

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 33

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EASTER

THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

p

1. Out on - to Cal - v'ry's hill, Where Je - sus died I'll
2. How great the pains, O Lord, Af - flict Thee on this
3. No ven - geance fills His heart; For them I hear Him
4. Now Ma - ry weeps for Him; In love He soothes her

pp

go, To hear the words He speaks, To see Him in His woe,
day; "My God, my God," He calls, "For - sake Me not, I pray."
plead; "They know not what they do; For - give them for this deed."
lot; "See, moth - er, thine own son!" "Thou friend, for - sake her not!"

5. The thief in penitence Is pardoned ere he dies:
"Today shalt thou yet be,
With Me in Paradise."
6. "I thirst," He cries in pain,
For there is no distress,
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,
Endured not at His death.
7. He bows His head and cries,
" 'Tis finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul."
Life's victory is won.

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took JESUS, and lead him away. And he, bearing his CROSS, went forth into a place called the skull, which is called in the Hebrew, GOLGOTHA, where they crucified him, John 19:16-18

Then said JESUS, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Luke 23:34

And when JESUS had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hand I commend my spirit: and having said this, he gave up the ghost. Luke 23:46

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out BLOOD and WATER. John 19:34

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, in which was never man yet laid. There laid they JESUS, John 19:41-42

And the angel answered and said unto the women, fear not; for I know that ye seek JESUS, which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen. Matt. 28:5-6

GOOD FRIDAY PROGRAM AT RITTMAN NURSING HOME 1982

Submitted by Bro. Ben Hartzler Rittman, Ohio

This is the day known as Good Friday. Some call it the darkest day the world has known. It concerns the greatest man the world has ever known.

His coming or His birth was announced by an angel of God and verified by a host of heavenly messengers. He grew up in an obscure village as the son of a humble carpenter. At twelve years of age He astonished the educated doctors of the Law. At thirty years of age He voluntarily came to a poor man and asked to be baptized, after which the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit as a dove descended upon Him, and a voice from above proclaimed Him to be the Son of God.

For about three years He walked around over the country and through the towns and villages telling people how to become children of God, and how to escape the punishment of ungodly people. He made many blind people to see again, but never made anyone blind. He healed many crippled and lame people, but never made anyone lame or a cripple. He even brought dead people back to life again, but never took anyone's life. He told people about a kingdom not of this world, and all who would be willing to comply with the terms that He made known to them, to come and follow Him and He would lead them to that kingdom.

He told religious leaders of His day about the errors of their ways, and in no uncertain terms they were not what they claimed to be, which made Him their enemy. They even planned and schemed to get rid of Him. He knew all about their evil intentions, and on this very day that we commemorate, He knew He would have to give up His life. So He called together His chosen twelve to a large upper room where He wanted so much yet to eat the passover with them before His rejection and suffering. He told them many things about the love they should have for each other, and even though He

would not be with them any more as before, He would still be with them in spirit. He told them they should not be afraid, even in suffering and adversity and that He would see them again in His Father's house.

It was late at night when they left that upper room and passed out through the deserted streets and across the Kidron valley to the garden of Gethsemane. He told His disciples they should stay here while He would go a little farther into the garden and pray. Taking Peter, James and John He went a little further, then said to them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even to death, tarry here and watch with me." Going a little farther, He fell on His face and prayed to His Father that if possible this terrible ordeal might pass from Him. Coming back to His disciples, He found them sleeping.

Again He went and prayed even more earnestly that even sweat drops as drops of blood fell to the ground. Three times He came to His disciples and each time found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Could you not even watch with me one hour?"

About that time Jesus saw a large band of men coming into the garden with lanterns and clubs headed by the traitor, Judas, who had promised, for thirty pieces of silver, to betray Him into their hands. The disciples were awake now, and seeing what was taking place, and how their master was bound and led away by the mob back into Jerusalem, they forsook Him and fled.

Jesus was led first to the palace of the high priest where He was condemned by the temple officials, then to Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor who they hoped would pass the death sentence upon Him, for the temple would settle for nothing but death by crucifixion. Pilate finally gave in to their clamoring and handed Jesus over to them to do with Him what they wanted to.

Not content with merely taking His life, they first had to torment

Him by scourging or whipping Him, spitting in His face. They even made a crown of thorns and put it on His head and hit Him on the head with a stick. No doubt they took turns insulting Him and blaspheming His innocent and Holy name. It is hard to imagine the hatred and animosity that filled the minds of those people, that led them to treat that kind and innocent man like that.

After the mocking and beating they put His own clothing on Him and let Him away outside the city to a place called Calvary or in another language, Golgotha. It was there at about nine o'clock in the morning when they drove those nails through His hands and feet on that old rugged cross, the "Emblem of suffering and shame." About twelve o'clock a strange darkness settled over the earth and stayed nearly three hours. About three o'clock Jesus said He was thirsty and someone gave Him a drink from a sponge on the end of a stick. Soon after that He cried with a loud voice, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit", and with that He stopped breathing and died.

But then something strange and frightening happened. In the Jew's temple there was a room separated from the sanctuary or main lobby, and this room was called the Most Holy Place where no one but a few of the top men of the temple were ever permitted to go in or even look inside. This room was separated from the main sanctuary by a curtain. When Jesus thus cried with a loud voice and died, there was a great earthquake, and this curtain or veil was rent or torn in two pieces from the top to the bottom without hands. The scriptures do not explain the significance of this but it must have meant that from that time not only a chosen few have access to that most holy place, but now, since the Jews rejected this Son of God, and cast Him out, now anyone regardless of nationality, have the invitation to that most holy place, or the presence of God.

After He died, a rich man who was a friend, asked Pilate for permission to bury His body. Pilate granted his request, and with tender and loving hands the rich friend took His body down from the cross, no doubt washing off the blood stains and wrapped it in clean and fine linen and laid it in his own tomb which he had prepared for his own burial place in a garden not far from Calvary. And so it happened as He once told a man, "The birds have nests and the foxes have dens but the Son of Man had

nothing, not even a place to lay His head." He rode across the lake in another man's boat. He rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. He ate His last meal in someone else's house, and finally was buried in someone else's tomb.

So at last, the agony of Gethsemane, the mockery and humiliation of a trial and the terrible anguish of His crucifixion were over and His weary and tortured body was tenderly laid to rest.

SUPPORTING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

In the December issue of the "Silver Lining" there was a short article under the above heading submitted by the Missionary committee which encouraged members to seek employment in areas that would help our smaller churches. Those of us in the Philadelphia congregation would like to emphasize how strongly we agree with that message. The Bible teaches us that faith without works is dead (James 2:14-20) and helping a small church is surely one of the greatest works that a Christian can do for the Lord. There are several older churches and some new ones that are struggling and we would urge our brethren in larger churches to consider employment in such areas.

If there are those who would consider coming to Philadelphia, we can

assure you that you would feel greatly needed here and we believe that you would receive a rich blessing in serving the Lord this way.

Our church building was constructed in 1980 in a beautiful setting on a hill about 20 miles east of the city of Philadelphia in a rural area. Our membership consists of four families and 13 children ranging from about one year to 24 years old. Employment opportunities here are better than in many parts of our nation with some opportunities existing among our own families. We would welcome and gladly assist anyone who would be interested in visiting and evaluating our area as a place to work, live and worship.

Submitted by the Philadelphia
Apostolic Christian congregation

REPORT ON TRIP TO HAITI IN DEC. 1982 BY BROS. PAUL AND TIM BUTIKOFER

When the Lord opened the door for me to accompany Bro. Tim Butikofer, our World Relief Representative, I had no idea what to expect. However, a brother who had been there told me we would have an eye opener, which was so true. One can hardly comprehend, when we live in a fast, modern and mechanized land, that in a few short hours we can be with and observe thousands of people who are contented to live as we lived 200 years ago. They are content to do most all their work by hand, indeed in many cases their only

mode of transportation is to walk, or perhaps a donkey to carry a few things. The people of Haiti might get along quite well with their meager food supply of perhaps a patch of millet, a little corn, a few goats, some melons and other produce, but again their crops are practically all burned up. In some areas they told us they haven't had a crop in six years. The thought came to me very strongly, will we perhaps one day have to give account if we do not continue to help these poor people who seem to be very grateful and receptive

to our help. When we are able to turn a spigot for water in several places in our comfortable homes, they walk several miles to obtain water. We observed many of them carrying pans or buckets of water on their heads all night, even when it was very dark, over rough terrain.

At Palm Grove Mission near Coat-De-Fare, we feel there is a real need for more wells to be drilled and for more grain to that area. We think Eris Labody is doing a good job of distributing while in some instances, distribution is questionable. We were told that some of the 250 children who attend this school walk several miles. Many leave home without breakfast and the school has no provisions to feed them. Consequently they do not eat all day and must again walk home on an empty stomach. Here we would recommend supporting a school lunch program. One semi-load of good quality corn (being subsidized with kidney or navy beans and oil which probably could be obtained in Haiti) would suffice for one school session or term. However, while talking to both Eris and Barbara Otto who are in charge there, they stressed it should be an on-going program. It

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
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EDWARD SOUDER

would hardly be advisable to set up facilities and suddenly cut the food supply off. This would perhaps also call for some kind of cooking facilities. Presently they do their cooking over an open fire in a thatch-roofed hut.

On the island of LaGonave living conditions are pathetic. Fifteen years ago Tony Wulf and his wife who farmed near Grand Rapids, MI, came to this island and dedicated themselves to the poor people there. Three years ago his wife died and left a void in his life. He also suffered two heart attacks soon after their arrival. He told us all this, while sitting on the back porch of their modest, but comfortable home. He tells of recovering remarkably and how the Lord gave him another chance. While we were visiting, poor people began streaming to the front door asking for food and none were turned away empty. Later we went on a walking tour, where we encountered many unfinished projects, only because he ran out of funds. Again, as on the main island, water is being carried long distances on their heads in all kinds of containers. The water fountain in the center of a dusty street is not sufficient for the number of people that come for water.

Among the many projects Tony built are a library, fish ponds, schools, a church, a ball diamond and many other things which are unfinished. Soon we were asked to come in, wash and sit down to a nice meal. Tony asked the blessing and rice was passed along with a beef stew. The meal was capped with a delicious piece of cake. He has also founded a dentistry, so the two dentists also ate at our table. Tony continued to reminisce on the past 15 years of his life and how the Lord had provided. After lunch he took us up in the mountains where we saw many sad sights as their meager crops were burned up. He then took us out to the sand beach where we tried to visit with the poor peasants who live in their little huts. Soon our plane came roaring in. We boarded and enjoyed a beautiful flight to the main island.

The Water For Life Project, which was organized by the Grimm Bros. of Oakville along with a well driller, Willis Miller, from Sarasota, FL is presently moving a modern well-drilling machine to Haiti. This project looks promising to the people of Haiti. Plenty of pure clean water could solve problems for them in various ways. This project

looks very worth while, but does sorely need support. If we would all contribute one dollar per year, ten new wells could be drilled in one year and we could be blessed more than the poor people in Haiti.

We had several similar experiences, as we were in contact with several organizations who were always eager to show us their projects, such as M.C.C., Map Inc., Blue Ridge Christian Inc., Schweitzer Hospital, Double Harvest, Grace Hospital, as well as Water For Life.

It seems we have been here a long time. Eris is Haitian, but speaks English fluently. He is a diligent organizer and a real bridge between us and the Haitian people. He called us and invited us to a goat lunch after which he

took us to the airport, via Grace Hospital. We introduced ourselves and they were so glad to see us, as a large shipment of clothing and sewing machines had arrived only a few days before from the Apostolic Christian Church, Leo, IN. They took us to the warehouse and were eager to show us in what good condition it had arrived. We were impressed with Grace Childrens Hospital.

We have emphasized helping the poor and wish to re-emphasize it, but not to forget, where the Lord told His disciples, the poor we always have with us, but Him they would not always have.

So let us all love the Lord with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our "neighbor" as ourself.

LETTER FROM BRO. S. H. FROEHLICH TO THE PEORIA CONGREGATION

Strassburg, January 2, 1855

My dear precious brethren, fellow-pilgrims in the heavenly calling!

Greetings and blessings from God, who created heaven and earth and made us sheep of His pasture and the first-born of mankind, to make us into something to the praise of His precious grace and hope in Christ. "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen."

John began his revelations from God with these words, starting with the end. As with God, the beginning and the end fall together and are joined into one. Now we are very close to the end, when we shall see the Lord and rejoice, while all generations of the earth shall lament over His appearance because then their suffering will begin in seriousness against which all earthly misery is like nothing. James, the servant of God, gave man good advice already 1800 years ago, but unfortunately they were neither wise nor intelligent then, nor now, to heed and follow his good advice. In looking into the future, James writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you" etc. (James 5:1-6). They should wail and cry beforehand, to avoid eternal wailing and crying. By weeping beforehand, their

hearts would be opened to God's saving grace and repentance, cleansed and reformed to the understanding of the just. (Luke 1:17).

Such a change occurs in all who are saved through Christ for the kingdom of God and such sadness towards God has nobody regretted yet, because it helps to obtain salvation. But it is not possible to help those who pay no attention. It is the experience of vain man, after leaving this life and the scene has been changed, to fall from highest luxury to the lowest misery. But then repentance, wailing and crying is too late. He is not able to obtain one drop of consolation any more. (Luke 16:24 etc.) Then the lost soul wishes his brothers on the face of the earth could be brought to the right understanding at the proper time, and the right way is to heed God's word.

But fools do not understand that the word of God is given to make them understanding, smart and wise to life eternal and that it contains the very best advice. If they do not heed it, they plunge themselves into unspeakable misery, which they could have avoided by heeding and paying attention.

Instead, people are satisfied with outward, ceremonial church services in temples of stone, with sacrifices of law, and imagine this will save them from the coming wrath of God, on judgment

day, like wayward Saul hides behind sacrifices his disobedience to the word of God or to make excuses; but also his later repentance did not help him.

At one time a Talor-Chan (king) in Asia saved his life because he did not object to paying a high price for good, human advice. This advice was: "Undertake nothing without first weighing carefully the outcome!" The king then had these words clearly written over all the doors of his palace, on all the walls of the rooms and on every other item. Some time later, one of the important men bought off the personal physician of the king to poison him when thinning his blood. However, upon reading these words on the pan, he became afraid and was unable to carry out his intentions. Likewise God told the Israelites through Moses to wear prayer shawls with four corners to keep His word everywhere before their eyes as a reminder. They kept this commandment but forgot the Word of God and did what they pleased. God is not interested in such memory aids, but that His word is remembered. Those who do this shall live through it and keep and save their souls.

The shawls were only intended to be the means to remember, but the Jews made a purpose out of them and forgot God's intention. Jean Reissig has prepared many memory aids (scripture passages and tracts) here for the members but did not think of staying himself close to the Word of God and the purpose of our salvation, which reads: "Man, consider thy end and the exit from your earthly life. Judge thyself and prepare thyself at the right time so that you can prevail before the judgment seat of Christ."

By heeding such godly advice man will save his soul from death and destruction unto life eternal. Also the frequent dwelling and meditating on examples of faith serve the purpose to strive after them (Hebrews 13:7). No man can look confidently and happily forward to his departure out of this life, if he has not made peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and has the peace of God in his heart through obedience to Christ.

Praise be to God, our father in heaven, that He took an interest in us (Psalm 16) and thanks be to Him that He gave us the desire to recognize the Real One, and to be in the Real One,

His son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and life eternal.

Children, beware of the gods of this world! Now we are in Christ, children of the most high and it is not yet revealed what we shall be in the revelation of His glory.

Hold fast to that which you have, that nobody can take your crown! On that day we shall see each other again and our hearts will be rejoicing and nothing will disturb our joy because we shall be with the Lord forever.

Therefore be comforted with these words!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Easter Greetings to all! When soft, warm breezes replace the icy blasts of winter, spring awakens the earth and stirs it to activity. Likewise, Easter awakens and re-inspires the soul of man with a desire to share his inner, spiritual joy with others. Albert Schweitzer once said that man does not live in this world alone. His brothers are here also. The very term "brother" bespeaks of compassionate concern and of wanting to "know each other better". Interest in our Home has indicated that there is a need to know more about its practical operation. Perhaps an in-depth look at the responsibilities of the department heads will help to know and understand what really goes on here. For it is not "our" Home; it belongs to all of you across the land, as well.

To keep an operation such as this running smoothly, there must, of course, be an organized chain of command. Perhaps a visit with our administrator will give a partial view of a typical day.

Being responsible for the welfare of some 85 residents, as well as for the coordination of approximately 100 staff members, the day does not only begin at the hour when he arrives at the office. Many off-duty hours are spent in thought and prayer, considering what priorities are most important for the coming day or week. Remembering that this world indeed holds also our brothers and feeling the weight of accountability, our morning prayers intercede that proper decisions will be made through the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, for the spiritual and physical well-being of the residents and staff.

The priorities of the day vary with

the day of the week and the month of the year. Every other Monday morning begins payroll week, when the time cards are reviewed and approved. On Wednesday of this same week, the time cards are cross-checked with the checks before the checks are signed.

Every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m., we have a Department Head meeting, at which time the on-going challenges of the Home's operation are discussed and solutions are explored.

Before the Board of Directors' meetings, (which are held a minimum of seven times per year), there is much to be done. Financial reports need to be prepared; any future resident interviews need to be made ready for discussion; requests for any changes in staff and/or equipment need to be prepared; reports on past and future activities of interest to the Board need to be brought into focus; building maintenance needs must be discussed and recommendations made, etc. There are five sub-committees on the nine-member Board. The administrator must meet with each appropriate committee to ready the particular subject (such as personnel or equipment) for presentation to the full Board.

One of the greatest challenges as administrator is keeping up with the multitude of State and Federal regulations and dealing with the host of inspectors to whom we are answerable. The major departments with which we work are: Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Public Aid, Dept. of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, the State Architectural Dept., Dept. of Sanitation, Advocacy Groups and many other public watchdog groups.

Some other typical duties with which the administrator solicits and receives much help from department heads and other staff are: to employ and direct training of personnel; to be responsible for the coordination of and scheduling the working hours, vacations and time off for employees; to develop and update job descriptions and operating procedures of the Home's personnel; to coordinate the development of written resident-care policies, which include admission, transfer, discharge of residents, as well as emergency and evacuation plans; (These are formulated with the involvement of the advisory physician, the director of nursing, and appropriate department heads.); to develop good employee relations by providing a pleasant, safe,

clean, well-equipped place to work; to establish good public relations; necessary for community acceptance and cooperation; to be responsible for the preparation of a yearly budget and financial management of the Home; to assist the Social Worker in counseling residents and families, regarding policies and services furnished by the Home and to discuss any problems the residents may be having; in cases of absences, to delegate authority to another staff person; to attend educational seminars which keep us well informed on any changes in regulations affecting the Home (This includes keeping abreast of all new developments in the field of retardation and physical handicaps. Public law, social living and residential alternatives are some of the phases about which we must keep alert.); and to arrange for supervisory and other personnel to attend appropriate educational programs on supervision, nursing care, activities, nutrition and other pertinent subjects.

Even though this is not a complete list of administrative duties, it can readily be understood that even these would be impossible without the constant assistance and cooperation of a dedicated staff, some of which have worked since the opening of the Home in 1971. True Christian compassion, love for the disabled, willingness to learn and to carry out the duties of providing the needs of our residents (which includes giving them a listening ear) are characteristics needed in staff members. Our administrator considers it most important to be sure that every resident and every staff member is given time to discuss any problems they may be experiencing.

Two new residents have come to make their home with us recently. Marilyn Schlipf, daughter of Rose Schlipf, has three sisters, Dorothy Witzig, Lois and Ruth, and three brothers, Elmer, John, and Clarence. Nine nieces and five nephews complete this loving family. Favorite foods are strawberry sundaes, bananas, chicken and jello; favorite pastimes are playing games, visiting, swimming and going to Sunday School. Birthday time is May 19.

Judith McRoy, daughter of Christine and Charles McRoy, has one brother and one sister. Judy loves sweets to eat; her favorite pastimes are outings, puzzles, swimming and riding

the bicycle. Birthday time for Judy is May 2.

Welcome to both of these ladies!

In conclusion, our efforts here would be in vain without the ongoing, wonderful support we receive from all of you through prayer, physical help and financial assistance. May God bless each and everyone for your kind deeds for the disabled.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Irene Haggermaker

Apostolic Christian Pre-School

A tree that is planted in poor soil doesn't have the advantages the one planted in good earth has. Contrary to some beliefs, we do not grow through resistance. Children do not develop because they resist food. Their growth comes as a result of good food and care.

One of the great advantages of Christian school is the personal interest shown each student. Everyone needs and responds to individual attention! There is nothing quite so wonderful and stimulating as knowing that those around you are interested in you, desiring that you do well. This is characteristic of a Christian school. Non-Christian institutions are not completely void of this quality, but teachers who do not know Christ cannot possibly have the same devotion to their students as those who know Christ. Only those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit can appreciate the value and potential of another child of God.

Following are some of the goals and objectives we hope to accomplish this year. 1. Training in manners and following directions. 2. Recognizing number of objects in flashcard pictures. 3. Learning the alphabet and most of the sounds. 4. Telling what they see in a picture. 5. Learning colors. 6. Learning to speak in sentences. 7. Learning to color within the lines and use free art. 8. Classifying of objects, such as foods, animals, etc. 9. Listening to stories etc., on records. 10. Learning different songs. 11. Learning good habits. 12. Learning about science.

Four and five year olds will be given instruction in basic reading and arithmetic skills and writing. Since our program is Christ-centered, Bible stories and activities, along with Scripture memorization, are an important part of each day's schedule.

We are planning a yard and bake sale

for April 21 from 9 to 5, the proceeds to be used for playground equipment.

We cordially invite anyone passing through our way to stop and visit the school. We're open from 6-5 Mon.-Fri. Church on Sunday is at 10 a.m.

"Dear Lord, I do not ask
That thou shouldst give me some high
work of thine;
Some noble calling, or some wondrous
task.
Give me a little hand to hold in mine.

Give me a little child to point the way
over the strange, sweet path that leads
to thee;

Give me a little voice to teach to pray;
Give me two shining eyes thy face to
see.

The only crown I ask, dear Lord, to
wear,

Is this: that I may teach a little child.

I do not ask that I may ever stand
Among the wise, the worthy, or the
great;

I only ask that softly, hand in hand,
A child and I may enter at the gate."

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Holding fast the faithful word as he
hath been taught, that he may be able
by sound doctrine both to exhort and
to convince the gainsayers."

Titus 1:9

"And as soon as it was day, the
elders of the people and the chief
priests and the scribes came together,
and led him into their council . . ."

St. Luke 22:66

It was our joy and privilege to host
the elders winter conference Jan. 12
and 13. We were blessed with record
breaking warm weather and an abundance
of great fellowship.

From the numerous encouraging
sermons that brought forth fruits meet
for repentance (Matt. 3:8) James
Emch felt the call of the Lord and has
turned to repentance. He's the son of
Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy.

On Jan. 30 we had our monthly
hymn sing at the church after gathering
at a local cafeteria earlier.

After the conference our visiting
ministers were Elder Bros. Joe Waibel,
Joe Ramsier, Sam Anliker, Andrew
Virkler, Roy Grimm and Bros. Todd
Feller, Edward Knecht, Clarence
Kachelmuss and Walter Anliker.

We welcome Bro. Wilbur and Sisters Sophia, Cheryl and Charla Huber into our fellowship.

Baby Kristy Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) was hospitalized for tests.

Sis. Clara Zollinger is able to come to church often.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Alice Baumgartner welcomed grandson, Kenneth Ray, on Jan. 26. His parents are Ken and Judy Clayborn. Little Ken's sisters are Stephanie, Andrea, and Darlene.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

Visiting ministers for the month were Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern), Bro. Edward Knecht (Silverton, OR), Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka). May the Lord richly bless these brothers and their families.

Our dear Bro. Maynard Beery recently underwent triple bypass heart surgery. We are thankful to the Lord for the success of this operation, and we pray that God's healing power will continue to be with Bro. Maynard as he recovers.

On Sunday, Feb. 13 we held our annual Pancake Supper. We're glad for the visitors who shared this event with us. Everyone was blessed with the Christian fellowship.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my though afar off . . . Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:1, 2, 23, 24

How easy it is to forget that the Lord sees all we do, hears all we say, and knows all of our thoughts. If we keep in mind that He is always present, then we would have better guard of our tongue, thoughts and actions. We need not become frustrated or discouraged with our shortcomings, but be encouraged to strive aright when we realize He knows them and can help us to overcome them. If only more souls were aware of the joy it is to serve the all-knowing God. Why choose to live for anything less than the Creator of all? His blessings are many, His

peace everlasting. We are humbled, yet so very grateful for His saving grace and pray that many more might acknowledge and accept it.

We thank Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Waibel (Bay City) for visiting us last month. How good God is to bless us with ministering brothers who bring us His Word in truth. May He bless them also for their love and efforts.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. Our dear friend Joe Wagler has testified that he now has this wonderful peace in his heart and is looking forward to baptism. What a joy and blessing to him and to all of us who have come to know and love him.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers in this past month. Bros. Carl Wyss of Washington and Russell Wuthrich of Pulaski came to serve for Washington's turn the last Sunday of January. We were glad Sis. Lydiann and Sis. Karoline were with them. The next Sunday we were quite pleasantly surprised to see Bro. Lester Hartter and his wife, Sis. Ella of Bern, KS at church when we got there. The second Sunday of February was Bradford's turn and Bro. Marvin Leman and family came to spend that weekend with us. These brothers each had such encouraging and timely messages for us we could truly feel God's presence in our midst. May God bless you, each one, for your service to us and to Him.

Sis. Elizabeth Jivan was very sick in the hospital for a couple of weeks. She's back home again now and regaining strength every day. We thank God for the miracle of her recovery.

The closing on our church building at 280 S. Revere, Aurora is scheduled for the last week of February. We plan to hold services there starting March 6. Anyone planning to visit should probably call to make sure where services will be held. Our phone number is 303-696-1301 or call Sis. Vera Jivan at 303-798-4424.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dorothy Viens

There is a Calm beyond life's fitful fever

A deep repose, an everlasting rest;
Where white-robed angels welcome
the believer

Among the blest, among the blest.
There is a Home, where all the soul's
deep yearnings
And silent prayers shall be at last
fulfilled;
Where strife and sorrow, murm'ring
and heart burnings
At last are stilled, at last are stilled.

There is a Hope, to which the
Christian, clinging;
Is lifted high above life's surging wave;
Finds life in death and fadeless flowers
springing
From the dark grave, from the dark
grave.
There is a Crown prepared for those
who love Him;
The Christian sees it in the distance
shine,
Like a bright beacon glittering above
him,
And whispers "Mine!" and whispers,
"Mine!"

Gospel Hymns #483 verses 1 and 2

We believe there was truly a Home and a Crown prepared for our dear Bro. Albert Fluckiger, who departed this life on Jan. 22 at the age of 95. Bro. Albert was a real example of patience to all those who knew him. He was shut in for many months, but was never one to complain, knowing that when this short life was over, there was a much better home awaiting him, where he could be reunited with loved ones who have gone before him. Among his children are two daughters, Sis. Margaret Wieland, (Bay City), and Sis. Barbara Hangartner, who lovingly cared for him at home. The Fluckiger family would like to thank all who remembered them with cards, prayers and many kind deeds during the illness of their father and at his death. May God reward all.

The month of January brought the arrival of several new babies. Daniel John was born to Bro. Loren and Sis. Anne Gerber, their first child, on Jan. 21. Little Daniel's grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mildred Gerber and Bro. Clifford and Sis. Harriet Farney, all from here. Bro. Rick and Sis. Susan Luginbuhl are also glad to welcome a son. Kevin Len was born on Jan. 22. He has a "big" brother Douglas to help welcome him home. Kevin's grandparents are Bro. Leonard and

Sis. Irma Luginbuhl and Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson, (Bay City). Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina Schneider joyfully welcomed the arrival of their daughter Rosanna Mae, who was born on Jan. 29. Rosanna's grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Gladys Schneider and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf, of Akron. May God bless these little ones and ever guide and direct those who are parents that we may mould and shape the lives of our children that they too may come to know our Lord.

Sis. Isabelle Virkler and Sis. Freda Zutter are hospital patients at this time. We are glad to see Sis. Elizabeth Erismann in the assembly again after her recent hospital stay. May God be especially near to our aged brothers and sisters. We know that Satan does not leave them alone, even in the twilight years of their lives. But God's promise is that He will never leave those who put their trust in him. May we who are younger do our part to encourage and uplift those who are enduring temptation and ever learn from their example of steadfast faith.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Sally Gress

"I'm singing, Lord, I'm singing
A soul song filled with praise
As with a soft and gentle touch
You bring on springtime days!

I'm singing, Lord, I'm singing
A song of thanks to you
Renewing life around me,
The spirit in me too!

Glory hallelujah
To He Who dwells on high
Who made the changing seasons,
The sea, the sod, the sky!

Thank You for the miracles
That springtime brings to earth
For life that's everlasting,
And for my soul's rebirth!

Alice Joyce Davidson

Special thanks to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota), and Bro. Ed Ault (Cissna), for ministering to us this month.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys Troxel received a very special Valentine. Douglas Bradley was born Feb. 14. Big brother Brandon welcomes him home. Gandparents are Bro. Len and Sis. Joyce Troxel and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hansen of Ocala, FL.

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Brian and Sis. Jan Webb. They have recently moved here from Rockville.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Char Graf on the death of Jeff's father, Bro. Ellsworth Graf of Akron.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Rocke

Sadness fills the hearts with the passing of three Sarasota residents in such a short time. We feel a great loss but are so willing for the will of our heavenly Father. Our Bro. Chris Leman quietly passed from this life to another beautiful life with his Lord and Master. This earthly body soon weakens and we long for a better place. Our dear brother experienced the sufferings and was no stranger at the door as it opened for him. May the mercies of God strengthen Sis. Viola as she waits for the reunion on that great day. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Doug Sabo and Glenn Price. He was laid to rest in Palms Memorial.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Ben Maibach, Joe Braker, Roy Sauder, Harold Emch, Clifford Grimm, Ed Alt, Carroll Gerber, Duane Kilgus, Arthur Bahler, and David Wiegand. May their efforts be rewarding.

We welcome Maria Bartoni, Steve Alexander and Arthur Keller as our new brothers and sister in faith. We enjoyed a blessed weekend hearing the testimonies of these dear ones. Our hearts were moved with thanksgiving for the love of God towards fallen mankind. May their lights shine brightly for others who may feed upon their joy in the Lord.

The annual business meeting was held. New officers are Bros. Dave Eisenman, Sun. School; Steve Alexander, Trustee; Bob Nohr and Tom Gudeman, Recorder; Orval Rocke, personal property aid; and Art Keller, usher. Sisters Vera Martin and Sue Eisenman, Sunday School; Lucille Heiniger, kitchen committee. May each one feel a blessing in giving of themselves and praise God for the opportunity to be of help in the Lord's house.

For the memorandum reading, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Roy Sauder so kindly expressed their concerns on these subjects so necessary for our benefit. May all those who partook be rewarded for their efforts.

A Word of Thanks

There are no words that can truthfully express the gratitude to all the friends, relatives and members of our precious faith in the passing of our dear husband and father, Chris. We truly appreciate the many cards, telephone calls, prayers, monetary gifts, food, flowers and donations of help during the illness and passing away of our Loved One. With all our hearts we wish to thank each and every one, especially the Sunshine group and the Fellowship Breakfast group.

May God bless each and every one of you in His own way.

Viola, Larry and Sherrie Leman

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

On Jan. 8, our minister for the day was Bro. John Isch from the Indianapolis church. We thank Bro. John and Sis. Mary for coming to minister to us and a blessing was received by all.

We wish also to thank Bro. Alfred Bahler for all his efforts in helping the Atlanta congregation as we work to establish our church. Services are held every second and fourth Sunday at the Ramada Inn, Delk Road, Marietta, GA. We invite anyone who may be traveling through our area to stop and worship with us. The Ramada is located on Interstate 75 South.

Although we are small in number, God is truly with us and we thank Him for His many blessings.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON—NORMAL Shirley Denick Charlene Knobloch

We enjoy and appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers. We were privileged to have Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Ken Weertz (Cissna Park), Bro. Bill Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), and our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont). It is truly a blessing that all can travel freely and return home safely.

On Jan. 16 Sis. Jan Maurer and Bro. Tom Keeley renewed their vows of marriage. We rejoice with them and are happy to have a new couple in our congregation.

Jan. 1 was the wedding date for Collette Bruno and Todd Ebach. Todd is the son of J.C. and Patricia Ebach. We wish them the Lord's blessings as

they make their home in Los Angeles, CA.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Cathy Steffen, Sis. Dorie Widmer, Sis. Sandy Zimmerman, and little Miss Christa Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb. Recuperating at home is Shannon Maurer, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer. We truly miss our shut-ins and pray the Lord will bless them with continued growth toward recovery.

A reminder: April is our month to collect for the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

We were thankful to have the inspiring Word of God brought to us by visiting ministers, Bros. Leroy Hartmen, (Peoria), Joe Stoller, (Princeville), Vernon Wettstein, (Congerville), and Charles Sauder (Tremont). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

Several months have passed since Roseann Stahl, daughter of Sis. Charlotte Stahl, has turned her back on the pleasures of sin for a season and given her heart to the Lord to work His work in it. Though this good news is reported late, it is always a good time to offer your prayers for grace and strength on her behalf.

As Ken Elsasser and Karen Wagenbach have made their engagements known, we surely wish for them God's blessings in this important time of their lives. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser and Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach, (Princeville).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

As thoughts turn to spring and gardening again, we saw an ad: "Read and reap." That phrase is, of course, a take-off on "Read it and weep." Can we not use both in our Christian walk? We must read the Scriptures and repent and be chastened (weep). But we can also benefit by our Word study and reap. "And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred." Mark 4:8.

There's a new name written down in glory: Sis. Jill Leman! The weekend of Jan. 29 and 30 marked a new beginning for our Sis. Jill, as she was proved and baptized by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. The Lord's blessing be upon her in every class, in every discussion, in

every decision of her life, as she continues her education at Champaign, IL.

Bro. Art Baurer, (Princeville, IL), was a very welcome visitor for that special weekend, and on one of our precious Wed. evenings, Bro. Larry Wenninger, (Latty, OH), gave us much "soul" food from the Word.

Cards and posters proclaim a baby is God's message that the world should go on. Such a message was delivered to Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger Feb. 7, 1983: Neal Carl. Two eager brothers, Brent and Galen, welcome him home. His thankful, prayerful grandparents are Sis. Marie Kellenberger, (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss, (Washington, IL).

May our brothers feel His guardian angels guarding each step of the day, as they journey in pain, in recuperation. Bro. Sam Slagel was hospitalized in Florida but now is convalescing at his residence. Bro. Jim Grivet has been so ill and needs our prayerful support as well. The information has been passed down that Bro. Johannes Rassi, a minister in Germany, was so torn when the time came to decide yes, to go to America, or no, to stay home with the flock, that finally Sis. Anna, his wife, told him, in words to this effect: if you don't have enough faith to believe we should go to America, then GO ON MINE. Truly we are often weak of ourselves and lean on the prayers and faith of our Christian family. May we send our strength in prayer to these beloved brethren.

Jacob Riis said, "When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stone-cutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet, at the hundred and first blow, it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before." Isn't that what we need to remember of our prayers for our loved ones? The growing up of our children? The rewards of a job? We must persist. Society would have us give up when we feel tired, unappreciated, and misrepresented. But the Lord requires more of us, calling us blessed in this state. (Matthew 5:6-8) He expects constancy, regardless of our situation, not disheartened "giving up" when we are not accorded instant gratitude. "Hold the fort, for I am coming, Jesus signals still! Wave the answer back to heaven,

by Thy grace we will." Tabernacle Hymns, #221, verse 1

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Melba Funk — Joan Waldbeser

"And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies.

"I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord." Hosea 2:19, 20

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Melba Funk to Bro. Eldon Steffen. We rejoice with this couple and pray God's blessings on their life together. They plan an April 17 wedding.

A baby boy was born to Mark and Dinah Wilkening on Jan. 26. Jared Henry was welcomed home by his brother Brandon, who incidently was five years old on that day. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vernes Wilkening.

Hospital patients this month were Isaac Steiner, Sis. Kate Enz, Bro. Harry Walder, and Sis. Anna Marie Young.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 16, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann was here to assist our Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger in reading the memorandum. It is good for us to be reminded of our duties in the church as Christians so we might let our lights shine a little brighter. We thank our elder brethren for their untiring efforts of serving us.

We are all looking forward to spring and the resurrection of all living things. Even though our winter has been much better than usual, we welcome warmer weather.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Carol Gerig — Kay Roth

Once a man whom we know as the Son of God,
Hung upon the cruel tree;
He suffered pain as no mortal man,
He took my place — He did it all for me.

He did it all for me,
Each drop of blood He shed for even me;
When the Savior cried, bowed His head and died,
O, praise the Lord, He did it all for me.

When I step just inside of those gates
 of pearl
 And the Master's face I see,
 I'll gladly kneel at His nail-scarred
 feet
 O praise the Lord, He did it all for me.
 Duane Allen and Sager Powell

What joy filled our hearts as we listened to the testimonies of faith of two dear souls who were once lost in sin, but then heeded God's call to repent and be baptized. We welcome into the fold two new sisters, Sis. Tammy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Susan Knapp (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge). May they always look to God for grace and guidance.

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Bob in performing this important work. We are also thankful to the other visiting ministers who brought forth the Word of God to us. They were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Charles Sauder (Tremont), and Bruce Leman (Roanoke).

We held our annual business meeting and voted for positions to be filled for those whose terms have expired. They are as follows: Bro. Gene Hartman as usher; Bro. Bob McClure as trustee; Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger on the food committee; Bros. Dennis Klopfenstein and Clarence Zobrist and Sis. Mary Lou Ott and Alice Schlipf as Sunday School teacher. We give each one our support and may they look to God as they fulfill their responsibilities. We also would like to thank the brothers and sisters whose terms expired for the labors of love.

Two homes have been blessed with bundles from heaven. Randy and Peg Selvey welcomed Dustin Craig into their hearts and home. Matthew, his big brother, is happy to have a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp and the George Selvey's of Eureka. David, along with his parents, Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen welcomed the arrival of Kayla Kristine to their family. Grandparents are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Jack Ott was hospitalized this month for surgery. We are happy to see him assembling with us again.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

With the advent of spring, we look forward to the earth renewing itself. Since the beginning of time there have been days and years and we know that each year brings its own spring time. We look forward with anticipation to new growth on every green living thing, the return of the birds from their southern winter homes, and the returning strength to the sun's rays. We have no doubt that such will be, because, since the beginning, it has never failed. Can we comprehend such utter faithfulness on the part of our great God? How comforting to weary souls that such a creator is in control of our very lives.

Sis. Lydia Jenny had to return to the hospital during her convalescence to gall bladder surgery, but was able to return home again. Lydia Asman also was hospitalized for surgery, but is home again and recuperating. Bro. Henry Kellenberger, Sis. Rose Gall, Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger, Elsie Schambach, and Martha Lohbauer are presently hospitalized.

The therapeutic value of scripture is widely accepted and since there are those among us who seek such therapy, we reprint below the beautiful twenty third psalm especially for their benefit.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Sis. Jeannette Schmidt has been bereaved in the death of her father, William Schuman, who passed away Feb. 2. We wish to extend our sympathy to her and her family.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

During the last month, little Rachel Broquard, baby daughter of bro. Sam and Sis. Valla was rushed to a Champaign, IL hospital because of a serious lung congestion problem. At that time it was determined that she had a heart condition from birth and was then sent to a Peoria, IL hospital where she underwent heart surgery. We are thankful to report that she is doing well at this time and has been able to return home. As we are taught, Jesus loved the little children and blessed them. May she continue to improve.

We had the privilege to host the ACYF singing on Sun., Feb. 13 and also enjoyed the visit of ministering Bros. Joe Stoller and Walt Hermann from Princeville. We thank them and each Bible Class student who took part. It was very inspiring and we hope everyone received a blessing through their efforts. We look forward to hosting the second group of churches this coming Sun., Feb. 20.

So far, we have had a very dry and mild winter and are indeed thankful, after having experienced some severe winters the last few years. Our thoughts are beginning to turn to spring and we think of the wonders of Nature as spring buds forth. Most of all, we think of Jesus who paid the price on the cross for each of us.

May the wondrous Easter story
 Thrill your soul with hope anew,
 Bringing all God's richest blessings
 In the springtime just for you . . .

May your faith again be strengthened
 Through the cross upon the hill,
 And the glorious resurrection
 All its promises fulfill . . .

So on this glad Easter morning
 May God's love enfold your heart,
 Offer grace in deepest measure
 Which this season does impart.

Marian L. Moore

ILLINOIS, FORREST Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

It is always a concern when loved ones are hospitalized. We are thankful to report that most of these have been dismissed and are improving: Bro. Wayne Zimmerman (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Marge Kuntz (Bro. Leland), Kendra Ifft (Sis. Betty), Paul Schrof (Sis.

Marie), Bro. Chris Metz (Sis. Viola), and Sis. Irene Traub (Ben).

We wish to thank Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka) and Earl Kilgus (Remington) for visiting us and sharing with us many precious teachings from the Book of Life.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Psalm 90:10.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Wayne Anliker for our dear departed Bro. Carl Waibel, who passed away at the age of 81. We offer heartfelt sympathy to the family that remains as we know he was special to each one. Surviving children are Glen and Eldon (Forrest), Gene (Morton), Luella Stephens (Forrest), Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Urbana), and Carol Arden (Reno, Nevada). His wife, Sis. Elsie, preceded him in death in 1980. Bro. Carl will also be missed among the Forrest congregation as he held a special place in many hearts and always had some good advice or a gem of spiritual wisdom to share. It is a comfort and encouragement to each of us that remain behind to know that Bro. Carl is safe in the arms of Jesus. We thank Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) for sharing in the services.

As the Easter season once again approaches, may we each one retrace the steps of our Lord and Savior and be reminded of the tremendous price that was paid in our stead.

"For Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:11, 12

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Pam Wiegand

It Must Be Spring

There is a mildness in the air . . . A softness in the soil . . . And there is less of weariness . . . In struggle and in toil . . . The sun is somewhat warmer now . . . The sky a brighter blue . . . And something seems to tell the heart . . . That life is fresh and new . . . It must be time for spring again . . . And time to look around . . . For greener grass and flowers fair . . . To decorate the ground . . . The snow and ice have disappeared . . . Where now the rivers flow . . . And

fertile fields are stirring in . . . Their eagerness to grow . . . The soul is filled with faith and hope . . . And joy in everything . . . It must be time to live again . . . It must be really spring.

James J. Metcalfe

Spring, love, and new babies, all give us that lighthearted, carefree feeling, and we at Goodfield have been blessed with all of these.

Bro. Barry Kloter (son of Bro. Edmund and Sis. Lorene) and Sis. Joyce Zobrist (daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis) have announced their engagement. The love we can see shining in them just makes us all bubbly inside.

A lovely little boy, Benjamin Joseph was born on Feb. third to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna (Huet) Wyss. Benjamin has one older brother, Phillip.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat (Wiegand) Knapp and their two boys, Ryan and Brandon have moved to Independence IA. Their new address is:

309 Third Ave. S.E.

Independence, IA, 50644

We will surely miss their little family and all the pleasant times they brought to our lives. May God be with them in their new home.

Little Justin Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) was recently hospitalized due to high fever. We hope he recovers soon.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), and Art Bahler (Fairbury).

The Henry Wiegand family wishes to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and prayers during their trying times.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Hebrews 10:35-36

Are we sometimes tempted to doubt that all things will work together for good to us that love God and are called according to His purpose? Romans 8:28. When trials and disappointments come and all around us the evil of the world seems to be increasing, the stormy waves and dark clouds of iniquity may overwhelm us and cause us to almost despair. That is when we must cry out in faith, "Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea."

And also, as a ministering brother recently mentioned, it is at these most troubled moments in our life that we need to simply pray in faith, "Jesus, Savior, have mercy on me!" This humble plea for help will never be ignored by our loving Savior, who himself "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" . . . and He is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Hebrews 4:15. So may we have grace to continue to do the will of God, through humility, obedience, and love for our neighbor. Then, having faithfully done His will, may we be strong in faith and confidence, patiently waiting on Him to direct our paths. It is the strength and endurance of our faith that gives us joy and peace in our hearts in spite of the gloomy outlook around us. Good will win at last, but we must be patient and rejoice in hope.

Our hospital patients this month were Bros. Rudy Miller and Lewis Yergler.

We were blessed by the visits of ministering Bros. Ron Heiniger of Bloomington, Marshall Heinold of Washington, Marvin Schmidt of Eureka, Bill Hodel of Roanoke, and Elder Bro. Joe Braker of Morton.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Bill Schifferer, Jr., son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana of Elgin, and Sis. Patty Malcolm was announced.

Karl Gramm, son of Bro. Arthur and Sis. Ruth, is engaged to be married to Tracy Cale, whose parents live in Downers Grove.

Bro. Dennis Hodel, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean, was united in Holy Matrimony with Sis. Brenda Stoller, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol, Feb. 6. May their love for God and each other bring them many rich blessings and joy in their life together.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Henry Stieglitz was called Home. His funeral service was held on Jan. 20. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his family and friends.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Laura Getz upon the passing of her brother, Daniel Kuntz, of Princeville, IL. May the Lord comfort his family and friends.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Bro. Eli Leman upon the passing of his brother, Bro. Chris Leman, Sarasota, FL. May God comfort his family and friends.

Announcement of the engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sis. Jane (Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen) Schmidgall and Bro. Mark (Darryl and Sis. Sandy) Nelson was made known. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they "... two shall be one flesh."

We want to wish Gotthold and Anna Tanner God's richest blessings as they have been married fifty years. They are the parents of Mrs. Lorraine Glaser, Mrs. Ruth Hoerr and Bro. Lawrence Tanner. May our Heavenly Father continue to be with them and bless them.

We gathered together on Saturday evening, Feb. 12, to hear the testimonies of faith of Jeff Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce), David Ploussard, David Feller (Bro. Don and Sis. Judy), and Nancy Bollegar (Clyde and Wilma). We witnessed their baptisms on Sunday, Feb. 13, and welcomed them into the family of God. May our Heavenly Father sustain, keep, bless and guide them as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

Sis. Emily Beck was called Home. Her funeral was held on Feb. 14. May God comfort her family and friends.

Sis. Nettie Huette was called Home. Her funeral was held on Feb. 15. May the Lord comfort her husband, Bro. Fred, her family and friends.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Mary Roecker, Sis. Kathryn Grimm, Amos Kaisner, Henry Schock, Bros. Anton Rother, Carl Vierling, Ed Wyss, Jack Krantz, Ben Moser, and Francis Rother. May we continue to pray for these loved ones and all those who are shut-in or sick at home.

We want to thank Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bob Grimm (Goodfield), ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Ken Dietz (Bradford), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), and Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

The Easter season is rapidly approaching us. May each one of us go to the Cross and remember that God's only Son, Jesus Christ, hung there and bled and died for your sins, my sins, the sins of the whole world. Let us continue to be prayerful and walk closer to our Lord. May we remember to be thankful each day for our Salvation.

We want to wish Jim Dobbelaire the Lord's blessings as he has moved to Ft.

Lauderdale, FL, where he has found employment. We will miss his presence in church, but know he will find a warm welcome with the Ft. Lauderdale brethren.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

"And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:' and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." (Gen. 1:11, 12) Even as winter has been with us, the season of spring will soon be here. We are sure everyone is looking forward to seeing the beauty of God's universe.

A daughter was born to our Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Hoerr. Little Miranda is the granddaughter of Dave and Sis. Harriet Hoerr and Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Mae Schmidgall (Morris, MN). We are thankful for this precious bundle of joy sent from Heaven.

This special "Thank you" comes from Sis. Sophie Hoerr. "I would like to express my sincere thanks for the many prayers, cards, gifts and kind deeds extended to me during my recent surgery and convalescence. May God bless you for your love."

There were many among us in the hospital this month. Even though affliction does come, we trust in our loving God who knows best. We know He will heal where it is His good will and that His grace is sufficient. We think of Bro. Jesse Leman, Sis. Dee Metzger, Sis. Catherine Witzig, Verona Eberhardt, Oria Irions, Fred Fletcher, Amy Hodel (daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail), Danny Streitmatter (son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Mary), Tara Meister (daughter of Bro. Sparky and Sis. Rhonda), Jonathan Meister (son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky) and Jason Kinney (son of Jack and Sis. Lori). May God heal them according to His will.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

Salvation is free, but it isn't cheap. We appreciate our ministers who tell us about God's son and the price He paid for our redemption.

On Jan. 22 Kenny Elsasser and

Karen Wagenbach announced their engagement. They plan to be married Mar. 26. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser of Bradford and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Betty Wagenbach of our congregation.

Our sympathy is given to Sis. Ollie Ricketts. Her brother, Daniel Kuntz of Princeville, passed away Jan. 24.

Sympathy is also given to Elsie, Al, and Roy Mueller whose brother, Carl Mueller of Wyoming, passed away Feb. 4.

Shut-ins are Hilda Streitmatter, Lydia Stisser, Sis. Bessie Martin, and Bro. Phillip Musselman. Please pray for them.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

We are so thankful to have four healthy babies added to our congregation during the last few weeks. The three little boys are first children for their parents. Andrew Michael Hoffman was born Jan. 24 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy. His grandparents are Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoffman (Roanoke) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Herman (Morton). Brent Aaron arrived on Jan. 27 to enrich the home of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke. Joyous grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Mae Rocke of our congregation and Henry and Elizabeth Schick of Morton. Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorie Fischer welcomed Benjamin Jay into their family on Feb. 9, as did grandparents Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer and Betty Hodel, all of our congregation. On Feb. 9 a welcome little girl was received with joy into the family of Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel, Jeff, Jason, and Jill, and grandparents Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney, all of Roanoke.

God has called home our dear Sis. Bina Bertsch, 87, mother of Bro. David Bertsch of Leo, IN and Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Gene) Bertschi of our congregation. We offer our sympathy to all her family.

Hospitalized this month were Dan Steffen, Harvey Fischer, Willis Hodel, Bros. Lee Scherer and Harry Leman, Sisters Mattie Leman and Dorothy Bittner, little Rachel Sauder (Les and Pam), and baby Joseph Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen). May God be near each one.

We so enjoyed the visits of Bros. Ben Wysong and Roger Aberle and their families from Sabetha, the lesson by

Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) at our Bible Study, and the unexpected visit from our good neighbor, Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka). How we appreciate the time our ministers give for our benefit.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Renee Baurer

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15

Toward the middle of each semester things get very busy here at ISU. Sometimes it seems our life evolves around our earthly books and studies, instead of the Book it should be around. We must remember that it is most important to study and learn about the Bible.

"When reading God's Word, take special care

To find the rich treasures hidden there;
Give thought to each line, each precept clear,
Then practice it well with Godly fear."

Recently we have been studying some of the parables of Jesus. Bro. Ron Heiniger spoke to us on the marriage feast; Bro. Everett Hari — the parable of the sower; and Bro. Fred Knapp — the parable of the ten virgins. It has been interesting and helpful to view these parables from different aspects as they relate to our lives. We were also glad to have Bro. Elmer Witzig and Bro. Glenn Dill speak to us on other subject matters. Thursday night Bible Studies are now being held in Schroeder Hall, room 216, at 7:30 p.m.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Sandy Anliker and Bro. Andy Aberle, who have joined us here at ISU this semester.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger

A dear baby son, Michael Lee, was born Jan. 13 to Elaine and Randy Staff of Nashville, TN. Happy grandparents are Edward and Doris Miller of Tremont and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Staff of Springfield.

Also rejoicing over a new baby son are Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch. Jason Andrew was born Jan. 25. Lisa and Jonathan also welcome home baby

brother. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch and Merle and Sis. Madelyn Tobler of Elgin.

A precious baby daughter, Sasha Jenell, was born Feb. 14 to Shirley and Roger Watson of Pleasanton, CA. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Elizabeth Sauder and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Watson of Oakwood, VA.

We are sorry to report several of our congregation have met with illness or accident.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Iva Getz were involved in a car accident. Sis. Iva has been in the hospital with a broken ankle but we are happy that she is now able to be at home.

Sis. Melba Hangartner had a short hospital stay with hand surgery and is now also convalescing at home.

Another recent hospital patient was Helen Schmidgall who had foot surgery. We are glad Helen is able to be at home again.

We often think of Bro. Will Beutel who is still in the hospital recovering from hip surgery. We surely hope he will be able to be home soon.

Ashleigh Kay Frank, daughter of Timm and Jeanise Frank, spent the week with her grandmother, Sis. Bernice Frank, while her brother Nikklaus underwent surgery. He also recuperated from the chicken pox at the same time.

Our hearts go out to Lester and Beverly Staker. While visiting relatives in Missouri, Lester was stricken with a heart attack and has been hospitalized there for several weeks. We are thankful that he is improving and they plan to return home soon.

We are also very concerned for our Sis. Doris Staker, wife of Bro. Weldon. Sis. Doris is very ill in the hospital with spinal meningitis. We pray the dear Lord will watch over her and her family.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the families of Robert Frank, Maurice Schaefer and Bill Huette in the passing of Sis. Nettie Huette of Morton, mother of Sis. Rosemary Frank, Sis. Marge Schaefer and Bro. Bill Huette.

A note from Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister —

We, Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy (Hodel) Meister and family, wish to express our sincere and humble thanks to the brethren for the many acts of love and kindness shown to us through our hospital stay, death of our little son, Matthew John, and continued

lengthy stay of our daughter, Rebekah, resulting from our auto accident Dec. 15.

We have been deeply moved by the tremendous response to our needs from all the brethren throughout the country. This accident has given us an awareness to the bond of love in our faith, only equal to the love of God. Special thanks to the ministers, brethren, and relatives of this and neighboring congregations in their tireless efforts in helping us to cope with this situation.

It's difficult to put into words all the heart feels, but we hope this poem conveys our overwhelming appreciation to one and all:

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or baked for us a pie.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
so lovely to the eye.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
just prayed for us that day.
And so, whatever you have done,
God alone knows our thankful heart.
And now we pray this very day,
May God bless you for your part.

ILLINOIS, URBANA
Cheryl Joos

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

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

Thou preparest a table before me,
in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Dave Wiegand's family in the death of Sis. Ethel's father, Bro. Carl Waibel (Forrest). He died on Feb. 14, 1983. Mixed with a feeling of sorrow, is the feeling of joy knowing that Bro. Carl is at peace and has returned to his heavenly home.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington). We wish to thank them for their labor of love.

His Easter Gift

His Easter gift to us is love . . .
Love triumphant, love divine.
The perfect love of God above,
Love that makes the stars to shine.

His Easter gift to us is joy . . .
Joy of sorrow that has passed,
The joy our songs of praise employ;
Joy that through all time shall last.

His Easter gift to us is peace . . .
Peace that fills the quiet heart,
The peace that makes the storms to
cease,
Peace that bids all fears depart.

His Easter gift to us is life . . .
Life that makes the sinner whole.
The life outreaching mortal strife,
Life of God within the soul.

His Easter gift to us is hope . . .
Hope that looks to yonder shore,
The hope as high as mountain slope,
Hope that lasts forevermore.

J. Harold Gwynne

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Lily Schick

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). When a loved one is laid to rest, there is sorrow because of the loss one feels. But what a consolation to know that soul is resting in the Lord; that someday the tears will be gone and "the circle" made whole. Sis. Nette Heutte of Morton, mother of Sis. Louise (Ed) Teubel, was called Home by her Creator. May He be the family's Comforter!

And another soul has been born into this world. Larry and Sue Winemiller are the proud parents of a precious little girl. Her sister and brother, Tina and Alan, anxiously await her arrival

home. The grandparents are the Verner Winemillers of Washington and Ray Baers of Germantown, IL.

Sis. Anna Thomas was in the hospital and is now home. We pray our Heavenly Father will restore a full measure of health to her again.

A dear couple has left our congregation here in Washington to assemble with our body of believers in Princeville. Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick have moved to Dunlap, IL. Truly we will miss having them worship with us and pray that God will bless them on their way.

The weather has been gray and dreary lately. No sunshine and no precipitation. One wonders when the skies will change and what will follow. The thought crossed my mind — how like our spiritual life. Sometimes it seems overcast with clouds, and we yearn for the heavens to break. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). When we pray, how strong is our faith? Do we weary of praying when God doesn't answer right away? "But let him ask in faith without wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:6 & 7.

There is so much power in prayer, but only if we pray believing and submitting totally to our Lord. Yes, the sun is shining on the other side of those clouds. We know that! So sure should our faith be. Just imagine how marvelously different the world would be if every child of God fervently "pray(ed) without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17) for his family, friends, acquaintances, and all mankind; his church, his country, and himself . . .

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jan Ringger — Linda Kipfer

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Lynn Frauhiger (Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris) and Sis. Jenny Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) announced their plans to marry April 24. We wish them the Lord's guid-

ance as they plan their future together.

Bro. Brian Fiechter (Herman & Sis. Phyliss) and Sis. Debby Macklin (Carl and Betty) were united in marriage January 30.

February 13 was the wedding day of Bro. Mark Fiechter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Sally Kaufman (Jerry and Pat). May these couples be blessed as they begin their walk together in the Lord.

The following loved ones have been hospitalized recently: Sis. Judith Pfister, Misty Bertsch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Terry), Bro. Joe Steffen, Sis. June Gerber (Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo), Sis. Roselena Steffen, Sis. Karen Stultz, Brad Gerber (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille), Sis. Lydia Steffen, and Levi Ginzel.

We were encouraged by the inspiring words brought to us by the visit of Bro. Simon Wagenbach of the Tremont, Illinois congregation.

After an extended illness, Sis. Cordelia (Tonner) Aschlman, wife of Bro. Harry, was called to her heavenly home January 24. Survivors include a son, Rex, a daughter, Kay Fairchild, three grandchildren, two brothers and four sisters.

Sis. Sadie (Schwartz) Gerber, widow of Bro. Edward, passed from this life February 15. She is survived by two daughters, Sis. Rosie (Rich) Kipfer and Peggy Ratz; four sons, Danny, Ronald, Jerry and Phillip; 19 grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.

Funeral services were held on February 19 for Bro. Ervin Gerber, husband of Sis. Sylvia. He will be missed by his sons, Bro. Russell, Bro. Luther, Galen, Herbert and Glen; two daughters, Sis. Maxine (Charles) Fiechter and Marilyn Prichard; 24 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, five brothers and five sisters.

We also want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Sam Kaehr, Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr and Sis. Helen (Henry) Stoller, in the loss of their dear sister, Ada (Peg) Sturgis, wife of Tom Sturgis.

We read of a place that's called
heaven,
It's made for the pure and the
free;

These truths in God's Word He
hath given,
How beautiful heaven must be.

How beautiful heaven must be,
Sweet home of the happy and
free;

Fair haven of rest for the weary,
How beautiful heaven-must be.

Gospel Hymns No. 79

The prayers of the entire congregation were answered on Sunday, February 20. We believe God has plainly revealed that Bro. Ed Schwartz, Jr. (Sis. Jenny) and Bro. Kent Ringger (Sis. Jan) are to serve in the ministry. Realizing that this is a very important duty, our prayers our surely with them and their families. May God grant them courage to proclaim the Word as the Holy Spirit directs them.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Gayla Baumgartner
Tammy Gerber

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31

On January 2, Sis. Ann Schulz and Bro. Brent Gerber became one in the Lord. Their parents are Norm and Mary Schulz and Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber.

May the Lord be with them as they start their lives together.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford), Ben Manz (Junction) and Marvin Leman (Bradford). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in deed; He in the time of trouble sends His grace to meet our every need.

God is our refuge, God is our refuge, with mighty arm revealed, He is our help and shield, God is our refuge and our strength."

Hymns of Zion No. 4

Hospital patients this month were: Sis. Amerlia Baine and Mike Smekens (Sis. Melissa). Our thoughts and prayers are continually with those who are ill.

On February 15, Rob and Karen

Parker were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, Teresa Lynn. She is welcomed by big brother, Robby and grandparents Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen.

Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Jerry) and Marci Neuenschwander (Bro. Ted and Sis. Deb) spent time in the hospital this month. May they feel our love and prayers and God's ever present care.

We wish to thank Bros. Dave Keiser (Princeville) and Dale Strassheim (Milford) for being with us and sharing God's Word on January 23. Dedication of our new church was held on this day. Bro. Simon Wagenbach also brought us many good teachings from the Word. May each of these brothers be blessed for their labor of love.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Arlene Metzger

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

St. Matt. 6:33

That is exactly what our Bro. Todd Erb and Sis. Marylyn Pattee did and were united as one on Feb. 13. To share in this joyous occasion was Bro. John Isch of the Indianapolis congregation, where Todd and Marylyn will establish their Christian home. Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo) also spent the day with us.

Precious little bundles add so much joy to a home — and four homes have experienced this joy once again. Allan and Becky Berger along with "big" brother, Joshua, welcome little Moriah Howat into their home. Her happy grandparents are Fred and Sis. Carol Howat.

First time parents of Justin Kurtis are Kurt and Peg Gutwein. His grandparents are Harvey Gutwein and Mr. and Mrs. John Shidler.

Also experiencing the miracle and joy of a tiny new life are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich. Little Kayla Suzanne has joined them and helping them take care of her is "big" sister Miranda.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford and Rustin are also thrilled with Shea Alan born on Feb. 12. Truly our responsibility is 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

Having good health is a very blessed gift. Many times we take it for granted until it is taken away for a time. Several from our congregation have been hospitalized this past month, but thankfully they are all back home. They were Bros. Sam Kilgus, Walter Culp, and Brad Barnes. Sis. Cora Boehning, our oldest sister at 94, is recovering at Parkview Haven, and our dear Sis. Peg Bucher spent time also in the hospital. "If we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him."

II Tim. 2:12

We were glad to have Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein home for a weekend visit. They have recently moved to the Detroit area where they have taken up employment. Truly our loss is the Detroit congregation's gain.

Our prayers have been answered in granting a safe return of our dear Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Roy Grimm, (father of our Sis. Wendy Gutwein) from their trip to the "Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India." We are anxious to hear about all their many experiences.

Found: We have two jackets that have been left at Parkview Haven. A man's brown leather jacket (Montgomery Ward) size 40, was found after the Home Benefit Sale, also a brown "Rough Rider" sports jacket.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Winslow — Judy DuBach

The concept of spirituality varies among different Christian groups. In some circles, the highly vocal person who talks religion continually is thought to be very spiritual, others accept noisy exuberance as a mark of spirituality and in some churches the man who prays first, longest and loudest gets a reputation for being the most spiritual man in the assembly.

But, there are some sincere ways to check our true spiritual walk.

1. First is the desire to be holy rather than happy.
2. A man may be considered spiritual when he wants to see the honor of God advanced through his life even if it means he himself must suffer temporary dishonor or loss.

3. The spiritual man wants to carry his cross.
4. Again, a Christian is spiritual when he sees everything from God's viewpoint.
5. Another desire of the spiritual man is to die right rather than live wrong.
6. The desire to see others advance at his expense is another mark of the spirit-filled man.
7. He also habitually makes eternity-judgments rather than time-judgments.

All this must be by the operation of the Holy Spirit living within. No man can become spiritual by himself. Only the free spirit can make a man spiritual.

A. W. Tozer

January 30 was an especially happy and blessed day for all of us here as we shared in the joy of Sis. Lynn Klopfenstein and Bro. Dennis Winslow when they were united in marriage at Leo by Bro. Ed Ringger and assisted by Bro. John Isch. The love of God and for each other shone brightly in their smiles all day as they enjoyed the festivities which started their life together. After a trip to Hawaii, they will be residing here in Indianapolis. We all wish them a long and blessed life together.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Weertz, Cissna Park and Bro. Alfred Bahler, Wolcott. We're always grateful for their support and help.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Cathy Sutter left here in January to spend nine weeks in Zambia, Africa, on a medical assignment. We know they arrived safely after a lengthy trip and pray that their visit will be a blessing for them and the people they come in contact with. They plan to return to the states in April.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

LuAnn Feller — Connie Knobloch

"Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation." Ps. 5:1 How sweet the privilege of prayer is! And yet by faith we know the Father hears every one of them. Many prayers of thanksgiving have been offered in our congregation. We rejoice that two more souls are seeking the Lord. They are Janelle Nuest, daughter of Bro. Elvin and

Sis. Jan, and Angolette Heinold, daughter of Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl Heinold. We ask the Lord's direction in the lives of these young girls. It is certainly an encouragement to the congregation that many come while there is grace.

It was a blessing to share the reading of the conference report with Elder Bros. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Stoller and Ken Schneider, both of Remington. We really appreciate the labors of these brothers.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Mary Troxel enjoyed the arrival of two more grandchildren. On Jan. 26, Karina Rene Troxel joined her two brothers in Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol's family. Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk of Chicago are her other grandparents. Also, on Feb. 3, Nicholas Frank was born to Becky and Glenn Minich. He is their third child.

THOUGHT FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Frank H. Keith

Is it nothing to you who hurry by,
A lonely cross in a windswept sky?
The emblem of sacrifice high in the blue
Calling you home — is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you who close your eyes
To the Savior's suffering as He dies;
And the little church with its empty pew,
And room for one more — is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you, the debt you owe
For His crown of thorns, His blood-red flow?
That the taste of the gall you give Him anew
By passing Him by — is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you that only He
Can carry you over eternity's sea?
That He is salvation, total and true,
And your only hope — is it nothing to you?

Give Your Address Change
to Your Reporter

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter
Marjorie Frantschi
David Bertsch

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. Luke 24:2

And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. John 20:12

By faith, and through God's love and guidance, Sis. Carla Bradtmueller, Leo, and Bro. Jeff Fritz, Indianapolis, have announced their engagement for marriage. Sis. Carla's parents are Otto and Janice Bradtmueller and Bro. Jeff's parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz. We pray for many blessings and much happiness to this union of hearts.

We thank Elder Bro. Loren Stoller from the Latty Church for sharing a Wednesday evening in reading the conference letter and the many teachings we received from God's Word in being faithful to our Heavenly Father, faithfulness in the Christian Home and faithfulness to one another.

Surgery patients at the Parkview Hospital are Artemus Levy and Jim Williams. We are thankful as our Heavenly Father brought healing and guided the surgeon's hands.

We thank Bro. Roy Wieland from the Bay City congregation for sharing God's Word with us and a Wednesday evening of blessing.

May our Heavenly Father's comforting spirit be with Sis. Julia Simon and her family at this time of great sorrow in the death of her grandson, Steve Simon.

A farewell supper was held at the church fellowship center to honor the four Willis children on their adoption. Their new parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spicer of 3622 Fillmore St., Davenport, IA 52806. Thelma, Bertha, John and Chuck have lived at the Children's Home for four years. They have grown in many ways. We thank God for the opportunity to serve them and help them. The Spicers have encouraged us to stay in contact with the children. We support them with prayer and best wishes.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen**

The evening of January 22 was special to Angie Troup (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) and Harold Higginbotham (son of Audrey of Nappanee) as they were united in marriage. May God go with them as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Theo Beer had the misfortune of falling and fracturing his hip. We pray the time he spends recuperating will pass swiftly for him and we look forward to the time he will be able to return to church. Also having spent some time in the hospital were Tracy Speicher (daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tammy) and Brian Wuthrich (son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda). We are thankful they are both back home.

Bro. Elmer Hartter had the privilege of assisting Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto) and Jesse Beer with the testimonies and baptisms of his grandchildren, Tony and Esther Hoover (son and daughter-in-law of Don and Sis. Ginny). We rejoice with them and pray they will always remain true to this precious faith. Our humble thanks go to Bro. Aaron and his family for sharing the weekend with us.

We also wish to thank Bros. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse) for giving of themselves as they so willingly ministered to us.

A little blessing arrived at the home of Bro. John and Sis. Leona Martin on February 16. Austin Scott was welcomed by his two big brothers, Spencer and Dustin. Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Yoder of Michigan are the happy grandparents.

As we approach the Easter Season of the year our hearts become sobered at the words, "Jesus died for me." We understand crucifixion to be the most painful, unbearable, torturous and humiliating of all deaths. Yet Christ not only endured this horrible death but also suffered scourging, mockery and debasement prior to His crucifixion. The scourging, a brutal beating, left the body extremely weak from the intense pain and swollen from the many open, bleeding wounds. After this beating, the soldiers mocked Him by putting

a thorny crown on His head and giving Him a scepter and a purple robe. They spat upon Him and, taking the scepter from Him, beat Him on the head, probably penetrating those sharp, lengthy thorns further into His scalp. Yet through all this, Jesus spoke not a word. He was instructed to carry His own cross as they led Him out to Golgotha. It is no wonder He stumbled and was physically unable to bear it. Pounding the nails into His hands and feet, His cross was then raised and dropped into the hole. There it remained. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34) was Jesus' kind, compassionate response! He was given the bitter drink of vinegar and gall when He became thirsty. Having received the drink He spoke, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and died. Proving His death, the soldiers pierced His side and blood and water (serum, the separated blood) flowed.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler****SOWING IN TEARS**

Oh, there are many joys and blessings in a believer's life. I don't mean to be looking at the dark side of the cloud only, but have you ever noticed the correlation between the tears of a believer, bringing forth fruit, and the rain upon the earth likewise. The experts tell us how essential rain is to our atmosphere. It purifies the air with such a cleansing, not to mention the importance of bringing forth seed from the earth. In the life of believers, like the crying of the psalmist David, our most fervent prayers bring forth the showers of tears. Just like the raindrops softening the earth, for the seed to come forth, so do tear-drops soften the heart of a believer to bring forth spiritual seed. We feel a purifying and cleansing from our tears of repentance and shortcomings in our prayers. Isa. 55:10 "For as rain cometh down, and snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:" Ps. 126:5, 6 "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." He that goeth forth weeping,

bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Looking at the bright side at last, won't it be the biggest blessing to be finished with all our sowing, staying faithful to meet the Lord. He shall wipe away all tears, that we may rejoice with Him. "Praise ye the Lord." Ps. 135:21.

We are happy to announce the arrival of Abby Kristine to Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy Clauss. They also have two daughters, Erica and Kyle. The grandparents are Marvin and Mary Weiss and Sis. Lorene Clauss.

We benefited very much from Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) who came as visiting minister this month. We thank him very much for coming.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Nancy and Karen Lehman

A PRAYER FOR SPRING

Brood over the earth, Great Spirit of God, With Your wind and Your rain; Thaw out the streams and awaken the sod and send us the springtime again.

Back from the southland, send us the songbirds: Bluebird and robin, and wren. Send growth to our fields, replenish our herds, Smile on our gardens, and then — Great Spirit and Friend, guard well this good earth, for the days and the nights are Your Own. Thou art their Creator; Thou givest them birth — Let all of Thy seasons be known.

Minnie Klemme

After such a mild winter in this area we truly feel God has already given us a touch of Spring throughout the winter months and greatly rejoice in His power.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19, 20

We were blessed to hear the testimony of two dear souls, Annie Greenburg and Pat Meyer and then to witness their baptism. We welcome them as brother and sister

in our South Bend congregation. May God grant them grace in His name.

Welcomed visiting ministers and families this month were Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton). We're thankful these churches share their ministering brothers with us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Claudia Thomas — Mary Huber

This month we were blessed to have Bros. Merle Bucher from LaCrosse and Carl Westfall from Francesville minister to us. We are very thankful to have them come and share with us.

There are many busy days ahead for our congregation. We are looking forward to our first wedding at Valparaiso and in the future we expect to witness some baptisms.

May the Lord bless all of our new converts and our newlyweds as they start down the path of life in His hand. Such blessings make us more of a family as we all work out the future with God. May we be reminded of the saying, "The family that prays together, stays together." This is certainly true of our church family as well. May God bless each one.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Deb Anliker

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

This past month brethren from Wolcott and Remington met with us to share the Word of God. Their deeds of love are greatly appreciated. We were given many instructions for our Christian walk of life. A very important question was posed to us: "What is your most prized possession?" This question applies to all of us, and should make us seriously consider what our answer is.

We know that the answer for each of us could be salvation through Jesus Christ, and each of us knows what our own answer really is.

Plans for college week-end this spring are well under way. It will be April 9 and 10 at Purdue. Information on definite times and locations will be made known as soon as possible.

But oh, what light and glory,
Would shine o'er all our ways,
If we always would remember
That He means just what He says.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:" Psalms 127:3

Scott and Diane Mailloux are the happy parents of Wesley Brian born January 31. He has one sister, Lindsey, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mailloux (Goodland, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Marilyn Schieler who has been hospitalized for several weeks in Indianapolis.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Kim Salek — Edith Massner

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Eph. 5:20. Are we really thankful for all God's blessings to us each day? It is difficult to number them and not omit any, but from time to time we are reminded of some special blessing. Recently we saw some slides from Hungary and realized that the privilege to assemble in a church is a real blessing. We are thankful our dear ministers can travel freely from church to church. Visiting ministers are often a source of inspiration and encouragement. So we especially appreciated the visits of Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. Dale Frank.

Cora Ater spent several days in the hospital. We were glad she could be back in church again Sunday. Their daughter, Ronna, also has visited the hospital for tests. We wish them both a full recovery.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan

In holy bonds of love to join the
twain created man.

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand; Thy blessings we implore;
Unite thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion

With joy on Feb. 13 we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Kathy Pulfer (Paul and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby, Oakville). Visiting ministers for the day were Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington; Bro. John Steiner, Oakville; and Bro. Gary Anliker, (Elgin, IL. As we are taught to rejoice with those who rejoice we are also reminded to weep with those who weep. With this in mind, we extend our sympathy to Sis. Esther Braker in the death of her sister, Julia Grimm and also to Clarence Thoman in the death of his sister, Sis. Alta Thoman.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Eileen Funk

At our monthly potluck and singing, we celebrated Bro. Art and Sis. Gussy Wullschlegler's (Wichita, KS) 43rd anniversary. We do rejoice with them and enjoy all our loved ones who assemble with us!

My dad, ministering Bro. Clarence Yackley (Phoenix, AZ) sent us some interesting information on Bro. Froelich's work establishing our Apostolic Christian faith. With God's grace, he baptized 38 in one week. After 6 years, there were 14 congregations. After 15 years, 55 and after another 10 years, 55 more congregations. In 35 years of service there were 110 congregations. Before the war there were in excess of 50,000 members in Europe! It's so wonderful how the Lord does prosper His work of faith!

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Joyce Eland

The last month has been an eventful and blessed one for our small flock in Iowa City. One blessing has been the addition to our congregation of Bro. John and Sis. Pat Knapp with their sons, Ryan and Brandon. It is difficult to describe the great joy that is experienced when the fellowship of our small flock is increased and yet it probably in no way approaches the

joy expressed by angels when one soul turns to our Lord in repentance. Bro. Joe further reminded us of the care and concern of the angels. On a recent Sunday, the icy conditions caused many of us to be late to worship service and we felt some concern until all had arrived safely. Bro. Joe pointed out that there is greater concern than that in heaven for each one of us each moment of our lives.

We also shared the joy of our Sis. Kathy (Pulfer) in her marriage to Bro. Fred Eberhardt on Feb. 13. They plan to live in nearby Mt. Pleasant and will worship with us frequently. We pray the Lord will bless their journey together and thank Him for the unspeakable joy He has brought to our flock over the addition of two couples in one month.

Ministers who have traveled the miles to serve us recently include: Bros. Glenn Funk (Garden Grove), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend), John Steiner (Oakville) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington). How grateful we are that there are willing servants to bring us God's Word.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

We were refreshed and renewed in spirit the weekend of Feb. 6 when converts Heidi Gerber, Sheila Roeman and Nola Wulf brought their testimony before the church and the next day were immersed in the waters of baptism after making a covenant with God. We welcome them as sisters-in-faith. Elder Bro. Ed Frank was with us for this blessed occasion and also assisted Elder Bro. Leo Moser in bringing us the conference conclusions. We are thankful to God for sending Bro. Ed into our midst.

Visiting ministers the weekend of Jan. 30 were Bros. Carl Wyss and Russell Wuthrich. They and their families as well as many other relatives were here to wish Grandpa Fred Metzger a "Happy Birthday" on his 98th. Fred enjoyed the observance so much and is deeply grateful for the cards, gifts, and love bestowed on him.

We rejoice to report two new converts and offer prayers in their behalf. They are Stan Knobloch, son

of Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen and Jerry Knobloch, son of Orvie and Lauretta.

Through adoption, Kyra Su-Cho is the newest addition to the family of Jim and Susie Gerber. She is 4 years old and is welcomed by 2 brothers and her grandparents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Emma Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Al Miller.

Recent hospital patients have been Bro. Emil Knobloch, Lou Moser, Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Mike Metzger and Gilbert Knobloch. We are thankful to report all are recuperating at home.

On Feb. 4, Bro. Dennis Warner performed the wedding service for Greg Popkes, son of Sis. Eleanor, and Lori Folkens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arend Folkens. We wish them many blessings as they begin their walk of life together.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Jerilyn Wagenbach

Proverbs 18:22: Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

We rejoiced with Bro. Fred Eberhardt as he was united in marriage to Sis. Kathy Pulfer (Iowa City) on Feb. 13 at Elgin, IA. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt, and Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer (Elgin, IA). Our best wishes for their happiness together, and for the blessings of the Lord, are extended to this couple.

Isaiah 2:3: And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

We thank Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) for joining us in the "house of the God of Jacob," and bringing to us the Word of Life, that the Lord may "teach us of His ways".

The Easter season is near, and we recall the sacrifice and suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ with sorrow,

and yet with thanksgiving, for by His great sacrifice, we have been redeemed!

St. Mark 14:32, 36: And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray . . . And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt.

St. Luke 22:44: And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

GETHSEMANE

He sought a place to pray and found,
Upon a slope outside of town,
An olive garden filled with trees,
On which there stirred a restless
breeze.

How sad His loved ones never
guessed

The weight of anguish in His breast,
Nor heard His sighs, nor saw Him
weep,

For watching not, they fell asleep.
Each one of us must bear his share
Of that lone hour's vigil there.
But with it promise of a dawn
Of blessed peace when night is gone.
Compared to Thine, dear Lord I see
How small my own Gethsemane.

Grace E. Easley

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

Winter again has draped us with a beautiful cloak of snow. Let us remember that nature is a gift of God.

Many homes have been touched with a serious virus. Those who have been hospitalized from this area are: Carl Gerber (Dave and Diane), James Murphy (Pat and Sue), Jill Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Debbie), Sally Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice). Those hospitalized from injuries were: Paul Demeter (Webster City), Steve Bruellman (Marshalltown) and Robert Banwart. Other hospital patients were: Sis. Emma Sauder, Frank Dogotch and Sis. Ida Schmidt (Ernie).

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever:

for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isaiah 26:3-4

Our best wishes go out to two young couples who have announced their engagements. They are Lisa, daughter of Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman to Jeff, son of Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonja Banwart of Eureka; and Melinda, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr to Brian, son of Bob and Eunice Traub. May God be a guide as they make their future plans.

On Jan. 23, Bro. Mark and Sis. Debbie Bruellman's home was blessed with a new daughter, Minny Marie. Welcoming her home is little Jill and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Darling.

Our sympathy goes out to Sid and Bonnie Anliker in the loss of her father, Bill Weber.

GOD IS THE ANSWER

We read the headlines daily and we listen to the news,
 We are anxious and bewildered with the world's conflicting views,
 We are restless and dissatisfied and sadly insecure,
 And we voice our discontentment over things we must endure,
 For this violent age we live in is filled with nameless fears
 That grow as we discuss the things that come daily to our ears . . .
 So, instead of reading headlines that disturb the heart and mind,
 Let us open up the Bible and in doing so we'll find
 That this age is no different from the millions gone before,
 But in every hour of crisis God has opened up the door
 For all who sought His guidance and trusted in His plan,
 For God provides the Answer that cannot be found by man . . .
 And though there's hate and violence and dissension all around,
 We can always find a refuge that is built on "solid ground"
 If we go to God believing that He hears our smallest prayer
 And that nothing can befall us when we are in His care . . .
 For only by believing in the things We Cannot See
 Can All Nations Be United in the Peace that makes Men Free . . .

For the skill of man can conquer new worlds in outer space,
 But only our Creator can endow mankind with grace,
 And only grace that is divine can unite us with each other
 And make our enemies our friends and Every Man A Brother.

Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA

Judy Luginbuhl

Vicki Ramseyer

Greetings in our precious Lord and Savior. In everything let's praise, honor, glorify and thank our heavenly eternal Father for His promises of blessings that He faithfully endows us with if we simply embrace His Holy Word. What treasured experiences He has carried me through. It is such a joy to experience closely bonded fellowship with those the Lord brings us in contact with. It has been a continuous process of meeting, sharing and separation with my brothers and sisters for the last few months. Some of these experiences certainly stir up feelings of sadness, but have imprinted on my heart the treasured gift and opportunity there is in every one of these relationships. Parting often leaves periods of pain and voids within, yet as we diligently and prayerfully commune with the Lord our love is truly deepened for Him and the indelible truths in His Word not lightly taken. I praise Him for every life and opportunity He allows to cross my path and pray that I make the most of every opportunity.

Sis. Marilyn Schambach recently spent three weeks with us from December 19 to January 8. Again many beautiful moments of fellowship were packed into that time. For Sis. Vicki and Sis. Marilyn this time deepened the bond of love, friendship and appreciation for each other's station in life and has helped to bridge the span of space between them that they have often felt.

Bros. John Klotzle, Roy Grimm, Wendall Gudeman and Joe Ramsier stopped in January 16 - 18 on their way to their mission call in India. Praise the Lord that our brothers have lent themselves to reach out to needs of the Christian work being done there. We had three beautiful

uplifting days in prayer together and in sharing the word, encouraging one another to further our calling as brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (Exodus 33:20). This particular scripture verse baffled one little boy in my Sunday School class recently. "Why can't we see God?" he wanted to know. (In this country it is a question that many adults ask too because they can see their false gods.) The only answer I could think of is because God is so majestic, so filled with glory that our earthly eyes couldn't comprehend Him: But after our death, I assured him, if we had a pure heart we would see God. (Matthew 5:8) It is so humbling how God speaks to us through the children we teach. Is our heart pure enough to see God?

It is with great thankfulness that we welcomed home Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle, January 29, 1983. Sometimes we take it for granted when our loved ones travel, that they will return safely, but let's always remember that God has each of our lives in His control. He is the giver of life and sends His angels to guard us daily.

We were blessed again recently with a visit from Bro. Saburo, Sis. Shizuko and their daughter, Nobuko. It is always a special blessing to have visitors with us in our small congregation.

Last night we visited our Sis. Marie Uchida in the hospital. She seems in very good spirits, and is again able to walk with a cane or behind her wheelchair. Thank-you to each of you who have prayed for her. She will have to remain in the hospital for almost another month.

February 11 was our annual Japanese Conference. We met together, in Shioda, with our brethren from Tokyo. We enjoyed the messages on faithfulness and the fellowship with those who seek to worship the true and living God.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

Time has gone so fast as January of this year is already gone, but what did we do for the Lord since the new year came? We should much more think of what the Lord did for

us on the cross many years ago. We may not have much more time until Christ returns again.

Our American Elder Bros. Roy Grimm and Wendell Gudeman visited here in Tokyo on their way to India. Their pulpit messages reminded me of God's great love for us through the trials of Abraham and also those of our Lord who faced many trials while providing the plan of salvation for us. There are some things we can do without. For example: two cars. But in Hebrews, God said there were three things we could not do without:

1. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.
2. Without faith we cannot please God.
3. Without chastisement we are not the sons of God.

God tested Abraham through these three. If we have trials we should not be discouraged but be comforted and try to bear them patiently. We thank God for the messages through these brothers.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Kisten Shirley joined the family of Linda and Wayne Edelman on Feb. 7. She has two brothers, Michael and Brian, and two sisters, Jeanelle and Bethany.

Sis. Amanda Meyer was hospitalized. Sis. Sarah Meyer remains in the hospital as a surgical patient.

Carol Rokey and Greg Renyer were united in marriage on Feb. 12 at the Fellowship Hall. Carol is the daughter of Sis. Lila and Bro. Joseph Rokey, Jr.

EASTER PRAYER

Help me, Dear Lord, to raise my eyes

Above all petty care,
And find upon the arching skies
Truths You have written there.

Help me to do the simple things
That make this world a place
Where every voice with gladness
rings,
And smiles light up each face.

Help me to hide each bitter loss
So none but You will see

The weight and torture of the cross
I bear up Calvary.

Help me to meet each hour, each
day,

Courageous, faithful, true.
Help me to know and keep the way
That leads, my Lord, to You.

Enola Chamberlin

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Jamie Marti

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." Col. 3:23,24

On January 19 we held our annual elections. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Lon Banwart and Sis. Carol Sinn. Also elected were Bro. Lon Banwart — Trustee, Bro. Wayne Sinn — Usher and Sis. Aleta Banwart — Food Committee.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

As Easter once again approaches, the believer's foremost desire is to celebrate the occasion in worship; glorifying our Lord for the precious gift of salvation and for the blessed comfort of the Holy Spirit. World doctrine (Humanism) might wish to challenge the Christian believer at this point and time with deceptive statements. "In order to satisfy certain social, environmental and emotional needs, man has created his own religion and passed them on to other generations. Man's religious emotions should be redirected from prayer and worship to humanistic ideals of self improvement and social well being since the ultimate goal of religion is personal fulfillment in life." But the scriptures plainly tell us recorded in John 3:16, 17; 4:24; Romans 8:1-14; and I Corinthians 1:27-31; 10:31 that "Christianity is not man trying to reach God, but rather God interceding in human history to save man. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, any attempts at self improvement and social well being would be in vain. For the ultimate goal of the believer is not for personal satisfac-

tion, but for the glorification of his God. — "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31

Our annual election was held this past month. Those newly elected to fill offices were Bros. Albert Edelman, Board of Trustees; Ephriam Young, Building Aid; Ivan Beyer, Personal Property Board; Rudy Bahr, Cemetery Board; Sunday School Teachers are Bro. Phil Strahm, superintendent; Bro. Brian Bahr, Bro. Eldon Metzger, Sis. Marilyn Owens, and Sis. Julie Bahr. Sis. Julie Bahr was re-elected as Silver Lining reporter.

"And these words which I command thee, this day shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way and when thou liest down and when thou risest up." Deut. 6:6,7

Our visiting ministers who have so faithfully taught us the words which are hid in their hearts were Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend), Leroy Messner (Winthrop), Al Langhofer (Wichita) and our Elder Bro. Dan Anliker (Lamont). May God bless the words which were spoken and bind them upon our hearts so we may also teach them, as commanded us.

Hospitalized was our Sis. Hannah (Albert) Grimm. We ask that God will spiritually and physically strengthen those who have suffered bodily afflictions.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

God, you have been too good to me,
You don't know what you've done.
A clod's too small to drink in all
The treasure of the sun.
The pitcher fills the lifted cup
And still the blessings pour;
They over brim the shallow rim
With cool refreshing store.
You are too prodigal with joy,
Too careless of its worth,
To let the stream with crystal gleam
Fall wasted on the earth.
Let many thirsty lips draw near
And drink the greater part!

There still will be too much for me
To hold in one glad heart.

Charles W. Stork

How true it is that no matter how hard we try, we can't keep up with our Lord when it comes to blessing. One small thing given in His precious Name, and it's returned four fold to us. But one thing we can do is always be thankful and remain faithful until this life's end.

Our annual meeting was held this past month, and since our group is small, most were re-elected to the same office. May we all remember, though, that we need each other and no matter how small our part may seem, if it's done for the Lord it is blessed.

We were so privileged this past month to have a van load of loved ones stop through on their way south. Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL, was with the group and we were truly thankful for the precious words of faith he shared with us.

A number of our loved ones have been hospital patients this past month and are still unable to be in our midst. Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel were in Enid, and though home now, are not able to worship with us. Bro. Sam Schrock suffered a fall that cracked 5 ribs and punctured a lung. Sis. Sophia Kircher is suffering a bleeding ulcer, and a touch of pneumonia. We pray God's healing touch for our loved ones and want them to know they are missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Iva Beth Bennett, who lost her life in a car - truck accident this past week. Lynne Johnson, daughter of Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow was a daughter-in-law of the deceased, and we truly beseech God's comfort in this time of sorrow.

Thot: Prayer is a silent surrender of everything to God.

Soren Kierkegaard

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jill Luthi

"For, lo, the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone;

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard on our land.

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the

tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come my way."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

We are once again reminded how God has watched over us during this winter season. He has blessed us with a mild season and very little snow to worry about. As the season of spring approaches we are reminded daily of the Lord's Creation.

We are again taken to the cross as the four gospels remind us of our Saviour's crucifixion. We cannot conceive in our own mind what it was like to be scourged, platted with a crown of thorns, mocked, smitten, spit upon, hated by all men enough that they cried out CRUCIFY HIM, to bear the CROSS, and yet . . . be NAILED UPON THE CROSS, to be pierced in the side with a spear, where there came blood and water for every sinner on earth! Let us never forget Christ's suffering for us sinners!

I WALKED TODAY WHERE
JESUS WALKED

I walked today where Jesus walked,
in days of long ago;

I wondered down each path He knew
with rev'rent step and slow.

Those little lanes, they have not
changed, A sweet peace fills the
air.

I walked today where Jesus walked,
And felt His presence there.

My pathway led through Bethlehem,
Ah! Memories ever sweet;

The little hills of Galilee, that knew
those childish feet;

The Mount of Olives: hallowed
scenes that Jesus knew before;

I saw the mighty Jordan roll as in
the days of yore.

I knelt today where Jesus knelt,
where all alone He prayed;

The Garden of Gethsemane My
heart felt unafraid!

I picked my heavy burden up And
with Him by my side,

I climbed the Hill of Calvary, Where
on the Cross He died!

I walked today where Jesus walked
And felt Him close to me.

(Words by) Daniel S. Twohig

(Music by) Geoffrey O'Hara

Our only hospital patient since the last writing was Bro. Fred Luthi.

We are glad his stay was a short one, as he once again is residing at Madison Manor and will soon assemble with us. May God ever be with him.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

All is o'er, the pain, the sorrow,
Human taunts and Satan's spite;
Death shall be despoiled tomorrow
of the prey he grasps tonight. Yet
once more His own to save Christ
must sleep within the grave.

Fierce and deadly was the anguish
of the bitter cross He bore. How did
soul and body languish, till the toil
of death was o'er. But that toil, so
fierce and dread, bruised and
crushed the serpent's head.

Close and still the tomb that holds
Him, while in brief repose He lies.
Deep the slumber that enfolds Him
veiled a while from mortal eyes.
Slumber such as needs must be after
hard won victory.

Up from the grave He arose, with
a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He
arose a victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever with His saints
to reign; He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

(Before the Dawn - Hymns of
Zion No. 143 Verses 1, 2, 3 and
Christ Arose - Gospel Hymns No.
323 Chorus)

Hospitalized this past month were
Sis. Hulda Bieri, Bro. Harvey
Wenger, Dave Meyer and Fred
Strahm. Dave Meyer is now a
resident of the Apostolic Christian
Home.

At our recent business meeting,
Bro. Steve Aberle was selected to
replace Bro. Noah Steiner as
trustee. Bro. Don Plattner replaces
Bro. Elmer Strahm on the board of
the Fellowship Hall and Bro. Roger
Hartter replaces Bro. Velmer Meyer
on the Personal Property Com-
mittee.

We appreciate the visit of Bro.
Dale Wulf (Lester), and his family.
May the Lord richly bless him for his
labors of love in bringing us His
Word.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address

to Your Reporter.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Jana Meyer

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning,
 When my day was at its best,
 And his presence came like sunrise
 With a Glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
 All day long He stayed with me;
 And we sailed in perfect calmness
 O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and
 battered,
 Other ships were sore distressed,
 But the winds that seemed to drive
 them
 Brought to us both peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
 With a keen remorse of mind,
 When I too had loosed the moorings,
 With the Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,
 Learned from many a troubled
 way —;
 You must seek Him in the morning,
 If you want Him through the Day!

Due to bad weather, January 19
 and February 2 church services
 were not held. Bro. Max Reimschisel
 from the Wichita congregation
 ministered words of truth at our
 mid-week services on February 16.

Singings were held at our Bros.
 and Sis. in faith Kevin and Denise
 Kilgus and Edwin and Ramona
 Strahm.

Thank you to all who provided us
 with Christian fellowship and wor-
 ship. May God's blessings be upon
 you in your Christian walk of life.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Priscilla Frank

February brought to Wichita the
 blessing of snow. We received
 enough snow to close school for
 several days and some of us were
 unable to get out to go to work.
 Those of us who could, heard much
 grumbling and complaining about
 the various conditions of the streets;
 how awful it was to have to scoop
 all that snow, and worst of all, how
 bad it was to be penned up with
 their kids for three days.

As I heard these remarks I was a

little saddened, and yet a small glow
 burned within. To me it's always ex-
 citing to see the wonder of God's
 creation. True, there are times
 when it's an inconvenience, but
 there are so many things you can do
 to fill those long hours. My mother
 was always one to be creative. With
 thirteen kids, the snowed-in days
 were days that she could finally slow
 down and have some fun with her
 children, and fun we did have. It was
 a time to get out the jigsaw puzzles,
 make some snow ice cream, romp in
 the snow, but funniest of all was the
 yearly snow man contest. Our city
 had an annual contest and awarded
 prizes for the biggest, the most
 original, and the most unusual. Our
 neighborhood had an unwritten law
 that we would gather at our corner
 and build the biggest snowman in
 the city. These aspirations were
 never fulfilled, but we sure had fun
 trying. I am thankful that we young
 mothers have had such great
 teachers in our own mothers.

It was so exciting to hear school
 was closed and to dig out the jigsaw
 puzzles and make snow ice cream
 and just have time in this hustle-
 bustle life to sit down and enjoy my
 own children. To all of you won-
 derful mothers who spent time with
 us when we were penned in, "Thank
 you." Please continue to encourage
 us to look for the bright side of life,
 regardless of the condition, and to
 keep looking till we find it. And once
 we've found it; remind us to get on
 with it, and enjoy each day. Life is
 too short to let the small joys and
 wonder of life pass by us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Jane Grawburg

A few weeks ago, Bro. Dale Eisen-
 mann of Chicago, joined us to share
 in reading the memorandum. We
 want to thank him for his special
 labors of love.

Bro. Otto Schlatter, Sis. Myrna
 Steffen and Sis. Elise Bocka have
 joined our Sunday School staff. Bro.
 Wally Gerst is our new superin-
 tendent. We pray for these souls,
 and for all our Sunday School
 teachers, as they bring God's holy
 and precious Word to our dear
 children.

Our congratulations go to Bro.
 Lloyd and Sis. Eloise Blough on the
 birth of a new grandson, Justin Lee,

born to their daughter, Darlene
 Overholt.

Those hospitalized are Jeanette,
 granddaughter of Bro. Lloyd and
 Sis. Eloise Blough, and Bro. Lyman
 Feldman (Sis. Vivian). Jeanette is a
 patient at the Boston Children's
 Hospital. We ask that God will bless
 these dear souls and give them both
 a speedy recovery.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Paul
 and Sis. Margaret Jackson in the
 loss of their father, Franklin
 Jackson, of Saginaw, MI and
 Newport Richey, FL.

Juanita Gerst, daughter of Bro.
 Bill and Sis. Judy, has made peace
 with God and man and now awaits
 baptism. May God give her much
 strength and grace in her new walk
 of faith.

Visiting minister this month was
 Bro. Gary Anliker of Elgin, IL. We
 thank him for his labors of love.

It is Springtime and Easter is just
 around the corner. Let's remember
 what Jesus did for us. He died on the
 cross for you and for me — to save
 us! Are we worthy of such a
 beautiful gift?

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Linda Ramseyer

"For this cause shall a man leave
 his father and mother, and shall be
 joined unto his wife, and they two
 shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31

The Lord has brought two couples
 together in the bonds of matrimony.
 Cheryl Schlatter became the bride
 of Michael Schmidt on Jan. 21. Their
 parents are Bro. David and Sis.
 Margaret Schlatter and William and
 Valerie Schmidt. On Feb. 13, Sis.
 Cindy Jackson and Bro. Lowell
 Schlatter were joined together as
 one. Parents of this couple are Bro.
 Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson
 and Sis. Esther Schlatter from Junction,
 OH. We pray that the Lord will
 be with them through the years
 ahead.

Our congregation has been
 privileged to have ministers visit us
 and teach us through God's Word.
 We want to thank Elder Bro. Willis
 Ehnle from Shioda, Japan. Bro.
 Floyd Wieland from Detroit, Bro.
 Eugene Fetter from Toledo, OH and
 Bro. Sam Schlatter from Junction,
 OH for coming to our area.

Sis. Louise Lambert recently fell and broke her hip. She is now in the hospital and has had surgery. Our prayers are with her for a speedy recovery.

We were saddened to hear of the death of our dear sister. Sis. Winifred Ruegsegger recently passed away after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Frederick; two daughters and their husbands: Beverly and Thomas Jozwiak, Barbara and Glenn Cardinali; one son and his wife, Michael and Nancy Ruegsegger, all of Bay City; three grandchildren and three half brothers. Sis. Winnie will be missed by our congregation and we pray that the Lord will comfort her family.

"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." St. Luke 24:7. The Easter season is once again upon us and we are rejoicing that the Lord sent His Son to this earth to be the sacrifice for our sins. May we all look to the Lord, during this special time of year, with peace and love in our hearts.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

Time passes so quickly, and already we are looking forward to Spring and the coming of Easter. As we approach this season of remembering Christ's death and suffering, may we also cling to the promise found in John 3:16: "God (the greatest lover) so loved (the greatest degree) the world (the greatest number) that He gave (the greatest act) His only begotten Son (the greatest gift) that whosoever (the greatest invitation) believeth in Him (the greatest person) should not perish (the greatest deliverance), but (the greatest difference) have (the greatest certainty) everlasting life (the greatest possession).

Streams in the Desert, Vol. Two

What a blessing it is to live in a land where we can come and go so freely, and can meet together to praise our Lord without fear of persecution. Our choir had the privilege to travel safely to Toledo on the evening of Feb. 6 to enjoy an evening of fellowship and song. We

want to sincerely thank the Toledo congregation for their love and hospitality.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear Sis. Alice Polk, as she has been admitted to a local hospice facility. Our prayer is that she can always feel God's comforting Hand throughout all of her trials and pain.

We appreciated a visit from ministering Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and his family. May God bless him for lending himself to share God's Word of Life with us.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

We are thankful that God provided for Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and his wife to be with us Feb. 6. Bro Ken Lawson (Fort Lauderdale) and his family assembled with us Feb. 20. We appreciated their fellowship. We pray the Lord will bless them for their endeavors.

Sis. Laura Miller is at home recovering from minor surgery.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock

"And there was Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre." (Matt. 27:61) Did the sorrowing sisters receive any comfort in Christ's death? Did they realize He was silent in death that He might live again?

"Twas by a path of sorrows drear
Christ entered into rest;
And shall I look for roses here,
Or think that earth is blessed?
Heaven's whitest lilies blow
From earth's sharp crown of woe;
Who here his cross can meekly bear,
Shall wear the kingly purple there."

He is not the great 'I was', He is the great 'I am'. A glorious truth as we remember Easter Day! Because He lives, we can live with Him.

A daughter, Susie, was born to Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl. Grandparents, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler, her sister, Cindy, and brothers, John and Gary, rejoice in her birth. Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall and daughter, Amy, have been blessed with Tonia Kay. Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy and Bro.

Dave and Sis. Kay Eisemann are the grandparents.

Four souls were baptized and welcomed into the family of believers: Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth (Koehl) Jones, Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys, Bro. Robert Schmidgall (Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine) and Sis. Julie Fehr (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane). Bros. Leo Moser and Paul Butikofer, Harold Messner and Dale Moore were among our visitors.

Many family and friends helped Sis. Lizzie Schmidgall celebrate her 90th birthday. Bros. Noah and Don Miller shared the Word with us.

Please note: Silver Lining dues (\$6.00) will be collected in April.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt**

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark
domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to
reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ
Arose!

Gospel Hymns #323

St. John 11:25 — I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die! What a powerful message the Lord gave to this world! Without salvation, what hope is there, in this dark and dreary world? Praise God for His love — His son, Jesus; who was sent into this world to give us Hope and Assurance of Eternal Life!

He will live in the hearts of friends he made,
And be known, always, for the foundation he laid.
Just as Honor and Truth, endure forever;
Death is powerless to destroy or sever . . .
So his gallant soul has taken flight;
Into a land where there is no night.
He is not dead, he has only gone on;
To a brighter, more wonderful dawn.

Helen Steiner Rice

This beautiful poem has been submitted in loving memory of Dennis

Messner, who died one year ago. Submitted by his precious family.

We were very grateful to have had some visiting ministers visit our small congregation this past month. Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Bro. Harold Grams and their wives from Morris, MN assembled with us one Sunday. May God richly bless them for their words of wisdom, love, and kindness.

"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." As ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. II Cor. 1:5, 7.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Walter Messner and Bro. George Messner. They are now home and doing much better.

Bro. Walter Messner wishes to thank all who have remembered him with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers during his recent illness.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti — Becky Hohulin

"Nevertheless if thou warn that the righteous man sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezekiel 3:21

Three Wednesday evenings were set aside for us to hear the tapes of the conference. There were loving warnings and timely admonitions shared to us by our elder brethren. We should always be thankful for our elders who care for us, and are willing to lend themselves on our behalf. May God richly reward them for their labors of love.

We were saddened at the death of Eli Banwart who was called from this life on Feb. 12, 1983. We extend our sympathy to his family and to those who knew and loved him. Eli will be missed in our congregation.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

"A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35.

We thank all of those who have come for our services — who out of love for the Lord Jesus Christ came together to worship here. On Jan. 23 Bro. Chris

Huber from the Francesville congregation, was here. On Feb. 13, Bro. Gerald Sutter from the Taylor congregation was here. Both shared the Word with us and we so appreciate their efforts. May God bless them.

Services are held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. For further information, contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

Happiness is something we create in our mind,

It's not something you search for and so seldom find;

It's just waking up and beginning the day;

By counting our blessings and kneeling to pray;

It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent;

And accepting what comes as a "gift—Heaven sent";

It's knowing that life is determined for us,

And pursuing our tasks without fret, fume, or fuss;

For its by completing what God gives us to do;

That we find real contentment and happiness too.

Helen Steiner Rice

Our thanks to Bro. Bob and Sis. Ellie Pflederer (Morton) for their weekend visit Dec. 17-19. Several timely and informative meetings on marriage counseling and guidelines for our young people were enjoyed as well as services on Sunday. Bro. Bob showed slides and narrated their recent trip to Israel which was also a highlight since most of us will not be privileged to observe this in person.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto, MI), were also visitors and may God bless the efforts of all those who are willing to spread the good news.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell have left for their "winter home" in Florida, and we wish for them a few months of sunshine to enjoy and then look forward to having them back with us in the spring.

Kim (Knapp) and Stuart Buckman and sons have moved to the Bradford church area and we wish them a bless-

ed and successful future in their new venture.

Sis. Louanne Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth) has moved to Peoria and is a student at I.C.C. Sis. Stephanie Gerber has also accepted a nursing position in Peoria. "We trust God to watch over us while we are apart one from another."

We are thankful that God is still calling and that souls are willing to answer this call. Ginger Moser (Jim) has made this first step and may she be encouraged and feel His strength and help as she endeavors to walk in a new light.

As the need for foster homes increases, we are happy for little five year old "Wendy", who Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp have once again opened their hearts and home to and will endeavor to shower her with the tender, loving care that is so important to any child and which so many are deprived of. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

Our thanks to Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City), for their weekend visit and sharing God's word with us.

Once again we are appreciative and grateful to God for His Guidance, protection and reasonable health afforded our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his co-workers during their recent trip to India. May rich blessings be showered on all who are involved and may God's will be done in whatever the future holds.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dave, Sis. Marijane and little Jennifer Foote at the loss they've experienced when fire completely destroyed their home and all its contents. We feel helpless at a time like this and I'm sure, unless we've had similar happenings, there is no way we can sense the traumatic shock it must be to see all your possessions destroyed before your eyes! We are thankful that no lives were lost and we know God will in due time replace their needs and will soften the blow they feel at this time.

The Lord Will Provide

"In some way or other the Lord will provide;

It may not be my way,

It may not be thy way;

And yet in His own way

"The Lord will provide."

At some time or other the Lord will provide;
It may not be my time,
It may not be thy time
And yet in His own time
"The Lord will provide."

Despond then no longer; the Lord will provide;
And this be the token
No word He has spoken
Was ever yet broken:
"The Lord will provide."

March on then right boldly; the sea shall divide;
The pathway made glorious,
With shoutings victorious,
We'll join in the chorus,
"The Lord will provide."

Then we'll trust in the Lord, and He will provide;
Yes, we'll trust in the Lord, and He will provide.

Gospel Hymns #7

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Bro. Dimitrie Liuba was sick for several weeks with a virus and could not attend church. We thank God that he is much improved and hopes to be able to worship with us again soon.

Richard Diggelman, son of Bro. John and Sis. Mary, has been transferred by his company from South Korea to Saudi Arabia. Richard, with his wife Helga and son Kevin, will soon be moving to their new home. May God go with them.

We were happy to welcome ministering Bro. Lee Bahler, his wife and others from Rockville for a Sunday of worship and good fellowship. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15)

We were grateful for an opportunity to visit our dear Sis. Louise Buhler, who is in high age and virtually a shut-in. She finds it increasingly more difficult to manage alone but she made it clear that it is her single intent to remain faithful to her God and the vows she made before Him. We trust many prayers will be offered on her behalf.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

To the Savior's grave now hasten,
Where He lay in calm repose.

Christ, in strength from God the Father,
From the grave in triumph rose.
Thus the path of life He made,
With His blood your ransom paid.

Jesus bore all our transgressions
With Him there upon the cross,
And for us endured the anguish,
As a meek lamb suffered loss;
There He won for me and thee
Life and joy eternally.

In my Savior's resurrection
There is comfort; I am blest.
In His life my hopes renewing,
In His love my soul shall rest.
Everything I have in Thee,
Life and hope and victory.
Hymn #183, Zion's Harp

How true it is that our Savior bore all our transgressions on the cross as the hymn writer has penned. All our blessings and help come from Him and are without price, only for the asking. At this season of the year, we are reminded of His suffering for our redemption. May each of us take advantage of His love and look forward to this life, with hope, and finally victory through Him.

Elder Bro. Norbert and Sis. Doris Steiner have welcomed another little granddaughter. Shannon Elizabeth was born on Feb. 1. She will be loved by her parents, John and Brenda MacDonald, and her sister Leah will have a new playmate. They live in Plymouth, New Hampshire.

We gathered with the Naumburg congregation on the evening of Sunday, Jan. 30. We were able to hear the report of the memorandum read by Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner. May we use these words of concern as our guidelines each day.

The Naumburg congregation was with us on Wednesday evening, Jan. 26, for a covered dish supper and evening of song and fellowship.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

We owe our dear elder brothers Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner many thanks for all they do for our churches at Croghan and Naumburg. They have read and explained the memorandum of the last conference to us. May God bless them richly and give them much needed strength.

There was a birthday singing for Sis.

Minnie Tauber. She has shared how much she enjoyed it.

We appreciate Bro. Duane Farney from Croghan, recently called into the ministry, for serving us Sunday, Feb. 13. May God bless him and Sis. Karen in their labors for Him.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Two hearts that first sought the Lord Jesus for their personal salvation are now finding that the Lord Jesus is giving to each of them a life-long companion. The Lord has brought together Sis. Marsha Graf and Bro. Jay Maibach to join hearts and hands. Parents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach.

Bro. Art Graf has been selected to represent Akron on the building committee to expand the nursing home.

Mary Leidal had a mishap and got a broken ankle, and we pray for her recovery.

"...to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. Bro. Ellsworth Graf, 67, was called by God to enter his eternal heavenly rest. We are glad for Bro. Ellsworth to have won the victory, but we will miss his presence so filled with love. The vacancy will be keenly felt by his family. His wife is Sis. Esther (Emery) and his children are Bro. Jeff Graf (Ft. Lauderdale), and Sis. Dianne Horn (Houston, TX). His surviving brothers and sisters are: Bro. Rudolph, Bro. Ernest, his twin sister Edith, all of Akron, Sis. Marion Knochel of Bay City, and Walter of California.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Andy Hunyady

Easter: God's gift to the believer.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, carried our sorrows... He was smitten of God and afflicted, wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities... He was oppressed and afflicted... He was cut off out of the land of the living... He made his grave with the wicked and the rich in his death! He poured out His soul unto death... as an offering for sin..."

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us...

His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption... this Jesus hath God raised up... being by the right hand of God exalted!... Thanks be to God which giveth us the

victory through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our thanks go to faithful brethren, servants of Jesus Christ and God our Father for ministering the holy word to us. Bros. Ernest Graf (Akron), Sam Schlatter (Junction), Gary Maibach (Rittman), their families, and a host of visitors made our meetings most blessed and joyous ones. We are grateful for your love and prayers.

A word from our sister Margit from Romania: After a long delay at the Bucharest airport and customs (and paying a dear price (duty) for clothing and food carried with her), she was safely reunited with her family, who waited for her. She wishes to thank everyone for the many deeds of love and gifts given her. She misses the calm and peaceful spiritual atmosphere and the fellowship she learned to know and enjoy during her visit in America.

Please remember her and all our brethren in your prayers!

OHIO, GIRARD Karen Laparo

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

Psalm 111:1

We wish to thank all our visitors this month, especially our visiting ministers, Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman), and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron). A special thanks, also, to our visiting song leaders.

We extend heartfelt love and sympathy to Sis. Anne Enyeart and her family at the passing away of Sis. Anne's son, Don Enyeart. We pray that God will be near you all in this time of sorrow.

"He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

A hearty welcome is extended by our congregation to Bro. Lowell Schlatter's new bride, the former Sis. Cindy Jackson (Bay City). They were married Feb. 13 and will now establish a home founded on Jesus Christ and the doctrine He set forth in His Word. We wish them God's richest blessings in this important endeavor. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Two little precious souls took their first breaths this month and following a Sunday or so at home will be coming to church in the arms of their mothers. No doubt as these young mothers hold these little ones, they will consider how Satan does set a snare in so many ways to lure these precious little ones away from the church as they grow older. Additionally, many prayers will ascend to God's throne from the lips of these concerned parents that their little one will be provided for with the necessary things for their bodies, but more importantly for their souls so that they can be ready one day to meet their Lord. With such a grave responsibility, no doubt, the parents of these little ones need God's blessings to be successful. The new little souls in our church include: Gary Richard Schlatter, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily (grandson of Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold (LaCrosse)). Young Gary's brothers and sisters are Warren, Kent, Charlene, and Melisa. William Alfred Manz, is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen (grandson of Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner, (Oakville) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz). His brothers and sister are Marvin, Tony, Larry, and Cindy.

Thanks to all of you who remembered Sis. Louise Manz with prayers, cards, and gifts during her recent surgery for her knee and Sis. Della Manz for her recent eye surgery. Both are progressing quite well.

OHIO, LATTY Cheryl Wenninger Patty Rigenbach

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Col. 2:12. The weekend of Feb. 6, Sally Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Esther) experienced the burying of the old man of sin and arose to a new life in Christ through baptism. We were glad to hear Sally's confession of faith and rejoiced as we greeted her as a Sister in the Lord.

The family of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller also felt joy from a new birth. Their two daughters Carrie and Jenny welcomed little Natalie Renee into their home after she spent a short time in the hospital. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dor-

othy Stoller and maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Laukhuf.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Julie Rager (Bro. Jerry) and Eric Rager (Bro. Roy and Sis. June). We are happy to have them assembling with us again.

It has been announced that Bro. Lee Eisenmann (Sis. Mary) has been chosen as the Leo Children's Home representative from our congregation. We pray that God will bless him in this service.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of John Schlatter. He had been ill for several weeks and during this time God's grace was sufficient to bring John into repentance. We rejoice that God's mercy is never failing and that He does not want even one soul to perish. Those surviving are John's wife, Sis. Lillian; five daughters, Nannette (Rex) Horney, Ann (Kevin) Geiger, Penny (James) Boyce, Sis. JaNahn (Bro. Stan) Sinn, and Kim (Tom) Sinn; three brothers, Bro. Joe (Sis. Elsie), Bro. Herman (Sis. Viola), and Bro. Ben (Sis. Helen); four sisters, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Clem) Wieland, Sis. Laura (Bro. Charles) Dunhum, Sis. Josephine (Bro. Don) Wenninger, and Sis. Esther; and 11 grandchildren. Bro. David Bertsche (Leo) assisted with the funeral services.

As Easter approaches may we reflect on the priceless gift of salvation that Jesus Christ has given us through His shed blood and resurrection. May we be sobered by the thought of Easter, yet rejoice in its hope.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

"All things are ready, come . . ."
Matt. 22:4

What a beautiful invitation, as we read the above portion of scripture, to be worthy to be invited by the Master to "Come Home".

A Christian engineer once addressed a large group of railroad men wherein he told the group how wonderful Jesus was to him. He said as a young man, every night as he would near the end of his run, he would open the whistle and let out a blast just as he would round the curve and would look up on the top of the hill where stood a little cottage. Then, his mother would come to the door and wave to him. As his engine would go shooting into the

tunnel, she would go back into the house and say to his father, "Thank God, Father, Benny is safe home tonight." Now his mother and dad are both gone and someday he will finish his run and shall draw near to Heaven's gate and he hopes to see his mom and dad waiting for him and his dear precious mother will turn to his dear dad and he will hear her say, "Thank God, Father, Benny is safe home at last."

Are you coming Home ye wanders,
Whom Jesus died to win
All foot sore and weary
Your garments stained with sin.
Will you seek the blood of Jesus
To wash your garments white
Will you trust His precious promise
Are you coming Home tonight?

Are you coming Home, ye lost ones
Behold your Lord doth wait
Come, then no longer linger
Come ere it be too late;
Will you come and let Him save you
O Trust His love and might
Will you come while He is calling
Are you coming Home tonight?

Are you coming Home ye guilty
Who bear the load of sin;
Outside you've been standing
Come now and venture in;
Will you heed the Saviour's promise
And dare to trust Him quite
Come unto me, saith Jesus
Are you coming Home tonight?

Gospel Hymns #184

We are happy to report that Rick and Sis. Susan Foss are the parents of a new son born Feb. 15 whom they named Isaac Robert. Little Elijah will now have a playmate. Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmer are the paternal grandparents.

Loved ones hospitalized this past month were Sis. Helen Sferro and Bro. Dave Roberts and Ray Enderle. We pray the Lord will strengthen and help each one and if possible grant renewed health. We miss everyone when they are absent from our assembly.

OHIO, RITTMAN Florence Hartzler

We are thankful Bro. Joe Ramsier has returned home safely from his trip to India. May Bro. Joe and those who travelled with him feel the blessings of the Lord in their labors for His name.

Our sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. Erma Marty, Sis. Margaret Marty,

John and Joe Marty, at the passing away of their brother and uncle Charles Marty.

Our community was saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Alvin Zollinger age 42. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Elverna, sons Norman and Arlyn, parents Bro. Charles and Sis. Lillian Zollinger, and brothers Carl, Bro. Rudy, Duane, and Bro. Gary, and to his sisters, Karen Fenton, Sis. Vera Indermuhle, and Sis. Marjorie Boltz. There's an open gate at the end of the road through which each must go alone, and there, in a light we cannot see, our Father claims His own . . . Beyond the gate your loved one finds happiness and rest, and there is comfort in the thought that a loving God knows best.

We have so many dear ones who need hospital care, and our prayers are with Sis. Nina Gasser, Sis. Pear Marty, Tony Zollinger, Bradley Hartzler, and Jennifer Thompson. "Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth." Psalm 71:20.

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things . . ." Psalm 72:18. We know that only the Lord can turn a soul from darkness to light, and we are thankful that more dear souls are seeking this light, and we pray that Joni and Janee Schar, Steve Rufener, and Norman Zollinger will find peace with God.

The wedding of Sis. Darlene Steiner and Bro. Brian Acker was performed by Bro. Henry Dotterer on Jan. 30, a very beautiful day. The parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner, and Boyd and Barbara Acker. May the Lord bless them as they walk this path of life together. "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us." Psalm 67:1.

We were happy to hear the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Jay Maibach and Sis. Marsha Graf, Akron. We pray the Lord will bless them as they make their plans for the future. The parents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf.

Twin boys were born to Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser, and have been named Kenneth William and Kyle Robert. Eric and Brian are glad for two new brothers to help take care of. The grandparents are Bro. Will and Sis. Martha Riggenschach. Eric Alexander

Ramsier was born to Keith and Reggie, their first child. First-time grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma Ramsier. Dan and Debbie Ramsier have a new son with the birth of Gavriel Nelson. One brother Garrett is glad for a playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Aldine Ramsier. A little girl, Suzanne Elizabeth, was born to Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner. One sister, Lori and two brothers, Alan and Jim complete the family. The grandparents are Willard and Sis. Marian Steiner, and Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggenschach. The family of Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery has been increased because "God answered our prayers and gave us a new child to love." Kathryn Joe (Katie) will be a joy to her new family, and Michelle and Jennifer are glad to help care for her. May the Lord bless all these dear ones with their new children.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Ellsworth Graf, who passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home. Funeral services were in Akron, his home church.

We also extend sympathy to Paul and Jenny Reusser, at the passing away of Jenny's father, Harold Johnson.

We are glad to see Bro. Dale Pelfrey without crutches, as he has recuperated from a knee injury, which required a short stay in the hospital.

Our best wishes to Beth Fetty, who graduated in December from Bowling Green University, Toledo. We are glad to see you back with us, Beth, and may all your endeavors be blessed. Her parents are Sis. Wilda and Roy Fetty, grandmother, Sis. Mildred Reusser.

Complete Love! Jesus bore the sins of the world on a cross some folks call a tree; and died to give us eternal life because he loves both you and me. And it doesn't end there . . .

Arisen!
The women left at first light that morning,
Walking through spring flowers in bloom;
In their sadness they didn't even notice
They were rushing to get to the tomb.
They carried some sweet-smelling spices
That were used in preparing the dead.
He whom they loved had been crucified;
Ever since they had been filled with dread.

The tomb had been carved in a mountain;
 A massive stone was used for the door.
 When reaching the site, both were afraid
 Because the stone wasn't there anymore.
 Trembling, they inched their way forward
 To take a closer look inside;
 "Someone has taken the body," they exclaimed,
 And both broke down sobbing, and cried.
 An angel spoke to the two women
 "I bring you greetings on this fine day.
 The Lord is not here. He has risen.
 Come and see the place where the Lord lay."
 These words have stood throughout the years,
 Bringing real hope to all who would hear.
 Jesus rose from the dead as He promised;
 Only believe and you, too, can share.
 Thomas D. Fender

OHIO, TOLEDO
 Josephine Rehklau
 Mary Ann Weigele

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

Sing forth the honor of his name:
 make his praise glorious.

Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name.

Psalm 66:1-4

The Detroit choir was with us on Feb. 6. They brought us an enjoyable evening of song.

Our annual business meeting was held on Jan. 30.

Susan Beard, (Bro. David and Sis. GERALYN) suffered a severe cut in her leg and was hospitalized for a few days. She is making a good recovery.

OREGON, SILVERTON
 Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"Out onto Calv'ry's hill, where Jesus died I'll go, to hear the words He speaks, to see Him in His woe." Zion's Harp song #89, "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross," and it's seven

moving verses is a beautiful song any time, but is especially fitting at Easter. And it seems to be one song that we are not satisfied until we've sung all the verses. As "... onto Calv'ry's hill..." our thoughts got this Easter, let us remember Jesus's own words to His disciples soon after he had risen from the dead, as recorded in Matt. 28:20 "... observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi and family wish to sincerely thank each and every one for their sympathy, prayers and gifts of love recently, following the death of Rosa Lee's stepfather, Chet Lundberg. The outpouring of love and fellowship of dear ones at a time like this is not only comforting but humbling.

A recent hospital patient was Sis. Mildred Dietrich (Min. Bro. Clarence). She is regaining her strength and we are happy to have her able to assemble with us once again.

We truly felt the Lord's blessings this past week as we enjoyed having two visiting ministers and their families here with us. Min. Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), and Larry Wenniger (Latty, OH), shared the Word of God with us on several occasions. We thank them for visiting us and pray that God will bless them richly for their efforts. Further opportunities for fellowship with one another were aided by a noon potluck meal at Silver Creek Falls Park on Saturday and several singings during the week.

We were also pleased to have Min. Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller (Portland, OR), be with us for Sunday night services while the visiting brethren were here.

Welcome home again are our own Min. Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht, who spent some time this winter in Phoenix, AZ with Judie's parents. Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold. We are happy they could have the fellowship with the dear ones in Arizona but are glad to have them safe at home again.

PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA
 Ed Aeschleman

Our eastern winter was mild and pleasant until this month when a terrible blizzard brought record snowfall and freezing temperatures. We were forced to abandon services on Feb. 13,

but were thankful that we could worship God in our homes.

Our small congregation enjoyed the first of a planned monthly after church dinner so that we might profit by an extra hour of fellowship together. It is a true blessing to sit about and to partake of the bountiful tables that God sets before us, both for the body and the spirit.

Silver Threads

HAVE A BLESSING READY

Have a blessing ready any time of any day
 To bestow upon a stranger you meet along the way.
 Many souls are yearning for just a friendly voice . . .
 Have a blessing ready and rejoice.
 Have a blessing ready anywhere that you may go,
 A word of warm encouragement for all the folks you know.
 You never know what burdens they may hide behind a smile . . .
 Have a blessing ready all the while.
 Have a blessing ready even on the darkest night,
 Someone may need the comfort of that little glow of light;
 You'll find that every happiness and every blessing, too,
 Will be returned a hundredfold to you.

Amanda Bradley

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

Forgiveness. The burden of the heart rolled away. Oh there would have been nothing I would have rather done than go to my dear Jesus and to be with him, but no, that was not the will of God. I wasn't formed. I wasn't molded. When they built the temple at Jerusalem, they took every one of those stones, chiseled them and carved them so that every one fit into its place. When the temple was built, there wasn't a sound of a hammer. They had to be molded and God is molding us. "My life is but a weaving, the hymn writer said, "between my Lord and me. I cannot choose the colors, He worketh steadily. Sometimes He weaveth sorrow

but I'm full of foolish pride. I forget he sees the upper, but I the underside. The dark threads are as needful in the masters skillful hand as the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned." He is planning our life for us. But God is there in the time when we need him the most! How well I remember a few years later. God brings these things back to our memory. You have them in your life as well as I have them in mine. I was laying there on the side of the road. I was a half mile from anywhere and there I remember I worked myself over on a concrete abutment. I promised my God if he would just help me out I would be faithful to him. I had repented, but I looked back over some of the mistakes that I had made in life and I promised God that I would be faithful to Him. No matter where He would lead me I would go with Him. I found my way home. I got on my hands and knees and crawled for half a mile. I got home and was taken to the hospital. When I came out of surgery I can tell you there was a peace that waved over me that I'll never be able to put into words. Those are things that God knows that you and I need. I went to the hospital to see an old sister after she had a heart attack. She said, "I came to the hospital and wondered what the result was going to be. Then an air of heavenly peace waved over me and the burden of my heart rolled away."

Here was Peter. He heard that voice when he was up there in the mountain which said, "This is my beloved son, hear him." God wanted them to know that there was something else taking place. It is said, "The law to me reveals the volume of my sins, but fails to give me power, a new life to begin." Peter was thrown into prison. What did he do? Did he complain and lament? No! He thanked God. They sang praises in the prison at midnight hour that they were worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ. But there was something else that was happening. There was a church praying. There was a praying church. When there is a praying church, oh, that church is moved by the spirit of God. The angel came and opened the prison door about mid-

night. I remember so well the last time that I occupied the pulpit here was with Bro. Mike Weyeneth some years ago. I remember that Bro. Mike pointed out that when he was in the service there was a church at home that was praying for him. He said that was the only thing that brought him back. He would tell in his sermons over and over again of that sweet and tender voice that is one day going to be as music in the ears of the believer. "Come now ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom or inherit the things that have been prepared for you from the foundation of the world." I remember Mike told us one time that when he was in World War I he was overseas under continual shell fire for three days and three nights. Mike said I prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed till I couldn't pray any more. Did you ever get to that point that you couldn't pray any more? You wondered what the purpose is there in my life. Where is God? He said that Satan was there to ask him, "Now where is your God?" He said that it all was a little voice that said, "Don't be afraid. I'm standing by your side."

Here Peter was telling them, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that hath begotten us to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord." He said my Lord had told me I must put off this tabernacle. He warned them but that didn't discourage them. Often I think that the Apostle Paul knew the things that were before him. But without flinching he walked forward. He marched onward because it was the path of victory. He had to go to many rough and troubled areas but he wasn't afraid of that. That only sharpened him for the trials and the battles that were ahead of him. We can read in the Acts of the apostles that Paul called the elders at the church at Ephesus. He called them at Miletus and there he encouraged them one last time. He wasn't only interested in what they were going to teach but in what their lives were going to be. There is such a thing as a man being doctrinally correct in what he speaks but his life can be other than what he teaches. Our lives must be in harmony with the will of God. They knelt down one

last time and they prayed together. He said to them, "Now brethren I commend you to God and to the word of his grace which is able to build you up." Not to tear you down, but to build you up again and again. He is going to give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified. That is the thing that the believer is looking for, isn't it? That is the thing that brought you here to church this morning. That we might be built up. If we have been a little bit lukewarm and slothful that we might hear the voice of the holy spirit. The Holy Spirit doesn't flatter, God doesn't pamper and he doesn't pat us on the back and say you did a good job. Oh, he comforts us when we are in need of comfort but when we are in need of chastisement, God chastises too. Where is the father that loveth his son that doesn't correct and chasten him? Peter was corrected and was chastened. Oh yes, the soul realizes they are not in harmony, not in time with the will of God, or that they are not ready to die. Their soul isn't at peace and they aren't at rest within. They realize they need to do something. What does that soul do? Do they go to the Library and find the latest book on the order of men's lives? Oh no, not if they are spiritually enlightened. They get down upon their knees. They pray and cry out to God. You know Peter denied his Lord three times the very night when the Lord needed him the most. If the Lord ever needed one of them to stand by his side it was that time. All alone He had to die. He told them, you are all going to leave me. He said, "Before the cock crows thou shalt deny me thrice, Peter." The cock crew and Peter remembered the word of the Lord. Peter remembered and went out. The Lord just looked at Peter; He didn't say one word to him. What did Peter do? He went out and wept bitterly. That was a balm for his heart. That was the cleansing waters that would heal his soul. And then it was a different Peter. Jesus said to him, "Peter, who do men say that I am." He said, "Some say you are one of the prophets risen or some other great man of God." But Jesus said, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus said, "Peter, flesh and blood hath not revealed

this unto you but my father which is in heaven. Upon this faith and this conviction (not upon Peter, but upon his faith and his conviction) will I build my church. He said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not be able to prevail against it." Faith is a living power. We sang the beautiful hymn together, the Power of Faith. Faith is a living power which grasps the promise that God has given you. You go back to these men of faith. Did God ever let them down? No, but sometimes our faith starts to waver or wane a little bit. What do we have to do? Do we have to go ahead or back up? We have to go back where we had it, and start from there. You know the poor pilgrim in Pilgrim's Progress. He had the scroll in his hand. He had the guide, the record. He had the promise and he went on the way and got sleepy. He fell asleep and the scroll fell out of his hand. He got up, realized it was late and said I have to get going. But he wasn't equipped to go, his scroll had fallen out of his hand. He didn't know it and went on and got confused. He was troubled and didn't know where he was going or where he was. What was he going to do now? "Oh," he said, "I'll get my scroll. Where is my scroll?" He lost it. So what did he do? He went back. He said if only I'd been a little more watchful and a little more prayerful how much farther I could be. But he knew which way to go. You know critics of the scripture will tell us one of the closest friends that Jesus Christ ever had in this world, John the Baptist, died a doubter. When John the Baptist was thrown in prison he sent for Jesus. He said, "Are you the one that should really come or should we look for another." Jesus didn't tell John's disciples to go back and say, "Why John, what's the matter with you. You ought to be ashamed of yourself." Oh no, he was too kind for that. He bolstered him. He told them, "You tell him the things you have seen." John the Baptist didn't die a doubter. He knew where to go when he got in trouble. That's exactly the way it is with the believers. What is He trying to point out here to Peter? That He would fortify him for whatever he would have to go through. David went out, and there

was Goliath. When he looked at Goliath he said, "Who is this man that can defy the armies of the living God? I'll go out and fight against him." They said, "You can't go." He said, "Why can't I go? I delivered the lamb out of the mouth of the lion and God was with me." They said, "If you are going to go, put on the strongest warfare." He went and put on some of Saul's. He made a few steps and said, "It doesn't fit. I'm not used to this equipment." We don't know all the ways to educate people and they try to tell us that brings about our social ills today. If we can just make arrangements to educate the people that will be the end of our social ills. Has it been the answer to our social ills? We are the best fed, the best clothed, the best housed people in the world but are we the most contented? David made these few steps and said, "I can't go, I'm not used to this." He laid them aside and went on. He said to Goliath, "I know you are coming to me with sword and spear, but I'm coming to you in the name of the Lord." The battle is always the Lord's. He who will stand upon the promises of God. All but one of the apostles laid their life down as martyrs. When it came time for Peter to be crucified, what did he say? Did he say I don't know what's the matter with God. I served him and now he is letting me down. Oh no. He said, "Don't crucify me like they did my Lord, I'm not worthy. Nail me to the cross upside down." There he gave his life. But the blood of the martyrs is at the feet of the church, beloved. Oh, I remember the faithful brethren. I think of what a brother told me this morning. An elder brother was in a home sometime back and he said to the son, glean all you can. These are the words of experience from old brethren that will never be regained again. I was told some years ago an old brother from the east came to the mid-Illinois area. He came to Roanoke and then had to walk across the bridge to get to Peoria where he was going to proclaim the word. It cost five cents to cross the bridge. The word tells us to go without purse and without script and at the right moment I will care for you and will provide for you. I will give you a mouth and wisdom and I will care for you. Some of them

at Roanoke thought they would go with him. Some of those with lesser faith. Some times we think our faith is strong, but it is not strong enough. Let it be put to the hard test and then we see what the analysis is. They went with him and they thought when he would get to the place where he would have to pay, rather than to let him stand in embarrassment they would then take care of him. He walked on and they walked by his side. Did they shame him? Oh no. He shamed them. He got to the toll gate and he looked down in the dust and there was five cents. He picked it up and gave it to the toll master and walked on. Oh there are many times that God stands by the believer if the believer will stand with him. I remembered my old aunt. She has a family of small children and she said she prayed when she saw her husband slip away. She said she went in the room and prayed so hard for God's help. How she needed him. What was she going to do? She said, "When I went out of that room, I knew he was going to die." She said, "A voice came to me from heaven, 'My grace is sufficient for thee'".

The apostle Paul prayed three times and asked the Lord to take this affliction from him. It wasn't taken from him, but he was given the answer, "My grace is sufficient for thee, my strength is made perfect in weakness." What did the apostle say? "Oh, if that is the case, if God's strength is made perfect in weakness," he said, "most gladly will I bear the infirmities and the reproach of Christ, that the power of Christ will rest upon me. "You know Saul went down to Damascus and he had letters in his pocket. He said, "I'll stamp out that new faith." But on the way to Damascus something happened. Then he turned around and said he didn't know anything but Jesus Christ, and him crucified. "But," he said, "the preaching of the cross to those who don't believe is foolishness, but to those that believe it is the power of God to salvation." He wrote further and said, "If any man hath laid his hand to the plow and looks back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. But," he said, "we aren't of those that look back but we look upward and forward." To what? To the saving of our souls.

FEB/82 02602 LK
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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. DAVE KIESER OF PRINCEVILLE, IL

Text: II Peter 1

We are thankful yet today that our hearts can be moved by the Holy Ghost. When the Lord Jesus taught the people that came to hear him they were amazed and they said he spoke to them with authority and with power. As His word was, yet today it is the authority of our lives. God knows what the individual needs. If each individual will themselves be led, God will lead them and God will feed them. For He said, "I will be their God and they shall be my sons and my daughters. They will be able to go in and out and find pasture." There are many times that God leads those He loves through trials and through deep waters. Is it for our destruction? Oh no. There are many times that we are going through deep waters. The Holy Spirit will be there and say, "I know you are going through deep waters but it's not going to overflow you. I know you are going through hot fires but it's not going to burn you."

In this chapter, Peter is a different Peter than he was the night when he stood by the Lord. The Lord said, "Tonight you are all going to leave me; you are all going to deny me." What did Peter say? Peter said, "Well, maybe all the rest of them will, but not I." He wasn't empowered by the Holy Ghost. The Lord said to Peter, "Peter I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not but when thou art converted then strengthen thy brethren. You know that Peter, James and John went up into the mount of transfiguration. God knew that Peter would need that experience and here He emphasized that in this passage of scripture. He refers to "the voice we heard when we were in the holy

mount." Jesus wanted to take them to the side and fortify them for the trials and the things that would confront them. They would have to cope with trials to bolster and to strengthen their faith. He took them up the mountain. There they met Moses and Elias and a voice came down from heaven and said, "This is my beloved son, hear him." Peter was on the house top before he went down to visit Cornelius in a distant city. There he was on a house top waiting to eat and fell into a trance. A great sheet was let down and in that sheet was all manner of four-footed beasts. A voice came to him and said, "Rise Peter, kill and eat." But Peter said, "No Lord, not me. I've never eaten anything unclean or anything common." This happened three times and the sheet was taken into heaven. A voice from heaven said, "What God has cleansed don't call common or unclean. Now go, there is someone praying somewhere that needs you and you go and answer that prayer." It was well for Peter that he wasn't a Jonah. God said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh and preach that the city is going to be destroyed. But what did Jonah do? He turned around and tried to run from God. You don't run away from God. If you submit yourself you become clay in the Master's hands and then is when things start taking shape. When you become clay and the Master becomes the potter, then your life becomes purposeful and meaningful.

Cornelius was the one who was praying. The angel said his prayers had come up as a memorial in the presence of God. He said, "Send to Joppa and there call for a man by

the name of Peter and tell him to come down." When Peter was called down, he went. There was Cornelius and his family gathered together in his house and he said, "Here is what God has revealed to us. Now, what does God have to tell us through you?" Peter said, "Of truth I perceive that God in no respector of persons. He said, in every nation, he that feareth him and doeth righteousness will be accepted of Him."

God is no different today. We are living in a troubled and mixed-up world. I think we will all admit that. We are living in a world that is mixed-up and full of trouble, but the saviour said, "In the world you are going to have tribulations. He told us to pass the time of our sojourning here in fear. He said we have to expect that. He had to go through Calvary in order to win for us our great salvation. He told you that in the world you are going to have tribulations but he had a greater overriding tone of comfort. There are many times a believer can have tears running down their cheeks and they can be praising God from the depth of their hearts. He told them, "In the world you are going to have tribulations but in me you shall find peace." Oh the wonderful peace of God. I said to a brother this morning, "What rest is for the body, peace is for the soul." Oh, when we were given peace into our hearts, when peace was spoken unto our soul, there wasn't anything that could compare to that. Oh I remember so well the time when I found peace. Wonderful peace.

(Continued on Page 29)