

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 31

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MOTHER

Proverbs 31:10-31

- 10—Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.
- 11—The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- 12—She will do him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
- 13—She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- 14—She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- 15—She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- 16—She considereth a field, and buyeth it, with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- 17—She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- 18—She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her lamp goeth not out by night.
- 19—She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- 20—She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- 21—She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- 22—She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
- 23—Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- 24—She maketh fine linen, and selleth it, and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- 25—Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- 26—She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- 27—She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- 28—HER CHILDREN ARISE UP, AND CALL HER BLESSED; HER HUSBAND ALSO, AND HE PRAISETH HER.
- 29—Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
- 30—Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.
- 31—Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

FROM YOUR MOTHER WHO LOVES YOU

Submitted by the late Elder Bro. Will Stettner, Elgin, IL for THE SILVER LINING, March 1960

June 24, 1894

My dear son:

Your letter was received yesterday, and I was very much pleased to learn how you are feeling at heart. I rejoice from all my heart that you have decided to repent and seek the dear Saviour because He has done so much good for you. Yes, He also shed His holy blood for you and your sins at the cross, and that out of pure love and mercy for all mankind. For we would all have had to be lost in all eternity, if our loving Saviour had not come into this world to pay for our sins with His precious blood. Therefore, we should love our Saviour above all, from all our heart and all our soul, and follow Him in obedience all the days of our life. O, my dear son, there is a difference between those who repent only out of fear of punishment and damnation and do not have the love for Jesus; such do not have the strength to endure on the straight and narrow path of life. The yoke of Christ becomes too heavy for them, and becomes a burden to them, and the way becomes too narrow, because they lack the love for the Saviour.

Dear son, it is of great importance that you fully comprehend the great love of God and our dear Saviour, and out of love give your heart to Him. Call unto Him earnestly that He may be merciful to you and save and rescue you from your lost estate. Alone, the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, can cleanse us from our sins. The loving Saviour is, today, yet sitting upon the mercy seat and is calling through the gospel to all mankind, Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden, I will quicken you. Take my yoke and learn from me. For I am meek and lowly at heart. I will give you rest for your soul.

Therefore, do not let the evil enemy hold you back, even if you are still young; just become really childlike, true and upright, and pray to the dear Lord that He may enlighten your heart and show you everything where you have done wrong, so that you may be able

to bring real fruits of repentance. Should the enemy come to you and tell you that you did not commit this or that sin, still you will find in your heart the sinful root upon which the curse of God was pronounced. But, through real repentance and conversion, we can find pardon and forgiveness in the blood of Christ.

O, my dear son, learn clearly how the sinful lust of the flesh, even in early youth, leads to that which is evil, and no one need feel ashamed to confess before God and man, for this is an evil root from which man must be thoroughly cleansed and purified.

Even before the flood, God did say, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for he also is flesh and fleshly-minded." There-

fore God destroyed them through the flood.

Now my dear son, that you ask me for forgiveness pleases me from all my heart, and I gladly forgive you for everything from all my heart, and will also pray to Jesus for you, that He may be gracious to you, and show His mercy, so that you may become a lamb of Jesus Christ, and also praise your Redeemer with all children of God.

So may the dear Lord give His blessing to these words which I have written unto you, that they may bear good fruit.

Greetings to you from all my heart. I wish for you the grace and help from God to break through from death unto LIFE.

From your mother who loves you.

LIFE

Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, Iowa

What is life? Millions have lived it and millions have left it. Millions have loved it and millions have loathed it. Multitudes have accepted it, not perceiving its divine intent and purpose. What is this seemingly elusive thing called life whereby mankind appears on life's scene for a season, and then, as a vapour, vanisheth? Only one source has the answer, and that is the Book of Life authored by Him who is from forever to forever, without beginning and without end, our eternal God. Oh, that the sons of men would search out His divine wisdom as contained in His Holy Word.

There are certain aspects of life, as viewed by mortal man, that "we see now through a glass darkly, but then face to face." This eternal vision (face to face) is reserved for the redeemed of the Lord in the time to come, world without end.

As we review the lives of men as records in the pages of Holy Writ, we find their departure from this life listed in statements such as, "He slept with his fathers;

he died in a good old age; he died, being full of years; he died and was buried; he died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom," and "he fell asleep". All these truths indicate a passing from life, as we know and observe it, to another state of living.

An old testament writer posed the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" He was instantaneously inspired to answer his own question, "But I will await my appointed time, til my change come." He believed in a "change" in the world to come, the revelation of God to those who love Him, and it is a living hope, not a dying cause. This, then is the answer to life, a living hope, "the gift of God, eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This mortal life has a beginning and an ending. Every man who has drawn breath, has lived and as his life continues, and God permits, he goes through various phases of "being" and of change. A babe, a child, a young man, a mature man, a middle aged man,

an old man, and at one of these phases, he leaves this life's scene, never again to return. His earthly life has become history in the pages of time. However, while he draws breath, God gives him the opportunity to "Choose this day whom ye will serve." Why this glorious opportunity? That man might know what life is. Our Saviour defines it very specifically, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." This is life, everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. How does mankind attain unto these infinite promises? The word of life gives us directives that include, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and be converted that your sins might be blotted out; repent and be baptized, every one of you." After having become a new creature in Christ Jesus, because He died for us, we are told to "Pray without ceasing, quench not the spirit, rejoice evermore, forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," and "look to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." This is the abundant life promised by Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

For that soul then, that abides in Christ, "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle

were dissolved, we have a building of God, an home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." This is our hope in glory. It must supercede every earthly ambition and desire that we might bring pleasure to Him who has created us. Happy is that man whose God is the Lord—he has found LIFE.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

Parents, keep your hopes alive! Those seeds of truth do sink in. Yes, your children do listen to what is being said.

Two of my boys utterly surprised and pleased me at the same time during this past Sunday afternoon service. One person selected the appropriate Easter song, At the Cross, out of the Gospel Hymns and Jay (12 yrs. old) turned to me and said, "That is the one we sang for the Easter program." Later, the minister was preaching on Romans 8:31. As he said the words, "If God be for us, who can be against us?", Gary Lee (10 yrs. old) caught my attention and said, "That was one of our family memory verses."

They say children also catch everything unspoken as well. If that is true, we all have improving to do on our attitudes.

There are three things that are most important to God: that which gives Him honorable recognition, that which saves lost souls, and that which edifies His people.

Isn't it a struggle to place these objectives as the most important in our lives? However, it gives us a deep satisfaction when we do.

I'm so happy that our fellowship has some projects to give people the opportunity to involve themselves in fulfilling these objectives. Many come to help us at the Home and thoroughly enjoy their experience. In fact, every year we are seeing more and more people volunteer. This summer, an increasing number of people are also offering to stay for an extended period of time. They will live with us and receive a first-hand impression of a daily ministry to the needs of others.

We can hardly wait to see all that will be accomplished. But, more than that, we have learned from experience how excited and appreciative these volunteers are

when given the opportunity to taste a life, not only centered around honoring our Lord, but also working to help others know Him. That kind of taste, when successfully experienced, will cause them to grow in only one direction—up! The more that one experiences the joy of ministering to the spiritual needs of another, the more that person wants to be close to the Lord and to study of His Word. A good way to increase a believer's desire for a closer walk with the Lord is to salt his life with opportunities to minister the Word and Spirit of Christ to others.

We have many golden opportunities at the Children's Home, and it is our privilege to be a part of this project. I just wish many more of our brethren throughout the country could experience the blessings of a ministering outreach.

My parents visited us the past two weeks and the help they gave us was tremendous. You know how it feels to finally put up those clothes hooks, fix that long-waiting, broken baby buggy wheel, and to plant the garden just before a two-week rainy season begins. They, with other visiting brethren from Elgin, Francesville, and Milford, took part in our Easter Sunrise Service at Leo and felt very blessed by the experience.

Our Quilt Sale is earlier this year, so please mark your calendar. The sale date is Sat., Aug. 29. Please come and join us on this special day.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The lovely month of May brings to mind the day set aside for our mothers. Many times we hear remarks by members of our "family" which help us to realize that their mothers are very dear to each of them. Perhaps we can "read between the lines" to this extent:

Dear Mom—

I was just sitting here thinking . . . Mother's Day will soon be here, and I wish I could tell you somehow how much I love you and how much your love means to me. When I think back over my childhood, I remember the innumerable times your indestructible love

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

stood by me with your patient training and with your faith that there was good in me that only needed developing. Now that I live here and cannot see and talk to you every day, I realize all over again how great was the task which was assigned to you when I was born and how well you carried out your responsibility. This is a good place for me, so please do not worry. They teach that Jesus loves me, just as you did, and I know He does. It is reflected through the people who care for me. All I ask is that you continue to love me. Someday, our Heavenly Father will reward you richly for your kind, patient, enduring love with blessings that the rust of years cannot corrode.

This is all I can offer you as my gift to you for Mother's Day. Please accept it from a heart full of gratitude.

Lovingly,
Johnny

Many have mentioned to us that a visit to our Home was interesting. However, much activity goes on which is not necessarily evident on a single visit. Perhaps a "look" into some of the various classes and activities would be interesting. One area of study is that of Language Development. A staff member works with the residents on an individual basis. To develop "language" is to receive and express ideas through the use of words. The use of the voice is one point of study. To avoid harshness or hoarseness is to strive for a pleasing quality. Articulation, the ability to sound out words clearly, is an area of serious concentration. Rhythm in language is the ability to use words, phrases or sentences smoothly. Then there is the area of receptive language study. This has to do with the ability to hear and comprehend what is spoken to us. As each of these phases is tailored to the individual's needs, it is a major tool in developing each one into a happier person.

Springtime brings opportunity for outings, which the residents so much enjoy. Today we were privileged to view a display of Easter lilies in Peoria.

Until we meet again, please remember us in prayer.

Moving? Let Us Know.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"To break Thy bread we now have gathered,

In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be Thine.

This promise we, with heart and will;

Give grace our promise to fulfill."

Zion's Harp No. 25

On Sunday, Apr. 12, we were blessed with the opportunity to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Deacon Bro. Noah Herman, Tucson, for his labors to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach with this blest sacrament.

Many from our congregation have been hospitalized this month. We thank our dear, loving Father for His manifold blessings, as each of our dear ones are able to be home again. Surgery patients were Sis. Helen Kircher Huette and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. Medical patients were Sis. Martha DeMille, Bro. George Shuster, and John Tolley.

Apr. 12, the engagement of Sis. Leslie Eggleston and Bro. Gary Schmidgall, Morris, was made known. A late May wedding is planned. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller and family will be deeply missed as they have returned to Indiana. We look forward to next fall and their return, the Lord willing. May our dear Lord richly bless Bro. Todd for his labors in the ministry while here with us.

Joshua Thomas Freed was the name chosen for Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed's new grandson. Joshua is welcomed by parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, and brothers, Jeremy and Nathan, of Indianapolis.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Rose Huette

"God . . . giveth us richly all things to enjoy." I Timothy 6:17

This short verse certainly tells so much about mothers. God gives us mothers who we love and enjoy very much!

On Wednesday, Mar. 4, our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) was here to read the Memorandum. We want to thank him for coming and bringing good

teachings.

This past month many of our winter visitors have returned home to their respective communities. We enjoyed them very much and they certainly will be missed. We would like to take this opportunity to invite them back again next winter.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, Apr. 5, we were provided with God's Word through Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) and Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena). They visited us on their way home from a trip to Japan.

On Sunday, Apr. 12, Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), and our Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger ministered God's Word to us.

We are thankful for the ministers that serve our small congregation.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Beginning June 7 and running through Aug. 30, services are planned for each Sunday. Anyone who plans to be in the Denver area is heartily encouraged to worship with us. Services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Victory Grange Hall, 2009 Tower Road, Aurora, CO. Tower Road runs between Interstate 70 and Colfax Avenue, (U.S. 40) east of Interstate 225. Any ministering brothers planning to be in the area are asked to contact Bro. Nathan Steffen, R.R. 3, Box 207, Elgin, IL 60120.

Services in March were held by Bro. Nathan Steffen. The time and effort put forth by him and the other brothers who have served throughout the winter months are appreciated very much.

We ask your continued support in prayer so that this effort can be carried out according to God's will.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

There's a particular day of the year that is so meaningful. It occurs this year on Sunday, May 10. Mother's Day. Some things are held in common by each of us. Mother's Day . . . well, we all will or can celebrate that day. Endless memories come to us all on Mother's Day. Some are full of joy and

laughter with memories of childhood. As is the lot of life, heartaches and sorrow are also a part of memory. If only "some day" had been different, we might agree!

To many of us, (Praise God!) Mother's Day has naught but beautiful memories. A wonderful Christian mother whose prayers and life have led her family to the kingdom of God is not without a blessing. Motherhood is a trust from God. To fulfill that trust, God placed an unusual amount of love for their children within them. A mother's love will seldom die.

Many centuries of time have passed, when a mother in sorrow, world renown, stood 'neath the shadows of two rough pieces of wood planted in the earth on which her Son had been nailed. She had seen him grow from a tiny babe in a manger stall. There were moments when her "mother" heart swelled with joy as she had seen Him lead the masses in ways beyond mere human wisdom. She had heard him say, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life . . . no man cometh to the Father but by me." Tears fell freely from her eyes, as she saw Him dying in cruel agony for the sins of a lost and straying humanity.

A few hours later her tears were dried by the sight of an empty tomb from which her Son had risen from the dead.

The closing events of our Lord's earthly ministry, His last week, took place in Jerusalem and the surrounding villages. It was just outside the walls of Jerusalem that He was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead. It was from the Mount of Olives, opposite Jerusalem, that forty days later He ascended into Heaven to take His place at the right hand of God, interceding for you and for me.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Sally Gress

"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom." Henry Ward Beecher.

As Mother's Day approaches, let us, as sons and daughters, be thankful for our mothers who taught us well. May those who are mothers realize how important it is to seek hearts full of Godly wisdom, that they may teach their children well.

Most of our winter visitors have gone. We wish them all a good summer and look forward to seeing them next year.

We thank Bro. Homer Reineck, Toledo, for ministering to us this month.

Brandon Troxel, infant son of Brad and Dahlas Troxel, was a hospital patient this month.

FLORIDA, PORT CHARLOTTE Betty Rassi

Easter Sunday, we once again locked the door after services. This time it marked the end of four and one-half months of Sunday afternoon services.

God has led many to our little church. We have been fed and nourished through the true Word of God, expounded by faithful brethren. We sincerely thank the ministers and their wives for sharing with us. We also thank the visiting brethren and friends for blessing us with their fellowship.

Next December through April, we hope to hold services in the morning. However, God is present no matter what hour we gather to praise His Holy Name. Praise God, He never takes a vacation.

We want to thank the Sarasota ministers and Bro. Art Gudeman for their special efforts in our little Port Charlotte congregation.

We extend an invitation to all to come visit us next winter. We have room for you.

OUR WISH IN PARTING

And so, farewell to you, beloved brother, As now we part and say our fond "Farewell!" Should we, again be meeting one another, Then may we find that in you still doth dwell The love of Christ, that first and dearest treasure, That always fills our hearts with grateful pleasure.

Zion's Harp No. 114

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Rocke

Visiting this past month were: Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We thank them for the many words of spiritual encouragement. Bro. Homer Reinick spoke of our Lord's desire for our unconditional surrender to Him, and that our greatest weapon against Satan is prayer.

Bro. Ben Maibach asked our

church to consider the possibility of building a fellowship hall. It would also be used for Sunday School and dining room facilities during the winter months when we are crowded. The building committee is to present the proposed fellowship hall project to the church and if supported, we would like to begin construction in the fall when the brothers from the north return. We hope to do a considerable amount of the work ourselves.

We are saddened by the passing of our dear Bro. Dave Meister, Sr. It brought back memories of his wife's death in 1972, here in Florida. They both gave graciously of themselves to the Sarasota church. Our first Good Friday services were held in their home, on Longboat Key, many years ago.

Loving thoughts were with our Sis. Viola Leman who was again called home to Fairbury for the funeral of another brother. We sympathize with Sis. Lucille Frank, with the passing of her husband, Bro. Maurice. We express our love to the Shieber families who recently left Sarasota, only to return home to the sad news of a loved one's death.

We all share in the joy of the engagement of our dear Sis. June Eisenmann (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay) to Bro. Dave Schmidgall (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy) of Morris, MN. A June 28 wedding is planned. We wish them God's blessing in this union. On Apr. 14, Sis. Marie Martin returned to her home and wishes to be remembered in our prayers.

On Mother's Day, we honor our mothers and pause to remember those no longer here. But most of all, we want to give of ourselves, that none may feel unwanted or lonely on their special day. No language can express the beauty, the heroism, and the majesty of a mother's love. "She shall be praised." Prov. 31:30.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo and our Sarasota young group shared in a wonderful weekend of spiritual teachings and fellowship at College Weekend at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL
Mary Huber - Jean O'Shea
April proved to be a busy month

for us as a congregation. We rejoice with Bro. Alan and Sis. Laura Nussbaum on the birth of their son, Bryan Robert, born Mar. 31. Shawn, Erika, and April welcome him home. Congratulations are also in order for David and Wilma Kieser who had their fourth daughter on Apr. 2. Sara, David, Sharon, and Denise have a new little sister, Diann Marie.

We are glad little Sharon Kieser, daughter of Robert and Laura, is home after several weeks in the hospital. Also, Steve Hari, son of Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev, and Alesa Knapp, daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie are both recovering well from their hospital stays.

It was with great joy that we welcomed Steve and Bonnie Kaeb into the fold as our Bro. and Sis. in the Lord on Wednesday evening, Apr. 8. We appreciate the love and fellowship that they and their children, Sheila and Greg, add to our congregation.

Our Easter program was held Sunday afternoon, Apr. 12, and was certainly a blessing for all. We again assembled for Good Friday evening services and then on Easter morning, we enjoyed a 7:00 a.m. breakfast. A special thank you is extended to Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss for his inspirational message and for sharing the day with us.

This Wednesday evening, Apr. 22, we will hold Communion Services, the Lord willing, and partake of this holy sacrament. We were reminded earlier of the importance of preparing our hearts in order to be ready for this sacred event. It is with renewed faith and true humility that we look forward to this Lord's Supper.

In the spirit of this holy season, we were inspired by the words of this song. How thankful we can be if we have sought and found our salvation, and how earnestly we must try to stay firmly grounded, never again "nailing Him to the cross".

Should I crucify my Saviour?
When for me He bore such loss
Shall I put to shame my Saviour
Can I nail Him to the cross?
Are temptations so alluring?
Do earthly pleasures so enthral?
That I cannot love my Saviour
Well enough to leave them all?
Twas my sins that crucified Him

Shall they crucify Him yet?
Blackest day of nameless anguish
Can my thankless soul forget?
Oh, the kindly hands of Jesus
Pouring blessings on all men
Bleeding nail-scarred hands of
Jesus

Can I nail them once again?
Shall I crucify my Saviour
Crucify my Lord again
Once, oh once I crucified Him
Shall I crucify again?

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

Bro. Larry and Sis. Rebecca Endress became the parents of a new baby boy on Apr. 10. Adam Thomas is welcomed home by Lavonne, Leann, Benjamin, and Stephen. The grandparents are Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville) and Sis. Mildred Endress (Princeville).

We rejoice that we have two new converts in our congregation. They are Dawn Leman (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane) and Lynne Elsass (Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen). We wish them God's grace in their new walk of life.

We gathered on Apr. 8 to partake of Holy Communion. Our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser told us we have this privilege, "Not because we are worthy, but because we have been faithful". Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) assisted Bro. Dave in carrying out this special rite.

Other ministers who visited our congregation this month were Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend), Bill Gerst (Alto), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), and Ray Sinn (Laty). We trust God will bless them for their labors of love.

It is good to see Bro. Mark Ehle in church again after his recent hospital stay. Sis. Lucille Kieser is also home from the hospital after being a patient for several days.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Sometimes a halting sermon won through God's victory over stroke and paralysis strikes heart cords more clearly than the fluent one, unhindered by physical obstruction.

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life" (Anonymous), a sign proliferated on posters and plaques innumerable, is an ever-true statement, until one dies. Sim-

ilarly, the 23rd Psalm is a glorious, peaceful, comforting collection of promises appropriate for every day of our lives. Within the past week I have heard it sung at a wedding and read at a funeral. May each one of us cling to these expectations in life, so that every one may say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6.

Being a church whose members and friends are gathered from various parts of Illinois and neighboring states, we celebrated Easter a bit earlier than most. Visitors are always welcome, but "just the folks" strengthen our bond, too. Friday evening, Apr. 3, we heard our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann's communion meditation for the first time. He guided our remembrance of Christ's last week on earth, so that we, in participating in Christ's blood and body, might also touch His suffering, freely endured for each of us. Then he and Bro. Lenny passed to each one the sacred bread and wine, and our souls were filled with the spirit of His love. On that Sunday, after morning services, the Sunday School presented a short program. The songs ranged from a request to give Jesus first place in your heart to the triumphant "He who was dead is alive again!" Tabernacle Hymns No. 250 "Alive Again"). Truly this proclamation of New Life is something to keep close to our heart, not only around Easter time, but throughout each day, hour, minute of each year. Good Christian men could not rejoice had Christ not lived, loved, died, and risen to love again.

Let us draw from the 23rd Psalm once again: "... thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." vs. 5. Bro. Jeff Leman (son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli, Chicago) and Sis. Jaclyn Gramm (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola, Gridley) have found new joy, for the Lord has betrothed them, one to the other. They are presently both students at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Sis. Jackie finishing her sophomore year in economics and Bro. Jeff graduating in May with a B.S. in business. They are looking forward to a June 21 wedding. Our wish for them is that they may always

follow the Son, anticipating His care, grace, and blessings.

"... thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4. Reuben Schrenk, Glenview, died Tues., Apr. 14 and was buried on Good Friday. A sister, Helen Storrer, preceded him in death. May the Lord who knows and sees all our needs comfort the bereaved. To his daughters, Rosemary and Shirley, his brothers and sisters, Bro. Elmer, Sis. Frances, Sis. Martha (Martie), Bro. John, Raymond, and Bro. Henry Schrenk, we extend our deep sympathies. We want to especially offer our support to Bro. Jim and Sis. Martie Grivet and Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk from our congregation.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1. Our dear Bella Slagel has been greatly afflicted with bodily pain, and suffering. We wish for both her and Bro. Sam the Lord's wings of grace and comfort to make this trial bearable.

Friend of the truth, what do you see when you see me? You see, I'm sure, more of my faults than my mirror tells me. Oh, Lord, give me grace to stay close to Thee so that I will be sensitive to how my sins offend others, that I may humbly plead forgiveness from Thee, from them. Dear friend, do you hear my too-often hasty words, frustration, irritability? Oh, Lord, grant that I might instead let Thy calm and peace and balm flow forth, for surely the world has enough of haste, anger, and thwarted dreams. May friends consider me, through Thee, a haven, a harbor. Ah, my friend, what do you touch when you touch me? Please don't feel aloofness or hesitancy. Certainly never feel superiority or any clannishness. Oh, my Lord, I beg of Thee, let those who touch me feel the warmth and radiance of Thy love, reaching out, drawing willing souls to Thee.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

MOTHER—She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Proverbs 31:26.

Of all the prizes that we own,

There's one we'll love forever,
The gift we know as mother's love,

No power on earth can sever.
—Anon.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Jeannine Rudin (Sis. Kathryn and the late Bro. Harlan) to Bro. Larry Mariani (Mr. and Mrs. Dave Mariani of LaSalle, IL). An early spring wedding is being planned.

Eunice Frank, 71, of Del Ray Beach, FL, passed away on Mar. 28. Her funeral was conducted at the Knapp Funeral Home in Cissna Park. She is survived by three sisters; Sis. Elizabeth Knapp and Minnie Swing of Cissna Park and Ada Poppe of Joliet.

On Sat., Apr. 11, we heard the testimonies of our friends, Tom Stock (Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene) and Julie Yergler (Bro. Max and Sis. Donna). On Sunday, they were baptized and we welcomed them into our body of believers. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen of Elgin assisted in this most important work. Other ministers who visited us recently were Bros. Robert Walder (Congerville) and Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal).

On Apr. 14, winds with tornado force caused considerable damage at the Dale Walder farm and the Melvin Walder farm.

Sis. Joan and Bro. Gerald Rudin have been blessed with a daughter, Sarah April. Sarah was born Apr. 15. She will be welcomed home by her two sisters, Gail and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler (West Bend, IA) and the late Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emily Rudin.

Sis. Elise Maul has returned to her home after having been hospitalized for surgery. Bro. Willard Rudin plans to enter the hospital in a few days and Kate Enz has entered as a surgical patient.

An interest was expressed some time ago to have a church plate made. This idea has been very well received and we are planning to proceed. We were advised to include this in our Silver Lining column, so that anyone who has an interest in obtaining this plate would know about it. Anyone interested should contact one of the Cissna Park brethren.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Mardell Ott - Shirley Ifft

We enjoyed a blessed day of inspiration and fellowship on Mar.

22, when Elder Bro. Josh Broquard, Bro. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury and Bro. John Schmidgall, Oakville, assembled with us. We were clearly reminded to carefully guard the oil in our lamps. Satan is far too cunning to steal it all at once, but he quickly takes a little when our eyes are turned to the glitter and pace of the world.

On Mar. 31, we laid our dear Bro. Harold Scheiber to rest. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go to his wife Sis. Alma; sons, Bo. Mike and Jeff; and daughters, Sue Ehling, Sis. Karen Hangartner and Kris. May they daily feel God's comforting presence and press on with courage. Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton) conducted the services.

Katherine Zimmerman (Mahlon) was hospitalized. We are thankful she is home again.

As we look forward to Mother's Day, may we thank God for the sincere, staunch mothers who are pillars in the church. May those of us who have been given the awesome responsibility of motherhood pray daily for Godly wisdom and patience to guide little feet in the ways of the Lord. Let us be the true light and example we ought to be, not an unsteady, flickering flame.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

A little daughter, Alissa Jean, was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand on Apr. 7. She is their first child. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman of Remington.

We sympathize with Sis. Leona (Melvin) Weyeneth whose mother, Sis. Martha Roth, passed away at Kiowa, KS.

We had a blessed weekend, Apr. 4 and 5. On Saturday evening, we gathered for the solemn hour of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Joe Braker of Morton assisted Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Walte Anliker. Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley returned on Sunday for afternoon services, which were followed by a church potluck, and singing at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. We appreciated Bro. Joe's willingness to serve us.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized. Sis. Inga (Dean) Zimmerman and Bro. Willis Stoller

have had surgery and are home again. Bro. Ed Rocke was in for tests.

On Wed. evening, Apr. 15, we enjoyed listening to the Sunday School children present their Easter program. The Roanoke Bible Class sang four songs with our Bible Class. It is always a joy to see the little children sing with their whole heart; if we could just keep this zeal in our hearts as we grow up.

"This is that great thing I know;
This delights and stirs me so;
Faith in Him who died to save,
Him who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus, God of Majesty."

Zion's Harp, No. 225

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Time approaches again when this country sets aside a time to remember our mothers, and truly it is good that we do; however, the commandment that tells us to honor our father and mother has more depth than a once a year remembrance. It seems that this commandment deals rather with our total attitude toward our mothers. Those of us who were reared by God-fearing mothers have a great blessing. The ways of the Lord were interwoven through every part of our lives. Truly it should be a legacy that we treasure and nurture, so that we as mothers today may leave the same legacy for our children.

On Mar. 21, Jonathan Steffen (son of the late Bro. Elmer and Sis. Eleanor) and Janine Sawicki (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kasimir Sawicki) were united in marriage. May they remember to seek after the Lord in all that they do.

Robert and Kathy (Braun) Leubke, as well as little Katie, welcome Robert Jr. who has joined their family as its newest member. Robert was born Mar. 21. Sis. Cecelia Braun is the maternal grandmother.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Mary Gross, Emily Hoppe, and Emil Jordi in the death of their brother, Albert Jordi. Albert passed away at the age of 80 on Mar. 24 in Minneapolis. His burial was in Elgin, Mar. 28.

Also remembered with sympathy are our dear sisters Rose and Emma Viellieber whose sister, Sis. Lydia Kupferschmid, passed away

at the age of 91 in Burlington, IA.

Sis. Esther Troike has been bereaved of a brother, Bro. Harold Schieber (Congerville), and we pray the Lord may comfort her.

Louis Reber, 76, passed away Apr. 2. He was born in Elgin to Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Bessie (Shambach) Reber and had lived in this area all of his life. He is survived by his wife, Lucille (Beckman) Reber and two sons, Kenneth and Harold; three brothers, Bro. William, Ernest and Fred; and four sisters, Sis. Lydia and Sis. Rose Reber, and Emma Heiniger all of Elgin and Sis. Carolyn Levy of LaCrosse, IN. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and Bro. John and a son, Ronald. This beloved family has expressed thankfulness for the many loving deeds done in their behalf.

Our dear sister Nina Moser passed from this life at the age of 91 on Apr. 12. She was born Jan. 7, 1890 in Roanoke, to Daniel and Sis. Fredericka (Eckert) Moser, and had lived in Elgin most of her life. Surviving are four sisters, Sis. Ida and Ruth Moser and Florence Schneider all of Elgin and Esther Grams of Janesville, WI. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Sis. Lydia Messerschmidt, Sis. Fannie Moser, and Sis. Caroline Gilliom, and five brothers, William, Benjamin, Joseph, Edward and Reuben Moser. May the Lord grant His comforting spirit to each one in this family.

Sis. Emma Wewetzer is recuperating in her home since falling and fracturing her wrist. She has expressed thankfulness for the many acts and thoughts of kindness extended to her.

Many loved ones have spent time in the hospital this month. We are grateful that most of them are home again and have regained a measure of health. Surely many prayers have ascended to the Father from the hearts of brethren and we are grateful to each one who has occupied his time in prayer on their behalf. Bro. Edward Schambach, Sis. Sarah Kellenberger, Lester Heiniger, Bro. Morris Willaert, Bethany Bachold (infant daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty), Arlene Dalhauser, and Beverly (Flannery) Ruiz have been hospitalized and are home

again.

Alvina Schumann (mother of Sis. Jeannette Schmidt) and John McNutt (brother of Sis. Marge Wewetzer) remain hospitalized at this time.

Sis. Esther Troike has had foot surgery on an outpatient basis and is progressing nicely.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

On Mar. 18, Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser were blessed with their first son, Timothy John. He is welcomed home by three sisters.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta Edelman also welcomed a son, Walter Dennis, born Apr. 9. He has two brothers and two sisters.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Steffen and Bro. Emanuel Steffen of Fairbury and Robert Steffen of East Peoria in the death of their mother, Sis. Sarah Steffen, 83, who died Mar. 18. Also surviving are two sisters, Martha Streitmatter, Peoria, and Lydia Nolan of Tennessee. May God fill the vacancy left in Sis. Dorothy's home as she cared for her mother up to the time of her death.

Many thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Joe and Sis. Thelma Slagel who traveled to Richmond, VA to be near their son, Dr. Dale. There Bro. Joe underwent open heart surgery, after which he had a massive stroke. As I submit this news (Apr. 17), the family reports he is now getting therapy and shows a slight improvement. Their address is:

Mrs. Thelma Slagel
c/o Dr. Dale Slagel
13906 Barnes Spring Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

Bro. Albert Sohn has been quite ill and is now hospitalized in Bloomington receiving cobalt treatments. May God be with him and his wife, Sis. Betty.

Others from our congregation have been hospitalized during the last month for various reasons, and we are thankful when each one is able to return home.

Sis. Diane Hoffman (Sam and Norma) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia of Tremont) both of Fairbury were married Apr. 12. May God richly bless them as they establish their home together.

We extend a special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park), William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Eugene Bertsch (Roanoke), Earl Banwart (West Bend), and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont).

On Mar. 29, our Sunday School Bible Class hosted the Bible Classes from Elgin and Eureka. We trust that a blessing was received by each one of the students, as well as the visiting teachers.

On Apr. 12, our Sunday School students presented their annual Easter program. It is always inspiring to watch and listen as each class does its best in bringing forth the wonderful Easter story.

May we be thankful for our loving and God-fearing parents every day of our lives. With Mother's Day approaching, I would like to submit the following poem.

Who keeps us in her thoughts and prayers?

Who gives, forgives, and shares and cares?

Who always loves us like no other? Mother, always Mother.

G. W. Douglas

For those who have laid their dear mothers to rest, as well as for us who have laid away our dear fathers, may we feel an extra measure of God's nearness to fill that empty chair on these special days.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

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

Song of Solomon 2:11, 12

Sisters Esther Honegger and Martha Koehl were recent hospital patients, but we are happy to report that both are home again.

Little Bradley Kenneth was welcomed into the hearts and home of Ken and Mary Lehmann. Sis. Alice Lehmann is the happy grandmother.

Jan Nussbaum, (Bro. Willis and Sis. Elna), was recently united in marriage with Kim Jenkins. They will be making their home in Bloomington, IL.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Pam Wiegand

I'D RATHER BE A MOTHER

I'd rather be a mother
Than a princess or a king.
I'd rather hold a baby close
Or hear a child sing.

I love the happy feeling
Of a child's hand in mine.
For just to know he loves me
Is a gift divine.

A child needs so many things
From day to busy day,
That sometimes I grow weary
And cross, I'm sad to say.

But as I stoop to dry the tears
From one sad little face,
The smile that I get in turn
Just gives me added grace.

And when I feel those chubby arms
About my neck entwined
I feel that part of heaven
To me has been assigned.

Then as my little children grow
Concerns grow with them, too.
But with the grace of God they
learn
And this is precious too.

It's just the simple pleasures
That bring the greatest joys,
Like "Thanks, Mom", or "I Love
You"
From lips of girls and boys.

I like their happy voices
As they play with one another.
Of all the things there are to be . . .
I'd rather be a mother.

Elna E. Grimm

We have six mothers with new babies this month. A little girl, Angela Nicole, was born to Dave and Pat Kuntz Mar. 2. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kuntz and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin are the parents of a baby girl, Janelle Mae, born Mar. 24. Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Hohulin and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grusy of Eureka are the happy grandparents.

Blake Nathan is the new son of Roger and Trish Gerber. He was born Mar. 25, and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm and Mrs. Berdina Gerber of Eureka. We were sorry to hear

that his grandfather Ray Gerber passed away Apr. 2.

Bro. Jake and Sis. Chris Bauman are the parents of a baby girl, Joni Kay, who was born Apr. 1. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman and Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Christopherson of Trivoli are her grandparents.

Bourland Christian is the new son of Chris and Cindy Meece. He was born Apr. 2. Bro. Ernie and Sis. Eloise Diggelman, and Richard and Sarah Bourland of Bloomington are the proud grandparents.

A little boy, Justin David, was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist Apr. 5. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis Zobrist, and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth.

We had two evenings of beautiful singing at the Fellowship Hall. The Gridley choir was here for our family hymn sing on Mar. 22, and the Peoria and Goodfield choirs presented an Easter Cantata on Apr. 11. We thank all those who took part!

Our thanks are extended to Bro. Jerry Kuntz, Oakville, for the messages brought to us on Apr. 12.

Good Friday was a very special evening for us. Elder Bro. Joe Braker, Morton, was here as we held evening services and took communion.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

Fading away like the stars of the morning,
Losing their light in the glorious sun—

Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,

Only remembered by what we have done.

Gospel Hymns, No. 534

As this song was sung at the funeral of Bro. Carlton Klopfenstein, 53, who died Mar. 24, many precious memories flooded the minds of all of us who loved and appreciated him. We remembered his friendly greeting, his generous heart, and his kind manner that won him many friends and the esteem of the brethren. It is hard to believe that just a few weeks before he seemed so vigorous and full of life, and suddenly he is no longer with us. Although we mourn the loss of a loved one,

we are comforted by the blessed assurance that, "All things work together for good to them that love God . . ." Rom. 8:28. We know that God has prepared a better place that, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man . . ." 1 Cor. 2:9. And so the apostle wrote with confidence, "We are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8. The departure of our dear brother in faith has reminded us that we, too, will be only remembered by what we have done. Therefore, may we be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58. Bro. Carlton's mother, Sis. Setta, was unable to attend the funeral because she was in the hospital recovering from surgery. Our sympathy is extended to her as well as the other members of the family: his wife, Sis. Betty, his daughter, Sis. Patricia, his sons, Bro. Paul and Gary, and his sister, Sis. Carolyn Schlipf, all of Gridley. We appreciated having ministering Bro. Charles Hemmer of Peoria with us for the funeral services.

The engagement of Sis. Jackie Gramm of Gridley to Bro. Jeff Leman of Chicago was announced. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola Gramm and Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Leman.

Bro. David Meiss of Gridley was united in marriage with Sis. Deborah Diggle of Roanoke, Mar. 22. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Diggle are their parents.

Sis. Betty Schmidtgall would like to thank all for the prayers, cards, gifts, and letters of encouragement she received while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney

We rejoice with Neal Getz, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Louise Ellen, Cindy Witzig, daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy, Chris Knoblock, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Marvel, and Beck Isbell, daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Carolyn, as they gave their testimonies of faith and became our brother and sisters in Christ. They were baptized Mar. 22. We

wish all four of them God's grace as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

Sis. Ruth Aberle, a resident of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home and formerly of Morton, passed away. Her funeral was Mar. 25. May God comfort her family and friends.

Dennis and Sis. Ginger Hermann are now the happy parents of their second son, Aric Justin, who was born Mar. 31. Completing this happy family is big brother Adam. The grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Frank and Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Hermann.

Gary and Heidi Psinas are the happy parents of their first child, Jesse Daniel. Jesse was born Apr. 6. The grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Frank and Alvin and Hilda Psinas.

Mrs. Leota Isbell, mother of Bro. James Isbell, was sweetly called home to be forever with the Lord. Her funeral was Apr. 11. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. James and his family. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick welcome into their hearts and home a son, Kirk Raymond, who was born Apr. 12. Kirk has two brothers, Keith and Jeff, and two sisters, Kim and Julie, to help welcome him home. The grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Marie Schick and Raymond and Ellen Kamp.

Those who have recently spent time in the hospital are Mrs. Shirley (Ray Jr.) Frank, Mrs. Anna (Gotthold) Tanner, Sis. Sylvia (Mike) Schmidgall, and Henry Schock. May God be with them and near them. Our prayers are with those who are sick or shut-in.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, AZ, and David Keiser, Princeville, IL, and ministering Bros. Robert Grimm, Goodfield, IL, and Henry Dotterer, Rittman, OH. May God bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner

THOUGHT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

We all remember Mother
on her special day.
We send her gifts and flowers
and lovely cards that say
How very much we thank her
for the things that mothers do,

The sacrifices that they make;
but when this day is through
We're prone to take for granted
her precious love and care,
The fact that when we need her,
Mother's always there.
She will never mention it
nor ask for any praise.
The joy of doing things for us
is her reward always.
But just the same, it would be nice,
if we'd find time to say
Just one small word of heartfelt
thanks
to Mother—every day!

Nadine Brothers Lybarger

Our congregation has been blessed with two dear little souls. Jonathan Peter is the new son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Meister. His grandparents are Bro. Dave Meister and Peter and Virginia Bossart of New Jersey. Eddie Jr. and Nicholas Meister welcome home their new sister, Alexandria. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dana Meister. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister and Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola Nussbaum of Forrest.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Gail Stickling (Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon) to Bro. Denny Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine of Bay City). They are planning a June 14 wedding. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their life together.

Mar. 27 was the funeral of Bro. David Meister. He is survived by his children: Bro. Dave Meister, Jr., Bro. Paul Meister, Bro. Ed Meister, Walter Meister and Janet Culp. We will miss his presence and the example he has been to all of us. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

Our hospital patients this past month were: Bro. Ben Hancher, Bro. Louis Heller, Bro. Jack Koehl, Larry Reinbeck, Art Herman, Barbara Herman, Sis. Alma Rocke, Sis. Mary Lawless, Sis. Louise Baurer, and Evelyn Thomas. May the Lord grant each one better health.

We reflected on our Lord's suffering and were renewed in spirit, as we took communion on Apr. 12.

Sis. Nettie Owens wants to thank all her friends and relatives who remembered her on her 80th birthday with cards and gifts.

Sisters Marie Kipfer and Anna Hoerr wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the many loved ones who remembered them with prayers, cards, gifts, and much love, while they were in the hospital.

The Apostolic Christian Home celebrated its first 100th birthday on Mar. 15, 1981, with Carrie Stiegle as the honored guest. Carrie was born in Germany on Mar. 5, 1881. She worked in her father's vineyard until age 15. She then came to the U.S.A. and did domestic work at a beginning wage of \$1.00 a week. Later, she entered the profession of catering where her German cuisine was in much demand. As a young lady, she was converted and became a very staunch pillar in the church. In 1916, Carrie and her sister managed the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home on Monroe St. After many years of faithful service, Carrie decided to care for a few elderly in her own home. As time took its toll on her body's resources, Carrie moved in with her niece, Frances Jackson, and nine years later, on June 15, 1978, she moved into the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria.

A coat was lost or taken home by someone from the Pancake Supper at the Fellowship Hall. It's a new, beige, London Fog—size 42 long. If you have information on this, please contact Dave Ehle in Princeville (243-7545).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

"I have faith in Him, not in my faith"—APPLES OF GOLD. Visiting ministers, who spoke on faith in Jesus Christ, have been Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Donald Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Roy Sauder (Peoria, IL), and Uriel Gehring (Burlington, IA).

Louis Streimatter passed away Mar. 17 at his home. He was born on Mar. 8, 1897, and lived in the Princeville area all his life. His wife, Veda, passed away in 1974. Our sympathy is given to his daughter, Arlys Conrad of Chicago, and to his many nieces and nephews of our congregation.

Bro. Craig Martin has his arm in a sling. He cut a tendon in his left hand in a farm accident. He is recovering and will soon be able to use his hand.

On Apr. 5, Bro. Joe Stoller performed the marriage ceremony of Sis. Debbie Stoller and Bro. Pete Aberle. Parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller of our congregation and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle of Tremont.

On Sunday evening, Apr. 12, an Easter program was given by our Sunday School students. We were happy that Bro. Uriel Gthring (Burlington, IA), could be with us. He gave us an enlightening talk.

On Apr. 15, we were served holy communion. Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria) helped our Bro. Dave Kieser and Bro. Joe Stoller with this sacred service.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

MOTHER LOVE

You can't define a mother's love;
It's faith and hope and power.
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour:

You can't define a mother's love;
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a tear.

You can't define a mother's love;
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a mother's love is
found

The path that leads to Him.

Carice Williams

We thank our Christian mothers for encouraging us in our responsibilities; especially to be sober, to love our husbands, to love our children. (Titus 2:4) We pray a special blessing on all our mothers, young and old, at this time of year, when we celebrate Mother's Day.

We were privileged to have the opportunity to hear the testimonies of eight souls: Kathy Diggle (John and Sis. Sarah), Eileen Roth (Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna), Jim Schumacher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane), Greg Moser (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Babara), John and Peg Sauder and Steve and Dianne Bates (Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder). We witnessed their bap-

tisms and welcomed them as our new brothers and sisters in Christ. May God grant them all a special measure of His grace to be a light to everyone they come in contact with.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. David Meiss (Gridley) as he claimed his bride, Sis. Deborah Diggle, on Mar. 22. May God's love dwell in their hearts and home.

Glen and Carol Martin are the happy parents of Benjamin Dusty. His brother, Jesse Joshua, welcomes him as a little playmate.

Elder Bros. Leroy Huber and Dave Kieser assisted our Bro. Don in conducting the Lord's Supper on Palm Sunday. What a blessing it is to rededicate our lives to Christ, and to journey on, led by His strong hand of love. The loving communion messages by our beloved elders and the singing of the beautiful Communion Hymn (Zion's Harp, No. 200) gave us many reasons to rejoice and to be thankful.

The Roanoke Bible class was the guest of the Eureka Bible class in the annual Easter program at Eureka. The beautiful Easter story was told in scriptures and song to the honor of the risen Lord.

Our visiting ministers occupying the pulpit this month were: Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Orville Ringger (Bluffton), Roy Sauder (Peoria), and Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Tom Leman (Elgin). We thank them for their loving messages.

Hospitalized this month were: Murielle Byrd, Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Richard), Sis. Mary Hoffman (Bro. Rudy), Sis. Lucy Fischer (Bro. Les), Sis. Minnie Leman, and little Leigh Getz.

Bro. Ben Fischer passed away this morning. He is survived by: two sons, Bro. David and John (Cincinnati, OH), and one daughter, Dorothy Razo (Pamona, CA). His wife Sis. Ruth and two daughters, Sis. Mary Ann and Sis. Mildred, were killed in a tragic accident a few years ago. They were involved with World Relief and visited many of the area churches to interest them in doing labors of love for the less fortunate. Bro. Ben, although paralyzed from a stroke, regained the use of his right hand enough to sew quilts. He had made 186 quilts when I last asked him. Many were small

baby quilts, but he also made many large size quilts. He was particular that the corners met, and even was able to cut with a scissor where blocks were uneven. He wanted to do as much as He could for others. He even planted the garden at the Apostolic Christian Home and always took care of the flower beds. Even today, the tulips are blooming outside his window. He wasn't permitted to see his first little great granddaughter, Brooke Elise Ferrero, who was coming home from the hospital today.

Brooke Elise, first daughter of Randy and Laurel Ferrero, was born Apr. 13. Bro. David and Sis. Francis Fischer, and Sis. Donna and Frank Ferrero are the grandparents. May God bless the little one.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Sandy Gramm

Another school year has passed, and we are thankful that the Lord has seen us through our ups and downs, our trials and joys. We wish God's richest blessings and divine guidance for our graduates. They include: Paul Klopfenstein, Chris Gramm, Curt Stoller, Jon Zehr, and Mike Kaiser. Kim Walder and Jane Broquard graduated from Mennonite School of Nursing.

We are grateful for the ministering brethren who lent themselves to God so that He might speak to us through them. With us this month were Bros. Don Wagenbach, Washington, Art Baurer, Princeville, Bill Kupferschmid, Bloomington, Steve Rinkenberger, Cissna Park, and Elmer Witzig, Gridley.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang
Who can find a virtuous woman?
for her price is far above rubies.
Proverbs 31:10.

When I think of Mother's Day, this scripture comes to my mind. How thankful we are for Christian mothers that brought us up in the ways of truth.

We wish to thank Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) for helping Bro. Dan serve Holy Communion to our congregation on Mar. 21.

Hospital patients this month were Sarah Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann). Diane Wagenbach (Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy)

and Bro. Al Aberle. All have recuperated and are back in church again.

Mar. 28 was the wedding day of Sis. Christine Gschwind and Bro. Terry Koch. Parents of the couple are Aaron and Iris Gschwind of Mackinaw and Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch. We wish them God's richest blessings in their walk of life together.

Jane Baer and Tom Bollinger have announced their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bollinger. They are planning a July wedding.

Ida Glueck and Larry Bollinger have also told of their forthcoming marriage. Their parents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Gale and Joann Bollinger of Tremont. They plan to have a September wedding. We wish both couples a long and happy married life together.

We wish to thank our Sunday School teachers and all the children who participated in presenting an impressive Easter Program. Above all, we thank God that Jesus was willing to shed His most precious blood to save poor, wretched mankind.

Sis. Anna Lehman has recently moved to the Apostolic Christian Restmor Nursing Home in Morton. We hope she enjoys her new home.

Duane and Cynthia Miller are the parents of a baby girl, Catherine Ann, born Apr. 15. She has a sister, Sarah, and a brother, Joe, to help take care of her. Grandparents are Edward and Doris Miller and the James Berniers of Tremont.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Lena Aberle, who passed away. She was in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home for the past three years. Her funeral was Apr. 13. God was certainly her help and strength as she raised her family, being a widow many years.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Charlen Banwart

"One day a message came to me;
It bade me quickly come
If I would see my mother,
Ere the Saviour took her home.
I promised her before she died,

For heaven to prepare;
O Saviour, tell my mother
I'll be there.

Tell Mother I'll be there,
In answer to her pray'r.
This message, blessed Saviour,
To her bear!

Tell Mother I'll be there,
Heaven's joys with her to share;
Yes, tell my darling mother
I'll be there."

(No. 801, Gospel Hymns)

Bro. Edmund Kloter (Goodfield) was our visiting minister when the residents and staff of Leo Children's Home visited here the last weekend in March. We remember the staff of the Home with the 2nd verse of the aforementioned song. "Though I was often wayward, she was always kind and good, So patient, gentle loving, when I acted rough and rude. My childhood griefs and trials she would gladly with me share." My husband, Bro. Wayne, and I are sharing a small trial with our 3 year old son, Neil, as he broke his arm in a playground accident.

Our ministering Bro. Virgil Metzger, and his wife, Sis. Mary, are the parents of a daughter, Renae Lynn, born Mar. 22. Darin and Timothy helped welcome their sister home.

The betrothal of two of our students was announced. Sis. Jackie Gramm of Gridley is engaged to Bro. Jeff Leman of Chicago. We will miss having them with us, as Jeff will be a May graduate of the University of Illinois.

We appreciated the recent visits of ministering Bros. Joe Zimmerman (Morton) and Ed Alt (Cissna).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Mary and Joan Schick

You can't define a mother's love:
It's faith and hope and power.
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.
You can't define a mother's love:
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a tear.
You can't define a mother's love:
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a mother's love is
found
The path that leads to Him.

Carice Williams

Words cannot express how precious our mothers are to us.

How blessed we are to have God-fearing mothers who showed us the path to Jesus. We appreciate all our mothers do although at times we do not verbally express it. May God bless each mother for the love they have shared. Happy Mother's Day.

We're thankful for two precious baby girls who arrived safely. Bro. Roger and Sis. Linda Ziegenhorn, David and Tiffany, welcome their new daughter and sister, Sara Ann, born on March 22. Joe and Sis. Karen Baker and Luke welcome their new bundle of joy, Tara Ann, who arrived March 18.

Our congregation again rejoiced with the angels since another soul, Ida Pfaffman, has repented and begun living her life for Christ. We're so thankful for God's mercy and grace that keeps calling souls to Him.

On Sunday evening, April 12, we had a combination hymn sing and Easter program. It was good to be reminded by the Sunday School children of Christ's death, how much he gave for us, and how great this love is for each of us.

We welcome Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner who have moved here from Indianapolis, IN. We're thankful for every soul who worships with us, and hope they will feel a part of our congregation.

We're thankful to everyone who participated in our church house-cleaning this month. Many hands make light work when we all as a family pull together to get a job done.

We had several visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski) Elder Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria), and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton). Bro. Bob spoke to us at our monthly Bible study on marriage as it is outlined in God's Word. We are grateful to these brothers for letting God use them to give us all a blessing.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Gayla Baumgartner
Tami Fiechter

MOTHER'S WAY

I'm following Jesus and trusting
His love,
I'm sure I shall meet my dear

mother above;

She taught me to love Him, she
taught me to pray.

And now I am walking in mother's
bright way.

O mothers, be true to your dear
ones, I pray

Be sure to point out the oright,
heavenly way;

Instruct them to follow and teach
them to love,

That they may serve Jesus and
meet you above.

Heavenly Highway Hymns #294

May the Lord richly bless all
mothers and may they ever follow
His dear guidance.

On March 29, we had the blessed
privilege to witness the baptism
of two souls. Our new sisters in
Christ are Sis. Nancy Herring and
Sis. Linda Aschliman. We rejoice
with Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida as
Nancy and Linda are their daugh-
ter and daughter-in-law.

The engagement of Sis. Sherri
Frauhiger to Bro. Mark Longen-
berger was announced on April 5.
May the Lord's blessings be with
them. Sis. Sherri is the daughter
of Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane. Bro.
Mark's parents are Bro. Bill and
Sis. Betty.

On April 11, we were privileged
to partake of the Lord's Supper.
Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo)
and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (La-
mont) spent this solemn occasion
with us. May the Lord richly bless
them.

Other ministers who have re-
cently spent time in our midst
were: Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto),
Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Trem-
ont), and Bro. Ben Manz (Junc-
tion). We thank them for their
labors of love.

A little bundle of joy was sent
to the home of Bro. John and Sis.
Pam Reinhard. "Big" brother, Mi-
chael, welcomes his new playmate,
Mark David. Bro. Pat and Sis.
Judy Dubach are the happy par-
ents of their new son, Jonathan
Patrick. Klint Michael is the new
family addition in the home of Bro.
Steve and Karen Aschliman. May
these parents strive to rear their
children in a God-fearing way.

Many from our congregation
have spent time in the hospital
recently: Bro. Hubert Isch, Bro.
William Moser, Sis. Phyllis Dotter-
er, Brian Tonner, Bro. Dick Clark,
Bro. Charles Kaehr, Richard Trox-

el, Sis. Huldah Heinold, Sis. Dinah
Fae Moser, Bro. Homer Bertsch,
Bro. Ted Kipfer, Sis. Marge Baum-
gartner, Sis. Lydia Steffen, and
Bradd Heyerly. May the Lord heal
each one according to His will, and
may we ever trust His will.

Sis. Elizabeth Graber (Bro. Ja-
cob) has gone to her heavenly rest.
May God's comforting Spirit be
with Bro. Jacob and their children:
Sis. Betty Steffen, Sis. Pat Kaehr,
and Bro. Glenn Graber.

Bill Barger (Cora) passed away
recently. His parents are Bro. Glen
and Sis. Queenie Barger. May they
be comforted in their time of sor-
row.

TODAY

Build a little fence of trust
Around Today,
Fill the space with loving work
And therein stay.
Look not through the sheltering
bars upon Tomorrow;
God will help thee bear what comes
of joy or sorrow.

Mary F. Butts

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Wendy Gutwein - Jacki Huber

OUR FATHER

When I behold our father, I read
a message there
Which TIME has penned upon the
face that once was young and
fair.
Upon the furrowed brow we read
the story of the years;
Of sorrows, disappointments,—
yes, and joys amid the tears.
The silver threads have now
appeared among the hair once
gold.
That tells a story clear and plain:
our father's growing old.

The once firm steps are feeble now
and oft falter 'long the way,
Yet bravely and with courage,
he goes toward the sunset of
life's day.
His life has been of service and his
earthly work near done;
In service to his fellowmen—it has
been as to the Son.
The Bible yet is Father's choice—
how oft to us he read,
That we should also learn its
worth as the source of Living
Bread.

His toil-rough hands less active
are in earth's toils and its
cares;

How oft we see them folded now
to commune with God in
prayer.

His life has been a lesson great
as we observed it day by day
And speaks to us of life's best
choice—the straight and
narrow way.

This path leads up and onward;
oft thorny, rough and still—
His patient, submissive spirit
yields to Thine, Lord, and not
my will.

Oh may we e'er remember the
lessons his life has taught,
And as we tread the path of life,
ne'er turn from it for aught.
May these same unspoken lessons
help to keep us from sin and
from fall

That we may answer the roll up
yonder, summoned by the
Master's call.

'Tis then we'll realize the worth
of living for our Lord
And be numbered with the saints
above and receive the GREAT
REWARD.

By Sis. Clara Nohl,
Goodfield, IL

As the poem brings out so fully,
we really appreciate our older
fathers and grandfathers. Without
their Godly examples, how much
more difficult would life be for us?
Because of their faith, carried from
generation to generation, we can
rejoice at new births, anticipating
future brothers and sisters in
Christ. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne
Overmyer are happy to have a
baby boy, Joshua Lee. He was born
April 3.

The Francesville congregation
enjoyed having several couples
from Bluffton. Ministering Bro.
Jim Rinkenberger was among
them. It is such a privilege to be
able to visit brothers and sisters
from "everywhere" and feel the
same Spirit and love of Christ.

Our prayers are with Harvey
Bob and Sis. Ellen Gutwein and
their baby, Lance, as he has been
in the hospital.

We were again reminded of the
brevity of life when our friend,
Ben Getz, passed away. We extend
our sympathy to his family and
friends.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Bobbi Erb

Our hearts are saddened over the
death of our dear friend, Ben Getz.

We express our deepest sympathy
to his wife, Margie, and the fam-
ily. Those of you, who are familiar
with our congregation, know how
many young children we have. To
them Ben was known as "the can-
dy man." He always had a pocket
of candy and a very special love
for children.

A new arrival, Seth Michael,
was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kai
Alt. Janell and Phil are very ex-
cited about their new brother.
Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis.
Marge Alt, and Albert Jr. and
Ruby Kaufman, all from Cissna.

On April 25, we were privileged
to partake of the Lord's Supper.
It was so beneficial for us, remem-
bering the great suffering the
Lord endured to pay the price for
our salvation. We thank Elder Bro.
Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and
Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) for
being with us and lending them-
selves in the Lord's work.

INDIANA, La CROSSE Pearl Nuest - LuAnn Feller

The mighty foe still seeks in vain
Us in his power to retain.
The blood of Jesus makes us free,
And justified by faith are we.

Zion's Harp

March 28 and 29 we were privi-
leged to hear how God led Ruth
Ann Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis.
Janet) through a true repentance,
and then to witness the burial of
her old creature in the waters of
baptism. Elder Bro. Wendell Gude-
man, Francesville, assisted Elder
Bro. Edward Frank .

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;

To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Zion's Harp

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann,
Chicago, joined us to help Elder
Bro. Edward Frank serve Com-
munion. Bro. Gene Lehman, Wol-
cott, and Bro. Frederick Knapp,
Congerville, also spent the week-
end with us. May God be their re-
warder.

Sunday, April 5, we enjoyed the
adult Sunday School classes from
Bradford and Congerville. Our
class joined theirs in singing sev-

eral hymns in the afternoon.

Sis. Martha Peters has moved
to Parkview Haven, Francesville.
May she find joy and contentment
in her new home.

A mother is the wondrous gift,
The bright and shining light,
That God gave every one of us
To teach us wrong from right.

A mother is the gentle touch,
The word, the smiling face,
And all the things that make a
home
A cheerful, happy place.

A mother is the sacrifice,
The sympathy and care
That makes each joy seem
brighter still
And pain less hard to bear.

A mother is the someone dear
Who's cherished all year
through,

A mother is a wondrous gift—
I'm glad God gave me you.

Author Unknown

We are happy to report that
Jimmy Bucher (Bro. Gary and Sis.
Lois) has recovered from a recent
tonsillectomy.

Learn To Know Each Other Better

Bro. Bert (89) and Sis. Marie
(88) Bucher have recently cele-
brated their birthdays. They lived
in Gridley, IL, and moved to La-
Crosse in the early years of the
La Crosse church. They were blest
with eight sons and five daughters.
They have had many joys along
with sorrows in their 67 years of
marriage. Sis. Marie always says,
"The Lord will provide." Bro. Bert
taught Sunday School and was a
song leader for many years. They
are thankful they still have each
other and are able to attend church.
They truly have been an example.
They are the oldest brother and
sister in our congregation.

INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

The Leo congregation was bless-
ed by the messages of Bros. Willi-
am Hodel and James Byrd, Roa-
noke, IL.

Both the Sunday School Easter
program on Palm Sunday and the
Sunrise Services on Easter morn-
ing were clear reminders of His
completed work of salvation for all

who will come and receive.

A second son, Jason Wade, was born to James and Judy Maxfield April 4. Grandparents are Bro. O. W. and Sis. Helen Maxfield and Mr and Mrs. Paul Kitzmiller.

Bethany, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn, was hospitalized a few days.

With the observation of Mothers' Day this month, each of us turn in thought to a special person. Some of us have only precious memories of dear Christian mothers who have gone ahead to Glory. Others still have mothers who hear you say, "I love you."

God did, indeed, give us a rich blessing from above when He gave us Christian mothers with all of their love! Abraham Lincoln said, "No man is poor who has a godly mother."

Passing years may fleeting be,
Mother loves and cares;
With a tireless constancy,
Mother loves and cares;
And though childhood days be
past,
Far from home our lot be cast,
As of old, e'en to the last,
Mother loves and cares.

(Taken from the poem, "Mother's Love," by Fred Scott Shepard)

INDIANA, MILFORD
Conni Beer - Marcy Haab

It's not enough to say "I believe,"
It's not enough to ask and receive,
It's not enough to repeat the
Lord's Prayer,
It's not enough to just say "I
care,"
It's not enough to be pleasant and
kind,
It's not enough to keep God in
your mind,
It's not enough just to feed the
poor,
It's not enough to forbear and
endure,
For while these things are all good
to do
They cannot insure salvation for
you,
For not until you are born anew
Can the spirit of God be alive in
you,
For the spirit of God will soon be
dead
Unless it is daily nourished and
fed!

Helen Steiner Rice

On March 29, ministering Bros.
Bill Schlatter, Junction, OH, and

Larry Wenninger, Latty, OH, proclaimed God's Word to us. We were reminded to live our life for God one day at a time, be the Christian example of love and kindness, and extend this love to those about us.

Our ministering Bro. Walter Steffan was hospitalized for surgery and Bro. Elmer Haab was again hospitalized for his heart condition. They both have been able to again assemble with us in the house of the Lord. How wonderful it is to be assured, by faith, that God knows our every need and pain. . . "I am thy God, I will strengthen thee." Isaiah 41:10.

Just suppose God searched the
heavens
And couldn't find one willing to be
The supreme sacrifice that was
needed
To provide eternal life for you and
me.
Oh, I'm so glad he was willing to
drink His bitter cup
Although He cried, "Father, let it
pass from me."
Oh I'm so glad He didn't call to
heaven's angels
To pull those nails from His hands
tormenting Him.
Oh, had it not been for a place
called Mt. Calvary,
Had it not been for the old rugged
cross,
Had it not been for a man called
Jesus,
Then forever your soul would be
lost.

Elder Bro. Ed Frank was with our congregation on April 4 and 5 as we partook of Holy Communion. "Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me." "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." I Corinth. 11:24-25 How humbly we must realize that none of us could be worthy to partake of this except by the death and resurrection of this spotless Lamb of God, Jesus, our Savior.

One day the grave could conceal
him no longer
One day the stone rolled away
from the door;
Then He arose! over death He had
conquered,
Now is ascended, my Lord
evermore!

Chapman

On Palm Sunday we enjoyed our Easter program. We were so fittingly reminded of the full atonement of our sins by Christ's death on Calvary. Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka, brought us the message of the crucifixion on Good Friday.

Of all the prizes that we own,
There's one we'll love forever.
The gift we know as mother's love.
No power on earth can sever.

Author Unknown

It is so appropriate that we have a special day to honor mothers, and that it is in Springtime. Spring brings with it so much beauty. Delicate tender plants, dazzling blossoms of sweet fragrance, baby lambs frolicking in the fresh green meadow, soft raindrops, and the warmth of the sun are all part of God's Creation.

So many of the beautiful characteristics of nature can be likened to qualities present in a mother. We know God has graciously loaned us children so we can give them tender loving care, guide them, and teach them. The daily routine of motherhood may not seem exciting to many liberated women. To some it seems even meaningless, and of little worth to self, child, or others. The glory of motherhood is an opportunity to truly work for the Lord. Each child is a special gift from God. A Christian mother will show forth her love to each child, so that he may also learn to love and trust God.

You can't define a mother's love;
It's faith and hope and power.
It's wisdom and unselfishness
Protection hour by hour.

You can't define a mother's love;
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy
A smile, a dream, a tear.

You can't define a mother's love:
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a mother's love is
found
The path that leads to Him.

Author Unknown

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
Verene Von Tobel

May is a month of changes here at Purdue. After a long winter, we welcome the spring, but bid fare-

well to some of our graduates. Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse) is leaving as a Doctor in Veterinary Science and Sis. Marsha Troxel (LaCrosse) will have her Master's Degree in Home Economics.

May 17 is the wedding date set for Bro. Scott Frank (LaCrosse) and Sis. Elaine Zimmerman (Eureka). We will be glad to have her as an addition to our Purdue group.

Last month, we held our annual Spring picnic at Happy Hollow Park. At this picnic, officers were elected for next fall. We also reflected on the past year together, and students shared some of their future career plans.

As in the past, we want to thank everyone who came to worship with us throughout the year. May God bless you as you have blessed us through your prayers and support.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

We were very thankful to be able to partake of Communion this month in commemoration of Christ's death for us. Do we thank Him, each day of the year, and not only at Easter, for His willingness to shed His blood that we might go free? Elder Bros. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) shared with us on this special occasion.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy Clauss are most pleased and thankful for their new daughter, Kyle Linn. Grandparents are Sis. Lorene Clauss and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Weiss.

The Easter Program given by our Sunday School children was an inspiration and encouragement. We appreciate all of the teachers' efforts.

Sis. Mildred (Robert) Clauss is home again and doing fine after being hospitalized a couple of days for tests. Sis. Emma Blume passed from this life March 18 at the Parkview Haven Nursing Home, Francesville. There is a better home awaiting the true and faithful, where God shall wipe away all tears.

Our friend, Jacquie Siebenthal (Carolyn and Wayne Siebenthal), was married to Mark Cunningham of Remington April 11. We wish them a happy life and the blessings and mercies of our loving Father.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

We rejoice with our friend, Nancy Lehman, who is enjoying the rich blessing of peace. We hope to witness her baptism in the near future. Nancy is the daughter of Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona. Our prayers are with her during this very precious time.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Merle Laukhuf and Don Gudeman, for sharing God's Word with us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts. We were also privileged to have our Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Loren Stoller share Palm Sunday service with us. We are always encouraged by their concern and love. A potluck dinner and precious fellowship were enjoyed by all.

With Mother's Day approaching, I'd like to share this poem with you.

A mother's love is like an island in life's ocean vast and wide,
A peaceful, quiet shelter from the restless, rising tide. . .
A mother's love is like a fortress and we seek protection there
When the waves of tribulation seem to drown us in despair. . .
A mother's love's a sanctuary where our souls can find sweet rest
From the struggle and the tension of life's fast and futile quest. . .
A mother's love is like a tower rising far above the crowd,
And her smile is like the sunshine breaking through a threatening cloud. . .
A mother's love is like a beacon burning bright with faith and prayer,
And through the changing scenes of life we can find a haven there. . .
For a mother's love is fashioned after God's enduring love,
It is endless and unailing like the love of Him above. . .
For God knew in His great wisdom that He couldn't be everywhere
So He put His little children in a loving Mother's care.

Helen S. Rice

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Suzanne Lehman
Laurel and Kris Widmer**

Sunday, April 5, we were richly blessed from the Word of God when visiting Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) assembled with us. How thankful we are for brothers willing to be used to further God's Word.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. I Corinthians 11:26. On Palm Sunday, we had the blessing of partaking in the Lord's Supper. Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) came to share Communion with us.

Once again Spring has arrived, manifested by the awakening earth and the Easter season. We observed the true meaning of Easter with songs and recitations by the various Sunday School classes at our program April 15. We are reminded, as the flowers bloom and the trees form new leaves after the dead of winter, that Christ also rose from the dead to give us new life.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas

This month we were blessed with visiting ministering Bros. Jerry Kuntz, Oakville, IA, Arnie Gerst, Chicago, IL, and Joe Braker, Morton, IL.

Our small church was soon filled with beautiful music when the Morton choir paid us a visit. We not only receive a blessing by listening to the beautiful hymns, but also from the fellowship of other believers.

We enjoy our old friends, and yet it's so refreshing to meet and learn to love those we have never met before. We owe them much for their love and support.

Good Friday was the day reserved for our Easter program. The children enjoy singing, and we enjoy watching and listening..

Terry and Sis. Nancy Bunn received a gift from God. A little boy came in time for Mother's Day and to play with his sister, Mary. Walt and Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper are the grandparents.

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

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Judy Gehring - Kim Salek**

Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz spent a Wednesday evening with us recently.

Mike Wagler, a brother to Bros. Ben and Paul, and Sis. Tillie Frank, passed away. His wife passed away five months ago.

Sis. Betty Baker is in the Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. She will be there for a week to ten days. May God stand by her side.

Last evening, Good Friday, we partook of Holy Communion. It was such a solemn occasion. As Bro. Ed served us the assembly room was completely quiet. What a blessing reserved for those who have been purchased by Christ Jesus our blessed Lord and Savior.

We will be commemorating Mother's Day soon. Aren't our mothers precious to us? I have to reflect on my own mother so many times. Mother was widowed when we were 14, 10 and 8. So many times I can remember her praying at our kitchen table in silence and with great reverence. At night, as I'd go by her bedroom door, she would be kneeling by her bedside. Many were the times I wondered how could she pray so long and what could she be saying. In the mornings she would always have a sweet smile for us children. She worked for a short time but always managed to be home when we needed her the most. We lived in Burlington, and many times she would drive me back in from the Oakville Church at noon to go to work. She saw that I always got to Sunday School, and then would drive back out for the afternoon service. At that time I didn't understand all the sacrifices she was making for me, thinking of my soul.

Mother was led of the Lord to marry in 1958. She became a widow again in 1969. Many were the heartaches, sorrows, hardships, intermingled with the joys and blessings of the Lord. When I talk to Mother she tells me the Lord is refining her as pure gold to prepare her for the everlasting realms above. Do we realize the many lonely hours our widows and widowers go through?

As I get older, Mother seems to become more precious to me. It seems as though others have a special gift sent from God to give us direction and Godly advice. May

we have a special prayer on our hearts for our mothers, not only on Mother's Day, but every day. May God richly bless my mother, Sis. Mayme Gerst, who adopted me when I was 10 days old.

IOWA, ELGIN**Eleanor Butikofer**

Many things are springing up around our farm. Little plants and little lambs are seen everywhere. Spring urges us on to greater effort and endurance. We are encouraged to get into shape spiritually. We need to be prepared for whatever comes our way, and the strength needed must come from above. We need our Lord's strength in our busy lives.

Bros. Gottlieb Pulfer and Ed Pulfer are both doing well at their respective care centers.

We rejoice with Albert and Trudy Hanson on the birth of their son, Jack Albert, born April 3. The grandparents are Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer and Bernard and Alma Hanson.

Along with our annual church cleaning project, some interior painting was done which should make for a refreshing appearance.

We have been blessed with many visitors from various points, for which we are thankful.

A group of our church folks spent a few days in Switzerland recently. It's interesting to hear them tell of their experiences traveling and seeing many scenes not found in the States. I am sure they were all happy to return to their country and homes. We are thankful that they could enjoy a safe trip.

While observing our bird feeding stations, I see gold finches and a downy woodpecker. Earlier, a cardinal was devouring some sun flower seeds with gusto, and recently I noticed a Bohemian Waxwing drinking at the watering pan. Right at the moment, I can hear a redbellied woodpecker pecking at some seeds. The feeding station is attached to our kitchen window sill, so we can hear the pecking inside the house.

As You Go Through Life

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life

And even when you find them,
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind

And look for the virtue behind them,

For the cloudiest night has a tint of light

Somewhere in the shadows hiding,
It is better by far to look for a star
Than the spots on the sun abiding.
The world will never adjust itself
To suit your whims to the letter.

Some things go wrong your whole life long

And the sooner you know it the better.

It is folly to fight with the infinite
And go under at last in the wrestle,
The wiser man shapes into God's plan

As water shapes into a vessel.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Sharolyn Metzger**

The love of God can often be seen in the love of a mother. It is a love that gives and gives, is always there, and is very forgiving. May we draw from the examples we are given, and share this love with all we may meet in our life here below.

Bro. John Steiner (Oakville), Bro. Paul Eisenmann and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton), and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) shared God's Word with us. May His blessings be with each one.

We had the opportunity to see slides of other countries where our church has sent aid in numerous forms. We can truly be thankful for the land in which we live. May we ever be willing to share our blessings with those in need, for when our life on earth is over, we can take nothing with us.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Sis. Barb Virkler and her family, as she is in critical condition. May God ever be by their sides and help them through this difficult time.

IOWA, LESTER**Alice Metzger**

We enjoyed many blessings the weekend of April 5 when we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome Sis. LuAnn Metzger (Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty), and Bro. Ben and Sis. Patrice Metzger. Ben is the son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn and Patrice is his wife. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Bro. Carl Wyss and Bro. Russell Wuthrich and their wives were among the many visitors with us for the occasion.

Mother's Day—we pay tribute to them in the month of May. How thankful we are for our Christian mothers. They play a big part in teaching God's way by word and example. We pray that young mothers of today will uphold and support that which is good and true.

On April 11, Leroy and Shelly Van Wyhe became the parents of Tisha Lee. She has one sister and her grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Wysong and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Van Wyhe. Rebecca Ann was born on April 12 to Roy and Susan Roeman. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Amelia Roeman and Rebecca has one brother to welcome her home.

Hospitalized for surgery were Bro. Donn Moser, Judy Feucht (Jerry), and Lisa Wulf, small daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf. All are home and recuperating nicely.

Our prayers are with our high school graduates as they take a giant step in life. These dear ones will be taking this step this year: Julie Feucht (Bro. August and Sis. Martha), Donald Knobloch (Orvie and Lauretta), Donna Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva), Gloria Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie), Jim Knobloch (Gilbert and Sis. Vicki), Rita Knobloch (Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Helen), Brad Moser (Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna), Brett Jones (Alvin and Marilyn Metzger), Stan Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), Diane Metzger Larson (Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty), and Tedd Larson (Del and Betty).

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Massner welcomed their first child into their home on March 21. Nichole Marie is the granddaughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich of Morton, IL.

Another first, Bethany Renae, was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz on March 25. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler, Lester, IA.

Sis. Lydia Kupferschmid, 91, passed away on April 2. During the last years of her life she made her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Esral and Ella Reeser. She was born Oct. 10, 1889, at

Princeville, IL, to Bro. Anton and Sis. Fredericka Obenland Viellieber. She married Bro. Samuel Kupferschmid Aug. 26, 1908, at Wolcott, IN; he died May 29, 1962. Surviving her are two sons, Melvin, Waterloo, IA, and Bro. Herbert, Oakville; four daughters, Ada Drasil, El Cajon, CA, Florence Davidson, Bowen, IL, Sis. Gladys Vierling, Oakville, and Ella Reeser, Burlington; three sisters, Marie Schott, West Lafayette, IN, and Sis. Rose and Sis. Emma Viellieber, both of Elgin, IL; 10 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. We are always comforted by the knowledge that our loved ones have fallen asleep in Jesus. May the Lord help this family to bear their loss.

We welcomed a new brother, Chris Grimm, into the fold, as he gave his testimony and was baptized April 4 and 5. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), was with us for the weekend, and assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz as Holy Communion was served to us on Sunday evening. May we ever appreciate the salvation that became ours when our Lord's body was broken and His blood was shed for our sins.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), on Wednesday, April 8, and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), on Easter Sunday.

IOWA, PULASKI

Ginny Wuthrich - Mary Wiegand
Spring is here! How thankful we are for the sunshine, rain, and bountiful blessings showered upon us from above.

When Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO) was here recently, he warned us of the folly of unnecessary words and vain babblings.

As I think of Thee, A gentle rapture
Overwhelms the soul that Thou dost love;
This is one of those bright precious moments
Granted Thy beloved from above.
Zion's Harp #182

Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington, IA), ministered to us recently and said it truly is "one of those bright precious moments" when we gather around God's Word. Don't we all eagerly await the Lord's Day, when we can meet and greet our

loved ones and be fed from the Master's table?

We thank both of these brothers for being with us.

Our little flock here at Pulaski has increased. We surely welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Dot Metzger into the fold, and wish them the Lord's nearness always.

Darren Wiegand, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary, fell out of a tree and broke his pelvic bone. He was laid up for a little while, but is doing fine now. He wants to thank everyone who sent him cards and get well wishes.

IOWA, WEST BEND Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

MOTHER'S LOVE

Her love is like an island
In life's ocean, vast and wide;
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From wind, and rain, and tide.

Above it like a beacon light
Shine faith, and truth, and prayer;
And through the changing scenes
of life
I find a haven there.

Author Unknown

Thoughts of Mother and her love often provide for us a "haven" as we recall her words, her works; each one has a very meaningful part in our lives, becoming a help to us in so many ways. May we never forget all the wonderful things a "Mother's Love" has given each of us—be it that of our own mother, grandmother, or "special person" who has been a mother to us.

March 30 was a special day for two families. Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda Reker became the parents of Stephanie Sue. Bro. Vic and Sis. Marilyn Banwart are maternal grandparents. On the same day, Amy Jeanette arrived in the home of Dave and Joan Schneider. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider. "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on," wrote Carl Sandberg. In certain passages of Scripture, a child was born because the "Lord visited." These little bundles from Heaven truly are gifts from Him, and we pray for His blessings that we can accept and care for them as such.

In what seems so short a time, little "bundles" become graduates and we have several from our con-

gregation: Brenda Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen), Leo Banwart (Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty), Marcy Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), Tim Banwart (Bob and Kay), Terry Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole), Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy), Lynn Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille), and Ted Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn). We wish them God's blessings as they walk the unknown path of the future.

Bro. Dwaine Schmidt was hospitalized for burns he received at work, and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) had surgery. We pray that the Lord will heal as only He can.

JAPAN, SHIODA Evie Blunier

"Dear God, Please, Easter . . . sunny day," prayed the little second grader in Kathy's Sunday School class. It was her turn to lead the class in prayer and her request came through so sincerely in her simple English. How many adults in Japan do not understand the meaning of the Easter season, but she knows all about it at age seven.

Looking around us every day, we are reminded of the miracle of resurrection and rebirth. Surrounded by peach orchards, our church is located in a valley which now, viewed from above, resembles a giant pink carpet. The peach trees in full bloom have a magical beauty that cannot be described. Once totally bare and dead-looking, with empty branches stark against the winter sky, they gradually come to life. First, a hint of pink showed as tiny buds began to form. Knowing the beauty that was to come, we eagerly watched each day as the sun shone warmly and the soft spring rain fell. Suddenly, there it was. . . the first blossom opened. . . just outside the door of the church. We marvelled at its perfectness—the soft petals and light pink color. Each day there were more just like it, until now we see orchards of pink all around us.

It reminds me of the miracle of conversion. Once dead in sin and void of beauty and fruitfulness, as God's light shone in our hearts, we gradually came back to life. Perhaps at first we are as a tiny bud, but soon under the warmth of the love of Christ, we could grow to

become as a flower, opening our hearts to be filled with peace and hope. When we see the entire plan of salvation, don't we marvel at its perfectness?

With joy, we welcomed American guests to Shioda both in March and April. Bro. John Klotzle, Sis. Kathy's father from Altadena, CA, came back to Japan on his return from India. What a joyous reunion it was for the Klotzle family as his wife, Sis. Lois, and their son David arrived from the U.S. the same day. Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler from Rockville, CT, came with them and together we shared precious hours of fellowship. God's Spirit was there as we were strengthened and taught from His Word through Bro. John and Bro. Corbin. The Shioda congregation was also privileged to spend a Sunday afternoon watching Bro. John's India slides and learning so much about the work of the Rural Gospel Medical Mission. We again marvelled at the love of God bringing three corners of the world together that special day in Shioda, Japan.

Two weeks later, we again gathered, as a church, for a fish fry, meeting the Tokyo brethren at a lake between the two churches. At the end of this last evening of fellowship, the Klotzles (who were leaving Japan the next day) and Kathy and I said good-bye to many of the sisters, brothers, and friends at the train station. We hung out the windows of the train, waving handkerchiefs as we pulled out. What a memorable sight it was to see the Shioda brethren on the platform below, smiling and waving us off. How strong is the bond of Christian love!

"With friends on earth we meet
in gladness
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the thought of
sadness
That we must say good-bye.
We'll never say good-bye in heav'n
We'll never say good-bye;
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-bye."

Hymns of Zion

On April 7, we welcomed Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann from Sarasota, FL, to Shioda. Their visit was so enjoyable as we worshipped together and shared our joy in the Lord.

Many stories were exchanged as they reminisced with the brethren here, and told us "newcomers" of their experiences while living in Japan for a year in 1954. Old movies they had taken brought back memories of that time.

Sis. Vicki Ramseyer from Bay City, MI, has felt the direction of God to come this summer to be the next teacher at Shioda American Kindergarten. It is so strengthening to know that she has put self aside and is willing to serve God for two years among our brethren here. We know she has felt His Hand of comfort and strength as she is preparing to leave home; and we pray that God will give her grace and wisdom to stand firmly for Christ here, among people who know so little about our Lord and Savior.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

This is a wonderful season for God has sent visitors to our Tokyo Church. The brethren shared many greetings and spiritual blessings with us in the Lord's House and in our homes.

Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena) reminded us that in a small fellowship, such as ours, everyone is busy; and what is better than for everyone to be busy for the Lord. Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) told how a physical affliction can have a purpose in our spiritual life, often to glorify our Heavenly Father. In our brother's case, his leg surgery and long hospital stay made him realize his lost condition and he found grace unto repentance. While he was there, his visit with a wayward relative caused the relative to "come home." While laid up, our brother took the opportunity to become well acquainted with the Scripture, reading it from cover to cover. We mention this not to glorify our brother, but to share how God has a purpose in our afflictions.

Visiting Japan, after an absence of 26 years, were Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann of Sarasota. They formerly lived in the Yokosuka area while Dave was in the Navy. There were no church buildings of our fellowship at that time, thus home meetings were held. Sis. Kay, who was not brought up in our faith, told of the deception of her former life and how the Lord led her, step by step, over a period

of time, to peace and life everlasting.

We especially enjoyed a slide presentation of the India Mission by Bro. John. It was a reminder again, that Christ died and lives for these dear folks. We pray their needs will be provided. Bro. John Klotzle returned from India and was met in Tokyo by his dear wife, Sis. Lois, his son David, and also Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler. May the Lord bless each visitor for their ministry on our behalf.

KANSAS, BERN
Esther and Stella Moser

MOTHER

God took the wisdom of an owl,
The softness of a cloud,
The clucking of a mother hen
Who scolds her chicks quite loud,
The imagination of a child,
Yet the logic of a man,
The swiftness of an eagle
And the softness of a lamb,
The uniqueness of a snowflake,
And the glow of early dawn,
The special love of mother deer to
Each special newborn fawn,
The sweetness of a lollipop,
The beauty of a rose;
The ability to wash a dirty face
And wipe a runny nose,
To bandage up a cut or
Mend a broken doll,
To pick you up and love you
When you slip and fall;
The listening ear, the encouraging
word,
The patience of no other—
God put all these things together
To make my special mother!

Kay Solum

We were richly blessed with spiritual food the past month through the efforts of visiting ministers: Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop), Roger Aberle (Sabetha), and Wayne Miller (Fort Scott).

Bro. Frank Hertzell was hospitalized for major back surgery and is now on the "take it easy" list. Bro. Edw. Lehman had tests and minor surgery and will now re-enter the hospital for major surgery.

Sis. Helen Meyer is again able to teach her Sunday School class, after having surgery. She wishes to extend her sincere thanks to all who remembered her with prayers, cards, and gifts.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr

We gathered together Good Friday evening for services and for the Sunday School Easter program presentation of Jesus' Suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

Our high school graduates this spring are Cheryl and Carol Miller, daughters of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl; and Larry Bahr, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth. Graduating from junior high is Diana Kraft, daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverb 3: 5,6

We are going to miss Sis. Jan Kraft in our congregation as she is moving to Fredericktown, OH. We welcome Steve and Lesa Sinn who have moved back from Ohio.

Emery Cordill is currently a hospital patient.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

BECAUSE OF PARENTS — Children see the qualities that they look for in others—whether they be of good qualities or of bad qualities. How great a responsibility lies upon each one, as a parent, to teach them the ways of our Lord God. Once again, the dates approach, as we pause in remembrance and thanksgiving for our God-fearing mothers and fathers.

A precious infant son, Jacob Lehi, was born to Donna and Merrel Smith on April 12. Maternal grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Joseph Somerholder.

Sis. Lydia Young and Sis. Matilda Beyer had the misfortune of enduring physical illnesses and were hospitalized this past month. We sincerely pray that they, along with many other dear ones, might regain their strength soon.

Two dear sisters in faith were recently surprised by family members who came March 29 to help them celebrate their birthdays of April 2. Sis. Lydia Young celebrated her 84th birthday and Sis. Esther (Sam) Kraft, her 80th birthday. What a joy was experienced, even by those of us standing by, as we witnessed the union of their hearts and welcomed each of them into our Sunday fellowship with Christ.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr

"Mother" and "Love"
differ only in name,
For the miracles they work
are one and the same.

Karl Lawrence

Sometimes I take a moment to look around at the way our children are brought up in this nation, and I feel very sorry for them. Many of them walk the streets, looking for something to do, because no one is home to care where they are or what they are doing. Parents are too busy today to give time to the ones who need them most, their children.

When I view this happening so often, I just "Praise the Lord" for my wonderful parents. I remember coming home from school knowing Mother would be there, looking forward to her being there, knowing she would listen to my day's happenings—praising, admonishing, cheering and, most of all, loving me. I felt secure in that love, thus I loved being home. I had no need to walk the streets.

If I had to choose the one thing I'm most grateful to Mother and Dad for, it would be teaching me about Christ. They loved Him and taught me to love Him, thus proving that the desires of this world are but dross, compared to a life lived for Him.

I know there are many other children who feel as I do, and praise God for their Christian upbringing. So maybe on Mother's Day and Father's Day we could "take time" too, and show Mom and Dad how we feel.

Give me no mansions
no countries to roam,
give me a family
where love is at home.

Mary Alice Soberg

The World Relief workday at Newton was a truly blessed occasion for those who made the trip. May God richly bless all those who give time to such a wonderful work.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

As we think of Mother's Day,
we think of the love of a mother,
love which none can forget.
Mother is the name for God in

the lips and hearts of little children.

William Makepeace Thacery

Everybody knows that a good mother gives her children a feeling of trust and stability. She is their earth. She is the one they can count on for the things that matter most of all. She is their food and their bed and the extra blanket when it grows cold in the night; she is their warmth, and their health and their shelter; she is the one they want to be near when they cry. She is the only person in the whole world or in a whole lifetime who can be these things to her children. There is no substitute for her. Somehow even her clothes feel different to her children's hands from anybody else's clothes. Only touching her skirt or her sleeve makes a troubled child feel better.

Katherine Butler Hathaway

We were privileged recently to see slides from Ecuador. Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knoblock and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser showed us the work that was done in that country by some of our brethren. We met with the Gridley congregation at the Gridley City Building for this event.

Sis. Clara Anliker (Bro. Sam) was a medical patient in the hospital this past month.

KANSAS, SABBETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

We are happy to welcome Joleen Schmidt, Julia Edelman, and Richard Meyer as our new sisters and brother in the Lord. Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar) and Lester Hartter (Bern) were here to assist Bro. Sam Huber with the testimonies. Also present were Bros. Noah Gerber and Duane Metzger (West Bend), and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop).

We assembled on a Saturday evening to partake of Holy Communion. Bro. Lester Hartter was here to assist Bro. Sam Huber in serving us. It is good for us to be reminded of our Lord's great sacrifice.

Sis. Ilene and Bro. Roger Hartter are the parents of a daughter, Kelly Ann, born March 27. She is welcomed into their family circle by her six sisters.

Todd Charles was born April 13 to Sis. Sharon and Bro. Carl Strahm. He is welcomed home by his five brothers.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharolyn Sue, to Walter C. Snodgrass, Jr. of Wathene. Sherry and Walt both attend Highland Community Jr. College at Highland, KS. They plan to reside in Kansas. A June wedding is planned at the Bluffton, IN Apostolic Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

Sis. Matilda Steiner was in a hospital in Topeka for corrective surgery on her left arm which was fractured in an automobile accident last October. She is now home and doing well.

Also hospitalized were: Bros. Andy Lehman, Aaron Moser, Louis Somerhalder, Sam Huber (tests), Joe Steiner (tests), Dave Brunner (surgery), Sisters Lydia Kellenberger, Lydia Wenger, and Fanny Bahr. Sis. Verna Strahm has a cast on her leg. May God grant His healing power to all.

We sympathize with Sis. Marie Kellenberger and her family on the death of her son-in-law, Kent Woodworth. He lived with his wife Joyce in Detroit. Kent was a victim of a freak accident. A bird smashed through the front window of the Lear jet he was co-piloting, killing him instantly. The funeral was held in his hometown of Wichita. Kent and Joyce have three children and another is expected soon. May the Lord give them His protection and guidance.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Ramona Meyer

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

Psalm 123:1-2

Ministering God's Word to us have been Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabbetha), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabbetha), Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley), Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley), and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley).

As this school year has come to an end, we want to thank everyone for their love and support throughout the year. There are no graduates this spring, so we are all looking for another blessed school year this coming fall.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

"When God looked down upon the earth

And chose to put new blessing here,

Gifts from above

To show His love

And lighten earthly joy and care,

He gave the sky the sunset glow;

Gave fragrance to the lily's blow;

To children's play,

And then to every yearning soul

He gave the gift of tendrest worth.

A Mother."

—"A Model Mother"

Author Unknwon

We have two families who have been richly blessed this month with new-born babes. The first little bundle, Samantha, was welcomed by her parents, Sam and Randi Oesch. Next came Danielle, who was warmly welcomed by her parents, Penny and Denise Oesch. Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch, the little ones' grandparents, are well pleased with the new additions to their family.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger in the loss of their brother-in-law, Kent Woodworth, of Wichita. Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk in the loss of their brother, Reuben Schrenk, of Chicago.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer

We were sorry to hear of those hospitalized. Sisters Faye Wackerle (Bro. Frank) and Naomi Thomas both have been quite ill. Nate Wieland (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy) also was hospitalized for surgery.

Sis. Faye would especially like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts, and prayers offered in her behalf. Christian love and cheer are so appreciated and needed at a time when one is lying low in health and spirit. May we, as Christians, willingly consider this a very important part of our charitable deeds. "Teach me Thy way, and lead me." Psalm 27:11

We enjoyed a wonderful weekend when a large group from the Princeville congregation came to share in the blessings of fellowship and hymn singing. We want to especially thank ministering Bro.

Arthur Baurer for bringing us God's Word.

Do you sometimes find yourself fighting with DISCOURAGEMENT? Here are some nourishing words: Matthew 6:19-21; Psalm 71:1-3; Psalm 25:1-5; Job 28:12-28; Matthew 11:28-30; and Luke 11:9-13.

In each of our lives, there is always someone special; someone that means a little more than others, merely by nature. Surely one of those "special someones" is your mother. With Mother's Day here for celebration, call and remind her of these Loving Words.

LOVE IS SHARING

Our brightest hopes, our darkest fears,
Our loudest laughs, our softest tears,
Our sweetest dreams, our bitterest woes,
Our highest highs, our lowest lows.
A growing love, always aware,
The more we share the more we care.

J. Stephans

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

It is with much happiness that I can report that my father, George Popp, has found peace in his heart and desires to be baptized. It is so wonderful to observe God work His way in the heart of man. May His blessings multiply in his life each day.

Our Sunday School presented their Easter program of song and verse. Their efforts were evident, and it was a blessing for each of us to be present and hear the Easter story.

We were glad and grateful to have ministering Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) with us the weekend of March 22. May God bless him and his family for sharing with us.

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalm 91:11

Though we will miss Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz, it is wonderful to know the Lord will give charge over them. We wish them all good things as they make a new home in Junction.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz announce the arrival of their new son, Thomas, Jr. Heather will be happy with a baby brother. May God bless their young family. Grandparents are: Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz.

Two young babies, Scott, son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr, and Danny, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa, were ill and hospitalized, but both were soon released and are doing well at home. We are thankful for God's healing touch upon these babes.

As much as we had good news, our community was also saddened with other news.

Our hearts reach out to Joyce Woodworth and children in the loss of their husband and father, Kent Woodworth. This young family has been in the Detroit area for some time and assembled with us. Kent was a pilot and was killed in an airplane accident. The funeral was in Kansas where Kent and Joyce are from originally. It is so difficult to know how to express the feelings we have. May Joyce and all the family find a comfort daily that only God can give. Our prayers are with them.

We also extend sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Izgherian in the loss of Sis. Sharon's father, Bro. Robert Sauder (Mansfield). He was in Texas for the winter months and became quite ill before he passed away.

God has given His promises

To you and to me
That wherever we wander
There He also will be.
If we're high on the hilltop
That's sunny and fair,
Or deep in the valley
Of hopeless despair,
We still hear Him speaking
In comforting tone,
"I will always be with you,
You're never alone."

Cleo King

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris) was our visiting minister on Mar. 29. We truly appreciated his visit and labor of love.

Our prayers were with Beatrice Miller and Sis. Alma Baum, as they were in the hospital this past month.

Sis. Viola Aupperle has been elected to assist Sis. Millie Schmid-

gall on the World Relief sewing committee.

We wish to thank the Winthrop Sunday School for inviting our Junior and Senior Bible School classes on April 4 and 5. It was a most enjoyable and blessed weekend of fellowship for all who attended.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .

It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns.
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation . . .

A many splendored miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.
Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

A mother is someone to shelter and guide us,
To love us, whatever we do,
With a warm understanding and infinite patience
And wonderful gentleness, too.
How often a mother means swift reassurance
In soothing our small, childish fears,
How tenderly mothers watch over their children
And treasure them all through the years!
The heart of a mother is full of forgiveness
For any mistake, big or small,
And generous always in helping her family,
Whose needs she has placed above all.

A mother can utter a word of
compassion
And make all our cares fall away,
She can brighten a home with the
sound of her laughter
And make life delightful and gay.
A mother possesses incredible
wisdom
And wonderful insight and skill—
In each human heart is that one
special corner
Which only a mother can fill.

Katherine Davis

We thank Bro. Ken Lawson for his visit this month.

Tim Schmidgall, son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois, was hospitalized for control of diabetes. May the Saviour strengthen, comfort, and cheer them as they bear their crosses.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

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 someone
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.

Helen Steiner Rice

As we celebrate Mother's Day in May, let us be especially thankful for our rich heritage and believing parents! You only have one set of parents; they can never be replaced! Treat them that way!

Two couples were united in marriage this past month. On March 21, Todd Messner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol Ann) and Renee Ohleman (John and Diane) of Gibbon, MN, were married at the home of the groom's parents. Marriage vows were said on March 28 by Phillip Messner (Bro. Don and Sis. Viola) and Sandi Hauer of Winthrop. Sandi and Phillip are residing in Winthrop. We wish God's blessings to both of these dear couples. We also want to wish them a long and happy married life together.

This year's graduates at Winthrop are: Keith Messner (Bro.

Gerald and Millie), Marcy Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae), Craig Stresemann (Shirley), Scott Nelson (Al and Sis. Donnabell), and DeWayne VanDeest (Dick and Sis. Nancy). As these young people enter the world and leave their parents' homes, may they remember these precious words: "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom." Proverbs 2:5,6

Brenda Messner (Rick) and Marilyn Messner (Bill) were announced as having peace with God and man. Lord willing, they will give their testimonies and be baptized the weekend of May 16 and 17.

Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer) wants to thank all those who remembered her with prayers, cards, gifts, and visits while she was in the hospital and recuperating at home. She's very thankful for all that was done!

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Marie Frieden

Vera Mae Frieden

Through God's Spirit, Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka, IL, reminded us that neither the beginning nor the middle of our life matter so much as how we stand at the end before our great Judge. He pointed out that there is no valid excuse for any of us. Those who live to be older can't use the excuse that they were too old to change. Those whose lives are ended at a young age realized the uncertainty of life, and they too have no excuse for not preparing to meet their Judge.

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, KS, assisted our elder in serving communion. May we all remember daily to seek forgiveness where we slip a little, thus renewing our first love for Christ.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Janice Braker were blessed with a baby, Gregory David. May God ever be with the family in the added responsibility of raising another child to walk in the true way.

Sis. Lydia Rentsch was our only hospital patient. She is home and back in fellowship with us.

Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, KS, Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, and Bro. Charles Sinn, Ft. Scott, KS, were here April 12, as we witnessed the union of two dear souls, Bro. Terry Knoblock (Bro. August and Sis. Florence) and Sis. Elaine Braker (Bro. Raymond and Sis.

LuEtta). During the ceremony, Elder Bro. Gene Marti compared the similarity of our love for Christ or our helpmate to tending a flower. With proper nourishment, water, and sun, it will develop from a bud to a beautiful full bloom. The flower requires daily care. Neglecting the flower for a day or two may not show right away, but its beauty gradually fades. Bro. Gene warned us all not to neglect this care until it is too late. Sis. Elaine will be missed here, but we wish her and Terry God's blessings as they start their life together.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

This is really a beautiful season! Fruit trees, full of buds, are preparing to burst into blossoms; grass and shrubs are greening and displaying new life after a dormant season. How can anyone say, "There is no God"?

Our dear friend and neighbor, Jean Clow (wife of Robert) is seeking her salvation, which our Lord Jesus offers so freely. May she find abiding peace for her troubled spirit.

"Now it is accomplished! My soul He hath healed; a portion in Heaven to me He hath sealed. Oh, may He direct me through joy and through ill; I'll never forsake Him, but follow Him still." Zions Harp #209. Our "Little White Church on the Levee" has been enriched by the addition of five new souls: Bro. Don Scott (husband of Sis. Janelle), Bro. Richard Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge), Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris (Miles) Sutter (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. James and Sis. Lois), and Sis. Kay Miles. On Mar. 28, they gave their testimonies of repentance and conversion, and were baptized Mar. 29. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) assisted our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in this service, which was a benefit to the entire congregation. Other visiting ministers this weekend were: Bros. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS), Uriel Gehring (Burlington, IA), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), and retired Bros. Henry Grimm (Morton) and Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

In this troubled world, it's refreshing to find,
Someone who still has the time
to be kind—

Someone who still has the faith
to believe,
That the more you give, the more
you receive.
Someone who is ready by thought,
word, or deed
To reach out a hand in the hour
of need.

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr have opened their hearts and home to a little brother and sister, 7-month-old Nicole and 21-month-old Jeremy. With the help of Shon, Dawn, and Shannon, they will endeavor to give them the "tender loving care" which these little ones have been deprived of, and which many of us take for granted. Nicole and Jeremy are "special children," having been born with cystic fibrosis, and will need much special care. May God grant this family the necessary grace, health, patience, wisdom, and understanding to "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6

Sis. Lena Haerr and Clarence Kolthoff were hospital medical patients, and Bro. Jim Sutter is a hospital medical patient at this time. We wish them better health, according to His will.

On April 12, "May this be a day of blessing," was our early morning prayer. It was richly fulfilled for we were able to assemble in God's house and then to take part in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Edward Lanz assisted Bro. Roy in carrying out this commandment. May we appreciate and value highly the price that was paid for our salvation. We wish to thank all the visiting ministers and families for sharing themselves with us.

Anew Lord we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land.
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

We are looking forward to our annual Easter program on Good Friday Eve. May God inspire all who take part.

Let us remember our Mothers, especially on Mother's Day, a day that is set aside by our government in their honor. "The chain of a

mother's prayers can link her child to God." Bosch

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Maurice Frank and to the staff of the Silver Lining. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

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

Richard Diggelman and his wife, Helga, are here to visit his parents (Bro. John and Sis. Mary Diggelman). They are presently living in South Korea where Richard is assigned with his company.

Sis. Marie Walsh of Union City spent several days in the hospital. Our prayers are for her early recovery.

Three Union City sisters, who have attained a high age, have been confined to their homes and unable to attend church for many weeks. These sisters are Louise Buhler, Bertha Weisert, and Minnie Cook. We solicit prayers and remembrances on their behalf.

An open house weekend for the Rockville congregation was greatly enjoyed by the brethren at Philadelphia. Ministering Bros. Albert Schneider and Lee Bahler, along with a large number of others from Rockville, visited us for dinner and song service on Saturday evening and for worship services on Sunday. Our little church was filled with people, the Holy Word, and good fellowship.

On Sunday, April 12, Communion services were held for the first time in the Philadelphia church. A number of brethren from Union City and Rockville also attended. Visiting ministers were Bros. John and Corbin Bahler from Rockville and John Diggelman from Union City. A blessed day of worship and fellowship was enjoyed and the solemn reminder of the Lord's suffering and sacrifice for our sins was a humbling and strengthening experience.

**NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler**

Our community was saddened by the deaths of Allen and Myrtle Farney. They were involved in a motorcycle accident only a few miles from their farm home on Monday evening, March 23. The funeral service was held on Thursday by Bros. Norbert Steiner and

John Widrick. They were survived by five children: Allen, Jr., Copenhagen, David, Lowville, Mrs. Darrell (Wanda) Bellinger, Lowville, and Norman and Gary at home. They also have four grandchildren.

Allen was born on June 28, 1928, a son of Sis. Huldah Farney and the late Bro. Norman. Myrtle was born on Nov. 5, 1935, the daughter of Fred and Flossie Foster. They were married on Oct. 4, 1952. Allen is also survived by: his mother, Sis. Huldah of Croghan; two sisters, Sis. Louise (Larry) Purvines, Lowville, and Sis. Bernice (Bro. Leland) Hirschey, R.D. Castorland; and three brothers, Bro. Niles, Lowville, Kenneth, Croghan, and Bro. Donald, Rittman, OH. Myrtle is also survived by: her mother and stepfather, Leon Gibeau; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Lou Hulbert, Lowville, Mrs. Edith Garrow, Syracuse, and Mrs. Frances Engleka, Buffalo; and a brother, Fred Foster, Watertown.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family. May they turn to our Almighty God as their source of strength and comfort.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our
tears,
And there, sometime, we'll
understand.

We'll catch the broken threads
again,
And finish what we here began;
Heaven will the mysteries explain,
And then, ah then, we'll
understand.

Gospel Hymns, No. 533

Our hospital patients this month were: Pernal Virkler (Bro. Howard), Bro. Lowell Virkler, and Sis. Katie Farney, all medical patients. Sis. Celia Virkler (Bro. Lowell) was a surgical patient. They have all been able to return home. Bro. Gerry Grau, a medical patient in Lowville, suffered a stroke on April 8. Sis. Barb Virkler remains a patient at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. We commit each of our loved ones to God's care, and pray that a measure of health may be restored to them.

We enjoyed a covered dish dinner and an evening of song service with the Naumburg congregation.

Cliff and Kathy Lehman, and their children, Ryan and Molly,

have welcomed a new son and brother, Eric Scott, who was born on April 2. His grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler, and Norman and Alice Lehman.

Our best wishes go to Niles Farney, Jr. and Barbara Kalamas who were united in marriage on April 3. Their parents are Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney, and Joe and Martha Kalamas of Croghan.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

We wish to express our sympathy to Mary and Norman Schulz and family in the passing of Mary's father, Leo Fuller.

Cheryl Lynne was born to Bro. Henry and Sis. Barbara Beyers. Christina, John, and Gerald welcomed their little sister home.

We are glad that Sis. Corine Virkler's stay in the hospital was short, and she is doing quite well at home.

A group of singers from Croghan and Naumburg churches gathered at the home of Sis. Clara Merz for a visit. They sang a few songs for her 98th birthday.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Esther Wallace, 96. Barbara Bachman, 103, is a sister-in-law. Sis. Esther is survived by many nieces and nephews. She spent her last years in the extended care facility of the Lowville General Hospital. Bro. Robert Beyer conducted the funeral. A potluck dinner was served after the funeral.

OHIO, AKRON Carolyn Miller

On March 22, we were thankful to have Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) in our midst. They assisted in the ordaining of our ministering Bro. Eugene Pamer as a deacon. We also thank Bro. Ben Hartzler (Rittman) for visiting us and ministering the Word. The Conference Memorandum was also read and meditated upon.

Our Bro. Richard Messner passed away on March 24, after having been ill for quite some time. He had been residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman. His wife preceded him in death on June 13, 1980.

We are happy to report the engagement of Bro. Steve Pamer, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor, and Sis. Arliss Walders, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha (Rittman, OH) on Mar. 29. May they

seek the Lord's guidance as they plan their life together.

It is the time of year when our nation has set aside a day to commemorate mothers. It is good for us to remember, not only now but throughout the year, what our mothers have done for us, since we were babes in their arms. It is also a time when we mothers have to stop and think of the grave responsibility we have to our families. We cannot fulfill our duties without the help of God.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Our hearty thanks go to Bros. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Loren Stoller (Latty) for ministering to us the Word of Life this month.

Hospitalized was four-year old Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) for a broken arm.

The month of May is somewhat special to us because during this month we celebrate Mother's Day. I wonder how different our church would be were it not for the countless prayers that ascend to God daily from mothers concerned about their loved ones.

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

God has blessed our congregation with several bundles of joy. Natasha Marie is the new daughter of Jim and Penny Boyce. Welcoming her into the family is her brother, Ashley, her sister, Heather, and grandparents, John and Sis. Lillian Schlatter. Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice Wenninger, Ashley, and Austin are happy with the arrival of Samantha Jan. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger, and Cletus and Alice Coomer. Glad for a playmate are Sara, Ben, and Corbin as they welcome Reid Christopher. His parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller. His grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Florence Stoller and Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah Frank, LaCrosse, IN. May God's blessings rest upon these parents as they strive to raise these precious little ones to love and serve Him.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized. They are: Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge), Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom), Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Ulrich Kipfer (Sis. Frieda), Sis. Sophia Sinn, and Gary Sinn (Bro.

Ray and Sis. Ann). May the healing hand of God rest upon each one according to His perfect will and plan.

Ministering brethren who proclaimed God's Word to us this past month were Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ken Wertz and Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). We are thankful that these brothers permitted themselves to be led of the Holy Spirit. May we ever support them in prayer.

Once again, it is the special time of year that we set aside to remember our mothers. I'm sure that each of us can go back in our minds and remember the love and the time spent teaching us to love and serve God. May we ever appreciate and be thankful for this.

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

It takes a Mother's love
To make a house a home.
A place to be remembered,
No matter where we roam.
It takes a mother's patience
To bring a child up right,
And her courage and her
cheerfulness

To make a dark day bright.
It takes a mother's thoughtfulness
To mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her skill and her endurance
To mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a mother's kindness
To forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
And bow her head in prayer.
It takes a mother's wisdom
To recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
By her loving words and deeds.
It takes a mother's endless faith,
Her confidence and trust,
To guide us through the pitfalls
Of selfishness and lust.
And that is why in all this world
There could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
As complete as A MOTHER!

We just want to say—Thank you, Mother's and may God richly bless you!

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

The door that leads to a mother's heart
Is always open wide
And in her heart is a special place
Where peace and love abide.

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

Barbara Burrow

How wonderful it is to have a Christian mother who has taught her children to know Jesus and our Heavenly Father.

An old man once recalled, when as a small boy, he and several of his friends were playing in a dense woods and their attention was attracted by the beautiful spring flowers and other things. As the day wore on, they suddenly realized they had become lost. The oldest child said: "When mother died, she told us always to tell Jesus if we were in trouble. Let's kneel down and ask Him to take us home." They agreed to do so and as they prayed, one of the little ones opened his eyes to find a bird so close to his hand that he reached for it. The bird hopped away but kept close to the child to lead him on. Soon all were joining in the chase after the bird who flew or hopped in front, almost within reach. Suddenly, it rose into the air and flew away. The children looked up to find themselves at the end of the woods in sight of their home. Yes, God leads His dear children and answers prayers.

We are happy to report the births of two new babies. The new parents are Jeff and Cheri Ramsier, who had a baby boy named Erik Wesley, born March 11, and Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Carol Browne, who are the happy parents of a little daughter Kelly Amanda, born Apr. 3. Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier are the grandparents of both of the new born babies.

Those hospitalized have been: Kevin (Cubby) Baker, who was in a severe semi-truck accident, Sis. Alma Beer, Sis. Amanda Matthes, and John Them. We pray for God's healing touch on each of them.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Bill Gerst and Aaron Steffen (Alto). We wish to thank them for their labors of love.

The Sunday School presented

their Easter Program on April 12.

Hearts have been saddened at the recent death of our dear Bro. Robert Sauder. Bro. Bob had been hospitalized for many weeks in Houston, TX. One of Bob's greatest loves was singing. He lead in the Mansfield church ever since he was a young member. One of his favorite hymns was "The Holy Land." One of his sisters told me that even before Bob was converted, no matter how late at night, he sang "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," when he arrived home.

Bro. Joseph Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton), and Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto) officiated at the funeral service.

Those surviving are his dear wife, Wilma; three sons, Robert, Larry and Richard; four daughters, JoAnne Tingley, Lois Lotz, Judy Sauder and Sharon Izgherian; four brothers, Elmer (Bud), Richard, Donald, and Kenneth Sauder; and five sisters, Marie Fulk, Mildred Dolce, Alice Graszl, Ruth Weiss, and Evelyn Manz. One son, Raymond, preceded him in death.

The following poem was written in Bob's memory by his brother Bud.

BOB

There is a beauteous wonderland
 He learned on his mother's knee
 Of joy, of love and peace of heart
 Where pain has there no part.

"Oh, where is the home of the soul
 to be found?"

I believe was his favorite song.
 The things of this earth were not
 his goal

But heaven is the home of the soul.

"Just over the river, just over the
 river"

Now Jordan's river he's crossed
 To fill a longing of great desire
 To sing in the heavenly choir.

"Blest be the tie that binds"

Is now his parting song.

But this love, this love, this
 Christian love,

Will unite us in heaven above.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough

Florence Hartzler

We read so often in the Bible how our Lord Jesus had compassion on the sick and how He healed them. There are always those who are sick and some who have to be

hospitalized. We are so thankful that three from our congregation have been returned to good health after being in the hospital, and are able to assemble with us once again. They are Sis. Pearl Marty, Bro. Ernest Howell, and Sis. Louise Spangler.

March 24 was the wedding day of Bro. Jim Rufener and Sis. Pat Gasser. We wish them God's richest blessings as they make their home together. Bro. Jim is the son of Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna Rufener and Sis. Pat is the daughter of Sis. Doris and the late Bro. Bill Gasser.

"Children are the most wholesome part of the race, the sweetest, for they are the freshest from the hand of God."—Herbert Hoover. Amanda Jo has come to be the sweet little daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Ricki Gerber. Mandy's grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber, and Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer of Latty. Andy and Caresse Zollinger are first time grandparents with the birth on April 3 of Mason Andrew. Mason's great-grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Lillian Zollinger and Sis. Marie Ritzman. May these little ones add many blessings to their homes.

On April 4, Merv Miller and Dawn Winkler became husband and wife. Merv is the son of Richard and Sis. Melba Miller. We wish them much happiness in their married life.

We want to wish the Lord's blessings and guidance to Sis. Arliss Walder, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, and Bro. Steve Pamer, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer of Akron, whose engagement has been announced.

Our congregation spent a blessed May 11 and 12 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of 7 precious souls. Bro. Joe Ramsier was assisted by Bro. Rudy Graf and Bro. Eugene Pamer of Akron. It is so comforting to know that God is still calling souls. Those who were baptized are: Sis. Joan Graf (Sis. Marie Bauman), Bro. Ralph Marty (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty), Sis. Deanna Rufener (Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener), Bro. Jay Maibach (Bro. Alph and Sis. Helen Maibach), Sis. Amy Cannon (Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie Gasser), Sis. Beverly Moore (the late Bro. Robert and the late Sis. Elda Gasser), and Sis. Ellen Gasser (Bro. Will and Sis. Martha Riggensbach).

We are so glad and thankful to report that another dear soul has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish Glen Rufener much grace and pray our Lord will grant that peace that passes all understanding.

We thank our visiting ministers for their visits and labors this past month. Those who served us were: Bro. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest, Bro. Bill Brake and Bro. Ken Indermuhle of Sardis, Bro. Rudy Graf, Bro. Eugene Pamer, and Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron.

As the spring of the year comes around, it is also the time for graduation. We have 18 graduating from high school this year. There are so many paths and occupations for our graduates to choose from, but no matter what direction they go this little poem called "God's Country" would be a good guide for them to follow.

GOD'S COUNTRY

Who shares his life's pure pleasures,
And walks the honest road,
Who trades with heaping measures,
And lifts his brother's load,
Who turns the wrong down bluntly,
And lends the right a hand,
He dwells in God's own country,
He tills the Holy Land.

Louis F. Benson

Our graduates are: Brian Acker, Ralph Beery, Ellen Blough, Sis. Verla Blough, Kim Hanzie, Keith Hartzler, Jon Hartzler, Todd Jenkins, Bev Norris, Tim Ramsier, Bob Riggenbach, Tami Riggenbach, Joni Schar, Sis. Debbie Steiner, Robin Steiner, Eric Stoller, Brent Widmer, and Amy Zollinger.

Peggy Bauman and Christopher Camp have recently become engaged. Peggy is the daughter of Sis. Marie Bauman.

Also engaged are Kathy Everhard and Jeffrey Ryan. Kathy's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Margaret Everhard.

May 10 has been set aside for the observance of Mother's Day. All of us have or have had mothers. For most of us the word "Mother" brings a warm feeling because of all the love she always showed us and gave us, even though lots of times we were very undeserving of it and took her for granted. The

following verses were written after a mother was gone.

Though I was often wayward, she was always kind and good,
So patient, gentle, loving, when I acted rough and rude.
My childhood griefs and trials she would gladly with me share;
O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there.

When I became a prodigal, and left the old roof-tree,
She almost broke her loving heart in mourning after me,
And day and night she pray'd to God to keep me in his care;
O Savior, tell my mother I'll be there.

Tell mother I'll be there, in answer to her pray'r.

This message, blessed Savior to her bear.

Tell mother I'll be there, heaven's joys with her to share;

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

Gospel Hymns #801

May is Rittman's month for the Silver Lining collection. Please give your \$5 donation to either one of your reporters.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

We were blessed to have Bros. Tom Lehman (Elgin, IL) and Harold Emch (Girard, OH) with us one Wednesday evening in April. May God richly bless them for serving us.

Once again, we look forward to our annual West Virginia service. There will be services in Sardis, Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. Services will begin in West Virginia, Sunday morning, June 28, at 10:30. Everyone is welcome to come and share a blessed weekend.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehkla

A number of years ago, a little girl was heard reciting a Psalm in an expressive and beautiful way. She was complimented and, at the same time, she was asked who taught her this Psalm. There was a bright smile on her face when she said, "My mother."

The great value of instilling beautiful truths in the plastic lives of children will never be fully realized by their parents. We should take time to do those things which

help to mold the lives of children.

Our Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. It was an inspiration to hear the children express in words and song the story of the resurrection of our Lord and His great love for us.

Sis. Mary Ann Weigele is in the hospital after having had surgery. We pray that she will have a good recovery.

We extend our congratulations to Barbara Stevens, daughter of Robert and Dorothy, and Kristi Weigele, daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann, on their graduation from high school. Barbara has been accepted in the Toledo Hospital School of Nursing and Kristi is planning to attend Bowling Green State University.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

We have been blessed beyond measure in so many ways. The Lord is very good to us; He not only gives us our needs, but He gives us far more besides.

This past month, we joined the Silverton congregation in welcoming into our fellowship four dear souls: Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi, Sis. Roselee Kuenzi, and Sis. Linda Hari. It is a wonderful privilege to hear how God has worked in the hearts and lives of these dear people, and we truly rejoice with them. Bro. Carl Kinsinger, our beloved shepherd from Altadena, Bros. Leo Moser (Lester) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) were here for this most joyous time. We enjoyed their visit as they served us from God's Word.

Apr. 12, Bro. Steve Miller (Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl) and Sis. Julie Anderson gave their solemn promise to love one another and to have our Lord and God as the head of their home. It is most blessed when we can build our lives together on our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the author of this most precious love, and as was mentioned, a three-fold cord is not easily broken. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Mother's Day is a good time to reflect on the attributes of our dear mothers and, if possible, thank them for all they've done. A mother is certainly far more than just a woman who bears a child. We appreciate our "spiri-

tual mothers" who helped and instructed us in our Christian walk of life. A very dear sister in faith, who lived the virtues of a God-fearing mother, was our Sis. Elizabeth Pfister. Elizabeth passed away a year ago. This poem was given to me by Sis. Pearl Miller, her daughter:

MY MOTHER

The love that welled up in me
For my dear mother, who came
Flying the many miles to visit me,
At age ninety-one, looking the
same.

As a child of God, seventy-four
years,
Her life portrays His love each
day,
As her 92nd birthday nears,
Burdens for others, on her heart
lay.

My love for you shall never
diminish;
You are dear and precious to me,
A mother who cares and heart's
wish
Is to live for Him who died on a
tree.

May we ever follow the Christian
example,
Displayed in your life daily,
Patience and love are just a
sample
Of the virtues that guide you
faithfully.

Each morning, the Bible you take
And read the precious promises
therein,
Which direct your path, to make
You full of His love within.

Your smile reflects His love
As the path of life you tread:
Many blessings come from above;
Through His Grace you are led.

Thanks to God for you, dear
Mother,
Who taught me the way to take.
Precious memories will always
linger
Of your loving virtues, my life to
make.

May this love never diminish
Which God has given to you.
In your heart you cherish,
The joy of the Heavenly view.

Your hands are always busy,
Doing for others unselfishly,
Crocheting afghans, which are
many,
For loved ones, received gratefully.

Fond memories of dear Mother
Linger in my heart each day.
As I think of the love from her,
It will always, with me, stay.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Andy and Mary Jane Winkler

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and pur-
chased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp, No. 209

I always think of this hymn
when new souls are brought into
the fold. It is a beautiful hymn and
we rejoice when our little flock
increases in number. We welcome
these dear souls into the fold: Sis.
Rosa Lee Kuenzi, Bro. Nick and
Sis. Mary Kuenzi, and Sis. Linda
Hari.

We want to offer special thanks
and God's blessing to our dear
shepherds who spent their time
for us. The Elder Bros. present
were: Leo Moser, Lester, IA, Carl
Kinsinger, Altadena, CA, and Al-
fred Bahler, Wolcott, IN. We know
they give much of their time for
God's work but we hope they al-
so feel our prayers of support and
thankfulness for their efforts. As
God's children, we need to be con-
cerned for one another and pray
for each other.

Time seems to slip by so fast.
We listened to our Sunday School
children sing and tell us about
what happened on Good Friday
and Easter so many years ago. We
cannot appreciate enough what
Christ did for us by coming to
earth and dying for our sins upon
the cruel cross.

Mother's Day is here and we
think of what our dear mothers
have done for us. It is often said
how strong a mother's love is for
her children. We ought to thank
our parents more often for their
love and concern for us.

As we consider the things that
give us pleasure and happiness in

this life, surely one of them is
children. Samuel David has come
to live and be part of Bro. Gus
and Sis. Dorothy Dietrich's fam-
ily. We wish them God's blessing
in their new responsibility.

We as parents know the love
and responsibility that goes with
children. May God help us all car-
ry out our duty in this area of
our life for His praise and honor.

TEXAS, McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

We miss those of our friends
who have been with us this past
winter and have now gone back to
their families and friends. We wish
them all a blessed summer and
hope to see them again this fall.

As Spring is approaching, we
will assemble with the congrega-
tion at Zapata.

We invite anyone who comes to
the valley area to please contact
us. Our telephone number is (512)
682-0219.

In the glorious Easter Story
A troubled world can find
Blessed reassurance
And enduring peace of mind.
For though we grow discouraged
In this world we're living in,
There is comfort just in knowing
God has triumphed over sin.
For our Saviour's Resurrection
Was God's way of telling men
That in Christ we are eternal
And in Him we live again
And to know life is unending
And God's love is endless, too.
Makes our daily tasks and burdens
So much easier to do
For the blessed Easter Story
Of Christ the living Lord,
Makes our earthly sorrow nothing
When compared with this reward.

Helen Steiner Rice

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

We wish to thank all who win-
tered with us. We are looking for-
ward to your return this fall.

Bro. Bob Sauder (Mansfield,
OH), one of our winter residents,
has gone to his rest. He died Apr.
14 in a Houston, TX, hospital
where he had been for many, many
weeks. We sympathize with his
family, especially his wife, Sis.
Wilma.

A more joyous report can be
made on Sis. Tillie Kellenberger
(Morris, MN), also one of our win-

ter residents. Tillie is out of the hospital and progressing satisfactorily.

SILVER THREADS

I am most fortunate to have my dear mother. Jim, many others, no longer do. And I have been to Calvary. Yet I can still feel, as I felt when I was unconverted, the heartrending tugs of the words of this song. May God answer the prayer of so many, many mothers 'ere time is no more.

"MEMORIES OF MOTHER"

(p. 294 Tabernacle)
Robert Harkness

My mother's hand is on my brow,
Her gentle voice is pleading now;
Across the years so marred by sin
What memories of love steal in!

Once more I see that look of pain,
The anguish in those eyes again;
My heart is sad, for well I know
My sin has caused this bitter woe.

While others scorned me in their
pride,
She gently drew me to her side;
When all the world had turned
away,
My mother stood by me that day.

The memories of bygone years,
My mother's love, my mother's
tears,
The tho't of all her constant care
Doth bring the answer to her
prayer.

I'm coming home, by sin beset,
For Jesus loves me even yet;
My mother's love brings home to
me

The greater love of Calvary.
Chorus:

O mother, when I think of thee,
'Tis but a step to Calvary;
Thy gentle hand upon my brow
Is leading me to Jesus now.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

On this Mother's Day and every day let me remember my responsibilities rather than my privileges as a mother. . .

Let me be wise enough to love my children without possessing them.

Let me be wise enough to earn their respect, not demand it.

Let me be as understanding and patient with their mistakes as I am with my own.

Above all, let me remember that these children of God have been graciously loaned to me so that together we may find the Christ in one another.

Let me be thankful every moment of every day for this responsibility. . . a chance to serve others and to grow.

Ruth Tubia

GOD'S GIFTS

God created beauty
When He created flowers
And sprinkled them profusely
upon this earth of ours.

Each blossom is a token
Of love beyond compare,
A tender language of the heart
For everyone to share.

And have you ever noticed,
With a special kind of grace,
How like the loveliest
Flower that grows
Is a mother's gentle face?
Nadine Brothers Lybarger

GOD'S GARDEN

When the wise God planted His
garden,
Scattering the seeds from above,
The choicest seed in His packet
Was the flower of mother love.

Carefully watched over and
tended,
Nurtured by sunshine and shower,
Ever growing sturdy and stronger,
It blooms, a beautiful flower.

A flower so sweet and entrancing,
Dazzling and shining and white,
A love that guards us and
guides us
Through life, our beacon light.

A love that steadies our footsteps,
That stretches a helpful hand,
That comforts our sorrows and
heartaches,
That always will understand.

Mother love . . . God's gift to His
children,
With heavenly fragrance fraught,

The brightest flower in God's
garden,
His truest forget-me-not.
Myrtie Fisher Seaverns

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

It takes a mother's love
To make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
No matter where we roam.
It takes a mother's patience
To bring a child up right,
And her courage and her
cheerfulness
To make a dark day bright.
It takes a mother's thoughtfulness
To mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her skill and her endurance
To mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a mother's kindness
To forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
And bow her head in prayer.
It takes a mother's wisdom
To recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
By her loving words and deeds.
It takes a mother's endless faith,
Her confidence and trust
To guide us through the pitfalls
Of selfishness and lust.
And that is why in all this world
There could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
As completely as
A mother!

H. S. R.

FOR MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY

"No other love
Than mother love
Could do the things
Required of
The one to whom
God gives the keeping
Of His wee lambs,
Awake or sleeping."

H. S. R.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 32)

The king sent his servants to call those who were bidden to come to the marriage. They didn't come. They had excuses which were just as flimsy as any we might have today. One said that he had bought a team of oxen and had to try them. All of us know I have never driven a team of oxen, but I have driven enough things that I don't buy it before I try it. One bought

a piece of land and had to go see it. Flimsy excuse.

The prophet John was called upon to write one of the gospels, three epistles, and also the Revelation. When John saw God, he fell on his face as dead. He was as without life and couldn't even stand until the Lord laid His right hand upon him.

It was the same with Daniel. When the angel came to him to give him the prophecies, Daniel fell on his face on the ground and was in a deep sleep.

We seem to think that we are going to bargain with God, that we are going to be able to stand and plead our case, but we're deceived. We're going to be speechless. The supremacy of God is something we cannot even imagine! We're not going to bargain, we're not going to plead our case, and we're not going to blame our fall upon someone else.

The Apostle Paul says (and I like this Scripture) that we should work out our own salvation. We don't have to worry about everyone else's although we have a duty, if we see someone fall, to go to him in love. But first we should pray and be sure that there is no "beam" in our own eye. After we have swept our own doorsteps, we can go to our brother.

If we carefully consider this, we see that God in His wisdom knew that if we took care of our own doorsteps, we would not have time to sweep anyone else's. There is a bit of psychology there. We must examine ourselves first!

When the time of communion comes, sometimes we feel that we have to go around and get everyone else ready. That's not according to Scripture. We should make sure that we are ready; we should examine ourselves so that we will not be left behind on this day to come.

I want to take a few minutes here and read the Scriptures of which I spoke. "Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribu-

lation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matt. 24:17-21.

We've seen a lot of trouble in this world and we've seen a lot of persecution. We've read of persecution of the Jewish people and of Christians who broke away from state churches, terrible things that won't even compare with that great and notable day.

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved! but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before." Matt. 24:21-25. This is the warning He gave us: that these things are going to come to pass.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then (after the tribulation of those days) shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24:26-31.

Now what is that tribulation? The sun and the moon will be darkened. There shall be no more day of grace.

"And when he had opened the

seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angels hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake." Rev. 8:1-5.

An earthquake. There is going to be a great earthquake at that time. The Scripture says that in the end times, "... there shall be earthquakes in divers places..." Mark 13:8 In different places. About a century ago, if I err not, an earthquake was very rare. Today there is an earthquake every minute of every hour of every day somewhere in the earth. The Word of God is being fulfilled.

We are told in second Thessalonians that the Lord Jesus Christ cannot come again unless there is a great falling away first. This does not refer to the nominal Christian church or to those who have never been converted. It's a falling away of God's people, a falling away of those who should have been part of the bride of Christ. It is a purification perhaps. We've seen that also. Whole churches have fallen away, half a church, a few at a time. The Scripture is being fulfilled. This is a plan that we cannot even imagine. It seems like doom, doesn't it? It would have been if the Lord Jesus Christ had not come upon the earth.

Jesus bled and died on the cross for us. He arose again and we can do the same. We can rise to a new and better life. Today, we don't live in the land of the living; we live in the land of the dying. We want to go to the land of the living.

We have to put our sights and our aims and our goals on eternal life. It's not really so hard. The only reason I like to bring these

things out, if God gives me the words, is so that we can be prepared if we have to go through trials and tribulations in this life.

The "tribulation" is probably one of the most controversial issues in the world today; more so than politics, if you can imagine that. And we don't have all the answers. The Apostle Paul said that we see through a glass dimly; but later, face to face, we'll know why all of these things happened. But it's God's plan and He has laid it out for a reason. He has given us prophecy for a reason.

Do you think that God would have sent His Son to suffer if it hadn't been necessary? Would He have preserved this Word, which has been attacked by people, by nations and governments and kings through the ages, if it weren't true and also necessary for our salvation?

God doesn't want us to be led astray by Satan. He gives us a little fear to help us be overcomers. We can see that we need something.

Last night four dear souls professed that they needed something. They had been lost. We don't ever want to forget the day when we sat in front of the church and gave our testimony. We would have done anything we could possibly do to become a child of God. How is it with us today? Are we as willing as we were on the day we were converted? As on the day we were baptized? God hasn't moved. God hasn't changed.

If there is a broader gulf today between us and God, you and I have moved. It need not be that way. God has given us sufficient grace to overcome. Christ knows that the world is deceitful and that the strength and power of Satan is far greater than ours; but Jesus said, "Be of good cheer; (for) I have overcome the world." John 16:33. But our Lord's power is of no avail to us if we don't use it. We have to use it.

We have to put things in the proper perspective. God has given us all that we need. He wants us to pray to Him and He will even give us the words to pray. It's like buying a gift for someone and then receiving the money from them to buy it with. There is nothing difficult about it. All we have

to do is ask for His grace and use it.

The world today is full of tapes and literature and philosophy teaching how to get ahead, to excel. We don't have to get ahead. We have our sights on something better.

Excel? Get ahead? Ahead of whom? Ahead of your brother? What does God's Word say? Put your brother ahead of yourself. "(The) first shall be last; and the last shall be first." Matt. 19:30. I don't want to be first. Why should we want to be first if God's Word says it is going to be reversed in eternity?

So you see, there is really nothing complicated. "Follow me," Jesus said. Matt. 4:19. When he called the fishermen, they dropped their nets. They forsook their nets and followed Him. They didn't ask "What all do we have to do?" When we sit down in a business transaction, we say, "What does this involve?" We have to go through every little step so we don't miss anything. But the disciples just forsook their nets and followed.

The Lord also told us to "... (become) as a little child." Luke 18:17. I have often wondered about that Scripture, because a lot of little children aren't very submissive. So I searched the Scripture and in verse fifteen, it said, "infants." Completely submissive, completely dependent. God knows what our problems and our trials are. He knows what we need, but He wants us to ask.

A lot of us here are parents. We know of things which our children need, but it is nice to be asked and to be thanked when we give them something. So it is with God in a much higher form. He wants us to be submissive.

"Watch and pray, that when the Master cometh . . ." You know the song. We must watch and pray so that we can be ready, so that we don't have to endure the predicted tribulations. Fire will fall upon the earth and upon the rivers. It is going to be a terrible time. It will come to pass because God's Word says so.

God has hidden these things from the powerful, from the wise, and from the cautious. They can't understand because they have to figure things out. That's where

faith comes in. We shouldn't have to figure everything out. We shouldn't worry. God has promised us everything we need. Not everything we want but everything we need. He has promised to sustain us.

If our life is five years shorter than someone else's, is that a problem? It means that we can be with the Heavenly Father five years sooner. Let us have faith. Think of Abraham, Jonah, Noah, Daniel, David. Can you imagine having the faith of those prophets? They didn't even have the Holy Spirit as we have it today! The plan of salvation wasn't known because Christ hadn't come yet! We have extra strength; we have an "edge" on those men!

Do you know what surprises me the most as we consider the words of the Apostle Paul? What were the problems in the churches of converted people at that time? Fornication, adultery, backbiting, gossiping, envyings, strife! Two thousand years and we haven't gained an inch. Back then they were walking in sandals and riding donkeys. Today we fly through the air in jets at 600 miles an hour, and go to the moon and walk on it and return to the earth. That's how far we have advanced in technology, but we have not gained spiritually. Why is that?

The Apostle Paul said, I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for . . . ye were not able to bear it . . . For . . . there is among you envying, and strife . . . are ye not carnal?" 1 Cor. 3:2, 3. He would find it the same today.

It appears that we are not as thankful as we should be. It appears that our goals are set on tomorrow and next year, instead of on all eternity. Eternity? I have often thought that it might have been easier for us to understand if it were stated as 100 years or something like that. We can more easily understand time. But eternity is so vast that we cannot even imagine it.

The poet said it like this: Tell me not in mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream, And the soul is dead that slumbers; things are not what they seem. For life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not the goal. Dust thou art, to dust returneth, was not spoken of the soul.

Sermon by BRO. DOUGLAS SABO OF SARASOTA & PT. CHARLOTTE FL

Text: Revelation 8

God is going to fulfill a tremendous judgment upon the earth which has been prophesied through His anointed. We believe that the Word of God, as the Scripture says, is good for reproof, for chastisement, and for our every need.

The Bible is the Word of God. Therefore, predicted events will come to pass and the earth will be destroyed with fire and brimstone. It says that the waters are going to be made blood. In the sixteenth chapter of the book of Revelation, we can read that an angel spoke and said that the water was made blood, but righteous are the judgments, "O Lord, . . . For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink." Rev. 16:5,6.

Our great, merciful and loving God, who opened the door of grace to whoever would come and drink of the water of life freely, is going to become a just and righteous God. Wherever there is sin and unbelief, a price will be paid.

We are told that "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Heb. 10:31. We wonder "Why is that?" He is a loving God who has done so much for mankind—He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross, to shed His blood and to be crucified.

It is claimed that death from crucifixion, for the most part, is one of suffocation. The muscles tear from the chest and gradually work their way up and cut off the air supply. But that takes time, and there is a lot of agony and a lot of pain. Jesus was willing to suffer that for you and me.

The plan for our redemption was worked out from the foundation of the world before man had ever been created. The Lord knew that He was going to have to come to earth for you and me one day. He has given us the opportunity for salvation so that we don't have to

be upon the earth when these times come. We can be spared the horror of waters being turned to blood, or the sun and the moon being darkened, and of the great tribulations to come.

I believe that the Christians will remain here during the first half of the tribulation period, the first three and one-half years. The twenty-fourth chapter of St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter of St. Luke, and the thirteenth chapter of St. Mark give us that instruction. It says, "Except these days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." Matt. 24:22. And after the tribulation of that time, people shall "see the Son (Lord) coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24:30. "After" the tribulation of those times, it said.

He will then send His angels "to gather his elect from the four winds" so that we can be taken up to be with Him. The "sun (will) be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light . . ." Matt. 24:29. That's what the Scripture says.

Why is it that this must come to pass? I once worked with a man who was not a God-fearing person, and he said to me, "I've asked a lot of people a question and I've never gotten an answer. You claim that God knows everything and knew what the world was going to be like, how come He ever made mankind?" I didn't have an answer either. That's a good question.

But through a love that we cannot even imagine, and that surely the world cannot imagine, He was willing to suffer and to see His Son die on the cross for a small remnant of born-again believers, those who have a wedding garment and who have been willing to use the talent that God has given them.

Many times we may think that someone else can do a job better than we can and we are tempted to sit back. We've been converted and are living a good life, but we

want to sit back and let someone more capable do the work. That can be a humble attitude, but God has given us each a job to do. This is a great plan that God has worked out, but it is like a puzzle. We are each a part of that puzzle, and if we don't fit in where we belong, it will not be complete.

We are taught by an example in the Scripture that if we just put our talent on the shelf and don't use it, we will be cast into outer darkness. Take therefore the talent from him (the unprofitable servant), and give it unto him which hath ten talents." Matt. 25:28. We are all familiar with that Scripture. "And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 25:30.

The servant was not cast into outer darkness because he was sinful, because he committed adultery or fornication, or because he was a murderer, but because he was fearful and unbelieving.

If you read the twenty-first chapter of Revelation, verse eight speaks of those who will be in the lake of fire forever and ever, and the first two classifications there are not the murderers, the whoremongers and such, but the fearful and the unbelieving. The fearful did not have the faith to believe that God could see them through. They were afraid that they didn't have the strength, which we know through God's grace we do, to do their part and to put that piece in the puzzle so that God's bride could be complete.

We really should be thankful when we consider that the plan of salvation was laid out for God's chosen people. It was given to them first and they rejected it. We have the account, a story that we can understand, of the king who prepared a feast for his son's marriage.

(Continued on page 29)