



Pray without ceasing.
I Thessalonians 5:17

Praying always with all
prayer and supplication in
the Spirit, and watching there-
unto with all perseverance and
supplication for all saints.
Ephesians 6:18

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Prayer and Supplication


And I will **pray** the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, Even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: But ye know him for he dwelleth **with** you, and shall be **in** you.

I will not leave you comfortless, I **will come** to you.

John 14:16, 17, 18

And ye shall know the **truth** and the **truth** shall make you free.

John 8:32



For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15, 16

Now we exhort you brethren . . . comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

I Thessalonians 5:14

DEALING WITH DEPRESSION

By Elder Brother Loren Stoller, Latty, Ohio
At Brotherhood Conference, Gridley, Illinois
August 19, 1983

Let's talk about depression.

Before we do that, I want to read to you from Philippians 4:6, 7: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

At the present time, there are twenty-five million people in America who are suffering so seriously from depression that sometime during their life, they are going to need some kind of treatment. Depression is something that comes to all classes of people — the rich and the poor, the idle and the industrious.

The sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, had more words written about him than any other man except Jesus Christ. Yet, as great as he was, he had serious bouts with depression.

Unbelievers, the unconverted, are depressed just as well as the believers of Jesus Christ. Apostolic Christians are also depressed in too large of numbers. When the believer of Christ becomes depressed, he is more distressed than ever because he has the feeling, "I've repented . . . I'm converted . . . I have peace with God . . . I have received the Holy Spirit to guide me . . . I've been baptized . . . righteousness has been fulfilled, why am I depressed?"

I think we are extremely fortunate today that among our brotherhood we have dear brothers who are doctors. I didn't ask a one of them, but I believe any one of them will help any one of us if we are seriously depressed. I feel sure they will not give us any more medication than is necessary, but we can be certain they are going to give us a large measure of God's Holy Word. Keep fixed in our minds, now, the peace of God, which passeth understanding shall keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is depression? The dictionary will probably tell us something like a

morbid condition of dejection and withdrawal. But that is not what we call it every day, is it? We say we are "down in the dumps", "We've got the blues", or, "I've had a gloomy week". That's the way we address it, isn't it?

We want to distinguish between sadness and depression. Sadness comes from death, disappointment and things like this. However, we have learned when too many sad things happen too close together, it really does bring about a depression.

Now then, when does depression get serious? Well, it gets serious if it lasts more than a day or so and begins to last three or four days to a week. It becomes more serious by the depth of the depression. Now then, a mother can become so seriously depressed, and as much as she loves her children, she will begin to neglect them. Or a business man might become so seriously depressed that he isn't able to concentrate. His memory fails him. He isn't able to do his work. He can't sleep at night. He naps during the day, but he is all worn out.

But when does depression really become serious? When a man begins to say, "What's the use? I don't see any hope. There is no way out of this situation". Then remember this, loved ones, if a man begins to say, "I don't want to live any longer. I feel like killing myself", be sure you take him seriously. Be sure you begin to stay with him and watch him for he actually means what he says. At that point, and I believe before that point, get him to a doctor. Time is important.

Don't every — let's not ever — tell that seriously depressed person, "Straighten up . . . get going . . . stop pitying yourself". That's the worst thing you can do. He needs compassion. He needs affection and understanding. A person can become so seriously depressed that he simply can't function. You almost need to lead him by the hand. You need to organize his day. He needs help. What are we here for if it's not to help one another? Look what God has done for us.

Now then, let's think about the causes of depression. Many times there seems to be no apparent cause. We don't seem to be able to put our finger on it.

However, there are also four root emotions that cause our depression many times. We will stick to an extremely simple outline so we will be able to understand it just in talking. Those four emotions are these:

1. A guilty feeling that has been pushed out of consciousness. We just try to forget it.
2. An angry feeling that has been repressed.
3. A feeling of unworthiness.
4. A sense of being attacked.

Let's go back to the first one. A feeling of guilt which we've pushed into the background. Okay, at this point, we have to make an examination or an investigation. Now when we make an investigation, we want all the facts that we can possibly get. Who knows all the facts?

We get down on our knees, dear brothers and sisters, and we lift up our voice to God because He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what is real or imaginary and He is going to reveal to us what is wrong because He is faithful to us.

So, the person who is seriously depressed needs help at this point. He really might have an imaginary guilt. We want to be careful. Don't start pounding on him and telling him, "You sinned, and you are covering it up". That is possible, but that might not be the case.

But gently, kindly, lovingly and with the Word, try to help him. "Are you imagining this or is it real?" "Did you really do something wrong?" Okay.

There is not anybody in here that would like to hear the phrase, "You are guilty". That is a bad word, isn't it? "Your guilty." None of us like to be guilty. But you know God is just wonderful. Guilt is a healing emotion. It's just wonderful. Guilt brings about confession. It brings about correction, and it obtains forgiveness.

All right, in I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". Do you believe it? Sure we believe it. It's in the Word of God. It was inspired to be written by the Holy Spirit. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins. We never got rid of a debt so easily.

Number two, it brings about correction. All right, that confession, the second part, and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Now we have got a new start. Grace comes from God. He doesn't want us to do things wrong. He is going to help us bring about the correction. The confession also obtains forgiveness.

Then we asked God to forgive us. He did. If it involves another person, we ask that person to forgive us, and last of all, let's be sure we forgive ourselves. Don't keep on saying, "I'm a terrible person. I'm no good. I'm worthless". Let's forgive ourselves. If God has forgiven us and the man we wronged has forgiven us, then by all means, let's forgive ourselves.

Let's remember what the Apostle Paul told the Philippian church, "This one thing I do", and it sounds as if he is saying, "If I don't get anything else done, this I am going to get done . . . this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

He forgave us. Let's forget it. Depression has often been called a thief of time and energy.

All right, we go to number two — an angry feeling that has been repressed. Somebody makes us angry and we are a believer of Christ. We have the feeling, "I don't dare to get mad. I don't even want anybody else to know that I get mad". And so we prevent the natural thing from happening.

Today, what do people say? "He lost it", or "He blew his top", but we keep it all penned up and it will bring about a depression. What happens to us? We come home, your wife says, "What kind of day did you have?" "Oh, somebody really made me mad", and you just go grumping around the house all evening long. You toss and turn all night. You're just burning inside, but nobody knows it but your wife.

You go to work the next day and when you get home, your wife says,

"What kind of a day did you have?" "I'm really down in the dumps". That is not the way to treat anger. It's the same thing as a confession. Tell somebody about it. Share it with somebody. Get it out of your system. God didn't mean for it to be all penned up — that anger with the Holy Spirit. Talk to somebody.

Then let's try something else. Just remember that man that made us angry might not have the grace of God. He might feel absolutely terrible that he did what he did to you.

Get on your knees and pray for him. When you begin to pray for him, you'll begin to love him. When you love him, you'll want to help him. So if you can find him, just go start talking to him. He was probably waiting for a chance to tell you, "I'm sorry", but he didn't have the grace. But you're a peacemaker. You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We're to take the lead. We are to help our fellow men. What have we gained? Maybe we gained another brother for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The third one — a feeling of unworthiness. There really are people among us who feel like, "I'm no good. Nobody likes me. I can't do anything". Those kinds of expressions might have come from childhood when we were less skillful and really couldn't do things like older people, and it bothers us. It might be a young man who wasted his time in school when he was young and just doesn't forgive himself for what is past. Or maybe we set out standards too high. We never reach that point and it bothers so much that we begin to be depressed.

Well, now we want to be sure that we remain those properly humble people that our Heavenly Father wants us to be. But let's think about some of the Scripture: "Love thy neighbor as thyself". Well, if we don't love ourselves, we just can't love anyone else. Then think if God loved us when we were sinners, how much more is He going to love us after sending His Son and we confess our faith and give our all to live for Him?

So we are worth something, aren't we? Look at it in this way: Don't we have every bit as much right to have the same reverence and respect for ourselves as for any other object in the creation? We look at a beautiful tree, or we stand on the side of a mountain and the view is so beautiful all we can do is just whisper, or tears run down our

cheeks. We see a beautiful flower . . . how great and how wonderful God is. Then remember what He said in the creation, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness".

Do we have a right to respect ourselves? Sure we do. Somehow He will give us the proper self-esteem. He doesn't want us to go around with that feeling of unworthiness.

Let's be sure we understand self-esteem. Someone has said that proper self-esteem is a million miles away from pride, conceit and selfishness. There is a difference, isn't there? But we have a right to think something of ourselves in order to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The fourth one — the sense of being attacked. That isn't comfortable at all, is it? But let's get something straight and it's really sobering for us too. When somebody is attacking us, normally that person has a problem.

What is really sobering about this, if any of us have that bad habit of finding fault, running somebody down day

THE SILVER LINING

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

after day, get on his back over and over again, attack him every chance we can, we're got a problem. Not the other man. It's sobering, isn't it?

But here again, let's apply prayer. Let's get on our knees and for that man who attacks us, let's pray for him, sincerely and fervently until we love him. When we love him, we are going to want to help him. Someway, somehow we can draw close to that person and we can strengthen his understanding and he will become our good friend. Or maybe he is already our brother-in-the-Lord and we want to walk into that heavenly portal side by side.

All right, what do we do when someone is rather deeply distressed or depressed? One of the things we should do is get with other people. The Apostolic Christian Church has singings, we have church on Sunday and during the week. So just don't stay home!!

Just remember John the Baptist when he was once put in prison, he sent his followers to Christ and asked, "Are you really the Christ?" Yet, it was John who baptized Him. But when the devil has him separated, he actually began to doubt.

So if we are depressed about something, let's get with other people. People who make us feel good about ourselves. Let's don't keep the wrong kind of company.

There is one thing about it, putting

up a good, cheerful front will actually begin to pull us out of a downward trend. Someone has said that if we stay cheerful until ten o'clock, then the rest of the day takes care of itself. I think there is a great deal of truth about that.

The next thing we should do when we are deeply depressed is get busy. Ask God, "What do You have for me to do today?" When we were sitting around as young boys, dad used to say, "If you look around a little bit, you are going to find something to do".

I know that the doctors have recommended taking a brisk walk or even jogging. If that doesn't fit into your program, than paint the porch, mow the lawn; but get busy doing something. I assure you, it will cheer you up.

If you don't have any work to do at your house, go down the street and help one of your neighbors. Paint his porch, mow his lawn and then don't charge him for what you do. It will make you feel good about yourself. This is what we are trying to do. We want to feel good about ourselves but the Bible would say, "Have peace with God and with your fellow man".

Keep one thing in mind, you folks that are young enough to have your dear children still at home with you. Gloomy parents have an enormous possibility of raising gloomy children. Don't you do that to your children. They are going to have problems

enough and their problems are not going to be like our own, but don't lose faith, God will take care of them the way He has taken care of us. Don't be gloomy in front of your children.

There are many other things that we could say, but I think we understand, don't we? It has enormously helped me just to think about this work. Then think about this depression: When disappointment comes, sadness is sure to follow. Just like the swelling that takes place after a wound. But when the swelling subsides, the injury heals. In the same way, the disappointment and depression will fade away.

One of the doctors has said, "Also mix a little faith with the future". We don't want to let it rest at that, do we? We'd like to say to mix a lot of faith with the future. Look as far ahead as you possibly can. Look out into the future as far as you can right now. What do you see? It's a changing world. We don't know that is going to be here in ten, twenty or thirty years from now, but when you looked in the future, what did you see? You saw God as bright as we see Him today. He is the past. He is the present. He is the future. He is everything to us. All of our hope, all of our trust and all of our confidence is bound up in God because He is our future. He is eternal and He has invited us to share in eternity with Him.

THE REAL WORLD

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan Church

The present world in which we live is not the real world. Having made that statement I shall now define the word "real" as it is used in the above sentence. Words undefined mean different things to different people.

The word "real", as I am using it, means, "of the greatest significance and of the longest duration". That is my definition.

Even as a small child, my mind kept ringing up the question, "Is this all there is to the world? Aren't there other worlds beyond?" This tiny planet on which we live, the earth, which is a part of our known universe, is much too small and limited in its scope to satisfy the human mind's capacity to imagine and hope, although I, myself, find this present world or earth, extremely beautiful, wonderful and stimulating, as far as it goes.

The earth's greatest assets, of course are you and me, human beings. They're very interesting, wonderful and challenging to study. This must be because human beings are the "carry-overs" into the real world. A "carry-over" is one who continues on into another realm — my definition.

"Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for those that love Him." I Cor. 2:9. That must be the real world.

Where is the real world that eye hath not seen? It might be out there among the stars somewhere. That would be the logical place but we don't know if our logic fits God's logic in this case.

However, since the Apostle John saw the new Jerusalem four square, a cube, coming down from heaven, it

must be out there now, waiting for the right time to come down. Revelation 21:2, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven . . ."

This present world is simply wonderful to the person who is at peace with God through Christ, and at peace with his fellow men, and at peace with himself. Yet there is sin, sickness and sorrow here, along with all the love, joy and peace. In the next world the negative is to be eliminated entirely and that will be heaven of which the new Jerusalem must be only a small part.

Christ said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . ." Matthew 6:20. That interests me, for that's the real world, and I believe the scope of it is much broader than we have yet imagined.

NEWS FROM ROMANIA

Andrew Hunyady, Columbus, OH

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matt. 25:35-36

Because of your generous giving during the past few months, we were able to increase the number of food packages ordered for the brethren in Romania. Were it not for these gift packages some families would have had meatless holidays. In some areas no meat was to be found in stores for nearly three months.

Though the government officials fail to admit the severity of food shortages in their country, yet their action is a clear indication that the situation is grave, as a 10 to 15 percent reduction on rationed meat, flour and grain portions were ordered and to be in effect as of January 1, 1984. Most interestingly not one of the many letters received from our brethren ever make mention of shortages, due to fear that their letters are being opened and read by local inspectors. As a matter of caution most letters are short but sufficient for us to know that our gifts are getting to the proper persons and families.

In behalf of the many recipients and beneficiaries, may I convey their thanks and gratitude to each of you, beloved brethren and friends, who so

lovingly and generously opened your heart and hand to offer some relief to them.

"... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40

Following the presentation of slides and a report of our Relief activities in Eastern Europe in Bluffton, IN, I was approached by several brethren, who offered their willingness to help in packaging these food parcels. So, for the benefit of all, may I explain. These individual packages are assembled in Romania, in the city of Oradea. Most of the various food products are imported from the western countries like Holland, Denmark, West Germany, Switzerland and others. An order with the complete and full name and address of the families along with a check, are mailed to our intermediary agency in Zurich, Switzerland. This agency serves as a representative for 'Comturist', a branch of the Romanian National Bank of Foreign Trade. From Zurich, our order is transmitted to Bucharest and in turn they forward it to Oradea. From there the postal service delivers the parcels to the given addresses, tax and duty free. Earlier we tried to deal with Comturist directly in Bucharest, but we found the cost was higher and communications somewhat slower.

Sending individual packages from the U.S. would be too costly and would take several months to be delivered, plus additional taxes at entry. We also

learned another lesson. The packages mailed out from Oradea, the distribution point, do not give the original senders name or address, only the local address. For a time the recipients did not know who sent the free gifts. After learning this, a short form letter was mailed to all to notify them that a package was ordered on a certain date and it should arrive in about five or six weeks, and is made possible by the generous freewill offerings of the brethren and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches of America in the United States, in the name of Christ, our Lord.

As a consequence, many letters began to arrive almost daily, from grateful brethren, who feel the mighty hand of God reaching across the great sea to bring help and relief.

Along with the package, a confirmation card is attached to be signed by the recipient, which is stamped by the local post office, showing the date of delivery. This card is then forwarded to Zurich and sent to us, in about four weeks after delivery. This gives us a very good assurance that our efforts are working well, thus far.

By this act of charity, may the name of God, our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord be praised and magnified by all who love Him, and His love and glory revealed in the lands of the heathen.

URGENT NEED FOR A MARRIED COUPLE AT CHILDREN'S HOME

To be able to continue the operation of the Children's Home, there is an urgent need for a married couple to serve as alternate houseparents at the Children's Home at Leo, Indiana.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for our brothers and sisters to put to use their God-given talents in working with young people and bringing out the best in them.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The qualification requirements for the alternate houseparents are:

1. Must be a brother and/or sister sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order.
2. Must have the support of his/her home church elder.
3. Must be able to command respect of children, as well as adults.
4. Applicants should be 21 years or older. Consideration will be given to all applicants.
5. A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview.

6. This position is full-time.

7. Training or studies in child care, social work, nursing profession, counseling or teaching would be helpful. We have a staff development program and "on the job" training to help you carry out your duties.

8. Additional information concerning duties, salary, insurance and other compensation, can be obtained by writing or calling:

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Bro. Oliver Stieglitz
Route 3, Box 321
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(219) 657-5168

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
Route 2
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(219) 627-2923

All requests and resumes will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." (Psalm 27:10) There is an ever increasing great number of children who have been forsaken, and only a small number of Christian homes available to provide for them. The Lord needs willing workers to provide for these young souls.

The Children's Home
Board Members

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Jane Stieglitz

Our snow is, at present, all gone at the Home; is spring around the corner? It would be very pleasant, after having experienced some bitterly cold weather, to feel the soft wafts of spring's gentle breezes. The changes in the weather in the mid-west are always invigorating, and keep us alerted as to what God has in store for us weather-wise. It is part of God's divine plan, and so thankworthy, that He does not let man determine the weather — we truly wait on the Lord. The more we consider the handiwork of God, in all aspects of creation and the elements which He controls, the more we reverence His high and holy name. The more we stand in awe at His sovereignty, the more precious is our standing in Him, and our love for Him increases. "As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him." Ps. 18:30. Also, "The Lord preserveth all them that love Him: but all the wicked will He destroy." Ps. 145:20.

We have a new boy in the West House, Mike J. He is sixteen years old. (2-15-68) We are anticipating many pleasant hours with Mike.

Jay Ice is presently at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Some of us visited him recently. His spirits were high, and he seems willing to accept the challenge that lies ahead of him. He plans to live in a foster home in DeKalb County when he returns from Chicago. He is always in our prayers.

Our chickens are laying well. We get

about ten dozen eggs a day. We are selling "fresh" eggs. A lot of our customers are repeaters.

Mike J. is participating in the concert and jazz bands at Leo High School. He is also brushing up on his math skills in Basic Algebra since he came to Leo.

Gary H. has recently become involved in track at Leo High School. He should know a lot about Johnny Appleseed by now too. Gary is doing a term paper on him in History.

The girls in the West House, Dawn M., Daleen C., and Beth A. are working on sewing their Easter dresses. Some of them completed some real cute cross-stitching and candlewicking with the help of LeAnn Wulf.

Thelma W. and Bertha W. are also improving their skills in sewing under the able direction of Vera Baer. They sure will be pleased when they finally get to wear their dresses.

Randy F. got an award this last month for writing the most articles for our Home newspaper, The Voice of ACCH. They were really interesting articles too!

The children are privileged to be involved in many outside activities while living at the Home. In February, they went to a circus at the Coliseum in Fort Wayne and also to a WinterFest at a park in Fort Wayne. This exposes them to many things they might not be able to participate in otherwise.

Last month we failed to state that Beth A.'s birthday is 9-10-70.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect, whether he chooses to be so or not."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

More than ninety persons with a special place to fill in the world are living at our Home. Perhaps the mission is subtle; perhaps we do not always understand; but getting to know them better will help us to understand the importance of the place they are to fill in this world.

There is the resident whose quiet and gentle spirit frequently prompts inquiries about the staff's welfare, who mentions gratitude for his blessings, simple though they may be, and ends

his conversation with a sincere, "God bless you". He seems to be happy with life, contented with his possessions, coveting nothing except kindness of heart and gentleness of manners.

Another, whose handicap is only physical, spreads cheer and inspiration everywhere with his humor. His patience with us when he must repeat what he is saying until we do finally understand, is heartwarming. Currently attending a junior college, he is making good grades. His courageous attitude about all aspects of his life are an example to us.

Still another left a most loving, stable family circle when coming to live at our Home. Tenderhearted, she weeps for another's misfortune and rejoices with a beautiful smile and a hug when others are happy. Though perhaps tired, she willingly helps with dining room chores after spending the day at workshop. Cooperation and appreciation are a very big part of her personality.

As no two snowflakes are alike, so are no two residents alike. Each is a creation of latent beauty, formed around a particle of dust (the handicap). It is our profound responsibility and privilege to awaken and develop that beauty to its fullest potential. To do this, we need a high degree of empathy, acquired by trying to place ourselves into their limited bodies and minds and looking out at the world.

Recent activities include taking a sizable group to an indoor swimming pool, which is always a welcome and enjoyable exercise.

The annual Valentine dinner was held on Valentine's Day at a local restaurant. To be dressed up is always incentive for all to be on their best behavior.

The recent spring-like temperatures create in all of us a keen anticipation for the warmer weather ahead of us. How very much the residents enjoy being out of doors after being confined during the cold winter months!

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Schrenk

The Bible tells how the angels rejoice over the repentance of one sinner. We, in Athens, are filled and overflowing with the spirit of rejoicing. God has called three more precious ones to surrender their lives to Him. They are Brian and Diane Hoerr (Peoria area)

and Angie Long. Angie is from Athens and Brian and Diane are living in Birmingham. Oh, how we rejoice with them and pray that God will continue (as we know He will) to work in their hearts and lives that others around them will see the difference in their lives, desiring that same love. Love and joy beams forth from a new repenting heart.

We have been blessed with much company this past month. Many are traveling and God has put a desire in their heart to spend a day with us. We are so thankful for the love and joy we can share with them and the new things we learn from each other. What a blessing to share with those of like-mind and faith.

We have had much sickness this past month. The weather is really starting to warm up now, so we pray that the flu season is past and we can all be back in church again. We need the added strength that we receive on Sunday to carry us through the week as strong witnesses for our Lord.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Evelyn Hoerr

"Out of the south cometh the whirlwind; and cold out of the north."

Job 37:9.

In mid December our weather was in the low 70° for days while the rest of the nation shivered with snow and ice. How blessed we felt.

We appreciated the Dec. 25 visit of Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and on Dec. 28 and Jan. 1, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle was here.

Sis. Charla and Sis. Cheryl Huber showed slides of their trip to the Holy Land.

We were grateful our elder brothers convened to address the concerns of our churches at the Mid-Winter Conference in Detroit, MI. We pray for Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach's safe return.

We are happy to see many of our loved ones return to us during the winter months.

We are so happy to have Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney back to worship with us. They would like to "thank" everyone for the love shown to them with many prayers, cards and gifts. May God bless you all!

Our January hospital patients were

Bro. George Schuster, surgery; Bro. Harry Roth, Jenny Zollinger and Bro. Dan Kokanovich. Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Bro. Alvin Laukuf were ill at home a few weeks.

On Jan. 22 there was a reception for Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda Hoerr and Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton. May the Lord bless these couples as they start their walk of life together.

On the evening of Jan. 28, we heard the final conclusion of the summer conference. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger came from Gridley, IL to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach.

On Jan. 29 Bro. Ed had the services and we had a church supper that evening followed by a singing. What a delightful day!

Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Bro. Ronald Nelson and Bro. Todd Feller.

Bro. Dan Kokanovich has been a patient in the hospital and Sis. Terri Leman was ill at home.

On Feb. 7, little Brennan Jacob first opened his eyes and saw his parents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth. Brother Justin and sister Jordon complete the happy family. His grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Marie Meyer (Chicago) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene Roth (Scottsdale).

NOTE: Silver Lining dues of \$6.00 are due this month.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

We were pleased to have Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) here with us to help with the reading of the Conference Letter. How fortunate we are to have a fellowship in which the ministering brethren endeavor to keep our many congregations united in love and harmony with each other.

Our congregation has also been blessed with many visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and their families. Our heartfelt thanks to these brothers for their inspiring messages.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Woodruff were blessed with the arrival of their first daughter, Rachal Marie, on January 25. John and Benjamin are delighted with their sweet baby sister. Grandparents are John and Pauline

Woodruff and Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp.

Saturday, Jan. 28, was the date of our annual Senior Citizens' Supper. Our junior and senior high Sunday School students prepared and served the meal to the older members of our congregation.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held on February 4. It was a treat for all who attended, especially the ladies, as the men prepared the food and served the ladies.

NOTE: Tucson Silver Lining readers, your subscription cost of \$6.00 is due this month.

We of the Tucson congregation would like to have you join us in saying "blessed birthday" to our Sis. Martha Blessman. Martha was the daughter of Bro. John Heinold (Peoria, IL). She was born on February 1, 1904 and was baptized into our faith in April, 1928, by Elder Bro. Emil Schubert. In 1945, Martha and her family moved to Tucson for her husband's health. In 1965, the first regular Sunday services were in the YMCA and Martha became one of the founders of our church in Tucson and served it faithfully in many labors, sacrifices and love gifts, that are required to keep an infant church growing.

Today we want to say, "May God bless you and your family, now and always, Sis. Martha!"

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. How glad are we when the opportunity comes to gather in the house of God? Do we who are able to attend church sincerely appreciate it? When we go to church on Sundays, it is a chance for us to leave behind all of the pressures, worries and hectic schedules which we tend to get ourselves caught up in. Many of us are blessed to have other times during the week to worship, fellowship or sing praises to God. What a privilege to lay aside all thought of school, work and daily demands to commune with our Lord and to feed upon His Word! It's that nourishment we need to be strengthened for the battle against sin and evil.

We were blessed the last month to have visiting ministers to share God's Word and to encourage us in our daily walk with Him. Elder Bro. David

Bertsch (Leo) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) ministered to us before departing for India along with Sis. Virginia Hoerr, Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle. Bro. David, Sis. Virginia and Sis. Lois have arrived home safely; their lives having been touched with a memorable visit with believers in cities and tribal villages. The poverty, masses of people, and the simple way of life in India has a lasting effect on those who experience it, I am told.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha) also ministered to us. May God bless you for your willingness to share His Word.

On January 28, there was a farewell singing for Bro. Bill, Sis. Gail, Erin, Macy, Michael and Bobby Mayo. They had lived in California for two and a half years and have now been transferred through work to the Rockville area. We feel an emptiness without them, and yet are so thankful for the time God blesses us with to share together. May God continue to bless your dear family! Our prayers, love and thoughts go with you.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, Feb. 12, Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) provided us with God's Word and direction.

Sunday, Feb. 19, Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) was our visiting minister. Also Bro. Maurice and Sis. Knapp (Roanoke, IL) were with us.

We thank the visiting ministers serving us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

God has called another soul from the bondage of sin unto His marvelous way and light. Mike Martin, formerly of Plano, TX, has answered that call. We pray for much grace and humility of heart for Mike.

We were blessed with another work crew here this month. Brothers and sisters came from Lamont, Gridley and Fort Scott, KS to help put some finishing touches on our church building. May God richly bless them for their very busy days spent here.

Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS)

ministered to us this month. God has given each brother a special talent and we thank Him for sending these brothers to us. May God bless you two dear brothers for your labor of love bestowed upon us.

As our building nears completion, plans are being made for dedication services. The date has been set for April 29, 1984. We welcome visitors for that occasion or any other. Please let us know when you plan to visit. Our address is: Tom Leman, 6836 E. Harvard Pl., Aurora, CO 80013, phone: 303-696-1301.

The church address is 280 S. Revere, Aurora. That's at the corner of Revere and Alameda, about ½ mile west of I-225. Services start at 10:30 and 12:30.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

"Bless me now Loving Jesus;
Bless me now!
Do anoint me with thy pardon;
On lifeway's pathway be my guardian;
More and more, oh let me be
Joy and honor, Lord to Thee."

Zion's Harp #152

There is joy in our hearts as we see the miracle and blessings of God. Our new arrivals are:

Jonathan Roy (Roy, Jr. and Sis. Jody Speilman) Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt and Roy and Margie Spielman. Kurt Emmanuel (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Carole Bahler) Grandparents are Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter and Elder Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler. Kara Jill (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan) Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Millie Gerber and John and Midge Ryan. Kristen Beth (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Mary Lou Goric) Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Millie Gerber and Sis. Janet Goric.

Glenn Bahler (Bro. Owen and Sis. Lois Ann) has found God as his refuge and strength and has turned unto Him. May God grant him grace, encouragement and everlasting peace. "The goodness of God leadeth us to repentance." Romans 2:4.

February 5 was such a blessed day for Bro. Werner Kupferschmid and Sis. Esther Luginbuhl as they were united in holy matrimony. May God's

blessings rest upon them as they walk as one in the Lord.

"This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus
We walk the path of life
While cheer and trust increases
Where God in truth abides
Where two join hand and heart
We find a three-fold cord
Not lightly rent apart."

Zion's Harp #79

Our hearts were saddened with the passing of Nicholas Isch, 78. He leaves his wife, Irene Schart Isch; a brother, Edward Isch (Ellington) and several nieces and nephews. May the Lord grant his family strength and comfort.

May we remember in our prayers those dear ones who are hospitalized or in the care of physicians: Emma Herzig, Jacob Virkler, Lizzie Hoffman, and our dear retired Elder Bro. John Bahler (residing at his winter home in Zapata).

As we journey on throughout the year . . . "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts . . ." Colossians 3:15.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

Many out of state visitors have been gathering with us for Sunday and mid-week services. Greetings are given from many congregations and it really gladdens our hearts to receive them all.

Sis. Minnie Zehr was hospitalized for tests but is doing better with new medication. The granddaughter of Sis. Emma Lach underwent a kidney transplant in Gainesville. Mary's mother donated a kidney and we are pleased to report both patients are doing well.

Bro. Art Bauer ministered to us recently. He and his wife were part of a group traveling to Guadalupe to spend some time helping others who are much less fortunate as far as material things are considered. Bro. Ed Ault (Cissna Park) and Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City) also ministered to us. Our appreciation and thanks to these brothers and to the Lord for sending them and inspiring them is heartfelt.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sam Wieland. Bro. Sam and Sis. Ida spent many winters in Ft. Lauderdale and we always enjoyed them so much. They always had a cheerful, supportive word to help lift us

up when Bud was new in the ministry and we appreciated their steadfastness.

Many things are lacking in our world, but if there was enough love it could fill all voids. Not love as the world interprets it, but agape, or Christian love. Even in our churches, homes and businesses we sometimes just don't have enough to fill the need. These thoughts were running through my mind yesterday. Last night at Wednesday evening services we had a surprise visit from ministering Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka). His message was from I John, chapter 3 and he repeated several times that it all comes back to love as the whole concept of Christianity. God's tremendous love for each of his creatures and the love we should have for each other. We received a real blessing from Bro. Walt's sermon.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Marie Keller — Elsie Troxel

At our annual business meeting in January, sixty-seven members present voted unanimously to support the trustees and building committee in the North Ft. Myers building project. Our beloved Elder Ben Maibach led this meeting. Arthur Keller was elected to serve as the third trustee, along with Victor Beer and Dave Eisenmann. The building committee consists of these three trustees, Rolland Keller and Ralph Troxel, the retiring trustee.

Re-elected at the meeting were Bro. Rolland Keller as treasurer, Sis. Viola Keller as secretary, Sis. Betty Rassi and Sis. Dorothy Beer as Sunday School teachers. Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse), who faithfully ministers to us every Sunday, led us in prayer entreating the Lord's blessing upon this undertaking. Our meeting closed with the singing of the hymn, Unity.

Thus united, and in concord
Let us walk the path of life.
Hand in hand, O may love bind us,
For each others' welfare strive.

No. 237, Zion's Harp

We thank our visiting ministers from Sarasota: Bros. Glen Price, Doug Sabo, Joe Schrock and Homer Reineck. Other ministers visiting were Bros. Al Aberle (Tremont), Ed Alt (Cissna Park), Ed Bahler (Remington), Joe Zimmerman (Morton), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North), Art Ringger (Indianapolis) and Larry Wenninger (Latty).

Our prayers are with Louise Moser who was hospitalized last month for surgery. We wish her a speedy and good recovery. The love and fellowship we share warms our hearts. We heartily welcome all to come and worship with us if you are in the Southwest Florida area.

"If God be for us who can be against us?"
Romans 8:31

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Rocke

May we benefit and grow in faith and love from the service of others. We rejoice with much food for our souls. Our cup runneth over as we were privileged to hear from many brothers this past month. Among God's gifted were Elder Bros. Sam Anliker (KS), Alfred Bahler (IN), Ben Maibach (MI) and Roy Sauder (IL) as well as Bros. Ed Alt (IL), Ed Bahler (IN), Carroll Gerber (IN), Walter Anliker (IL), Homer Reineck (OH), Paul Gasser (OH), Ed Aeschleman (PA) and Harvey Heiniger (IA).

Our annual business meeting, conducted by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, included the election of various offices, Sunday School: Bros. Phil Schlatter, Rod Martin and Sis. Paulette Caleme; Trustee: Richard Martin; Secretary: Sis. Mary Kleshinski; and Ushers: Bros. Bill Roeshier and Jeff Streitmatter III. With our sincere prayers, may they, with gladness, assume these positions. We offer our gratefulness for those who have served us so kindly.

Seventeen attended services held by Bro. Glenn Price at Tallahassee, FL for college students this month.

Our thanks go to Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther (Keller) Banwart for a delicious dinner at Cypress Inn, where eighty-two attended in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in West Bend, IA and have been blessed with two children and eleven grandchildren. His richest blessings on you both thru these precious golden years.

Louise Moser has returned to her home and wishes to thank everyone for the concern, prayers, cards and phone calls. She could feel the prayers help pull her thru the crisis of her illness. She is under treatment for seven more weeks for kidney malfunction.

Others sick this month include Kenneth Rocke (laid up all month with a back injury). He is progressing slowly.

Sis. Lou Feller is improving nicely after surgery. Bro. Arthur Foster has been in and out of the hospital and would welcome visitors. Bro. Dan Kurchev is at present in Sun City Center Hospital, Room 307, Sun City, FL 33570. He will be there for awhile. May we remember all those who suffer with a prayerful heart. Cheer comes from those who care. We must give time for love toward one another.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35

We thank Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar) who was our minister for January 22, and Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford) who ministered to us on February 12. May the Lord richly bless them for their work.

We invite all visitors to come and worship with us every second and fourth Sunday at the Ramada Inn, Int. 75, Marietta, GA. For information contact Don Sellers at 404-923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at 404-451-9191.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL Shirley Denick — Jan Gudeman

Begin the day with God!
He is thy Sun and Day
His is the radiance of thy dawn!
To Him address thy lay,

Sing a new song at morn!
Join the glad woods and hills!
Join the fresh winds and seas and
plains,
Join the bright flowers and rills.

Sing thy first song to God!
Not to thy fellow men;
Not to the creatures of His hand,
But to the glorious One.

Take thy first walk with God!
Let Him go forth with thee;
By stream, or sea, or mountain path,
Seek still His company.

Thy first transaction be
With God Himself above;
So shall thy business prosper well,
And all day be love.

Horatius Bonar

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Virginia and Chris and Sis. Hazel Huetten on the death of their mother, Sis. Sarah Koehl of Fairbury, IL.

Our semi-annual business meeting was held Feb. 1, with the election of two offices, Bro. Charles Knapp as trustee (Bro. Ralph Endress retiring) and Bro. Clyde Knobloch as treasurer (Bro. Ron Hodel retiring).

We thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), for his visit this month. May the Lord be with him.

April is collection month for the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

We're very thankful for our ministering brethren and the efforts they put forth. We pray the Lord will always be their inspiration. Visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Steve Martin (Eureka). We thank them and their families for their visits.

Stephanie Kay is the new little sister at Trent and Kristen Regier's home. Their parents are Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay (Princeville). Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser.

It is with grateful heart I wish to express thanks for the prayers offered for me, and the many, many beautiful cards, flowers, gifts and visits while in the hospital, and since returning home. I also appreciated the food that was brought in and all other acts of kindness. It certainly makes us realize how precious the bond of Christian love is.

Sis. Donna Ehnle

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

We visited one of our other churches on Sunday — what a blessing! We may hear testimonies of faith from every side. An aged and recently widowed sister spoke of His peace received fifty-nine years ago and His support in her grief and the loss of her husband. Another, muted because of strokes, feels privileged that he has the opportunity to use his hands in woodworking, to him a delightful, useful hobby. Another sister with several grown children, battling disappointment because of their chosen lifestyles, was uplifted when two sons repented and turned to

the Lord. May we share our joys and our triumphs over sorrow, so that we hold fast to our belief in His rainbows, though personally, for a time, we may only see the rain.

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was a help to our ministers and our congregation through his willingness to spend himself in the Lord's service. May he be richly rewarded.

We're well-blessed to have several new faces among us. Sis. Donna Knapp became the wife of Bro. Dan Hangartner January 29 in Congerville. We're so thankful that the Lord has given them each other and wish them continued blessings within the threefold cord of love. Bro. Mike Kaiser, originally from Morton, IL, is working in the Chicago area with a management firm for nursing homes. We appreciate his presence and his prayer support. Luis Lima, a Youth for Understanding exchange student from Brazil, has a new home for six months with Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer. We are glad to have Luis and his fun-loving ways. Also Kemmons Philip is our newest heaven-sent bundle, delivered to Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlene Feldman on February 8. His sister, Calista, and grandparents, Bro. Nate and Sis. Adeline Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Feldman, Sr. (Buffalo Grove, IL) are thankful for his safe arrival. Welcome, all! Increasing in quality and quantity is a true pleasure for us, the church.

With her recent hospitalization, Sis. Lucille Feller (now wintering in Sarasota, FL) received much church family support and wishes to thank each one for the prayers and all the love and concern shown to her. Karen Labadie has had back surgery. We wish her a full recovery, as speedily as possible. We commit our loved ones to the Lord's care for healing and peace of mind and soul.

Sis. Miriam Pfau Lockwood died January 24, 1984. She was born in 1894 in West Bend, IA, and married Frank Lockwood in 1918. He preceded her in death (1958). She is survived by two daughters, Ruth Nethaway (Blue Island, IL) with whom she lived in recent years and Harriet Roberts (MN); a son, Frank (Washington); sixteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. The memorial service told us about how Sis. Miriam spent time on the city buses in order to get to her beloved church when it was

in Sunnyside. (From Sunnyside to Blue Island by car directly would take well over an hour.) She always spoke in appreciation of having had a loving husband and a caring family, and she had the words of God hidden in her heart. Even when she could not walk into church in her regal manner of assurance, confidence and trust like the child of our King, she taught lessons of faith to those who visited her. She wondered once if she was right to be so sure of heaven, so ready to go home. Her steadfast, unwavering faith was an inspiration to all of us, even those who only knew her disability by physical infirmities. Above all else, we remember that faith in God. As her grandchildren chose to have read of her, she could have said, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day . . ." II Timothy 4:7, 8a. We rejoice for the effects Sis. Miriam had on her two families (the one given to her humanly, the other her church family) during her life and now in the afterglow. May the Lord comfort and give hope of meeting her again to each one in the families, especially to her immediate family who cared for her so long and so lovingly.

I came into the world with only body, soul and spirit, without my thimble collection, our lovely china or our other lovely wedding gifts; without our few pieces of good furniture or our comfortable house. I didn't have my will, an educated mind or any skills. Only as gifts of God, did I have a reasonable physical appearance, a reasonably healthy body, and the capacity for reasonable intelligence. On earth I have been blessed with a husband and a daughter, two loving sets of parents, fantastic relatives and friends. What of others who have not? Because I have been allowed to attain the years of adulthood, I have acquired plenty materially. So what? I will not be taking any of that with me when I leave. I will even leave behind the body I came with. All that can pass over death's boundary will be my soul and spirit plus Christ's imputed righteousness, which He gave me grace to seek, to partake of, to enjoy. Thankfully, the condition of one's soul and spirit count for more with the Lord than any of those possessions or status that arise from the happenstances of one's birth

or life otherwise. Lazarus the beggar may have had nothing here, but he lived this life with the requirements for heaven. The rich man had much here, but he had not attained heaven; therefore, he had less than nothing. Let us be careful of judging one another. We have so many likenesses as human beings. All the trappings are only superficial and ephemeral. Certainly we have Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees, that were more concerned about the condition of one's dishes or house or clothes than of their fellow's spiritual condition, to warn us.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

This meditation was written by Sis. Nancy Pfeifer (Chicago, IL) several years ago on Easter Sunday when she needed to stay home with a sick son.

It is not the fact that Jesus died on the cross that is important. There were three men that died on the cross that day — one a skeptic and the second a believer of the third man whose sign proclaimed him King of the Jews. The second man believed in Jesus' perfectness. It is that perfectness that we should consider when we think of Jesus' death, that and the fact that He was tempted directly by the greatest tempter of all times.

Immediately after His baptism Jesus removed Himself to a desert place where He prayed and fasted for forty days. Satan didn't just send one of his deputies or one of the humans in his control. With Christ in that physically weakened condition, Satan saw his chance to gain ascendance over his creator. First of all, he tempted Christ with food. (How many of us, even after we're full, will eat another helping of something that pleases us?) Then the devil tried to make Christ tempt God to give Him physical protection. (Our physical bodies are so frail. After crying out at a small bump or a pinched finger, I wonder how I could ever be a martyr.) And he tempted Him with power (Do we want the gifts of money, "the high places in the synagogues", fine homes or jobs with status for us or our children because they are God's tools and useful to His glory or because they give us that satisfied feeling of power and importance?) But Jesus succumbed to none of these temptations.

Thus, it's not so much Jesus dying on

the cross that is important; it is the fact that at the time of His death, He was imperfect. He had willingly accepted all sin though He had committed none. He commuted ours to Himself and that to me is the humbling thought. That is what is important. He died INSTEAD of me. And think how righteously angry God would be if I passed up the opportunity to live for Him, making useless God's rejection of His own true Son. No, it's not the fact that Jesus died on the CROSS that's important. It's the fact that my — our — sins killed Him.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Wilma Walder — Joan Waldbeser

"He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 113:0

A precious baby girl, Corinne Beth, has come to add joy and blessings to the home of Brent and Judy Danforth. Grandparents are Sis. Grace and the late Earl Bauer and Art and Carol Danforth.

Jodi Kay was born to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin on February 3. Her family includes Gail, Julie, Sarah and Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alma Mogler (West Bend).

Our dear Bro. Emil Fisher is now making his home at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Church Home. We miss his presence in our congregation, but pray God will bless him in his new surroundings.

We rejoice with Bro. Wm. and Sis. Twylla Beer. Sis. Twylla has been released from the hospital after being there over five months. Now she is able to assemble with us once again as she has long looked forward to.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) ministered to us this month. We are so thankful for their untiring efforts to expound God's Holy Word unto us.

Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock were spared serious injury when they were involved in a car accident. Sis. Kathy was hospitalized with a knee injury but has since returned home and is progressing slowly.

Other hospital patients have been Sis. Eleanor Maul (medical), Sis. Laura Hodel, Sis. Joann Maul, Bro. Melvin Stock and Jesse Walder (twin son of

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon), all surgical patients.

Sis. Emma Wahl went to her eternal reward on February 15. She is survived by her husband Bro. John Wahl; three sons, William Brenner, Elmer Brenner and Donald Brenner; four daughters, Anna Cruse, Viola Campbell, Gladys Cleary and Mary Antolik; 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Her first husband, Bro. Wm. Brenner, preceded her in death on February 18, 1953. Other relatives include two sisters, Sis. Alice Rinkenberger and Leona Miller (Morton) and two brothers, George Rinkenberger (Washington) and Elmer Rinkenberger (deceased).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Kay Roth — Tammy Knapp

As we look forward to the weather changing into spring, let us consider this as a new beginning. If we have become cold in our spiritual walk it is time to examine ourselves and bring forth new life from the heart.

This month we heard the memorandum of the brotherhood conference. It is so good to hear of the teachings God has brought to us through our elder body. We are grateful to Elder Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for assisting our Elder Bro. Bob in this timely reminder.

We are also thankful for our other visiting ministers this past month who were: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), and Bros. Steve Martin, Marvin Schmidgall, Vernon Leman (Eureka), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We elected brothers and sisters to fill the positions of those whose terms had expired. Bros. Ken Schrock and Bob McClure and Sisters Janet Schrock, Linda Knapp and Marge Steffen will fill the positions in Sunday School. Bro. Bob Williamson was elected as usher and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock on the food committee. We would like to thank those whose time has been given in service for their labors of love.

Two couples have recently announced their engagements. They are Sarah Gschwind (Aaron and Iris, Tremont) to Dale Knapp (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Jeanette) and Mary Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie) to Loren Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie,

Eureka). We wish these couples much happiness as they plan their lives together.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:9. Sis. Donna Knapp and Bro. Dan Hangartner (Chicago) were joined together in holy matrimony. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Jeanette Knapp and Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner (Eureka) are their parents. May God richly bless their lives together. Sis. Donna will be missed in our congregation as they will be making their home in Chicago.

A bundle of love entered the home of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell Ott. Aaron Michael was welcomed home by Adam and Andy. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie Grusy and Jack and Sis. Margaret Ott.

We think of those who were hospitalized this month and pray for their recovery. They are Dave Zimmerman and Sis. Peninna Miller. We just don't seem to appreciate our good health until it is taken from us.

Sis. Margaret Ott wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, cards and gifts of love during her recent hospital stay and since her return home. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

When Noah offered his burnt offering after the flood, the Lord smelled a sweet savor, and vowed not to curse the ground any more for man's sake. He vowed, while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Gen. 8:22.

As springtime procreation occurs, we become more keenly aware and, perhaps, more grateful for God's promise. The death of winter and all its grayness begin to evolve into new life, and correspondingly we have new hope. New hope in the existence of God. New hope of the control he has over our lives. And new hope for the salvation of our souls from the eternal winter that awaits the unbeliever. I recently had occasion to hear the story of a young man who seemed to have lost all hope, and what a despairing young man he was! What total winter without hope! Yet the Word teaches us that greater than hope, is charity: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13.

"Faith and hope will pass away
When believing ends in seeing;
Then our love will enter in,
Where it first came into being.
There my love in endless action
Shall attain sublime perfection."
Zion's Harp # 78

We hope that John and Paula Schmidt will take with them a portion of love from the Elgin congregation as they move to West Bend, IA. Their family, which includes Clay, Rachel and Anne, plan to leave February 25, and we wish them well in their new home.

Wayne and Joyce Schifferer have been blessed with a new little daughter, Jessica Ann, born January 9. She has a big brother, Aaron, to welcome her. Bro. William and Sis. Cora Schambach and Sis. Louise Schifferer are the grandparents.

January 18 marked the date of our annual business meeting, a special meeting held to care for the material affairs of the church. At this meeting, Bro. Fred Wahl was elected to the position of trustee. We are thankful for the labor of our trustee brothers, and we wish to be more mindful of the special efforts in our behalf to maintain the church building.

Our beloved Sis. Emma Wewetzer passed away January 25 at the age of 89. "When a Christian dies, precious is the prize! . . ." Hymns of Zion # 248. Surviving are two sisters, Sis. Katie Kachelmuss and Sis. Esther Wewetzer (both of Elgin). To them and all of the nieces and nephews we wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy.

A son, Brandon Michael, was born to Charles and Kerri Weiss (Angerton, TX), February 2. Brandon is their first child and is greatly cherished. The grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Carol Kellenberger and Clifford and Alma Weiss (Pottstown, PA).

Sis. Ada Mae Schrock and Bethany Bachtold (daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty) have had need to be hospitalized this past month and our prayers have gone out for them. We are thankful that both of them are home again and seem to be recuperated.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Kathy L. Rocke

"Commit thy way unto the Lord;
trust also in Him; and He will bring it to

pass." Psalm 37:5. The heavens are rejoicing! Two dear souls have turned their backs to the world and taken up the cross. They are Dawn Maloney (Bro. Gene and Sis. Caroll Zobrist) and Randy Grusy (Bro. Alf and Sis. Martha). We are so thankful that the door of grace is still open and that souls are heeding His call. May many more find the way.

We have enjoyed visiting ministers who came and shared the Word with us. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Edmund Kloter (Goodfield) were willing to be spent in His service. We welcome them back.

We have had souls who have been in the hospital or met with accident this past month. Thankful that they are home and doing well are Bros. Ernie Fehr, Don Gudeman and Sis. Dorothy Hartter (Bro. Dan). We pray for God's healing hand on them.

January 29 was a special day for Bro. Dan Hangartner and Sis. Donna Knapp as they exchanged their wedding vows at Congerville. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner and Bro. Glen and Sis. Jeanette Knapp (Congerville). Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna will be making their home near Chicago.

We have two new little girls to report. On January 31, Molly Luann was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall. Molly has Evan and Angie to help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall.

Rachel, Darrel, Brenda, Paula and Sarah welcomed their new sister, Kathryn Sue on February 13. Thankful parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller. Kathryn's grandparents are Hank and Sis. Wilma BLunier and Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma Stoller. May God bless these two dear families.

Bro. Emil Fisher (Cissna Park) has moved to the "Home" and is assembling with us. Bro. Joseph and Sis. Ida Rinkenberger have made the "Home" their home.

Sis. Anna Wettstein (Bro. Ben) is thankful to be assembling with us again after undergoing major surgery and wishes to thank each and everyone for their prayers, gifts, visits and cards while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each and everyone for their love.

Bro. Joseph and Sis. Ida Rinkenberger recently celebrated their 70th wed-

ding anniversary. They wish to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and flowers that were sent to them, and pray God's blessing to all.

Life is the seedtime of eternity!

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

We had an uplifting and encouraging weekend, Jan. 28 and 29, when six dear souls were added to the fold. They were Sara Bahler (Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne), Janet Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Brenda Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene), Bethany Leake (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannette Bahler) and Randy and Rhonda Stoller whose parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller (Forrest) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus. May God be with them each day of their life and may we all strive together to reach that heavenly goal. A special thanks to Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin), Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest).

Sis. Louise Moulton, 78, passed away Feb. 4. We extend our sincere sympathy to her children, Nancy Rork and Diane Furlong (Fairbury) and Richard Moulton (Kankakee) and to her brother and sisters, Bro. George Zimmerman, Sis. Margaret Zimmerman and Kathryn Nussbaum (Fairbury).

We truly appreciated the recent visit of Bros. Walt Herrmann and Jim Plattner (Princeville) and thank them for bringing us God's Word.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss wish to thank all those who remembered them with cards, gifts, etc. for their 50th wedding anniversary.

God's universe is so perfect and just as sure as night will follow day, so does spring follow winter.

Spring weaves her quiet, regal grace
To praise the beauty of God's face
From land to sea, to sky above,
Spring brings us visions of God's love.

Patricia Emme

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

We wish to thank Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) for being among us recently and imparting an evening blessing unto us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe

Schmidgall (husband of Sis. Anna and father of Bro. Dave) who is hospitalized at this time. Also in for surgery recently were Bro. Joe Metz and Shawna Adams (Bro. Terry and Sis. Sharon). Both are home and doing well again, for which we are thankful.

Our congregation is rejoicing over five souls who have surrendered their hearts to the Lord. Turning their backs on the world are Joe Koehl (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys), Jeff Zimmerman (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred), Stephanie Waibel and her parents, Eldon and Marge Waibel. We wish each one of them God's nearness and guidance daily.

The engagement of Scott Blunier (Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia) and Aldine Gudeman (Leonard and Louise Gudeman) of Cissna Park was announced. We wish them joy and happiness as they make plans for their wedding and life together.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Sarah Koehl who passed away at the age of 86. She had been a resident of Fairview Haven Nursing Home. We offer our sympathy to her family that remains behind.

We have been richly blessed with new babies already this year. Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young welcomed Tami Jo into their hearts and home. Happy for a new sister are Tommy and Trisha. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller and Bill and Sis. Donna Young (Rittman, OH). We wish a double portion of God's blessings upon the home of Pete and LaRae Walter as they welcome twin sons into their family. Jared Ray and Jordan Edward are the new brothers of little Jenna and the first grandsons of Ray and Sis. Doris Steffen. Kelsey Jo is the first baby for Wayne and Carolyn Gerber. Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber are the happy grandparents. Gary and Kathy Knauer are the parents of Jessica Lynn, the new sister of Jennifer. Grandparents are Eugene and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen.

Submitted to me was the following poem written in memory of our dear departed Bro. Joe Kaisner. We all have many fond remembrances of Bro. Joe.

As a boy I learned to know him
Not under a shady tree,
But out in the fields of harvest
Where the wind blew ever so free.
Sometimes the wind brought us
comfort

Sometimes the heat was severe,
With many sweat drops on our
foreheads

We knew Heaven was not here.
The sheaves were brought in in this
manner

Placed before the loader with care,
It eased the burden of labor

Together the toil was shared.

Oft the sheaves were quite heavy

Filled with abundance of grain,

But Joe's strong and sturdy body

Seemed not to bend with the strain.

We may think what is so great in, Good

Morning

This Bro. Joe never failed to do.

Was kindness and love without

measure

Sharing God's blessings with you.

Another task God had waiting

He asked would you, a messenger be

I need you today and tomorrow

So he spoke to me and thee.

God led him into a garden

Where the flowers were all divine.

Will you help to plant and water

And care for My own in this time?

His God given voice was oft ringing

The scripture we must hold dear

No other book on life's journey

Can replace it with love and with
fear.

His voice is now made silent

Countless memories he does leave,

Now he can come rejoicing

Bringing in the sheaves.

The family of Joseph Kaisner would like to give each and every one of their friends, neighbors and relatives a deep, sincere thank you for sharing your thoughts, prayers and many kind gestures with them during their difficult time.

Thanks for being there when they needed you. Their love and God's blessings to you.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Pam Wiegand

THE MIRACLE OF SPRING

When the land sheds her winter robe
Of silver lace and soft, white fur,
And shakes the diamonds from her
hair,

There seems no beauty left in her;

A beggar maiden come to town

In tattered petticoats of brown.

Then Spring takes out her magic loom
And with rain-needles bright and keen,
She petit-points a rich brocade
Of fragrant, shimmering, velvet green
With blossoms bordering the hems
And butterflies and birds for gems.

Under a shade of marabou
With rainbow ribbons gaily dancing,
The land is now a damsel fair
Ready for holiday romancing.
And each admiring breeze will sing,
"Behold the miracle of Spring!"

Thelma E. Foster

Along with "The Miracle of Spring", we have the "Miracle" of another new baby. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss have a new baby boy, Caleb Roy, born on February 2. Caled has two older brothers, Phillip and Benjamin. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Shirley Wyss (Goodfield), and Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene Huette (Tremont).

Our thoughts are with Sis. Florence Bauman who recently underwent surgery. May the Lord grant her a speedy recovery.

Also, recently hospitalized were Chad and Blake Gerber, the sons of Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish. We're glad they're both home and back to normal.

We want to thank Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) for bringing God's Word to us. We always appreciate having visiting ministers, especially those of us who don't get out to visit very often.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"And when in thy last distress, Helpless friends around thee gather, Then this heart of righteousness Yields thee comfort from the Father. Judgement brings no fear nor fright, For the Lord is thy delight."

Zion's Harp # 253

Our sister-in-faith, Naomi Grusy, was laid to rest after departing this life on January 24. She was 75 years old. We extend our sympathy to the loved ones she has left behind, who are hoping to some day meet her in heaven. As King David commented when his young child died, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." II Sam. 12:23. The finality of death is difficult to comprehend at times, but we are glad for all the valiant soldiers of the cross who have fought a good fight,

finished their course, and have kept the faith: That henceforth there is laid up for them a crown of righteousness, which the Lord shall give unto all them that love His appearing. II Tim. 4:7-8. Surviving are two sons, Frank and Burton (both of Gridley); three daughters, Kathleen Kaufman (Gridley), Genevieve Henricks (Peoria) and Sis. Marilyn Hany (Normal); three sisters, Sis. Anna Miller, Sis. Mary Miller and Aline Stortz (all of Gridley); and three brothers, Bro. Rudolph, Bro. Fred and Bro. Henry Miller (all of Gridley).

The special joy of a pure and sweet new baby has brightened the homes of two Gridley families. Bro. Michael and Sis. Barbara Prevo have a new daughter, Callie Jo, who was born Feb. 12. Callie has a brother, Ryan. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley) and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prevo (Mattoon).

Feb. 12 was also the birthday of Willis Tyler Gramm, who is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta. Willis has a sister, Tara. His grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores Marti and Mrs. Annie Gramm (all of Gridley).

Congratulations to Bro. Alph and Sis. Lillian Witzig who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Lillian Yergler has been a hospital patient.

Burton Grusy II (Burton and Nancy) was married to Becky Zortman on Feb. 18.

Mary Aupperle (Willis and Sis. Joanne) is engaged to be married to Brian Lindsay (Seminole, FL).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We gathered together in God's house on January 29, to hear the reading of the memorandum. We were reminded of our heavenly calling and our Christian duties. May we continue to uphold one another and may each of us walk close to God. May we continue to pray for one another. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) for coming and helping our Elder Bro. Joe Braker in this important work. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Sis. Ella Muselman has gone to be "Forever With the Lord". Her funeral was February 1. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Emma Zimmerman was called Home. Her funeral was February 3. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Gilbert Strunk wishes to thank all who remembered him with prayers, visits, cards and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so kind.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Emma Schupbach upon the passing of her brother, Joseph Pflederer (Tremont, IL). May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi welcome into their hearts and home their first daughter, Sarah Elisabeth. Sarah was born February 6. Her two brothers, Joshua and Aaron, are delighted to have a little sister. The happy grandparents are Raymond and Clede Rinckenberger (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Elias and Sis. Pearl Rassi (Morton, IL).

We enjoyed our church potluck held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at our Morton Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed delicious food and precious fellowship with one another. Our special guests were from LaCrosse, IN, and after congregational singing, they sang songs and hymns of praise for us. We truly want to thank them for the many blessings we received from them. We trust and pray that they, as we, will have precious memories of our blessed weekend together.

We have loved ones in hospitals and who are sick and/or shut-in. Time grows long and nights are longer. May we continue to hold them up in prayers, visits, telephone calls, cards or a note. "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." II Thessalonians 3:13

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

Birds don't complain when snow storms come and cover food and lawn; instead of grumbling when it snows, They sing when it is gone.

Thelma Ireland

Just as sure as winter has been with us, the season of spring will soon be here. God's universe is truly wonderful.

A bundle of joy was sent to the home of Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr. Little Rebekah Ann was welcomed home by her sister, Sarah. The grand-

parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Max and Sis. Katy Hoerr.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Kathryn Schafer, Sis. Evelyn Thomas, Louise Binkele, Bro. Ray Martin, Bro. Les Bittner, Bro. Alvin Domnick and Fred Rieker. We pray and trust that God will heal and restore each one according to His will.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die. . ." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Dorothy Schneider who recently has gone to her eternal rest.

We also wish to express our sympathy to these dear families who have lost loved ones. Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck who lost their father, Blaine Reinbeck (St. Helena, MT), Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner also lost a father, Bro. Joe Kaisner (Forrest). Lelan and Sis. Mary Swadley lost a son, David (East Peoria). May God bless you in your lonely hours and may His love fill the void and vacancy you feel.

The family of David Swadley wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and sympathy during their time of bereavement.

The family of the late Sis. Elsie Hess wish to gratefully thank our many friends, relatives and brethren who remembered us with deeds of kindness, love, hospital visits, cards, and needed prayers during the lengthy illness and subsequent death of a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. It was through God's special grace and your many prayers that we were able to endure this time of sadness and bereavement.

We ask God's blessing and protection for Bro. Jim Hoerr who left for a trip to India in regard to World Relief. May God's will be done and His abiding presence be felt among the brethren as well as among their families who are waiting at home for their return.

We are happy to have five souls who have turned to God for help. They are: John Hoerr, Greg Hunziker, Julie Herman, Katherine Huthmann and Leland Swadley. We wish them grace from above to find real peace with their Lord.

"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." Eph. 5:31.

This was the promise that Bro. Jim

Rieker and Sis. Jane Leuthold made to each other on Jan. 22 in Princeville. The parents are Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker and Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold. May they always stay near to God and look to Him for grace and guidance.

We had a very blessed evening when Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) and Bro. Roy Sauder read the Brotherhood Conference Conclusions. Many kindly admonitions and warnings were laid to our hearts. May we willingly heed them, knowing they are given in love and concern for our eternal gain.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The best proof of love for God is love for one another. Visiting ministers were Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Dan Koch (Tremont) and Marvin Leman (Bradford).

Congratulations to Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Rieker. They were married Jan. 22 in Princeville. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold of our congregation and Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker (Peoria).

Congratulations also to Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda Kieser who were married Feb. 5. Their parents are Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser and Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Martin, all of Princeville.

On Jan. 29 Bro. Dave Kieser announced the engagement of Bro. Craig Martin to Sis. Terri Stoller. Their parents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller of our congregation.

Three couples in our fellowship are parents for the first time. Jill Renee Wagenbach was born Feb. 3 to Curt and Mary Beth Wagenbach. Jill's grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach and Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold, all of our congregation.

Andrew David Schick was born on Feb. 4 to Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick. Grandparents are Herb and Sis. Helen Schick (Princeville) and Bro. Pete and Sis. Mabel Weber (Peoria).

On Feb. 10 Jonathan Ray Aupperle was born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle. His grandparents are Elias and Greta Aupperle (Fairbury) and Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch of our congregation.

Sympathy is given to Sis. Marie

Musselman. Her brother, Herman Musselman (East Peoria), passed away Jan. 22.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

Little Kim Elaine was recently born into the family of Bro. Harold and Sis. Judy Sauder, which increases the number to four. Kim has an older sister Katy at home and her grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder and Bro. Ray and Sis. Katherine Hodel, all of Roanoke.

We were happy to hear of the engagement announcement of Bro. Jeff Schumacher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Lynn Hohulin (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Shirley). May their devotion and love be permanent.

The marriage bond that joins two hearts

No power on earth can break
If these two hearts will yield to God
And of His Love partake.

D.J.D.

We are always thankful for the truth as was expounded by Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford). Thank you for the visits and come again, soon.

As we look forward to a windy March and a rainy April, as the usual weather prevails, let's remember to keep sunshine and fair weather in our hearts!

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Marcia Metz

Instruction may end in the schoolroom,
but education ends only with life.

Wings of Silver

Much of our time at ISU is spent in the classroom. There are many lessons which we must learn before we will be prepared for our occupations in life. However, some of our most important lessons are being taught in the classroom of life, and we need to strive to remain close to God so that these lessons will prepare us to enter heaven when our life here is ended.

We are once again thankful for the ministering brothers who have come in the past weeks to share God's Word with us. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Champaign-Urbana) spoke on "Walking by

Faith"; Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) spoke on "Spiritual Infants"; Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) shared some of the insights he gained on his trip to Israel; Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) spoke on James 1, and informed us about current World Relief activities; and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) talked about the proper way to maintain relationships, especially with the unconverted. May God bless each of the brothers for their labors of love.

Bible Study is held every Thursday evening in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m. Our Easter program will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Apostolic Christian Church on Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger

Our congregation recently gathered to hear further discussion of our Elder's Conference report. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) as he kindly lent himself to share this work with our Elder Bro. Dan Koch.

We are thankful for other visiting ministers and their families who were with us this month. They were Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington).

A new baby son, Brian James, was born Jan. 23 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Sauder. We rejoice with them and big brothers Kevin and Scott. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna Sauder and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert.

Congratulations to Ray and Cleda Rinkenberger on the birth of their first granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born Feb. 5 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi of Mackinaw, IL.

We will miss our Sis. Melissa Moser, as she has returned to her home in Portland, OR and her parents Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara. We wish her God's blessings as she takes up new work there.

Our sincere sympathy to Bro. Herman and Sis. Helen Laidig. Bro. Herman's sister, Mina Schmidgall, recently passed away in Neuhutten, Germany.

Hospital patients this month have been Lester Staker and Bro. Jim Pflederer. Little Diana Beutel, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette was

also taken to Iowa City for an eye problem. We are glad she did not have to stay and is able to be treated at home.

Our congratulations to Rita Glueck and Todd Kilgus on the recent announcement of their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Karl, Jr. and Sis. Velda Glueck (Tremont) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Fairbury). We wish them God's richest blessings.

Many of us gathered recently for an all church potluck in our Fellowship Hall. We really appreciate being able to gather together as a family around the tables of food and for an evening of fellowship with our dear brothers and sisters in faith and their families.

Just announced by Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna Koch is the engagement of their daughter, Jill, to Greg Wagner, son of Ray and Sis. Vi Wagner (Deer Creek, IL). A June 30 wedding is being planned. We wish God's blessings upon this young couple as they plan their future lives together.

ILLINOIS, URBANA
Cheryl Joos

He will silently plan for thee,
 Object thou of omniscient care;
 God Himself undertakes to be
 Thy Pilot through each subtle snare.

He WILL silently plan for thee,
 So certainly, He cannot fail!
 Rest on the faithfulness of God,
 In Him thou surely shalt prevail.

He will SILENTLY plan for thee
 Some wonderful surprise of love.
 Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard,
 But it is kept for thee above.

He will silently PLAN for thee,
 His purposes shall all unfold;
 The tangled skein shall shine at last,
 A masterpiece of skill untold.

He will silently plan FOR THEE,
 Happy child of a Father's care,
 As though no other claimed His love,
 But thou along to Him wert dear.
 E. Mary Grimes

How thankful we are that God's plan has allowed Sis. Ethel Wiegand to once again worship with us. She is at home now and overcomes new challenges

every day. We also feel blessed that Bro. Dave is stronger and is once again able to resume some of his duties.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord . . ." Psalm 121:1, 2. Our hospital patients were Sis. Verna Roth and Bro. Ben Blunier. We are thankful that God's healing power has touched their lives and they're able to be with us again.

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom . . ." St. Luke 6:38. Many visiting ministers have given of themselves this month. We thank Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. LeRoy Hartman (Peoria), Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin) and our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) for God's Word of life.

Bro. David and Sis. Ethel Wiegand wish to thank all who remembered them with prayers, cards and gifts of love. These acts of love are humbling and appreciated more than words could ever express.

God's phone is never busy. His phone number is Jeremiah 33:3. Have you called Him today?

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Lily Pfaffmann — Elaine Winkler

Here today. Gone tomorrow. Are we individually ready to meet our Creator? It seems we sometimes go through life as though we will live "forever". Our life span is determined on God's timetable, not ours. Occasionally we are given a jolting reminder of how our life can be shortened, like watching an accident happen, hearing that someone you know has been diagnosed with a fatal disease or that death has suddenly taken a soul out of the prime of his/her life. It makes us think about our standing. If God's Word is hidden in our hearts and is the guiding force in our life, then we will live each day as though it were our last. Daily we should assess our spiritual walk, and see how we can walk more closely in His likeness.

We want our lives to glorify Christ in order to fulfill our purpose for being here. Yes, it is so easy to get caught up in every day living and look unto self. But if we place our eyes on our real

goal, we will place less importance on the daily tasks and think more of others. Let's take time to lend a hand, give a kind word, and visit the lonely and the afflicted. Not only will it be a blessing to them, but also to us. We need to help each other "set" (our) affections on things above, not things on the earth. Colossians 3:2, and encourage one another along the narrow way that leads heavenward. When our time runs out for us individually and we stand before our heavenly Father, He can say "well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.

How grateful we are for God's willing servants who lend themselves in this service! Ministering Bro. Ken Hoerr came and shared His Word with us one Sunday afternoon. May our heavenly Father be His rich Rewarder.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner became the parents of a precious baby girl. Heather arrived earlier than expected. Little Daniel anxiously awaits for his sister to come home. Our prayers are with them that they'll soon be united as a family.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Etta Steffen

Sue Neuenschwander

"For I will restore health unto thee."

Jeremiah 30:17

Our hospital patients this month are: Sis. Lucille (Bro. Mel) Frauhiger, Sis. Esther (Bro. Olen) Geisel, Bro. Howard Habegger, Sis. Rose (Bro. Tom) Frauhiger, Bro. Barry Steffen (son of Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena), Sis. Colleen Landrum and Bro. Dwight Troxel.

Fight the good of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I Tim. 6:12. Bro. Howard Habegger passed away Feb. 29. Also, our dear brother, Charles Kaehr, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 20. Funeral services were held on Feb. 22. Surviving him are his wife, Dorothy; three children, Shari, Sam and Suzie; and his father, Sam.

Two families were blessed with sons. They are: Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel. Justin David is the new arrival welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Ezra and Sis. Tillie Kaehr. A first son was born to Bruce and Mary Raber Feb. 16. His

name is Anthony Michael Jon. Grandparents are the late Bro. Roger Kaehr and Sis. Pat Kaehr and great-grandparent Sam Kaehr of Swiss Village.

"God . . . fill you with all joy."

Romans 15:13

A HYMN FOR MARCH

A steeple in the distance
Seeming to touch the sky,
A cross atop that steeple,
Trees with limbs held high;
Flowers bowed in reverence,
Clouds in a gentle sky,
March winds sing their hymn because
Jesus is walking by.

Frances Heighton

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Peg Fiechter

Kathy Longenberger

With humble hearts, Dick and Patti Troxel have begun their walk with the Lord. Dick's parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Elsie Troxel. Dick and Patti's children are Terri and Winter. We are always encouraged by new converts in our church.

A little sweetheart came just in time for Valentine's Day. On Feb. 13, Kelby Daniel was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kerschner. Kelby was welcomed home by siblings, Kyann and Kellan, and grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber.

On Feb. 5, Bluffton North ordained Bro. Phil Stettner as our Elder in the Lord. Elder Bro. Phil's family includes his dear wife, Sis. Maureen, and children, Graig, Maura and Margo. Bro. Howard and Sis. Goldie Stettner are Bro. Phil's parents. We were blessed on this occasion by visiting Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Loren Stoller (Latty). After the ordination a dinner was served in the church dining room. May we always remember Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen in our prayers, with love and encouragement. From chapter 13, verse 13 of I Corinthians we read, ". . . and now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Arlene Metzger

As winter is fading away, we realize how God has watched over us this past cold and snow-filled winter. As the

season of spring approaches, we are daily reminded of the Lord's creation. How we look forward to warm sunshine and springtime flowers.

Along with God's beautiful creation, He also takes care of His children. Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized this past month, but are thankful they have returned to their homes. They were Sis. Paulette Putt (Bro. Wayne), Dianne Williams (Mike), Sis. Emma Boehning and Sis. Octavia Erb. Sis. Eileen Boehning (Glenn) is still hospitalized, but we pray God's healing powers will be evident in her life.

The engagement of Scott Leman (Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern) to Kathy Haney (Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Haney) has been announced. As they make plans for a lifetime together, we wish them the guidance of our Lord and His blessings.

Another family is experiencing another type of joy; the birth of a precious little daughter. Adrienne Elizabeth is welcomed in the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Melody, Aaron, Anthony and Allison Gutwein. Happy grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein and Mr. and Mrs. Willis Wuethrich.

Our prayerful support is given to our three brothers who have been entrusted to teach our Sunday School children. They are Bros. Jerry Gutwein, Roger Ward and Dave Metzger.

Our thoughts and prayers are with five of our loved ones who are on a church work team in Haiti. They are helping on a school construction project. The brothers who went were: Sidney Leman, Brian Huber, Phil Gutwein, Jerry Gutwein and his brother Jan. Five brothers from our neighboring churches are with them. We pray for their safe return and know they will have a lot of blessed experiences to share.

Bro. Bob Pfladderer would like to thank each one who remembered him with prayer, cards, visits and all other loving deeds while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

When God answers our prayers, He either answers "Yes, no or wait." When He answers "yes", we are prone to

shout "Praise the Lord" and tell everyone what a great thing He has done for us. But when God says "no", we have a hard time finding reasons to praise Him. We look for sin in our lives that kept Him from granting our requests, because surely if we had been living right He would have agreed. But not one shred of scriptural evidence shows that God will say "yes" to all our prayers, just because we're living right. God is sovereign. He has the right to say "no", regardless of our goodness.

We then try to manipulate God by our humanistic "if then" philosophy. If we live good, clean lives, then God must (we believe) grant our hearts' desire. But such attempts defeat the purpose of Christianity which is to glorify Him through our submissive obedience to His desires. And besides, if our goodness was the only factor God considered, where would His grace fit in? As it is many times, His grace is what motivates Him to say no. God only says no and wait when it is best for us (Romans 8:28). He does it many times for our protection. Sometimes God wants to answer our prayer, but the timing is wrong. We don't like waiting around, especially if it looks like a unique opportunity might slip away. We don't like to hear God say no when everything around us says "yes, yes, yes!". Often we try to find a scripture verse and claim it while we continue our prayer, hoping somehow to change God's mind. We're really saying, "God, I don't like your answer. How about reconsidering my point of view." But deep in our hearts we really want God's perfect will for our lives. We must remember that God's answer is always His best for us. Claiming scripture will not change God's mind because His Word cannot contradict His will. If he says "no" or "wait", then that is His perfect answer. God is more interested in our character, future and our sanctification than He is in our momentary satisfaction. His answers are always an act of grace, motivated by His love.

Handle with Prayer

Our church is growing spiritually and in number. "Ellen Katrina" was born to first-time parents, Steve and Ruth Wegman on Jan. 16. Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller are proud parents of "Mark Christopher", born on Feb. 1. Mark is welcomed by Andrea, Aaron and Joel at home. Bro. Blake and Sis.

Kim Wuethrich are second-time parents to "Blair Elizabeth" born Feb. 7. We wish all parents much grace and God's love in raising their children. We are thankful for Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and his family for sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Connie Knobloch — Cheryl Bucher

We search the world for happiness,
 We long for peace of mind,
 But in our modern, complex lives
 They seem so hard to find.
 Then we remember one whose peace
 Is offered us today,
 Peace that the world can never give
 Nor can it take away.
 And suddenly we know that here
 We've found the precious key
 That fits the door to happiness
 And true tranquility.

Cleo King

Sickness this month fell among our dear little ones. Those hospitalized were Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie), Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy), Julie Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Judy Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary). We are thankful they all recovered quickly and are again able to attend church and Sunday School.

Oh, Father, grant once more to men
 A simple childlike FAITH again.
 And, with a small child's trusting eyes,
 May all men come to realize
 That it takes FAITH to save man's soul
 And lead him to a higher goal.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Lynne Bucher

"Thou hast given us such a beautiful world, Lord . . . please show us how to keep it, care for it and make Thee glad Thou hast blessed us with it."

by Gail Cunningham

Spring is just around the corner and it should make us thankful for this beautiful world God has given us. Many of the college students are looking forward to Spring Break. It's nice to have a week to set aside our books and relax. By God's grace, we should try to

use this extra time to meditate on His Word.

Our Purdue services are always a blessing to us. Our recent services were hosted by Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington). We were thankful again for being able to meet together around God's Word. We want to welcome everyone to come and fellowship with us at our Thursday services.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

"Suppose you knew that on Friday, everyone whose last name began with the letter "F" would die. What would you do?"

If your name was Jones or Wilson, you wouldn't do a thing, for you'd have nothing to fear. But if your name was Foster . . . or Felix . . . you'd have plenty to worry about.

And therein lies a parable, for there is coming a day of judgment for everyone whose forefather is Adam and whose family name is "Human". (Heb. 9:27) But take heart. If your adopted name is "child of God", you have nothing to fear. That is your name, isn't it?" (Timeless Insights)

We welcome Elder Bro. David Bertsch back from his trip to India and Japan on his mission of service for Him.

We appreciate Bro. Roy Weiland's (Bay City) visits and ministry when he comes to our Leo community. We are blessed in that his family and the Weiland business located in Grabill bring him and his wife, Sis. Margaret, here occasionally.

Little Justin, son of Tom and Pamela (Bertsch) Brown, is doing well following surgery.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Gwen Steffen — Shelby Beer

Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer were blessed with a baby boy, Regg Phillip, born on Jan. 24. He was welcomed home by Holly, Cari, Jeff, and Angie. Happy grandparents are Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann Beer and Bro. Russell and Sis. Marge Plattner (Roanoke).

We are thankful to have our dear Sis. Mary Ann Haab back with us again after submitting to eye surgery.

Jeff Hoerr, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite was married to Rocio Eljaiek, daughter of Hilda and the late Chadid Eljaiek in Cartagena, Colombia, South America on Jan. 28. They are presently making their home in Canton, OH. May the Lord bless their new home.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

"These things, which ye have both learned, and receive, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Phil. 4:9. The God of peace, He seems so great and we so small, but yet He shall be with us.

Announced for peace this month was Tim Bahler (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn), Lisa Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) and Bruce Waibel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arletta). We're thankful for these sincere believers, and look forward to their baptism.

Bro. Ron Clark recently broke his ankle. Our thoughts are with him. Through setbacks, we learn to understand the love of our brothers and sisters-in-faith and the extra helping hands, and encouraging words they can give.

We had Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) to share with us. We appreciate them very much.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig

Carol Doolittle submitted the following poem in loving memory to her dear parents, Leah and Henry Souder.

MY DEAR FRIENDS . . .

Would you like to know where I am? I am at home in my Father's house, in the mansions prepared for me here. I am where I want to be — no longer on the stormy sea, but in God's safe quiet harbor. My sowing time is done and I am reaping; my joy is as the joy of harvest. Would you like to know how it is with me? I am made perfect in holiness. Grace is swallowed up in glory. Would you like to know what I am doing? I see God, not as through a glass darkly but face to face. I am engaged in the sweet enjoyment of my precious Redeemer. I am singing hallelujahs to

Him who sits upon the throne, and I am constantly praising Him.

Would you like to know what blessed company I keep? It is better than the best on earth. Here are the holy angels and the spirits of just men made perfect . . . I am with many of my old acquaintances with whom I have worked and prayed and who have come here before me. Lastly, would you know how long this will continue? It is a dawn that never fades! After millions of ages it will be as fresh as it is now. Therefore, weep not for me!

There will always be a place in our hearts for those dear loved ones who have gone on before us.

Benjamin Wayne is the name given to the first child of Bro. Don and Sis. Jill Lehman. It is truly a blessing to have another child added to our congregation.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Jesse Beer (Milford). We want to thank them for all the love they give to us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Jill Hitz — Patty Bucher

Scripture plainly teaches that when we receive Jesus Christ as Savior we become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16)

The word 'dwell' in I Cor. 3:16 has a beautiful depth of meaning: to settle down, to stay permanently, as we do in our homes. The Holy Spirit is a personal, permanent guest.

But the Spirit may be grieved because of our carelessness. Paul warns, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30)

The word 'grieve' means to cause sorrow. How would you like to be compelled to live with somebody who was everlastingly grieving your heart by his conduct? We feel terrible when we hurt someone we love, and we would do anything to make amends for the disappointments and heartbreak we may have caused.

Likewise, let us not grieve the indwelling Holy Spirit, who is the source of love in us. Rather, may we be "filled with the Spirit." (Eph. 5:18)

We held our annual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18. We're so thankful for our little church in Valparaiso. The Lord is blessing us so richly.

On Jan. 29 we had the privilege of Bro. Uriel Gehring ministering to us. May the Lord bless you for all your labors.

We are glad to have Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger out of the hospital. We trust that soon she will be fully recovered from her surgery.

One more thought: We must not become depressed or bogged down by looking at ourselves and our shortcomings. The disciples saw the hopelessness of loving in their own strength, and so should we. But the greatest news is this: God knows our imperfections, too. His own character stands behind His promises. His perfect love will fill us if we let it. We need not struggle . . . Just Believe!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer

Spring is in the air and what an opportunity to be reminded of the greatness of God. As we view the budding trees, the green grass and spring flowers, we surely ought to be moved to thanksgiving for God's wonderful world.

We also give thanks to God for His wonderful Word and to those brethren who proclaim it; particularly Bros. Ken Schneider and Edwin Bahler (Remington) who shared the Word with us this past month.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Dixie Messner — Edith Massner

Funeral services were held Jan. 21 for Sis. Anna Reeb. She was 93 years old and had been widowed for 28 years. She was the mother of Raymond, Mrs. Lillian Burgus and Mrs. Twila Foggy.

We thank Bro. Jim Plattner for sharing the word and bringing other Princeville brethren for fellowship with us.

A special thanks to the Oakville ministering brothers for assisting Bro. Paul Eisenmann in the absence of Bro. Harvey Heiniger.

Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Ed Lanz shared the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference with us Saturday, Feb. 11 at Oakville. Let us pray we can accept the guidelines that are given to us in love.

At this time Bro. Alvin Rechkemmer is in the Iowa City hospital.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Though great dangers oft surround us
Passing through life's stormy sea,
Where the clouds of gloom and
darkness

Hover o'er our heads, and we
Through the tempest must keep
rowing

In distress and scarcely knowing
Whether we the poor, unknown,
Of our Lord are left alone.

Yet the Lord is ever near us;
He doth guide our vessel's course,
He would test our love and firmness,
Giving storm and wind their course.
That our faith be shown in clearness
Seemingly He hides His nearness;
If we plead with fervent will,
He will bid the sea be still.

Zions Harp #94

Bro. Dale Moore and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, were recently hospitalized following an auto accident. They suffered broken bones, cuts and bruises, but we are thankful to God that He spared their lives.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Connie Gerst

Spring! What a refreshing word with so much meaning. It is a time when we can really renew our faith as we observe God performing so many miracles. Trees budding, flowers blooming and our lawns becoming carpets of green are all pleasant reminders of God's love for each one of His children.

We are thankful to be able to assemble in our church building once again after missing a few Sundays due to water problems. We want to thank everyone that supported us with prayers and labors of love as we put everything back in order. Incidents such as this make us all realize the blessings we have been given from our loving Father in heaven.

We rejoice in having Bro. Brian Moser assembling with us as he is temporarily employed in our area. As a small church, we certainly appreciate his presence and hope he can become a permanent resident. Brian's parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene (Morris).

Our visiting ministers the past two months have been Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Charles Hemmer (Peoria), John Steiner and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington). We appreciated Bro. Ted Witzig's (Morton) efforts to assemble with us. Due to the weather conditions we could not have church. Lord willing, we hope to be able to worship together sometime in the future.

Our Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer and Ed Lanz were with us one evening to read the Conference Letter. May we always be willing servants and obedient to God's Holy Word. We were also informed that Bro. Paul will now be replacing Bro. Ed as our elder here in Iowa City. We thank Bro. Ed for his love and support through the past years and hope Bro. Paul will feel our sincere support in the future.

We were saddened at the death of Irvin Wendel, a friend of many of us here. Every death is a reminder that our lives are only temporary. We must all face our Maker some day.

Hospitalized again this month is Audrey Plotz. We hope she can feel our prayers that the Lord will put His healing hand upon her.

IOWA, LESTER
Alice Metzger

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer could spend a weekend with us. He and Elder Bro. Leo Moser shared with us the report on the conference conclusions. It was time well spent to hear the concerns and thoughts that were brought forth from the elder body.

Bro. Carl Wyss, Bro. Russell Wuthrich and Bro. Duane Metzger were here to share the pulpit the last Sunday of January. We also observed the 99th birthday of Grandpa Fred Metzger that same weekend. Fred likes to keep busy, spending many hours a week fixing clocks. His special loves are cuckoo clocks and very old clocks. He is interested in current events and keeps tabs on his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jolene Metzger became the parents of their fourth son, Evan Verner on Jan. 20. His grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz (West Bend). On Jan. 26 Steven Karl was born to Darrel and

Laurie Feucht. He has a brother and a sister. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Emma Feucht.

Sis. Emma Meyer is in the hospital, having undergone knee surgery. Bro. Gene Metzger is again assembling with us after having back surgery. Sis. Eleanor Popkes is hospitalized for back surgery. Roger Myrlie was admitted a second time after undergoing by-pass surgery. He is recuperating at home. Bro. Gus Knoblock had his second hip socket replacement in the last month. He is home and doing fine. All are appreciative of all the cards and prayers offered in their behalf.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

January 16, little Ellen Katrina was born to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wegman (Indianapolis, IN). Bringing much joy to her grandparents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville) and Mr. and Mrs. Wally Jeffs (Bloomington, IN), we can again witness God's wonderful miracle of love.

On January 21 we laid to rest our dear sister-in-faith, Anna Reeb. Anna was 93 years old and is survived by a son, Raymond (Mediapolis, IA), two daughters, Twila Foggy (Racine, WI) and Lillian Burgus (Mediapolis, IA) and one sister, Sis. Emma Eberhardt (Mediapolis, IA). Anna will surely be missed by all and we pray that God will comfort her family in their loss.

We were certainly privileged the last weekend in January to have a real nice group of young brothers and sisters from the Peoria young group to fellowship and worship with.

"For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water:" (John 5:4). The baptismal waters were once again troubled in Oakville as we welcomed Scott Wegman, our new brother-in-faith, into the precious fold of Jesus. We certainly wish God's abundant grace and blessings upon Bro. Scott as he returns to school in Champaign, IL. We had quite a few visitors for Scott's baptism, including Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We also wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Don and our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz for reviewing the memorandum of the last Brotherhood Conference. What a truly spiritual weekend we had!

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). As we are again rapidly approaching the Easter season, should our Lord tarry, let us seriously reflect upon our lives over the past year. Could we do things a little different and live a little better for this wonderful friend who suffered and died on Calvary for us?

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Wiegand — DeAnn Wuthrich

We surely had a blessed weekend when Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington) were with us. They showed us their slides from their recent trip to the Holy Land. It was inspiring to all of us. Many of the Sunday School children were impressed when they actually saw pictures of what we have been reading about in our lessons. We thank Bro. Carl for his labors on Sunday in bringing us the Word.

Another weekend we "Celebrated the Sabbath" when Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) came to be in our midst. He brought out many good teachings, so that we could surely say it was good to be there.

To Thee, O Lord, be this day dedicated!
Let all rejoice who join to celebrate it!
Let us with joy be in Thy presence
standing,
Thy grace demanding!

In vain this world would tempt me with
its pleasure;
My spirit in Thy statutes finds a
treasure.
The holy word Thy messengers are
preaching
Shall be my teaching.

Let us in meekness, Father, come
before Thee;
I know Thou lovest those who would
adore Thee.
What Thy flock needs each day of
earthly living,
Thou wilt be giving.

Zion's Harp #193

IOWA, WEST BEND

Elma Mogler — Polly Zaugg

During the past month we were blessed to have visiting ministers Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Bro. Gene

Marti (Lamar) to richly fill us from the precious Word of God. On Sunday evening, Jan. 22, Elder Bro. Gene Marti along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr, brought to us the Brother Conference memorandum. We were encouraged to be more watchful as we follow in the footsteps the Lord has patterned for us.

God has called home a beloved and faithful pillar of the church, Sis. Rosa Zaugg. "Mother" and "Grandma" was born in Bern, Switzerland on January 11, 1887. She passed away January 19 from complications of her advanced age of 97 years. Surviving are her children: Louisa, Mrs. Arlie (Eva) Banwart, Mrs. Ervin (Elma) Mogler, Mrs. Albert (Betty) Banwart (all of West Bend), Mrs. Kenneth (Leah) Franck (Battle Creek, MI), Mrs. Robert (Ruby) Besch (Rodman), Walter, Bro. Edward, Bro. Oscar, Richard, Bro. Clarence, Donald (all of West Bend), 35 grandchildren and 73 great-grandchildren, two brothers and one sister. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Will and infant daughter.

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Sis. Miriam (Falb) Lockwood (Chicago, IL), formerly a resident of West Bend. Grave-side services were held on January 28. Surviving children are: Frank Jr. (Seattle, WA), Harriet Roberts (Dassel, MN) and Ruth Nethaway (Chicago, IL). She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Frank.

Let us remember in prayer Bro. Philip Fisher, who has been hospitalized and shut-in. Bro. Philip has had many bouts with ill health. It certainly takes courage to keep on, in spite of sickness. Our thoughts and prayers should be with those who are older and must suffer such. May we always give someone in need a smile, nod, kind word or deed.

On Monday evening, January 30, many of our congregation gathered at the fellowship hall to see slides of the Holy Land taken by Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington). It was our privilege and learning experience to see the places where the Lord had walked. We thank Bro. Carl for sharing them with us.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Judy Luginbuhl

"As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

Proverbs 25:25.

Bro. Willis Ehnle returned home after an extended, stimulating and uplifting trip to America, visiting his children and many of our brothers and sisters-in-Christ across the country. We were thankful for the special opportunity he had to travel for the weeks beginning December 26 to January 20 and rejoice to have his cheerful encouraging presence ministering to us once again.

Following Bro. Willis' return several brothers and sisters enroute to India, braved a snowstorm, with our Lord's help and were able to spend a couple days in fellowship with us. We'd like to thank many of you for the greetings of love and heartwarming prayers sent to us through Bro. David Bertsch, Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle and Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr. Their words of love, encouragement, counsel and informative news from home was truly inspiring and deeply appreciated. Our thanks to everyone who supported and made it possible for their trip here and on to India. We pray for the spiritual strength, wisdom and vision to continually give ourselves for the purpose of meeting others' needs and teaching the language of our soul found in, through and because of our Savior and Lord of our lives.

Saturday, February 11, all of the brothers and sisters were invited to attend an annual church conference and fellowship meeting held at the Tokyo church. Once again the opportunity to experience the harmony of kindred hearts in Christ knit together and anchored in the Words of our Living Bible was refreshing. We were informed of Sis. Sheila Moser's (Lester, IA) intention to lend herself to the duties as a teacher here at the Shioda American Kindergarten. Bro. Frank Sauder (Urbana, IL) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Bloomington, IL) have also made known their convictions and desires to give their services here in Japan, however and wherever the need of this work directs them. We lift up Sis. Sheila, Bro. Frank and Bro. Randy to our heavenly Father in prayer, seeking His guidance in the decisions that lie ahead, that in all ways the true

Give Your Address Change
to Your Reporter

knowledge of our Almighty God, Christ and Holy Word can be shared and our Lord glorified.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

Our special visitors this past month were Elder Bro. David Bertsch and ministering Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr, who kindly stopped by on their way to India to minister to our needs. They arrived on a snowy weekend, which is unusual for our area, but we were blessed by their messages and fellowship. We were reminded in Romans 12:9 to "Abhor that which is evil," to even turn our faces when evil approaches. Continuing on "to be kindly affectioned one to another" and "to rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer". We remember the brethren as they continue their journey and pray that God will provide for them all necessary things, especially Godly wisdom and the guidance of His holy spirit in their work for the Indian people.

On Sat., Feb. 11 a National Holiday, the Shioda brethren gathered with us for our annual meeting and the reading of the letter to the churches from our Brotherhood Conference last August. If we love the church as we should, we will be willing and obedient followers of the directives given which are based on the Holy Scriptures. We thank Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and all those who accompanied him from Shioda for making the day very blessed. Special appreciation also goes to Sisters Hiroko Utsuki and Judy Luginbuhl and Bro. Hisato Inoue for teaching the children that day.

KANSAS, BERN Linda Esslinger

A blessed weekend was enjoyed on Feb. 4 and 5 when Margaret Hundley gave her testimony and was baptized into our precious faith. We appreciate having Bro. Sam Huber among us.

Bro. Vernon Leman's (Eureka, IL) visit was very much appreciated when he ministered God's Word to us.

We did not have Sunday School for several Sundays due to remodeling of the Sunday School. The new addition to our Sunday School is now complete.

TO EACH OF US

To each of us come many Springs
As we travel along life's way —
And some are sweet and some are sad
And others fair and gay.

The glass that measures out our days,
Such diverse grains must hold . . .
Some are fine and some are coarse
And some are brightest gold.

To each of us come many Springs —
We see the world reborn;
And he whose heart still throbs with
hope,
The years have bravely borne;

Has worn the joys and worn the sorrows,
Like a familiar cape;
Has bravely faced the bitter hours,
No mortal can escape.

Wilmer E. Bresee

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Judy Bahr

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not to thine own understand-
ing. In all thy ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

The annual business meeting was held in January and the following positions were filled. Trustee: Bro. Wayne Sinn; Sunday School teachers: Bro. Jerry Bahr and Sis. Jaime Marti; Food Committee: Sis. Dorothy Sinn; Usher: Bro. John Sinn; Custodian: Bro. Don Banwart; Silver Lining reporter: Sis. Judy Bahr.

An evening of delicious salads and fellowship was held Valentine's Day when the ladies of the church got together at the home of Sis. Pearl Miller. We felt the presence of love among us. Let us not think of love only on Valentine's Day, but every day, for God's first commandment is . . . And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Mark 12:30, 31.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

How important it is for each one of us to blend ourselves with Christian fellowship! The friendship of the unbelieving 'popular' crowd is so insincere and shortlived, we become easily discouraged and misled. Just like the same crowd of people who cried 'Hosanna' and welcomed our Lord Jesus into their city of Jerusalem the week before; was the same crowd who cried out against Him the very next week, wanting Him crucified. As the Easter Season approaches us again this year — we must be mindful and ask ourselves about the sincerity of our own crowd. Especially as a teenage young person. Is the shortlived and insincere popular acceptance of the crowd worth the risk of losing our Lord's precious promises of an eternal home in heaven?

The beginning of another new Christian home was established as Bro. Doug Kraft and Sis. Judy Hartter were united in marriage on Jan. 29. We wish God's blessings on this union, that their home can be strengthened for His Church. Parents of the couple are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter (Sabetha) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft.

Our annual election was held Jan. 6. Those elected or reelected to offices were Bro. Eldon Metzger, Board of Trustees and Song Leader; Bro. Ivan Beyer, Bldg. Aid Board; Bro. Doug Kraft, Car Parker Personal Property Aid Board; Bro. Tim Zimmerman, Cemetery Board; Bro. Albert Edelman, Sr. High Bible Class; Bro. Phill Strahm, Sunday School Superintendent; Sis. Sarah Somerhalder, Primary Class; Sis. Dorene Metzger and Bro. Rudy Bahr, Substitute teachers; Sis. Doris Bahr, Assistant Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Rudy Bahr, Usher.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Lanette Meyer — Maria Schrader

Let us then be so united
As thou with the Father art,
That not one of thy weak members
Here on earth shall stand apart.
From the flames of thy own burning
May our light partake its glow
And that we are thy disciples
All the world may surely know.

Zion's Harp #33

After a blessed Christmas vacation our small group is again assembling Wednesday evenings. Those who opened their homes for singings were Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm; Mike Strahm, Bro. Tim Moore and Merle Stoller; and Marla Schrader, Angela Plattner, Sis. Maria Schrader and Sis. Lanette Meyer.

Spiritual manna from Heaven was delivered by Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha). We appreciate the efforts of those who travel to assemble with us and welcome all to attend our Wednesday evening services.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

HE LOVES YOU!

It's amazing and incredible,
But it's as true as it can be,
God loves and understands us all
And that means you and me —

His grace is all sufficient
For both the young and old,
For the lonely and the timid,
For the brash and for the bold —

His love knows no exceptions,
So never feel excluded,
No matter who or what you are
Your name has been included —

And no matter what your past has been
Trust God to understand,
And no matter what your problem is
Just place it in His hand —

For in all of our unloveliness
This great God loves us still,
He loved us since the world began
And what's more, He always will!
Helen Steiner Rice

How can we ask for more on earth than the love of God working in our lives. It is unfathomable to me that He can love us at all, let alone love us enough to let His only begotten Son die a cruel death for us. In a time and age when dissatisfaction and murmuring about everything is rampant, let us remember that God is there. He never changes, and He is all we really ever need! Praise be to His Holy Name.

We are having a lot of sickness in our area right now. Many of our loved ones

have not been hospitalized, but are absent due to flu, colds, etc. The other evening as I sat in church and noticed so many absent from our midst, I realized just how much we appreciate one another and miss those who are not there. May God be with all of our loved ones who are sick and grant a returning measure of health soon. We are so thankful to have Sis. Edna Reed back in our midst after so many months absence due to illness. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and Sis. Lavern Roth were both hospital patients this month.

We again had the privilege of holding services at the Kiowa Manor this month, and were overjoyed to see such a large group there to help sing.

Our annual meeting was held one Wednesday evening this month, and as each of us begin our next year in the Lord's work, may we remember to serve Him with joy and count it a privilege to serve in any capacity.

Psalms 75:1 — "Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto Thee do we give thanks: for that Thy name is near Thy wondrous works declare."

Genesis 2:18 — "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

I'm sure that after 65 years of marriage, Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel would testify that each year has grown sweeter and happier than the one before. They celebrated their 65th anniversary this month with a celebration at the fellowship hall. It is just a joy to see a marriage that shows forth so much love for one another and love for their Lord. May their God, whom they both serve, grant them many more years of happiness together.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

"Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
I Corinthians 1:10

Those are very stern words for one verse! We know, as humans, if one joint or muscle is out of place, we feel it. So it is amongst a body of believers, in which just a few want to disagree. When these

few continue to do so, there is in our midst a division. Not long ago, I revealed what our elders and ministers go through. After much counseling, the matter(s) are presented to us and advice is given on how to go about it. But, for some reason, there are few, or a joint, of our body of believers that partially or wholly disagree! Breathing it in the air, I had to think "why is it we as brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord do not agree wholly?" We are the body of believers!! Our upmost and foremost responsibilities are, as we are constantly reminded, (1) to love one another, (2) to encourage each other, and (3) to lift up each other. We need to share each others crosses. How can this be fulfilled when there is always a division or disagreement with one another? Perhaps you think I have nothing else in mind but the burdens that our elders and ministers suffer. But, we do need to realize what their duty consists of, for they are the shepherds of both lost and found sheep! It is more than something to ponder of!

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

I Peter 3:8

Praying God would grant them a fair measure of health, we are happy to have with us again Bro. Charlie and Sis. Carrie Gleichman. Sis. Carrie had the misfortune of a light stroke, but God has granted a good portion of His healing. Both were in Wichita for some time.

Have mercy then, O Lord! Before Thy feet I'm bowing; Let into my weak heart the stream of grace flowing. I pray I'll leave Thee not until Thy blessing pow'r Can conquer death in me, And bring life's blessed shower.

Zion's Harp #45 vs. 5

Having found peace with God and with all man, convert Jim Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) awaits to give his testimony and receive baptism, March 10 and 11, if the Lord will tarry.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner

Sis. Judy Hartter and Bro. Doug Kraft (Gridley, KS) were united in

marriage on Jan. 29. They will be at home in Gridley. We wish the Lord's blessings on their union. We will miss Sis. Judy but our loss will be their gain.

Also present that day were ministering Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction), Noah Gerber (West Bend), Loren Strahm (Gridley), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley), Bill Emch (Lamont), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton) and Lester Hartter (Bern). (I'm sorry if I have missed anyone; it was not intentional.) We invite all to return again.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Bertha Metzger and Bro. Joe Steiner.

Mr. and Mrs. Darin Marti became the parents of their second daughter on Feb. 7. She has been named Stacey Lynn, and is welcomed home by her sister, Lora.

At our recent annual business meeting, Bro. Rodney Grimm was elected as trustee to serve with Bro. Martin Beyer and Bro. Steve Aberle. Bro. Dennis Hartter was reelected on the committee of the fellowship hall to serve with Bro. Gordon Huber and Bro. Don Plattner. Bro. Steve Knobloch was elected to serve on the Hail Aid committee along with Bro. Alpha Aberle and Bro. Eli Meyer.

Bro. Noah and Sis. Lena Steiner want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, letters and plants sent to Sis. Lena during her stay at the hospital in Topeka the month of January. God bless you all.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

In January, Loyd Lambert passed away from this life. He had been in a nursing home with poor health for several years. Loyd is the youngest brother of Bro. Ernie Lambert and Bro. George Lambert (Sabetha, KS), and is survived by three children.

In our Wednesday night Bible Study, we have been studying the Gospel of Jesus according to Mark. What a blessing each one of us has received from sharing from the Word what the Spirit has revealed and taught us. There is so much to learn from God's Word.

One particular thought that impressed me in our study is Jesus' temptation by Satan in the wilderness before He began His ministry. Mark records this, but Luke brings it out in more detail (Luke 4:1-14). First of all, Jesus was

full of the Holy Spirit (it is certainly easier to resist temptation when we are filled with the Spirit.) For forty days Jesus ate nothing, and the devil tempted Him. It is interesting that with each temptation of Satan that is recorded, Jesus comes back with the Word of God which is quick, powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. Heb. 4:12.

When Satan tempted Jesus with food after He had fasted forty days, Jesus quoted God's words, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Luke 4:4. Then Satan went on to tempt Jesus with possessions and earthly gain. He offered Jesus all of the earth if He would worship him. Jesus again quoted the word of God, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Luke 4:8. The devil was persistent and he continued to tempt Christ. This time he put Jesus on a pinnacle of the temple and told Him to jump down if he was the Son of God. Again Jesus answered this temptation with the Word, "It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Luke 4:12. Then Mark says Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.

The Word is truly powerful, and Jesus left with us a perfect example of how to overcome temptation and Satan's control. As Christians we do have spiritual weapons to war against Satan and his temptations, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:4, 5. These weapons are the Word of God and prayer. Just as Jesus, we can use the Word to ward off Satan. Memorizing scripture and meditating on it during the day can so fill our mind that Satan's attacks won't have any effect. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have every thought in obedience to Christ?

We have the Holy Spirit alive within us and He is a much stronger force than Satan. Mark records that the angels ministered to Jesus during His temptation (Mark 1:13). The Holy Spirit also ministers to us, helping us to overcome temptation. When we are tempted of Satan, the Spirit will show us a way of escape. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that

ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13. God doesn't leave us alone to fight the battle. Jesus is always by our side to help us. We only need to turn to Him and ask. He won't let us be tempted above what we are able to bear. We can sure thank God for that!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Elizabeth Blough

We would like to thank Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) for sharing the Word with us Feb. 5. He shared with us how our little flock has grown here in Alto. We have been blessed by God with many new babies; eleven in 1983 — altogether we have 30 toddlers under 3 yrs. of age. The Lord is surely helping our church to grow with these special blessings.

Wedding bells were chiming Feb. 4 for Keith Feldman (Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian) and Cherie Bovee. Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) performed the nuptial which was held at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their new walk of life.

Our prayers of joy and happiness are with Bro. Dale Dunham (Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura, Latty) as his engagement to Sis. LaBeth Metz (Chicago) (Bro. Joe) became known to us recently. We wish God's blessings to both of our loved ones as they join together with God in marriage.

We want to thank the many visitors we have had recently. It is such a joy to share the Word of life with those who join in our worship services.

Bro. Bill Gerst and daughter Ramona had a close call Feb. 12 when they were involved in a deer/car accident. Luckily they are home and only had minor injuries. We are thankful that God sends His guardian angels to hover near us at all times. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Ps. 91:11

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The Lord has blessed the homes of three couples with new babies. Tye and Crystal Wackerle are the parents of a daughter, Kylee Rae. She is welcomed

home by one sister and her grandparents, Clinton and Ileen Wackerle. Wendy Jo is the new daughter of Bro. Craig and Sis. Jenny Wieland. Amanda welcomes her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lou Ann Wieland and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria, IL). Glenn and Maria Ruegsegger welcome a daughter, Rebekah Lynn, into their home. Michelle is Rebekah's sister and her grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger.

Our congregation has felt sadness during this month with the passing of three dear ones. On Jan. 19, Bro. Sam Wieland was called home. He is survived by a daughter, Sis. Florence Wieland; three sons, Bros. Merle, Don and Wayne (Peoria, IL) Wieland; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three sisters, Sis. Kathryn Wieland, Laura Mudge and Lillian Roese; and three brothers, Harvey, Elmer and Bro. Erwin Wieland.

Clare Grew passed away on Jan. 29 from injuries received in a snowmobile accident. Our prayers are with those who are in sorrow. He is survived by his parents, Delor and Sis. Inez Grew; one sister, Sis. Nancy Herzberg; three brothers, Donald, Darrell and Kenneth Grew; and his grandmother, Lydia Grew.

On Feb. 11, we heard of the passing of Lillian Roese. She is survived by three sons, William, Richard and Thomas Roese; one daughter, Linda Green; eleven grandchildren; two sisters, Sis. Kathryn Wieland and Laura Mudge; three brothers, Harvey, Elmer and Bro. Erwin Wieland. May the Lord continue to be with those who are left behind and bless them in the days ahead.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity . . ." I Cor. 13:13. It is through faith that the engagement of Sis. Sue Wieland and Bro. Curtis Heimer (Taylor, MO) has been announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Don and Sis. Lou Ann Wieland and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi (Heimer) Moser.

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized this past month. Sis. Marlene (Bro. Jim) Ramseyer and Bro. Robert (Sis. Marian) Knochel were recent surgical patients. Sis. Anna Meylan and little Wendy (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jenny) Wieland have been medical patients. Bro. Don (Sis. Lou Ann) Wieland has been to Mayo Clinic for tests and our thoughts

have been with him. We were sorry to hear that Sis. Edith (Bro. Daryle) Wieland has broken her leg and will have some trouble getting around. We pray the Lord will continue to be with these dear ones.

We rejoiced with a soul who was able to give his testimony and be baptized. We welcome Bro. Gary (Sis. Shirley) Wright into God's family. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) could be with us for the weekend.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

As "Old Man Winter" begins to release his grip on the earth, we see the promise of Spring and are reminded of the words of our Lord, "Behold, I make all things new." Rev. 21:5.

Just as our heavenly father brings forth the new life of the springtime, so shall He bring new life to those who call upon Him as their Lord and Master. Are you ready to meet Him in the new heaven and new earth that He is preparing for those who love Him?

We sincerely welcome Sis. Beverly Babin into our Detroit family. Sis. Beverly previously worshipped with the Rittman congregation, and has recently been transferred to our area. May she always feel the hand of God, His love, guidance and direction as she adjusts to new surroundings.

Bro. Willard and Sis. Arlene Belsley welcome a new grandchild. Amy Elizabeth is the new daughter of Dave and Janice Barta, born Jan. 30. She will find a special place in her family along with her sisters, Carrie and Sarah.

We enjoyed a visit from Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia). We thank Bro. Ed for his willingness to serve his Lord in the ministry.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

We were thankful to have Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar) with us on a Wed. evening.

Marla Bruellman graduated from the University of Iowa in Iowa City in Dec. and is now working in Rochester. She is the daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie of West Bend. We are happy to have her assemble with us.

Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura Miller are having their 50th wedding anniversary.

An open house will be held Saturday, April 28, from 2-5 p.m. at Eden Prairie Community Center. Family and friends are welcome. No cards sent.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock

God gave precious babies to fill hearts and homes with joy. Michael Dean is a new son born to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Deb (Rocke) Joos. Janell, Kevin, Jonathan and Kayla, and grandparents, Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith and Bro. Harry and Sis. Lydia share in the excitement of a new bundle. Dave and LuAnn (Schaefer) Horning welcome a daughter, Anna Marie. Bro. Anton and Sis. Verna rejoice as grandparents. Hannah Marie was born to Ted and Kim Schmidgall. Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia are grandparents. May God bless every family that has the responsibility and privilege to raise children.

Bro. Richard Schmidgall had surgery and is home doing well again. Sis. Sophie Nohl (Bro. Lawrence) has been hospitalized after knee surgery and appreciates the prayers for her. Danny Durkee (Lloyd and Dorothy) remains in a Minneapolis hospital following an accident. May God's love and presence be felt by them.

A sudden blizzard hit Minnesota and caught many people unprepared. Some froze to death and others prayed for the storm to end and for their rescue. So sudden the Lord will come for the righteous and the sinner. Are you ready if He comes today?

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." I Thes. 5:2.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues (\$6.00) are to be collected by April 1. Thank you.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Mary Lou Schmidt

Death is swallowed up in victory! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! I Cor. 15:54-57.

The time of our departure from this life is known only to God! We were all

saddened at the sudden passing away of our dear Bro. Carl Miller on Feb. 13 at the age of 74 years. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Sophie (Schmidgall) of Winthrop, MN; one daughter, Mrs. Vernon Gieseke (Myrtle) of New Ulm, MN; and two sons, Charles (Glen Ullin, ND) and Sam (Winthrop, MN). Twenty-one grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two brothers and four sisters also mourn his passing.

Feb. 4 was the wedding day of Jason Messner (son of Sis. Carol Ann and the late Bro. Dennis) and Nancy Schueller, (daughter of Marvel and Glen, Vesta, MN) Later on that day, a sudden blizzard struck this area. The bride and groom were separated because of the storm, and many were left stranded in nearby towns. However, the Lord's protecting hands were over all.

With Easter soon approaching, we found this poem very suitable.

GOD KNEW

When God made the rocks of iron and ore;

Do you ever suppose that He,
Was thinking of the nails they'd form,
To nail Him on a tree?

And when God made the trees so tall,
Was He seeing far ahead,
The cross to be made from lumber
Where His Son's own blood was shed?

And when God made man's muscle,
And gave him brain and will,
Did God believe these creature men
Would use that power to kill?

Oh, yes, God knew all of this.
And yet because of love,
For sinful men He came to earth
And left His home above.

He took on Him, the form of man,
And then men's sins He took;
And then redeemed by faith in Him,
Our names within the Book!

Mrs. W. Myers

A special thought: If we worry, we can't trust God; if we trust God, we can't worry!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Janice Lehman

Valentine's Day was extra special this year for Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol

Kellenberger as they were blessed with the arrival of a new son, Thomas John. He will be a welcome addition to our assembly.

As vacation time approaches, we welcome anyone traveling through Kansas City to worship with us at 301 W. Blue Ridge Blvd.

We want to express our thanks to visiting ministers this past month including: Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Sam Huber, Alpha Strahm, Charles Sinn, Bill Emch, Eugene Marti and Terry Farney.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Luthi — Becky Marti

Should I restrain the Spirit's course for fear of man so feeble? Though Satan's hosts are raging here, should I not be more faithful? Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I conceal the Word of God Most High?

"The Ministers of the Gospel"
Zion's Harp

We are thankful that God continues to provide faithful brothers to speak His Word. We appreciate Bro. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) who willingly ministered God's Holy Word to us this past month.

We rejoice with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol Braker in that God has blessed them with a precious baby. Mindy Lee was born Feb. 2. Her grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker of our congregation.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Virgil Frieden was chosen to serve as trustee. Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Sisters Vera Frieden and Sharon Braker were chosen as Sunday School teachers. May each one seek God's guidance in carrying out their various duties in the household of faith.

March is Lamar's month for collection of Silver Lining dues.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

"Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite."
Psalm 147:5

We want to thank Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) for ministering unto us Jan. 22.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm was with us Feb. 12. We extend a special thank you to him and the Taylor congregation for their continued support of our St. Louis church.

We also appreciated the many young brothes and sisters who came to worship with us. May God bless you all.

We invite any who may be in our area to worship with us. We meet at the Ben Franklin Hotel, 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. (We will not meet April 22 because of Easter Sunday.) For further information, contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

Should anyone want information regarding jobs or the area, please let us know. We'd be happy to help you.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"Thus ever on through life we find
'To trust' O Lord, is best —
Who serve Thee with a quiet mind,
Find in Thy service rest.
Their outward troubles may not cease,
But this their joy will be —
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on 'Thee'."

Author Unknown

Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) assisted Bro. Roy in reading and deliberating on the memorandum of the last elder conference. Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) was also a welcome visitor in January. We are always glad to have him, Sis. Mardell and their family come back to that which was "home" to Mardell. Sis. Elna has one of her family here also. Our sincere thanks to all of you and to God for this special blessing.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: For this is the whole duty of man." Ecc. 12:13.

Elder Bro. Roy conducted our annual business meeting January 18. Several new trustees were elected as well as a sister on the Food Committee. These serve a three-year term. "Thank You" to those who have served their term and may the new ones be directed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill this office that the physical affairs of our church

can operate harmoniously. Bros. Jim Sutter and Mike Knapp are the new trustees and Sis. Joann Wiegand is on the Food Committee.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him: and He shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:5). We're happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Curt Heimer (Sis. Naomi and Bro. Rod Moser) to Sis. Sue Wieland (Bro. Don and Sis. Louanne, Bay City, MI). May God continue to direct their lives as they make plans for a June wedding.

Irene Riney (Gene) was a hospital patient and is home again enjoying reasonable health for which we are thankful. Little Deana Marie Hastings (Maribeth and Greg) has returned home from the hospital in Columbia, MO where she was a very sick little girl. May God restore her to good health once again as well as give special strength to all who would care for her.

One of our young families, Bro. Elwood, Sis. Trudie and little Nicole Yackley welcome a new little girl, Lindsey Rae, born February 8. Sis. Clara Yackley and Bro. Mike and Sis. Louanne Knapp are grandparents to this little "Sunbeam". May they enjoy the results of "training a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it". Prov. 22:6.

One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness — it is usually returned.

Court R. Flint

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers during February were Bros. Dan Stoller, Kevin Ryan and Corbin Bahler. We were blessed with the Holy Word of Life as each was inspired of the Holy Spirit. Bro. Corbin also read the conference minutes which reminded us of the importance of keeping the traditions of the church and also of our responsibilities to live moderate and righteous lives as Christian soldiers of the cross.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Mike and Sue Purvines have welcomed their first child, Jackie Susan, who was born on December 14. She will also be loved by her grandparents, Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and William and Ann Hornig. May she be an added blessing to this new family.

Sis. Sarah Farney was called from this life on January 18. Her funeral services were on Saturday, Jan. 21, by Bros. Norbert Steiner and John Widrick. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her children, Carlton (Croghan), Harlan (Lowville) and Mrs. Elmer (Arlene) Roch (Port Leyden); her sister, Sis. Lena Virkler (Croghan) and her brother, Bro. Arthur Virkler, a patient at the Lewis County Extended Care Facility of Lowville. Sis. Sarah was also a patient at the Extended Care for several months. We rejoice that she is now at "Home".

Our hospital patients have been Daniel Virkler, little son of Loren and Gloria, Sis. Minnie Farney, Sis. Irene Virkler and Jim Virkler (son of Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois) for an emergency appendectomy. Bro. Clyde Virkler had a total knee replacement last week. Our prayers are for each one and may they all be blessed with a measure of health. We are glad to report that Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr. has been in our midst following his hip replacement and we pray that he can soon be able to minister the Word to us again. Also, Bro. Clyde's presence will be missed in our Sunday School for a few weeks.

We gathered together on Wednesday evening, Feb. 15, at the Naumburg Church for a covered dish supper and song service.

We welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Debbie Graf (Latty). Bro. Ed's employer has transferred him to Massena and they have been able to assemble with us on the weekends. Also, Bro. Walter Rumpf assembles with us often as his home is in St. Johnsville.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Sis. Barbara Bachman departed this life at 106 years. She has been a great asset to our church and we shall never forget the fond memories that linger. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. Alice Lehman; seven grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held by Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Leland Hirschey.

There were two birthday singings this month for Sis. Minnie Taube and Sis. Iva Poling. Sis. Minnie was at her home and Sis. Iva Polings lives at East Road Adult Home.

A covered dish supper and song service was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Hezekiah is known as the king whose prayer God answered by giving him a sign that the sun return, bringing the shadow in the sundial ten degrees backwards. This was a benefit to Hezekiah, but pride set in. The wonder God wrought was known throughout the land, and II Chron. 32:31 states: "In the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart." Hezekiah had favor with God for his prayer to be answered, but he "rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up." II Chron. 32:25. Also, he failed to detect that the ambassadors were spies.

So, although Hezekiah failed in a couple of tests, there are twenty-five right things recorded for him, and he "humbled himself for the pride of his heart". How thankful we are for God's mercy to forgive us for our failures when we humble ourselves. He is the only one that it is recorded: "They buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death." II Chron. 32:33.

Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener invited their brother, Bro. Don Manz, and uncle, Bro. Ken Sauder. We appreciated the ministers' messages. We appreciated our other guests that came to worship with us that Sunday, the fellowship and the carry-in supper.

Sis. Esther Graf had surgery at a hospital in Indianapolis and will be with her daughter and her husband, Bob and Dianne Horn, 1947 Bechtel Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260, while recuperating.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Andy Hunyady

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: . . . walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, . . ." Eph. 5:8, 15. The light is a gift of God, our heavenly Father, to enlighten us, to walk wisely, in goodness, in righteousness, and in truth. From the gospel we learn that God is a good and righteous God and Jesus Christ, His Son, is the

light of the world. Now that we are of God and have His light in our hearts, then we must walk in this light. We should do good deeds unto others, both to the wise who walk in the light, and to the unwise who are yet in darkness. By its fruits a tree is known. Jesus Christ, our Lord, expects each of us to bear such fruits, by our works.

The joy of fellowship is a very precious commodity and means so much to us especially when we are isolated and live far from a church and the company of those of like precious faith. So, when we receive a company of visitors, be it few or many, it brings joy, comfort and encouragement into our hearts and lifts our spirits. O how we enjoy the hour of worship and prayer with kindred hearts in the fellowship of His Spirit. Our January and February visiting Bros. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) served us out of the Book of Life, the precious words to feed our inner man. Many came from Rittman and Latty and our thanks to each of you. On Sunday, Feb. 12, after the morning services, most of us hurried to Mansfield to attend afternoon services and be present for the ordination services of Bro. Kenneth Sauder as deacon. It was an added blessing to all in the love of our Lord!

OHIO, GIRARD
Karen Laparo

GOD'S LOVE

God is always with me
I have no need for words
For even in the stillness
His love is ever heard.
His warming presence fills me
So deep within my soul
And fills my heart with gladness
His love does make me whole.
Dolores Karides

Our dear Sis. Louisa Lance has been hospitalized but is back home again. I'm sure she felt God's love and presence during her illness. We trust she will be able to assemble with us again soon.

OHIO, LATTY
Laurie Stoller — Patty Riggensch
"Precious in the sight of the Lord is

the death of His saints." Psalms 116:15. We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Lillian Stoller. She is survived by a son, Bro. Gary (Sis. Nancy); two daughters, Sis. Janice Laukhuf (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Wanda Lemman (Bro. Roy, Eureka); one brother, Bro. Joel Fiechter (Bluffton); four sisters, Sis. Emma Baumgartner, Sis. Queenie Barger, Alma Huffman (all of Bluffton) and Elizabeth Ginzler (Osian, IN); fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Visiting us this month was Bro. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North). We appreciated his ministering unto us.

Hospital patients were Bro. Henry Kipfer (Sis. Arvilla); Sis. Christine Stoller; Bro. Ben Schlatter (Sis. Helen) and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond).

Harvey and Susan Stoller welcomed little Nicholas into their home. Scott also welcomes a playmate. We pray that God will give this child healing strength. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Irene Stoller.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. We welcome our new brother-in-faith, Bro. Wesley Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet). May he find renewed strength each day as he grows in grace.

We also rejoice with our convert Janel Price (Robert and Aldean) in her new found peace. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Lucille Groh

The other day I was in an office and on the wall was a sign which said, "If you don't have time to do your job right the first time, how are you going to find time to do it over the second time?" I thought about our spiritual life, if we do not take time now to serve the Lord diligently during our lifetime, there certainly will be no time to do it over the second time.

A young man stood before a judge to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had been a great friend of the boy's father, who was famous for his books on the law of trusts. "Young man," said the judge sternly, "do you remember your father, that father whom you have

disgraced?" "I remember him perfectly," the young man answered. "When I went to him for advice or companionship he would look up from his work on the law of trusts and say 'Run away, boy, I am busy.' My father finished his book and here I am."

Our hospital patients this past month include Sis. Martha Cordrey (tests) and Steve Beer (auto accident) (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue). Sis. Christine Dotterer is home from Cleveland Clinic and has been able to assemble with us again.

Brent and Penny Moser are the parents of a new baby boy born Feb. 12, whom they named Logan Ross. Sis. Janet and Tom Moser (Bluffton) are the grandparents.

On February 11, Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), Aaron Steffen (Alto) and Joseph Ramsier (Rittman) served our church and shared the memorandum of the conference. They gave us wise counsel and admonition on living more Godly and sincere lives in this wicked world and time.

On February 12, Bro. Kenneth Sauder made vows to serve our church as its new deacon. The church was reminded that our deacon can only be as strong as the church allows him to be. We were reminded to pray for Bro. Kenneth that he has wisdom to serve as the Lord directs and that the Lord can bless our church with pure love and growth so that we can all reach our heavenly goal. We wish Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue God's blessings and much grace in serving our church.

It has been requested that mention be made again of Mansfield's mid-week service change. Our services are now being held on Wednesday evening instead of Thursday evening. The time remains the same which is 7:30 p.m.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Florence Hartzler
Janette Blough

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matt. 11:28-30. Many have found His burden light and His yoke easy, and many have taken up the cross and followed Him. What about you? The time is now and the day is at hand!

Come! We enjoyed a blessed weekend when three dear ones were brought into the fold of our Lord. With joy we greeted our Bro. Steve Maibach, Sis. Pam Martin and Sis. Judy Musselman. Our visiting minsiters that weekend were Bro. Bruce Leman and Bro. Ray Sinn. We thank these brethren for sharing the Word with us.

Those needing hospital care this month were Sis. Marge Zollinger, Bro. Melvin Beery, Frank Weber, Johnny Marty (surgical), Bro. John Hartzler, Sr. (breathing problem), Bro. Joe Blough, Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman and Mark Hartzler (Bro. Merle), just in to have broken bones set. Young and old alike can say they have felt the healing power of the Lord. "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24.

Behold! A little babe is the joy of its parents! A daughter, Sharla Ann, was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner. At home to welcome a new sister are Marsha, Milan, Cherri and Steve. The grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier, and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner. Born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler was a son, Shane Michael. At home to welcome him are Fred, Lynn, Eldon and Eric. The grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler and Sis. Esther Schlatter (Junction). A son was born to Mark and Deb Steiner named Nicholas Alan. Little sister Tara is glad for a brother to play with. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger. May the Lord bless you with your precious little bundles from heaven.

After God had created the world and all its creatures, He made man in His likeness. God said it was very good. He then saw that man needed a helpmeet for him, so He created woman to be his wife. Today is the same, as man still needs a helpmeet, so the Lord showed Bro. Steve Rufener that his wife should be Sis. Jenee Schar. Their parents are Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna Rufener and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. May the Lord bless you as you make your plans for your future life together.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joyce Indermuhle

"Showers, showers of blessings, showers of blessings we need, mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead."

Gospel Hymns #315

We have certainly felt those showers of blessings thus far in the year of 1984. In January, we were privileged to hear Tom Vieheller's testimony and witness his baptism. We welcome him as a brother and wish him much grace in his walk in the Lord. Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron), Joseph Ramsier (Rittman) and Gene Pamer (Akron) were here to assist in the Lord's work that weekend. We were all drawn closer to each other and to God as they shared the Conference Memorandum with us. May God richly bless all those who serve us so diligently.

Another blessing came to us in the form of a beautiful little baby girl, Jami Deann. She is loved and welcomed by us all, especially by her family, Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, Bridget, Ken and Joey Zollinger. To see a little one formed so perfect, each little detail, complete and lovely, reminds us all that miracles are still happening all around us every day.

Many of us traveled to Toledo, OH, February 19 to support Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Sis. Alice Harmon (Toledo, OH) as they vowed to each other and to God in holy matrimony to be true and faithful to each other. We welcome Sis. Alice in our midst and pray that she can feel all the love we have for her. May God be the head of their home. A special thanks to the Toledo congregation for all the love shown to us. We hope that the miles between our congregation can be shortened by many visits. You are all so welcome here in Sardis.

Sis. Willetta Indermuhle is recovering from a broken hip in the Monroe County Health Care Center, Airport Road, Woodsfield, OH 43793.

We are fast approaching the time of the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Each year this season draws us closer to Calvary and reestablishes in our hearts and lives the sacrifice and gift given to us by God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Frances Laidig

THE NEW BIRTH FROM ABOVE

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!
By the power of Thy Spirit
A new man Thou didst create.
Angels see in joyous rapture

God's own Word in deed fulfilled;
And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed.

Zion's Harp #34

On Sunday, Jan. 22, we heard the testimony of Bro. Paul Rywalski and then witnessed his baptism and the laying on of hands by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach.

Bro. Paul is now a child of the King and has his name written in the "Book of Life". "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." St. Luke 15:10.

This was also a joyous time for us here on earth. Being at peace with God and man is as a precious pearl which should be cherished forever. It is a peace that passes all understanding.

The marriage of our Sis. Alice Harmon (Bro. Howard and Sis. Collette) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Bro. Robert and Sis. Inez) is planned for Sunday, Feb. 19.

Our best wishes will go with them to their home in Sardis, OH. "Marriage is honourable in all . . ." Hebrews 13:4.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 29. As servants in the vineyard of the Lord, may we remember the words which the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men." Ephesians 6:7.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Barbara Moser

Let me try a little harder
Let me pray a little more
Let me go a little farther
Than I've ever gone before.

Let me sing instead of sighing
As I pass beneath the rod
Let my life burn out for others
Less of self and more of God.

Let me see the ones about me
Hungry for the peace I know
And the spirit of my Savior
Father let me ever show.

Let me lift the one who's fallen
Help the lame upon the way
Soothe the weary, calm the suffering
Knowing Thou wilt come some day.

Others, Lord, yes others
Let this my motto be
Help me to live for others
That I may be like Thee.

N.M.

We are so happy to have Sis. Brenda Knoblock in our midst. She has moved to the Portland area from Lester, IA. Sis. Melisa Moser has also moved back to the Portland area. We appreciate these sisters-in-faith and pray that God will be their guide each and every day.

A new little boy has blessed the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth Jones (Silverton). Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser (Portland), Sis. Sherrill Jones (Morton) and Gene Jones (East Peoria, IL). May God always help them to raise little Lee Kenneth in the ways of the Lord.

Spring is around the corner. We are already seeing the trees budding and the flowers beginning to bloom. We do hope that many of the brethren from the midwest would consider a vacation to the west coast this summer. We welcome one and all.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Oregon celebrated her 125th birthday on Valentine's Day this year, but Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones were probably too busy to notice. Baby Lee Kenneth Jones, 8 pounds and 6 ounces, chose February 14 for his birthday also. He is the first child in the Jones family and is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser (Portland, OR) and Sis. Sherrill Jones (Morton, IL). Great-grandmother is Elizabeth Moser (Morton, IL) and great-grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Nellie Stoller (Morton, IL).

March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. The subscription rate is \$6.00.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

We all greatly appreciate the help received from the Rockville and Croghan churches during my absence from Philadelphia for several weeks in February. Bros. Dan Stoller, Everett Gerber and Lee Bahler (Rockville) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan) came to serve us during this period. We thank these brothers for their unselfish efforts and for the Word of truth proclaimed.

TEXAS, McALLEN-DONNA Joyce Nohl

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Bros. Gene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us this month. May God richly bless all of our ministers who so kindly give of themselves.

We are having services in the valley at Donna every other Sunday. Services are held in a small building at Silver and Seventh Streets at 10:30 a.m. The next service will be held on February 26. We appreciate all those traveling through the valley who have stopped to worship with us and invite anyone coming this way to visit us. If you are in the valley please feel welcome to call us and let us know you are here. Our telephone number is 682-0219 and our address is 1501 Wisteria, McAllen, TX 78504.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

We have been having many winter visitors as they come South to get out of the harsh winter weather. Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) spent several weeks with us. Other visiting ministers were Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS), Harry Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS).

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM FOR TODAY

Compiled by Royal V. Carley

THE LORD: is my shepherd, I shall not want.

SECURITY

Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? . . . For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31, 32, 33

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: . . .

Isaiah 40:11

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures . . .

HAPPINESS

We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfil all thy petitions.

Psalm 20:5

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:3

. . . he leadeth me beside the still waters.

PEACE

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

Isaiah 26:3

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, . . .

Galatians 5:22

He restoreth my soul . . .

STRENGTH

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

. . . in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: . . .

Isaiah 30:15

. . . he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

GUIDANCE

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalm 37:23

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil . . .

ASSURANCE

. . . our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: . . .

II Timothy 1:10

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

I Corinthians 15:20

. . . for thou are with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

HIS PRESENCE

And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:8

. . . I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me,

Hebrews 13:5, 6

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies . . .

THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:57

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

I John 5:4

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

Psalms 27:3

. . . thou anointest my head with oil . . .

GLADNESS

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalms 100:2

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with

gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Psalms 30:11, 12

. . . my cup runneth over.

THE JOYFUL LIFE

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 16:11

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. . .

THE GOOD LIFE

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

Psalms 16:5, 6

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

I John 4:9

. . . and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

ETERNAL LIFE

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.

John 11:25, 26

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 5:24

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

field, but did not apply that knowledge, it would be of no avail.

It is the same with the Word of God. We can understand it and we can know it, but unless we allow the power of God to work in our hearts, we are still just natural beings. The purpose of the Word is to make us converted persons. We need to experience the cleansing process that we call repentance. The Bible mentions over and over again that, if we repent for our sins, we will become new persons in Christ. Our Lord was baptized and we, too, are baptized. This is simply a symbol that we have experienced a rebirth. We bury the old nature and we arise to a new life, as the Lord Himself rose from the dead.

It really isn't difficult. It is so simple that it can baffle the intellect. The Bible bears this out when it says that it is hidden from the wise and prudent, and revealed to babes (in Christ). Our attitude and desires determine how this Word of Life will affect us. If we knew that we would soon be called out of this life, I wonder what our thoughts would be today. This comes to my mind because we just laid away a brother yesterday, and three weeks ago today he was baptized. It is never too late to repent, but we must realize that death can come at any time. God is a merciful God, but He is also a God who will not be tempted. We don't want to tempt God or the Lord Jesus.

If you feel uneasy about the way you are living, when you think about meeting the Lord, then God is indicating that something should be changed in your life. That something can be changed only when you respond to His call as the Apostle Paul did. We can't expect to be stricken as he was by the great Light in midday, but the key to his conversion was that he said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6.

That is the example that we have in the Word of God. When that moment comes to us, we should ask, "What shall I do?" when Peter was preaching after the Lord arose, the people asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you." Acts 2:37, 38.

Give Your Address Change
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CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. EDMUND KLOTER OF GOODFIELD, IL

Text: I Corinthians 15:20-47

The Apostle Peter said that some things which Paul wrote were hard to understand. That is a comfort to me, for if it was difficult for the Apostle Peter to understand all things, then we should not feel too badly if we don't understand everything that we read in the Bible. However, Paul makes some things quite plain, particularly in reference to Christ and His resurrection, the first fruits, and those things pertaining to how the promise of eternal life can be ours. According to the Bible, these things are hidden from the wise and prudent. Paul wrote here that "... now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." I Cor. 15:20.

First of all, we have to have faith. We must believe that there is a God, that Christ was His only begotten Son, that He came into the world, that He lived here as a person, that He suffered ... died, that He shed His blood and that He rose again. These are the things we read about in the Bible, and we read about people who witnessed those things. But it still takes faith to believe that these things are really true. None of us would be here at this instant if we hadn't believed that we could get out of bed this morning. If we had thought that we were unable to get out of bed, that is where we would be right now.

After that, when we went out to our automobiles, if we had not put our keys in the ignition and turned them, the cars would not have started. If we hadn't thought that they would start, and therefore tried, then we wouldn't be here either.

In the same manner, it is necessary that we believe what this Word is and what it can do for us. How we feel about this in our minds, and how we act on it will determine what it really means to us.

We can look around and see many people living a true life, but it doesn't

do us one speck of good. We must do it ourselves. We might even look across the aisle and do a little judging. This is wrong, of course. We have to be careful that we do not look at someone else and say, "Well, if he can be a Christian, I surely could be, too." Or, "If he is a Christian, I don't want to be one."

There are many things within our minds that the devil is a master at using to his advantage and to our destruction. Let's remember that the devil is our enemy. He is not out there playing for the fun of it. He is playing for keeps, and he is playing for keeps with your soul and with my soul. Satan is using every available means to entice us and get us involved in sin before we even realize what we are doing. He is a master at these things. We as individuals are no match for the devil.

Paul said, "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead." I Cor. 15:21. Christ, the Son of God, shed His blood, died, was buried, and then experienced resurrection and ascension into heaven. Every soul, every person who has ever lived in this world, had or has an opportunity to be with Him there. This is what the Bible tells us. If we believe what the Bible says, what the Lord said Himself, unless we are converted we shall not see the kingdom of heaven.

What is conversion? We are brought into this world as natural beings. We are born. We begin to progress, to crawl, to walk, to grow up. We learn right from wrong, but this is the natural state that we all experience. We come to an "age" or to a point in life or, just for the sake of a term, let us say that we come to a moment of truth. The time may vary as far as age is concerned, but I firmly believe (I don't find this anywhere in the Scripture in words) that every soul is going to have that moment of truth.

We are going to know the truth at

some point in life because God will call us, and the Word is here for us to read. If we don't use this opportunity, it is our own fault and responsibility. Somewhere along the line, I believe that we are going to know what we should do. If we don't do it, then the consequences are spelled out in this Book.

In this Book, we often read about the promises of God. The promises of God, we might say, are in a certain sense two-sided. The promise of God that we like to talk about, and that will apply to us if we are right with Him, is that we will end up in the glories of heaven that are beyond the imagination of man. This is a promise of God.

On the other hand, if we don't love the Lord and follow Him according to the Scriptures, then another promise of God is one that we don't like to talk about, the damnation that awaits those who refuse. That is a promise, too. So, let's remember that God promises us one of two things: He promises us either eternal life or eternal death. However, we are masters of our own destiny because we can either embrace or close our minds to the truth. When that moment of truth comes which we have already alluded to, we can be so involved, so caught up in what we are doing, or what we think we want to do, that we may, even unknowingly, turn the opportunity down. Who knows how long we are going to live here, and whether we will have another opportunity? This of course, we don't know. But God is a merciful God, and the Bible tells us that if we seek Him, we can find Him. It is the condition of our own minds and hearts which determines the outcome. The truths that are within this Holy Bible can make us free. What we do with this Biblical truth is up to us. If we went to school and learned everything in a particular

(Continued on Page 31)