

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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THE LOVE OF GOD TOWARD US

Ministering Bro. Uriel Gehring

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3.

In the midst of an evil and adulterous generation (a perfect description of our present generation) the believer in Christ needs a constant and consistent directive that he may know how he stands in the eyes of the Almighty. God's Word is filled with words of encouragement and hope for His beloved, and if we feed on His Word often, and live by It, we shall have life and have it more abundantly. This is God's will for His children.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." I John 3:14, 15.

It is imperative that we love our brethren as Christ loved us. We prove our love toward our Heavenly Father by being Christ-like in nature, the result of becoming new creatures in Christ, and loving our brethren, God's prize possessions. Our brethren were purchased with the same precious blood as we, and there is no respect of persons with God. We, therefore, seek to be of the same mind and of the same judgment which is not difficult if we allow ourselves to be led by His Spirit. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He

shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6.

Love, compassion and Godly concern will then be the virtues at work in our fellowship, and God will then cause His face to smile on us and bless us. These virtues do not come as a result of human endeavor; they are the fruits of the Spirit, so we must be walking in the Spirit to be exercised by them.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest (among them wrath and strife) and they do not promote God's blessing on our fellowship. We are to "Be kindly affectioned one to another." Rom. 12:10.

Let us adhere to these emphatic words: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost; Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 20:21.

MOTHER'S DAY

(Submitted by Elder Bro. Rudy Graf)

Mother's Day brings to our hearts and minds deep thoughts of love and gratitude.

As we think of our mothers, there come forth the thoughts of never ending love and unselfish motives, which are found only in a true mother's heart. No task is too great, no day is too long or hard in time of sickness, and yet she is always encouraging those in grief or distress.

She is kind, sympathetic, understanding, trustworthy, and last of

all to mistrust or doubt her children. By the Word of God, she is duty bound and ready to serve. Indeed, she is our truest friend.

The wonderful trust our Christian mothers have in God enable them to go on day by day, knowing there is a Higher Power watching over all, protecting and caring for their children in time of danger.

Mother's Day was instituted in our country more than fifty years ago. By presidential proclamation the national flag is flown on gov-

ernment buildings in honor of the day. Mother's Day observance was introduced into England some few years later.

Many are privileged to wear the red flower, in honor of their living mothers, while others must wear the white flower, in memory of our mothers who have passed on.

Regardless of which color flower you wear on this Mother's Day, your hearts should all be filled with thanks to God for your mother.

Forrest Ritzman

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER

Submitted by
Elder Bro. Theo Beer

The other night we were attending a school function with our daughter. When we drove into our driveway, our youngest ran out to the car, opened the car door and threw his arms around my neck, almost pulling me out of the car. He hugged me so tight, and said, "I'm glad you're home." I said, "Jeff, we haven't been gone very long." His reply was, "I know, but it feels like you were gone for a month."

I know it isn't necessary to tell all of you mothers what kind of an effect this had on me. No other Mother's Day present is necessary at our house. I know all of you have little treasures like this to pull out of your memory boxes and probably a lot more that don't come to memory right now—things that have enriched your time in rearing a family. I know, too, it isn't necessary to go into detail on the pleasures of motherhood because anyone who has given birth to a baby and raised it to manhood or womanhood, as a lot of you have, would have a wealth of happy incidents to impart to the rest of us.

Also, for some of you more experienced mothers, it definitely isn't necessary to impress on any of you the responsibility of doing this—rearing a child from infant to adulthood; but for some of us who haven't completed our work and who are sometimes bogged down by diapers, dishes, cleaning and bedmaking, we need to stop and get a fresh view of our mission.

Truly this is a mission, if we are entrusted with children. It is our God-given mission to raise them "In the fear and nurture of God" and to "Show them the way unto Salvation." In Ezekiel it is written, "Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, as is the mother so is her daughter." This puts it right on the line, to put it mildly.

Wm. Thackeray, the poet, had a way of phrasing it that left a lasting impression with me. "Mother is the name for God, in the lips and hearts of little children." This might seem to put us in a pretty elevated position, but we can't deny that it is through us they receive their first impressions of their Heavenly Father.

Walter Savage Landor

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

I am so happy and feel privileged to be a part of this Children's Home project. We have been blessed with much grace, support, and now a staff of brethren. This portion of our Lord's work is finally moving ahead. The Lord's blessing and our subsequent improvement, as a result, has been felt by others also. We hosted our annual board and representatives' meeting this past weekend. The comments from those present testified that we have established a good foundation, but still need observations and comments from those without to encourage us. Thank you, everyone who supports us—some daily—in prayer, and thanks for the many contributions of time, money and material.

It is our desire to not only improve our program, but also to expand this work to meet the many needs of abused, neglected and uncared-for children. For our faithful prayer supporters: please intercede for us and all those involved in planning that our hearts would be moved in faith to accept His will concerning the further development of this work.

Our homes are enjoying stability between houseparents and children. It has helped immensely to add the influence and leadership of an administrator and the support of our single sisters.

The relative calmness of our home has been appreciated for the arrival of our newborn baby girl, Jessica Anne Kellenberger. Both she and her mother are doing well. The kids all love her. Gary, Kandy, Mary, and Eric have held her. It is such a wholesome climax to their long awaited anticipation of her birth. They gained in experience and education, living a portion of Sue's anticipation, as they watched her develop for these past months. At times they sounded as anxious as she: "When are you going to have that baby?" Their growing responsibility also demonstrated itself on a few occasions when they verbalized their concern to help Sue more around the house. Mary and Kandy are now alternating every evening to help Helen with the cooking. The other children continue their regularly scheduled kitchen and cleaning duties.

I appreciated their concern. Our

children, like yours, have a lot of potential. They just need to have developed by parents who care enough to take the time and effort. Thank Jesus Christ for being the giver of this strength and wisdom to those who ask and trust Him for it.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." . . . The Song of Solomon 2:11.

How happy we are to be able to enjoy the outdoors again. Flying kites, riding bicycles, walking and outdoor exercise classes are a few of the activities already taking place. Filling the courtyard pool is always a welcome spring event.

On Mar. 25, Dawn Steidinger, daughter of Richard and Janet Hofmann Steidinger of Fairbury, IL, became one of our residents. Dawn had visited our Home as a temporary resident at a previous time and seems happy to be back with us. One brother, Mark, and three sisters, Lori, Jill and Tami (Livingston) and one neice Karissa Jo, make up her family. Fish, steaks and sweets are among Dawn's favorite foods; puzzle books are among her favorite pastimes. Birthday time for Dawn is Oct. 11.

On Apr. 3, nine-year-old Angela Dawn Massner, daughter of Phyllis Gehring Massner and the late William Massner, formerly of the Oak-

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ville area, became the youngest member of our family. She has one brother, Chuck, and three sisters, Jeri, Diane and Cindy (Marshall). Hot fudge sundaes are her favorite food; listening to records is her favorite pastime. Birthday time for Angie is Sept. 9.

A loving welcome is being given to both of these girls.

Because we have been unsuccessful in finding the owner of a nearly-new pair of dress sandals, which were left at the Fellowship Hall last November on Benefit Day, we would like your help. If you are missing a pair, or know of anyone who is, please contact the Home. Our number is 309-266-9781.

One of the resources so necessary in our work is kindness. In Romans 12:10 it is written: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." Dr. John Abercrombie wrote: "An act of kindness or a word of sympathy may render the whole line of life different from what it would otherwise have been. There are crises in many a life when the course it shall take for weal or woe depends upon a slight influence—almost a single word. How careful then should we be that our influence may at all times be in the right direction."

"When you repay kindness with kindness, then the people are encouraged to do good . . . To repay evil with kindness is the sign of a generous character." . . . Confucius "One kind word wins more willing service than a hundred harsh orders or stern reproofs."

. . . J P. Camus
"The art of saying appropriate words in a kindly way is one that never goes out of fashion, never ceases to please, and is within the reach of the humblest."

. . . Arthur Helps
"Being a little kinder than is necessary is the finest of the little arts of life, if not its final joy. The only things we are never sorry for are the kind things said and done to others. They make a soft pillow at the end." . . . Joseph Fort Newton

"The ministry of kindness is a ministry which may be achieved by all men, rich and poor, learned and illiterate. Brilliance of mind and capacity for deep thinking have rendered great service to humanity, but by themselves they are impotent to dry a tear or mend a broken heart." . . . Anon.

"Kindness is a language the dumb can speak and the deaf can hear and understand."

. . . Christian Nestell Bovee
"The greatest thing a man can do for his heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children."

. . . Henry Drummond
Marten Ten Hoor wrote, "Resources of the spirit are like savings: they must be accumulated before they are needed."

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

"My lifetime doth pass away;" Z. H. 253. On Feb. 23, Bro. Andrew Frederick Lehman went to his eternal rest while visiting here. Bro. Andy and Sis. Verna have been part of our regular winter family. We shall miss him very much. We offer sympathy to Sis. Verna and her children. May God bless them in their time of sorrow. Bro. Andy's memorial services were Feb. 24 at Grimshaw Mortuary. He was taken to Eureka, IL, for interment.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation." ZH 52. Jay Fehr (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge) has received a call to live the better life. It is a joy to see the young high school folk repent.

On Jan. 7, little Ryan Andrew Gerald was born to Marsha and Roger Banks. Roger II is waiting for his 4½ lb. brother to get bigger so he can help too. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart are the happy grandparents.

Mar. 30, God granted us a beautiful warm, sunny day. It was appropriate, as the engagement of Sis. Helen Kircher and Bro. Lyle Huette (Fairbury) was made known. A May wedding is planned.

"For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:26. The evening of Mar. 30, we were blessed with the opportunity to once again remember our dear Lord and Saviour's death. Oh, how much he gave for us—His very Life!

We gratefully thank our visiting ministers for lending themselves to God's service and trust that God will reward them for their unselfish labors. Our visitors were: Bros. Joe Zimmerman (Morton), Merle Bucher (La Crosse), Harold Graham (Morris), Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal), and Loren Knapp (Tucson).

Easter Sunday, when we were reminded that our Lord died for our sins, we witnessed the baptism of Jeff Rokey, a symbolic burying of the old sinful life and arising to a newness in Christ Jesus. How wonderful it is that God is still calling His loved ones. Bro. Jeff's parents are Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Irene Emch in the passing of her brother, and to Sis. Lois Beres as her father, Bro. Ben Bauman, was called from his earthly life after a brief illness.

Hospitalized were Bro. Jeff Rokney and Sis. Jo Martin. They are able to be with us again.

Our graduates this year are: high school—Steve Farney, Kelly Kraft, Sis. Della Martin, Shayne Pulfer, and Cheri Zallinger; grade school—Kelly Emch, Mike Fertsch, Rick Freed, Penny Schuster, and Todd Zollinger.

On Apr. 12, Charlene Roth and Jerry Sanders were married. Charlene's parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene.

Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger's address is 2547 E. Enrose, Mesa, AZ 85201.

THOUGHT: True darkness can be felt; are you living in darkness?

COLORADO

Plans are being formulated for holding Apostolic Christian Church services in Colorado starting sometime in June. Interested brethren, ministers and song leaders may contact Bro. Nathan Steffen, R. R. 3, Box 207, Elgin, IL 60120. Look for further details in the next issue of the Silver Lining.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

The wedding vows between Sis. Dorothy Mangold, daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold, and Bro. Steve Viens were solemnized at the church. Bro. Corbin Bahler performed this rite. Supper was served with a reception following. They have our best wishes, and may the love of God reign supreme in their home and lives.

Sis. Rose Schneider, 88, died after a lingering illness at her son's home. Yet, in her lengthy struggle of various ailments that came over her, she was known to be a very patient soul. Besides her son, Bro. Leon, she is survived by two daughters, Sis. Mathilda Ott and Sis. Eunice Scheider; she also has one

brother, Walter, and four sisters. Burial was in the Ellington Center Cemetery.

Announcement was made of the wedding of Jody Hunt, daughter of Bro. Harry and Sis. Joice Hunt, to Roy Spielman, son of Roy Spielman. The announcement was also made of the wedding of Sis. Sue Jackson of Michigan to Bro. Richard Luginbuhl, son of Bro. Lenard and Sis. Irma Luginbuhl. May their blessings be many.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

**John and Caroline Hejja
GIVE YOUR BEST**

When God's people offered sacrifices, God expected the best. He was to be given the first fruits, the whole and the unblemished. Do we give Him our best today?

How about our time? Do we put **prime time** aside to worship the Lord, communicating with Him, service? Or are we so busy working and do His work? Or are we just offering a few spare minutes when we have nothing else to do?

Consider our service. Does our **best effort and energy** go into His for earthly gain that we're too tired to put forth an enthusiastic effort on His behalf?

And, what do we do with our earthly blessings when we do receive them? Are the **first fruits and the best** given to His service? Or do we spend all we can on our own desires and give a little of the leftover to Him?

To the young who know that you should repent and be converted but wish to wait "a little longer" until you are just a little older: now you are young and can still offer what will probably be the **best years of your life** to the Lord. "Offer the lively, the cheerful and beautiful flower, Offer with gladness and willingness thy youthful power..." (Zions Harp No. 168).

We are grateful for all the visitors who have taken time while traveling in the south to worship with us. God has blessed us with a number of visiting ministers. We are so thankful for each one who has opened God's Word and preached to us. Among our recent visitors were Bro. Art Gudeman (La Crosse, IN), Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Our prayers were with Sis. Arlene Wieland as she was recently

hospitalized, but we are glad to hear that she is now at home again.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elda Martin

Most of our winter residents and visitors have returned to their loved ones in the north. We trust that they will continue to remember us in their prayers, and we will look forward to having them back with us this winter.

Our Bro. Dan Kerchev, who had eye surgery, and Sis. Lorene Scheiber are both able to assemble with us again. They both expressed their great thanks and appreciation to all who did so much for them and remembered them during their illnesses.

Those who have so willingly shared God's Word with us are: Bro. Henry Doetterer, Rittman, OH; Bro. Ken Sauder, Mansfield, OH; Bro. Walter Steffen, Milford, IN; and Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, IA.

We want to thank all the brethren and friends who so willingly gave their time and support in prayer to our gatherings in Port Charlotte for the winter months.

HAWAII, HONOLULU

Michael and Sis. Janet Campbell

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?

To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?

On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.

**PEACE, PERFECT PEACE, WITH
LOVED ONES FAR AWAY?
IN JESUS' KEEPING WE ARE
SAFE, AND THEY.**

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?

Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?

Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.

It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease

And Jesus call us to heaven's perfect peace.

—Edward H. Bickersteth

It has been very lonely here this month. We truly miss our family and friends on the mainland, especially those from our home congregation in Bluffton, IN and those in Rockville, CT, where we were formerly stationed. I often go to the shore and look across the wide Pacific and think that somewhere on the other side are our loved ones.

We felt blest to have a couple of visitors this month. Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman from the Forrest, IL, congregation, visited us on Friday, Mar. 7. We took them on a tour of the naval base and later enjoyed dinner and a wonderful evening together. It is wonderful to enjoy the fellowship of those of like faith! We sincerely covet your prayers in these lonely times.

Anyone planning to visit Hawaii, please look us up. We are at home at 3324-D Orlando Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Our telephone number is (808) 422-1041. We also appreciate mail from our brothers and sisters in faith.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

Dixie Knapp - Jean O'Shea

We want to thank the Gridley choir for being with us at our monthly hymn sing on Mar. 23. We always appreciate the efforts these special groups put forth to share an evening of song with us.

Mar. 30 proved to be a busy weekend as we were privileged to host the annual College Weekend. It is always so inspiring to see our church filled with young members. We were also inspired by the message spoken to us by Bro. Jim Ramseyer of Bay City. We thank him for sharing a blessed day with us. Our Easter program was held later the same evening and once again the innocent voices of our Sunday School children sang and spoke to us of our Savior's death and resurrection.

Bro. Virgil Metzger from Cham-pagin and his family were able to be with us for our Good Friday services. How well it is for us to assemble together on this day to reflect on Christ's lonely trip to Golgotha and His agonizing death there on the cross. If we can somehow imagine His suffering, it seems

our appreciation for His sacrifice can grow deeper in our hearts.

It was a special feeling to gather at 7:00 AM on Easter morning to have our Sunrise Service and share a breakfast at the church. What a day of rejoicing Easter is, to know that our Lord has truly risen from His tomb and the Father's plan is perfected for us.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch had pre-communion services on Wednesday, Apr. 9, and our hearts were touched as we realized again what a blessing it is to be able to partake in this holy act. And by truly examining ourselves and preparing our hearts we can receive a blessing even before we actually partake of the broken bread and the cup of Christ's shed blood. It is so good to "commune" with Christ in honesty and humility and to try to see ourselves as God sees us. We can learn so much and truly grow in Godly wisdom when our hearts and minds are in this state. Elder Bros. Dan Koch and Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) plan to be with us for communion Wednesday, Apr. 23.

As I noticed on my calendar that Mother's Day is almost here, I felt it was appropriate to share some of my personal thoughts about being a mother. Actually it was a couple of weeks ago when I realized our daughter's third birthday fell on May 11, Mother's Day. I began to think about the real importance of being a mother. Sometimes, it seems to me, when we have frustrating experiences, problems, or just a long period of very routine days, we start to forget our real purpose as mothers.

Not only do we forget our purpose as mothers, but even more importantly we forget our purpose as Christian mothers. A Christian mother has an even greater responsibility to her children because she must teach them the ways of the Lord. How often we forget the important role we really have! We forget that we are fulfilling an enormously important role in God's master plan.

Sometimes we may feel dissatisfied, perhaps itching to do something with more meaning, more status, or more honor. But in God's eyes, the sight of a Christian mother is very precious. He considers our rank in life one worthy of praise. Proverbs 31: 10-31 is a beautiful passage concerning this. In Titus 2 we are given guidelines

to how we can become worthy of praise. The aged women were instructed to "teach the young women to be sober (responsible), to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands."

If we could follow after these things in earnest, surely without a single doubt, we would find fulfillment in realizing that being a Christian mother is truly one of the greatest works we can do for the Lord. And perhaps we will feel more worthy of the honor bestowed on us on Mother's Day.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

In all solemnity, we assembled on Mar. 19 to partake of Holy Communion. Lending themselves on our behalf were Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Dave Kieser. "To God be the glory" for the messages that were brought forth by Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit).

We ask our heavenly Father to be near Mark Ehnle as he is receiving treatments on an out-patient basis for leukemia. We are thankful he is progressing well and is able to carry on his normal duties.

Abigail Jean is the name chosen for the precious baby girl born Apr. 18 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle. Jim, Ann and Joe are happy they have a new baby sister. Their grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

... what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 5:8.

"The greatest honor you can give to Almighty God, greater than your penances and mortifications, is to live gladly because of the knowledge of God's love." Julian of Norwich.

As we think about Mother's Day and the many beloved Christian women who have lived, the words in the quotations, walking in humbleness of spirit and radiating the joy and peace of Christ within them, we think of the fruits of the Spirit which they have brought forth. Single, married, widowed, aunts, mothers, sisters and grandmothers, the Lord has blessed His

people mightily by their love, faith, and works. May the many whose hearts have still not responded to the witness and prayers of these Christian saints be softened and yield themselves to the power of the blood of Christ.

Christopher Steven Lau was born Apr. 9, 1980, to Sis. Marlene and Bro. Steve Lau. Chris' grandparents are Sis. Mary Ann and Ed Plattner, Forrest, IL, and Mrs. Kathleen Chu, Vancouver, British Columbia. We are grateful that Chris was born to Christian parents, as were many of us, and trust that the Lord will protect and pattern his life as he does ours.

Bro. Dave Wegman has graduated from the University of Illinois (Med. Center) with his Master's degree in pharmacy administration. We are grateful that he still plans to worship with us for he is an asset to the church. Bro. Marvin Wieland has received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from the National College of Chiropractic in Lombard. He will be leaving the Chicago area, according to the Lord's route. We wish him grace and peace and time to come back to visit. Bro. Rick Kellenberger, graduating as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, will be taking his wife, Sis. Karen, and children, Robin, Kent, and Kristi, to Alto, MI, for his residency. We are sad that they must go; yet, knowing that they are in the Lord's hands, we rejoice. We thank Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen for their loving and giving help to the church, including Bro. Rick's work as an usher. Bro. Paul Leman is replacing Bro. Rick as usher.

For Sis. Miriam Lockwood, we covet your prayers. She is again hospitalized. Though she has been in deep, dark valleys, her presence among us, when she can come, gives us courage and inspiration because of her eager interest in her fellow believers and her uncomplaining, cheerful acceptance of her physical infirmities.

Two portions of Scripture have given me much food for thought recently. In John 6, Christ feeds the five thousand with the five loaves and two fishes. That's a most familiar passage, but this time I was struck by Andrew's hopeless query in verse 9, "... but what are they (the boys' lunch) among so many?" He didn't know then that the Lord could feed thousands on one person's lunch. And I

don't always remember that the Lord can use even me, weak and helpless though I am, to take care of the one corner where He has placed me. Like the loaves, I need to be broken and blessed. Perhaps the Lord can use me to feed at least one.

The longer I'm a Christian, the more I long for heaven—not because I have a sad life, but perhaps mostly because I am so far from perfection and yet yearn for it. In Joshua 3, my mind pounced on the last words of the chapter (verse 17) where it says that the Israelites "passed clean over Jordan." That's my goal. May Christ be our guide and His Spirit our inner strength—given so that we may also, at our appointed time, pass "clean over Jordan."

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson

Visiting ministers here this month were Bros. Byron Stoller and Elmer Witzig from Gridley, Robert Beebe from Bremen, and Ron Heiniger from Bloomington. We thank these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and wish them His richest blessings.

It seems that there are always those who suffer physically each month. Sis. Emily Rudin, Bro. Clarence Rudin, Bro. Bill Feller, Sis. Marj Alt, Bro. Clarence Maul, and Sis. Sophie Funk were hospital patients. We pray that God will grant them grace to bear their infirmities until He deems it time to remove the ailments.

We welcome Bro. John Brenner home from the Americana Nursing Home in Champaign. He is still confined to his home, but we know both he and Sis. Martha are enjoying it after their absence of several months.

Our Sunday School children shared with us on Palm Sunday the story of Christ's death and resurrection. We always enjoy hearing the young people tell the story for they do it with such beauty and simplicity.

Holy Communion was served on Good Friday. It was a real blessing to partake of the bread which represents our Lord's body and the cup which represents His blood and to remember His death and suffering.

Address Changed? . . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Mardell Ott - Pat Rinkenberger

"Oh, how joyful are thy members. . ." Our Sis. Ann (Roth) Schick is engaged to Bro. Dave Zobrist from Goodfield. "Hand in hand, O may love bind them. . ."

Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft welcomed their fifth child, Rachel Dawn, into their family. They now have one boy and four girls.

We are so thankful that the Lord has called and two souls have answered. Janet Knapp, daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice, and also John Denler, have found it needful to turn to God in repentance.

"Two ways, O man are there for thee;

There are two destinations.

Upon the narrow path of life,

There's mercy and protection.

The other path with joy abounds
And yet no inward peace is found;
It leads thee to destruction."

106, Zion's Harp

Visiting ministers were Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), and Bro. Josh Broquard (Fairbury).

"The best things of life come out of wounding. Wheat is crushed before it becomes bread. Incense must be cast upon the fire before its odors are set free. The ground must be broken with the sharp plough before it is ready to receive the seed. It is the broken heart that pleases God. The sweetest joys in life are the fruits of sorrow. Human nature seems to need suffering to fit it for being a blessing to the world."

—F. W. Roberston

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Oscar Wilde once said, "If a friend of mine. . . gave a feast, and did not invite me to it, I should not mind a bit. . . But if. . . a friend of mine had a sorrow and refused to allow me to share it, I should feel it most bitterly. If he shut the doors of the house of mourning against me, I would move back again and again and beg to be admitted, so that I might share in what I was entitled to share. If he thought me unworthy, unfit to weep with him, I should feel it as the most poignant humiliation, as the most terrible mode by which disgrace could be inflicted on me. . . he who can look on the loveliness of the world and

share its sorrow, and realize something of the wonder of both, is in immediate contact with divine things, and has got as near to God's secret as any one can get."

No doubt all of us can recount experiences of sharing sorrow, pain, and suffering with loved ones and, although there is often deep mental pain felt, we can say it was good to have been there. It is good to keep our spirit in touch with the needs of others, and it is in this vein we mention those who have suffered illness this past month. Two of our formerly hospitalized patients had to be re-hospitalized because of complications. They are Sis. Anna Holliday and Janice (Kellenberger) Straugh. Bro. Ben Griener (Morris) met with an accident involving his hand while visiting his family here. His fractures and torn flesh are healing, but his doctor has not yet released him to return to his home. Micah Bachtold (small son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty) was hospitalized for a tonsilectomy.

Little Rachel Kay was born Mar. 19 to John and Paula Schmidt. Her brother Clay welcomes her. Her grandparents are Paul and Ann Garbarino and Bro. Art and Sis. Alma Schmidt.

Bro. Les and Sis. Allison Schambach are rejoicing in the birth of their second child, Mark David (born Apr. 6). Erika is his little sister. Henry and Marion Brown and Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach are the grandparents. May God give direction to both of these families in rearing their children.

Mike Leman (son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) and Dawn Mengler (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mengler) have realized the need of a Saviour and are seeking Him in repentance. It is always strengthening to find souls thirsting after righteousness, for we can read in the Word that they shall be filled.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

We are thankful that a dear friend has felt her need of a Savior. Janet Wiegand, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen, has answered His call and turned to the Lord in repentance.

On Mar. 23 we heard the marriage vows of Sis. Theresa Martin and Bro. Brian Schieler of Goodfield. Bro. Leroy performed the ceremony. We wish them much hap-

piness in their new life together. We will miss Sis. Theresa as Goodfield will be their home church. Their parents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Arletta Martin, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marci Schieler. We thank Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield for his labors in our behalf; he also visited us that day.

Saturday evening, Mar. 29, Elder Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke was with us to assist in the serving of Holy Communion. It is certainly a most important sacrament, during which we renew our vows to the Lord and remember His death and suffering in our stead. The brothers and sisters at the "Home" who are unable to come to church were served Communion on Sunday after church.

Two more of our young people feel that the Lord has led them to walk this life together. Sis. Jane Leman and Bro. Don Wiegand had their engagement announced Apr. 6. They are planning a June wedding. We wish them God's blessings in this second most important step in life. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman of Remington, IN, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand.

Reminding us of the way we all must go, "We Are Going Down the Valley" (Gospel Hymns) was sung at the funeral of Sis. Minnie Martin. She was able to lay her armor down on Apr. 7, having reached the age of 91. She had lived at the "Home" for three and one-half years. Our sympathy is with her family, Sisters Hannah Frey, Della Anliker, and Edna Martin, and Bro. George Martin, all of Eureka.

Hospitalized in the past month have been Bro. Tanner for surgery, and Sis. Eliza Leman for medical care. They are both at their homes again.

We sympathize with Bro. Jack Prather in the unexpected passing away of his mother, Sis. Hulda of Kiowa, KS. She had been a recent visitor to Eureka for some weeks so many of us knew her and will miss her.

Mother's Day, as we know, is a special day set aside to thank our mothers for all they have done for us. Especially fortunate are those of us who have or have had believing mothers. Surely this is a blessing we too often take for granted.

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

Sis. Joyce Huber and Bro. Paul Gasser's engagement was announced Easter Sunday. Sis. Joyce is the daughter of Bro. Edward Huber and the late Sis. Lydia Huber. Bro. Paul is from Akron, OH and is the son of Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha Gasser of Rittman. We trust the Lord will add His blessing to this endeavor.

(Ed. note: Sis. Joyce has been the Fairbury reporter since the 1950's. Many have been blessed by her faithfulness to the Lord's work.)

The engagement of Bro. Lyle Huette to Sis. Helen Kircher of Phoenix was announced. We trust the Lord will add His blessing to this forthcoming marriage relationship.

We praise the Lord for three from one family who gave their testimonies on Saturday and were baptized on Sunday. They are Leona, Marci, and Ivan Fehr, children of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

We rejoice with two couples who have given their hearts and lives to the Lord. Randy and Joy (Bachtold) White, and Ben and Carol (Kelson) Kafer have taken Jesus for their personal Saviour.

Visiting ministers recently have been: Bro. Ronald Heininger of Normal; Bro. Loren Strahm of Gridley, KS; and Bro. John Lehman of Bern, KS.

We are sorry that Bro. John Fehr is back in the hospital for further eye surgery and that Sis. Lydia Nussbaum was hospitalized because of an eye situation (she is now home). Sis. Kathryn Steffen is home from the hospital.

A little girl was born to Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman, and they named her Janelle Rose. The new baby was born Easter Sunday morning, a day symbolic of a new life. Other children are: Carmen, Mark, Ryan, and Grant. Her grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Eli Meiss, and Bro. and Sis. Vernon Hartman.

Sis. Miriam Feldman reached 80 years on Feb. 4, but, since her special birthday came while she was in Florida, her children are having a reception on Mother's Day to observe her four-score years.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Thelma Slagel will be observing their 40th wedding anniversary. Their children

are planning a surprise reception Apr. 26.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back
nor a sail to take us there,
but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

George Webster Douglas

The Bible class spent an enjoyable day in Francisville on Sunday, Mar. 23. It's a real blessing when our youth, our future church, can travel from church to church and make new friendships and lasting acquaintances.

Bro. Hartzle Kaisner (Detroit) conducted our Good Friday evening service which was followed by the Easter Sunday School program. We were reminded of our Lord's death and resurrection through the children's songs and readings. Bro. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury, closed the program with a prayer.

Also visiting this month, was Bro. Al Langhofer from Witchita, KS. It surely is a blessing from God that we can so freely be taught from His Word. May we always appreciate the privilege of assembling around God's Word.

We have several hospital patients this month: Sis. Elsie Waibel (Bro. Carl), Sis. Luella Sohn, and Tommy Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young). Having surgery were Mary Bradley, daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Marion Rieger, Bro. Sam Maier, Sis. Miriam Wenger (Bro. Ray), and Quinn Freehill (Sis. Janice).

Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller were blessed with a son, Benjamin David, born on Mar. 21. Sheila, Sara, and Michael are his sisters and brothers. The grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller, and Bro. David and Sis. Beuhla Ehle (Princeville). On Apr. 11, a baby girl, Rachael Dawn, was born to Dennis and Kathleen Davis. She has one sister, Valerie. Her grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Mary Ann Rieger, and Wayne and Verla Davis.

We have on engagement to report. Debbie Koehl, daughter of Bro. Leroy and Sis. Juanita, and Jeff Gasser, son of the late Bro. and Sis. Robert Gasser, of Rittman, OH, are planning to share their lives together.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Verna Hartter**

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

I Cor. 3, 9

On Mar. 30, regardless of a very rainy morning, our congregation, old and young, crowded into our assembly to hear the ground-breaking services for the addition to our church. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin gave a history of the growth of the church; and the entire congregation was led in prayer, asking God to be our guide, by our side, as we progress with this project. Although there are many warm memories of the first building which now has been destroyed, we move on with much faith and hope. Many have come to worship with us, and with God's help, we want to make room for many more to come and work out their soul's Salvation.

Three dear souls have been seeking the Lord, and will be given the opportunity to give their testimony in the near future. They are Cindy Rokey (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis), and Jeff and Ruth Grimm. May they truly be blessed as they live their lives for the Lord.

Joan Marie is the new little girl born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Wiegand. She has a brother, Rudi. Her grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida Mae Klaus, and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp are parents of a new little son, Branden Jaye, born on Apr. 7. He has a brother, Ryan. His grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp of Taylor, MO, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand.

Todd Alan, born Apr. 7, is the first child of Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Hinrichsen. Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer of Fairbury, and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen are the grandparents.

The engagement was announced of Sis. Debra Hohulin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia) to Bro. Roger Bertsch (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dorothy) of Roanoke. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Sis. Hilda Bauman slipped and fell and is now wearing a cast on her right arm. Bro. Jake Bauman submitted to an emergency appendectomy on Mar. 30. Virginia Wiegand (Mark) was also hospitalized for a week. We are happy to have them worshipping with us again.

We welcome Sis. Teresa Martin

Scheiler to this congregation. Sis. Teresa and Bro. Brian Scnieer were married on Mar. 23.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" I Cor. 10, 16.

On Good Friday evening, we indeed felt refreshed and renewed in Spirit as we were served the Lord's Supper. Assisting in this good work was Bro. Joe Braker of Morton, our Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin, and Bro. Bob Grimm. We thank them for carrying out these duties as God has commanded.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Carol Kiopfenstein**

"For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:20.

Our hearts were inspired when Bro. Gene Lehman of Wolcott was with us. He mentioned that we sometimes refer to the "free gift" that is ours in Christ. For us it is free, because we did not earn it or pay for it in any way. And yet it is not free at all, for it was the most expensive purchase ever made.

In the world, there are those who think they are getting a free education, a free lunch, or even a free country to live in. In reality, these things are not free at all. Blood has been spilt in war, and our forefathers have endured and put forth much effort so that a significant price was paid for the freedoms we enjoy. Hard working men and women are paying in taxes for so many things some people like to think are free. Perhaps it is fair to say that nothing is free, including the consequences of people's actions and attitudes. Eventually most of us do pay one way or another for mistakes we have made or liberties we have taken in indulging our fleshly appetites. The price may be the destitute emptiness of a spiritual void within us, or it may be that our physical health will suffer. There is a price to be paid for everything truly worthwhile. If we don't pay it initially, we may pay later with regret or suffering.

Likewise there is a price to be paid for the gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This price was paid at a tremendous cost. It is an unspeakable gift which has imparted unto

us who are the recipients a debt of love which can never fully be paid. If we refuse to receive it, however, and will not assume this debt of love in return for God's gift, again there will be a price to be paid in eternity.

We were asked if we've considered how much it cost God to allow His dearest and best, His only begotten Son, to be humiliated and disgraced. Have we considered how degrading it was for the Creator to take upon Himself the form of a man whom He had fashioned out of the dust of the ground? Even worse, He was then rejected and ill-treated by the ungrateful, wretched souls He was seeking to deliver. It cost God the pain of a separation from His Son that had never before been necessary. Throughout eternity, Jesus will bear on His hands and His feet the imprint of the nails and also the scar of His riven side. Remembrance of the suffering, shame and reproach that He endured will always be there as the price which alone was sufficient to enable us to share in the joys of heaven with Him.

We were also asked to think of what it has cost the Holy Spirit who is still today striving with men. This Spirit has remained here since Jesus first sent It to take His place in convincing the world of sin and righteousness and truth. And in the nearly two thousand years which have transpired, only a few have responded to that still, small Voice, while so many others have scorned, rejected and even blasphemed Its gentle persuasion. This third Person of the Godhead has been left here to do an often thankless job, trying to soften the sin-hardened hearts of men. May we never grieve or quench this comforting Spirit.

In humble obedience may we continue to keep up our frequent "installments" on the debt of love we owe to our Lord for such a wonderful redemption.

Elder Bro. Lester Hartter of Bern, KS, was with us for communion services. As we sat with solemn and grateful hearts and heard the message prior to partaking of the sacred bread and wine, again the brother reminded us that even if we had owned the entire world and everything in it, it would still be an offering far too small. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands our life, our soul, our all." (Gospel

Hymn No. 709)

We also appreciated the visits of ministering Bro. Marvin Schmidgall of Eureka, and Bro. Edmund Kloter of Goodfield.

Bro. Alan Steffen and Sis. Marge Yergler, both of Gridley, were united in marriage on Apr. 13. Bro. Clark Stoller and Sis. Cindy Hodel's engagement was announced and they are looking forward to the blessings of the marriage union in the Lord.

Our hospital patients have been: Sis. Lorene Kiefer, Sis. Lorene Stoller, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, Sis. Dixie Ringger, Bro. Ed Witzig and Sis. Louise Gramm. Jodie Schlipf, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Jill, was also in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

David Rapp and Kari Boyd are planning their wedding. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Boyd. May God bless them.

Kathy Domnick, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Domnick, and James Ritthahler, son of Dale and Pat Ritthaler, are happily making wedding plans. We wish them God's blessings.

Joseph Moser, after a short illness, has passed away. His funeral was on Mar. 20. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his family and friends.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Debra Tetrault welcome into their family a second daughter, Donya Amber, born on Mar. 19. "Big sister" Darah completes this happy family. The grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Lois Aberle, and Mr. Ferrill Tetrault.

Andrew Rapp passed away in Arizona. His funeral was on Mar. 24 in Morton. May God bless and comfort his family and friends.

Jeremiah Blaine Miller was born to Gary and Lisa (Kahler) Miller. Tanja Kay is his older sister. His grandparents are Sis. Edna Kahler, and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Miller.

Sis. Lucy Bruell is feeling better and she wishes to thank relatives, friends, and neighbors for prayers, cards, visits, gifts, and birthday cards which she received after her fall at home. The kindness and thoughtfulness will always be remembered. God bless all who were so kind.

Mrs. Geraldine Peters was very quickly called into all eternity. Her

funeral was held on Apr. 5. May our Heavenly Father richly bless and comfort her husband, Clarence, her family, and friends. It is always hard to say farewell to our loved ones.

We wish to express our sincere love and appreciation to Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL, for spending Easter Sunday with us. May God bless him for his labors of love.

The month of May not only brings new life to resting trees and bloom to the flowers; it once again re-affirms the newness of spring and a fresh new season.

May is the month chosen to honor our mothers. We, as born-again children of God, realize that we do not need a once-a-year date on our calendar. We have the Word which instructs us to honor our mothers and fathers alike. This is one of the easiest instructions to follow.

We have all read accounts or touching stories of different mothers. Having just passed our Easter season, my thoughts were with a young woman who had given birth to a son. She spent the usual long hours and days caring for her infant. She watched this infant grow into childhood and then into manhood. Her love grew as did her son. Being a mother, her emotions were as any mother's when her child was rejected, denied, and betrayed. The one special quality this mother had was that she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus.

Easter reminds us of the precious price paid for our salvation. The image of our Saviour on the cross expresses His great love for us. There at the foot of the cross stood His mother. As God used Mary for His divine plan, may we as mothers always be mindful of our high and heavenly calling, first as a Child of God and second as a mother. May we prayerfully guide and instruct our children in the ways of the Lord. Let us, like Mary, be willing vessels to be used by the Lord; let our children see by our example and by our acts of love and kindly words our love for our Saviour. May it be our fervent prayer that our children should seek our Lord and find their salvation in true repentance.

Mrs. Madeline Riggenbach, daughter of the late Sis. Clara Welk, wishes to thank everyone who was so kind at the time of her mother's death. People's thoughtfulness and kind deeds will not be forgotten.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the Carius family upon the passing of their brother, William Carius. May God bless and comfort his family and friends.

On Apr. 12, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of two dear souls, a father and daughter, Robert and Nancy Hermann. We were able to witness their baptism on Apr. 13. We wish both of them God's blessing and grace in their new walk of life.

Let us remember those dear ones who are shut-in, who have been sick or in the hospital, with our prayers. David Jones (Gene and Sis. Sherril Jones), Janel Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk), Sis. Charlene Herstein, Sis. Lydia Zimmerman, Sis. Hilda Roth, and Bro. Bruce Schmidgall have recently spent time in the hospital.

We wish to express our thanks to Bro. Gary Maibach who recently spent a Sunday with us. May God richly bless him for his labor of love.

We are so thankful that the Lord has stirred the waters of grace in our church. We are grateful that prayer has been answered and souls are turning to the Lord in repentance. May many more dear, precious souls come while the door of grace is still open.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Diane Hohulin

Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . Her children rise up, and call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:10, 28

Mother's Day, one of the most precious and memorable occasions that is set aside throughout the year, is a time to give thanks to God for one of life's greatest joys.

A mother is loving, kind, patient, and understanding; but, most of all, filled with the love of Christ that only she can give her children. Her prayers and guidance are a token of her undying love.

MY MOTHER

She was my mother—she was love. God sent her to us from above. No great career, no one great deed could give her fame, to fortune lead. As I see her smiling face, I see a queen of stately grace. She wore a life of golden lace that time and tears cannot erase; she was my mother.

She gave the most there was to give; she knew no other way to

love. She never wanted wealth or gold, and what she treasured could not be sold. As memories of time unfold, I feel the love her life did hold; and when her heart could give no more, God opened up another door to Paradise and joys unknown to reap the love so dearly sown. To heal her heart is what He chose, to give her peace and sweet repose. The work is ended, new life begun. In obeying God, she truly won.

Grace Jamsion Cornelius

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 209

On Apr. 5 and 6, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. They were: Chip Hemmer, son of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer; Tim Feucht, son of Bro. Walter Feucht; Bob Miller, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Miller; and Jackie Waibel, daughter of Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel. May the love of God always be planted in their hearts as they walk on the straight and narrow path of life.

This month we had several hospital patients. They were: Sis. Lena Sauder, Sis. Mary Berchtold, Sis. Leona Race, Sis. Julia Ehnle, Sis. Lena Joos, Bro. Ben Huber, Bro. Victor Stickling, Bro. Ray Wiegand, and Fred and Susie Scharrer. Our prayers and thoughts for each one are that God may heal and restore them according to His will.

Tearful sowing brings glad harvest where our Master's will is done, when for Him the Lord of harvest, Through His Spirit fruits are grown. Love, humility, and meekness, Faith and patience, purity, Righteousness although in weakness, Are here found in unity.

Zion's Harp 36

Our dear Sis. Nathalia Witzig, 99 years old, was laid to rest upon the calling of our Lord and Savior. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family.

Also Sis. Geraldine Hoerr Peters of Morton was laid to rest. Her parents are Bro. Philipp and Sis. Sophia Hoerr of Peoria. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

Among this month's visiting ministers were Bro. Dave Kieser

from Princeville and Bro. Floyd Schmidgall of Morris, MN. We wish to express our thankfulness to them for providing the Word of God to our congregation. May God truly bless them for their labors of love.

*Correction of March Issue

On Jan. 25, Jeremy Schweigert was happy to welcome his new brother, Shawn Alan. His parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sue Schweigert. Shawn's grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Betty Schweigert from Tremont, and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Knobloch of Bradford.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

As summer is approaching, many of us are planning to go to reunions and renew old acquaintances. Sometimes we don't recognize those whom we haven't seen for many years. We might recognize our old friends more easily if we met their children, because children usually have the same characteristics as their parents. Since that is true, we certainly can learn to know our Heavenly Father better by learning more about His only begotten Son.

We are thankful for ministers who are willing to tell us about the Son of God and salvation. Visiting ministers these past few weeks have been: Mar. 16, Bro. Ed Ringger of Gridley, IL, Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend, IA; and Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville, IL; Mar. 23, Bro. Bob Pflederer of Morton, IL; Mar. 26, Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville, IA, and Bro. Dave Kieser who served us holy communion; and Apr. 4 (Good Friday), Bro. Al Langhofer of Wichita, KS, who told us the Easter story.

Our Sunday School children presented us with an Easter program on Sunday evening, Mar. 30. We are happy that the children are interested in hearing and telling about Jesus.

Our congregation was pleasantly surprised on Mar. 9 when Bro. Dave Kieser announced the engagement of Bro. Phil Ehnle and Sis. Barb Streitmatter. Both Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb are from Princeville. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle, and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter.

Our sympathy is extended to Bob and Sue Swanson. Sue's mother, Sis. Clara Plattner, wife of Bro. Bob, of Peoria, IL, passed away.

Bro. Howard Herrmann had thumb surgery on Feb. 23. The surgery was successful, and he is feeling fine at this time.

Bro. Rodney Wagenbach is seriously ill in St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. We ask for your prayers on his behalf.

Ed. note: After the Silver Lining had gone to print, we were notified that Bro. Rodney passed away on April 29. Details will be in the next issue.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Mother takes us by the hand
And teaches us to walk.
She leads us in the narrow way
And listens when we talk.

And if we stumble on the way
And are unseen by others,
The hands that wait to help us up
Are those dear hands of mothers.

Mother never will forget
Tho' we are far from home,
And her prayers will follow us
No matter where we roam.

God needs someone here on earth
To love and think of others,
Someone who always understands;
That's why He gave us "Mothers."
Unknown

The Peoria choir were our guests at the family sing. What a blessed hour spent in singing praises to our God!

Our Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Jesse Beer (Milford) spent Palm Sunday with us and helped Bro. Don serve Holy Communion. "Dear Lord, we will remember Thee."

We had the blessed privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of our dear Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae), Steven Byrd (Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota), and Sis. Beverly Bowald (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mardell). Our Elder Bros. David Bertsch and Joe Braker assisted Bro. Don Sauder in this most important work.

Bro. Brent Hodel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Marjorie Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell) were united in holy marriage on Mar. 23. May love always light your way.

Bro. Steven Hodel (Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann) and Sis. Joyce Getz (Bro. Emory and Sis. Mabel) ex-

changed their wedding vows on Apr. 13. May joy and peace fill their hearts and your home.

Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Rich) was able to assemble with us again after being hospitalized for surgery.

Sis. Nettie Pfau and Sis. Esther Weyeneth are hospitalized at this time.

Visiting ministers occupying the pulpit this month were Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia), Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), Bro. Marvin Schmidgal (Eureka), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka). We appreciate their labors of love in our behalf and to the glory of God.

Sis. Bina Bertsch, Bro. David and Marie Bertsch, and Bro. Gene and Dorothy Bertschi wish to express their sincere thanks to all for their prayers, words of sympathy and gifts offered at the death of their dear one, Bro. Aaron Bertsch.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), and Harold Schmidgal (Gridley). We thank these brothers for their words of kindly admonition and labors of love.

Sis. Ann Steiner was hospitalized for surgery. She is now at home recovering quite well. Bro. Chris Pfelderer, Sr., was also a surgical patient and is also back in church again.

Sis. Leah Winzeler was hospitalized for eye surgery. She is recuperating at home now. We are thankful that all those who were "laid up" have felt God's healing power.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Sally Beutel and Bro. Roger Koch. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Frances Koch. We wish them God's richest blessings. A June 8 wedding is planned.

Funeral services were held on Mar. 24 for Ben Woerner. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

We also sympathize with the family of Bro. Jerry Prather in the death of his mother, Sis. Hulda Prather of Kiowa, KS. We pray that God's comforting Spirit is near those who are bereft.

At this writing, Leah Williams

is in the hospital awaiting surgery. May God be with her is our prayer.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School presented a program of songs for the congregation. It always stirs our hearts to hear young children sing of their love for Jesus. As they sang, "We are precious little lambs," it occurred to me that they are truly precious little lambs!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Speck whose husband (Walter) died. We pray that the Lord will comfort her.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come..." I Cor. 11:26. We partook of Holy Communion on Apr. 13. It is a time of self-evaluation that we should all appreciate.

As Mother's Day approaches, we should remember that it is a real blessing to have been raised by believing parents.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Let me not be too ready to guide my children's stumbling feet, but allow me to be ever near to bind their bruises.

Give me a sense of humor that I may laugh with them but never at them.

Make me a wise mother, O Lord. Keep me calm and give me patience to bear the small, irritating things in the daily routine of life.

Give me tolerance and understanding to bridge the gulf between my generation and that of my children.

Let me refrain from preaching with words. Keep me from forcing their confidences, but give me a sympathetic ear when my children come to me.

Help me to teach them that life must not be filled with compromises, but must be replete with victories.

Make me humble.

Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us.

And let Thy light so shine upon me that they, too, will perceive Thy glory. Amen.

Ruth Simrall Mackey

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Darlene Isch - Lisa Shively

With Mother's Day just past, and Father's Day arriving, we feel the

special family bond and God's love in our homes.

HOME

Home is where the heart is,
Where the happiness is, too.
Home is where our dreams take
root

And start in coming true.

It's where the thoughts are
warmest

And the wishes most sincere—
Where family problems can be
aired

And made to disappear.

Home is where the love is,
Where the faith and trust abide;

And whether it's a farmhouse
On the peaceful countryside,

A poor and humble dwelling
Or wherever you may roam—

If God is there and people care,
It really is a home!

Lucille Boesken

On Mar. 29, we were blessed with the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion. We wish Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Elder Bro. Joseph Waibel (Bay City), and Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) God's richest blessings for sharing the weekend with us.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty), Elder Bro. Udy Graf (Akron), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) for their labors of love.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Henry Stoller, Bro. John Kehr, Sis. Cordelia Aschliman, Sis. Marty Moser, Sis. Helen Stoller and Brian Tonner, son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Dianne.

A very special someone
Has come from up above—
A precious little baby
A miracle of love.

Unknown

Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber were blessed with their third child, Byron Matthew. Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller were blessed with a son, Shane Robert. Jamie and Becky welcome their brother's arrival. Marci Gay is a welcome blessing to Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter. Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geigel are the happy parents of a son, Zachary Lane. Lane Robert is a new addition to Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Mosers' family.

On the weekend of Mar. 22, ten

souls were added to the family of God: Mark Longenberger, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty; Dale Ringger, son of Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn; Ken Dubach, son of Albert and Billie; Blake Gerber, son of Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise; Kim Gerber, daughter of Bro. Vic and Sis. Julia; Leo Frauhiger, husband of Sis. Anne; Kent and Shiela Sprunger; and Daniel, Jr., and Charlene Lantz. Our prayers will always be with these souls in their new life.

We offered our congratulations to Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner (Wichita), who came home for their reception after a Mar. 9 wedding. May God bless their future years together.

On Easter evening we enjoyed the singing of our young people as they brought us an inspirational message.

Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Lori, to Bro. Todd Reimschisel, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine. They are planning a July wedding. Sis. Beth Steffen, also the daughter of Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty, was engaged to Bro. Kevin Aschliman, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida. May God's love ever direct these dear couples as they walk life's pathway together.

INDIANA, BREMEN

Gayle Bucher

On Mar. 16 and 23 our congregation visited the Milford and Leo congregations. We are so thankful for the wonderful fellowship we can experience in our precious faith.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Rinkenberger and Walt Roger, and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman. We are very grateful for their inspiring messages and love.

Bro. George Zimmer was hospitalized this month after he and Sis. Helen returned from Florida. We welcome them home again, and sincerely pray that Bro. George will regain his strength soon.

CONSIDER

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now, a friendly word for you?

Can you say tonight is passing,
with the day that slipped so fast,

That you helped a single person, of
the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what
you did or said?

Does one whose hopes were fading
now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it;
was it well or poorly spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness,
or a scar of discontent?

Unknown

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Wendy Gutwein Jacki Huber

If I had known what trouble you
were bearing;

What griefs were in the silence of
your face;

I would have been more gentle, and
more caring,

And tried to give you gladness for
a space.

I would have brought more warmth
into the place,

If I had known.

If I had known what thoughts
despairing drew you;

(Why do we never try to under-
stand?)

I would have lent a little friendship
to you,

And slipped my hand within your
hand,

And made your stay more pleasant
in the land,

If I had known.

Mary Carolyn Davis

How often our hearts ache from misjudging the actions of a brother or sister. The scriptural admonition in Matt. 7:1-2 states: "Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." It is sobering to realize that the harsher we are in judging our brethren, the harsher God will be in judging us.

Early Easter morning, many brethren and friends met as a congregation in our recently completed fellowship hall. It is a real blessing to have a fellowship hall for times like this. We were also glad to have Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso) with us to share in this early morning Resurrection service.

Pro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) shared God's Word with us on a special Sunday when the Forrest and Fairbury, IL, Bible classes visited us. We pray that the acquaintances made will grow into true Christian friendships.

We wish Elaine Bucher (Bro.

Elmer and Sis. Peg) and Jeff Sanders (Doug and Sonia Sanders) God's blessings as they were united in marriage on Apr. 12.

Of the many joys experienced, few compare with the joy of watching a precious newborn baby, so helpless and innocent, depending totally on others for love and growth. Three families experienced this joy as new little girls entered their homes. Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue welcomed Heidi Sue into their family on Mar. 17. One sister, Rebekah, is happy for a little playmate. Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie Huber also welcomed a second girl into their family. Rachel LeAnne, born Mar. 19, has one older sister, Sharlin, who is happy for a new "baby." Girls came in plentyfully, as Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward also welcomed Amanda Marie, born Apr. 3, into their hearts and home. Two sisters, Erica and Amber, also love their new little sister.

At this time of year, Mother's Day and Father's Day bring our dear believing parents forward in our minds.

"Children have no better inheritance than believing parents. Religion can become real in the midst of family as in practically no other way. Many of us have inherited great riches from our parents—the bank account of their personal faith and family prayers."

Nels F. S. Ferre

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Bobbi Erb

TEACH US THE PATH

They say that everyone has his own cross to bear, Lord. And you once said, "Take up your cross and follow me." What do these things mean? I think they mean that every person ultimately has to face up to reality—face his own destiny, his own calling, his own nature and responsibilities.

In your own life, Jesus, you faced reality directly and unequivocally. You incarnated the truth as you believed it. You didn't pander to any easy or obvious popularity. You attacked the hypocrisies of the human power structures head on. You rejected the status quo in favor of obedience to the Kingdom of God. And when it came to taking the consequences, you didn't shy away from the most difficult forms of torture and execution.

The way of the cross was your understanding of your mission and

your faithfulness to it.

The way of the cross seems to be, for every individual Christian, the reality which dictates his style of life, defines his own mission, and brings him into communion with you.

Help me bear my cross on the "way of the cross," Jesus.

Malcolm Boyd

As Christians, we find many reasons to rejoice in this Easter season, thanking God for our precious gift of salvation.

The Indianapolis congregation would like to thank Bro. Karl Westfall (Francesville), Bro. Merle Bucher (La Crosse), and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Remington), who lent themselves in the preaching of God's precious Word.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Fiechter were blessed with a baby girl, Natalie Colette, on Apr. 7. Natalie has two sisters, Shantelle and Shurell. Her grandparents are Bro. Homer and Sis. Clara Fiechter (Bluffton) and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Payne.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE Pearl Nuest - Lu Ann Feller

MY MOTHER

I wish that I could find some words,
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.
Your strength has fled, your hair is
gray, you stand on Jordan's
shore;
You live on earth, your heart's
above with loved ones gone
before.
The Lord receive you as His own
when spent your earthly years.
We bring to you our tribute now,
and after death—the tears.

Author Unknown

The above words are a tribute to our mothers, young and old. Let the words of my mother, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps. 19:14

During the past month, Bro. David Weigand (Urbana) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) gave us thoughts upon the True Word. May God be their rewarder.

Sis. Melva Bucher (Vernon) and Bro. Bob Feller (Lynn) had minor surgery. Sarah Hitz, infant daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Jill, had

major surgery on Apr. 13. May God be her Divine Healer.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pfeifer (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Emma has been transferred by Owens-Corning from Huntington, PA. to Toledo, OH. Their new address is
5025 Homeralepa
Toledo, OH 43623

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Candy Wuethrich

"... Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before..." Phil. 3:13.

Endings: During our lives here on earth, we confront many endings, graduation being one of them. We find ourselves anxious for this day, but also feelings of mixed emotions occur as the anticipated day draws near. Sis. Laurie Zeltwanger (La Crosse), Sis. Candy Wuethrich (Francesville), Sis. Suzanne Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Greg Leman Bluffton), and Bro. Linn Stoller (Leo) will be graduating this spring. Bro. Greg Leman and his family will be moving to Bay City, MI, where he will pursue his career. May we, along with all others as "endings" occur, keep this prayer (from Daily Guideposts, 1980) on our hearts:

"Lord, when we confront the end of a life segment, may we view it as simply a time in between, until the next chapter of your plan unfolds."

Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) shared the precious Word of God with us during our midweek services this past month. We appreciate so much the blessings received from the worship and fellowship at these services. May God richly bless the ministers who take their time to come and share with us.

The Purdue Group would also like to thank Bro. Ed Bahler and Bro. Gene Lehman for all their help and support during the past school year.

Our annual Purdue Youth Fellowship picnic was held Apr. 22 at Happy Hollow Park. What a beautiful evening of fellowship.

Our officers for the coming year are as follows: President—Bro. Scott Frank (La Crosse); Vice President—Bro. Mike Fritz (Urbana); Secretary—Sis. Verene Von Tobel (Francesville); and Treasurer—Sis. Lois Wilber (Francesville).

INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

From time to time, visiting ministers bring added blessings. Here this month were Bros. Roy Weiland, Bay City; Robert Beebe, Bremen; and Elmer Schmidt, Winthrop.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue Kellenberger have been blessed with a new baby girl, Jessica Anne, born Apr. 3. She has two sisters, Rachel and Rebecca.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch had recent eye surgery.

Sis. Frances Schwartz is a hospital patient. Sickness, disappointment and burdens come into every life at some time; but the Christian looks to Him and can claim strength and even His joy in trials.

Sis. Marsha and Sis. Marlene Stieglitz had an enriching experience as they toured Germany with their German teacher and a number of other students.

In love and respect for fathers, the following poem by Herbert Parker is copied. May the thought expressed be a continuing challenge.

A BOY TO HIS DAD

To get his goodnight kiss he stood
Beside my chair one night
And raised an eager face to me,
A face with love alight.

And as I gathered in my arms
The son God gave to me,
I thanked the lad for being good,
And hoped he'd always be.

His little arms crept 'round my
neck,

And then I heard him say
Four simple words I shan't
forget—
Four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul,
On secrets no one knew.
They startled me, I hear them yet;
He said, "I'll be like you."

Many of our earthly fathers have gone ahead. The following is in loving memoriam on Father's Day:

Vain the tribute we would pay him;
words cannot express
What it meant to have him with us
and our thankfulness;
Sweet, the memory he has left us
though our hearts are sad;
Great the blessings that was given,
just to call him Dad.

A thought to ponder: "What I do today is important because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it."

INDIANA, MILFORD
Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do lesser things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

Author Unknown

We are thankful to report that both of our hospital patients have again returned home. Bro. Frank Beer (Sis. Ruth) was hospitalized for sometime following a tractor accident. He is glad to be recuperating at home with care from his wife. They are sincerely in our thoughts and prayers. Sis. Shelby Beer (Bro. Nelson) was a medical patient and is very thankful to be at home, recovered.

We commemorated the Easter season with a Good Friday service and a sunrise service on Easter Morn. The following Saturday evening we were privileged to partake of the communion service in remembrance of our Lord's Last Supper. We received a great blessing from the presence of Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), who assisted in the service. The service was very meaningful and impressive and made us think of Christ the Man. Jesus knew what was before Him as He and His disciples partook of the Last Supper, for He said to them, "With desire I have desired to eat this

passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." St. Luke 22:15, 16. He knew that one of His own would betray Him. How His heart must have ached. He also knew that all would forsake Him, leaving Him to suffer the pain and agony alone. The mental anguish He must have experienced seems unbearable. Jesus prayed in the garden, alone. "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." St. Luke 22:42. He prayed in agony so earnestly that His sweat was as great drops of blood. And when He arose, He found His disciples sleeping.

Yet, because He endured, we can now experience the sweet fellowship and support of the brethren when we are cast down or ill, and of course the hope of eternal salvation for our souls.

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer over the arrival of their "little bundle of love." Sonya Lynn was born Apr. 16. Her sister and brother, Sherri and Brent seem very pleased. Her grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Eleanor Beer, and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emily Anliker (Francesville).

MOTHERHOOD

Those perfectly formed little fingers curled around mine so sweetly,
Wondrous memory that lingers, filling my heart so completely.

How exquisite is that little face, those blue eyes that look into mine,

Oh, how I pray you will know God's will in all you partake.

What joy to know that I carried you under my heart a short time,

To know for a while you tarried in my care, a labor sublime.

Thank God for His precious gift, this life that was put in my care.

Yes, thanks for the spiritual lift of motherhood—love so aware.

Tessie Bea McCall

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

Greetings in the Lord! Many blessings have been showered down

on us this month, and we are thankful.

Our congregation has been uplifted through Holy Communion. I cannot think of a greater way for our Lord to show His love to us today than to allow us to share with one another the bread and wine in remembrance of His sacrifice. It is sobering and humbling. "What is man that Thou are mindful of Him"—yet God's greatest compassions are given freely to us by His grace. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) assisted in this holy writ. We appreciate his efforts.

We were also greatly enriched by Bro. Virgil Metzger's (Urbana) message this month.

As one day passes into another, we wish so much that souls will heed the calling of God. We pray often for people we love and want them to have the hope of everlasting life. We rejoice and all heaven rejoices when a soul turns to the way of the Lord. Scott Steffen (Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucille Steffen) expresses a desire for the peace of God in his heart and has turned to the Lord in repentance.

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sonia Waible (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta Waibel) to Randy Pierce of Attica, IN, has been announced. Also announced was the engagement of Sis. Jane Lehman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Edna Lehman) to Bro. Don Wiegand (Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Wiegand) of Eureka. We wish them God's blessings.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to our Sunday School teachers who worked with the children in presenting the Easter message Palm Sunday evening. How God must smile upon the innocent lambs that shine for His glory with their songs and poems of truth.

INDIANA, VALPARISO
Claudia Thomas - Mary Huber

SON, GUARD YOUR NAME

It is the most precious thing
To you I'll ever be able to give,
So it's yours to use and cherish
For as long as you may live.
Don't forget a thoughtless deed or
One little fling can easily mar that name.

If you lose that watch I gave you,
It can always be replaced;
But a black mark upon your name,
Son,
Can never be erased.

That name was clean the day you took it

And a worthy name indeed to bear.
It was also that way when your father got it.

For there was no dishonor there.
So Son, make sure you guard it wisely,

For after all is said and done
You will be glad that name is spotless—

Someday, when you give it to your son.

Author Unknown

We're looking forward to Fathers Day when we can give our fathers special honor.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Steffer, Milford; Harold Schmidgall, Gridley; and Art Gudeman, La Crosse. We so appreciate the support given to us by these dear ones.

One Wednesday night we were privileged to hold our mid-week service in the home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Witmer. Our brother and sister aren't able to come to church, so we enjoyed taking it to them.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Laurel and Chris Widmer

Suzie Lehman

Sharing a new life together are Denny Stoller (son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola) and Connie Johnson. They were united in marriage on Mar. 29. We are rejoicing with them because they are seeking God's guidance and beginning a new life in Him.

"These things I have spoken unto you that in me ye might have peace." St. John 16:33. Rob Lehman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna) heard the word of God and, believing the condemnation of sinners, repented for his sins and has now received the promise of peace with God and man. We wish him grace as he walks the narrow path of life. Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart." Oh, what a sweet request. It shows the way that we must take to life and peace and rest.

An Apr. 12 and 13 we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Patsy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Sis. Marcia Furrer (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan). Elder Bro. Orvill Ringger shared one weekend with us. We appreciate his efforts and the miles he traveled.

Apr. 4, Good Friday, our Easter

program was held. The Easter Story was told in song and recitation by the Sunday School classes.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

We were privileged to have Bro. Ken Deitz from Bradford with us. His meditation included the statement and question: "God won't let us down; will we let Him down?"

Our spring cleaning was well attended; also, our monthly singing was well attended.

IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

The robins and redwinged blackbirds have returned from their winter quarters and are giving us pleasure with their presence and songs. The tulips are pushing their way up toward the light. The lilacs too are showing life. Longfellow wrote that if spring came but once in a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change.

We thank the folks who took care of the annual springtime cleaning of our church. As the old adage goes, "cleanliness is next to Godliness."

Bro. Uriel Gehring from Burlington was our guest minister. He was able to be here for Good Friday church services. We are always grateful for company.

Our Wednesday night services have been resumed. Everyone is welcome to attend. The first Sunday evening of every month is "singing" night at our church. Here, too, we welcome everyone to attend, to praise our Lord in word and song.

Sis. Marie Butikofer recently invited the ladies of our church to her home to work on World Relief projects.

Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer remains a patient at the Postville Hospital; he is doing fairly well. We are glad to report that Edwin Frieden is recovering nicely after having submitted to knee surgery at La Crosse, WS, hospital. Bruce Frieden, son of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan, was hospitalized for a few days at La Crosse, WS, due to an infection, but is now at home doing very well.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,

And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill the wheat and the shower and the sun and the Father's will.

Babcock

OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD

Thy word, O Lord, forever is the mirror where we see our faults and duties as they are, our likeness unto Thee. Salvation through our faith is found, no works of law we need; Though baptized, yet our hope is vain if we His Word don't heed.

Zion's Harp, Hymn 142

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

In the busy world we live in, we have to continually plan our schedule or we would not be able to get all our errands run and tasks accomplished. We should not forget, though, who really is in control of our lives and whom we should center our lives around, and not just try to fit Him into our schedule.

We were saddened with our Bro. Brad Eland as his father passed away recently. We know that only the Lord and time can help heal the hurt that is there for Bro. Brad, Sis. Joyce and their children, as they miss "Dad" and "Grandpa."

We have again been blessed with visiting ministers this month: Bro. Earl Gerber, Forrest; Bro. Harvey Heiniger, Burlington; Bro. Kent Heimer, Taylor; and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Oakville. We thank these brothers and their families for making the effort to visit us.

We are very thankful for Beth Mogler, who has received peace from her heavenly Father and expresses the desire for baptism into the fold. Her parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler from Lester. How precious converts are to us, as we appreciate their sincerity and obedience! We are truly thankful for Beth and wish her the Lord's grace through her life in her earthly vessel as she fights her battles.

May we all remember Christ's gift to us throughout the coming year, and not just in the past month as we celebrated Easter. When we remember the resurrection, how our joy should increase, and how this should encourage us to look forward to our own heavenly rest.

IOWA, LESTER**Alice Metzger**

We observe Mother's Day in the month of May, and, as we pause in remembrance, we are thankful to God for Christian Mothers who loved and taught and sacrificed so much. Many tears, prayers and hopes went into raising their children to be good citizens and, more importantly, children of God.

God is in our midst, and he is calling souls unto repentance in these troubled times. Those who have answered His call recently are Jim and Lois (Wagenbach) Metzger, Bill and Charlotte (Wagenbach) Metzger, Linda (Metzger) Moser and Eleanor (Metzger) Popkes. We pray that many more will heed His call.

Sis. Rose Moser had the misfortune of falling in her home and suffering a broken leg. She is hospitalized and responding well to treatment. Also hospitalized was Lance Knobloch, son of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie.

Many of our young folks will be graduating from high school soon. We pray they will take the teachings of home and Sunday School with them as they become involved in jobs and advanced schools of learning. They are: Mark and Steve Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy); Bonnie Knobloch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Vera); Sis. Brenda Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie); Phil Knobloch (Gilbert and Sis. Vicki); Shirley Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva); David Knobloch (Orvie and Laretta); Ben Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn); Dick Metzger (Sis. Flora); ReJean Metzger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella); Sheila Roeman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Amelia); Leroy Wulf (Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona); Sis. Beverly Leuthold (Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean); Sis. Lexia Wysong (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet); Dennis Leuthold (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle); Perry Stickling (Bro. Herman and Sis. Evelyn); and Kenny Leuthold (Bro. Art and Sis. Emilie). Bro. Myron Knobloch is graduating from ILCC in horticulture. Best wishes to all of them.

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Jerilyn Wagenbach**

"Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

Hebrews 10:36

"Patience endues her scholars

with content of mind, and evenness of temper, preventing all repining, grumbling and impatient desires, and inordinate affections; disappointments here are no crosses, and all anxious thoughts are disarmed of their sting; in her habitations dwell quietness, submission, and long-suffering, all fierce turbulent inclinations are hereby allayed. The eyes of the patient fixedly wait the inward power of God's providence, and they are thereby mightily enabled towards their salvation and preservation."

Thomas Tryon

So many times, we, as Christians, fail to exhibit the patience and other virtues God's children ought to possess. Just think how much happier we'd be if we were truly able to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit! And indeed we must strive to that end, for we read that "the branch which beareth not fruit shall be hewn down and cast into the fire." So let us all purge ourselves that we might bear that "good and peaceable fruit of righteousness."

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

We surely can say that we have been blessed and our cups overflow. We have had numerous visitors along with three visiting ministers, Bros. Roger Aberle, Bro. Art Bauer, and Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger.

Having had rain and dreary days, we are all looking forward to spring and tilling the soil for planting. Let us never get too busy and wrapped up in our work but keep our soil fertile and tilled so that the Word may bring forth many fruits.

WHAT IS FAITH?

It's preparing the soil for a plant
or a seed,

And knowing before very long
A lovely flower is going to emerge
With a stem that is sturdy and
strong!

It's seeing the dark clouds up in
the sky

And knowing behind them, too,
The golden sunshine is going to
break out

And shine very soon for you!
It's walking each day with a firm
faith in God

And knowing that He will impart
The Joy and the Goodness that

comes from believing
In Him with all of your heart!
By Keith Bennett

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

We are grateful to Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester) and Sam Anliker (Lamont) who labored in the Lord here on Palm Sunday weekend when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Bill Zaugg. We welcome him into the Household of Faith and pray that God will continue to bless him and his wife, Connie, and their family.

We were also granted the privilege of having Holy Communion on that Sunday evening. Each time we partake of bread and drink wine in remembrance of the Lord's dying upon the cross and shedding of His blood, we are renewed in spirit and become more aware of the importance of living for Him and in His example.

May these few words be a tribute to all our mothers:

Whenever there's a Mother's love
A Mother's tender care
A Mother's understanding heart
You'll find God dwelling there.

Robert Laissig

Our world relief work is now ended for this season. We work during the first three months of the year, and it is so rewarding when we can observe so many hands donating time and effort to this worthy cause.

The men who came in the evening were usually kept busy rolling bandages. The women placed most of their emphasis on quilts, some tied and some quilted. There were some young mothers with children who did sewing at home.

We can't help but mention one older sister who came many times to cut quilt blocks at the Fellowship Center; she also cut some in her home. Now she is diligently knitting bandages. They are beautiful, time consuming, and filled with love and goodness. She has made several of them again this year.

We feel that the fellowship with God's people is an added blessing to the fact that we are doing a small part in helping our fellow man.

Bro. Philip Fisher was able to assemble with us again this past

Sunday. He was hospitalized and confined to his home for some time.

Eric and Diana Mogler became parents of a little girl, Mar. 26. They have named her Amy Eliza. Her grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly Mogler. Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman became parents of a little boy, Nicholas Jered, on Apr. 11. His grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman. There is great joy in the God-given blessing of parenthood.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Jane Weiss

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

Mark 16: 2, 3

Early Sunday morning, remembering that first Easter morn, we gathered at the river near our Shioda church to have a sunrise service and breakfast as we meditated on the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. I often wonder how the stone will be rolled away from the entrance of the hearts of these dear souls in Japan. When will they crush that stone and let the Savior into their hearts? At Good Friday services I thought, "It's so simple; we only need faith." Jesus did the hard part, but I, like our kindergarten children, don't like to stop reading at the cruel death on the cross. The children say, "but three days, three days!" and "but He rose again; He's alive again!"; and even though the minister stopped, I couldn't; I read on. . . "He is not here; He has risen!" Luke 24:6. We were all touched at our service at the river by the presence and promise of a rainbow. Also, we felt a very special blessing when the peach trees started blossoming that very same day.

We had our first Sunday School Easter Program at Shioda church on Easter Sunday. It was touching to hear the story from the mouths of babes and it was inspiring for all.

We have had the privilege of teaching 18 children in our kindergarten for at least two years and some almost three, but now they have graduated and will only come back to be taught in English Class once a week by Bro. Willis Ehnle

and in Sunday School by myself. We pray for their souls' salvation and that God may bless them in their futures. Now we have the opportunity every day to teach 14 new little souls Bible stories, songs, prayers, and just in general the love of God. May God bless the teachers who will labor with them in the next two years.

In remembering Mother's Day, we pray for mothers everywhere that they may bring their children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Toward the end of March, some of us from the Shioda church gathered together with those from the Tokyo church to celebrate the 80th birthday of our Bro. Saburo Utsuki. He has been converted for about ten years, and his dear wife was converted and baptized just two years ago. They are such a good example of God's love to all of us. May God give them many more blessings according to His will.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying: The Son of man must be delivered unto the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Luke 24:1-7. Yes, it is really a wonderful thing that all true Christians can surely rise up from death and enter the Kingdom of heaven.

We had real blessed Easter Sunday here in Tokyo, and we brethren realized again that love ties us together. We want to work for the Lord more and more. Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and raised up again to save us. However, how sad so many people who live in this world don't believe it! We should much more think about

them and pray for them and also guide them with our Christian love.

A week before Easter, we had real blessed gathering for our Bro. Saburo Utsuki's 80th birthday. Bro. Saburo is Sisters Yoshiko Sakuta and Hiroko Utsuki's father, and he supported our Christian Church of Japan since beginning, a little bit over 25 years. Leviticus 19:32, which reminds us to honor the white headed and older men and to fear God, was read by Elder Bro. Willis at the table, and several songs were sung. A few of us visited briefly with Bro. Jim Hoerr and John Klotzle at the airport on their return trip from India, etc., on behalf of world relief. They concluded from their findings that each place needs our earnest support in prayer as well as material gifts.

Mrs. Suzue Muroya and her three children who faithfully attended our church every Sunday morning were recently transferred to Nagoya where Mr. Muroya is employed. We enjoyed them so and pray the light kindled in their hearts will not grow dim. The children were very attentive in Bro. Yamazaki's Sunday School Class.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the spirit does bestow.

Zion's Harp 73

On Mar. 30, we had a large number of invited guests from many distant churches. Among them were several ministering brothers, namely: Larry Wenninger (Latty), Gene Metzger (Lester), Max Reimschisel (Wichita), and William Emch (Lamont). Although it was cold with rain and snow, it was a day of many blessings and much fellowship as love flowed from heart to heart. We in our precious faith know no strangers. Bro. Clarence Dietrich was also a guest minister this past month.

On Apr. 5 Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar) united in marriage at Fellowship Hall, Sabetha, Bro. Paul and Sis. Katie Grimm's daughter, Mary, to John Stomm. They plan to make their home in Kansas City, MO.

Bro. Frank Hertzell was hospitalized for back surgery.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey have a new grandson, Jaron Jay, born Apr. 1 to Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn

Kellenberger (Sabetha). Three little sisters say "welcome!"

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you.
You never know when a little word,
Or something you may do,
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light—
The way you live may not matter
at all:

But you never know—it might!
And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the
better

With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to the right—
Of course it may not matter at all;
But, then again—it might!

H. L. Marshall

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

"... and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." (I John 1:3) The weekend of Apr. 12 and 13, the young groups from our Kansas and Missouri churches and from our Lester, IA, church gathered together with us in Fort Scott. Oh! How we enjoyed their presence!

Palm Sunday evening our Sunday School brought forth the precious Easter story to us in poems and songs.

We recently met together to plan for Vacation Bible School which will be June 2 through June 6 starting at 7:15 in the evening. Classes were decided upon and teachers assigned. We invite anyone to attend and join in with the Adult Class.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

And He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers. Malachi 4:6.

As we approach the dates especially set aside for commemorating our parents, let us not forget to come before God in great thanksgiving. Let us appreciate that our parents have been God-fearing and faithful in their child-rearing duties. How great a responsibility lies upon each one as a parent—to teach the way of the Lord. Parents' love gives strength to their sons, guidance to their daughters, and protection to the Home. They are the most important teacher. Because of parents, children see the qualities

that they will look for in others.

Those who were hospitalized last month were Sis. Esther (Sam) Kraft and Bro. Ephriam (Dorothy) Young.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

And when he had given thanks, he brake 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, as often 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: 24-26.

It is especially meaningful to remember our Lord's suffering during the week before Easter. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson served us the Lord's Supper on Saturday evening, Mar. 29; and as we partook of the bread and wine, our eyes overflowed to think of Christ's cruel death which gave a dying world the perfect gift of salvation. Good Friday services were held on Apr. 4, and on Easter Sunday we had the added blessings of two visiting ministers: Bro. Bob Walder, Congerville; and Bro. Joe Aberle, Sabetha.

Brad and Deb Ott, son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma Ott, became the proud parents of a precious baby girl, Robyn Renee, on Mar. 26. Robyn is their first child, and we truly pray for God's blessings on their new addition. Besides Deb and little Robyn, Linndy Frieden, son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie Frieden, was our only other hospital patient this month. His appendix started giving trouble and had to be removed. We are thankful that all went well and that Linndy is up and going again.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion, 218

These could easily be the words of our dear Sis. Hulda Prather who was called home to her Lord quite suddenly on Apr. 9 at the age of 76. After mid-week services, Sis. Hulda went home, readied herself for the night, sat down to knit, and fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. We are

truly saddened; the spiritual light she was, the love she shared, and the joy she gave will be deeply missed by all of us. But for dear Sis. Hulda we feel only joy, knowing that now her earthly trials are over and she is at home with the "One" she lived her life for. Our thoughts and prayers are with her dear family in their sorrow. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and Ministering Bro. Raymond Roth officiated at services held here.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Diel and her family in the passing of her step-father, Joe Scripsick of Kiowa. May the Lord be a comfort in their deep loss of one so dear.

It was our appointed time to hold services at the "Manor" this month, and may all who helped be richly blessed for giving a part of themselves for the aged.

Our dear sister, Martha Roth, celebrated her 95th birthday on Apr. 13. Most of her family was here with her for the occasion; we would also like to say "God Bless you, dear Sis. Martha, and Happy 95th Birthday."

"And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place." (Luke 9:10)

"In order to grow in grace, we must be much alone. It is not in society that the soul grows most vigorously. In one single quiet hour of prayer, it will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the dew falls freshest and the air is purest." Andrew Bonar.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." Prov. 31: 10-12.

Since Mother's Day is this month, we think of our dear mothers who have faithfully served the Lord these many years. They gave of their time and talents to teach us the way of the cross, that we first and above all would surrender to Him who is able to set us free from the bondage of sin. Many have gone on before us and are waiting on eternity's shore. May we strive to remain with the traditions they believed in so that we will meet again in heaven when our work here is done.

Sis. Mathlida Emch was a hospital patient this month but is back

in our assembly again.

Bro. Tom Leman was a visiting minister. He and his family stopped on their way home from Texas. We enjoyed the message and may God bless them on their way.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

We were privileged in being able to partake of Holy Communion on a recent Saturday evening. Bro. Lester Hartter of Bern was here to assist Bro. Sam Huber in this important work. It is good and also a commandment. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:26.

Other ministers visiting us this past month were Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar; Bro. Clarence Dietrich, Silverton; and Bro. Larry Wenninger, Latty.

A son was born to Sis. Marilyn and Bro. Jay Kellenberger on Apr. 1. He has been named Jaron Jay and has three sisters, Tamra, Trisha and Stefany, to welcome him home.

He has not given joy without sorrow. While there is joy in the birth of Jaron Jay, there is also sorrow as Bro. Jay's sister, Cathy Kellenberger, passed away on Apr. 3 after a brief illness of spinal meningitis. She is survived by her parents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger; a son, Christopher; one sister, Janele Davis of Kansas City; and four brothers, Bro. Jay, Artie, and Gale of Sabetha, and Bro. Jim of Bloomington-Normal. Her funeral services were held in Sabetha on April 7 with Bros. Roger Aberle and Sam Huber officiating. Burial was in Sabetha Cemetery.

Sis. Dena Fechter is a new resident of the Apostolic Christian Home of Sabetha.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

As I shopped in one of our local stores, my eyes fell upon the lovely "Ideal Publication for Mothers." In the middle of the book was a picture of a watering can, some flower pots, a gardening glove, a hand tool and a few flowers. At the top of the page was the following quote:

The MOTHER is a gardener—planting the seeds of faith, truth and love that develop into the fairest flowers of character, virtue and

happiness in the lives of her children. J. Harold Gwynne

Isn't this a challenging thought for a mother or grandmother? What a marvelous opportunity God has given us when He has given us a child to love, train and mold. With this thought in mind I would like to dedicate this poem, taken from the same page of "Ideals Publication for Mothers," to all mothers who view their task as insignificant, that they may know that to be given charge of a human life is the greatest privilege that could be given.

The Soul of a Child

Author Unknown

The soul of a child is the loveliest flower

That grows in the garden of God.

Its climb is from weakness to knowledge and power,

To the sky from the clay to the cloud.

To beauty and sweetness it grows under care,

Neglected, 'tis ragged and wild.

'Tis a plant that is tender, but wondrously rare,

The sweet, wistful soul of a child.

Be tender, O gardener, and give it its share

Of moisture, of warmth and of light,

And let it not lack for the painstaking care

To protect it from frost and from blight.

A glad day will come when its bloom shall unfold,

It will seem that an angel has smiled,

Reflecting a beauty and sweetness untold

In the sensitive soul of a child.

From the pen of T. L. Cuyler comes this provoking thought, and I believe it is true because we are taught a valuable lesson in the story of the prodigal son. "Never despair of a child. The one you weep the most for at the mercy seat may fill your heart with the sweetest joys." As it is with our heavenly Father, so it is with a Godly mother—she's always listening for her children to come home.

We have missed Sis. Dora Young in our congregation. She has been staying in Emporia, KS, with her son, Bro. Clarence Young. She is well cared for. A loving neighbor,

a refugee from Laos, comes in to assist her. Bro. Ernest Lambert has been confined to his home and we now welcome him back with us. Also again in our assembly Sunday was Sis. Lydia Bahr who is cared for by the loving hands of her daughters.

We would be so happy to have visiting ministers and invite any of you who care to come to contact us so we can prepare for you. If time does not permit that, just come. The last Sunday in the month is our regular carry-in supper with two hours of Bible study. It is for anyone who would like to come and share.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Penny Erisman

"If spring came but once in a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change."

H. W. Longfellow

In this beautiful spring season, we can almost imagine the wonders of nature giving praise to their creator. This same bursting forth of joy and peace is in the heart of every believer!

Our dear Sis. Marie Kroph has been hospitalized. Our prayers are that she will be renewed in health and strength. Just to see her abiding faith and trust in her Maker is a light to all of us. Also Carl Wheeler (Sis. Kate) is home recuperating after undergoing open heart surgery. She is doing well.

Our thanks to Bro. Joe Waibel and his wife for their visit and ministry.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiel

March 23 was the wedding day of Sis. Corrine Wieland (Bro. Howard) and Bro. Ray Schlatter (Junction). Along with their earthly needs, may they most of all find in each other a spiritual helpmate in walking together with God. Visiting ministers with us on that weekend were: Bros. William Schlatter, Junction; Larry Wenninger, Latty; Eugene Fetter, Toledo; and Don Gudeman, LaCrosse. We also say farewell to Sis. Corrine as she makes a new home in Ohio.

Bro. Paul Waibel (Sis. Esther) has been ill and hospitalized. Tho' the flesh becomes weak, may the

strength of God abide within. We wish him the best in his recovery.

On the Thursday evening before Good Friday, communion was served by our home elders. How necessary it is to keep in remembrance what our Saviour has done for us in shedding His blood as a cleansing for our sins.

"He loves each one of us, as if there were only one of us." Augustine. That precious love, including the love of compassion and forgiveness, has filed the heart of Debbie Wieland who confesses peace with God after recently turning over her life to Him.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Nella Varga

We were blessed as we were reminded of the Easter story, through word and song, at our annual Easter program. We heard that nineteen centuries have come and gone, and He is the worship figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever met, all the kings and rulers that have ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one man, the Son of God.

We thank ministering Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) for being with us on March 23 and sharing God's precious Word.

Mother's Day always reminds me of the wonderful things mothers do and give to their family, especially love. Included here is a poem I have written to all the wonderful mothers whom we appreciate and love very much.

MOTHER'S LOVE

She displays outstanding patience,
Love and understanding too;
During times of stress, pain and
heartbreak,
This I know is true.

She continues to give of herself
To serve, to teach, to care for and
provide,
Even though sometimes she's over-
looked or taken for granted,
She still remains at our side.

There is no greater thing
Than a mother's precious love,
Together with the love of God.
Surely then, blessings will come
from above.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

We were thankful for many precious teachings brought to us by our visiting ministers. With us on Mar. 30 was Bro. Arthur Nohl of Morris; and on Apr. 13, Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend, IA, ministered to us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Our ministering Bro. Ken Lawson from Ft. Lauderdale was with us for Good Friday services. We were reminded of the great suffering our Lord and Saviour went through at Calvary for our salvation. After services, we all enjoyed a lunch and fellowship hour with Bro. Ken, Sis. Sharon and their children. We were grateful to have them in our midst again.

On Mar. 23, each of the Sunday School children brought fruit for a fruit basket. A large group of us delivered the basket to a nearby nursing home, where we sang a number of hymns for the residents.

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Viola Aupperle and Bro. Don Esterling. We pray that God will restore them to good health.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Fairburw, IL) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) labored here, sharing Holy Communion with us and baptizing two souls who have awakened to a new life. Dave Schmidgall (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy) and Henry Messner (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys) brought us the moving testimonies of their repentance.

We extend thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN).

Little Stacy Marie is a new bundle of joy for Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi. Her grandparents are Virgil and Mildred Sauder, and Albert and Myrtle Luthi.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Lili Koehl and Sis. Emma Schmidgall. We wish for them the Lord's strength and blessing.

Sis. Sila Gramm and Dana Sutter thank all who were so thoughtful during their surgeries and recoveries.

Bless Mothers Everywhere
Bless mothers everywhere for
being kind and sweet,
For teaching little hands to pray,

for guiding little feet;
Bless them for their patience and
understanding ways;
Bless them for their laughter and
tender words of praise;
Bless them for the love they give
that's constant warm and true;
Bless them now and always in
everything they do.

Katherine Plumb

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

A Mother Is a Blessing
God must have known there would
be times

We'd need a gentle touch,
A tender understanding heart
To love us very much.

He must have known

We'd need some one

To listen to our cares,
To comfort and remember us
In loving thought and prayers.

So, in His boundless wisdom

He sent us from above

The dearest blessing in the world,
A Mother's Precious Love.

Author Unknown

Ministering Bro. Maurice Frank of Leo, IN, shared God's precious word with us on Sunday, Mar. 30. He expressed his love for us, and even though we had not met in this world before, we were not strangers in the Lord.

Sis. Darlene Schmidt (Darrell), who had been hospitalized, has returned home and is able to assemble with us.

Steven Messner and Linda Treb-benser were united in marriage on Apr. 11. Steven is the son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Bernadine Messner.

Bro. George Messner wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to all who remembered him on his 80th birthday.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

"Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2. Bro. Ervin Knecht now has this responsibility laid on him as our new minister. We wish him and Sis. Sandy much grace and strength as they assume their new duties.

We extend our best wishes to Bruce Frieden and Isa Gordon who were united in marriage on Mar. 14. May life's richest blessings be theirs. Bruce is the son of Bro. Vir-

gil and Sis. Berniece Frieden.

We're happy to report that Sis. Fern Braker is again able to assemble with us. She still must return to the hospital for therapy during the week; we hope her strength continues to improve.

The engagement of Stan Marti and Linda Abbiatti has been announced. We wish them joy and blessings as they plan for the future together. Stan is the son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti.

"Faith is the victory" in this day of perplexity and uncertainty. As children of God, we needn't understand or know the reason "why"—we only need to trust and obey.

Like Martha
reason is troubled
and complains
of many things;
like Mary
faith sits silent
and listens
at the feet of Love.

E. A. Gloeggler

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

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
youthful,
Friends that live from us apart,
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion 91

We were privileged to enjoy such Christian friendships on Mar. 16 with many young folks from Princeville, Bradford, and Eureka, IL, and Pulaski, IA, churches.

"Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53. Mar. 23 was an especially happy day to be in the house of the Lord as we were privileged to take part in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, Elgin, IA, assisted our Elder Bro. Roy in carrying out this special rite.

Having reached another milestone in our Christian life, we go onward and forward, striving to be a better witness for our Lord who did so much for us, almost beyond human comprehension. We were especially happy to have Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie here, since to many of us they are like a part of our

physical family, as well as spiritual, having lived here eighteen years ago.

Other visiting ministers and families this month were: Bros. Tom Lehman, Elgin, IL; Carl Weiss, Washington, IL; Wayne Miller, Fort Scott, KS; Uriel Gehring, Burlington, IA; and Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL, and Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS. Thank you all for giving of yourselves in proclaiming God's message, each in a different way but all of the same mind and theme.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Brenda Huber (Judy and Vernon) to Danny Winget. A September wedding is planned.

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

A little son, Andrew Nathan, was born to Sara and Ralph Hoppe. His maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen of Elgin, IL. A little girl, Tara Elizabeth, is the new daughter of Penny and Tim Sutter, grandparents being Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Martin. Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell are the new grandparents of Amanda Susanne, born to Sue and Daryl Logan of Columbia, MO. Bro. Mike and Sis. LouAnn Knapp have a new grandson, Brandon Jay, born to brother Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp of Eureka. Congratulations to all these new parents, and may God's blessings radiate richly thru these "little sunbeams."

Our precious Sunday School children presented an inspiring and enjoyable program, fully covering the important events of the Easter season, on Mar. 31. We thank each one and the teachers for their efforts, and may our children appreciate their Christian heritage and teachers. Let us all appreciate the privilege and opportunity to exercise our faith in a risen Lord; and appreciate having a church to attend where we can be renewed and reminded of the high price that was paid for our redemption. We are grateful for the many blessings of this life, but most of all for the promise of life eternal.

Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis) was a hospital patient, due to foot surgery. We're always glad when God can lend His healing power and full recovery is attained.

Once again our "Little White

Church on the Levee" has had its annual spring house cleaning. The good fellowship far outweighs the physical effort, and a blessing is always enjoyed by one and all.

It takes a real faith to trace the rainbow through the rain; but it takes the storm clouds to make the rainbow.

Helen S. Rice

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

We rejoice with Bill and Juanita Orth in the birth of a fine baby daughter, Dorothy. The Orths attend church in Union City, and this is their first child. Our hopes and prayers are for much love and happiness in their family, always.

We will sorely miss the presence of Bro. John and Sis. Kathy Clough and their family in the Philadelphia church during the next few weeks. Bro. John has been called to his company headquarters in Arkansas for an assignment. He took his family with him. We wish them God's grace and protection and look forward to their return as soon as possible.

Springtime gratefully came early to this part of the east with beautiful mild weather and plenty of rain. The daffodils, crocus, forsythia, and magnolia trees are already in beautiful full bloom, and their bright rich shades of yellow and pink against the new deep-green growth of grass is an inspiring tribute to God's glory.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Happiness is springtime,
Happiness is flowers,
Happiness is sunshine
Amid warm April showers.

Happiness is Jesus,
Happiness is giving,
Happiness is knowing
That He is ever living.

Author Unknown

Throughout the seasons of the year there are many things of life and nature to create a joy and happiness in our hearts. However, the awakening of life in the springtime of the year is truly a reminder to us of God's love and almighty wisdom and power. After a dormant season we can see the budding of the trees and the green-

ing of the grass. We were vividly reminded of the love of God and His sacrifice for us when our Sunday School children presented a short Easter program on Easter Sunday. As we were reminded by the short verses spoken by one of our children, true happiness is knowing that "He is ever living."

Easter Sunday had another happiness for us when Bro. Floyd Graves was able to be on the pulpit again after many weeks of absence since his surgery in January. We are thankful that a measure of health has been restored and he can again minister to us.

Hospital patients during the past month were Betty Richie, Sis. Pam Herzig, and Bro. Norbert Steiner, who were all patients in Syracuse hospitals for several days undergoing treatment and tests. Also, Bro. John Widrick was hospitalized for a week in Lowville as a medical patient. Bro. Art and Sis. Lucy Wooschlager remain patients at this writing. Our continuing prayers are for each of those who are hospitalized or are at home and cannot go in and out and enjoy the fellowship from week to week.

Clarence Farney has been called from this life at the age of 79. Clarence has not been able to attend services for many years, having been a patient at the Bender Adult Home and the Lewis County Extended Care Facility for several years. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Apr. 18, by Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

A group from the Naumburg and Croghan churches gathered on Apr. 8 for an evening of cheer and song at the home of Sis. Clara Merz of Castorland for her birthday.

The children spoke Sunday noon, Apr. 6, of the blessed Savior's rising triumphantly from the grave. How precious it was to hear them tell the story.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb Beyer now have a little girl. Her name is Christina Marie.

Those who were in the hospital and able to be home again are Sis. Corine Virkler, Maude Pelton, and Norman Schulz. Andrew Virkler is in the Lowville Hospital.

OHIO, AKRON

Lynell Palitto

Ted Luginbuhl, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose, had the misfortune of breaking his arm. Ann and Bro. Stanley Francis have spent time in the hospital recently. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

On Apr. 6, it was announced that Bro. Paul Gasser and Sis. Joyce Huber from the Fairbury, IL, congregation were to be married. May our heavenly Father guide them as they plan their life together.

The following thought was submitted to me by a sister from our congregation. Only one life, will soon be passed. Only the life for Christ will last.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Lester Manz

March 23 was the wedding day of Bro. Ray Schlatter (Sis. Esther) and Sis. Corrine Wieland (Bro. Howard) in Bay City. We wish them the Lord's guidance as hand in hand they walk this path of life together. They plan to make Latty their church home.

Sis. Frieda Manz is out of the hospital and has gone to the Van Wert Manor Nursing Home, Van Wert, OH 45891.

Perhaps many of us could benefit by observing the faith of a child. A couple of years ago one of my brothers became unconscious as the result of a traffic accident. All of us were worried about what his fate would be. Our young nephew knelt beside his bed and prayed. Then he came out and told his mother that his uncle would be okay because he had prayed for him. Isn't that true faith, just taking our cares to God in prayer and then knowing God will take care of us?

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Weninger - Susie Sinn

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ." (Psalm 127:3).

Amber Rochelle has brought joy into the home of Bro. Bill and Sis. LouAnn Rager. Also welcoming her are sisters Lisa, Krista, Kara, and Andrea, and grandparents, Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager, and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bluffton).

First time parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Dixie Plummer, as they welcome Clinton Lee into their home. The grandparents are Bro.

Rex and Sis. Ann Plummer, and Bro. Louis and Sis. Mildred Stoller. We pray that God will give these parents the needed wisdom from on high to raise these little ones to love and serve Him.

On March 7, Todd Stoller (Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene) and Pam Gerber (Sis. Mary Ellen) of Rittman were united in marriage. We pray that God will be the unseen Guest in their home.

We also welcome into our fellowship, newlyweds, Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter. Bro. Ray is the son of Sis. Esther (Junction) and Sis. Corrine is the daughter of Bro. Howard Wieland (Bay City). We pray that the Lord will richly bless their lives together.

Ashley Weninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice) was hospitalized recently for a tonsillectomy. Also hospitalized are Sis. Leah Stoller and Bro. Don Weninger. May God's healing hand rest on these loved ones.

On Easter Sunday, it was announced that convert Dennis Gordon has peace with his Lord and is awaiting baptism. We are thankful that another soul has also seen the value of repentance. Don Stoller (Gail), son of Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby, has answered the Lord's call. We wish him an abundance of God's grace and nearness in his new walk of life.

During our midweek service, Bro. Ben Manz (Junction) ministered to us. We pray that the Lord will bless him for his efforts.

Spring has again arrived, for which we are thankful, and we welcome home our loved ones who spend their winters in the south.

TAKE THE TIME

'Twas a promising day before her;
She arose with the morning light.
And the Spirit so kind, spoke to
her in her mind,
"Talk to God while your mind is
still bright."

"Well at some time today I want
to,
But right now I just can't sit still.
I must set my house straight—and
the meals can't be late;
When this afternoon comes, then
I will."

So she tackled the work before
her—
And the hours did fly by so fast

That the afternoon went—and she
really had meant,
But so busy was she with her
tasks.

Many loved ones and friends were
weary—

Fervent prayer would make bright
their way.

But she worked until night fully
chased away light,
And the Spirit again came her way.

Then humbled and sorry she
listened—

Before going to sleep she knelt,
Tried in prayer God to call, but
her mind was too dull,
So exhausted and weary she felt.

In the morning she knelt there to
pray—

And she poured out her heart and
soul.

Oh, how God blessed her day—and
her friends smiled her way;
They had courage to press for the
goal.

So, dear friend, midst the rush and
turmoil,

As you strive in the heav'nward
climb—

Don't let one day pass, without
prayer in your grasp;
For communion with God—take
the time!

Leah Horst

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS
WOMAN? FOR HER PRICE IS
FAR ABOVE RUBIES. Prov.
31:10.

MOTHER'S WORK

Nobody knows of the work it
makes,
To keep the home together;
Nobody knows of the steps it takes,
Nobody knows . . . but Mother.

Nobody listens to childish woes,
Which kisses only smother;
Nobody's pained by the naughty
blows,
Nobody . . . only Mother.

Nobody knows of the tears that
start,
The grief she'd gladly smother;
Nobody knows of the breaking
heart,
Nobody . . . only Mother.

Nobody clings to the wayward
child,
Though scorned by every other,
Leads it so gently from pathways
wild,
Nobody can . . . but Mother.

Nobody knows of the hourly
prayer,
For him, our erring brother.
Pride of her heart, once so pure
and fair,
Nobody . . . only Mother.

Nobody kneels at the throne above
To thank the Heavenly Father
For the sweetest gift . . . a moth-
er's love,
Nobody can . . . but Mother.

F Cassel

Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard are
the happy parents of another lit-
tle daughter, whom they named
Sara Nicole, born Mar. 26.

Our Sunday School presented its
annual Easter Program on Mar.
30. It was a wonderful evening as
we went in thought to Calvary.
How the Lord must love these pre-
cious little souls.

Sis. Katie Sauder (Bro. Aaron)
had surgery at the age of 90. We
are so thankful and pleased to re-
port that she is home again and is
able to be up and around.

Sis. Katie Deturk also spent a
few days in the hospital, but is
now able to come to church again.
Baby Matthew Dotterer, son of
Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty, was
also hospitalized but is better
again.

Because of an error in printing
in the March Silver Lining, we'd
like to again report that our three
dear friends have found peace and
are waiting to give their testimony
of what the Lord has done for
them and are awaiting baptism.
They are: Susan Foss, Mark Mas-
ters and Jeannine Masters. Susan
and Jeannine are the daughters of
Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara (Sabo)
Zimmers. We are so thankful that
the Lord is still calling souls.

Freda Budd, age 71, died Mar.
29, 1980. Although it has been a
number of years since she attend-
ed our church, some of us still re-
member her and the pleasant smile
she always had. She is survived
by one daughter, Karen Krich-
baum.

Does Jesus care when I've said
good-by

To the dearest on earth to me . . .
Oh, yes, He cares
I know He cares;
His heart is touched with my grief;
Though the days be weary,
The long nights dreary,
I know my Saviour cares.

Gospel Hymns

OHIO, RITTMAN Florence Hartzler

"My latest sun is sinking fast,
my race is nearly run; my strong-
est trials now are past, my triumph
is begun . . ." (Gospel Hymns, No.
97.) This beautiful hymn was
sung at the grave-side of our dear
Bro. Ben Bauman, as his earthly
trials are past and he is now at
rest, asleep in Jesus. Our sympathy
is extended to the family: his wife,
Sis. Jennie; his sons, Richard, Ken-
neth, Marion, and Harold; his
daughter, Sis. Lois (Jim) Beres of
Phoenix; and his sister, Sis.
Martha Beery. "God is our re-
fuge and strength, a very present
help in trouble . . ." Psalm 46:1.

Our visiting ministers in the
past month were Bro. John Steiner,
Oakville, and Bro. Wallace Ram-
ser, Mansfield. We received many
blessings from their visit on Good
Friday and Easter Sunday. May
the Lord bless them for their deeds
of love, which were brought to
us through the Word of God.
"Great is the Lord, and greatly to
be praised; and his greatness is
unsearchable." Psalm 145:3.

We have three new babies born
to first-time parents. Bro. Stan
and Sis. Margaret Winkler have a
new son, Ryan Stanley. Ryan's
grandparents are Bro. Karl and
Sis. Ruth Beery, and Bro. Alvin
and Sis. Estella Winkler. Amber
Dawn is the name of the little
girl born to Bro. Max and Sis.
Diane Miller; and her grandparents
are Richard and Sis. Melba Miller,
and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita
Koehl, Forrest. Another little girl
was born, this one to Bro. John
and Sis. Janice Rufener. Little
Jenny Lynn's grandparents are
Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Green-
bank. Akron. and Bro. Chester and
Sis. Roma Rurener. We pray that
the Lord will bless these dear ones
with their blessing from above.

We are so happy to hear of the
engagement of a former Rittman-
ite, Bro. Paul Gasser of the Akron
church. God has chosen for him a
dear helpmate from the Fairbury
church, Sis. Joyce Huber. We

pray that the Lord will bless them as they plan their future together.

Jeffrey Gasser and Debra Koehl have recently become engaged. Deb's parents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl, Forrest, and Jeff's parents are the late Bro. Robert and late Sis. Elda Gasser.

Debra Maibach and Daniel Long chose Apr. 12 for their wedding day. Deb's folks are Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach, and the Robert Longs are Dan's folks.

Kevin Hanzie and Jeannette Wiles were married on April 12. The parents are Larry and Janet Hanzie, and the Roger Wiles of Creston.

Roger and Evelyn Hessidence attended the wedding of their daughter Rita and Robert Hornlein at Darien, Conn. Following their wedding trip, the newlyweds will live in Stamford, Conn.

"Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast . . ." Psalm 57:1. Those who must have hospital care need a refuge and Sis. Marjorie Boltz and Harold Beery are two who had that need. We are thankful for the Lord's healing power, as they are now at home.

God's help is always sure,
His methods seldom guessed;
Delay will make our pleasure pure,
Surprise will give it zest.
His wisdom is sublime,
His heart profoundly kind;
God never is before His time,
And never is behind.

Author Unknown

OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

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

May God bless Bro. Joe Ramser from Rittman for serving us communion and reading the memorandum to us. Being so close to the time of Christ's suffering and death made the experience even more meaningful.

June 29 is the date set for the yearly services in West Virginia.

Song services start at 10:30 and afternoon services at 1:00. There will be church at 7:30 in the evening on Saturday, June 28, at Sardis. We look forward to a blessed weekend.

Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke, IL, spent a Sunday with us in April. May God bless him for ministering to us.

As I look about at God's beauty in this blessed warm season, this thought comes to mind:

My God is higher than the mountains,
He is higher than the tallest trees;
My God is high above the heavens,
But He is living here with me.

Author Unknown

Let us never fail to thank God for His ever-present Spirit.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla

Youth fades, love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all.

N. P. Willis

After a long period of illness, Sis. Elsie Fetter was called to her eternal rest. This was on Easter Sunday. Surviving are six sisters and seven brothers. The funeral services were held on April 9. Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf (Akron) was with us for this solemn occasion.

We were blessed to have as our visiting minister, Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction) on Sunday, April 6. We thank him for being with us.

Our Sunday School Easter Program was held on Palm Sunday. It was with verse, reading, and song that the children told us of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

There is no greater love shown to mankind than that of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

OREGON, PORTLAND Connie Steffen

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be thine" were some of the beautiful words we sang from the Zion's Harps as we welcomed our dear Sis. Cynthia Miller into the fold. Cynthia, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller, brought a humble testimony of love and faith before the congregation; and we all wish her much grace as she lives for

our Lord. The same is wished for all who turn to the Lord in true repentance. It took many of us back a good number of years, and some of us back a few years, to the time when we vowed at the waters of baptism to be faithful to our God until the end of our pilgrimage.

Elder Bros. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) were here for this blessed time. They also served Holy Communion to the Oregon congregations. We enjoyed the privilege of having the Silverton brethren join us for these blessed hours. One of the elder brothers mentioned that we do not remember all the Lord has done for us, and for myself this is so very true. Would we ever complain if we did? He mentioned a hymn that reminds us of where we're going and where we might have been.

Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We wish to thank them and their families for visiting and ministering to us.

OREGON, SILVERTON Andy Winkler Mary Jane Winkler

Once again we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Each time we have communion, it truly causes us to review our lives and take inventory. We are often reminded of our shortcomings and how wonderful it would be if we could be perfect as Christ was. We were truly blessed to have three shepherds with us, Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), and Bro. Leo Moser (Lester IA), to remind us of what Christ has done for us. May the Lord richly bless and reward them for their efforts.

We were also privileged to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and his family visit us. We want to thank Bro. Bill for teaching us the wonderful truths of the Bible and pray God will bless him for his efforts.

It seems that we get so wrapped up with everyday living that we don't take enough time to read the Bible and do those things which we should. How wonderful it is to be able to come to God's house and be with His children so that we

might be drawn closer to Him and closer to one another.

As Mother's Day is upon us again, we are reminded of our mothers and all they have done for us. The most important gift our mothers can give us is to teach us of Christ and His love for us. As a mother, I am reminded again of the duty I have to help rear our children in our most precious faith. May we as mothers all strive to teach our children the most precious truths so they too can learn of Christ and His love.

Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) wishes to thank all for their prayers, cards, and helps while she was in the hospital and convalescing at home.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Margery Koehl

On March 23, Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman of Elgin, IL, held a worship service in San Antonio for the friends there at the Bud Sauder home. Bro. Phillip and Sis. Bertha Moser, and Bro. George and Sis. Hazel Kuntz spent the weekend there to assist with the singing. Anyone in San Antonio who wishes to know if services will be held can contact the Sauders at 696-2734.

We are happy to report that Bro. Dave Gerber's emergency trip to the Laredo hospital on Apr. 2, was of short duration, and he was able to return home after a few days.

On April 6, Easter Sunday, we were happy to have as guests Hedy and Roger Abt, and their son Dominick of Dorngasse, Switzerland, who at present works in Houston, TX. Jay and Bonnie Eigil and their children, Matt and Emily, of Deerfield, IL, arrived in time to enjoy our Sunday evening "pot luck." Bonnie is the granddaughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Minnie Kellenberger.

Anne Madeen of Elgin spent a few days with her parents, Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger. On April 13 our guest ministers were Bro. Corbin (Sis. Virginia) Bahler of Rockville, CT. and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Joan) Stieglitz of Leo, IN. Vacationing with the Stieglitz's were Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand of Oakville, IA. We enjoyed their visit.

Most of our winter residents have left now. Our church attendance is small but we still feel the

Lord's blessing and welcome visitors.

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

The annual all day meeting will be held at the country church on Sunday, June 29. The program for the day will be carried out as in former years with lunch served as usual. All are invited to come and spend the day on the West Virginia hills.

Helen Milton Berger Pegg passed away on Apr. 4 following a lengthy illness. She was the foster daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Berger and is survived by her husband, one son, two daughters, and many close relatives. Services were held on April 7. While visiting recently with Della Witschey, she seemed quite well and was doing what she liked to do best—quilting. She was always happy to have visitors. Mrs. C. O. Wade and Mrs. Jerry Wade spent a week in Daytona Beach, FL, where they attended the wedding of their grandson and nephew, Jack Wade, on April 16.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams have returned to their home in Akron, OH, after spending the winter months in Bradenton, FL. While there, they were in a car accident which injured Mrs. Williams and "totaled" their car. Mr. Williams did not suffer any injuries. Fortunately, their son and his wife were also in Florida, so they all came home together.

Mrs. C. O. Wade, Mrs. Elza Ritz and Mrs. Minnie Weltz attended services at the Sardis church on Mar. 30.

We are glad to report that the strike at the local hospital came to an end the last of March, marking eight months of stress and strain on the entire community. Little or nothing was gained by those involved.

SILVER THREADS

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER

A patriot whom the world may not know,
Who never paraded in splendor or show,
Who didn't aspire to worldly fame,
But left behind an honored name;
Who always wore a kindly smile,
And made life for others seem worthwhile;

Who was always ready to dare
and do
The things that were honest, kind
and true;
Who smoothed the sorrows and
eased the pain
When childish struggles seemed
in vain;
Who gave us all her time and care
And guided our footsteps in silent
prayer
That all the paths that we had trod
Would some where lead us on to
God.
We'll cherish her memory, 'til the
end of time,
A patriot, Mother—yours—and
mine.

Mrs. Rose Darrough

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Let me not be too ready to guide
my children's stumbling feet, but
allow me to be ever near to bind
their bruises.

Give me a sense of humor that
I may laugh with them but never
at them.

Make me a wise mother, O Lord.
Keep me calm and give me patience
to bear the small, irritating things
in the daily routine of life.

Give me tolerance and understanding
to bridge the gulf between
my generation and that of my children.

Let me refrain from preaching
with words. Keep me from forcing
their confidences, but give me a
sympathetic ear when my children
come to me.

Help me to teach them that life
must not be filled with compromises,
but must be replete with
victories.

Make me humble.

Keep my children close to me, O
Lord, though miles may separate
us.

And let thy light so shine upon
me that they, too, will perceive Thy
glory. Amen.

—Ruth Simrall Mackoy

TRUE BEAUTY

Ed. note: This poem was submitted by Charles Novotny and was translated by Bro. Henry Beer. Bro. Henry had the following comment: The German poem, of which this is a translation, was written in high German. The translation was not easily done. Only with God's inspiration, and talent was I able to accomplish the translation. He, alone, shall be praised in helping me present it to our English speaking brethren.

How blest the eyes which smile
with joy unenvied
When others prosper and with good
are blest;

Whose eyes with pitying tears are
moistened
When they see loved ones burdened
and distressed.

Sweet are the lips that speak not
words of vengeance,
Which sow not discord, nor speak
in words unkind;
Lips which speak not of another's
weakness
Which bless both friends and
enemies combined.

Sweet are the cheeks which have
no cause for blushing
When things unholy they may hear
or see;
And what would mar the innocence
of virtue
And to the soul might truly
harmful be.

Whose countenance in spite of
cares and sorrows
Is yet unmarred by human toil and
tears,
Where the inner peace of Jesus
nearness
Reflected in their heart and life
appears.

Sweet is the voice that yields not
to impatience,
Which checks the hasty word and
deed—
A voice that speaks with love and
consolation
And seeks to help whoever is in
need.

How blest the hands that practice
love
In giving unto all men, and to the
brotherhood,
Support the weak and bear
another's burdens
Whose hands delight in ever doing
good.

Sweet are the feet which hasten
to be helpful,
Who help sustain a loved one in his
fall,
To share good tidings to a soul
despairing,
To cheer them with a loving earnest
call.

Where is a youth who does not
covet or desire
This true beauty for his life and
soul?

For God has destined we should be
partakers
Of all good gifts to cleanse and
make us whole.

Oh, youthful heart, if you would
here be pleasing,
Seek first your Saviour's beauty
and His grace;
Transformed like Him by faith to
His dear likeness
His humble beauty ye shall then
embrace.

This heritage of beauty never
faileth,
In storms of life it fadeth away,
And there complete in heaven it
attaineth,
It's fullest beauty in eternal day.

CALVARY

I believe that there will never be
A miracle like Calvary
Where Jesus hung upon the tree
And shed His blood for you and me.

But in the grave He did not stay.
He rose again on the third day
And gives a hope to you and me
To live with Him eternally.

And as He sits at the right hand,
He intercedes for feeble man.
He pleads with God on our behalf
To spare His children from His
wrath.

The Holy Spirit He did send
To lead the faithful to the end,
Where forever we will be
Face to face our Lord to see.
Tim A. Hohulin

The sheep are simple creatures,
it is true, but they are said to be
above other animals in their ability
to LOVE, TRUST, and OBEY. Can
we as Christians also say we have
greater abilities in these areas? We
must pray for grace.

A clock on the piano had a pendulum that swung to and fro. But none of the hymns I was playing had the same rhythm. I felt as though I was fighting against a strong force. I tried not to look at it. Finally I turned its face to the wall. Now I could keep in time more freely, more consistently, more joyfully. Don't we feel the same force from the rhythm of the world? It tries to interfere with God's tempo for us, to speed us up or slow us

down. We must turn away from all such interference.

Submitted by Kathy Schlatter

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

Kansas, Kiowa,
(Withheld from March, 1980 issue)

Thy Will Be Done

If all the sunsets would be fused
In one celestian 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.
Elberta Leisure

The Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

according to the will of God, that would be a grave mistake. We cannot.

When we were living in sin and not in the fold, we were slaves to sin, were we not? But when we called on the Lord, when we saw our lost condition and repented, when we came to Him with a broken and a contrite heart and spirit, the Lord lifted us up! He helped us out of the bondage that we were in; He helped us out of the mire; He lifted us up onto the Solid Rock and led us on the pathway which leads to heaven.

But if we, as this Saul whom God had lifted up, begin to walk in our own will and way and not with the help of the Lord, we will utterly fail.

"But now," Paul said, "ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." Col. 3:8,9. These are things with which Satan will try to ensnare us. He will try to lead us back into these things. But let each one of us put up a road block or a watch so that when these temptations come (we will know

it; the Spirit will tell us) we will not do wrong.

If we do not yield, then we have gained the victory, have we not? But if we yield, we will have gone backward a step and will have lost something that we had before.

The Word continues, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Col. 3:10,11. So the gift of God and the grace of Jesus Christ is for us, regardless of whom we are. God is no respecter of persons.

If there are friends here today, I wonder sometimes if Satan doesn't tell you that you are just "too far gone;" that you can't repent; you are "too far gone." Well, this is untrue. There is no truth to this at all. When the Lord Jesus was here upon earth, He did not show any respect, or disrespect, to a great sinner. He loved all the same whether they were great or small sinners. He did not keep anyone out for what he had done before. He loved everyone. So it is today. The Lord loves every one regardless of what his past life has been. We can all repent; everyone can repent for his past life.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Col. 3:12, 13.

Beloved, these are the things we should seek to develop in ourselves: mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, and forgiveness. If we do this willingly and gladly, this will be a step forward in our lives, a step closer to the kingdom of heaven, and a step further in our spiritual walk of life. Life will then be easier and better for us when we are obedient children.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col. 3:15. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." Just think of it, beloved; the peace of God. There is a great difference

between having peace and not having peace.

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." If we have peace with God and are obedient children, we are encouraged to go onward and forward, are we not? We feel His blessed nearness. We feel His mercy and His love toward us.

It would be sad if we would not have the peace of God within us. Yes, we all make mistakes. Many times we feel that we have failed here or there. That doesn't necessarily mean that the peace of God has left us. Certainly we feel bad about it. Sometimes it brings us closer to God when we confess our weakness, as long as it is not a sin unto death. Maybe we feel a little bit separated from God. But God wants us to realize, beloved, that we should be careful, more careful and more prayerful, so that we can overcome these things.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Col. 3:16. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." As we go through life, our desire is to let the Word of God dwell within our hearts. In order to do this, we often refer to the Word. We read the Word and we carry it within our hearts. We think of it sometimes when we are going about our daily work. There are times when we can work and still be able to dwell upon the Word of God within our hearts. We are to be so filled with peace and the love of God that we can live in this world of sin and unrighteousness and still be obedient to the Lord. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . ."

Also, we should sing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with grace in our hearts to the Lord." I am sure that many of you do this. It is wholesome and it is good. We can sing hymns (maybe we can't sing so well, but we can hum a tune and think of the words in our hearts). Perhaps, if we weren't doing this, we would do something else which wouldn't be good. This all improves our spiritual life.

In the closing verses of the chapter we find special admonishments to wives, husbands, children, and servants. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands,

as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." Col. 3:19, 20, 21, 22.

Whatever our position in life may be, we should be obedient to the Word of God. We can then have a clear conscience and have the peace of God within our hearts so that we can have the hope of eternal life.

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Col. 3:24. All that we have been reminded of today, this afternoon, we do for the Lord; not for ourselves, but for the Lord. By being obedient in a good spiritual life, we become more grounded on the solid rock of faith. We should build firmly so that when the tempter comes, he will not be able to move us or undermine our faith. If a house or other type of building is set upon a good foundation, it will take a lot of beating before it is moved. We are no different. If our spiritual life is built upon the Foundation which is Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock, we can stand and resist when the tempter comes.

Yes, we have many trials and temptations. We are not exempt from them, by no means. Yet, as we stand firmly upon the foundation of faith, upon the Solid Rock which is Jesus Christ, we can stand and we can resist.

The last verse says: "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." Col. 3:25. So he who does wrong shall receive for that wrong. But, beloved, if we are watchful and careful and prayerful, the Lord will not leave or forsake us.

Let us put our trust in the Author and Finisher of our faith, which is Jesus Christ. He gave His life for a ransom for us so that our sins could be blotted out, and we could be renewed and regenerated and become children of God. Then we shall go safely and we shall not suffer shipwreck, but we shall stand firmly until the Lord comes to gather in His own.

Sermon By BRO. EARL BANWART of West Bend, IA

Text: I Sam. 28 and Col. 3

Whenever we read in the Scriptures, the Word of God speaks to our hearts, does it not? God is a God of love and one whom we can call "our Father in heaven." He looks down upon us and He knows all things. He knows what we need physically and He knows what we need spiritually.

It is the same, beloved, for us with our children. When they are growing up, they need instruction. They need to be directed to that which is good and right, forsaking things which are evil. They need to be warned against that which is not right.

God does that for us, beloved brothers and sisters. He guides and warns us so that we can have the garments of a renewed soul within us, and so that we can stand firmly upon the foundation of faith. God directed "men of old" to write, and the Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossian church of the dangers which confronted them and which still confront us today.

Beloved, this Word is very important and necessary. I do not know how often this particular chapter has been read from this pulpit. Maybe it was read last Sunday. I don't know. But this is where the Word opened, and we trust that God will direct us so that it can be good and wholesome for us.

We are going through this valley, this life, seeking a home in heaven, are we not? But until we reach the home that God has provided, our spiritual garments should be kept white and pure and undefiled. We should be careful not to defile our spiritual garments.

As the Apostle Paul writes, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Col. 3:1. We look to the One above as our Shepherd and Guide, seeking His direction so that we can walk according to His wish and will.

I do not know where we could find more strength than in the house of worship, reading and being taught from the Word of God. Yes, we have the Word at home and we often resort to it. That is something we should always do each day. We should go to the Word, as we sing in a hymn, "If it is only for a moment, for a short time . . ." It gives us strength for the day.

But on this Lord's day, which has been set aside, we can have fellowship together. We can sit in a "heavenly" place. We can hear the Word spoken to all of our hearts, and we are strengthened in our faith. We are taught of the dangers which surround and confront the believer in Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossian church: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2. When we examine our own hearts, we can look back and see how easy it was for us to set our affection on something in this life, on something which really meant a lot to us. (Maybe we still overcherish something. But what does the Word tell us? It says, "Set your affection on things above." Col. 3:2.

We should seek, beloved brothers and sisters, the things pertaining to our salvation, to our hope of entering into the kingdom above. God did not place us here upon earth to see how much wealth we could attain. Yet, He has given material things to us which are necessary (some have more and some have less).

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col. 3:3,4. Here we are reminded of the precious promise to be with Him in His glory. When the Lord Jesus comes to gather in His own, if our spir-

itual garments are cleansed, we shall be ready to meet Him.

But, as we journey through this life, we encounter many dangers. Satan is always at hand, trying to destroy our faith and hope. We should be careful, aware of our own weaknesses and shortcomings. We will then look to the Lord, the One above, Who will help us. We will then seek the way of holy living and put aside the way of unrighteousness.

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; . . . For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Col. 3:5, 6. If we become disobedient, the wrath of God will fall upon us and we will lose the gift that God has promised us.

We read in the forereading of King Saul, whom God had chosen to be king. At first he was a God-fearing man, but then he began to forsake God. Then God forsook him. The enemy of his land came and fought with the children of Israel, and they were overcome in battle because God was not with them.

Saul feared. He trembled when he saw the host of Philistines gathered before the battle. His heart began to tremble and almost fail. What was he going to do? He was in danger. He was in trouble. He prayed to God but God did not answer him. Why? Because he had disobeyed the Lord. This points out to us that when a soul forsakes God, God will not be with him. These words have been penned and kept so that we will realize this and understand how necessary it is for each one of us to stay close to our Lord. We should call upon Him for our help and for our strength.

If the time would come when we would feel that we could walk upon the pathway of life by ourselves and do it fully and wholly

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