

# The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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## THE RESURRECTION AND "LIFE"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

Mr. Ohara, an elementary school teacher who is one of my English students, told me recently that he was very tired, physically and spiritually. One of his neighbors, a young father of several children, had passed away suddenly due to a blood clot in the brain, so Mr. Ohara and all the other neighbors in that particular social unit called a "kumi" took off work for several days to help with the funeral. It was Mr. Ohara's job to help dig the grave. This is all right; I, too, have helped dig my Japanese neighbor's grave, but what made him so tired was the fact that the grave was to be dug where a relative had been buried 15 to 20 years previously. What remains there were of the body previously buried were gathered up and buried a little deeper, the ground leveled off smoothly, and the new wooden coffin set into the grave, fulfilling the Scripture, ". . . Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. . ." Genesis 3:19.

But why should this make Mr. Ohara so tired, spiritually and physically? Because human beings love life, whether they are Buddhist, Moslems, Christians, or whatever, and he had been face to face with the mortality of the human body. The Apostle Paul speaks of the human body of a believer as follows, ". . . It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption." I Cor. 15:42.

Men cling to life; the instinct for self-preservation is very strong, not only for human beings but for all creatures of the animal kingdom. What millionaire would not give at least half of his possessions for an extension of good health so he could enjoy his family and grandchildren a little longer. Recently when a high school student in America was asked why young people opposed our president's call for draft regis-

tration, his answer was simple, "We don't want to die."

When our Lord Jesus Christ was at the grave of Lazarus, He said to Martha, ". . . I am the Resurrection, and the Life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" John 11:26.

What's this about never dying? Sounds like the answer. Christ didn't explain further, but he called Lazarus out of the grave, with his former physical body, to die again.

Sometime later it was Christ's turn to be in the grave. This time Mary stood nearby. Christ came forth from the grave, much like Lazarus did, but there was one big difference. His resurrected body was not physical but immortal, never to return to the dust of planet earth.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that death hath lost its sting. I Cor. 15:55: "O death, where is thy sting? . . ." The true child of God never really dies in the sense that death usually conveys. He only moves from "the earthly house of this tabernacle, his physical body, to a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." I Cor. 5:1 paraphrased. This indicates, among other things, that we will sooner or later, move into a new and resurrected body which is immortal and eternal. Such is the essence of the terminology "eternal life" made possible and confirmed by the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Any kind of thought will bring fruit after its kind.

\* \* \* \*

The reason talk is so cheap is that the supply is greater than the demand.

## Those Loving Hands of the Saviour

(Translated from German and submitted by Elder Bro. Rudy Graf.)

In John's Gospel we read that Christ said, "I know my Sheep, they hear my voice and follow me, and I give them eternal life. They shall never perish, nor shall any man pluck them from out of my hand for my Father is greater than all. And no man can tear them from His mighty hands. Thus are the sheep kept in the fold."

The hand of the Father is powerful and none can undo the strength of the Father's hands. Also, the loving hand of Christ protects and shields the trusting lambs and sheep despite temptations and trials. He gives victory over the evil foe.

These hands also afforded an abiding comfort in times of peril, transmitting strength when the future seems uncertain. There is a blessed assurance, to each one who seeks protection and guidance, of being led safely to salvation by the tender strong hands in whom they trust.

Also, Christ says that "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." Coming to these hands assures us of an eternal hope in which and by which no one shall come to shame. Trusting in a humble manner brings victory

In John's Gospel we also read of the oneness in the Father and the Son. They work together, for we read that "no one" comes to this Son except the Father draw him. This assures the soul which has faith in God that it is these two who work redemption in the sinners soul. With growing confidence their soul yields completely to the loving hand which leads to eternal hope.

To refuse this helping hand would only be refusing our Creator's way to salvation which has been achieved by the suffering and dying of the loving Jesus to pay for the sins of everyone's life and their consequences. The invitation is: "Come unto me all ye who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Since it is the Word from God speaking to you, you may safely reach out to clasp this loving hand which will lift you up and put you on safe footing. Hymn No. 77 in Zion's Harp says, "I put myself in Jesus' hand . . ."

These are thoughts of one who has found the above to be true.

## MY JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

Sis. Sally Beutel

(Submitted by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach)

"God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you . . ." The Tremont congregation sang this beautiful hymn for me on the last Sunday I was home in June, 1977. God was truly with me in Japan, and He led me safely home.

Following God's guidance, I volunteered to go to Japan to teach in our church kindergarten. I spent several days in Alaska with Sis. Eleanor Yackley and Sis. Janice Nussbaum enroute to Japan. I arrived at Tokyo July 6, 1977. Sis. Jane Weiss and I taught kindergarten together. The two years I spent in Japan passed quickly, and now I have precious memories from my experience.

When I was first in Japan, I remember feeling the same love among our brethren there as we have in our precious fellowship in the States. The group having fellowship in Japan is small, but it is wonderful that there are brothers and sisters there. Our brethren showed me many kindnesses. I enjoyed visits in their homes. Sis. Jane and I traveled to Tokyo sometimes. It was a blessing to be with our brethren there. Bro. Willis Ehle and Bro. Akito were ordained elders while I was in Japan. They uphold the doctrine and traditions of our precious faith. We had English services regularly in Shioda. A brother spoke, or we listened to a tape.

The kindergarten children became dear to me. They are similar

to American children. They listened to and learned Biblical truths. I pray they will continue to have the opportunity of hearing the Truth and will someday turn to God in repentance. We had enjoyable experiences with the kindergarten children. The kindergarten children's parents were very kind to me, and I also enjoyed visits in their homes.

I had many interesting experiences during my stay in Japan. I learned about the people and their culture. I saw different parts of Japan and appreciated the opportunities I had to travel. I really enjoyed traveling by train.

During my stay in Japan, several improvements were made in our church and in the kindergarten. We started wearing long veils during worship services, and our beautiful, meaningful Zion's Harp hymns were translated into Japanese. Both are special to our precious faith. In the church/kindergarten at Shioda, changes were made to improve the physical structure of the building and to make it more able to accommodate the growing number of kindergarten children. A new heating stove was installed to replace on old one, and the church kitchen was redecorated. There were also improvements made at our Tokyo church.

Jane and I moved from our small apartment to a new home. Our new home was definitely a big improvement which Jane and I really enjoyed. We also enjoyed having a car to use.

I think it is a good idea to have sisters stay in Japan for two years. Adjustments were necessary, and I had difficulty adjusting immediately. I enjoyed my second year in Japan more than the first. I was busy, time never dragged, and I didn't get homesick. There were times when I would have liked to have been with my loved ones at home, but I felt God wanted me in Japan. I was so lonesome for fellowship, sometimes, but I felt the prayers of loved ones from everywhere helped me. I think it is good to reinstate the rotation system among teachers. I think this is better for everyone concerned.

I returned to the States in July, 1979; Sis. Jane Weiss, Sis. Reiko Furuya, and I traveled together. We spent some time in Honolulu on our trip to the States. I appreciate the opportunities of vacationing in

Alaska and Hawaii enroute to and returning from Japan. Since my return home, I have been employed as a teacher's aide. I am thankful to God for His guidance and for providing for my every need throughout my life.

My experiences in Japan were interesting and worthwhile. I am thankful I had the opportunity to go to Japan. God willing, some day I would like to visit my brethren and friends in Japan again.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

One of our teenage boys sought my attention. "Would you come here a second. I would like to tell you something." I moved out to the utility room where he was sweeping the floor. He is one of those characters whom you wonder if you are ever going to reach. But he wanted to tell me something. He simply and briefly stated, "I just wanted to say I love you for caring for me and putting up with the way I act," and he then went back to the broom. I knew he meant it and thanked him.

That kind of reward makes our job worthwhile. It also increases our confidence in God's love and in His answer to prayer. We praise the Lord for being able to do so easily with His help those things that we struggle so fruitlessly to do by ourselves. Success comes by surrendering our will to Him, resting our effort in His ability and faithfulness to accomplish what we are in need of.

It takes a long time to get to the

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Grabill, Indiana 46741

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Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

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root of some of our children's problems; it takes again as much time to solve them. There must be a patient and positive approach to build their self-worth. A solution to a problem is most attractive when it comes from within them. We never reach some children; others we do. But we thank God for the successes as He is the One who brings the results.

Our methods cannot be oppressive. Such methods are tempting to use because we want quick results, but oppression only brings resentment and rebellion.

Bro. Brace has already struggled with this conflict as I have in the past. Being a businessman and builder, he was able to accomplish his former goals with whatever speed his hammer would take him. But desired results are not gained as quickly in his houseparenting job. Human behaviour takes a long time to mold and change. He described the situation in his daily journal: "For our children here, progress is not in forceful leaps but in gentle strides."

Almost all of the children had the opportunity to go home for Easter vacation. Brace and Brenda took the others home with them.

Spring is here. But that means summer is right around the corner, and a need for voluntary help with the garden and summer school is evident. Our Sisters Helen and Jane have organized a good summer program and are now seeking personnel to help with it. Please call our office if you are interested (219-627-5138).

The following is a written statement from the desk of our administrator, Bro. Bob Cockburn: "We ask anyone interested in this work of the Lord to pray about it as it involves the lives of children, and this is a very precious thing. Also, please pray for our Home and children daily, as we need the prayers of all."

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The silent force which is behind the miracle called Spring is the same unseen force which can create a miracle within man. Mystery surrounds both. Were one to spend hours observing the hand of God in nature, one could not actually see the process of growth because it is too slow. But periodic observation proves that there is growth and

change. Can anyone explain the mystery? Though one can see the effects of it and though one can feel its influence, it is only faith in our Creator which can satisfy our yearning for true answers.

When a new baby becomes a part of a household, it is a profound experience. It is the same here when a new resident arrives. Each one provides another dimension of thought and concern for potential development. Providing for the physical needs is perhaps the easier part of the person's care. As we become acquainted with him and he with us, we think in terms of what can be accomplished to make this person as self-sufficient as possible, giving him a feeling of worth in spite of what the handicap might be. Much more can often be accomplished than is thought possible. It is a challenge that makes all the effort worthwhile. Then if there are times of discouragement, we think of the reason which Christ Himself gave for the existence of "special" people. John 9:3 says, ". . . that the works of God should be made manifest in him. . ." Therefore it behooves us to consider: At the time when these special bodies and minds will be made whole for all eternity, will they be able to say in our behalf that their mission on earth was accomplished in us? With an estimated ten percent of the world population in the category of being disabled in some way, each of us has abundant opportunity to help. Many have, and we are grateful.

#### THE THREE PRAYERS

1.

"Lord, help me," so we pray,  
"Help me my work to do;  
I am so ignorant and weak,  
Make me more wise and true."

2.

"Lord, help me to do Thy work,"  
We pray when wiser grown,  
When on the upward way  
Our feet have further gone.

2.

"Lord, do Thy work through me,"  
So when all self we lose,  
His doing and His work are we—  
The tools His hand can use.

—Annie Johnson Flint

**Moving? Let Us Know.**

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

##### Carolyn Kaufman-Kathy Woodruff

This month has been filled with fellowship because we have had many visitors. Among them were the young groups of the Altadena and Phoenix congregations. The three groups enjoyed a busy week-end of activities and blessed fellowship despite the damp weather which threatened to cancel the activities. However, the Lord provided, and everyone was able to attend.

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife came down to Tucson from Phoenix recently to attend the open house Bro. Rudi Bertschi gave in honor of his mother's visit (Sis. Maryann Winzeler). She is visiting her son, Bro. Rudi Bertschi, Sis. Irene, and their family. Her permanent place of residence is Restmor Nursing Home in Morton.

Our small congregation was recently blessed with visiting minister Harold Gramm and his wife from Morris, MN. Truly, our prayers are with all of the Lord's servants in their work.

One of our own ministers, Bro. Lorn Knapp, and his wife, Evelyn, were recently blessed by the birth of their first grandchild. "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." (Proverbs 17:6) John Edward Woodruff was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy (Knapp) Woodruff on Feb. 23.

Bro. Don Bauer and his wife, Gloria, and Bro. Bob Haas and his wife, Carol, have recently returned from their joint vacation in Hawaii. All of us are glad to see them return safely as we need the support of every one of our members in our small congregation.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

##### Shirley Witzig

We wish to thank the following ministering brothers for sharing God's Word with us: Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL; LeRoy Messner, Winthrop, MN; Don Wagenbach, Washington, IL; and Corbin Bahler and Elder John Bahler, Rockville, CT. May the God of all bounty bless both the seed and the sowers.

Those hospitalized are Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner and baby Moriah Minger (Emil and Sandy Minger). Sis. Mabel Graf is unable to gather with us and is yet in the nursing home. Though it often grieves our hearts

to see our loved ones ill, what a comfort to know of the grace supplied and the purpose of perfecting our spiritual strength. See II Cor. 12:7-10.

The family of Sis. Naomi Schwarz wishes to thank all who shared their love and comfort during the illness and passing on of Sis. Naomi. The kindness was felt and appreciated.

Our love and prayers are extended to the family of Sis. Clara Bahler who passed from this life on the 20th of February. She left her husband, Bro. Simon Bahler, daughter, Eleanor Garrett, son, Jack Bahler, and three grandchildren.

Our Sunday School and young group enjoyed and were greatly blessed with a weekend spent with the Tucson and Phoenix congregations. The Tucson congregation invited the Phoenix and Altadena young groups to spend the weekend of Feb. 16 with them. Due to flooding, the Phoenix congregation opened their homes for us on Saturday until we were able to travel on to Tucson on Sunday. We thank all for the hard work and love shown to us.

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

There is reason to rejoice at this beautiful Easter season with our winter now past. It is so refreshing and brings cheer to those who have been confined in institutions, hospitals, or even in their own homes. God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe; He is the Creator of all. In His wondrous plan, so perfectly in balance, His greatness is ever before our eyes.

At this time, we are reminded of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, the Son of God. In the New Testament, we can scarcely read a line that is not saturated with the divinity of Christ, or read anything without encountering some act, statement or allusion relating to Him. It tells that this event was forced into the light at the time it occurred. There were other miracles recorded in the Bible but not a single one has stood out like this; it stands on a very different basis. This event was not done in a corner. It took place in the full light of day under a blaze of publicity and was supported by many witnesses who converged upon it. This beautiful story, with its

eternal meaning, has been told over and over again and is celebrated year after year.

Our church enjoyed the visits of four church elders who carried out duties pertaining to church work. Elder Bros. John Bahler, Rockville; Rudolph Graf, Akron; Ben Maibach, Detroit; and Loren Stoller, Latty, were present. The evening service was set aside for the ordination of Bro. Corbin Bahler as our Deacon. This having been completed, the Lord's Supper was served. Both of these undertakings were solemn and done with reverence.

Wedding vows were exchanged by Sis. Peggie Luginbuhl and Bro. Kenneth Bernia. An evening reception followed.

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

John and Caroline Hejja

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12.

The family is the smallest, tightest unit in society. The relationships of the family are extremely important, especially those between the parents and their children. This is very important in the Christian home. Children are a gift from God. We must be aware of the great responsibility we have to rear our children in such a way that they learn to lead a Christian life and serve God. If the children give their lives back to God when they are older, it brings joy to the parents' heart.

Soon our nation will celebrate Mother's Day. The mothers have a special "mission field" right in their own home. Day by day, through their examples and teachings, they are training small and tender hearts for the future. Hearts are perhaps more open and receptive to learning when they are small and childlike. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Some people in these days look down upon housekeeping and motherhood as boring and unfulfilling, but how exciting it is to influence these little lives and minister to the needs of your own family. Let us appreciate and respect the mothers who have spent so much time and effort on our behalf.

"Kindly heaven smiles above,  
When there's love at home; All the

earth is filled with love,  
When there's love at home. Sweeter sings  
the brooklet by, Brighter beams  
the azure sky; O there's One who  
smiles on high, When there's love  
at home. (The Christian Home—  
Hymns of Zion)

#### FLORIDA, PORT CHARLOTTE

Betty Rassi

The doors of our little Port Charlotte church have swung open to many visitors this past winter season. On Apr. 6, Easter Sunday, they will swing shut for the last time until Dec. 1. Plans are already being made to hold services again next season. Bro. Roland and Sis. Vi Keller wish to express their thankfulness to all for the love, gifts, cooperation and prayers extended these past four months. It made their responsibilities much easier to perform.

Attendance has varied from 26 the first Sunday to 141 one Sunday in February, but for the most part there was room for everyone. The Lord provided ministers to proclaim the Word. Bros. Doug Sebo and Glen Price, Jr., of Sarasota, Harry Sutter of Ft. Lauderdale, Joe Schrock of Congerville, IL, and Art Gudeman of LaCrosse, IN, and North Port, FL, were with us the months of February and March. Bro. Art Gudeman has been with us almost every Sunday ministering and supporting the visiting ministers. Bro. Art and Sis. Mary are returning to LaCrosse the first of April. We will be looking forward to their return, God willing, next fall. May we say once again, "ALL are WELCOME—the door is open!"

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6. We are rejoicing that a soul is seeking the truth in Him through repentance, namely Shane Lyle of Port Charlotte, FL. Shane came to church through the invitation extended him by Bro. Art Gudeman, and we welcome him and wish him the Lord's Blessings.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Freda Knepp of Eureka, IL, were called home suddenly. His brother-in-law passed away. We express our sympathy to them in their sorrow.

Until Dec. 1, let's remember: "Our souls have been united in sweet union, and many precious hours have gone by. Our thoughts arose to Christ, our Lord and Savi-

our, and He our hearts with love did sanctify. We sang our songs of praise unto the Father, For He is worthy of our praise and honor. Our hands to you in brother-love extending, beloved friends, accept our fond farewell." No. 114, Zion's Harp

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Elda Martin

As our winter residents travel back to their various northern homes, we wish them God's protection. We also wish to thank them for all their love and support they gave to us here in Sarasota. If it is the Lord's will, may we all meet again in heaven, if not on earth.

Our Sis. Lourene Schieber had to have surgery while staying here. Also, Sis. June Eisenmann had foot surgery.

We received many blessings from our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Gene Leman, Wolcott, IN; Bro. Bob Meyers, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Elmer Hartter, Milford, IN, and Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Tremont, IL.

#### HAWAII, HONOLULU Michael and Sis. Janet Campbell

God has once again richly blessed us during the month of February. We were privileged to have Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie Aschliman from the Bluffton congregation and ministering Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari from the Bloomington-Normal congregation share an evening of fellowship and dinner out with us on Feb. 12.

On Sunday, Feb. 17, and again on Sunday, Feb. 24, we were grateful to have Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder of the Roanoke congregation visit with us and share in a worship service by listening to a tape in their hotel room. Later, we went out to lunch together. We also had dinner together at our home on Wednesday evening, Feb. 20.

On Feb. 19, Doug Germann from Valparaiso, IN, came to our home to visit and brought us a Zion's Harp hymn book and a Hymns of Zion hymn book which we appreciated very much. Doug's parents are members of the LaCrosse congregation.

Lastly, Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr from the Gridley, IL, congregation were visiting in Hawaii and called us at our home. We had a very nice telephone conversation.

We were overwhelmed by the many visitors we received this month. We praise our Lord that these dear ones remembered us. If you are planning a trip to Hawaii, please look us up or call us. Our telephone number is 422-1041, and our address is 3324-D Orlando Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

It would be wonderful if our beloved elders could be inspired to send someone, perhaps a married couple or family that would feel the moving of the Holy Spirit, to set up a church in the Honolulu area to minister to the natives and also provide a place to worship when brothers and sisters come from the mainland. The state of Hawaii is a very dark state, and where there is darkness there needs to be light.

#### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL Dixie Knapp

Some of this month's headlines read: "Economy Out of Control," "High Interest Rates Start to Hit Home," "The Hard Facts about Balancing the Budget," "Skyrocketing Energy Costs." Inflation—a topic that is on everyone's mind—could easily be a result of our spiritual problems. And it follows that if that's true, the weight of change rests upon the Christian.

How easy it is to identify with the feeling that your paycheck seems to disappear. It's as though your wallet had holes in it. Where does it seem to go? In Haggai the Lord said, "He that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes." (1:6) The book of Haggai has something to say to our country today.

The Lord was displeased with these Israelites. They had returned to the land of promise to rebuild the temple. The work was begun, but hostile neighbors tried to stop the construction and they succeeded. Fifty thousand Israelites' enthusiasm for the rebuilding was smothered by outward opposition and inward indifference.

For sixteen years the temple was in ruins. Then the Lord, through the prophet Haggai, spoke to the Israelites and challenged their excuse which was, "This isn't the time to build the temple." He questioned them, asking "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house (the temple) lie waste?" (1:4) He was pointing

out that they had time for their homes and possessions and yet no time for the things of importance to God—in this case it was the reconstruction of the temple.

To make the contrast more obvious between the ornate homes of the returned exiles and the temple that lay desolate, it is important to understand what cieled means. Cieled houses were homes paneled extensively—very ornate for those times. Expensive timber was not common in Judah; therefore, its use was a mark of luxury. Wainscoating with cedar was to be found in the palaces of the kings. (Note that their sin was not in their possessions—Abraham had cattle on a thousand hills and the richest man whoever lived was Solomon—but in their priorities.)

Verse 12 shows the turning point of the leaders and people for they "obeyed the voice of the Lord their God." And the Lord said, "I am with you." (1:13) From my understanding, it was a little more than a month between the time that Haggai first expressed the Lord's dissatisfaction with the people and the time the people began to build.

This short book taught me a lot. The indifference in our country toward spiritual things and too much concern for temporal things seems too closely related to the sin of these people. What gives me so much hope is that after changing their attitudes, the Lord said, "I am with you." Our country can change, too.

We are rejoicing that Tudy Schmied wants to put God first in her life. Tudy, a teacher, has been wanting to repent for a long time. Now we share her joy and the joy of her mother, Sis. Louise Schmied from Peoria.

Not only is our spiritual family growing, but our physical "family" is, too—with little girls! There were three excited people bringing home one new little girl from the hospital. Mother Wilma Kieser held Denise Ann who was born on Dec. 27, and Father David drove as Sara marveled at her sister. David and Sharon got to see their sister a few days later.

Nine-year-old Tommy Anderson helped his mom and dad, Tom and DeAnn Anderson, bring home his new little 7 lb., 6 oz. sister, Andra Lea, from the hospital. She gave her first cry on Jan. 22.

Three little faces, Ryan, Tammy

and Nicholas, can be seen peeking thru the side of the crib to look at their new sister, Kara LeAnn. Bro. Ken and Sis. Dianne Verkler first saw their little baby on Feb. 21.

Feb. 27 was an exciting Wednesday for Ron and Monique Carter. On that day they met their first child, Racel Lynn. 7 lb., 6 oz. must be a special size, because Rachel Lynn and Andra Lea were both that weight.

Sunday, Apr. 16, Bro. Dave Huber and Sis. Deb Zimmerman stood before God and our congregation to make their vows of marriage. Bro. Merle Kaisner and Sis. Gladys (Fairbury), Bro. Bill Hodel and Sis. Betty (Roanoke), and Elder Bro. Dan Koch and Sis. Carol (Tremont) were here for the wedding. We are glad that Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb will make their home here in Bloomington-Normal.

We give many thanks to the Grace Notes from Morton for providing an inspirational evening of song for us. We appreciate the effort that was extended by them to allow us to worship together.

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

God, my hope and consolation,  
Ever Thou my refuge be!  
In Thy care I'll find perfection,  
Though no other light I see.  
Oft on rugged road of sadness  
I find comfort, joy and gladness;  
Guided by Thy hand alone,  
"Thine and not my will be done."  
Zion's Harp No. 93

It has been diagnosed that a young husband and father, Mark Ehnle, has leukemia. He spent two weeks in the hospital where treatment was begun, but at this time is happy to be home with his wife and daughter. We are thankful Mark and his wife, Cathy, have turned to God in repentance. Mark's parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle. While Mark was still in the hospital, their 10-month-old daughter was also hospitalized for a few days with an ear infection.

We rejoice with Robert and Becky Joos who have also heeded God's call. May He grant them much grace in their repentance.

Baby boys have brought much joy to two families. On Feb. 26, Joshua Michael was born to Jim and Sally Mummert. He is welcomed by four-year-old Christo-

pher. His grandparents are Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser. On Mar. 2, Bradley Alan joined the family of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser. His brothers and sisters are Barb, Joe, Mary Ann, Robert, Matthew, and Donna. Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille Kieser and Sis. Emma Moser (of the Eureka Home) are anxious to meet their new grandson.

Jerry Knobloch and Mary Flake were united in marriage on Mar. 14. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their home together. Jerry is the son of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Knobloch.

Ministers who visited us recently were Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski), Carl Wyss (Washington), Ed Knecht (Silverton), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Walter Anliker (Eureka), and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest).

#### ILLINOIS CHAMPAGNE-URBANA Charlen Banwart

"Even as the springtime flowers  
Grew beneath the sun's warm  
rays,  
So the Lord by His own powers  
Makes us garlands for His  
praise;  
He invites most lovingly:  
Little children, come to Me!  
All should truly know Him ever,  
Call Him Brother, Lord, and  
Saviour!"

(Morning Hymn, No. 166,  
Zions' Harp)

God's gracious invitation has again gone forth through our home ministers as well as the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger of Cissna Park, Bro. Art Baurer of Princeville, Bro. Byron Stoller of Gridley, Bro. Ken Weerts of Cissna Park, Bro. Tom Leman of Elgin, and Bro. Wayne Anliker of Forrest. "Help that we may not be merely Hearers of Thy Word today." (Morning Hymn)

We are looking forward to hearing the "Easter Story" presented in verse and song by our Sunday School students on Palm Sunday.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6) Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand have sought to follow this teaching and have been blessed as their oldest son, John, is seeking his soul's salvation. We pray that he may build a firm foundation.

**Moving? Let Us Know.**

#### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are for." John A. Shedd. When I go up the stairs to a night class of mine, the stairs also teach me of safety. They are extremely steep, so much so that the first time I thought I would not make it because there was ice and slush on them. But I pitched myself forward, leaned ahead, and gained the top steadily, with no accident. I need these lessons. Each day I need to be taught the acceptance of going out into the world to be a ship, rather than staying in the safety of the harbor where I long to be. Only with forward motion and Christ's granting me momentum and grace can I go on, one day at a time.

We were taught that as believers we are learners, and the Word is a well of water ever springing up to newly refresh us. We certainly were refreshed by the visits and ministries of our Bluffton, IN, brothers, Phil Stettner and Jim Rinkenberger, on Feb. 24. We were also blessed by the ministry of Bro. Phil Sauder (Cissna Park) on Mar. 16.

Our length of service in the Lord is for as long as we live. For Him who saved us from our sins we can do no less, especially as He gives us grace day by day and blesses us mightily. Sis. Jackie Getz, who has been in nurses' training here, and Bro. Ben Pfederer, Morton, are engaged to be married. We wish them the Lord's continued guidance and blessings.

It has been said that each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others and must share their burdens. Each one in the family must show concern, not only for his or her own life, but must also show concern for the lives of the other members of the family which includes their needs, their hopes, and their ideals. Can we see that this applies not only to our immediate earthly family, but also to our larger group of spiritual kin?

Bro. Earl and Sis. Lucille Feller wish to pour out their heartfelt thanks to all who remembered him and his dear family in so many ways during his illness. They, as have so many others, felt the prayers of beloved brothers and sisters in faith. May we continue to remember them in our prayers.

We also want to remember Bro. Sam Slagel in our prayers. He has again been hospitalized. "The effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

We were reminded of the camel's trying to go through the needle's eye. All the baggage had to be removed 'ere they could enter into the city of rest. We, too, came in through the straight and narrow gate. All was put at Jesus' feet. We shouldn't allow Satan to tempt us by throwing that excess baggage over the wall for us to grasp again. Yet the analogy is not complete, for the camel was in, safe, after the baggage had been removed. We must, each day, struggle against our pride and boasting, and malignant thoughts, our too-human ways of compensating for feeling not quite as good as someone else. We must pray to be delivered from our lust for worldly pleasures and sins of omission and commission. We are not in until we enter heaven's gate—with a heart lit up by Christ's love within. We cannot expect to clutter our heart with Satan's treasures, leaving only a narrow path for the things of heaven, and still assume we will be recognized at the gate!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look at His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow  
strongly dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.  
Lemmel

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson**

An unpleasant aspect of reporting news for The Silver Lining is the listing of our friends and brethren who have been ill or hospitalized. A number of our folks have been shut-in with a lingering type of flu. Lyle Rudin and Virginia Ehman were surgical patients. Sisters Carolyn Hari, Esther Neukomm, Lillian Feller and Margaret Rudin, and Bro. Clarence Rudin were medical patients. All have again returned to their homes. May the Great Physician heal and restore health to whom-so-ever He will.

The memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference was read recently, and we were directed as to how a Christian should conduct himself. Our newly-ordained elder, Bro. Stephen Rinkenberger, assisted and very ably expounded on directives for our Christian walk.

Visiting ministers have been: Elder Bro. Donald Sauder, Roanoke, and Bros. Wayne Anliker, Forrest, Arthur Bauerer, Princeville, Robert Beebe, Bremen, and Joe Gerst, Iowa City, IA. We thank our visiting ministers for providing spiritual food for us and extend an invitation to them to return.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Mardell Ott - Pat Rinkenberger**

We were richly blessed when ministering Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), LeRoy Hartman (Peoria), and Don Wagenbach (Washington) were with us this month. We were reminded of the parable of the sower and how the believer needs to go out into the wilderness, to the open fields, in order for the seed to bring forth fruit. We often let our lives become too busy with the things of this life, and the seed cannot grow by the wayside where the ground is packed and trodden down, travelled by many people.

On Feb. 24, several from our congregation attended the wedding of Bro. Kim Craig and Sis. Carol Wiegand at Goodfield. Parents of the couple are Jim and Elda Mae Craig and Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand.

The Lord again has brought two souls together. Mar. 16, Sis. Ann Roth Schick (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth) and Bro. Dave Zobrist (Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis) from Goodfield announced their engagement.

Chuck and Diane Schrock were blessed with a baby girl, Carly Jean. The grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Polly Schrock.

Our dear Sis. Naomi Schrock underwent surgery and is still hospitalized. We wish her a speedy recovery.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Ruth Ann Getz**

At Easter time we reflect upon the Lord's supreme sacrifice and marvel at such love that would cause Him to go to the cross, bear the reproach of all our sins, and shed His blood to atone for those sins. We can not comprehend such love, but we humbly claim it through repentance, conversion of heart and mind, and walking a life of obedience. What glory to serve such a Saviour!

Our beloved brother in the Lord. R. O. (Pat) Kinsinger, 81, passed away Feb. 23. Pat suffered for

many years with a kidney ailment which he bore patiently. He was born Sept. 11, 1898, in Pulaski, IA, the son of William and Kathryn Nofsinger Kinsinger. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Leah Strahm Kinsinger; two daughters, Sis. Kathryn Steffen and Sis. Wava Steffen, both of Elgin; one son, William of South Elgin; 12 grandchildren; and one sister, Sis. Kathryn Williamson of Elgin. Ministering Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski), as well as Bro. Herman Kellenberger (who returned home from Zapata, TX), were among those who came to pay their last respects to our departed brother in faith.

Sis. Anna Holliday has been discharged from the hospital and is convalescing at her daughter's home. Her address is: Mrs. Anna Holliday, 214 No. Pine Street, Mt. Prospect, IL, c/o Mr. Buren Herod. While she still suffers pain from back surgery, we are grateful the Lord has been with her thus far.

Sis. Bea Metzger is able to assemble with us again after a several week's battle with pneumonia.

Bert Straugh is presently hospitalized with a back injury due to a fall.

A group of our young brothers and sisters spent an evening in Chicago at Passavant Hospital where they sang hymns and visited with Gordon Raqer who is a quadriplegic there.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Melba Mangold**

On Feb. 23, Elder Bro. Ed Lantz of Oakville was with us to help in reading and explaining the conclusions of the general conference. On Sunday, Bro. Art Baurer of Princeville, along with his wife, were with us for the day. Also, Bro. Harold Schmidgal and his wife surprised us on a Wednesday evening for services. Bro. Ken Schneider and his wife and family spent Sunday, Mar. 16, with us. We thank them for coming and especially thank the brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Andy Lehman was called from this life on Feb. 23 while in Arizona on vacation. He and Sis. Verna had been living in a duplex at the Home. Services and burial were in Fairbury. Sis. Verna wishes to thank all the loved ones who so kindly helped her and his children in their hour of need. It was greatly

appreciated by them.

On Mar. 1, Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein welcomed a little boy, Samuel Jacob, to their home. He has a little sister, Cynthia. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman of Goodfield and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein of Eureka.

We were again saddened by the passing of another dear brother, but we believe God's will was done. Bro. Roy Blunier was taken from this life on Mar. 7, having been in the hospital only one day. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Edna, his two sons, Marvin and Gerald, and two daughters, Alberta Adams and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid. Also surviving are: ten brothers, Henry, Tim, Bros. Lee, Harold, Walter, Vernon, Samuel, Lewis, Homer, and Ben; and four sisters, Sisters Grace Strahm, Ruth Knepp, Genevieve Blunier, and Pearl Leman.

We are fortunate in not having many sick folk. Sis. Marie Klaus was in the hospital for about two weeks, but is home again.

As we think of the happenings on Good Friday and Easter, I'm reminded of a sermon Bro. Leroy Huber had a while ago. In reading and explaining the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, he explained that the rich man wanted Abraham to send someone to testify to his brothers so they could be saved from coming to the place of torment where he was. Abraham said if they didn't believe Moses and the prophets they would not believe if one rose from the dead. Bro. Leroy reminded us that someone was sent who had risen from the dead, Jesus Christ, and many still do not believe. "Why seek with tears the Master here? He is not dead, rejoice. He lives." From Hymns of Zion, "The Resurrection"

Bro. Fred and Sis. Emma Knecht wish to thank all who sent them cards on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Being remembered by friends added to the joy of the day.

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

We rejoice that John Broquard, son of Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard, has turned to the Lord for his salvation. John is back in the hospital, and had surgery again. We know the Lord Jesus loves him and is with John and his family during this time of joy and sorrow.

Bro. and Sis. Walter Steffen were blessed with being able to observe their 60th Wedding Anniversary, Mar. 7. She was the former Martha Bahler from Remington. They lived southeast of Fairbury for 36 years before retiring and moving into Fairbury in 1956.

Sis. Lydia Maier and Bro. John Wiedman were married Feb. 20. May the Lord bless them as they have made their home together.

Sis. Ida Bahler passed away after living a full and fruitful life, reaching the age of 86. Funeral services were held by Bro. Josh Broquard and Bro. Lee Bahler of Connecticut. Sis. Ida (Steffen) was married to Bro. Emil Bahler who was a kind and inspirational minister for many years. Bro. Emil passed away in 1959, and for the past few years, Sis. Ida resided at Fairview Haven. Surviving are: three sons, our ministering Bro. Arthur, Bro. Ralph, and Marvin; two daughters, Helen Frye and Verla Davis; one sister, Sis. Emma Bahler; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Phil Sohn had the misfortune of falling and breaking a bone by his shoulder. He is home from the hospital, recuperating. Sis. Anna Roth is at Fairview Haven again after having been in the hospital.

A Volunteer Appreciation program arranged by Rosy Mowery, Administrator, was held for Fairview Haven one evening with about 80 volunteers attending. The volunteer program was organized a year ago with the Cissna Park, Gridley, Forrest and Fairbury churches participating. She reported that in the 12 month period the Quilting Department worked 4114 hours and contributed \$1660.00. The Activity Department contributed 1737 hours of helping, feeding, visiting, shopping, etc.

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

##### Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss conducted funeral services for our departed Bro. Andy Lehman who passed away while vacationing in Phoenix, AZ. He lived in the Forrest area and attended church here for many years before marrying Sis. Verna Hoerr from Peoria. In recent years they resided and attended services in Eureka. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Verna.

We also offer sympathy to Sis. Neola Nussbaum (Bro. Byron) in the passing of her mother, Sis. El-

len Wackerle from Bay City, MI.

We have had several hospital patients this month but are happy to report that most of them are out again and doing well. Bro. Ed Bach (Sis. Clara), Sis. Mary Metz (Bro. Joe), Gene Schfadenhauffen (Sis. Velma), and Sis. Leona Wallace were all hospitalized for a few days. Sis. Irene Traub (Ben) is in the hospital at this time, and it is our wish that God will extend His healing hand of love to her.

Visiting this month was Elder Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke. May God ever encourage the hearts of our elders and ministers to bring forth the true Gospel of God.

Four tender young souls were added to the fold on the weekend of Mar. 1 and 2. They were Marcia Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam), Alisa and Teresa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene), and Sandra Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy). Bro. Josh Broquard from Fairbury assisted Bro. Perry. Also visiting were Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), Dave Wiegand (Campaign), and Art Bahler and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury).

We rejoice with Kim Nussbaum (Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola) as he is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God grant him grace to build on a firm foundation.

On Feb. 23, Stephanie Lynn was born to Warren and Candy Koehl of Watseka. She has a sister, Trisha, to welcome her home. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl.

#### A MOTHER'S LOVE

A mother's love is something that no one can explain;  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may,  
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.  
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking.  
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems.  
It is far beyond defining; it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation,  
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand



And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.  
Helen Steiner Rice

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

"I've got more to go to heaven for than I had yesterday," was sung in one of the songs rendered to us by the Bluffton choir which visited us on Mar. 8 and 9. It was a warm and blessed fellowship that we felt among these dear brethren the entire weekend, and we also felt that we have more to go to heaven for than we had yesterday. May the Lord bless them and Bro. Jim Rinkenger as he brought the Word of the Lord to us.

Sis. Carol Wiegand and Bro. Kim Craig of Congerville were united in marriage on Feb. 23. May the Lord be their guide as they establish their home in Congerville.

We have two new little baby boys in our congregation. Michael Robert is the son of Jeff and Ruth Grimm. His grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Elna Grimm and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand. Daniel Frederick is the new son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Lauri Wiegand. His grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp of Congerville. We are thankful that these two little ones are blessed with God-fearing parents.

Little Peggy Hinrichsen (Bill and Jan) was hospitalized for a while with a chest infection, and we are happy that she has now returned home.

The engagements of Sis. Donna Huette (Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene) of Tremont to Bro. Bruce Wyss (Bro. Roy and the late Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Ann Schick (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth) of Congerville to Bro. Dave Zobrist (Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis) have been made known to us. We want to wish them both God's richest blessings at this happy time.

We want to welcome Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp who have moved here from Taylor, MO. May they feel a warm welcome and God's blessing in this congregation.

Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen and Virginia (Mark) Wiegand wish to express a sincere thanks and appreciation for all the deeds of kindness shown at the recent death of their sister, Dorothy Moore.

We pray the Lord will grant us all much patience and love as we

begin our remodeling project here in the Goodfield church. May His Will be done.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Here they bloom but for a season, Soon their beauty is decayed: I am going to a city Where the roses never fade." Gospel Hymns No. 764

As the choir sang this lovely hymn during the funeral services, we could vividly picture our dear departed Sis. Lena Meiss faithfully tending her beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. God's handiwork in creating their glowing colors and unique fragile beauty was very precious to her, and He provided the increase year after year as a reward for her careful, untiring efforts in planting and watering. After her conversion at age 16, Sis. Lena lived 78 years in fruitful service to her Lord, including rearing twelve children. Now she has finished her course and can peacefully rest, asleep in Jesus. As the ministering brother remarked, he couldn't help but feel that God has a very special rose garden awaiting her in heaven. Sis. Lena's funeral was Mar. 2. She was 94 years old. Surviving are seven sons, Bro. Elmer, Charles, Bro. Kenneth, Bro. Raymond, and Bro. Floyd, all of Gridley, Bro. Earl of Morton, and Edwin of Heyworth, and five daughters, Emma Kroeger, Sis. Viola McKinley, and Sis. Alyce Gilmore, all of Gridley, Sis. Frances Sauder of Morton, and Carolyn Aeschleman of Roanoke. Also surviving are 27 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Art Grusy of Gridley; and two sisters, Sis. Louise Gramm of Gridley and Sis. Bertha Meiss of Eureka.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber are the happy parents of a new daughter, Bobbi Ann, who was born Feb. 23. Her grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler of Wolcott, IN, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Evelyn Gerber of Bluffton, IN.

Tisha Marie was born Feb. 28 to Denny and Janet Ellis. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Mary Gramm, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ellis all of Gridley.

Sis. Laura Martin was a hospital patient and has returned home.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger's daughter, Debra, is en-

gaged to be married to Dr. Jerry Grieco of Chicago.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Doris Bachtold

How many times have we dropped to our knees when trials come and we wonder why? Why? Why? What purpose is this for? Where have we gone wrong? We try to read His mind and see His plan for us. Yet, the view from our perspective is usually nothing near to what it is for our Father.

"... He's brought me low  
So I could know  
The way to reach the heights,  
To forsake my dreams,  
My self-esteem,  
And give up all my rights.  
With each one that I lay down  
A jewel's placed in my crown  
'Cause His love the thing's above  
Is all we'll ever need.  
He's brought me here  
Where things are clear,  
And trials turn to gold."

Keith Green

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18) Often this is the hardest thing to do when it is the last thing we want to do. Feelings come over us which we try to deny rebellion bitterness, self-pity, anger, resistance, etc. We know we shouldn't feel that way and try to be thankful. . . but we're usually fooling ourselves. The best thing to do is to be honest. God already knows how we are reacting, but being honest withourselves and laying open our heart before our Father will lift the burden. God can then work with our pliable heart and create acceptance and thanksgiving which is genuine. We can then praise our Father no matter what.

Our attendance on Thursday evenings has grown to 75-100 people. Before, we had approximately 30-50 people attending. We are very grateful that so many are seeking to know the Truth. Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) spoke of the duties of a Christian life. Duties are actually a by-product of our new walk with Jesus. They are opportunities to show Christ's love. Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) discussed, with us, backsliding — the signs and causes of it and how we can retrace our steps. Bro. Steve Fischer (Urbana) shared with us his experi-

ences while being involved in a cult-scientology. "Music in a Christian's Life" was the topic we discussed with Bros. Everett Hari and Bill Kupferschmid (Bloomington). Each of us were able to express how we felt music relates to the believer and what guidelines we could use in the selection and use of music in our lives. We are so appreciative that these brothers are willing to spend evenings with us, holding forth the perfect example—Jesus.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Sunday, Mar. 9, was a very special day for two of our families. Bro. Ben Pflederer and Sis. Jackie Getz have been brought together by the Lord and wish to become "one in the Lord." We wish them God's graces and blessings. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor and Roy and Phyllis Getz.

Immediately following our afternoon service, Bro. Henry Grimm said a few words, as he is now "laying down the mantle" as deacon. Thirty-five of his eighty years have been spent in the ministry. Although Bro. Henry will no longer speak words of encouragement and love from our pulpit, we shall continue to be blessed by his presence. We shall always feel a deep sense of love for this dear brother who so willingly gave of himself for us. Our love and prayers are for his dear wife and children who so often in the past thirty-five years have shared his time with us. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Henry and Sis. Kathryn as they now continue their walk together in His service. As Bro. Henry "lays down the mantle," Bro. Robert Pflederer lifts it up. Let us be ever mindful of Bro. Robert, Sis. Eleanor, and their children and keep them in our prayers.

We are thankful that Elder Bros. Loren Stoller, Latty, OH, and Don Kock, Tremont, brought forth God's word to us and also assisted Elder Bro. Joe Braker in the ordination service. We thank them for their labors of love. We enjoyed having Bro. Glenn Dill of the Tremont congregation come and share in our services. Bro. Glenn is the brother-in-law of Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor Pflederer.

A church potluck was held at the Morton Fellowship Hall. There was an abundance of fellowship and

delicious food. After potluck, Bro. Henry and Sis. Kathryn Grimm were presented with a token of love and appreciation for Bro. Henry's years of dedication from our Morton congregation.

We then ended the blessed day with our monthly hymn-sing. Our precious four-year-olds through the third grade sang, for us, their favorite Sunday School songs. We appreciate these little ones so much. The Bloomington choir was also our guest. We always appreciate our visitors.

Wednesday evening, March 5, was a special evening for Barbara Hostetler. After giving her testimony of faith, she was baptized and became our sister in faith. We rejoice with her and wish her the Lord's grace and blessings in her new walk of life. She is a granddaughter of Sis. Jennie Schrock, Harper, KS.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the family of Sis. Elizabeth Stoecker whose funeral was Feb. 21 and to the family of Sis. Clara Welk whose funeral was Mar. 5. May God bless and comfort both families and their friends.

First-time parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi. They welcomed into their hearts and home Joshua Daniel on Feb. 19. Joshua's grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Pearl Rassi and Ray and Cletus Rinkenberger of Tremont, IL.

The family of Sis. Bertha Frank wishes to thank all for the many expressions of love, memorials, flowers, food and cards given in memory of their dear mother's passing. This Christian love shall always be remembered. They ask that God will bless all who were so kind.

Bro. Ben Moser is thankful that good health has been restored after his surgery. He wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards, flowers, visits, and kind deeds while in the hospital and since coming home. He gives a thank you to our ministers for their visits and prayers and asks God to richly bless everyone.

Little Haley Joy Kruse was born Mar. 12 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse. Big sister, April, welcomes her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Dominick and Mr. and Mrs. Walter McConkey.

We wish to thank Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago, IL, who recently

spent a Sunday with us. We cannot fully express our sincere love and appreciation for our visiting ministers.

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Diane Hohulin

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:23-26.

Our congregation has been blessed with six dear little souls. First-time parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick who welcome their son, William Dean, Jr., into their home. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. John, Jr., and Sis. Dolly Schick of Washington. Bob and Michelle Coburn also are blessed with a daughter, Tina Michelle. Her grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenman and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Coburn of Morton. A precious boy, Anthony Michael, was born to Mike and Sis. Janet Weber. His grandparents are Sis. Bertha Kieser from Princeville and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Weber of East Peoria.

Amy and Benjamin Hodel welcomed home their baby brother, Timothy James. Their parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail Hodel. The grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hodel and Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier of Forrest. Philip and Linda Leathers are blessed with a son, Ryan David. Welcoming him home are Scott and Lesa. His grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Kathy Witzig and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Leathers of East Peoria. Jacki Meister welcomes home her baby brother, John William, Jr. The parents are John and Beth Meister. The grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Mary Sue Rieker, daughter of Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker, to Bro. Tom Sauder, son of Sis. Dorothy Sauder of Roanoke, was announced. A June

1 wedding is being planned.

This month our congregation was uplifted by the visits of several ministers: Bro. Dan Kock of Tremont, Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bro. Roy Wiegand of Bay City, Bro. LeRoy Huber of Eureka, Bro. Everette Hari of Bloomington, Bro. Steven Rinkenberger of Cissna Park, and Bro. Lovoyd Moore of Athens, AL. We thank them for sharing the inspiration of love with us.

Among the hospital patients this month are Ben Henejar, Sis. Anna Hoerr, Sis. Martha Hemmer, Jack Kinney, and Sis. Ida Otto. Our prayers are with them that God will heal and uplift them through their illness.

On Feb. 26, Sis. Eunice Kammerer was laid to rest. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

Also laid to rest, on Mar. 12, was Sis. Clara Plattner. Our prayers and sympathy are shared with her husband, Bro. Bob, and children, Tony Plattner and Sue Ellen Swanson. May these dear souls rest in peace till we meet our Lord and Saviour.

Sis. Anna Hoerr wishes to express her humble and sincere thanks for the love shown during her illness in many ways through prayers, cards, gifts and visits. May God bless and reward all.

Sis. Lois Hamann wishes to thank everyone for cards and gifts she received while in the hospital.

The Bertha Frank family wishes to thank all for the many expressions of love, flowers, food, and cards sent in memory of their dear mother.

Sis. Emma Leman wishes to express her thankfulness for the kind visits, the lovely flowers and comforting prayers offered in her behalf while in the hospital. She also thanks the young people who sang for her.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Arlene and Arlys Martin

Our minister, Bro. Walter Herrmann, mentioned the following thoughts recently in a sermon. MONEY WILL BUY a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; fun but not happiness; and religion but not salvation.

How true. Especially, we realize

this when we see our precious converts who have decided to follow the way of the Lord. Money certainly cannot buy God's peace in our hearts.

Sis. Bertie Kieser is a grandmother for the first time. On Feb. 18, Anthony Michael was born to her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Janet and Michael Weber of Peoria, IL.

Sis. Louise Baurer (wife of Bro. John) was in the hospital with back trouble. She has been able to return to her residence, which is the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm. Sis. Anna Lou's father, Bro. Emil Stoller, passed away in Latty, OH.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Vernon Wettstein of Congerville and Bro. Charles Sauder of Tremont, who spent the day with us on Mar. 2.

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

##### APRIL

The month of April brings anew  
More loveliness for us to view;  
The oft recurring April showers  
Bring forth the showy springtime  
flowers.

In April comes the day and time  
When by appointment, all divine,  
Our Saviour died, again arose  
In glory from His death's repose.

Henry Beer

Joe and Terri (Hodel) Carr are the proud parents of their first son, Joshua John. Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel and Dr. and Mrs. Richard White are the grandparents.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Braker are the happy parents of Jay D. Braker, born Feb. 22. Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker (Remington) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder are the grandparents.

Four score years and more he trod  
In this vale—He walked with God.  
Cares and sorrows, cross, laid down,  
He has won the victor's crown.

H. Beer

Our dear Bro. Aaron Bertsch, 87, exchanged his cross for a crown. His funeral services were held Feb. 29. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sis. Bina (Winzeler); one son, Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Gra-

bill, IN); one daughter, Sis. Dorothy Bertschi (Elder Bro. Eugene); two brothers, Herman and Bro. Otto (Grabill); and two sisters, Mrs. Mary Martin (Fort Wayne) and Sis. Louise Rager (Latty, OH). May God comfort their hearts at this time of sorrow.

Sis. Jill Schumacher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. June) and Bro. Steve Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mar-dell) exchanged wedding vows.

Tis true we wish you happiness,  
May trust and love increase!  
May health and fortune come to  
bless  
And crown your days with peace.

H. Beer

Many hands made housecleaning  
of our church an easier task.

Sis. Elizabeth Pfister, Sis. Esther Weyeneth, Sis. Helen Zimmerman, and Sis. Ruth Scherer are in the hospital at this time. Sis. Ruth is at Mayo's. May God's healing hand strengthen them and shorten their hospital hours.

Hospitalized and home again are Bros. Dick Moser (injured in a farm-related accident), Herman Luginbuhl (tests), and Ira Farney (Mayo's). Also, Sis. Marie Hohulin and Ruth Ann Hodel are able to assemble with us again.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Bro. Edwin Bahler, and Bro. Earl Kilgus were our visiting ministers this month.

We are happy to report our Bro. Jim Byrd is able to minister to us again. Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd express their heartfelt thanks for all prayers, cards, gifts and deeds of kindness shown while Bro. Jim was in the hospital and since returning home.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

The farmer ploughs through the  
fields of green,  
And the blade of the plough is  
sharp and keen;  
But the seed must be sown to bring  
forth grain,  
For nothing is born without suf-  
fering and pain.  
God never ploughs in the soul of  
man  
Without intention and purpose and  
plan.  
So whenever you feel the plough's  
sharp blade,  
Let not your heart be sorely afraid;

For, like the farmer, God chooses a field

From which He expects an excellent yield.

So rejoice though your heart is broken in two;

God seeks to bring forth a rich harvest in you.

Helen Steiner Rice

### ONE MOTHER

God in His goodness gives a thousand gifts alike:

The stars, the flowers, the hours,  
All to enrich and bless.

One special gift He gives,  
And never gives another:

Of all His thousand gifts,  
He gives to each, one mother.

John M. Drescher

Two very dear mothers, age 92, were taken out of this life and will always be precious memories to their children. Our heartfelt sympathy is with Byrl and Christine Austin and children in the passing of Byrl's mother, Mrs. Minnie Austin. Pekin. Likewise, our prayers and sympathy are with the sons and daughters of Sis. Maria Unsicker, Mackinaw.

Made known is the engagement of Sis. Donna Huette and Bro. Bruce Wyss. We wish them much happiness and the Lord's guidance and blessings. Their parents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arline Huette, Bro. Roy Wyss and the late Sis. Arlene Wyss.

We are sorry to report that there are dear ones in the hospital: Sis. Iva (Merle) Getz, Sis. Lee (James) Pflederer, Bro. Ernst Schaefer, and William Michael. We are glad that Sis. Iva and Sis. Lee are home and healing so nicely. We are also glad that Sis. Clara (Levi) Sauder can assemble with us again. Sis. Mary Koch and Bro. Jay Bollinger have not yet been able to assemble with us. They are in our prayers and thoughts. We are thankful our loving Saviour cares for each of us.

"In everything give thanks: for this is God's Will for you in Christ Jesus" I Thess. 5:18.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

"... become as little children, for of such is the kingdom of God."

Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger welcome little William Randall into their family circle. Matt, Mike, Nathan, Valerie, Stephanie,

and Christian are happy to have a new baby brother. William Dean Schick, Jr., was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick and Bro. John and Dorothy Hoerr.

John 3:16 could be called one of the greatest verses in the Bible. "God" — the Greatest being "So loved" — the greatest devotion "the world" — the greatest number "He gave" — the greatest act "His only begotten Son" — the greatest gift "that whosoever believeth" — the greatest condition "should not perish" — the greatest mercy "have everlasting life" — the greatest result.

To meditate means "to reflect, to ponder, to consider, to dwell in thought." Through meditation, the Word of God will become meaningful and real to you, and the Holy Spirit will use the time you spend to apply the Word of God to your own life and its problems.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Darlene Isch - Lisa Shively

On the pathway with Christ, there is nothing to lose! We are happy that two more souls are giving their lives to Christ and are repenting. We wish them God's grace while on this new way of life.

Our hospital patients for the month were Sis. Emma Steffen, Sis. Lydia Steffen, Bro. Von Heyerley, Bro. Cal Rauch, Craig Stoller (son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene), and Mandy Steffen (daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Etta). Our prayers have been with them.

Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard are the happy parents of their second son, Grayson Allen. "Big brother" Justin welcomes the new arrival. Bro. Fred and Sis. Ronda Ruple are also the parents of a second son, Caleb Matthew. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger were blessed with a son, Jesse Lee, who was welcomed home by Jody, Jenny, and Jeremy.

The Lord has led Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn Roberts and their son, David Eric, back to Pennsylvania. We want to thank them for their presence and support and wish them God's richest blessings in their new home.

We want to thank Bro. Ben

Manz (Junction) for bringing us God's precious Word.

As the beauty of spring is all around us, and Mother's Day is nearing, we have a poem to share with you.

### MOTHERS

With gentle hands God made the flowers,

Fashioning them with care.

He brushed the sky with pink and gold

Leaving a sunset there;

Beautified the earth with trees;

These works and countless

others . . .

But for His greatest masterpiece God created Mothers!

Author Unknown

### INDIANA, BREMEN

Gayle Bucher

"I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth . . ." Luke 15:7. Our little congregation is rejoicing with four dear souls who are seeking the Lord. They are Karen Lehman, daughter of Bro. Vern and Sis. Leona, Don and Dean Lehman, sons of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley, and Jill Myers.

The following brothers and sisters were recently elected to new responsibilities in our congregation. They are: Bros. Wayne Lehman, Trustee and Treasurer; Dan Clauss, Trustee and Secretary; John Schuch, Usher; Vern Lehman, asst. Usher; Clint Bucher, Song Leader; and Marty Langhofer, assistant Song Leader. A Building Committee was selected which consists of Bro. Mike Mangold, Vern Lehman, Clint Bucher, and Marty Langhofer. Sis. Pauline Laidig was chosen as Dinner Chairman and Sis. Gayle Bucher as Silver Lining Reporter.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Gutwein, Arnie Gerst, and Marvin Stieglitz.

We are happy to have Tim and Monica Steffen and son, Paul, worshipping with us. They have moved to South Bend from Grand Rapids, MI.

Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Yackley has been released from the hospital. She is gaining strength very slowly, and we pray she will be able to attend church again soon.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are

the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Wendy Gutwein Jacki Huber

Many people dwell on the things they gave up to be a Christian. It seems that what one must give up stands in the way of many people who are trying to decide which way to follow. Yes, there are many things that we must give up to be a Christian:

I gave up sin to get salvation;  
I gave up self to get the Lord,  
Satan to get Christ,  
Death to get Life,  
Hell to get heaven,  
Distress to get rest,  
Confusion to get peace,  
Fear to get joy,  
Habits to get abundant life,  
Guilt to get pardon,  
Bondage to get freedom,  
And Judgement to get forgiveness.

It is strange, but having given up so much, I don't miss a thing!

Author Unknown

How thankful we are for the nine dear souls that "gave up sin to get salvation" in our congregation. We heard the testimonies of Lois Wilbur, Rod and Donna Gutwein, Larry and Connie Linback, Roger and Sandy Ward, and David and Mim Wuethrich on Saturday, Mar. 1. On Sunday we witnessed the symbolic burial of the old man and arising of the new in the waters of baptism. What a privilege it was to listen to the testimonies of our new brothers and sisters in Christ as they expressed the new peace in their hearts and their willingness to take up their crosses to follow Jesus! It was encouraging to hear from the converts how they love our faith and to hear of their sincere desire to have the faith stay as they found it when they began their repentance. Our sincere prayer is that many more will reject this world and find life eternal. Elder Bros. Nate Steffen and Don Sauder helped our own Elder Bro. Wendell with the testimonies and baptisms.

Recently, we heard in a sermon that our hearts door is thin, like a rattly screen door, when we are young. When Jesus knocks, it's then easy to hear Him. As the years go by we keep adding worldly things to our life, our heart be-

comes like a heavy solid oak door, and we can hardly hear Jesus knocking, even if we listen very closely. Yet, there are those who go on, year after year, ignoring the knocking. One day their door may grow so thick and hard that they won't know Jesus is on the other side, still patiently knocking.

### IN MEMORY

Who at my door is standing,  
patiently drawing near,  
Entrance within demanding—  
whose is the voice I hear?

Lonely without He's staying,  
lonely within am I.  
While I am still delaying,  
will He not pass me by?

All through the dark hours dreary,  
Knocking again is He.  
Jesus art thou not weary,  
waiting so long for me?

Door of my heart, I hasten;  
Thee will I open wide.  
Tho' He rebuke and chasten,  
He shall with me abide.

Sweetly the tones are falling,  
"Open the door for me";  
If thou wilt heed my calling,  
I will abide with thee."

Hymns of Zion, No. 81

Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark and their two small children, Rochelle and Justin, are moving to Remington. We will surely miss them. We ask God's blessings as they move to their new home. Also, Sis. Deb Gudeman (Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret) is moving to the Peoria area where she has found employment. We pray for God's blessings for her in her new job and home.

Chris Ledford and Stacy Ubricht were married Feb. 1, and we pray that they can feel God's presence in their married life.

Hospital patients this month have been Randy Leman (son of Bro. Denny and Sis. Linda), Sis. Sara (Ben) Anliker, and Sis. Mary (Karl) Westfall. We are thankful that they have all been able to return home. Sis. Emma Blume, who was hospitalized, was moved to Parkview Nursing Home.

We were richly blessed when Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) ministered to us. We are always so

thankful for those who bring us the living Word.

Time flies fast and a year has gone  
Since our loved ones slipped away.  
Countless times the tears have  
fallen

In sad moments of our days.

They are gone but ne'er forgotten.  
No one here can take their place,  
But thy're very close in memory—  
Loves strong ties can't be erased.

They are free from earth's temptations,  
Free from sorrow and from care.  
God was kind and called our  
parents  
To the land that's bright and fair.

Though the tempests in their lifetime  
Often tossed them up and down,  
We believe their faith was steadfast  
And they now have won their  
crowns.

Dad and Mom are just a memory  
In those hearts who loved them  
best;  
But, praise God, because of Jesus,  
We can join them in their rest.

The children of Gilbert and Ida Nuestr whose parents passed away last year.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31) It was announced that Bro. Ron Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Sis. Pam Frank (Leo) are to be married. Truly, it is a blessed three-fold cord when God directs their lives to become one. (Ed. note: Sis. Pam is one of the Indianapolis reporters.)

Sis. Edith Mayer is now recuperating at home after being recently hospitalized.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Bobbie (Wuethrich) Erb welcomed home their first little girl, Anisa Jo, born on Valentine's Day. Both sets of grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Elaine Erb and Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich, reside at Francesville.

Tiny Kara Renee is now enjoying her new home with her first-

time parents, Tom and Sis. Mary (Clauss) Dexter. The grandparents are Don and Marie Dexter, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mil Clauss from Remington.

We sincerely appreciate our visiting ministers, Bros. Jack Boller (Leo), Phil Stettner (Bluffton), and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), and their time and efforts shared with us. Until the way is opened for a new minister, we thank each church that has offered to assist in the ministry.

#### INDIANA, LA CROSSE Pearl Nuest - Lu Ann Feller

The true Word was loudly and clearly expounded to us throughout the past month. We were privileged to have Bro. Kenneth Dietz, Bradford, IL, Mar. 2, and Bro. Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park, IL, Mar. 16, with us. We were vividly reminded that the Lord will return, and we should, with haste, make ready as none but God knows the time.

A few weeks ago we were led to Bethlehem to the manger where the Christ child was born. Now it is the time of year when we need to go to Calvary's Hill where He shed His blood and bore the sins of the whole world.

Praise to Jesus who has risen!  
Delivered from death's bond and prison,  
Appears triumphant God's own Son.

Thru the heaven's spacious arches  
Resound the joyful songs of gladness,

And peace doth glow around God's throne.

Praise Him who ever lives, Who life and comfort gives—

Christ the Saviour, God our Lord!  
Christ the Saviour, and our God!  
Death's dark abode is banished by His conquering rod.

Zion's Harp, No. 60

Bro. Edward Frank has been dismissed from the hospital and is improving each day.

There is beauty all around, when there's love at home;

There is joy in every sound, When there's love at home.

Peace and plenty here abide, Smiling sweet on every side,

Time doth softly, sweetly glide, When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion, No. 64

Sis. Debra Frank (Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Leah) married Bro. Dan Stoller (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Edith), Latty, OH, on Dec. 30. Bro. Edward was assisted by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller. Sis. Debra will be missed as they have established their home in Remington, IN. We wish them the Lord's blessings and are sorry this was omitted in an earlier issue.

#### INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Candy Wuethrich

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, though shalt not be burned." Isaiah 43:2.

Gently the rain drops steadily from above, creating an overwhelming sense of sobriety. A single bird's chirping is heard; spring is here, yet the sun is not shining. The gray sky surrounding reveals not a hint of the sun which shines brilliantly behind the massive clouds. This dreary yet silent atmosphere causes me to ponder the seriousness of living for Jesus each minute of each day. It seems to be saying that without Jesus in our hearts and minds there would be no sunshine, no real meaning to living. How thankful we should be that we have a purpose in life—to live for Jesus. Though the clouds of care overshadow our path, there will always be a light shining from above if faithful and true we remain.

Students met a chilly, wet wind and lots of muddy puddles on the first day back after spring break. Walking seemed to take a lot longer since mud and water had to be bypassed. The sidewalks were the preferred route to take if one wanted to keep his feet clean and dry, although sidewalks did not lead the quickest path to the destination.

As I bypassed the watery obstacles, I had to think of our daily spiritual walk. Often we do not see the obstacles until we are in the middle and sinking fast. Do you ever feel that the earthly cares of this life often engulf you, shadowing the heavenly light from above? Do you take the path of least resistance, the quickest pathway, or are you following that straight and narrow way, the only

way to eternity with God? Let's keep our eyes upon Jesus and follow Him.

The Purdue Group wishes to express their appreciation to Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso) and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) for so lovingly sharing God's precious Word with us. What a wonderful blessing to worship together during our midweek service. May God richly bless them.

#### WHY AM I COMPLAINING?

My cross is not too heavy,  
My road is not too rough  
Because God walks beside me—  
To know this is enough.  
And though I get so lonely,  
I know I'm not alone  
For the Lord God is my Father,  
And He loves me as His own.  
And I wish my race were run,  
So though I'm tired and weary  
God will only terminate it  
When my work on earth is done.  
So let me stop complaining  
About my "load of care,"  
For God will always lighten it  
When it gets too much to bear.  
If He does not ease my load,  
He will give me strength to bear it,  
For God in love and mercy  
Is always near to share it.

Helen Steiner Rice

#### INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

From "Streams in the Desert,"  
Vol. Two:

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked.

And her Guide said: "Yes. And the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young Mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers along the way and bathed with them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the Mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near,

and no harm can come," and the Mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the Mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother." And the Mother, when she lay down that night, looked at the stars and said: "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage, today I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth—clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the Mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said: "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And as the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the Mother grew old, she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their Mother, and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gate flung wide.

And the Mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said: "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."

The above was copied in respect and honor to all Christian

mothers, both here and beyond.

by Temple Bailey

Two young people, Steven Stieglitz, son of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean, and Deborah Schrenk, daughter of Richard and Janice Schrenk, stepped into the baptismal waters, Sunday, Mar. 16. May many more make this decision for eternal blessing, realizing that it would have been better never to have been born at all than never to have been born again.

We thank ministering Bros. Ray Sinn, Latty, Elmer Schrenk, Alto, and Ben Manz, Junction, for visiting our congregations.

Bro. Doug Aberle was hospitalized; we're thankful he is able to be out again.

A note of praise: The writer's grandson, Tim Moser, sixteen-year-old son of Arnie and Colleen Moser, was injured; but, his life was miraculously spared in a serious accident.

#### INDIANA, MILFORD Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

#### PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF PROMISE

Lord,  
One poet has called this  
The cruelest month  
Because with spring there is birth,  
And with birth there is pain.  
But I don't think there really is  
A cruel month in Your kingdom.  
I'm not a poet, Lord,  
But I love April  
Because it makes a promise  
And then delivers.  
The promise is the first warm  
whiff  
Of your good earth.  
The gift is the profusion  
Of blooms that makes my drab  
world sing—  
A gift so fresh and new  
Each year that it seems  
As if it were being given  
For the first time.

Author Unknown

Bro. Andy Kammerer and Sis. Becky Doll (Bro. Pete) have undergone surgery this past month, and we are thankful that they are recovering nicely. We are glad to have Sis. Frieda Haab (Bro. Jesse) back worshipping with us after being ill. Also, our prayers are with Bro. Fred Schori who is experiencing some difficulties with illness. Many in our congregation have been sick this past month. "My

grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Corinthians 12:9.

Sis. Mary Good now resides at the TLC nursing home, Route 3, Bremen. She is such a blessing to all who visit her.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer (Ed. note: your reporter) are deeply moved by all the love and kindness bestowed upon them. They wish to thank each one and pray that God will bless all for their thoughtfulness and concern.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Paula Haab (Bro. Ray) in the passing of her beloved mother, Sis. Nellie Sinn (Latty) and also the hospitalization of her father, Bro. Dan Sinn.

We were richly blessed by the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Karen Pamer on March 1 and 2. Elder Bro. Larry Huber (Eureka) shared in the work of this special occasion.

Love has come into the home of Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen with the birth of their third child, Clint Michael. Rod and Monica welcomed the little one home. The grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy, and Bro. George and Sis. Isabelle Bauer Cissna).

We welcomed the Bremen congregation who worshipped with us on Mar. 16. We were inspired by Bro. Bob Beebe's ministry.

As we ponder the Easter story we think about salvation. The story of salvation can be told in four words: Sin, Calvary, Faith, and Life.

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

As we look around us and observe the Middle East situation, we know His coming must be very near. The headlines of the newspaper this week informed us of the present war between Russia and Afghanistan. It told how the Soviets were bombing and burning the villages and sending thousands of women and children refugees across the cold mountains on foot to escape the horrible torture of the Communists. How our thankfulness ought to rise every hour for the freedom and comfort of our Land. But will we be spared the persecution and suffering that our brothers-in-faith across the sea are enduring? Let us look to the words of the psalmist in Psalm

7 for encouragement and faith: "Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it: yea let him tread down my life upon the earth and lay mine honour in the dust. Arise, O Lord, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded . . . My defense is of God, which saveth the upright in heart."

This past month has brought another miracle of life into our congregation. On Mar. 10, Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler became first-time parents of little Jenny Leanne. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler of Remington and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mathew of Wolcott. It's hard to understand how a soul can observe a tiny baby and see how perfectly it is formed and yet not believe in the Creator.

In the past year, Remington truly has been blessed with several young couples who helped our church grow. We now have another young couple worshipping with us. Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Rochelle and Justin Clark have left the Princeville congregation to make their home near Remington where Bro. Ron will be farming. We warmly welcome them and know they will be an asset to us. Sis. Brenda is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus of Remington.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Virgil Metzger of Campaign, IL.

#### INDIANA, VALPARISO

**Claudia Thomas - Mary Huber**

Mother's Day will soon be here. How grateful we are to have a special day set aside in which to honor our mothers. Grandmothers are extra special mothers.

#### WHAT A GRANDMOTHER IS (By a child)

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people's little girls. A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys, and they talk about fishing and tractors and things like that.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything but be there. They're old, so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the Pretend-Horse is, and have lots of dimes ready. Or

if they take us for walks, they should slow down passing things, like pretty leaves or caterpillars. They should never say, "Hurry up."

They don't have to be smart, only answer questions like "Why do dogs hate cats?" They don't talk baby talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us, they don't skip words or mind if it is the same story again.

Everybody should try to have one, because grandmas are the only grownups who have got time!

Author Unknown

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago, and Phil Stettner, Bluffton. We rejoice in the Lord for the love of these dear brothers.

Ed Lester was in the hospital for tests and is now home feeling much better. We should continually thank God for our good health.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Laurel and Chris Widmer**

**Suzie Lehman**

We at Wolcott rejoice in the beauty of spring as the flowers appear on the earth bringing new life once again.

Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Wai-bel welcome into their home and hearts their new son, Nicholas David. He has one sister, Kelli Rae.

Mary Kay Ravellette and Rodney Pirtle were united in marriage on March 15. Mary Kay is the daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jean. We wish them God's blessings in their walk together and hope they will gather with us on Sundays.

Bro. Eric Aeschleman (Milford) and Sis. Norma Lehman (Bremen) announced their engagement on Feb. 17. Sis. Norma and her family are former Wolcott residents. We wish them happiness in their life together.

#### REST AND WORK

The camel at the close of day,  
Kneels down upon the sandy plain  
To have his burden lifted off,  
And rest to gain.

My son, thou too, shouldst kneel  
When daylight draweth to a close,

And let thy master lift thy load  
And grant repose.

Else how canst thou tomorrow meet,  
With all tomorrow's work to do,  
If thou thy burden all the night  
Dost carry through?

The camel kneels at break of day  
To have his guide replace his load,  
Then rises up anew to take  
The desert road.

So thou shouldst kneel at morning dawn,  
That God may give thee daily care,  
Assured that He no load too great  
Will make thee bear.

Anne Whitney

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Judy Gehring - Kim Salek**

At this writing the weather is beginning to warm up and the sun is shining. The children can go out and play, and it is as if we can feel the rebirth of spring. We are blessed to live in an area where we can see the changing of the seasons. God has blessed us richly in so many ways; let us always be mindful to thank Him for all good things.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Minnie Siegle and her family at the passing of her husband, Bro. Joe Siegle. Bro. Joe's daughter, Sis. Evelyn and her husband, Bro. Dale Massner, and their family assemble with us. Bro. Joe will certainly be missed by all. It is nice to have Sis. Minnie assemble with us now, as she comes with Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn.

On Mar. 2, our little congregation was blessed with many visitors. It was nice to have so many with us. It is a special blessing for us to have our brothers and sisters in faith from a distance worship with us. The singing that afternoon seemed especially beautiful with so many voices blending together in praise to our Lord.

Bro. LaVerne Salek spent some time in the hospital with an eye injury he received while at work.

Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Oakville, IA, was with us one Wednesday evening and brought us many good teachings. He brought out the thought that "the wages (something we deserve for our



actions) of sin is death; but the gift (something undeserved, given in love) of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. It is clear that when we sin, eternal death is only natural as our wages for sin. But through the love of God, we can have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is a gift that He gives us which we do not deserve. Our Lord has been so gracious to us; let us all strive diligently to reach the goal.

#### IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

"Old man winter" is receding fast; much of our snow has disappeared. Some folks have already seen robins that have returned north to be with us as usual. Spring-time is surely a miracle time when grass, leaves, and tender flowers appear as if by "magic." The world will never starve for want of wonders. Beauty is God's handwriting.

Bro. Elmer Schmidt from Winthrop, MN, was our guest minister, and we appreciated his coming very much. We thank him very kindly for his explanation of the Scriptures and hope he will come again.

Sis. Lena Schupbach reached her one hundred and first birthday on the 10th of March. She is "tolerably" well; she has enough health to remain in her home with her niece, Sis. Ruth Schupbach, who cares for her very faithfully. Ruth informed us that eighty callers came to visit Sis. Lena during the three-day period which included the ninth, tenth, and eleventh day of March. Cards and gifts too were evident. An azalea plant from friends in California was one of the gifts that came to add to Lena's delight. God has certainly rewarded her with many days on this earth. It has been an interesting experience for her relatives and friends. She has been loyal to so many folks, helping in times of need, sickness, and so forth.

Carpenters have been busy at our church, paneling the walls and lowering the ceiling in the basement. Then, too, new glass has been installed in all of the windows upstairs. The former ones faded.

Sis. Elizabeth Moore moved from her country home to stay with her mother, Sis. Marie Butikofer, who resides in Elgin.

Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer is now a patient in the Postville Hospital, feeling fairly well. My husband, Bro. Geo. Butikofer, was a patient at the West Union Hospital for three days but is now at home feeling as usual, which we can describe as fair, too.

Sis. Aunt Ella is feeling quite well again. She had a severe cold for quite a while. We are thankful for her recovery. No doubt you recall that she is living with her niece, Sis. Marie Schneider.

Our prayers and God's mercies are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends the other descends.

May our readers all realize a joyous Easter season.

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

As we see spring approach, we are again reminded of how the Lord so kindly ends all trials or continues to provide his grace to endure them. Think how beautiful it will be to lay our burdens down at His feet when we achieve, by His strength, the end of the way. There we can lay down our "cross" we recently heard about. Then, too, how joyful it will also make us as we see those we **dearly** love be able to unload their burdens, too. May we try ever more fervently to aid our brother in need and to love him more!

We are anticipating our open house and the dedication of our worship facilities to this service. April 20 is our open house, and dedication is planned for May 4. We again would like to thank all of our dear brethren who have so kindly shared what the Lord has given them to make our situation possible. May the Lord bless each one! Any who plan to attend should please reply to Bruce Frank, 1605 Thirteenth Ave., SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

We again thank our visiting ministers who were here this past month. They were: Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend; Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville; Bro. John Schmid-

gall, Oakville; and Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington. May the Lord continue to bless them.

#### IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

The changing seasons are all a part of God's plan, and we are now enjoying the wonder of spring-time, the awakening of the earth and the miracle of new life. It is the season when we remember, anew, what Jesus gave for us—His life on the cross to give us a hope of salvation.

We were refreshed in spirit when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Vicki Knobloch and Mary Spohr the weekend of Mar. 9. We rejoice to have them in the brotherhood and to know that grace is yet being extended to all. Elder Bro. Leo Moser conducted the service.

We have had visiting ministers, for which we are grateful. Bro. Art Nohl, Morris, and Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, were here one Sunday. On another Sunday, Bros. Russell Wuthrich, Pulaski, Carl Wyss, Washington, and Nathan Stoller Bradford, were with us. May God bless them and their helpmates for spending time with us.

On March 15, the annual Hail Aid meeting was held here. We were happy to host this group and have the opportunity to meet brothers and sisters from many churches.

We miss our young Bro. Tom Knobloch who has moved to Gridley, KS, where he has taken employment.

Hospital patients have been Jerilyn Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Mardi Leuthold, and Sis. Margene Peasley. In heaven there will be no pain or bodily affliction. What a promise!

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

As spring approaches, the earth becomes alive with the new growth of green plants and the arrival of baby lambs and frisky calves. That reminds us of our own re-birth, making us thankful for God's wonderful plan of salvation.

We have had several visiting ministers the past month. Bros. Bill Gerst, Alto, MI, Gerald Sutter,

Taylor, MO, and Harvel Heiniger, Burlington, IA, shared the Gospel with us, giving advice and encouragement in our Christian walk of life.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen are the very happy parents of their first child, Steven Virgil, born Feb. 17. Equally happy grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Lindeen of Swedesburg, IA, and Bro. Bernard and Sis. Leah Schae of Pulaski, IA.

Little Jeremy David has recently come to make his home with Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner. He is eagerly welcomed by his new sisters, Melodie and Valarie. Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, Tremont, IL, are the grandparents.

We are happy that Sis. Edna Wiegand is again able to assemble with us in church after being confined to the hospital and her home for two months. She asked for the privilege of expressing her feelings. She wishes to thank all the beloved who remembered her with prayers, cards, flowers, and gifts during her stay at the hospital. She asks our dear Lord to richly bless all of you.

Knowing how much our loved ones need encouragement in times of hardship and trouble, we should all be inspired to remember the sick, the elderly, and the shut-ins. As one very dear great-aunt reminded me, the "spare time" we all intend to use helping others never seems to come—we must "take time to be holy."

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

How fortunate we've been to have had such a mild winter in our area. Have we stopped to thank God for this blessing, or do we just take blessings for granted?

Hospitalized as medical patients this past month were Bro. Richard Teubel and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich. Little Joshua Townsend, son of Danny and Sis. Lynn, was a surgical patient. We wish them all continued good health.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr**

A special occasion brought Bro. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski here to minister to us, and we are grateful to him for coming. An open

house was held on Feb. 23 at the Fellowship Center for the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena (Banwart) Grimm. It is truly a blessing when two can walk the path of life together for so many years.

Back in 1918, each of them answered the call of the Lord. Later, in 1920, on the 22nd of February, they were united in marriage. They have lived all their married life in this vicinity. To this union thirteen children were born, six boys and seven girls: ministering Bro. Clifford, Arlo, Delano, Edward, Dean, and Eli, Jr., all of the West Bend area; Sis. Elaine (Henry) Kellenberger of Lester, IA; Sis. Edith (Ernest) Kellenberger and Sis. Carole (Larry) Fehr of West Bend; Sis. Eleanor (the late Elmer) Steffen of Peoria, IL; Sis. Loraine (Ervin) Martin of Princeville, IL; and Sis. Lavonne (Verle) Kieser and Sis. Dianne (Marvin) Knobloch of Bradford, IL. Their family also now includes 66 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena have enjoyed good health over the years and have been faithful and helpful in the church all their married life. Bro. Eli taught Sunday School for many years. May the blessings of the Lord continue to be with them as they walk onward.

The engagement of Diane Montag and David Gerber was recently made known. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mark Montag of West Bend and Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber. May God direct and bless them as they make plans for their June wedding.

Luke Emil was added to the family circle of Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz, Matthew, Katie, and Michelle on Mar. 13. We pray that all parents will continuously seek His guidance to rear each of their "blessings" in the fear of Him.

On Sunday, Mar. 16, the Lord called home our dear Sis. Ida Metzger. She had reached the age of 90 years and served the Lord faithfully for 73 years. She was united in marriage to Bro. William Metzger on Jan. 22, 1911, and to this union 11 children were born. Bro. William and one son, Adrian, preceded her in death. The ten surviving children are Sis. Marie, Emil, Bernard, and Sis. Darlene of West Bend; Bro. Arnold, Bro. Si-

las, and Wilmer of Whittemore; Sis. Elizabeth (Wilhelm) Nester and Sis. Zelma (Martin) Knobloch of Rock Rapids, IA; and Sis. Iola Knobloch of Lester, IA. There are 42 grandchildren and 75 great-grandchildren. Other survivors include her brothers and sisters, Bro. Paul Banwart, Bro. Silas Banwart, Sis. Lena (Eli) Grimm, Sis. Elizabeth (Albert) Wuthrich of Pulaski, IA, Louisa (Reuben) Anliker, and Ben Banwart. "Grandma Metzger" will be missed by all, and we trust that the Lord will lighten the loss with many loving and precious memories of the years past.

I must have the Saviour with me, for my faith at best is weak; He will whisper words of comfort, that no other voice can speak.

Author Unknown

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee." Isaiah 41:10. We feel these are words of comfort for all our hospital patients. In the middle of January, while leaving the care center to go to church. Sis. Edna "Grandma" Mogler fell and broke her leg. After a short hospital stay, she returned to the care center but will still have a cast on for some time. Bro. Lawrence Schneider has borne his cross patiently as he has had to have more eye surgery this past month. Alice Marie (Bernard) Metzger is home again after surgery and is doing real well. Sis. Louise (Ray) Anliker had surgery and after a short stay at home had to be hospitalized again. Linden Vanhuizen has returned home after surgery but is still confined to his home. Don Haverman is thankful that his back surgery has been a success. Reuben Anliker had surgery and is to have more tests at Iowa City. Same Mogler is doing well after a short hospital stay.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Sally Gramm**

Spring is in the air these days here in Jamanashi prefecture. As I walked down one of Kofu's narrow, winding streets last week, I was suddenly accosted by a sweet, almost illusive fragrance. A half-forgotten memory stirred within my winter-oriented mind, and a warm gladness crept gently into

my heart. I lifted my head, and sure enough—a spindly little plum tree, peeping over a high garden wall, was bravely blooming in the early March wind. A laugh of joy welled up and escaped me as I paused to drink in that delicate fragrance for a few moments. "There is always hope," I thought, "as surely as spring always comes." How aptly Jeremiah the prophet wrote, "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." (Lam. 3:26)

We have many reasons to rejoice this spring, here in our Shioda congregation. We had a blessed day of fellowship with our dear Tokyo brothers and sisters a few weeks ago during our Fellowship Meeting. The memorandum was read, and we were exhorted to follow Christ with our whole hearts. How beautifully our lives unfold when we live them exclusively for Him.

There has been a lot of sickness among us, as a particularly wretched cold has been making the rounds throughout our area in the past month. We are thankful to say that all of us seem to have recuperated by now.

Sis. Kyoko Hirose's father passed away last week. We want to extend our sympathy to her, and especially want to remember her in our prayers at this time.

Sis. Kathy Klotzle has been an answer to many fervent prayers of the members here and many of the supportive brethren in the States, too. She has felt lead by God to offer her services here as a kindergarten teacher for the next two years. As Sisters Jane Weiss and Sally Gramm will both be returning to the States this summer, she will be greatly needed and appreciated.

As we look forward to Easter, we ponder about Christ's sacrificial death and His victorious resurrection on Easter morning. May we also consider, deeply, that we too must die with Christ and arise to newness of life in Him. The true, complete meaning of Easter will never be understood until we have absorbed that wonderful truth and have identified ourselves with Christ's death and resurrection personally.

**Moving? Let Us Know.**

### JAPAN, TOKYO

**Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue**

We had windy and rainy days; however, it brings lovely spring season as a wonderful sign.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Song of Solomon 2:11-13.

We had a blessed brother conference here in Tokyo Church on Feb. 11, same day as last year, and most of the brethren met together. In the morning, Bro. Willis R. Ehnle exhorted us, and in the afternoon Bro. Akito Inoue reported about the Brother Conference in the States last year when he visited. We all have responsibility to be obedient and watchful and careful in our walk of faith.

### KANSAS, BERN

**Esther Moser - Stella Moser**

THANKS

Father, thanks for the chance to be,

To hear and know, to think and see. And thank you for the right to say,

"Our Father" when we kneel to pray.

Thanks for love that knows no end; Thanks for a book, a dream, a friend.

Thanks for the earth, the sea, and sky.

Thanks for snow and birds that fly.

For every good our whole life through,

We give our loving thanks to You.

E. Ann M. Moore

We have the arrival of a welcomed little bundle of joy to report. Cara Sue was born Mar. 3 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter. Christopher, Janame and Ryan are happy to help care for her. The grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott).

There is much flu and pneumonia in our area with several hospitalized: Kyle Strahm (Bro. Alphie, Sis. Mamie), Sis. Minnie Meyer (Will), Sis. Amanda Meyer Reuben Bauman, and Bro. Frank

Hartzel (with a back problem). All are home again, but not all are able to assemble with us.

Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) was our only guest minister. Before our regular service, he conducted a short service in the new chapel at our rest home. The residents thoroughly enjoyed it.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

**Teresa Bahr**

We are gathered for Thy blessing,  
We will wait upon our God;  
We will trust in Him who loved us,  
And who bought us with His blood.

We will glory in Thy power,  
We will sing of wondrous grace;  
In our midst, as Thou hast promised,

Come, O come and take Thy place.

Paul Rader

Having to wait for the finishing touches to be done on their new church, the Lamar, MO, congregation assembled with us for services on March 9 and 16. What a blessing was ours when we gathered and worshipped together. Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar) were our visiting ministers.

Hospitalized this month were Sophia Sinn for a blood clot in her leg and Larry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) for hip surgery. We wish them the healing powers from the Great Physician.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

**Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr**

What a moment of awe is anticipated as once again the season of spring awakens such glorious refreshment for our mortal bodies and spiritual souls. It's also a time for remembering our dear Saviour's death and suffering. How we can rejoice that He triumphed and arose from death's grave.

In humility, dear Saviour,  
Thou for me, I know, hast died;  
Though I was Thy foe, Redeemer,  
Thou for me wast crucified.  
Silence keep I, humbly weep I!  
Thus through Thee I'm justified!

"Golgotha"

Zion's Harp

A little daughter, Bridget Kay, was born Mar. 1 to Sis. Kathy and

Bro. Scott Strahm. The grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Lise-ten Strahm and Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch, Morris.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Gail (Phill) Strahm and Esther Knapp.

Sis. Anna Raff has left to make her new home in a nearby nursing home. Her address is Anna Raaf, Autumn Manor Nursing Home #1, Yates Center, KS 66783. Sis. Mary Raaf has also left to reside with Bro. Reuben and Sis. Caroline Banwart, Ft. Scott. We wish God's blessings on both of them.

We're thankful that Bro. Tom Knobloch, Lester, IA, has chosen a new place of employment in our area and plans to assemble with us. We wish to welcome him into our midst and pray that our Christian lives will be a blessing to each other.

**KANSAS - MISSOURI  
KANSAS CITY  
Paula Bahr**

No matter how rough  
the road may get,  
And no matter where it may wend,  
Walk on with faith  
for who can tell  
What's just around the bend!  
Helen Steiner Rice

Our appreciation and God's blessings go to Bros. Gene Marti, Lamar; Max Reimschisel, Wichita; and Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott for being with us to hold worship services.

We extend a welcome to those attending conventions and seminars in Kansas City or traveling through to attend services with us.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month in the Capitol Federal Building on 75th Street and State Line Road. Morning services begin at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon services at 1:00.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Judy Bahr**

To believe is to look at the tiniest seed and envision a blossoming flower . . .

K. N. Davis and D. Walley

Spring is a beautiful time to see God in action. Each day He makes something new appear. May

the seed that has been planted in our hearts grow and spring forth to life everlasting.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers who were with us this month. They were Bros. Lloyd Kraft and Loren Strahm, Gridley, KS; Ed Ringger, Gridley, IL; Lester Hartter and Harvey Grimm, Bern; and Sam Huber, Sabetha.

**KANSAS, KIOWA  
Janice Bahr**

**CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP**

There are friendships that we cherish  
In our daily walk of life;  
Friends with whom we meet and  
labor in our earthly toil and  
strife;  
Friends among the aged and youth-  
ful, Friends that live from us  
apart,  
Friends of higher rank and station  
Find a place within my heart.

But I prize the friendship highest  
Of the one whose heart is true,  
Friends who live by truth and  
goodness And who live in Him  
anew.

Friends whose hearts are up in  
heaven Though their feet tra-  
verse this sod,  
Find a place of highest merit In  
our fellowship with God.

There's a tie of noble kinship In  
a soul who loves the Lord,  
There's a friendship warm and  
lasting, If he heeds the Mas-  
ter's Word.

There is mutual understanding,  
And a sympathy so kind,  
In the tie of Christian friendship,  
As on earth we oft-times find.

H.O.Z. No. 91

The above song from Hymns of Zion perfectly expresses the relationship that we, as children of God, share with one another. There is an unexplainable feeling of oneness as we gather for worship, Bible study, singing, etc., or as we travel to any of our other churches and join in the fellowship there. We're never an outsider; we're at home wherever we may be. Our precious "Father" has given us so much, has blessed us so richly, that our cup as His children is continually full to overflowing! May we ever be deeply thankful for this precious faith, our brothers, sisters, loved ones in Christ, and

most of all for the Father who makes all else possible.

I am very happy to report that we've had no hospital patients this month, though many have been absent due to trips, flu, colds, etc. We truly miss each one who is gone from our midst and are glad when everyone is again able to worship and fellowship with us.

**THY WILL BE DONE  
Elberta Lesure**

If all the sunsets would be fused  
In one celestial scroll,  
Or all the love on earth were  
poured  
Into one golden bowl,

If all the tears congealed into  
One iridescent pearl,  
While all the restless winds rushed  
on  
In never-ending whirl . . .

The beauty and triumphant power  
Of all would not compare,  
With Jesus of Gethsemane,  
With His one yielded prayer.

**KANSAS, LAMONT  
Mary Isch**

To the Saviour's grave now hasten,  
Where He lay in calm repose.  
Christ in strength from God the  
Father,

From the grave in triumph rose.  
Thus the path of life He made  
With His blood your ransom paid.  
In my Saviour's resurrection  
There is comfort; I am blest.  
In His life my hopes renewing,  
In His love my soul shall rest.  
Everything I have in Thee,  
Life and hope and victory.

Zion's Harp No. 183

Hospital patients this month have been Justin Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane), Sis. Larene Anliker (Bro. Glen), and Sis. Matilda Emch. We are happy to report that they are all out and assembling with us again.

**KANSAS, SABETHA  
Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter**

Bro. Sam Huber was ordained as elder this past weekend. This most important work was performed by Elder Bros. Gene Marti, Lamar, Sam Anliker, Lamont, and Lester Hartter, Bern. How thankful we are that there are brothers willing to accept the duties and responsi-

bilities of the over sight of the flock. May God bless Bro. Sam in his new duties. Also present were Bro. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, and Bro. Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, KS.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22 at the Popkess Mortuary in Sabetha for Sis. Katie Leiser, a resident at our Apostolic Christian Home. She was taken to Emporia for burial.

Bro. Carl Hartman was hospitalized for a short time but is again at home.

### KANSAS, WICHITA Judy Langhofer

Several years ago I met a lady, by chance, who with her husband had a very unusual kind of ministry. She was acquainted with the Jewish community and had been able to learn about the special feasts and observances, among them the Passover supper. They obtained items used in the Passover, learned the rituals involved, and by it taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ, noting the significance of the Passover because it so closely linked with the focal point of their faith—Christ's death on Calvary.

I have in my hand an article published in a Christian magazine in 1973, written by Daniel Goldberg who was reared in an orthodox Jewish home. It is entitled, "Passover—A Forecast of Calvary." The article agreed with what this lady told me. It brought a deeper appreciation of the greatness of God in that it reflected the wonderful plan of redemption as He was trying to reveal it to His people so many years ago. With the advent of Easter, it seems fitting to talk about the Jewish Passover to see if some value or interest can be garnered from it.

The Feast of the Passover is also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Feast of Freedom. Technically, what the modern Jew celebrates is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. God allowed destruction of the temple, the only acceptable place where the lamb could be offered, because Christ, who was called the "lamb of God" (John 1:29) was to take the place of the Passover lamb.

The night before the Passover eve, the head of the Jewish household purged the house of all leaven, or yeast. The bread (matzot) made

without leaven during the Passover is symbolic not only of God's holiness and purity but also of the purity and holiness which he expects of His children. We all remember how the Israelites left Egypt at God's instructions in such a hurry that they did not have time to knead their bread, so they took it without leaven.

The Apostle Paul admonishes Christians in I Cor. 5:7, 8: "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

This provoked much thought as to what transpired in the Upper Room the night of the betrayal: how the Passover supper was served first before the washing of the feet, how Christ told His disciples that they were not all clean and how Satan, also being present, entered into Judas after Christ gave him the sop and Judas departed. (John 13). John seems to indicate it was here where Christ served the feast of communion with the drinking of wine and eating of bread which was actually the institution of the Lord's Supper.

It is interesting to note that unleavened bread is served at the beginning of the Passover. It is served on a Seder tray, which has three compartments, each containing *matzah*, or a piece of unleavened bread. During the ritual, the father takes out the middle piece, breaks it in half and returns it to the compartment, wrapping the other half in a linen napkin which the mother takes to hide for the children who will later go to hunt for it. It is called the "bread of affliction," but after it is found it is called the "bread of hope." Every born-again Christian may relate to this. The three compartments, according to Christian understanding of what God was trying to unfold, represents the triune nature of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The housewife prepares and places on the table, before the head of the family, the ceremonial platter containing the six symbolic elements: (1) vegetable greens repre-

senting new life (2) a dish of salt, reminiscent of the Red Sea and the tears shed by their ancestors during their enslavement (3) bitter herbs to remind them of the bitterness and bondage endured in Egypt (4) the Charoset, a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon, and a little wine, which reminds them of the clay used to make bricks for Pharaoh (5) a roasted egg which brought remembrance that in Old Testament times salvation came by roasted or burnt animal sacrifices (6) a shank bone of a lamb as a reminder to them of the lamb God wanted them to kill.

The supper ends when the oldest son goes to the door to see if Elijah is coming as a messenger to announce their Messiah. When he does not see him coming he comes back very sad and delivers the message that maybe next year he will come. (See Malachi 4)

Now, can't we say that God is good because He has opened our eyes in the acceptable time so that we can see? Elijah will surely come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, but we should be thankful that, for us, the Messiah has already come and will come again to take us unto Himself, that where He is, we may be also.

The wedding ceremony is still a solemn and special ceremony to Christians who love the Word of God and honor it. The simplicity of the ceremony, as we know it, gives the honor to God as instructions are given for living and establishing a home built upon the Word of God. The position of the husband in the household is very clear in God's Word, as is the responsibility of directing the family in its pattern of living through the Word. The love he is to have for his wife secures her position as his helpmeet and gains, for him, a place of respect with her. These were the words we heard at the wedding of Sis. Melinda Langhofer to Bro. Rocky Giltner as they exchanged their vows in the presence of many witnesses on Mar. 9. Bro. Samuel Anlniker, elder of our congregation, performed the wedding ceremony with support from the father of the bride.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Christie Meyer are new parents of a son, Jonathon Ryan, born Mar. 12 at Wesley Hospital, Wichita. Mother and son are home and doing well.

Bro. Phillip Bowers underwent surgery again this past month. After a difficult time, he could still say, "There are some who are a lot worse off."

Sis. Wyanetta Mahaffey wishes to extend her thanks for letters of condolences after the death of her mother and for the help she received from those who were concerned about the welfare of her father. Her father's house burned to the ground just two weeks after the death of her mother and left him without personal possessions.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Patsy Bragiel**

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

May the words to this cherished Psalm go with the memory of Sis. Ellen Wackerle's death. Funeral services were Mar. 6. We extend sympathy and the Lord's comfort to her family.

Hospitalized have been Sis. Lydia Wieland and Sis. Marion Knochel (Bro. Floyd) for surgery.

Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland have temporarily left our congregation to spend some time with the Children's Home in Leo. They have returned to visit and brought many of the children with them for a weekend of fellowship. What a joy it must be to Jesus to look down from heaven above and see brothers and sisters so willingly give of their everyday life by helping these children. We wish them the abundance of God's grace in this work of love. They freely give to others as Christ has freely given to us.

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Nella Varga**

William Floyd was welcomed into the hearts and home of William and Bonnie Stewart. Tora is happy to welcome a baby brother, too. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland are the happy grandparents.

To me is given boundless mercy,  
A gift that I did not deserve;  
Such wondrous love, it is so  
marvelous,  
That such for me should be re-  
served.  
But since I know, I will rejoice,

And praise Thy mercy with my  
voice.

And I who naught but wrath did  
merit,

Shall now in grace with God abide!  
He reconciled my wayward spirit,  
Through His own blood, and gave  
me light.

From whence came this? What is  
it for?

Unbounded mercy, nothing more.  
Zion's Harp 220

I believe so often we take God's  
love and mercy for granted. May  
we reflect upon the thought that  
His love and grace is ours for the  
asking.

**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Carol Virkler**

We are very thankful that the  
Lord provides us with ministers of  
His Word. Those visiting us were  
Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop) on  
Feb. 17 and Bro. Noah Gerber  
(West Bend, IA) on Feb. 24. The  
weekend of March 8 and 9, our El-  
der Bro. Harold Messner (Win-  
throp) and Elder Bro. Paul Buti-  
kofer (Elgin, IA) were with us.  
On Saturday evening, Bro. Harold  
and Bro. Paul shared the reading  
of the memorandum of the bro-  
therhood conference with us. May  
we heed the warnings that were  
given to us in love by our elders.  
Following the Sunday afternoon  
service, our elder brethren con-  
ducted Holy Communion services.  
We were privileged and humbled to  
be able to partake of this holy  
sacrament.

Forsake this world of vanity and  
all its lewd deception!

Invite the Prince of Peace to thee,  
Give Him a true reception.

Approach Him humbly, low, and  
meek.

Childlike, His grace and mercy  
seek,

For surely He first loved thee.

What's needful most keep well in  
mind,

Within His fold remaining.

Be eager for His bread refined,

Life's fount thy soul sustaining.

With faith in Him look heaven-  
ward;

Repentant seek His loving heart.  
His arms for thee are open.

Zion's Harp, No. 107

With the angels in heaven, we  
rejoice that Joanne Hafdahl has  
answered the Lord's call and is re-  
penting. Joanne, her husband Rich-  
ard, and her son Adam, live near  
Tony, WI. Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie  
Schmidgall are Joanne's parents.  
We wish her much grace as she  
seeks the peace of God

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl**

God is looking for a man, or  
woman, whose heart will be always  
set on Him and who will trust Him  
for all He desires to do. God is eag-  
er to work more mightily now than  
He ever has through any soul.  
The clock of the centuries points  
to the eleventh hour.

The world is waiting to see what  
God can do through a consecrated  
soul. Not the world alone, but God  
Himself is waiting for one who  
will be more fully devoted to Him  
than any who have ever lived—who  
will be willing to be nothing, that  
Christ may be all.

Little Dana Sutter (Bro. Randy,  
Sis. Pam) had the misfortune of  
breaking her jaw in a tobogganning  
accident. She spent several days in  
the hospital, but is now home. May  
she feel God's nearness and heal-  
ing power in the uncertain days  
ahead.

We thank Bro. Edwin Bahler,  
Remington, for bringing us the  
Word of Life.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem**

"Blessed are the merciful: for  
they shall obtain mercy." (Matt.  
5:7)

Teach me to feel another's woes,  
To hide the faults I see;  
The mercy I to others show,  
That mercy show to me.

Pope

How marvelous God's grace and  
mercy are toward the lost sinner.  
What we were by nature was ex-  
pressed by Paul to the Ephesians:  
"Wherein in time past ye walked  
according to the course of this  
world, according to the prince of  
the power of the air, the spirit  
that now worketh in the children  
of disobedience . . ." Eph. 2:2.

What we are by His grace and  
mercy is expressed by Paul: "But  
God, who is rich in mercy, for  
his great love wherewith he loved  
us . . ." Eph. 2:4.

An open house honoring Bro.

George Messner on his 80th birthday was held at Gaylord on March 23.

Mona Messner (Duane) is hospitalized at Mankoto for observation.

Sis. Carrie and Sis. Esther Messner wish to express their thanks to all who remembered them with prayers, cards, and visits during their hospital stays.

Kindness is a hard thing to give away. It keeps coming back to the giver.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

May the Lord bless Bro. Frederick Knapp from Congerville, IL, for coming and ministering the true Word of God to us the weekend of March 1 and 2. I think that being permitted to assemble in God's house and hearing His pure and holy Word is a great blessing we too often take for granted.

Time goes by so quickly. It seems only a little while ago that we started our plans for a new church. With many labors of man, our new church is ready to be used. It is truly a blessing from our Almighty God. We appreciate the support of all of our brethren across the land.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

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

In everything both great and small  
We see the hand of God in all;  
And in the miracle of spring  
When everywhere, in everything,  
His handiwork is all around.  
Every lovely sight and sound  
Proclaims the God of earth and sky.  
I ask myself, Just who am I  
That God should send His only Son  
That my salvation should be won  
Upon a cross by a sinless man  
To bring fulfillment to God's plan?  
Jesus suffered, bled and died  
That sinners might be sanctified,  
And to grant God's children such  
as I

Eternal life in that home on high.  
Helen S. Rice

Many from our area have been ill with severe colds and different types of flu. Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Donnie and Sis. Elaine) was a hospital patient due to pneumonia. She is now home and improving daily.

Bro. Norman Haerr showed slides of his trip of Honduras. Several other brothers from various congregations accompanied him on that trip. They went to see who received the shipment of grain sent last spring. We should appreciate our material blessings and be willing to share with those who are less fortunate. Many friends and neighbors gathered to help sack corn that was added to other loads and shipped to Central America. It's a real "eye opener" to see young and old pitch in and help. As we've quoted before: "The grain is given away, but the blessings are ours to keep."

The automobile is not the only thing that can be recalled by its Maker. A heart attack claimed the life of Dr. David Sandercock, 43. He was not only a professional acquaintance but a friend as well and will be missed by many of us who were his dental patients. Also, our sympathy goes to Sis. Charlene Sutter (Bro. Dick) whose brother Harold Winfield, 60, passed away of natural causes.

Visiting ministers and their families this month were Bro. Joe Gerst, Iowa City, IA, and Elder Bro. Ezra Stoller, Cissna Park.

Mar. 8-9 brought us many rich blessings as we were privileged to host a group of young members from the Gridley and Washington, IL, congregations. Also, Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona entertained the Ezra Stoller family with a dinner in honor of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Ollie on their 55th wedding anniversary.

Holy Communion was served on Mar. 23, and we were reminded to examine ourselves and be worthy to partake of the holy sacraments. We were also reminded of the seriousness of taking part, unworthily. I Cor. 11:27-29.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb Heimer wish to thank all the loved ones who so earnestly gave them loving kindness and sympathy through their visits, cards, food and memorials during the loss of their baby girl, Amanda Joe. They wish God's blessings to all.

### LITTLE THINGS

Sometimes we may not realize that everything we do  
Affects not only our lives, but  
touches others, too.

A single, happy smile can always  
brighten up the day  
For anyone who happens to be  
passing by your way—  
And a little bit of thoughtfulness  
that shows someone you care  
Creates a ray of sunshine for both  
of you to share.

Karen Rayn

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

We are very pleased that Bro. David and Sis. Caroline Roberts have moved from Bluffton, IN, to Quakertown, PA, and have made Philadelphia their church-home. We joyfully welcome them and thank God for encouraging us with this sign that He has heard our many prayers to increase our small flock.

Don and Janice (Aeschleman) Wilt were recently transferred to Sacramento, CA, where Don will fill an assignment in the U.S. Coast Guard. Janice is our daughter. We wish them a safe tour of duty and God's rich blessings.

A few weeks ago, our local newspaper carried a true story about a small boy afflicted with a terminal disease who lay near death in a hospital room. His parents were with him, and the boy suddenly looked out the window and said, "Out the window, I want to go there. Let me go." His parents said, "Do you want to go outside? We'll take you outside." And then the boy answered, "No," but said again, "I want to go there—Dad help me!" And then he was gone. What do you suppose he really saw "out the window" that attracted him so. Was it a glimpse of heaven?

After meeting for many years in a rented hall, God has heard our prayers and opened the way toward the building of a permanent church building in the Philadelphia area. The brotherhood has generously supported the endeavor in a number of ways, and, if God so wills, we expect to start constructing a modest building this spring. The church will be located in a quiet rural area just a few miles west of Philadelphia. When we mentioned our intentions to build a church to Bro. Henry Beer some months ago, he said, "How wonderful to have another place where

souls can be saved." It is our intention to dedicate this house to the glory of God for that single purpose.

The following is quoted from the **Apostolic Church History**, Volume I, page 194. "How much labor, love, and sacrifices were necessary to awaken persons here and there, to found and sustain congregations; this can hardly be described. Where would the many congregations be over which we rejoice today, if the living testimony of our ancestors had not called them into being?"

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!  
O words with heavenly comfort  
fraught!

Whate'er I do, wher-e'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth  
me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in  
mine,

Nor ever murmur not repine,  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me!  
Joseph H. Gilmore

What beautiful words these are.  
We can be assured that God's hand  
will be leading us upon the pil-  
grim pathway in whatever station  
of life is ours. All we must do is  
clasp His hand in ours each day.

Our hospital patients this month  
have been Sis. Lucy and Bro. Art  
Woolschlager and Sis. Irene Far-  
ney. We are thankful that Bro.  
Floyd Graves has returned home  
after several weeks of hospitali-  
zation and are glad to hear of his  
improvement.

We enjoyed an evening of fellow-  
ship and song together when the  
Naumburg congregation assembled  
with us for a covered dish supper.

Sis. Minnie Virkler remains a  
patient at the Extended Care of  
the Lewis County General Hos-  
pital. She enjoys her mail even  
though she is confined to bed. She  
wishes to express her thanks to  
all who have remembered her dur-  
ing her illness and hospitalization.

It is expected that our mid-week  
services will again resume after  
Easter. We have services at 7:30  
p.m. each Wednesday evening, al-  
ternating between the Croghan and  
Naumburg churches.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

A group from our Naumburg  
and Croghan churches brought a  
little cheer to our shut-ins. On the  
evening of March 10, we gathered  
at Fair's Nursing Home for Urban  
Farney. On the afternoon of Mar.  
16 we gathered at Bender's Nurs-  
ing Home for Emma Virkler.

We planned a pot luck dinner  
for March 19 at the Croghan  
church with singing afterward.

Our hospital patients for the  
month were Sis. Florance Herzig  
(eye surgery), Sis. Ella Cinbeck  
(flu), and Bruce and Gail Hir-  
shey's son, Arien (tonsillectomy).

Gail Hirshey has had the mis-  
fortune of cracking a bone in her  
arm while roller skating.

#### OHIO, AKRON Lynell Palitto

Again this month, we have had  
those who needed hospital care.  
Bro. John Schambcak was a sur-  
gical patient; however, he is back  
to work and able to assemble with  
us again. Sis. Bonnie Bako also re-  
quired surgery. We are thankful to  
report she is regaining strength  
each day. She wishes to thank  
everyone for all the prayers of-  
fered and cards, gifts, food, and  
visits she received during her re-  
cent illness. She also wishes God's  
blessings for each one for their  
love and kindness.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Katherine  
Novotny are out and about again  
after being shut-in for several  
weeks.

"O Lord my God, I cried unto  
thee, and thou hast healed me."  
Psalms 30:2

#### OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

We awakened to a beautiful  
white world this morning. Every  
twig and branch had its coating of  
snow. All the ravages of winter  
were covered. So it is when our  
sins are covered by the blood of  
Jesus. Even before Jesus shed His  
blood for us, Isaiah (1:18-20)  
wrote, "Come now, and let us rea-  
son together, saith the Lord;  
though your sins be as scarlet they  
shall be as white as snow; though  
they be red as crimson, they shall  
be as wool. If ye be willing and  
obedient, ye shall eat the good of  
the land; But if ye refuse and re-  
bel, ye shall be devoured with the

sword; for the mouth of the Lord  
hath spoken it." Oh, the promises  
given in His Word! Love Him and  
live!

Our visitors since the first of  
the year included Bro. Rudolph  
Graf and Bro. Gary Maibach who  
shared the living Word with us.  
We always enjoy the fellowship  
and the blessings they bring.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

Sis. Frieda Manz was hospital-  
ized but is now home and improv-  
ing, for which we are thankful.

#### A CHILD'S FAITH

"Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so,"  
Little children ask no more,  
For love is all they're looking for.  
In a small child's shining eyes  
The faith of all the ages lies.

Tiny hands and tousled heads  
That kneel in prayer by little beds  
Are closer to the dear Lord's heart  
And of His Kingdom more a part  
Than we who search, and never  
find,

The answers to our questioning  
mind.

Oh, Father, grant once more to  
men

A simple, childlike, faith again.

Helen Steiner Rice

On March 1, little Chad Lester  
was born to Bro. Lester and Sis.  
Karen Manz. His grandparents are  
Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn and Bro.  
Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfen-  
stein (Latty). Shawn Michael was  
the new arrival of Pete and Helen  
Hurd on Mar. 7. Mark is glad for  
a playmate. Bro. Emmanuel and  
Sis. Louise Manz are his grandpar-  
ents.

#### OHIO, LATTY Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

We are going down the valley one  
by one

With our faces toward the setting  
of the sun;

One by one the cares of life for-  
ever pass,

We shall stand upon the river bank  
at last.

(Gospel Hymns)

On Feb. 23, Sis. Nellie (Zelt-  
wanger) Sinn passed from this  
life into eternity. Surviving her  
are her husband, Bro. Dan; a



daughter, Sis. Paula Haab (Bro. Ray), Milford; a son, Bro. Dan, Jr.; four sisters, Sis. Clara Sinn (Bro. George), Sis. Minnie Fetter (Bro. John), Toledo, and Sisters Martha and Marian Zeltwanger; and four brothers, Bro. William, Bro. Carl (Bremen), Bro. Albert and Bro. Fred.

A week later, Bro. Emil Stoller met his Maker. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Annie (Laukhuf). He will be sadly missed by his children, Bro. Melvin, Bro. Millard, Sis. Eunice Gerber (Roger), Sis. Lillian Eisenmann (Bro. Bill), Sis. Lorene Hackenjos (Bro. Myron), Sis. Anna Lou Grimm (Bro. Earl), Princeville, Natholia Getz (Alan), Eureka, Elizabeth Waters (Roscoe), and Marie Moore (Jack), and three sisters, Sis. Nettie Stoller, Sis. Emma Klopfenstein, and Sis. Ida Rocke, Eureka.

We will miss their presence in our church, but we know that God's ways are perfect and that they are in a better land.

We have had many in our congregation hospitalized. They are Sis. Emma Stoller, Sis. Hilda Wenninger, Sis. Leah Stoller, Sis. Martha Laukhuf (Bro. Merrill), Bro. Dan Sinn, Sr., and Patric Dunham (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Deb). We pray that God will heal them according to His will.

On Mar. 9, Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) brought us the true Word of Life. We thank Bro. Walter and his family for visiting us here in Latty. May God continue to inspire His servants as only he can.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

Why do you think God made the world,  
the trees and flowers that bloom?

Why did He bother to make little birds  
that sing such a beautiful tune?  
And why did He make the sky so blue,  
full of stars and a moon above?  
I know why He made these things,  
He did it because of love.

Why did He make a wonderful plan  
to save me from darkness and sin?  
Why did He send down His only Son,

that I might believe on Him?  
Oh, why would Christ come down to earth  
so willing to shed His blood?  
To die on a cross, that I might live?  
He did it because of love.

Author Unknown

A little boy was looking lovingly at a picture in a store window. The store was displaying a painting of the crucifixion. A man approached, stopped and looked. The boy looked up at him and said, "That's Jesus." The man did not reply but the little boy continued: "Them's Roman soldiers." He paused for a moment and went on—"They killed him." "Where did you learn that?" asked the gentleman. "In Sunday School, sir." The man turned and walked thoughtfully away. However, he had not gone far until the young lad ran up to him and said, "Mister, I wanted to tell you that He rose again." Yes, that message which has been coming through the ages is still the Easter message today—the story of the triumph of life over death. He is risen indeed, and it is the greatest story ever told. What joy to know He is coming again as He has promised. Yes, He did it all because of love for you and me.

March 1 and 2 was a wonderful weekend because the Princeville choir was here and presented a beautiful song service praising our Lord. Accompanying them were ministering Bros. Arthur Bauer (Princeville), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal), and Ben Hartzler (Rittman). We thank them for once again reminding us and telling us of His love.

Sis. Katie Sauder was hospitalized, but we are thankful that she can assemble with us again. John Them was also hospitalized, had surgery, and is recuperating at home.

Sis. Naomi Witmer has returned to Florida. Our sympathy is extended to her in the loss and death of her sister, Lydia Lutz.

Why does He always send comfort, when life brings trouble and sorrow? Why does He show me that things will be a little bit better tomorrow? He does these things because of love.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN Janette Blough

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no

longer mine; Lord I will forever and always be Thine. For Thou hast created and purchased me too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new." Zion's Harp No. 209. We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of nine dear souls who recently were added to the fold. Bro. Joe Ramsier was assisted by Bro. Orville Ringer of Bluffton and Bro. Rudolph Graf of Akron. Our new members in Christ are Bros. John Calame, Dana Emch, Neil Gasser, and Jeff Hartzler, and Sisters Jodi Calame, Beverly Emch, Joyce Thompson, Betty Winkler, and Charlene Winkler. Visiting ministers Bro. Harold Emch of Girard and Bro. Ken Indermuhle of Sardis also gathered with us for this occasion.

Feb. 24 was the wedding day of Sis. Karen Hartzler and Bro. Ron LaParo. We wish them God's blessings in their lives. Sis. Karen is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler. Bro. Eugene Pamer of Akron and Bro. Ken Sauder of Mansfield were present and brought us the Word of God.

We extend best wishes to and wish God's blessings for Pam Gerber and Todd Stoller who were married on Mar. 7. Pam is the daughter of Sis. Mary Ellan Gerber and Tod is the son of Bro. Russ and Sis. Melvene Stoller of Latty.

After being told that "It is not good for man to be alone," the engagement of Bro. Jim Rupp and Sis. Sharon Walder was announced. We wish them God's rich blessings as they plan their lives together. Sis. Sharon is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, and Bro. Jim is the son of the Ralph Rupp.

Luann Young, daughter of Bill and Sis. Donna Young, has become engaged to Mike Musser. We extend best wishes to them.

We always are sorry when we have to report that some from our congregation have been hospitalized, but then we are glad when they are feeling better again. Those who have been hospitalized are Bro. Ben Bauman, Frank Weber, and little Joel Steiner, son of Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner.

Three of our families have been blessed by the addition of new babies. Brandon Scott is the name of the little boy born to Gary and Kim Landis. Brandon's grandpar-

ents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lib Landis.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler have a new daughter, Judy Lynn. Judy has two sisters, Betty and Cheryl, and four brothers, Dan, Mark, Tim, and Sam to help care for and love her. Her grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggenbach and Bro. Reuben and Sis. Velma Hartzler.

First-time parents Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy Dotterer are so happy to welcome Lisa Rose to their home. Lisa's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger of our Forrest congregation.

We are so happy to report that another dear one has turned to the Lord in repentance. It is such an encouragement in these troubled times to know there are still those who are answering His call to live for Him. Our new convert is Amy Cannon, daughter of Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie Gasser.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of our dear Bro. John Marty who passed away suddenly at his home. Bro. John's wife, Sis. Pearl, sons, Dale, Harold, Jim and Richard and daughter, Jean Myers survive. We will miss seeing Bro. John in our congregation.

We thank Bro. Delbert Indermuhle of Sardis for ministering to us.

Just a reminder that the Rittman Silver Lining dues of \$5 are due during the month of May. They can be given to either Sis. Florence Hartzler or Sis. Janette Blough.

### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

#### JESUS, THE TRUEST FRIEND

Who is He that cares and watches  
O'er our life and soul's estate?  
Who is He that thus has drawn us?  
Christ alone, His love is great.

Saviour! Since Thy blood is  
healing,  
There is rest for heart and mind.  
Let us now, Thy peace enjoying,  
Grace, sufficient, in Thee find.  
Zion's Harp

It is because of His great love for the spiritual welfare of the souls of mankind that Jesus Christ has called Alice Harmon to repentance. Through the grace of God,

Alice has found peace in her heart and is looking forward to having her name written in the Book of Life.

Sis. Clara Beard has been in the hospital for surgery. We pray that she will have a good recovery.

### OREGON, PORTLAND Connie Steffen

The trees and shrubs are blooming now, and all the world looks green and beautiful. Not too long ago a young person told me they wished people would have left the world the way God made it. Heaven will be beautiful and without the marks of man.

Summer vacations are being planned now, and we of the Oregon area would like to invite any one who would be coming West to plan to be with us. We are near the airport and would be more than happy to spend some hours of fellowship with all who would call. You may call Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller (771-7834) or Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen (761-4531).

#### MY MOTHER

I wish that I could find some  
word,  
Some fitting verse or line,  
Or lovely song, endearing sweet,  
A noble thought in rhyme,  
To show my love and gratitude  
Unto my mother dear;  
A loving tribute I would bring  
To fill her heart with cheer.

How often are such words withheld  
Till death has claimed its own?  
So I would give my tribute now,  
Before her life is gone.  
Her Pilgrimage is nearly done;  
Full threescore years and more  
She journeyed here, and now has  
come  
To Jordan's beckoning shore.

O blest the child whose mother  
lives  
Such exemplary life,  
Who bears her cross, in weal and  
woe  
In earthly toil and strife!  
A Mother, virtuous and true,  
Excelleth by her worth  
Rich gems of gold, or rubies bright,  
Which are esteemed on earth.

Your hand which wrought such  
loving deeds

Are thin and faded now.  
The lines of care, and toil, and  
tears  
Are traced upon your brow.  
O mother mine, unselfish, true—  
You've always sought the right,  
The power that kept you in His  
grace  
Has led you in His light.  
Henry Beer

### OREGON, SILVERTON Andy Winkler Mary Jane Winkler

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

Lord for this great salvation  
Be thou forever praised,  
That after life's temptations  
To heaven we'll be raised.

Zion's Harp, No. 121

We usually are reminded of our nothingness by these wonderful words. We truly need to keep ourselves humble and obedient to His words, or when this life is over our Father will not know us.

The children again reminded us of the real meaning of Easter in verse and song about our dear Savior coming into this world to die for our sins and then to rise again. We should thank our Lord everyday for the love He has shown to us.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Margery Koehl

Dorothy Schmidgall hosted a shower for Shane Corey, Rick and Sandra Norman's baby son. Sisters Norma Pfaffmann and Margery Koehl assisted her.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser and his wife, Sis. Leona, from Lester, IA, with us on Feb. 16 and 23. Bro. Leo assisted our Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger in serving Holy Communion on Feb. 23. It was indeed a blessed day for all of us.

On Mar. 4, one of our ministers, Bro. Elmer Schrenk (and his wife, Sis. Delila) returned to his summer home in Alto, MI. We were sorry to see them go.

This is a beautiful time of the year in southwest Texas. We gladly overlook the thorns because we know we will be rewarded with

flowers on nearly all the plants and trees.

### THE SERMON . . .

Continued from page 28

It often has entered my mind that there are several rather quiet individuals who may sit toward the back of the church and not speak much, but whose prayer for our precious faith is perhaps so fervent and strong that it surely arises to God and merits His favor. So let no one ever believe that he has no talents to use. Then, if we take our talent and use it, it can be as a light set upon a hill.

There is no question that the time in which we are living is the most knowledgeable time there ever was upon the earth. I believe that along with knowledge Satan has found the most devices he has ever had at his disposal to bring us again into darkness. If this is true, this world is surely a dark, evil and sinful place.

The thought also comes to me from time to time that God looked down upon Sodom and Gomorrah and saw the gross sin that was taking place in those cities.

Our country is two hundred years old, roughly, as a nation. It is a country that was founded on the worship of God according to the dictates of men's conscience. However, this country has been so deluded and deceived by Satan that our society has become (over all, that is) so sinful that I wonder whether God sees it as much better than Sodom and Gomorrah.

After the angels left Abraham, the Lord told him that He was going to destroy the cities. Abraham pleaded, asking that if there would be a certain number of righteous, with the number finally reduced to ten, whether He would spare the cities for their sakes. There were not even ten.

No, dear ones, I do not intend to prophecy; but will the time come again when God will be unable to find ten souls worthy of being His children? That is why we should use every talent that God has given us. That is why we should let our candle shine so brightly today amongst our brethren, amongst our friends, amongst our neighbors, and amongst all those with whom we come in contact.

I know that you have met from time to time those who had no

knowledge of our precious faith, but who walked in the fear of God. Then there are those who have become acquainted with it and have found the Rock of Salvation in our faith which answered their needs.

We are not here to boast this morning. We have nothing to boast about. Man is fallible. Man is prone to make mistakes and that is why we should assemble every Sabbath Day and at every opportunity that we have.

The physical man needs food and drink to be sustained, and I think that the spiritual man is similar. Even though we confess the Lord Jesus Christ and believe upon Him with all our hearts and minds and souls, if we go our own way and do not have the benefits of assembling in the house of worship under the sound of His Word, I am rather sure that the evil and crafty foe (Satan) will find many, many ways to come into our paths.

We can read that an evil spirit went out of a man, but returned and found his former "house" clean and went in again with seven more devils. I am very fearful, dear ones, of that happening to those who neglect the assembling of themselves in the house of worship. Before we neglect this assembly, we should most prayerfully seek God's help, favor, and guidance. It is most serious, dear ones, and as in all problems there is only one solution: that is falling upon our knees before our God in prayer, seeking His guidance and direction.

I would like to share with you a thought that we heard this week from Bro. Akito. A comment that he made to us on Friday afternoon concerned entering the straight gate and the narrow way. It says here, ". . . and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction. . ." Matt. 7:13. Bro. Akito used the word "crooked" along with the "broad" way. He gave us ( and I hope that you will all hear it on a tape in the future) a most wonderful exhortation.

If we are going to walk the narrow and straight way that leads to life eternal, we surely cannot take with us all the material and passing things which this life offers and our physical selves desire. We must set such things aside; we have to leave them; we have to forsake them. As we walk this narrow way, we cannot enjoy the pleasures of life that God has no

pleasure in. That is the broad way and, as Bro. Akito said, the "crooked" way that leads to destruction.

This very valuable teaching concludes with, ". . . and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:14. Is it not sad, dear ones, that in this land where knowledge is so great, few will find the way?

Yet, we are so thankful that we are permitted to go to and fro and to worship. I think about and pray many times for those in other lands who cannot gather freely to worship God. Have you ever thought about what you would do if you were denied that privilege? How would you act? We should thank and praise God this morning for the opportunity to gather here together.

Returning again to the fact that only a few, according to the Word, will find salvation, it is mentioned many times in the Old Testament that there were remnants who were true to God and to their calling. Are we a remnant today? Is our faith built upon the Solid Rock which will stand? Is it strong enough to hold when the wind blows and floods come and the waters rise?

Dear ones, I don't have to tell you that Satan brings trials into our lives. Regardless of the things that may test our faith, when we are built upon the Solid Rock, we shall stand. That is what the Word tells us. The Word is true and all will be completed according to the Word.

Many people today are endeavoring by the ability of man to build a doctrine of faith, a way of life, on other than the Solid Rock. It has to be, then, on the sinking sand. The Scripture tells us that there are only two ways. "Two ways, O man, are there for thee." There are only two destinations. Regardless of what man tells you, there is no other way or destination. Our faith is built either upon the Solid Rock which will stand, or it is built upon sinking sand.

May God grant each and every one of us, brothers and sisters, that our faith be built upon the Solid Rock and that we hold fast all the days of our lives.

For our dear and precious friends who are with us this morning, may the exhortations be your invitation to build your faith upon the same Solid Rock and also gain the hope of eternal life.

## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. ROBERT G. BEYER OF NAUMBURG, NY

Text: Genesis 28 and Matthew 7

Let us begin this morning with a sincere, upright, and honest prayer, thanking God that our precious faith is built upon the Solid Rock which is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Paul teaches us that "If any man preach any other gospel unto you . . . (but Jesus Christ and Him crucified) . . . let him be accursed." Galatians 1:9.

God's promises are sure. They are true. They are kept!

We read together of things which transpired many, many years ago. I trust that we all know, more or less, how God called to Himself a chosen people. He found an individual, Abraham, who had sufficient faith to believe that there was a great and mighty God in heaven who would provide all things according to His promise and to His word. God called Abraham and told him to go to another country; this man left his home, his family and his friends.

We read this morning of the renewing of the promise to Jacob that God had made to Abraham: "the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed." Gen. 28, 13. As we read through the Old Testament, we see how the people returned to this land. They were taken away and again returned.

When our Lord and Saviour was on earth, His people bitterly rejected Him, denied Him, and forsook Him. Within thirty or forty years they were again dispersed to the four corners of the world. The prophecy was fulfilled which He shared with His disciples during the last week of His life, that the city and temple in which the people took such great pride would "not be left one stone upon another." Mark 13:2.

Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that such things can happen, but they do when it is prophesied in God's Word. There were totally, I believe, millions who did not flee to the hills when they had the

warning. They looked back, perhaps hoping for another opportunity, as did Lot's wife; their hearts, souls and minds (and evidently their trust) were in this world and they lost their lives.

Would we be willing to lose our lives this day for the sake of life eternal? Or would we want to save them, as they were trying to do, and then lose them for all eternity? We have this choice today. God did not compel us to come here this morning. You do not have to listen to the Word. You do not have to repent. You do not have to confess your sins. You do not have to find peace with God. You do not have to be baptized. You do not have to receive the Holy Ghost. You do not have to walk in His ways. No. He gives you the choice.

But He gives you the opportunity from the Word to follow the plan of salvation. Then you must do as we have read here. You have to seek. You have to knock. You have to look. But the comforting thing is that when you seek, or when you knock, or when you look, you can find. He will answer. He will provide. Is that not a tremendous promise, dear friends of the truth?

Those of us who have acquired this precious faith have found it to be that way. We came to the point in life where we had no hope; we knew that we were lost and realized that we were sinners in God's sight. We had the knowledge from the Word that we had no hope of eternal life. If we had departed from this life at that time, where would we have gone? Knowing these things and knowing the Word, when the still, small voice of conscience comes to us, perhaps in the assembly, in the stillness of the night, or in the fields, God is calling.

We do not have to go to Jerusalem to the temple to worship. The woman at the well questioned our Lord and Saviour. She said "ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place . . . to worship." And the Samaritan's worship "in this mountain." The

Saviour told her that the time will come "when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father . . . But . . . true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." John 4:20, 21, 23.

I think, dear ones, that that is the way we are worshipping God—in truth and in Spirit. And the promises to Jacob about which we read this morning are given to us also. Oh, we have so much more to thank God for than Jacob had. He had only a glimpse of the promise of salvation that was to come to his children, his grandchildren, and "all the families of the earth." Gen. 28:14.

We have lived on this side of calvary. We have lived since our Lord and Saviour fulfilled God's promise which was already made in the Garden of Eden. That is why we should be a most thankful people this morning. That is why we should be a most concerned people, not casually coming into our precious faith.

We have read here: "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20. This refers to the time after we have been called into God's service, after we have become His children. It is a time for us to grow, a time for us to bring forth fruits to be judged by.

We are also told here: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils. . . ?" and we have done this and done that? Matthew 7:22. The next verse says, ". . . I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

We have a distinct obligation, dear brothers and sisters in faith. We have work to do here upon this earth. Some may be given only one talent; some, two; some five or more. But I can assure you, dear ones, from my knowledge and interpretation of the Scriptures, that there is not one individual who has not been given work to do.

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