1712 and 1760, he wrote more than 2,000 hymns. The keynote of his hymns, and of his reli-

gious character, was a deep and earnest personal devotion to the crucified Saviour.

During his lifetime, he mixed freely with those of many denominations. He stressed "pure" religion, and felt a person was not saved by his denomination.

As a leader among the Moravian Brethren, he traveled extensively in "evangelistic" endeavors. In 1736, he traveled in Germany, England, and America. The main centers of his missionary work in Pennsylvania are in Germantown and Bethlehem.

As a young boy, Zinzendorf had

strong religious feelings. A picture of Christ on the cross with the words, "This I did for you, what do you do for me?" made a lasting impression on him.

Zinzendorf was typical of the many men who wrote songs appearing in the Zion's Harp. They were born and raised in the turbulence of the counter-reformation era. They fell headlong into the cross-currents of fierce religious controversy, and suffered severe persecution.

Zinzendorf authored the beautiful, if short, hymn "The Union in Jesus' Death", page 11:

We, who in God's name are here assembled,
Solemnly do clasp our hands;
That Christ's death and
suff'ring be remembered,
Faithfully for Him to stand.
Thus in unison our hearts have spoken.

Lord, to show Thy favor give the token;

Speak Thy blessing ever true;
"Amen," peace be unto you.

He also wrote "The Fellowship Of the Saints," page 33.

NOTED COMPOSERS

Not only are the hymn texts found in the Zion's Harp considered to be of great value, but the hymn tunes are also quite significant. To be sure, those who have sung these beautiful hymns all their lives will readily attest to the inspirational worth of the tunes.

Adding lustre to this point is the fact that a few of the hymn tunes were written by men who are recognized among the greatest musicians in history. Obviously, these famous personalities did not write specifically for the Zion's Harp, but nonetheless their enormous and internationally renowned talent is included within the covers of this hymnal.

It must be admitted as well that many of the hymn tunes in this hymnal are indeed beautiful, and written by men greatly endowed with God-given talent. Yet, four particularly well known composers are represented in the Zion's Harp hymnal. They are Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, George Frederic Handel, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Perhaps two significant points should be made relative to these four personalities. First, these men were not necessarily known for their devotion to the Christian

faith, and secondly their contributions to this hymnal are minimal, at best. Even so, the mere existence of their work in the Zion's Harp is indeed a great testimonial to the overall quality of the book. It certainly helps to reiterate the indisputable fact that the Zion's Harp is worthy of profound artistic appreciation.

The hymn tunes written by these illustrious composers are:

Beethoven: "Our Shepherd and King," No. 230.

Handel: "Faith's Confidence," No. 87

Mozart: "The New Birth From Above," No. 34

Rousseau: "Jesus, Mighty Liberator," No. 35

"Evening Hymn," No. 49

A capsule biography of each of these composers follows:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778): Regarded as one of the greatest European thinkers of the 18th century whose writings inspired leaders of the French Revolution. A noted writer of political and philosophical essays and a novelist as well. He was to a lesser extent, a great musician and theorist of music.

George Frederic Handel (1685-1756): A German by birth and an Englishman by adoption. He was one of the greatest composers of the late Baroque era, noted particularly for his operas, oratorios, and instrumental compositions.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827): Widely regarded by many as the greatest composer who ever lived. A prolific, as well as eccentric, composer whose music reflected a passionate concern for the freedom and dignity of the individual.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791): Regarded by many as the greatest musical genius of all time. He was one of the world's three or four leading operatic composers and one of the central figures of the Viennese classical school.

THE EFFECTS OF THE THIRTY YEARS WAR

To a large degree, the often vicious and long-lasting conflict between the Catholic Church and German Protestantism—known as the Thirty Years' War—contributed in no small way to the soul searching and often agonizing lyrics that appear in the Zion's Harp.

This prolonged conflict and its resultant tragedies often affected and

weighed heavily on the many authors whose songs appear in this hymnal. One such author was Martin Rinkert, who lived from 1586-1649. At the outbreak of the war he was a young man of 32.

A Lutheran pastor, poet, and composer, he studied theology at the University of Leipzig. In 1617, he moved to the city of Eilenberg where he served the church as archdeacon.

Rinkert spent the greater part of his professional and religious career amid the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. He wrote the beautiful Zion's Harp song, "Now Thank We All Our God," page 236. He is perhaps symbolic of the many authors who suffered, not only persecution, but much mental and physical anguish as a result of the intense theological combativeness that existed in the centuries following the start of the Reformation.

Not only did religious persecution take place in the 17th and 18th centuries, but in the 19th century as well. Surely S. H. Froehlich suffered terribly from the harassment of the Protestant State Church in Switzerland, not only with respect to his holding religious meetings at the displeasure of the State Church, but also as a result of the State Church's failure to recognize his marriage to Susette Brunschwiler which was conducted in an Evangelical Baptist service in Hauptwil in 1836.

Also, G. M. Mangold obviously suffered religious persecution as evidenced by his being thrown in jail.

In any case, intense persecution and continuous theological upheaval certainly served to draw men closer to God in order that they might have the power to lead serene lives amid momentous conflict. Martin Rinkert was a case in point.

The town where he was serving his church, Eilenburg, was walled and drew refugees from far and wide who attempted to escape the ravishing battles between troops engaged in the war. This led to crowded conditions, and pestilence and famine ensued.

In 1637, pestilence raged the city and Rinkert buried 4,480 of his fellow citizens, including his wife. In 1638, people reportedly ate cats and dogs to keep from starving to death. In the midst of this, Rinkert dutifully served his people.

It is generally held by religious

historians that the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God" was written in appreciation for the termination of thirty years of warfare. However, some sources disagree. The Lutheran Encyclopedia states that this song, which is found in most hymnals of the Christian Church, was instead based on the Apocryphal text of Ecclesiasticus 50.22 which reads, "Now therefore bless ye the God of all, which only doeth wondrous things everywhere, which exalteth our days from the womb and dealeth with us according to his mercy."

The song was originally a simple

table prayer to be sung after a meal in a Christian home, according to the same encyclopedia. Also, the same source indicates this song was not written as some suppose, to celebrate the Peace of Westphalia, but was already published in 1637.

Yet, others disagree and contend this hymn was written in celebration of the war's end. Carl F. Price, in "One Hundred and One Hymns," states, "It is generally supposed Rinkert wrote it as a Te Deum of praise because of the restoration of peace at the close of thirty years of horrible strife."

In any case, as the song is sung

in the Apostolic Christian Church, it is perhaps done so more to commemorate the great deeds God has done relating to the Plan of Salvation, rather than to the culmination of a war which ended over three centuries ago, and which few brethren know about.

The main point to be made is this: the events of the Thirty Years' War and other similar conflicts and cleavage did stir up a passion within the hearts of many authors which resulted in these glorious songs of praise which continue to inspire believers.

(to be continued)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

One more week, then school is out. Three of our older girls are looking forward to summer jobs in assistant counseling and maintenance at a local summer-day camp. The younger children are just looking forward to being out of school. However, we are organizing a summer tutoring program. Most of the children need every advantage they can get to catch up and then stay caught up in their studies.

The sweetcorn, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach are up in the garden. That means that there is a lot of hoeing and weed pulling coming. We've tripled our garden area this year. We've planted a much larger area of sweetcorn in hopes of selling some in the summer. We are also looking forward to some fruit from the orchard.

We made some mistakes by using too much fertilizer and allowing too much sunshine this year in our lean-to greenhouse. Hopefully, we will use the experience to good advantage next year. But along with some disappointments, we have success. Our lettuce and radish bed produced a bumper crop. It is packed and is flourishing with tall and thick Iceberg and Salad Bowl lettuce, nice red, round radishes, and spinach, some of which we ate last night for supper.

One of the mother rabbits had bunnies, and the younger "kids" were thrilled. Debbie and Bertha are now doing the chicken chores. Thelma is feeding the rabbits.

The grapes are staked, the dandelions are sprayed, and the lawn has been mowed a couple of times. So, summer is here, and we are looking forward to a busy one.

We again invite you to visit us this summer. We benefit from and enjoy your company.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The annual Quilt Sale is coming again on September 15. Please start making plans, and get your quilts ready.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As the lovely month of May progresses into June, we are reminded of the author who said: "The flowers of the earth do not grudge at one another, though one be more beautiful and fuller of virtue than another; but they stand kindly one by another and enjoy one another's virtue."

Jakob Boehme

"...they stand kindly one by another..." It is our intent that the powers of heart and limb of all of us here at the Home be dedicated to do just that. God's talents are not given "share and share alike." His wisdom is deeper than that. That the name of our Heavenly Father be glorified, there are hills to be leveled and valleys to be filled. Therefore it is logical that each of us should be willing to serve His divine purpose, either to serve or to be served, as He sees best.

Sonja Metzger, formerly of Sabetha, KS, came to live at our Home on December 6, 1978. Her parents, Kay and John Buddin of Sabetha, and her sister, Cassandra Schorsch of Homewood, IL, complete her family. Her father, Albert Metzger, is deceased. Charley and Mary Metzger, formerly of Sabetha, were her grandparents.

Sonja dearly loves small children and the elderly, and is adept in caring for them. Her previous experience was quickly utilized after her arrival. Some time each week is

spent at a nearby geriatric home, where she enriches the lives of those who are there. Birthday time for Sonja is April 14.

As always, the power behind the forces of nature are awe-inspiring this spring. Flowering shrubs and trees are exceptionally beautiful this year. The fresh air and sunshine are indeed beneficial to the residents. We look forward to summer activities, among them a planned trip to Springfield, IL.

We welcome Guy Masinelli as a new member of our Home's family. His mother, Ann Masinelli, is supervisor of our laundry department.

Thought gem: We are what we are in God's sight, no more and no less.

SOLDIER REUNION

The five-year Soldier Reunion will be held at Lamar, MO, on August 4 and 5. Invitations will be sent at a later date. If for some reason some are unintentionally omit-

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ted, please contact Marie Marti, Lamar, MO 64759, telling her that you plan to attend.

LEST WE FORGET

**Bro. Carlton Lanz
Rockville, CT**

Our Nation remembers its heroes, those who gave their lives as a supreme sacrifice in service to their country. The day set aside by our country is Memorial Day. It is a time to pause and think of those whose graves we visit and place a small flag and, in this area, normally a small geranium or some other remembrance. It is also a time to think what passing time brings about. It is a time when we visit our cemeteries with mixed feelings as we look across the many graves, decorated so tenderly with so many flowers, predominately red geraniums. With this picture in mind, it leaves one with a feeling that these graves are not neglected.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Hazel Vibbert**

The engagement of Bro. Ricky Hillard and Sis. Deborah Royster was announced. Their wedding is to be at 7 p.m. on June 1 at the Apostolic Christian Church. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Hoarce Hillard. Deborah is the daughter of Mrs. Wilma Royster.

Gary Vibbert is home after serving four years in the Army.

Vickie Vibbert is supposed to go back in the hospital in June.

The graduates are Debbie Hargrove (she is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Carl Haggermaker), Teresa Haggermaker (her parents are Ed and Sis. Irene), Deborah Royster (her mother is Mrs. Wilma Royster), and Shelly Carroll (her mother is Sis. Mildred).

A Mother and Daughter supper was held May 12. All who attended had a nice visit with their mothers.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Julie Hoerr**

The Lord has blessed us with an abundance of His beautiful creations this spring: flowers of the daintiest variety, also the hearty ones, and flowering cacti. The humming-birds, butterflies, and bees are also abundant. What a joy to watch the birds stop briefly in the plants hanging on the patio. The Valley of the Sun is now having temperatures in the 90's and 100's.

Bro. Sam Schupbach was thankful the Lord blessed him with his

90th birthday. His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren came from many miles to celebrate his happy day. Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach and their families from Arizona and Illinois and Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kabansirch and their family from Tucson were with Bro. Sam for his birthday. What a testimony of faith when Bro. Sam said, "The Lord willing, I'm looking forward to my next birthday."

Many of our loved ones have been exceptionally ill and hospitalized. Sis. Dorothy Zollinger had two major surgeries and is now recuperating at home; our dear Dorothy Kraft was hospitalized for studies; Sis. Luanne Klopfenstein was hospitalized for surgery; and my mother, Sis. Evelyn Hoerr, is in the hospital for a few weeks of extensive physical therapy.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death." Psalm 48:14. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne (Shick) Dotterer in the sudden loss of her brother, Bro. Steve Schick, Washington. We pray they may find comfort in our Lord's nearness. Our prayers are also with Bro. Alvin Laukauf in the death of his sister-in-law, Velta Laukauf of Latty, and with Sis. Lois Elasser in the loss of her nephew, Bro. Kenneth Knobloch.

THOUGHT: May the light of your faith so shine that it will illuminate the heart of another.

Audrey McDaniel

Heartfelt thanks for prayers, gifts of love, and cards given during his time of surgery and recuperation come from Bro. Earl Sanders.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Carlton J. Lanz**

Praise ye the Sovereign Lord!
With songs and honors sounding
loud,

Address the Lord on high;
Over the heavens He spreads His
cloud,

And waters veil the sky;
He makes the grass the mountains
crown,

And corn in valleys grow.
His hoary frost, His fleecy snow,
Descend and clothe the ground;
The liquid streams forbear to flow,
In icy fetters bound.

He sends His word, and melts the
snow,

The fields no longer mourn;
He calls the warmer gales to blow,

And bids the spring return.
The changing wind, the flying
cloud,

Obeys His mighty word;
With songs and honor sounding loud
Praise ye the sov'reign Lord!

Since it is springtime and winter has now past, I am particularly impressed with this hymn after hearing that a sister, an aged mother, expressed to her family that this particular hymn was so fitting for the time present. Many of these beautiful hymns have a deeper meaning to some than to others. The songwriter of the above was Isaac Waats who has written many lovely hymns that have been an inspiration to many of us.

We can report with pleasure that two dear friends, Ronald and Judy Stomberg, have been added to the body of believers. Their testimonies were clear and convincing, before the Church, that it was God who had brought about their conversion. Upon their baptism and vows taken, they went their way rejoicing. The evening service was devoted entirely to Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper. It was well attended; the church was filled. The atmosphere becomes solemn as we stand in reverence to its importance and break the bread and sup the wine in memory of Christ's hours of agony and suffering. The two newly chosen elders, Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer (Choghan and Naumberg NY), were present to assist Bro. John Bahler, our elder, in this work.

Birth: Born to Sis. Lynette and Bro. Robert Goric, their first child, a daughter, Leah Marie on May, 15, 1979. The grandparents of the infant are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Christine Virkler and Sis. Janet Goric.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
John and Caroline Hejja**
The ways of our Lord are marvelous

Kept in secret for awhile
The sea covers His footprints
Glides on the wings of winds.
In deep mine, at concealment
Forms His wonderful plans,
But He declares it undoubtedly
By His powerful testimony.

(Translated from a Hungarian hymn)

Sometimes the Lord's ways may seem hidden from our sight, and we don't know what the future will bring. Every believer can experience the greatness of God's ways

and His marvelous plans if he will wait upon the Lord and allow Him to plan for him His own way. We can be thankful that we have a God who knows all and who has promised to lead and direct us if we trust in Him and are obedient to Him.

"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!" (Psalms 139: 14, 15, and 17)

Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally Gress welcome a new daughter into their home. Melissa Christine was born April 23. The grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Bro. Fayhe and Sis. Marie Gress from West Bend, IA.

Our prayers were with Bro. Jim Wieland and his daughter-in-law, Sis. Beata Wieland, as they were both in the hospital for operations. We are glad that both are able to assemble with us again.

Brad Troxel, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel, was married to Dahlys Hansen on Saturday, May 12. The couple plans to reside here, in Ft. Lauderdale.

We are sorry to see Bro. Dave Mueller leave Florida. Bro. Dave expects to assemble with the Bluffton, IN, congregation. We wish him God's guidance and rich blessings in his new home.

We were thankful to have Bro. Al Schneider in our midst to share God's Word with us.

It was decided that instead of having singing each Wednesday this summer, we would alternate singings with a Bible study. The first Bible study meeting was held last night. It is our sincere wish that these meetings might be to God's glory and that we may learn more of God's Word and His wonderful ways.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elda Martin

Lester Roescher was suddenly called out of this life on April 16. Only two days before, while eating out to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary, Lester had a heart attack. He leaves his wife, Sis. Edna, and one son, Bro. Bill. They moved here from Rockville, CT. Lester was

laid to rest in our newly purchased church cemetery.

The family of Lester Roescher wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for the many deeds of kindness shown to them during the loss of their loved one.

Bro. Jim Furrer has a cast on his leg for a broken bone in his ankle. The accident occurred when he jumped from the back of a truck while at work.

From Dec. 24 to Apr. 22, the Lord led 34 visiting ministers to our congregation to preach His blessed Word. Among them, recently, were Bro. Bob Grimm, Congerville, IL; Bro. Roy Lugenbuhl, Rockville, CT; and Bro. Dave Bertsch, Leo, IN. Bro. Dave was here to assist our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach with Holy Communion at our Good Friday services.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Dixie Knapp

Everyone has favorite Scriptural verses, verses that seem to be overflowing with meaning. During our anniversary service, Elder Bro. Dave Kieser of Princeville pointed out such a verse. He read, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." (1 John 3:1) The awe with which John writes is contagious.

He cares so much for us that he provides the instructions to carry out the sacrament of Holy Communion. Everyone receives things from communion. It's a time for trying once again to comprehend the cost that God demanded of Jesus. It is also a time for looking to the future and trying to walk a little more purely, a little more closely, to the image of Christ. It's almost like He understands that we need to have a chance to put aside our discouragement with ourselves and try again to serve Him more purely.

Apr. 22 was a special day for a family within our congregation. It was announced that Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum, daughter of Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum, will be married to Bro. Tom Bucher of La-Crosse, IN. His parents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher. They are looking forward to beginning their life together in Christ on July 1. We share their excitement and prayerfulness at this time.

Two of our family had a very

special Mother's Day. It was the day when Sis. Mary Bucher of Francisville became the wife of Bro. Mark Huber. We look forward to seeing God work in their lives as they now begin to establish a home for His honor and glory.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

We extend our best wishes to Emmy Streitmatter (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Esther) and Jack Stuckel (Ed and Betty) who were united in marriage on May 4. They will reside in Farmington.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on April 22. Elder Bros. Dave Kieser and Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) spent the day with us. Bro. Don Manz (Junction) was with us for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold as her father, Bro. Andy Martin, passed away, recently.

A baby boy was born to John and Beverly Drinnin of Des Moines, IA, on April 8. Joel Bryce is welcomed home by a two-year-old sister, Erin. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Drinnin, Sr., of Chilllicothe, and Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Esther Streitmatter.

Sis. Margaret Tanner wishes to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and deeds at the time of her surgery. She and Bro. John also appreciated all who remembered their 40th wedding anniversary.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN URBANA

Charlen Banwart

And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the pass-over, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the pass-over with my disciples? And he shall show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready. (St. Luke 22:8-12) This scripture was among those meditated upon by our Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Bro. Bob Grimm at communion service held on May 9.

Bro. Rich Fischer was elected trustee at our annual business meet-

ing. Bro. Bill Blunier will serve as usher, and Sis. Jenny Sauder is our new Sunday School teacher. Sis. Cheri Joos agreed to continue teaching the pre-school class. May the Lord bless all of their efforts.

We appreciated the recent sermons of ministering Bros. Steve Rinkenberger of Cissna Park and Roy Ehnle of Bradford.

As another school year draws to a close, we bid farewell to those who are leaving our community. "May the road rise up to meet you, the wind be always at your back, the sun shine warm upon your field, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand." (Irish blessing)

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing. . ." Psalm 92: 13, 14. Old or young, being human, we sometimes fear growing older. But because of His sacrifice, Spirit, and promises, we have reason only to rejoice.

Should some church be prevented from gathering together by the authorities, would the news not travel quickly. Would we not pray diligently, in fear and trembling, that all could continue to worship in peace. Let us not forget to pray for Christ's own in other lands. Let us lift up our eyes in thanksgiving, in joy that we may attend services at the house of the Lord each and every Sunday and mid-week—and remember that it is a privilege, not a promise that it will always be so. Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, IN, was a special messenger, gathering with us on Easter Sunday. Bro. Russel Rapp, Morton, IL, ministered to us on Mother's Day, another precious day. We rejoice that the Lord led them to come.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100. The primary class said this short Psalm

as part of our Easter program on Palm Sunday. That same Psalm applied to a short bus trip a number of us were able to take to Iowa City, April 28 and 29. We could fellowship freely with those of our own congregation on the bus; in Iowa City we met more whom we grew to love. In hours, we formed new bonds of Christian friendship.

Truly, we were abundantly blessed because always Christ and the Word were the focus of our trip. Iowa City brethren gave us so much in our short time with them. Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann expressed all of our wishes when he quoted I Chronicles 28:20: ". . . Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger are happily caring for a much-expanded little family. Kent Michael and Kristi Jill were born May 14. Their sister, Robin (at home), grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geier, Peoria, IL, and Sis. Marie Kellenberger, Sabetha, KS, are eager to be of assistance. We praise His Holy name.

Sis. Peggy Klaus has been hospitalized for tests. We pray that knowledgeable physicians will help her and are glad that she is, as always, in the hands of the greatest Healer.

Accepting God's will is not always hard for me. But I struggle often against comparing myself to others. We are promised a "penny" a day, and the Lord will provide the work. We do not have the same tasks, and we must remember that it is not what we are doing (and it is not our doing), but our attitude and obedience that the Lord considers important.

Have you ever considered that as we live, we are building the history of our church?

Sermon Notes:

We all have times when our thoughts, turning inward, become counter-productive. We get down on ourselves, and praying is so difficult because we're bemoaning that "everyone else gets the blessing but not me." Once again the Bible contains the answer: "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obe-

dience of Christ. . ." II Corinthians 10:5.

When we sacrifice for Christ, are we starving or are we fasting? As it was explained to us, starving people crave food, crave that which they are being denied, and cannot understand why they are being deprived. When one fasts, that is a voluntary act, one expected to be beneficial and done through conviction. To the unknowledgeable, both may look the same, but the nutrition the "fasting" soul receives compared to that received by the "starving" soul is as far superior as that of an alfalfa field over one of thistles.

"Take heed therefore how ye hear. . ." Luke 8:18. "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it." Luke 8:5. How do we prepare for Sunday? If we sleep in church, the fowls of the air have taken the Word. And do we know we may even affect the preaching of the Word, as the attitude of an audience can affect the speaker's mental state? "And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture." Luke 8:6. We do not want to criticize, but evangelists who spend only a short time with people en masse, then leave them telling them to "attend the church of their choice," may foster plants with no root. "And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it." Luke 8:7. What are our priorities on Sunday? Do we think we need only one service, or do we maybe even miss both sometimes? What should come first? What does? We must take heed, for it is much easier to come less often than to come more, once we establish such rationalizations. "And other fell on good ground, and sprung up, and bare fruit a hundredfold. . ." Luke 18:8.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Judy Bauer
Mary Anderson**

He who has God and many other things has no more than he who has God alone—C. S. Lewis.

Sis. Martha Hari (nee Nussbaum), 85, passed away following a lingering illness. She was married to Bro. Joe Farney, who preceded her in death. She later married Bro. Sam Hari who survives along with three sisters and two brothers. Bro.

Sam is remembered in thought and prayer at the passing of his loved one, although we feel Sis. Martha's passing was a blessed release.

We extend our condolences to the Clarence Maul and Gilbert and Melvin Stock families in the passing of their brother, Bro. John Stock of Peoria.

Hospital patients included: Esther Vogel, Philip Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne), and Wally Kaufman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldine). Bro. Les Maul fractured a bone in his leg and was hospitalized for several days.

Ministers visiting us in recent weeks were Bros. Jim Leman, Roanoke, and Art Bahler, Fairbury. Bringing timely and inspiring messages on Mother's Day were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenman, Chicago, and Bro. Robert Pfleder, Morton. We appreciate all the effort put forth by our ministers and pray that God will ever sustain them and grant their every need. Bible Classes from Roanoke, Fairbury, and Champaign also visited us, recently.

Our young folks who graduated from college this spring were Sisters Liz Johnson and Kay Walder and Bro. Keith Knapp. Those who graduated from local high schools were Doug Griener, Eddie Stock, Randy Farney, Duane Feller, Mark Sauder, Annette Ruetter, Wes Kaufman, and Sis. Pam Walder.

Bro. Joe Hari had surgery on March 13 at Copely Hospital in Aurora. Several days later he had a stroke and was taken to Marionjoy Rehabilitation Center in Wheaton. Recently he was transferred to the Watseka Nursing Home at Watseka, IL, where he is receiving therapy. He is slowly improving. Bro. Joe and Sis. Anna wish to express their thanks to all who have shown their love with prayers, cards, and gifts since Joe has been in the hospital. Also, he thanks those who remembered him on his birthday. They hope God will bless each one.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Nettie Clauss want to thank everyone who remembered them in any way on their 50th wedding anniversary which was March 31.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gay Knapp
Pat Rinkenberger

"I have read somewhere of a little bird that will never sing the melody his master wishes while his cage is full of light. He learns a snatch of this, a bar of that, but never an en-

tire song of its own until the cage is covered and the morning beams shut out."

"A good many people never learn to sing until the darkening shadows fall. The fabled nightingale carols with his breast against a thorn. It was in the night that the song of the angels was heard. It was at midnight that the cry came, 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.'

"Indeed it is extremely doubtful if a soul can really know the love of God in its richness and in its comforting, satisfying completeness until the skies are black and lowering. Light comes out of darkness, morning out of the womb of the night."
—Cowman

We express deepest sympathy to Ann (Roth) Schick and family in the loss of her husband, Steve. We must remember, "Jesus' heart is touched with our grief."

We are overjoyed and thankful to God for our new convert, Kim Craig. May the Lord lead him in the path of righteousness.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Nathan Stoller (Bradford), and LeRoy Huber (Eureka). We were encouraged to fill our bank with lasting treasures which no thieves can steal, treasures that we can present to the Lord.

Terri, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Katie Hasty, was married to Wayne Forest from Bloomington.

German and Doris (Knapp) Baldeon welcomed their first-born son on May 11. They named him Michael German.

Our Sis. Della Stahl was hospitalized but is now home and recovering.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

The beauty of spring refreshes us once again. It lifts the spirit and helps us to push on. As I worked in my garden this evening, the sweet words of "In the Garden" came to me with a blessing:

"He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me,
Within my heart is ringing. . ."
How precious it really is to walk with God and talk with God as that hymn goes on to relate!

Douglas Leman (son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) and Melinda Kellenberger (daughter of Elvis and Gail) were united in marriage May 5. We appreciate this new young couple and pray that they will seek the Saviour to direct their life together.

Mabel Steffen has been "shut-in" for several weeks with severe arthritic pain and resulting incapacitation. Others have been hospitalized, including: Andy Tobler (young son of Sis. Madeline Tobler) for an appendectomy, Edward Moser for diagnostic tests, and Sis. Katie Kachelmuss for a fractured pelvis. All are convalescing in their homes. Truly, we see there is no need for idleness in God's vineyard when we consider how we could and should lend a supporting hand or utter a prayer in behalf of those in need.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger have returned home after their winter stay in Texas. We are grateful God has spared them from harm to soul and body.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

On Sunday, April 15, announcement was made of two engagements: Sis. Jane Anliker to Bro. Jim Stoller and Sis. Janet Leman to Bro. Robin Rocke. Their parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Mina Anliker, Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Clara Stoller Huber, Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke, all of Eureka. We wish both couples God's richest blessings as they plan their new life together.

Our dear Sis. Carrie Huber who had reached the age of 94 was called to her eternal rest on April 16. Sis. Carrie lived at the Home in Eureka for 12 years, being originally from Fairbury where funeral services were held. Two of her children lived in Eureka, Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Pauline (Virgil) Rocke, with whom we sympathize.

Randy and Dawn Maloney are the parents of their first child, Deiken James, who was born April 18. The grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Zobrist and Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Maloney of Eureka.

Another of our dear ones at the Home was relieved of his suffering April 21 when Bro. Andy Martin could go to rest. Our sympathy to his four daughters, Sisters Mabel (Bob) Belsley of Morton, Verna (Richard) Harter of Goodfield, Helen (Bob) Wiegand of Eureka,

and Loretta (Elwin) Rumbold of Wyoming, four sons, Bros. Lester, Nelson, Lewis of Eureka, and Harvey of Washington, and one sister, Sis. Minnie Bittner of Eureka.

April 22 was the wedding day of Sis. Susan Schmidgal and Bro. Dale Zimmerman who were united in marriage by Bro. Walter Anliker. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgal and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman of Eureka. Another young couple was united in holy matrimony on April 29 when Sis. Shirley Knepp and Bro. Terry Leman repeated their vows. Bro. LeRoy performed the ceremony. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Freda Knepp and Bro. Milton and Sis. Caroline Leman of Eureka. We pray God will be with both of these young couples as they establish new Christian homes.

The engagement of Sis. Karen Hodel to Bro. Doug Martin was made known on April 29. We wish them much happiness. Their parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Mildred Hodel and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin of Eureka.

We had a most blessed weekend when Bro. Loren Stoller of Latty came to assist Bro. LeRoy and Bro. Walter in the proving and baptizing of four dear souls: Bro. Neal and Sis. Lisa Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Eunice of Latty), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Bro. Leland and Sis. Lorene Zimmerman of Eureka), and Bro. Kent Leman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman of Eureka). It is indeed uplifting to the whole church when new souls can be added to the fold.

With us, too, were visiting ministers, Bros. Bob Pflederer of Morton and Marshal Heinold of Washington. We thank all the brothers for their labors and invite them to come again.

God again showed two dear ones they were to walk together through life. Bro. Darryl Blunier and Sis. Lucy Hartter of Goodfield whose engagement was announced on May 6 are planning an August wedding. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Verna Hartter of Goodfield and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Clara Lou Blunier of Eureka.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Verna Lehman wish to thank all who remembered Bro. Andy on his 80th birthday. The cards and good wishes were much appreciated.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Martha (Alf) Grusy who is

home again and Bonita (Melvin) Martin, hospitalized after a fall.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

We rejoice greatly that two couples have taken the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour: Eldon and Darlene Steidinger and Kenneth and Linda Fehr.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Valla Broquard were blest with a new baby; they named him Joseph Ryan. The little boy has a brother, Jarrod Samuel. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Donald Broquard and the great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. George Broquard.

Sis. Carrie Huber, 94, passed away at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, where she lived since 1967. Before that she lived all her life in our Fairbury area. Her husband, Bro. William, passed away in 1931. Surviving are: four daughters, Sis. Wilma, Sis. Pauline Rocke, Sis. Lorene Kloter, and Sis. Emma Lou Steffen; three sons, Bro. Le Roy, Bro. Rueben, and Bro. Robert; thirty grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Bro. John Koehl, 93, passed away at the hospital following an illness of several months. He had been a resident of Fairview Haven. His wife, Sis. Leah (Reiger), died in 1970. Surviving are: four sons, John, Dick, Sam, and Dean; four daughters, Sis. Lydia Eisenman, Sis. Esther Hodel, Sis. Ruth Vaughn, and Sis. Leona Bentley; one sister, Sis. Emma Schmidtgal; fifteen grandchildren; and thirty-three great-grandchildren.

Bro. Dan Meiss, 70, passed away at the Fairbury Hospital. He married Sis. Lucille Streib, who survives. Also surviving are: three sons, Roger, Richard, and Curtis; a brother, Bro. Eli Meiss; a sister, Sis. Lavina Kilgus; eight grandchildren, four step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

We are sorry for those hospitalized: Bro. Walter Moser had open heart surgery, Bro. Henry Maurer had a cataract removed, Bro. Schieler is at Carle Hospital, and Sis. Lavina Moser has returned home.

Visiting ministers who came and blest us were: Bro. Dave Wiegand, Bro. Ed Alt, Bro. Walt Herrmann, and Bro. Art Baurer.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Beverly Eisenmann

Jan Bachtold

Shawna and Jennifer Adams, lit-

tle daughters of Bro. Terry and Sis. Sharon, had tonsillectomies and are now doing fine. Candi Stephens (Don and Marge), Sis. Earlene Hamilton, and Bro. Bill Aberle are all home again after spending time in the hospital. Sis. Leona Ricketts is again in Iowa City for knee surgery.

The weekend of April 22 was a blessed one for us as Mark and La Verne Aberle gave their testimonies of faith and became precious children of God. Sharing in this blessed occasion were Elder Bro. Josh Broquard and Bros. Merle Kaisner and Art Bahler of Fairbury and Bros. Jim Byrd and Bill Hodel of Roanoke.

We rejoice, as do the angels in Heaven, with our friend Jon Ricketts (Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona) who has turned his back to the pleasures of this life to a richer life of serving the Lord. May he always feel God's abundant love and grace.

During the month, we were richly blessed with spiritual food brought to us by Bros. Virgil Metzger of Champaign, Bill Kupferschmid of Bloomington, and Byron Stoller and Elmer Witzig of Gridley. May these brothers be blessed for their willing labors in the vineyard of our Lord.

Bro. Craig and Trudy Rudin and little boys, Scott and Andy, have been blessed with a new addition to their family. T. Anne is a granddaughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman and Bro. Willard and Sis. Tillie Rudin of Cissna Park.

Our Sis. Carrie Wiegand wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, gifts, and prayers during her hospitalization.

The announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Elaine Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) to Bro. Dale Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Betty) of Rittman. May God bless them as they make plans to erect a home and walk life's pathway together.

Proverbs 4:1 - "Hear ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." We truly are thankful that God has provided each family with a father. And what a special blessing to have a father who instructs us in the ways of righteousness at this time of year when we have a special thought of father in our heart. Let us do as Proverbs states and give heed to his instructions. No greater joy could our earthly father have than to see each of his children surrender their lives to our Heavenly

Father.

July is Silver Lining collection month for Forrest. The subscription rate is \$5.00. Please give any address or subscription changes to Ron and Carol Koehl.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm
MY DAD

I love my dad, he's big and strong
 When anything at all goes wrong,
 Whatever it might be . . .
 He fixes it for me!!

There seems to be no limit to
 The many things that he can do. . .
 My heart delights to see him toil
 With skill and tactics almost royal.

Sometimes when I am by his side
 I marvel at his giant stride. . .
 I feel so safe when he is near;
 There's nothing that he seems to
 fear.

My dad is brave and strong it's true,
 But he is very tender, too. . .
 I've seen his eyes with teardrops
 fill
 When I have gone against his will.

He reads the Bible every day,
 And many times I see him pray. . .
 He sometimes takes me on his knee
 And speaks of Godly things to me.

I'm grateful for my dad today,
 Dear Father, bless him, this I pray—
 He's taught me of your kindly
 ways,
 And so to Thee, I give the praise.

Sis. Elna Grimm

To our many Christian fathers,
 we say "thank you." Thank you for
 teaching your children to walk in
 the ways of the Lord. And to those
 fathers who must minister to the
 rest of us, we say a special thanks
 on this Father's Day.

This past month we have had
 Bros. Gerald Sutter, Taylor; Joe
 Stoller, Princeville; Roy Wieland,
 Bay City; Ralph Garber, Morton;
 Merle Kaisner, Fairbury; and Ver-
 non Leman, Eureka, minister to our
 congregation. Also, Elder Bro. Per-
 ry Zimmerman, Forrest, was here
 on Good Friday to help with the ser-
 ving of Holy Communion.

On Saturday, May 5, and Sunday,
 May 6, the following gave their
 testimonies and were baptized:
 Becky Keiser, (Bro. Alfred and Sis.
 Marie), Benjie Tanner (Bro. Ben
 and Sis. Leona), Brenda Hinrichsen
 (Mrs. Charles), and Charlene Ho-

hulin (Mrs Bruce).

Our hospital patients have been
 Sis. Elsie Landes, Holly Hohulin
 (Charlene and Bruce), and Sis. Vi
 Reeser (Harold).

Mike Heinold (Bro. Wilbur and
 Sis. Mildred) and Pam Wuthrich
 (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice, Morton),
 were married on April 21.

Bro. and Sis. Richard and Verna
 Hartter have announced the en-
 gagement of their daughter, Sis.
 Lucy, to Bro. Daryl Blunier, son of
 Bro. Lewis and Sis. Clara Lou
 from Eureka.

Our congregation was grief-
 stricken when Rick Hess, son of
 Bob and Sis. Loretta, was killed in
 an automobile accident on Sun.,
 May 6. Rick leaves two brothers,
 Randy and Scott and two sisters,
 Cindy and Sherri. Sis. Elizabeth
 Hartman is the maternal grand-
 mother. Our prayers of love and
 sympathy go out for the dear fam-
 ily and loved ones.

We wish to extend our sympathy
 to Sis. Verna Hartter in the recent
 death of her dad, Bro. Andy Martin
 from the Eureka Home.

We are happy to have Bro. Roy
 and Sis. Arlene Wyss back from the
 Philippine Islands where they re-
 cently spent a couple of months
 submitting to treatment for Sis.
 Arlene.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

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

We were privileged to join our
 Lord in the Spirit and walk with
 Him from Gethsemene to Calvary
 as we partook of that most sacred
 feast of Holy Communion. Elder
 Bro. Dave Kieser of Princeville was
 with us Weds., Apr. 25, and was in-
 spired to review for our benefit the
 great suffering and death that
 Jesus endured in our behalf.

Debbie Hendren (Bro. Don and
 Sis. Vira Stoller) has repented for
 her sins and feels at peace with
 God and man. She hopes to give a
 testimony of her faith before the
 church in the near future.

Bro. Don and Sis. Vira Stoller
 have announced the marriage en-
 gagement of their daughter, Diane
 Lynn, to Clyde Tegard of Lake
 Bloomington.

Sis. Barb Kiefer and Lucille
 Kuerth were hospital patients and
 are now home again.

We appreciated the visit of min-

istering Bro. Leonard Meyer of
 Chicago.

Congratulations to our many
 graduates from both high school
 and college. As you face a new be-
 ginning in your life, we encourage
 you to do as wise Solomon instruct-
 ed: "In all thy ways acknowledge
 Him, and He shall direct thy
 paths." Proverb 3:6.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Deanna Marti

A young man was asked how his
 life of faith was, and he replied
 that it was like a big, black dog and
 a little, white dog fighting: "Who-
 ever I feed the most is the one
 who's winning." We, as college stu-
 dents, can strongly identify with
 this. We must constantly remind
 ourselves to place first priority on
 feeding on God's Word.

Congratulations to Bro. Keith
 Knapp (Cissna), Sis. Ann Stoller
 (Gridley), and Sis. Anne Wenger
 (Forrest) as they graduate this
 May. As they begin a new pathway,
 it is comforting to know "The steps
 of a good man are ordered by the
 Lord; and he delighteth in his way
 . . . the law of his God is in his
 heart; none of his steps shall
 slide." (Psalm 37: 23, 31)

New officers for the 1979-80
 school year are: President—Bro.
 Chris Gramm; V. President—Bro.
 Lynn Stoller; Secretary — Sis.
 Doris Bachtold; and Treasurer —
 Sis. Deanna Marti. A picnic was
 enjoyed by students and others who
 attend Bible Study meetings. We
 were shown again the strength of
 fellowship as it binds together.

Because of the continued sup-
 port of our ministering brothers,
 we once again had Bible Study ser-
 vices this month. We wish to thank
 Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Bro.
 Vernon Leman (Eureka), and Bro.
 Ken Hoerr (Peoria) for bringing
 God's message to us.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker — Phyllis Farney

Spring has finally arrived here in
 Morton. Warm sunny days and
 showers have brought forth our
 spring flowers. Spring is likened to
 a re-awaking or the beginning of a
 new year. All is fresh and new. Af-
 ter a long, severe winter, we truly
 rejoice in the blessings of our Lord.

Our newest arrival this spring
 was Timothy Lee. March 16, this
 blessed little one came to our Bro.
 Dave and Sis. Jane Zimmerman.
 "Big" brother Alan warmly wel-

comes Timothy home. Timothy's grandparents are Sis. Edith Zimmerman and Sis. Aldeine Witzig.

The home of Bro. Jon and Sis. Joleen Rocke has been richly blessed with their first precious bundle. March 26, little Janelle Marie arrived. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Wayne Rocke and Sis. Eleanor Steffen of Elgin.

We pray for God's blessings on the forth-coming marriages of three couples. One of these couples is Bro. Dave Schwinn and Sis. Barb Landis. Bro. Dave is the son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary of Roanoke. Sis. Barb's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat Landis.

A busy and blessed home is that of Bro. and Sis. Herman Menold as two of their daughters prepare for their forth-coming marriages. The engagement of Sis. Twyla and Bro. Arthur Schlipf of Gridley was announced on March 25. Bro. Art is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Schlipf. Bro. and Sis. Menold's daughter, Susan, has announced her engagement to David Chadwick. David's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chadwick of Morton.

April 21, Pam Wuthrich and Mike Heinold were united in marriage. The parents of this happy couple are Bro. and Sis. Wilbur Heinold of Goodfield and Bro. and Sis. Jim Wuthrich.

April 8, we were blessed with fellowship and singing when we had company from Gridley and Washington. May God bless those who came and shared.

Scott Josef has blessed the home of Mike and Mary Staley. The happy grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Francis Rother and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Staley. Scott was born on April 7.

Bro. and Sis. Russell Rapp rejoice in the birth of their first grandchild. April 11, Andrew Russell Miller blessed the home of Mark and Linda Miller.

We rejoice and give thanks that souls are still being called. Our prayers are with our Bro. Henry Aberle who gave his testimony and was baptized on May 11. Emma Huetter gave her testimony on May 9, and we look forward to welcoming her as our sister after her baptism on May 16. May God richly bless these dear ones as they journey forward in their Christian walk.

We want to take this time to extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Mrs. Josephine Barth

(April 20) and Bro. Andrew Martin (April 23). We offer our prayers and sympathy also to Sis. Lavina Kilgus in the loss of her brother. On April 17, we bade farewell to our Bro. Joe Kaiser. Our prayers are with these families during their losses.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for coming and sharing their thoughts and bringing the Word. Our visiting ministering brothers were: Alfred Bahler, Wolcott; Don Sauder, Roanoke; Harold Schmidgall, Gridley; and Ron Heiniger and Charlie Sinn, Ft. Scott. We sincerely appreciated the efforts of these brothers so very much.

MOTHER'S

What makes a mother great? Is it her experience in the reality of the shadow of death in giving birth to her child? Or is it because of her physical duties in caring for her own? No, for these are normal and routine to all mothers and not all are great.

The source of greatness is the right development of that which is spiritual. No mother is or can be great who does not strive constantly to keep her spirit and will in tune and submission to the eternal and perfect spirit and will of God.

Samuel achieved much because Hannah prayed. Augustine was saved because his mother, Monica, constantly brought him to the throne of God in prayer. Abraham Lincoln attributed his success to his mother, whose contribution was of the spirit. These sons were great because God was so vital to their mothers.

True greatness for each of us is to be found in the realm of the spirit.

Frederick E. Udlock
May 12, a Mother-Daughter Luncheon was held at our Fellowship Hall. This year's theme was "Who Can Find A Virtuous Woman?" and was taken from Proverbs 31:10-31. A delicious luncheon was served and enjoyed by all. We were richly blessed by special thoughts and beautiful songs. We appreciate and thank everyone who had a part in making the luncheon such a blessing.

We were again blessed as we gathered together April 28 to participate in Holy Communion services. We were reminded of Christ's suffering on the cross and of His shed blood which can save every soul. May we remember this daily in each of our lives and be His humble children.

Bro. Frank Baumann sincerely wishes to express his heart-felt thanks to all who remembered him during his illness. He has a special remembrance for those who were so kind when he became ill in Florida. He prays that God will richly bless all of them.

Our hospital list is lengthy at this time. We shall continue to remember these dear ones in our prayers. The following have been hospitalized during this writing: Bro. Wm. Roecker; Bro. Wm. Aupperle; Bro. Phil Getz; Bro. Dan Kaufman; Bro. Carl Huber; Sis. Marie Belsley; Sis. Hannah Strunk; Sis. Edna Fite; and Sis. Mary Baum.

Last month the marriage date of Bro. Victor and Sis. Ruth Kaisner's daughter was incorrectly reported. Linda plans an August 25th wedding.

I am pleased to report that a dear sister has found time to share of herself to help prepare our news. I feel very blessed and privileged to welcome Sis. Phyllis Farney. We shall strive to do our best for all.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

Isn't life precious when God can bring forth a new baby into a Christian home? Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan Plattner are the first-time parents of a darling, little boy, Luke Andrew. He was born April 26. His grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and Bro. Jake and Sis. Bernice Plattner of Morton.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geyer are the happy grandparents of twins. Kristi Jo and Kent Michael were born on May 14. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger of Chicago. Robin welcomes Kristi and Kent home.

A baby boy, Casey Aaron, was born to Norman and Judy Rocke of Ellsworth on March 24. He has a sister, Holly, waiting for him at home. The grandparents are Don and Beverly Seiler of Danvers and Norman and Sis. Emma Rocke.

As God knows a time for new birth, He also knows a time for death. God has called three precious souls to live with Him in heaven. After suffering for several years from a lengthy illness, God found fit to relieve Sis. Connie Triplett of her pain and take her with Him to heaven. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Wilbur, her three daughters, Sis. Nancy, Margaret, and Patty, and her mother and fam-

iy. Bro. Wilbur wishes to express his thanks for all the cards, prayers, gifts of money, and love shown to him and his family.

At all ages, God calls souls to come Home. God saw fit to call Mike Eastman and Bro. John Stock to be with Him in heaven forever. We extend our sympathy to Mike's parents, Darrell and Jane Eastman, Brian, Tricia, and his grandmother, Sis. Mary Lawless. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. John's family.

This month, the Peoria congregation was privileged to have four visiting ministers: Bros. Don Wagenbach of Washington, Leonard Meyer of Chicago, Cleo Rinkenberg of Pulaski, and Noah Herman of Tucson.

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Eph. 4:4-7. On April 18, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Lydia Meyer. We wish her the grace of God in her new walk of life.

The hospital patients this month were Sisters Minnie Maibach, Emma Messer, Lauretta Schafer, Bertha Frank, and Bros. Jack Koehl, Philip Hoerr George Koehl, and Ken Rocke.

The Peoria Choir held their 10th annual Benefit Dinner on May 12. Bro. Ed Meister led the singers in songs of praise to our Heavenly Father. It was a blessed evening for all.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your ear; to your child, good example; to a father, reverence; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; and to all men, charity. Benjamin Franklin.

Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend, IA, had the message for Good Friday evening services. Many friends shared the evening with us, being reminded of the great price the Lord paid for our salvation. Never will we realize the pain and anguish He suffered because of His deep love for all of us. That makes

us try harder to prove our love for Him.

We could again feel the presence of the Spirit of the Lord on Easter Sunday when Bro. Al Langhofer of Wichita, KS, was our guest minister. He brought forth the inspiring Easter Story in a most sincere way, and the many present were a quiet and attentive audience. The story of Christ's resurrection was vividly told and should make a deep impression on all who heard it. In the afternoon, the story of the Good Samaritan and of Mary and Martha was reviewed. It really is not hard to be a good Samaritan and choose the better part. Then, with joy in our hearts, we can look forward to heaven and it's glories.

May 6, Bros. Henry Grimm of Morton and LeRoy Hartman of Peoria were our guest ministers. We were reminded how important it is for us to be a light wherever we are and to pray for one another. We are shown many times that God answers prayers, maybe not when we want Him to, but when it is best for us. We must be careful not to worship idols or put anything ahead of God. We should seek His guidance and wait upon Him who is able to lead us in all truth and righteousness. We were truly abundantly fed with spiritual food. Farmers are anxious to till the soil, plant crops and then wait for the harvest. So it is for those who have not yet surrendered their will unto the Lord. The Word has gone forth, and we hope that hearts can be softened so the Word may take root and they can enjoy fully the blessings of God and be ready for God's harvest.

Our mothers received a fitting tribute on Mother's Day, and we were thankful that so many could be present. Bro. Dan Koch of Tremont was with us for afternoon services, and we appreciate the words of inspiration he brought forth.

We are thankful for all those who visited us the past weeks, and especially ask God's blessings on those who rendered service to us. We appreciate visitors and enjoy the blessed fellowship with one another.

Sis. Shirley Feucht has been able to worship with us recently after being shut in for a number of weeks. We are glad that her mother, Sis. Nathalia, also has been able to worship with us after being confined to her home for a while. She

thanks everyone who remembered her so kindly during her recent back surgery with cards, notes of encouragement, gifts of love, but MOST of all with prayers; they meant so much. She asks that God will bless all who helped her.

On May 1, twins were born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller. Welcoming Niel Steven and Michelle Ann were Andrea, Natalie, and Ned; grandparents, Bro. LeRoy and Sister Clara Stoller Huber and Otto and Eleanor Baer; and great-grandparents, Sis. Elizabeth Stoller and Bro. Albert and Sis. Anna Grusey.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER

God give us men in times like these,

With hope and courage strong,
Men like Daniel in day of old
Who'll stand against the wrong.

God give us men in times like these,

With hearts and purpose true,
Who'll stand for right with all
their might,
Despite what others do.

God give us men who will not swerve

From all that's fair and just,
With faith in Thee through war
and peace,
A steadfast trust.

God give us men with vision keen,
Men of integrity,
Men who will put their hand in
Thine,

Lead with humility.

Author Unknown

Bro. David Schwind (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Barbara Landes (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat) Morton have announced their engagement to be married. They are planning a July 22 wedding. May God bless their future life together with happiness and peace.

We welcome Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mikaleen Braker and children and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker and daughters (Remington, IN) to our community and church.

Elmer and Josephine Musselman celebrated their 50th anniversary this past month. Congratulations!

Bro. Happy Hodel and Sis. Jane Beer were united in holy marriage Wednesday evening, May 2. May God abide in their hearts and home.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville). One of the brothers mentioned that if we are born once, we will die twice; but if we are born twice, we will die once. Thought provoking, isn't it?

Congratulations to all our graduates from Jr. High, High, and College! Which way from here? COMMIT THY WAYS UNTO THE LORD AND HE WILL DIRECT THY PATHS. (Proverbs 3:6)

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Waggenbach

The Spirit did truly fill our hearts and minds with humbleness and thankfulness as we partook of Holy Communion on April 15. We thank Bro. Don Sauder for his visit and for assisting our Bro. Dan.

Now it is accomplished!

With heart and with mind
To thee, my dear Savior,

I now am resigned!

I'll ever be faithful in life and in
death,

Abiding in Jesus unto my last
breath.

Zion's Harp Hymn 209-verse 10

On Saturday evening, May 5, our hearts were happy to hear the testimonies of Donna Huette (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arlene), Jean Lang (Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis), Dan and Linda Staker (Bro. Weldon and Sis. Doris), and Terry Koch (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Amy). Baptismal services were held May 6. We were thankful for and appreciated Bro. Joe Braker's presence with us at that time. May God continue to grant grace to His lambs so that they may hold fast to the solid rock and drink of the living water of life. Bro. Noah Herman, Bro. Philip Sauder, and Bro. Joe Shrock were added blessings the same weekend.

A little son, Aaron Dale, came to live with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Zuercher April 14. He has a little sister, Trisha. The grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Freida Schaefer and Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher.

There is also joy in the home of Ronald and Kathy Pflederer as their first child, Jeffrey Lynn, was born April 30. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee Pflederer, and Norma Miller (Tremont) and Ron Cooper (Morton).

Our sympathy is with Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and their

family as Bro. Mel's father, Bro. Joe Kaiser, has passed out of this life to his heavenly home.

We thank Bro. John Steiner and Bro. Vernon Wettstein for their visit and for sharing the Word with us on Mother's Day.

Our prayers and concerns are with our shut-ins this month. Sis. Clara Sauder and Lilz Oyer are convalescing at their homes. Sis. Louise Wagenbach is able to worship and fellowship with us again. She wishes to thank everyone for their love and prayers for her. Sis. Betty Schweigert was in the hospital for surgery on her hand; it is healing nicely. Kenneth Rocke is in the hospital at this time for tests. May God give courage and patience to each one.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer - Linda Ziegenhorn

Our congregation gathered to partake of Holy Communion on April 22. What a blessed privilege it is! Elder Bros. Ed Hohulin, Goodfield, and Roy Sauder, Peoria, were here for this blessed day. We are thankful for their deeds of kindness.

"We'll know why clouds instead of
sun

Were over many a cherished plan;
Why song has ceased when scarce
begun;

'Tis there, sometime, we'll
understand.

Why what we long for most of all,
Eludes so oft our eager hand;
Why hopes are crushed and castles
fall,

Up there, sometime, we'll
understand.

Then trust in God thro' all those
days;

Fear not, for He doth hold thy
hand;

Tho' dark thy way, still sing and
praise,

Sometime, sometime, we'll under-
stand."

Hymns of Zion, No. 165

Our small flock suffered a tragic loss on April 28 when we received word that our dear Bro. Steve Schick, age 28, had been killed in a truck accident near Fairbury. Bro. Steve was one of the first souls baptized in our congregation, and on December 4, 1977, he married Sis. Ann Roth of Congerville. They have one son, Jason, eight months old. Sometimes we don't understand God's plan, but we must try to understand that the

Lord has a reason for all He does. We pray that the Lord will be with Sis. Ann and their families as they carry on in this life. Bro. Steve is survived by his wife and son, his parents, Bro. John and Sis. Pauline (Dolly) Schick, four brothers, Tom, Bro. Ted, Bro. Bill, and Scott, and three sisters, Sis. Jeanie (Mrs. John) Dotterer, Phoenix, AZ, Sis. Sandy, and Sis. Mary. Steve's brother, Ted, wrote the following poem in memory of his dear brother:

My brother, Steve, has striven well,
To reach the joys of which tongue
can't tell.

He now does with the Savior live,
For while on earth, he did his life
give.

Steve was the first to enter his
rest,

For of us five brothers, he lived
the best.

We are thankful, Christ, sin's curse
did trample,

And Steve strived after Christ's
perfect example.

With virtues of a woman, and
strength of a man,

He fulfilled in his life, God's per-
fect plan.

Then on that last day, when the
Lord gives a shout,

Thus ending with Satan, the ling-
ering bout,

We'll rise to heaven after the dead
rise first,

And leave those behind which are
by sin cursed.

Then when we reach that beautiful
heavenland,

And step onto that beautiful strand,
We'll then enjoy God's blissful
store,

We'll meet Steve on that yonder
shore,

And dwell in heaven for evermore.
Yes, my heart will cry and his ab-
sence I'll grieve,

And I will not forget my dear
brother, Steve.

Some may say, "Sure a nice guy you
buried under the sod,"

I reply, "Yes, and much more, he
is a Child of God."

But our sorrow was mixed with joy as the same weekend we were able to baptize three new souls and welcome them into the fold. They are Bro. John and Sis. Ellen Cox and Bro. Gary Folkert. We wish them many rich blessings in their new life in the Lord. Elder Bros. Roy Sauder, Peoria, and Dan Koch, Tremont, were here for the prov-

ings and baptisms. Also Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, and Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont, lent themselves to the ministry on that day. We thank them all for their work.

Bro. Joe Herman and Sis. Ruth (Bro. Randy) Kellenberger were hospitalized for short stays. We are glad they are able to worship with us again.

Found: Last fall, a ladies size 10 navy blue jacket, with white stitching, was left at our church. We are anxious for the owner to find her coat. If this could be your coat, write me, Valerie Kipfer, R.R. Eureka, IL. 61530.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Peggy Gerber - Shari Kaehr

In Revelation 22:12, Jesus said: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Our dear Bro. Harold Compton passed from this world into eternity on April 18 to receive his heavenly reward. Bro. Harold's last earthly joy was to learn of his son's engagement, Bro. Brad Compton to Sis. Laura Isch. We know that Bro. Harold and his dear wife, Sis. Betty, were overjoyed with this happy news, as was our congregation. Bro. Harold is survived by his wife, Sis. Betty, three sons, Bro. Brad, Gary, and Joe, and a daughter, Juanita.

Four young couples were overjoyed with their precious new bundles of love. Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev Jolloff were blessed with a second boy named Benjamin R. Big brother Timmy, three, is happy with his new companion. Ked and Nancy Birch welcomed home their new addition, little Brandon Wayne. Sis. Sarah Reinhard is Brandon's pleased grandmother. Bruce and Mary Raber, along with little Tonya, welcomed Tina Marie into their lives on April 30. Bro. Roger and Sis. Pauline Kaehr are Tina's happy grandparents. Mike and Aleda Sumwalt named their first-born child Keith Allen. Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce Gehring are Keith's grandparents.

Many from our congregation journeyed to Francesville on May 6 to witness Bro. Darryl Gerber and Sis. Jinny Gutwein pledge their lives to each other in marriage. Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny will be residing in the Bluffton area, and we welcome Sis. Jinny, lovingly, into our fellowship.

Many in our congregation were hospitalized. They were: Sis. Elizabeth Graber, Sis. Betty Gerber, Trina Bucher (8-year-old daughter of Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis), Herman Heyerly, Bro. John Moser, Bro. Ray Ringger, Bro. Kent Ringger, Bro. Roy Reinhard, Bro. John Kehr, Sis. Lillian Isch, Kurt Reimchisel (son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise), and Connie Macklin [daughter of Carl and Betty (Reinhard) Macklin].

On Saturday evening, April 28, our congregation gathered to partake of Holy Communion. Along with our Elder Bro. Orville Ringger, serving in this holy rite were Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), Nathan Steffen (Elgin), and Edward Frank (LaCrosse). We thank these brothers for taking time to come and assist us on this special occasion. Other ministering brothers visiting our congregation this month were Bro. Henry Beer, Bro. Theo Beer, Bro. Elmer Hartter (all from Milford), Bro. Robert Beer (Mansfield), and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo). We sincerely thank all of these brothers.

On Mother's Day, our graduating Seniors were honored with a breakfast served to them at the Fellowship Hall by last year's graduating class. After the breakfast, the graduates and their parents were seated in the front pews to hear the morning message. We have 36 graduating Seniors this year. Graduating are: Laura Aschliman, Annette Baumgartner, Sis. Gayla Baumgartner, Bro. John Baumgartner, Sis. Julie Baumgartner, Brad Fiechter, Sis. Tami Fiechter, Sis. Fonda Geisel, Sis. Cheryl Gerber, Dean Gerber, Sis. Jean Gerber, Sis. Jenny Gerber, Kim Gerber, Lori Gerber, Sis. Maureen Gerber, Sis. Vicki Gerber, Brent Ivins, Sandy Kaehr, Sis. Joleen Kipfer, Sis. Sheri Leman, Mark Longenberger, Becky Meyer, Lora Meyer, Sonja Meyer, Ramona Moser, Jeni (Isch) Mygrant, Chris Pfister, Tim Pfister, Troy Reimchisel, Bro. Gene Reinhard, Herb Reinhard, Sis. Jodi Ringger, Joan Schwartz, Sis. Beth Steffen, Sis. Terri Steffen, and Craig Stoller. We wish all our graduates God's richest blessings in their futures.

INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

The door that leads to a mother's heart
Is always open wide,

And in her heart a special place
Where peace and love abide.
There is no lock on a mother's heart,
Her children freely go.
For a pat on the cheek or a comforting word
Or something they want to know.
Through years of work and prayer she's learned
Her wise and tender art,
For the nearest thing to the love of God

Is the love of a mother's heart.
-Barbara Burrow

On April 25, Elder Bros. Wendall Gudeman from Francesville and Loren Stoller from Latty, OH, were with us. We were privileged and thankful for their love and concern.

Those in the hospital this month were Sis. Helen Martin, Bro. Henry Souder, and little Brenda Schini. Henry has been released from the hospital and would like to thank everyone for their prayers.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

II Timothy 2:22

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein

Sharon Neihouser

The weekend of April 21, 22 was a blessed one for our congregation. On Saturday evening, we gathered together to hear the testimonies of two dear souls. Then, on Sunday, we were able to witness their baptism and welcome into our fellowship Sis. Barb Huber (daughter-in-law of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred) and Bro. Jerry Overmeyer (Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol). That evening, we assembled again to partake of Holy Communion. We enjoyed having Bros. Ed Frank (La Crosse) and Rod Huber (Valpo) with us for the entire weekend.

On May 6, Sis. Jinny Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann) and Bro. Darryl Gerber (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara) of Bluffton were united in holy matrimony. Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) assisted Bro. Wendall Gudeman in performing the ceremony. Other visiting ministers to share the Word with us for the day were Bros. Jack Bollier (Leo) and Wendell Gerber (Bluffton).

On May 13, Sis. Mary Bucher (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Mark Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) of Bloomington exchanged

wedding vows. Bro. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse) and Bro. Wendell Gudeman had many good teachings for a happy Christian home. Bros. Art Ringger (Indianapolis) and Charles Marti (Lamar) were also willing to come and proclaim God's precious Word to us.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marian Gutwein were blest with two more grandsons. Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt had a son, Lon Andrew. He is welcomed home by Lily, Amy, Camille, Joy, and Melinda. Barry and Quinell Gutwein are first-time parents of a son, Sebastian Che Essling, born May 1

Bro. Emil Pelsy has been transferred from the hospital to Parkview Haven. May God grant him sufficient grace for each day.

Sis. Louise Heinold has been hospitalized, and we pray that she can feel God's healing mercies in the days to come.

On Wednesday evening, May 16, a program was held to honor our graduates. Each one was presented with a Bible by our Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Larry Nuest. The graduates are Joetta Gutwein, Sis. Verene Von Tobel, Kim Boehning, Beth Gutwein, Sis. Debbie Gudeman, Trudi Gudeman, Bonnie Wuethrich, Salli Cook, Marla Wuethrich, Sabine Lammers (foreign exchange student from Germany living with Phil and Julie Gutwein), Sis. Dolores Topp, Janice Gutwein, Nick Gutwein, Mark Vollmer, Roger Pelsy, Randy Bogart, Brian Ward, and Chris Ledford.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuest

On Easter Sunday our visiting ministers were Bros. Art Ringger and Gene Lehman. We appreciate their many teachings and are thankful for their willingness to serve.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bert and Sis. Marie Bucher and Bros. Vernon, Merle, and Ken Bucher upon the death of their son and brother, Bro. Dwight of Francesville.

Sis. Melva Bucher was hospitalized this month. She is home now and gaining strength. Sis. Melva wishes to thank everyone for gifts, cards, visits, and especially for their prayers while she was in the hospital.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Emma Pfeifer wish to thank everyone for the cards, attending their 50th anniversary

reception, and visiting at their home afterwards.

Thank you, God, for little things
That often come our way - -
The things we take for granted
But don't mention when we pray-

The unexpected courtesy,
The thoughtful, kindly deed- -
A hand reached out to help us
In the time of sudden need.

Oh make us more aware, dear God,
Of the little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet
surprise"
From never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice
The announcement was made of
the engagement of Bro. Tom Bucher, LaCrosse, and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum, Bloomington. Parents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher and Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum, Bloomington.

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

Tired? Try taking Minute Vacations! Stop a moment now and then to see the beauties around you—a fleecy cloud in the sky of blue, a blossoming tree, a butterfly flitting by, a sunset, a sunrise, a rainbow. Stoop to smell a flower. Hear the songbird. Never miss seeing anything beautiful for beauty is the handwriting of God. Anything so beautifully designed and well ordered as this universe had to be created by a Master Designer.

Gratefulness is expressed for blessings received from the ministry of visiting brothers, Earl Gerber, Forrest, and Philip Stettner, Bluffton.

Congratulations are due the following high school graduates: Claudia Kizer, James Bollier, Steven Stieglitz, and Larry Stoller.

Congratulations also go to Sis. Edith Bollier (Mrs. Ron) who earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and to Sis. Christine Klopfenstein (Mrs. Lynn) for a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

"May I ever be aware in everything
I do
That knowledge comes from learning—
and wisdom comes from You."
(from A Graduate's Prayer
by Helen Steiner Rice)
A person may go to heaven
without learning

without wealth
without beauty
without fame
without friends
without culture

BUT NO ONE CAN GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT CHRIST.

For there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sandy Beer
Connie Beer

Herbert Hoover said, "Peace is not made at the council table, or by treaties, but in the hearts of men."

It's still true that God is the best cure for a troubled mind. The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah declared, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer joyfully announced the engagement of their daughter, Kathy, to Richard Schlipf (Carl and Lola) of Gridley on April 15. Wedding plans are being made for July 29.

The following weekend we received a blessing from having young people from the Roanoke and Gridley churches.

Sis. Louisa Rapp passed away on April 17 at the nursing home where she had spent her last year. We extend our sympathy to her family, especially her daughter, Sis. Rose Rapp, Sis. Mabeline Zimmerman (Bro. Mike), and Sis. Maryann Haab (Bro. Art).

Sis. Flossie Hartter (Bro. Elmer) was hospitalized in the Bluffton Clinic and is now recuperating at home.

On May 6, Bro. Robert Bebee (Breman) shared his ministry with us. We enjoyed having his family and several other couples worship with us.

Congratulations to our graduates: Phil Beer (Bro. Philip and Sis. Millie), Sonya Hoover (Don and Sis. Virginia), and Mark Sumpter (Jim and Irene).

"Be not anxious about tomorrow. Do today's duties; fight today's temptations and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see and could not understand if you saw them." —Charles Kingsley

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss
Bro. Ed Bahler and Sis. Annette Mathew were united in marriage

on Sunday, Apr. 29. Their parents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler of our congregation and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mathew of Wolcott.

Our visiting ministers have been: Bro. Ed Alt from Cissna Park, Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville, and Bro. Kenneth Weerts from Cissna Park. We thank God for the blessing of having these visitors in our midst and trust that He will bless them for their efforts.

Our dear Sis. Marie Schini passed away on May 5. Her health had been failing for the past several years, and she had been hospitalized for 7 weeks at the time of her death. Two days before she died she asked her family to write a note of thanks for the Silver Lining to express her appreciation to the many loved ones who had remembered her with cards, gifts, and prayers. Sis. Marie was a very grateful and unselfish person, and her heart was truly filled with love for others. Her family includes: Bro. Albert Schini, Sis. Anna Schneider, Sis. Nathalia Schini, and Alma Bahlar of Remington; Sis. Emilie Anliker of Francesville; Bertha Gudeman of Winamac; and Eldora Bongus of Loda, IL. They wish to express their thanks to everyone for the sympathy shown and the many kind deeds which were done to help them during this time of sadness.

Graduating from high school are: Luann Steffen (Bro Ray and Sis. Lucille), Eddie Getz (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen), Glen Braker (Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara), and Tim Bahler (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn).

Our college graduates include: Kent Nussbaum (Marvin and Es-sie), Don Beckley (Elmer and Nancy), Bro. Eddie Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois), and Brent Wai-bel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta).

On May 27, we look forward to hearing the testimony of our dear friend Charlene Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois), and receiving her as a sister in faith. Several more souls in our congregation are seeking the Lord, and we pray that they will find grace and faith unto salvation.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Susie and Marie Heinold GREATER IS HE

A friend of mine tells of how, when he was a boy, he had to walk

several miles to school, and he had to walk alone. On the way he would meet some older boys bound for another school, and they liked to pick on him. He learned that survival hinged upon his hiding in the woods and waiting until he was sure the other boys were on their way. But there came a day when his father walked him to school. Down the road they went, and soon the boy could see the "enemy" ahead. But they didn't molest him. They walked by on the opposite side of the street because his father was with him.

Peace is not our learning how to become so brave that we can lick the enemy on our own. It is our awareness that the Father is with us and **no one** can defeat Him.

B. L. "The Log"

When surrendering completely to the Lord, we can rely on Him to guide us as He did Sis. Marcia Schmeckpepper who has taken employment in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. We wish her God's blessings, and we'll miss her loving ways.

Our warm thanks go to ministering Bros. Bob Beebe and Bruce Leman and Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Gene Bertschi for their visits here in Valparaiso this past month.

A program and supper given by the Sunday School children for their mothers and guests was very nice and was enjoyed by all present.

The efforts of the ladies fellowship group were blessed as the benefit garage and bake sale proved to be a great success. The love shone by many of the LaCrosse folks by their donations was very much appreciated.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Laurel Widmer

Communion services were held on May 22 in Wolcott. Bro. Dan Cook was here to spend the day with us. We trust all who were present received a strengthened spirit from their participation in this holy rite.

Our friends, Ralph and Jean Ravellette, were taken into our fellowship on May 6. We welcome them into our congregation.

Born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Elaine Bahler was a son, Kent Steven, on May 14. The grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler and Bro. Eli and Sis. Pricilla Anliker (Francesville).

Jessica Basham (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) was hospitalized for surgery but is home and doing fine now.

High school graduates were Jacob Bahler, Lowell Farney, Tom Furrer, David Kyburz, Greg Lehman, Sis. Suzanne Schwab, and Denise Stoller. Graduating from college were Bro. Neal Widmer (Purdue) and Sis. Wendy Schwab (St. Elizabeth School of Nursing).

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring

Judy Gehring - Mamie Gerst

Several from the Burlington congregation went to Washington, IL, to hear the testimonies of our dear friends, John and Ellen Cox. Her parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward of Burlington. On Sunday, Bros. Dan Cook and Roy Sauder baptized them. We all joined in singing Hymn 209, Zion's Harp, "Now It Is Done." May God ever stand by our loved ones.

On Sunday evening, May 6, Bros. Ed Lanz and Dan Cook served us Holy Communion. We sang the lovely Hymn 25, Zion's Harp, "The Lord's Supper." Have you ever pondered the last three verses of this hymn?

And ye, the Church's members,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.

As here, in Jesus' name invited
His people meet to share His love,
So shall the ransomed be united,
A mighty throng, in heaven above,
To praise Him there before the
throne,
Our Lord and Saviour, Christ the
Son.

Nor shall the scorn of those who
hate me,
Nor joy nor earthly vanity,
From Thy dear love e'er separate
me;
In death it shall my stronghold be;
Thou art and ever wilt be mine,
And I forever, Saviour, Thine.

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

It's the plan of spring to wash everything clean and bring back

fresh and living green. So, now in this part of the world, the trees are being clothed with lovely new leaves, the tulips are showing their gorgeous colors, the meadows are already beautiful, and to complete the picture, the bluebirds and swallows have arrived and are most welcome.

Sis. Marie Butikofer appreciated the cards, visits (both personal and phone), and gifts that made her eighty-ninth birthday most memorable. She was born in Clayton County, IA, on the 6th of May, 1890.

Her parents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Elizabeth Schupbach, were both born in Switzerland. Marie repented and was baptized during her fourteenth year. At the same time, there were about twenty others who also were baptized, all in the Turkey River.

In 1914, she was married to Bro. Albert Butikofer, now deceased. Their children are Harry, Reuben, Bro. Albert, Jr., Bro. Bert, Bro. Paul, Sis. Ruth Weigand, Sis. Shirley Nester, and Sis. Elizabeth Moore. There are 35 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. The oldest grandchild is Merlin Butikofer, son of Harry and Rose, and the youngest is Willis, son of Sis. Shirley and Bro. Eugene Nester.

Marie lives in Elgin. A granddaughter, Sis. Karla Moore, stays with her nights and when she is off duty from her medical clinic work at West Union, IA. Grandma Butikofer, as Karla calls her, is very interested in reading her Bible and in doing handwork. Her generosity and friendliness are very evident.

The German school terms that Marie taught are, I am sure, of interest to her as she reminisces of times past. Stress was seemingly put on learning to sing, to read, and to write in the German language.

Sis. Lena Schupbach, Marie's sister, and Marie are the only ones left in the family. Bro. Albert, Fred, and Will have passed on.

Bro. Lawrence Gehring submitted to surgery at Schortz Hospital in Waterloo. He is now at home and doing real well, for which we are thankful.

Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer is a patient at the Postville hospital at this time.

Bro. Jacob Gehring is at the Uni-

versity Hospital in Iowa City. We haven't, as yet, heard what the diagnosis revealed. We sincerely hope that he will soon be feeling better. Sis. Bertha is staying in Iowa City so she may be close to Bro. Jacob.

He who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it P. C.

Ed. Note: Sis. Eleanor reports in this column that Sis. Marie Butikofer had her 89th birthday. Sisters Stephany Gerber and Loida Hodel, in the Taylor, MO, news, report that Sis. Marie Butikofer had her 80th birthday. To clarify the matter, I called Sis. Eleanor. There are, indeed, two Marie Butikoferes in their eighties—and they are sisters-in-law. For you folks in Elgin: Has Sis. Marie ever told you how she became a bird watcher and lover? Ask her about the salt shaker and the blue jay.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Connie Gerst

The sounds and sights of spring have arrived! How refreshing to hear the birds sing and see the trees blossom. It seems the miracles of new growth and life have a way of strengthening our faith in our Creator.

We enjoyed the busload of visitors from Chicago and want to thank each one for making the effort to come. Here in our small congregation we need and appreciate the fellowship we have when others come to worship with us. Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Harvey Heininger (Burlington), Dale Eisenmann and Lenard Meyer (Chicago), and Roy Grimm (Taylor).

Hospitalized was Timothy Gerst, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst. How thankful we are that the Lord granted good health to him once again.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

Our church and community were grief-stricken by the accidental death of Bro. Ken Knoblock in a tractor upset. We feel it is a tragedy but find comfort in knowing that Bro. Ken was prepared to meet his Maker and is safe in the arms of Jesus. He is survived by Sis. Joyce (Rumbold) and his children, LaNae, Lynn, Mitchell, and Martin. He is also survived by his

parents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knoblock, his brother, Bro. Roger, his sisters, Sis. Linda Knapp, Sis. LaVonne Aberle, Sis. Gail Hartter, Sis. Charlene Knoblock, and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe, and many relatives and friends. Sis. Joyce and the family extend their thanks for the many kind deeds, cards, and prayers from the many people in the many churches across the land. Bro. Ken was 37 years of age and a well-known farmer in this area. Bros. Art Gudeman and Alfred Bahler were here to assist in the funeral services.

We have several friends who have answered the call to repentance. Many who were close to Bro. Ken could see the light of God in his life. Those repenting are Lois and Ellsworth Niemeyer, Ray Metzger, Rhonda TeSlaa, Linda and Verlyn Kellenberger, Glen Metzger, Tim DeHaan, Brenda Knobloch, Chuck and Cora Lee Knobloch, and Peggy Snyders. May they ever feel God's nearness.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Elder Bro. Leo Moser conducted the testimonies and baptisms of Myra Moser, daughter of Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona, and Harlan Wulf, son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice. We experienced a blessed weekend and rejoice because we can greet them in faith.

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer was here to assist Elder Bro. Leo while we shared Holy Communion. We were led to the cross and reminded of Christ's suffering on Calvary. The same weekend, the duties of deacon were laid upon Bro. Dennis Warner. He has our prayerful support. God has directed into our midst additional visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville, Vernon Wettstein, Congerville, and Roger Aberle, Sabetha.

Two baby boys were born on Apr. 2. Brett Jacob came to bless the home of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jolene Metzger. The grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Beverly Wirtz. He is welcomed home by two brothers. Gregory James is the precious bundle born to Jim and Betty Leuthold. He is welcomed home by a brother and two sisters. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold and Mr. and Mrs. Garrett TerWee.

Recent hospital patients have been Bro. Ade Moser, Sis. Lydia Mogler, and June Knobloch.

Sixteen young folks are recent high school graduates. They are Dean Feucht (Bro. Carl and Sis. Emma), Ladell Kellenberger (Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine), Kyle Knobloch (Gilbert and Vicki), Arlyn Metzger (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann), Harold Metzger (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella), Kevin Metzger (Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty), Brian and Beth Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Scott Myrlie (Roger and Patty), Mike Moser (Lou and Tina), Nola Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice), Jeanette Feucht (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge), Sheryl Gerber (Bro. John and Sis. Donna), Eileen Knobloch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Vera), Joyce Knobloch (Bro. Si and Sis. Edith), and Theresa Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla). Our prayers and wishes are for the best as they enter the adult world.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Phyllis Siegle

Have you ever thought that "The House of Prayer" is no farther away than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray. The heart is a temple when God is there.

A son came to brighten the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall. On April 28, Bradley Jon was born. Aaron, 5½, is happy to have a new brother. The grandparents are Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Marion Schmidgall and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand.

It is certainly a joy to have the many loved ones who spent the winter in the South assemble with us again.

We received many blessings as Bro. Wayne Anliker, Forrest, and Bro. Rod Huber, Valparaiso, ministered God's Holy Word to us. Our sincere thanks are extended to them for the labor of love.

What a pleasure it was to have Elder Bro. Roy Farney and his wife, Sis. Minnie, assemble with us while they were here to visit their daughter and family. His presence caused me, and perhaps many more, to reminisce about the many precious teachings he brought to us in past years when his health was stronger. We pray a special blessing upon them for we truly treasure his love and kindness shown to us through the years.

As the busy farming season gets into full swing, we hope our farm-

ers will take a little more time to use caution; and may He find pleasure in protecting each one.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp Ginny Wuthrich

The farmers are again grateful for spring and summer-like weather which enables them to get their planting under way. Man can till the soil and plant, but if God does not add His blessing, the labor is in vain.

Hospitalized as a surgical patient has been Sis. Shirley Wuthrich. We are thankful for her speedy recovery.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mrs. Raymond Anliker Becky Banwart

When God comes to your heart and asks if you have any interest in being made whole, what do you answer? Do you converse with Him, or do you turn away uninterested? We heard the testimony of four dear souls who took time to talk with the One who can restore. He gave them what was needed to heal their sin-sick souls. It was an inspiration to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Wanda Metzger (daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice), Kevin Banwart (son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), and Roger and Rhonda Reker. Rhonda is the daughter of Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Leo Moser (Lester) were with us for this happy occasion. We thank them for their labors in this work, as well as for availing themselves on Sunday evening to conduct Holy Communion Services. May we long remember this inspiring weekend (April 28 and 29).

Our hospital patients were Dennis Schmidt (Bro. Dwayne's), Sis. Lydia Reinhart, Jane Banwart (Bro. Victor's), Rose Mary Zaugg (Bro. Martin's), Jerry Wickam (Bro. Larry's), Coulette Fehr (Bro. Wayne's), Dan Banwart, and Bro. Lawrence Schneider. Bro. Lawrence suffered facial injuries in a farm mishap but is progressing satisfactorily. May God's almighty power be with all the sick as well as with our aged brothers and sisters in nursing homes. Many are waiting for His call to come Home.

On April 25, Sarah Pauline came to gladden the home of Bro. Pat

and Sis. Julie Zaugg. She has two sisters, Elizabeth and Karen. The grandparents are Bro. Oscar and Sis. Frances Zaugg and Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise Anliker. Babies are a blessing.

May God bless Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) for ministering to our congregation. Our thirst is truly quenched when the pure Word flows from the throne of God.

WHAT IS A MOTHER

By Helen Steiner Rice

It takes a Mother's Love to make
a house a home,
A place to be remembered, no matter
where we roam . . .
It takes a Mother's Patience to
bring a child up right,
And her Courage and her Cheer-
fulness to make a dark day
bright . . .
It takes a Mother's Thoughtfulness
to mend the heart's deep
"hurts,"
And her Skill and her Endurance
to mend little socks and
shirts . . .
It takes a Mother's Kindness to
to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble and bow
her head in prayer . . .
It takes a Mother's Wisdom to
recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance by her
loving words and deeds . . .
It takes a Mother's Endless Faith,
her Confidence and Trust
To guide us through the pitfalls
of selfishness and lust . . .
And that is why in all this world
there could never be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose as
completely as a Mother!

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Gramm

Spring has arrived gloriously here in Yamanashi-ken. The azaleas are bursting out in a bright profusion of pink, lavender, yellow, and red, and the days have turned warm and bright. What an appropriate time to turn with thanksgiving and praise toward our Lord Jesus, whose torturous death and exalted resurrection have caused Life to spring forth with the same joyous exuberance in our own hearts! The Shioda congregation rose early on Easter morning and assembled at the river near our church for an early morning service. After a nourishing breakfast of rice, seaweed, and miso-soup, we

returned to the church, where we continued with our regular Sunday services at 10:30.

The last few days of April and the first few days of May are called "Golden Week" here in Japan because we have three holidays in a period of one week, not including Sunday. On one of these holidays, April 30, we celebrated the anniversary of the Ehnles' arrival in Japan twenty-five years ago. A group of loved ones from our country church joined the Ehnles on the train ride into Yokohama, where the Tokyo church brothers and sisters were waiting. We had a lovely time of fellowship together in the warm, sunny park beside the harbor where Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle stepped bravely ashore years ago. Their example of steadfastness and quiet courage in continuing on in the face of many and various difficulties is an encouragement and inspiration to us all. It is easy to talk grandly about the needs of a lost and dying world and the importance of spreading the wonderful news of salvation and hope found in Christ Jesus. Many of us are experts at such talk. But what are we doing in the actual application of our words? How are the people in our immediate vicinity being effected by the example of our actions and the witness of our mouths? May each of us examine ourselves sincerely, recalling to mind that "Herein is (the) Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:8) And may we strive zealously to become active doers for the Lord, rather than passive Christians with big talk and nothing to show for the time we've spent on earth.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Yoshio Yamazaki
Marie Inoue

We had real blessed Easter Sunday here in Tokyo with brethren and friends together remembering the death and resurrection of our Saviour. We had special Sunday School Easter program in the afternoon. I believe that we Christians should be more concerned about teaching God's words to young children. It is true that Christmas is very important day for us, but Easter is also a very important day, same as Christmas Day.

Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle came to Japan for His work since

25 years, and we had a plan to go on a picnic at Yokohama (Yamashita park) on April 30, Monday. It was quite a lot of rain in that morning when we started from Tokyo church but had been pretty good sunshine when we arrived there. We had very wonderful fellowship with them.

The park is located on Yokohama Harbor where the Ehnles arrived 25 years ago on April 17. We thank the Lord for sending them here, for through them we could learn the true and complete gospel and faith as once delivered to the saints. Our churches are yet very small, and we are thankful for every brother and sister and dear friend who gathers with us. We trust in the Lord and pray earnestly for our faith here in our assemblies and for our beloved brotherhood elsewhere.

KANSAS, BERN
Esther and Stella Moser

HE IS THERE

When loneliness and empty lives
Make hearts ache with despair,
The Lord above
Sends down His love
To show that He is there.

When problems hit you every day,
And it's too much to bear,
Look to the skies
Where peace resides,
And know that He is there.

When illness, death and grief appear
And no one seems to care,
Through hurts and pain
Our God will reign,
For always He is there!
Sandy Diamond

Congratulations to our graduates: Bro. John Baumgartner (Les and Leora), K.S.U. Manhattan (mid-term); Karen Hertzler (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth); and Mark Esslinger (Waymer and Pauline), high school. May the Lord ever add His blessing as they look to the future.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend May 5 and 6 when Edwin Strahm (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie) gave his testimony and was baptized. Elder Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, assisted Elder Bro. Lester Hartter. On Sunday, we enjoyed the messages Bro. Gene and Bro. Roger Aberle brought to us.

Bro. Aaron Strahm is a new resident at the A.C. Home. Sis. Frieda is staying with their daughter at this time.

Work on the addition at the Home is progressing nicely.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Jan Kraft

United in marriage on March 30 were Roger Welch and Carolyn Sinn (Lester and Shirley). May God's blessings be with them as they carry out their lives together.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Fred Sinn and family in the death of his wife, Sis. Elsie Sophia Sinn on April 30.

We congratulate two high school graduates — Kent Miller (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl) and Jeffrey Fischer (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian). A word to them as they have completed a stage of their life: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverb 9:10.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Congratulations to our high school graduate, Lynette Young, daughter of Bro. Ephriam and Sis. Dorthy. We wish her God's love and direction in her future decisions.

We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to our Elder Brothers Sam Anliker, Lamont, and Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, for their willingness to conduct Holy Communion services. What a refreshing of the Spirit one can receive.

Hospitalized this month for tests was Sis. Janice (Dale) Isch.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the farm home of Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie Edelman. We gave many thanks to them for their efforts. We appreciate their help.

KANSAS, KANSAS CITY
Paula Bahr

Many of those attending services here Easter Sunday remarked what a special day they were blessed with. Bro. Gene Marti was here for services, and lunch was

replaced with a buffet so everyone could share Easter dinner together.

We extend sympathy to Sisters Anna Lou Mattix and Wilma Farney and Bro. George Bahr in the loss of their aunt, Sis. Lucy Inthrum, from the Lamont congregation.

Sis. Mary Farney told me one of the things she likes about our church in Kansan City is the visiting ministers. They each bring us God's message from a slightly different angle for a well balanced spiritual diet, just as we physically need a variety of food for a well balanced diet.

Our thanks go to Bros. Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, and Gene Marti, Springfield, for lending themselves to proclaim God's word for our spiritual food.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Judy Bahr

Another semester has come to an end. We can truly thank God for the love and protection He has given to us.

Graduating this semester will be Greg Snyder. He has accepted a job in Fort Scott, KS, where he and his wife, Kara, will be moving. On April 27, Quinton Eugene was born to Greg and Kara. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Carrol E. Snyder of Sabetha, KS, and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mary Marti of Springfield, MO. We will miss them here at school next year but wish them God's blessings in their new undertaking.

The visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS, Roy Wernli, Lamont, KS, and Alpha Strahm, Bern, KS. Our thanks and appreciation go to them and to all the other visiting brethren and friends who came to share our Wednesday night services with us. God has richly blessed us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

His tenderness in the springing
grass,

His beauty in the flowers,
His living love in the sun above—
All here, and near, and ours!

Samuel Gilman

I, personally, find the above
poem a perfect description of the

way I feel. When I walk in the quiet of the peaceful evening light, or gaze upon the perfection of the tiny buds springing forth into glorious color; when I listen to the beauty of the bird's morning song and feel the gentle warmth of the sun upon my face, there's no doubt these priceless treasures are all here, and near, and praise be to God—ALL OURS.

Our hospital patients this month included Sisters Myrtle Rathgeber and Elizabeth Otti and Bro. Sam Schrock. We are thankful Sis. Myrtle and Bro. Sam are again able to be in our midst, and pray that Sis. Elizabeth will be up and around soon.

We were blessed with several special weekends this month: on the weekend of April 21 and 22, the Lamont Sunday School classes held a get-together for all the Kansas churches. For all the time and trouble they went to, we just pray that God will richly bless them. On the weekend of April 27-29, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, was in our midst and brought us precious words of faith from the Scriptures. Bro. Richard is the son of Bro. Sam Schupbach, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on the 27th. All of Bro. Sam's children and grandchildren were here to share this special weekend with him, and we, too, want to say, "God bless you, Bro. Sam; we love you." The third special weekend was on Sunday, May 6, when 50 of our beloved brothers, sisters and friends gathered in our home (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr) for an evening of Bible study, singing, and fellowship.

We had the privilege of having Sis. Frances Domnick in our midst, as she has recently been staying with her mother, Sis. Emma Diel. As she is now returning to her home in Minnesota, we will miss her, but pray the Lord will be with her, always.

Wednesday night services have been cancelled for the summer months due to the busy season, but on Wednesday, May 16, many beloved brothers, sisters, and friends gathered for spring cleaning at the church—a busy, but blessed day.

Randy Allenbach, son of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach, is our only high school graduate this year. Randy is very special to all of us, and we will truly miss

him when he goes away to college next fall. There's one thing we hope he will always remember: "Wherever you go, whatever you do, this our prayer—may GOD walk with you!"

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to
weep!

A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

No. 111, Hymns of Zion

This, we believe, is the blessed lot and portion of our dear departed Sis. Emma Wernli who was called from this life into eternity on Sunday morning, April 22. She is survived by two daughters, Sis. Dena Emch and Martha Hughes, and three sons, Dan, Harold and Bro. Ray. She was preceded in death by her husband, John, and a daughter, Sis. Julia Isch.

We were host-church to all the Kansas churches and the Lamont, MO, church for Youth Fellowship on April 21 and 22. It was, indeed, a blessed privilege to have them in our midst. Bro. Ed Ringger, Gridley, IL, was our guest minister on the 22nd.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Wayne Anliker, Forrest, IL, and Bro. Glen Funk, Wichita.

Lydia Fankhauser was a hospital patient during the past month.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

Sis. Beth and Jere Herold are the parents of a new daughter, Andrea Shae, born April 22. The maternal grandparents are Sis. Vila and Bro. Velmer Meyer.

Kara and Greg Snyder are the parents of a son born April 27. He has been named Quinton Eugene. Our congratulations go to them and, also, to Sis. Mary and Bro. Eugene Marti on the birth of their first grandchild.

Kara Sue was born to Sis. Arlene and Bro. Rodney Grimm on May 3. She is welcomed home by Wanda, Wayne, and Kent.

Our best wishes go to all of these families.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Charles Sauder, Tremont; Dennis Warner, Lester; Herman

Kellenberger, Elgin, IL; and Noah Gerber, West Bend. We thank the brothers for taking the time to visit us and to proclaim the Word.

We are thankful that the waters have been troubled and that Rodney Edelman and David Hartter have made a beginning on the journey to Zion. We wish them God's grace and hope there can be many more to join them on this most important step.

Hospitalied during this past month have been Sis. Eliabeth Marti, Sis. Louise Hartman, Sis. Carrie Aberle, Bro. Roger Hartter, and Bro. Sam Huber. May the Lord be with them all.

Those graduating from high school this spring are James Hartter (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie), Jana Meyer (Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois), Tim Moore (John and Barbara), and Brad Wenger (LaVon and Erma). This is a special time for them and their families, and our congratulations are accompanied by a prayer that the Lord will always bless and keep them in His care.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

Notes penned from the ministry of the Word in the month of May reminded us that we are products of God's grace by the faith obtained through the righteousness of God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. II Peter 1.

Bro. Noah Herman of the Tucson, AZ, congregation addressed this issue upon his recent visit to Wichita. Reading and meditating upon the words of the apostle Peter, we were reminded how this grace and peace can be multiplied through the knowledge of God and of Jesus, our Lord. We were also reminded that through the knowledge of Him we are called to glory and virtue, and that according to His divine power we are given all things in order to make it possible to attain it. With our faith at work, we are to give all diligence so that we will gain those qualities that would be in keeping with His divine nature; and, then, having them in us, we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The brother spoke about the believer's responsibility as a representative of the Lord and how important it is to be a true witness. He concluded

his message by these words, "When the true power of the Spirit and power of God is in our hearts, the things that are meek, lowly, and lovely are present."

This ministry was complemented on Mother's Day by a local minister who read from the Scriptures about the virtuous woman. She looks well to the ways of her household and is concerned with the welfare of her husband. No doubt she is first diligent in her own life and possesses those qualities spoken of by Peter. She apparently teaches her children well by example, because they rise up and call her blessed.

Bro. Clarence Yackley from Phoenix, AZ, ministered to us through the reading of the Word from Ezekiel 18, telling us that the sins of the parents will no longer be upon the children, or the sins of the children upon the parents, as each one has to repent for his own sins and turn from them or judgement will be rendered upon them.

The conclusion of all of this seems to be summed up by a local minister who read Matt. 7:11, which reads as follows: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father, who is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him?"

We are rejoicing that Waynetta Mahaffey wishes to soon give her testimony of faith to our congregation. Apostle Paul spoke about the faith he saw in a group of believers and commended them for it. Waynetta came from a home not accustomed to church life, and the faith that she has acquired has also been witnessed by those who have grown to know and love her.

We wish again to say thanks to the young members who visited us in May. It meant so much to us. In addition to the brothers and sisters who came from Tremont, we would like to mention Erik and Cindy Langhofer from Francesville, IN, and Bruce and Mary Stoller from Princeville, IL. You just made our day.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Penny Erisman

"Love cannot be forced, love cannot be coaxed and teased. It comes

out of Heaven, unasked and unsought."

Buck
The love of God was with us as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of five souls, Marvin Blough, Ferd and Jane Grawberg, and Fred and Donna Oesch. This was a thrill for Alto as it was a "first" to have this many converts at one time.

"Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man." Tagore

The birth of Sarah Lynn on April 12 brought joy and excitement to the home of Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna Gerst.

Sis. Anna Wingeier is home from the hospital after a 3½ week stay due to back surgery. She is progressing slowly, but well, and we're looking forward to her assembling with us again.

Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman opened their home for a showing of slides of the Holy Land by Sis. Joyce Huber, Fairbury, IL. It was an education and thrill for many of us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Knochel

May we be thankful for the privilege of being able to hear the many blessed words of guidance when gathering in God's house of worship. Visiting ministers have been Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction); Bro. Floyd Wieland and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit); and Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield).

Sis. Margaret Molner and Sis. Muriel Rylance were hospitalized, but both are now home and recovering.

As we have again taken a day this year to remember mothers, have we really stopped to think what would please a mother most? I want to share with you some very precious words the hymn writer expressed in the song, "Tell Mother I'll Be There." (Gospel Hymns) Then ask yourself, can you bring forth these words from your heart, not only to your mother, but to your Saviour?

O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

Tell Mother I'll be there,
In answer to her pray'r.
This message, blessed Saviour,
To her bear!
Tell Mother I'll be there,
Heav'n's joys with her to share;

Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Popp

"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Psalm 91:2

And this is what Joe and Martha Szilagyi were able to say about the Lord. They were able to testify of the Lord, their refuge, in their life. Sunday, May 13, Joe and Martha were baptized, and we welcome them as brother and sister in Christ.

As May 13 was also a special day to remember our mothers. I am sure many were able to count their blessings in having mothers who set a fine example of love, patience, and obedience—myself, for one!

If I could follow in the path you trod,

Oh, precious mother mine,
And walk as you do, humbly with my God,
My life would grow divine!

I need not set one day apart
For Mother's day, you see;
As every day is "Mother's Day"
Throughout the year to me!

Martha Martin

We remember George Popp and Bro. Paul Sabados in our prayers, as they are both hospitalized this month.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psalm 91:11

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Carol Virkler

Our visiting ministers on April 22 were Bros. Harold Gramm and Alhai Moser of Morris. On Mother's Day, May 13, Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop was with us. May the Lord bless these brothers for lending themselves in bringing us God's Word.

The weekend of April 21-23, our ministering Bro. Noah Miller, along with Bro. Carl and Sis. Sophie Miller of Winthrop, held services with the Regina, Sask., members and friends. The following comments are from Bro. Noah. "We were happy to be with them again and received a spiritual blessing. They expressed their love for God and

his people. We feel they are grounded upon the rock, Jesus Christ our Lord. Farewell was said Monday evening, and we left for home early Tuesday morning. We are thankful to God for His protection while we traveled the many miles."

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Sis. Christine Schmidgall (Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie), Michael Miller (Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura), and Mark Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine). We ask the Lord's guidance for their future.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

"... Take, eat: this is my body ... This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." St. Mark 14:22, 24.

With these words of Jesus in mind, we were served Holy Communion by Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

We are happy to add the name of Linda Nohl to our list of converts. Her parents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sophie Nohl. It is truly a taste of heaven for us to see the work of our dear Lord in so many lives.

Two little boys were welcomed into Christian homes. Trent Daniel was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Schmidgall. The grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall and Bro. Jack and Sis. Vera Nueist (LaCrosse, IN). David John is the new son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner. Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch and Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner (Winthrop, MN) are the grandparents.

Elections were held for Sunday School teachers. Those with new duties are Bros. Neil Schmidgall, Larry Nohl, and Mark Kellenberger, and Sisters Jeanette Nohl, Pam Schaefer, and LeAnn Wulf.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA) and Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN).

Hospital patients have been Bro. Don Luthi and Sis. Lili Luthi.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

Only they would that we should remember the poor, the same which I also was forward to do. Gal. 2:10.

It was my Christian privilege to take one of the two pickup loads

of used clothing and merchandise to the state hospital. We also delivered cooked and baked goods to be used as treats for the residents. The brothers and sisters in charge of relief in our congregation made the arrangements for this collection.

Sunday School teachers were selected to fill vacancies. Bro. Mark Schmidt and Sis. Ella Schmidt were elected with Bro. Stan Messner and Sis. Georgia Messner as substitutes. Bro. Roland Messner will be the superintendent for the coming year. May they always perform these tasks in the fear of God.

Our single sisters and converts served the noon lunch on Mother's Day with the help of the young girls in cleaning up and washing dishes. Thank you, girls, for your acts of love and kindness.

What a blessing to live in a country that sets aside a special day for fathers. We as Christian people think also of our Heavenly Father. (See Psalm 103:13) "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." A few Sundays ago, Bro. Elmer reminded us that if you raise up a child in the way that he should go, he will not depart from it. Some of the fathers will not live to see their children turn to God but hope for a glad reunion in the world to come.

The Tim Schmidts have a new boy named Adam. He has a brother, Joshua, to welcome him home. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel. Tom Miller's new arrival is Sarah Elizabeth. She has two brothers and a sister to welcome her home. Tom's parents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura of Minneapolis. May God watch over these two heavenly bundles.

Bro. Raymond Messner submitted to surgery and has since recovered enough to assemble with us.

A June 12 wedding is planned for Jamie and Verl Schmidt. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Lueck and Eugene and Sis. Ella Schmidt of Gaylord.

Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp, No.79

MISSOURI, LAMAR Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

Time goes by so quickly. Are we using each moment wisely, or will we someday regret that we didn't spend more time on those things which are of eternal value?

Congratulations to our three high school seniors who plan to graduate this year. They are Martha Braker (Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtt), Terry Braker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie), and Calvin Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn). They have gained knowledge in schools of learning; may they also seek after God's Wisdom.

Sis. Marie Marti had the misfortune of fracturing some ribs and spending some time in the hospital this past month. We're thankful that she is back home and recovering.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Loida Hodel

"Those we love seem closer still,
When Spring is in the air—
And Easter spreads its hope and joy
To people everywhere."

Anon.

Our Sunday School presented a very inspiring and interesting Easter program. Each year we see new little faces so eager to take part. We appreciate the intermediate and Bible Class, but we miss seeing those of the Bible Class who for so many years took part in the programs and now have moved on to different fields. Thanks to all the students and teachers for the happy evening. It's good to emphasize how important Christ's crucifixion and resurrection is in all our lives, and we need to be reminded of this.

After the program, we surprised Sis. Marie Butikofer on her 80th birthday by all singing "Happy Birthday." This was followed by refreshments. "The brightest and most enduring flowers along the waysides of life are smiles, the sparkle of the eye, loving words, and little acts of kindness . . . They never shall fade from memory—often after years they are brighter than on the day we first beheld them." (E. Lenton) This verse reflects the feelings of many of us towards our dear Sis. Marie. We are grateful to God that we have had this pillar in our little church for

many years, and we hope we can enjoy the sunshine of her presence many more years.

Good Friday evening services were conducted by our local ministers.

Easter Sunday, Bro. John Lehman from Bern, KS, Bro. Wayne Miller from Fort Scott, KS, and Bro. Sam Huber from Sabeth, KS, were our visiting ministers. We're glad these brothers have "family" here (Sisters Ruthie and Emma Dee Hoerr), and we can all benefit from their visits. We thank all of you for again being willing to tell the "Old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Sunday, April 22, we hosted the Bible Class and teachers from Congerville. We were also pleasantly surprised to have Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie Grimm from Bern, KS, stop by. Bro. Harvey is on the committee at the Home for the Handicapped which requires monthly visits to Morton; and we are glad Taylor is on the route between Bern and Morton. You are welcome anytime.

Sis. Barb and Dave Uppinghouse are the happy parents of their first child, a son, "Jon David," born May 3. May God bless this little family.

Grant Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy) had several stitches in his forehead due to an accident on the playground at school.

Bro. Jon Knapp received second degree burns, and Doug Perrine, a neighbor boy, second and third degree burns, in a brush fire accident on May 10. At this writing, Jon is much improved, and Doug is in satisfactory condition.

(Mother's Day, May 13) This writing wouldn't be complete without a tribute to our mothers:

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30.

The farmers have been very busy in the fields and are so thankful for rain and sunshine which enables them to plant the seeds and then look forward to a harvest in the fall. This is a vivid and clear comparison to our spiritual lives. The seed is the Word of God (Lk. 8:11). We hope to be of those who hear the Word, keep it, and bring forth the fruit.

Sis. Marie Butikofer asked us

to thank each one for the cards and gifts she received—also for the wonderful surprise lunch and for all who sang "Happy Birthday." It made her "80th" a very special one. Her feelings are, "Words just can't express what it meant to me."

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY (and Philadelphia, Pa.)

Ed Aeschleman

The small churches at Union City and Philadelphia send hearty greetings and a sincere invitation to all the brethren who travel this area to visit us. The presence of visitors is always appreciated and a real encouragement to us.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Bro. Floyd, Jr., and Sis. Linda Graves are the parents of their first son, Brian Chester, born on April 29. He has been welcomed home by his sisters, Holly and Hope. His grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Verkler and Bro. Floyd and Loretta Graves.

Our hospital medical patients this month were Sisters Katie Farney, Irene Farney, and Pearl Lehman, Bro. Arthur Virkler, and John Farney. Urban Farney was a surgical patient at Veterans Hospital in Syracuse. We are thankful that each of these loved ones have been able to return to their homes. Urban is spending some time at his sister's home in Syracuse.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

On Easter Sunday the children gave a nice program telling of our Saviour's resurrection.

Bro. Wilson Merz passed away May 9 at Lowville Extended Care. He is survived by nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

FELLOWSHIP

Leah Kauffman

When you awaken in the morning,
Just at dawning of the day,
Do you meet your heavenly Father,
Ere you pass your way?

Do you pause awhile to greet Him,
And His blessing sure entreat,
To receive your day's commission
Ere your fellow men you meet?

If you do I know His presence
Will go with you through the day.

He will aid you when the tempter
Tries to lead your feet astray.

He will fill your heart with sunshine
 Though the world is dark and drear.
 And He'll point to you the sad one,
 He would have you help and cheer.

When at last night's dark'ning shadows
 Gather o'er the evening bright,
 He will whisper in soft accents,
 Well done child, sweet rest tonight.

OHIO, AKRON Gail Spangler

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1. We were saddened by the death of our dear Bro. Peter Wenhardt who was taken from this life very suddenly. Funeral services were held on May 4. It is our prayer that God will comfort his wife, Sis. Eva, their daughter, Sis. Eva Grawunder (Bro. Fred), and their family. They appreciated all the cards, letters, kindnesses, and expressions of sympathy very much.

We welcomed our new brother and sister in Christ, Andrew and Theresa Hunyadi. On the same Sunday, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Bro. John Bahler (Rockville) and Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) assisted our dear Bro. Rudy in this sacred rite. Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) was also with us. It was truly a blessed day.

Greg and Sarah Henico have a new baby boy named Greg. May God bless them all.

Sis. Rose Pamer (Bro. Paul) was hospitalized but is at home now. May God give her strength and grace to endure her suffering.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

We enjoyed the presence of Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener in our area for several weeks. During that time, her brother, Bro. Don Manz, visited them and shared the Living Word with us. The Rufeners have since moved to Akron.

We thank Bro. Wallace Ramsier from Mansfield and Bro. Henry Dotterer from Rittman for serving our congregation. We really do appreciate our brothers who give

of themselves so freely. The apostle Paul writes in II Cor. 12, 15, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you." Our ministering brothers do this willingly, and we should praise God for them.

Everyone enjoyed the Christian fellowship as a group of Bluffton brethren came for a weekend. These times are a foretaste of the joys that await us in heaven.

OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

We were thankful to have Bros. Gene Fetter from Toledo and Loren Stoller from Latty bring us the Word of God this month. We trust the Lord will bless them for serving us.

Three of our young friends are graduating from high school this month. They are Carlton (Sis. Esther) Schlatter, Robert (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty) Manz, and Roger (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) Manz. We wish them the best as they start new careers, and we surely encourage them to continue to worship with us wherever their careers would lead them.

Maburn and Sis. Julia Hale are worshipping with us again. We are glad to have them with us, and we'll surely miss them when they leave us for their home in Aston, FL.

Bro. Henry Manz has moved, and his new address is 215 N. Walnut, Paulding, OH 45879.

OHIO, LATTY Susie Sinn

To him that overcometh shall be given

The first fruit from trees of life in Paradise!

He who has served the Lord and well has striven

Shall rest from toil, and take from Him the prize!

God will refresh him with heavenly blessing!

Eternal rapture shall be his part!
 Hymns of Zion, No. 271

Sis. Velta Laukhuf (Bro. Richard) passed away. Our prayers are with her family, especially her two sons, Bro. Robert and Dean (Bradenton, FL). How strengthening it is to know that by the grace of God another soul has made it safely Home. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction) was with us for her funeral.

Jaymee Leigh has come to gladden the home of Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein. Jay welcomes his sister home. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein are the grandparents.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Del Dunham are the parents of a son, Patrick Douglas. Glad for a little brother are Ryan, Kim, Jason, and Melissa. The grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura Dunham.

Becky Sue is the new little one entrusted into the care of Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Grant. Her playmates are Scott, Marie, and John. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores. Little Becky had to be hospitalized for a short time, but we are thankful that she is now home.

Gene and MaryAnn Baughman welcome Bradley Lawrence into their home. The grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Katie Breiweiser.

Leslie Michelle is the newborn daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller. Her brother and sisters are Sherry, Tom, Tammy, and Ginny. The grandparents are Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager and Sis. Lillian Stoller.

We pray for these new parents (and all parents) that they might raise their children to love our precious Lord and Savior.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Sophie Sinn and Sis. Nettie Ringger (Bro. Nathan). They are both out of the hospital, and we are grateful that they are improving steadily.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

HEAVEN AND EARTH
 SHALL PASS AWAY, BUT MY
 WORDS SHALL NOT PASS
 AWAY. (Matt. 24:35)

Generations follow generations—
 yet it lives.

Nations rise and fall—yet it lives.
 Kings, dictators, presidents come
 and go—yet it lives.

Torn, condemned, burned—yet it
 lives.

Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet
 it lives.

Doomed by athiests—yet it lives.
 Exaggerated by fanatics—yet it
 lives.

Misconstrued and mistated—yet it
 lives.

Ranted and raved about—yet it
 lives.

Its inspiration denied—yet it lives.
 Yet it lives—as a lamp to our feet.
 Yet it lives—as a light to our paths.
 Yet it lives—as a standard for childhood.
 Yet it lives—as a guide for youth.
 Yet it lives—as an inspiration for the matured.
 Yet it lives—as a comfort for the aged.
 Yet it lives—as food for the hungry.
 Yet it lives—as water for the thirsty.
 Yet it lives—as rest for the weary.
 Yet it lives—as a light for the heathen.
 Yet it lives—as salvation for the sinner.
 Yet it lives—as grace for the Christian.
 To know it is to love it.
 To love it is to accept it.
 To accept it means Life eternal.

Author Unknown

Some years ago, a young man attended Sunday School here at Mansfield, but only for a few Sundays when he had been invited by some of his friends as a guest. Since then, living a wayward life, he moved to the West. Recently, he visited one of our families there and said, "You know, the most precious moments of my life were spent in that little Sunday School in Mansfield at the Apostolic Christian Church where I learned about the Saviour." He has now searched and testifies that he has found the pearl of great price. The seed was planted many years ago, and God has granted the increase.

Bro. Richard Sauder was recently elected as our new Sunday School Superintendent. He succeeds Bro. Pete Baltic who was recently elected to the ministry. We thank Bro. Pete for his labor of love in the Sunday School and pray the Lord's richest blessings on Bro. Pete and Bro. Richard as they both continue to plant the seed of the gospel.

Hospitalized this past month and still in need of our prayers are: Sis. Alice Graszl, Sis. Anna Hoffman, Sis. Naomi Cordrey (Columbus University), and Bro. Ben Stavenik (Cleveland Clinic).

Our congregation was saddened by the loss of one of our faithful pillars of the church. Dear Sis. Clara Grossenbacher, 90, suffered

a stroke. She was born March 1, 1889, in Sardis, OH, and lived in Mansfield for 51 years and was the last of a family of 12. She loved to come to church and loved to sing praises to her Creator. She loved everyone and was a true example of a humble, loving sister.

Our Youth Group served lunch at church on Mother's Day. It is a joy to see such loving and willing hearts serve our church.

Give of your best to the Master,
 Give Him first place in your heart—

Give Him first place in your service,

Consecrate every part.
 Give and to you shall be given;
 God His beloved Son gave,
 Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
 Give Him the best that you have.

Author Unknown

OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough

We were privileged and blest to have visiting ministers bring us the Word of God. They were Bros. John and Corbin Bahler of Rockville, Bro. Bill Gerst of Alto, and Bro. Eugene Pamer of Akron.

Two of our families each had a little daughter and sister born to them. Holly Beth is the daughter of Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail Emch. Holly has one brother, Brian, and her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch. Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler and their children Bradley, Tonya, and Scott welcome Jody Catharine. The grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler and Glen and Sis. Ella Miller.

We have two engagements to report this month. Bro. Joe Stoller, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller, and Sis. Marion Walder, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, had their engagement announced. Also, Bro. Dale Dotterer, son of Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer, and Sis. Elaine Leman of our Forrest congregation had their engagement announced. We wish both of these couples God's rich blessings and guidance as they plan their lives together.

And we had two weddings this month. Steve Zollinger, son of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger, and Sue Smith were married on May 5. Also on May 5, Rudy Maibach, son of Bro. Art and Sis. Jan-

et Maibach, and Barbara Boley were married.

It is nice to report the addition of another soul to the flock and fold of our dear Lord. Saturday evening we heard the testimony of Sis. Susan Murray, and Sunday we witnessed her baptism. Sis. Susan is the daughter of Glen and Mary Jane Winkler and the granddaughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler and Sis. Caroline Emch. We are so thankful our Lord is still calling souls and that there are those who heed His gentle call.

This season of the year always brings with it graduation time. We have thirty young graduates this year. They are Linda Baehman, Louis Barna, Brian Bauman, Roger Bauman, Ruthann Blough, Jim Calame, Ben Gasser, Jon Gasser, Lee Gasser, Pam Gerber, Kevin Hanie, Janice Hartzler, Roscoe Hilty, Brian Indermuhle, Jay Landis, Ralph Marty, Keith Ramsier, Sis. Karen Riggenbach, Ron Riggenbach, Kevin Rufener, Lorep Rufener, Steve Rufener, Diana Steiner, Dave Stoller, Doug Stoller, Bro. Ken Stoller, Jim Widmer, Charlene Winkler, Mike Zollinger, and Paul Zollinger. May our Lord guide and direct them as each plans his life's occupation.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

"And he took the bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave to them saying, This is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:19, 20.

On a blessed weekend in May, we partook of Holy Communion. We were again reminded of Christ's suffering for us. Surely it does serve to strengthen us all when we can fully realize the agony, both physically and spiritually, that Jesus bore in our stead. May a special blessing be upon Bro. Rudy Graf for his efforts of serving us communion and ministering unto us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Mary Jane Winkler

As Mother's Day has come and gone, we were again reminded of our dear mothers who taught us about our precious faith. We tru-

ly should be thankful that our mothers loved us enough to teach us the way of Life. We were also reminded in the sermon how important it is to be a light to our dear children, as we spend most of our time with them, and they observe everything we do. May we, as mothers, strive to rear our children so they may see the true Light in our lives and come to know Him as their Savior.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**

(See New Jersey, Union City)

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Tillie Kellenberger**

Most of our winter residents have now returned north, leaving a small group here in Zapata. Anyone coming to southern Texas is most welcome to visit us. We extend a special invitation to everyone. No minister schedule was sent out this season, but any minister desiring to come should certainly do so. You may contact Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner R. 1, Box 200, Zapata, TX (512-765-4961), or Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl, 1501 W. Wisteria St., McAllen, TX (512-682-0219). Bud and Beulah Sauder are living in San Antonio at 6834 Spring Hurst (512-696-2734).

We want to thank all of our winter residents and visitors that spent part of the winter months with us. Lord willing, we hope to see you again next season.

**NEW MARTINSVILLE
WEST VIRGINIA,**

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

Chauncey O. Wade, 75, died in the Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling on April 19, following several months of illness. He is survived by his widow, Lillie Barth Wade, two sons, one brother, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Services were held at the Iams Funeral Home on April 22, and interment was in Northview Cemetery.

Chauncey R. Brothers, 60, of Columbus, OH, passed away on April 12 after several months of illness. He is survived by his widow, one son, one grandchild, his step-mother, Minnie B. Weltz, one half sister, and Mary Ann Brothers. Minnie B. Weltz and Mary Ann Brothers are from New Martins-

ville, W. Va. Services and interment were on April 16 in Columbus, OH.

SILVER THREADS

THE HEAVENLY JOURNEY

As you begin this journey fair,
May you cast aside your every care;
For whether skies be dark and gray,
Or, if they be both sunny and gay;
There's one who's watching from above,
Sending down His everlasting Love.

May you trust in Him, ever,
And cease to thank Him, never!
May your faith grow ever stronger,
As each day you walk with Him, longer!
May your hope become brighter,
And each heavy load be lighter!

For, if faith and hope continue to grow,
So shall His love forever flow.
Love, which no one can take from us,
Love, which we can ever give,
Love, which knoweth no offense,
Love, which cannot ever hurt.

Let every thought and deed each day, anew,
Show forth your hopes of that heavenly view.
Let the love you harbor, never grow dim,
As you reflect to others your love for Him.
And may He bless you, so dear to our heart,
As on the Heavenly Journey you now embark.

Sis. Mary Eisenmann
(Written when her son, Bill, repented.)

YOUTH

Oh, prodigal youth of today,
Why do you wander so far away,
Or even stray away at all,
Instead of heeding the Saviour's call?

When you are tempted to wander away
Unto the allurements of today,
Let your conscience be your guide

To lead you away from sin and pride.

In prime of youth, you're happy and gay
But scarcely think of the Heavenly way.
Why not repent at Jesus' call
And find you were not happy at all?

Empty yourself of the sins you love,
And Jesus will pardon from above.
He's patiently waiting there for you
To be an heir of His Kingdom, too.

Satan in his realm has laid a snare
And will catch all who enter there.
Fortunate are you if you escape
Before it is forever too late.

Many your age are called away,
Thinking they had yet longer to stay.
So few are ready, many are not.
What, in eternity, will be your lot?

You can truly have a blessed youth
If you search and find the fount of truth.
And as a child of God say no
To all the vanities that glow.

Author Unknown
Submitted by Bro. Dave Bertsch

Naumberg, NY

The little plans I tried
To carry through have failed.
I will not sorrow.
I'll pause a little while,
Dear God,
And try, again, tomorrow.
Author Unknown

Rittman, OH

Farewell, Farewell, my morning dawns,
Farewell, my rest I see,
The strife is o're, my morning dawns,
The master calleth me.
Farewell, Farewell, I go to rest.
Hymns of Zion, 194

Roanoke, IL

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest prayer;
Do not fear to trust Him,

Tell Him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden,
He will bring relief.

Jesus knows thy conflict,
Hears thy burdened sigh;
When thy heart is wounded,
Hears thy plaintive cry;
He thy soul will strengthen,
Overcome thy fears;
He will send thee comfort,
Wipe away thy tears.

Hymns of Zion

Washington, IL

"Be not content this Babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem.
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.
For there we learn to know the
Christ
For there he bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of hearts
And let the Savior in."

Bro. Henry Beer
Hymns of Zion

Bluffton, IN

At thy feet I fall,
Yield thee up my all,
To suffer, live or die,
For my Lord crucified.
Author Unknown

The Savior Has Taken Me In

I once was sunk in the mire,
I once was lost in sin;
I had no faith in the Master,
I had no hope within.

The devil was my master,
His Spirit was guiding me;
I didn't believe that Jesus
Could heal me and set my heart
free.

The old life, it lost its pleasure—
My heart could feel no peace.
The call went out to serve Jesus,
His love could give me relief.

My faith grew so slowly,
My heart still had its pride;
The spirits were warring together,
I felt so tormented inside.

I wanted to serve Jesus,
His blessings all to receive;
If only I could surrender
And let my heart believe.

The struggle went on for awhile,
Jesus was patient with me.
He told me He would forgive me
And set my spirit free.

At last I finally surrendered,
I won the victory.

His grace was sufficient for me,
He taught me humility.

My lips now proclaim his glory,
My heart, it feels so free.
I confessed all of my sins,
And he has forgiven me.

My life is changed within me,
His spirit, it dwells within;
It teaches, corrects, and guides me,
And keeps me from living in sin.

I'm no longer serving the devil,
I'm no longer living in sin.
My deeds are no longer unrighteous,
The Savior has taken me in.

Bro. Tim Hohulin

(Submitted by Cathy Hohulin for
the Silver Threads.)

The Fountain of Good

You're fretting about all the
worldly pleasure,
Regretting your lack of some
earthly treasure.

You're wishing and wanting, but
failing to get,
And feeling the world has not paid
its debt.

All your hours have gone wasting,
awaiting the day
When good luck will likely be com-
ing your way.

You despair of your fate, and en-
large on your sorrow,
You live in the hope all will
change, come tomorrow.

And then you can hear some small
voice in you say,
"When tomorrow arrives, it will
be your today."

Today, here and now, is your
minute for living;
If you lose it or waste it, you sin
unforgiving.

Opportunity passes all those who
spurn it;
Success will come only to you if
you earn it.

No more idle wishing! Indulge in
right thinking!
Then soon, from the Fountain of
Good you'll be drinking.

Author Unknown

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)
the Lord alone can give.

People who are so wrapped up
in those desires are like the rich
man in verses 16-20 whose barns
weren't big enough to hold all his
crops, his goods, or his fruits. He

built bigger barns, and, when he
had a great amount of goods laid
up, he said that he could take his
ease, ". . . eat, drink and be merry."
That seemed to be his chief con-
cern, living a life of ease and lux-
ury. He didn't seem to think about
serving God. If there were poor
people around him who needed his
help, he didn't help them. He was
blessed with riches, or blessed with
the talents to become rich in the
things of the world, and we believe
that the Lord expected him to use
them in a good way, not to hoard
them for himself so that he could
eat, drink, and be merry.

The Lord said, "Thou fool, this
night thy soul shall be required of
thee: then whose shall those things
be, which thou hast provided?" So
it is with everyone who lays up
treasures for himself, and is not
rich toward God.

The Lord said that we should
seek first the kingdom of God and
His righteousness. Beloved ones,
how can we do that—seek the
kingdom of God first? Verse 31
says, "But rather seek ye the king-
dom of God; and all these things
shall be added unto you." So, our
first and foremost desire in life
should be to please God, to do what
He expects of us, and to have Him
foremost in our thoughts. That
should be our goal.

Maybe the Lord doesn't have
great things for us to do. Maybe
He has work for us that will not
even be noticed by others. Small
things also need to be done. The
Lord expects us to work for Him,
to do His will and his bidding
and to be busy when he comes. He
expects us to do that which is
good. While speaking about the
Lord's coming, I wondered how He
would find His people at that time.
Will they be ready and waiting for
Him, or will they be busy with the
things of the world?

I once read of an incident which
happened in our own country. Sud-
denly, in the midday, the sun be-
gan to be darkened. It seemed to
have lost its shine, its power, its
light. The people couldn't figure
out what was happening. They
didn't think that there was an
eclipse. It grew darker and darker,
and they had to light the lamps.
The chickens went to roost, and the
cows came home. A group of men
were gathered together at work;
it was a government duty. They

became almost hysterical wondering whether the end of the world was here. One suggested that they adjourn and go home. Another said that if it is not here, there is no reason to adjourn; and if it is here, he preferred to be found doing his duty. The sun shone again and the end of the world didn't come that day. If it comes in our time, will we be ready?

The Lord Jesus mentioned His return at other places in the Scripture. To those in Judea at that time He said, "Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes." Matt. 24:17, 18. We don't know just how the Lord's return will happen, or exactly what will follow.

Somebody mentioned this morning in Sunday School that we believe the Lord is going to come and take people from wherever they might be. His people, those who know the Lord, those who are the Lord's, will be seen by Him and the Lord will know them all. Wherever they are, and from whatever they might be doing, whether they are working in the field, working on the housetops, asleep in their beds, in the office working at some honorable occupation, on the pulpit, or whatever it be, suddenly the righteous shall be taken away and the unrighteous shall be left behind.

Some things in the scriptures are interpreted in different ways. When the Lord mentioned in verse 40 about His coming, Peter wanted to know, "... speakest thou this parable unto us or even to all?" The Lord didn't say specifically, but asked, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?" If the servant is doing his duty as the Lord has directed him; if the servant is busy at the calling which the Lord has asked of him; he is the wise servant. No doubt He was speaking of Peter and of all whom He has called to work for Him in His vineyard.

If the servants are busy working for the Master, happy and blessed shall they be. If they are busy giving their household their portion of meat (food), feeding the flock

(church), caring for the sheep and lambs, watchful and wakeful at their post, blessed and happy shall they be.

But if a servant would think, "My Lord won't come back for a long time," and begin to eat and to drink and to be drunken, he would be punished. This would be true whether it's only food or drink that we take into our mouths, or whether a servant might be wrapped up in the things of this world and forget his calling or duty; forget what he owes his church, his household, and his Lord.

We are told that "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself . . . shall be beaten with many stripes." Lk. 12:46, 47. Notice that He said, "That servant which knew his lord's will." So, beloved ones, He was speaking to servants who know the will of God, and those who despise or disregard it are in great danger for He will come in a day when he is not expected. Beloved ones, the Lord is not responsible for the punishment. He told both Peter and us what we should remember.

It's been almost two thousand years since the Lord spoke those words. The Lord meant that He will be coming back personally in the clouds of heaven and will take us out of the world. Therefore, we have a duty to do, a service to perform. May the Lord help us all to consider these things. The Lord Jesus came to open our understanding so that we would not be ignorant, so that we would not be in the dark. The words are plain, we believe.

Sometimes we may wonder, "Well, what is the work that I can do, or that I am to do? Where can I serve my God?" And there probably are many who worry about it, thinking, "I wonder if I am doing my duty or not; I wonder if I am doing all I can, or what the Lord asks me to do." It is a noble thought, beloved ones, and we should not brush it aside or ignore it. We must be thoughtful, upright, and sincere. Let us pray to

God, "Lord, lead me and make of me whatever you want. Wherever it is Your will that I should go, help me to be willing to go; whether at home or far away, help me to do Your work, regardless of whether or not I receive credit in this life. Lord make me willing." If we are sincere in that request, we believe that the Lord will guide and care for us.

In verse 32 of this chapter in St. Luke's gospel, the Lord said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." He spoke to many people with many different natures. I often think that it is the same today. In a church there are many different people. Some people, no doubt, worry about whether they are standing right with God, and whether He will really give them the kingdom. They wonder whether they are good enough for the kingdom of heaven. We believe that those who are thoughtful, sincere, and upright can take the words which the Lord said: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

But those are in danger who become indifferent, even after having been converted, if they think, "The Lord won't come for a long time;" or "I have a long time to live so I can enjoy life; I am saved now, so maybe I can lay up a treasure on earth to enjoy." We have a word of warning for those, and also for those who do not seem to care about their salvation. The Lord gave us this holy Word so that we would not be "in the dark," or ignorant.

The Lord wants His fire to still be burning today. He wants the church to send forth a beacon, a light, and a flame into the world so that people can see that it is the fire of God burning brightly, that the Word of God is taking its course according to God's teachings. He wants it known that here is a people who teach the unadulterated Gospel; here is a people who live according to their preaching and according to the Word of God. That is the fire, we believe, that even today ought to burn brightly and go forth to all the world. May the Lord help each of us, in our own station in life, to let this light burn brightly, you in your corner and I in mine.

SERMON BY BRO. BEN HARTZLER OF RITTMAN, OHIO

Text: St. Luke 12:31-50

We have read that the Lord said, "I am come to send fire upon the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?"

Probably, we wonder what kind of fire He was speaking of. He could have meant the fire of righteousness (the power of the Holy Spirit) working in the hearts of men. The Lord can burn away the dross and take away the tin as it is written in Isaiah 1:25. He can eradicate the wickedness and evil of the world, and establish truth, righteousness, and the fear of God on the earth.

We often hear of unrighteousness in high places, but it is not only in high places. In our own communities and towns, and in the cities around us, there is sin, evil, and ungodliness. We wonder why the fire of God's Word and Spirit does not burn a little brighter to show people how they stand, and to help them put away their evil doings. Then they might serve the Lord and allow His power to be made manifest instead of the power of evil.

In this sermon recorded in the twelfth chapter of St. Luke's gospel, the Lord spoke about many things to the great multitude of people who had come together to hear Him. In the beginning of the chapter we are told that the multitude was so great "that they trode one upon another." No doubt the weak and the sickly who could not take care of themselves fell down and others disregarded them. Most of the people were anxious to hear the Word of the Lord, but some probably wanted to catch some utterance with which to condemn Him.

He told the disciples that they should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. He also said that people should not be so concerned with the things of this world. In the few verses preceding those which we have read, He spoke about how people worry about food, drink, and clothing. He

said that those things aren't the main issues of life. He told them to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (the righteousness of the Word of God or the truth that comes from God.)

If we seek those things, God says that He will provide the necessary physical things in life. However, He didn't promise us a great abundance or anything we might wish for. There may be those who feel that the Bible promises them riches if they become converted and do God's will; that if they become members of the church, God will give them riches and honor. Beloved ones, we do not believe that is the teaching of Christ.

He says in verse 33, "Sell that ye have, and give alms, provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth."

Now beloved, we might go to extremes. It's so easy to go to extremes in one way or another. It seems to be human nature. We sometimes hear of people who are deep in poverty, almost in misery, who don't have decent homes, beds to sleep in, hardly a chair to sit on, sufficient clothing, or enough food to eat. Sometimes we wonder if it is really necessary in our part of the country, in our land, for people to be that poor. We wonder whether it is the fault of the head of the house. Perhaps he doesn't care to work; he doesn't save what he does earn; or maybe he doesn't spend wisely for the necessities of life, but spends foolishly.

There probably are many reasons for such poverty. People may become ill or simply, as we say, have hard luck, misfortunes in one way or another. We surely do not mean to despise or to criticize them. Many of us have come through times in our lives when we had to skimp and save to have food to eat, clothing to wear, and fuel to keep warm.

There were many people in our

own communities years ago in this condition, probably more so than now. There wasn't the plenty of today; still, sometimes we wonder about today, when people are living with so much borrowed money. Is it any better than it was in previous times?

But the Lord Jesus speaks here against so much striving for earthly things. He stresses that we should strive for the things which are eternal, things which pertain to the kingdom of God—righteousness and truth. And, beloved ones, we believe this applies to all of us.

People strive for different things, for various purposes and reasons. They have different goals in life. Probably every one has some kind of goal and would like to accomplish this or that. Many of these goals are good and honorable, desirable to strive and work for. There is much to do in life and we surely don't mean to say that people should not work.

Verses 35 and 36 tell us to let our lights burn and our "loins be girded about," and to be like those who are waiting for their lord to return from the wedding.

This doesn't mean that we should be idle while we wait for the Lord Jesus. The Lord has instructed us to be useful in this world. We should use the talents that He has given to us. We believe that the Lord will see all those who are busy at a good thing, something constructive or edifying which might serve the glory of God, the building up of truth and righteousness, or help those who are fallen down or in need.

There are many things that we can do. People have different callings and different talents, and we believe that most of those things are good in the eyes of God. But some strive for fortunes in this world or for honor among their fellow men, and forget that which comes from God, the glory that

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