



"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."

Luke 23:46

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34

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## "THE DARKEST DAY THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN"

"And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:"

John 19:17

"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour."

Luke 23:44



## "THE BRIGHTEST DAY FOR ALL THE WORLD"



"And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher."

Luke 24:2

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead."

Matthew 28:6-7a

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF

Bro. Vernon Leman, Committee Member  
Mennonite Central Committee

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Psalm 41:1

The Mennonite Central Committee is the cooperative relief and service agency of North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches. M.C.C., as the agency is called, was born in 1920 and today administers and participates in programs of agriculture and economic development, education, medicine, self-help, relief and peace in forty countries. This agency also coordinates a disaster service to help in areas of various disasters. They have volunteers serving in Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America.

The self-help program of M.C.C. encourages local crafts in twenty countries and teaches people to make these to earn their own living. These craft items are then exported and sold in self-help shops and relief sales in United States and Canada.

Our dear brothers, Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger, and Bros. Henry Beer and Herman Norr, were inspired with a heavenly inspiration. The message they received from God was to put their thoughts into action. The teaching from God was, "To feed the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day." Isaiah 58:10.

The elder body encouraged the brethren to move forward in this rewarding work. Thus the inception of Apostolic Christian World Relief in 1964. M.C.C., CARE and Heifer Project were the first agencies to receive help from this newly formed group.

Through the years World Relief sharing has spread their disbursements to a greater number of organizations, but the first three receive a good share. We are thankful for our dedicated brothers, sisters and friends who continue to share their God-given blessings with those in need.

The Apostolic Christian World Relief evaluation of M.C.C. is very good. This came about through their answering a questionnaire which was sent to them. Their administrative cost was very low, they are dependable, considerate and willing to help in whatever the need. Through the years we have worked together in disaster areas. Our sewing brothers and sisters have helped to send layettes, bandages, soap, school and health kits, sewing needs, bedding and clothing through this organization. They have also received help in various places such as Newton, KS; Kidron, OH; and the Mennonite Relief Sale in Peoria, IL. In some areas our brethren have supported their meat canning project.

The largest project in which we have shared with them in the past few years has been sending grain to needy countries. Again in the past year we sent one load of edible beans and many loads of corn to Africa where we hear the need is very great. We have been pleased with their distribution of the food that is sent, as we understand they have M.C.C. personnel in the fields to distribute the grain.

Our prayer and wish would be to hear, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40.

## NEED FOR ADMINISTRATOR OF NURSING HOME

Beloved Brethren,

The congregations of Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI, along with Toledo, OH, are engaged in constructing a nursing home on newly acquired property adjacent to the Detroit church located in Livonia, MI.

We have our certificate of need for a shelter-care facility, and are in the process of making application for total nursing care. Our license is for 66 beds, but we may reduce that if necessary.

We hope to have the facility ready

for occupancy early in 1986; and we are in need of a brother or sister to fill the role of administrator. We see merit in bringing this individual on board just as soon as possible so they will be able to participate in some of the decisions that will affect operation of this home.

Interested brethren should send their inquiries either to Bro. Philip Bahr, 17366 Westbrook, Livonia, MI 48152, or to Ben Maibach, 14726 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

## NEED FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Apostolic Christian Resthaven in Elgin, IL is currently seeking a Registered Nurse for full-time employment as Director of Nursing. Resthaven is a 49-bed skilled/intermediate facility scheduled to open in the fall of 1985.

Hospital and geriatric experience is desirable, with knowledge and training in nursing service management and restorative nursing. The Director of Nursing shall oversee the nursing functions of Resthaven, while providing some direct patient care.

This position will offer an excellent salary and benefit package.

Anyone interested or needing additional information should send a resume or call: Rick Schmidgall, Apostolic Christian Resthaven, P. O. Box 1026, Elgin, IL 60121, Phone (312) 741-4543.

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz  
Albert Frautschi  
David Bertsch

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

## NEED FOR TEACHERS IN JAPAN

Dearly beloved brethren,

Most blessed and wonderful are greetings in the fellowship of the saints through Jesus Christ our Lord.

It has been quite some time since we have had to make a plea to the brethren for teachers to carry on the labors in Japan among our brethren.

Sis. Margie Heintz from Champaign/Urbana (as well as from Rockville, CT) will finish her two-year term in the nursery/kindergarten school "Under the Vines" at Shioda, Yamashiro, Japan. We are fortunate to have Sis. Sheila Moser (Lester, IA) who is serving so capably and sharing an apartment with Sis. Margie. We have tried to follow the Lord's teaching where He sent them forth two by two. This helps to provide companionship as well as support to the sisters who work together in this important calling.

It has also worked out very well that Bros. Frank Sauder (formerly from Roanoke, IL) and Randy Mogler (originally from West Bend, IA and more recently from Champaign, Urbana and Bloomington, IL respectively) are also serving in Japan. The brothers have a nice apartment not too far from the church in the country. They help to administer the school as well as provide conversation English classes. In addition, along with other activities, they have been holding special Bible classes in Tokyo. It is encouraging to note that they have definitely stimulated some interest. We're glad to see young men becoming involved in some of the classes.

There is a burden among all who are knowledgeable about the work, that after the children leave the nursery/kindergarten school they just seem to phase out, and we generally don't see them again. The plea has come from Japan that we recognize our responsibility in trying to keep them closer to

the faith. The suggestion was made to the Missionary Committee that we consider another sister to be available for special classes to attempt to reach the children and their parents to whom the brethren become so closely attached while they are in kindergarten. This will be quite a challenge. The Committee is agreed that if we can find another sister, who has the professional ability, we would be most happy to see what can be accomplished.

Consequently, we have a need for two qualified sisters. If any of you are interested, we urge you to very prayerfully consider this important matter. Candidates must be in good standing with their home congregation and shepherd, have certification compatible with the positions available, and be prepared to lend themselves, God willing, for a two-year commitment to the position in Japan.

We have found it wise for accepted candidates to prepare themselves while yet in the States with some Japanese instruction. Surprisingly, it is available in a lot of areas. It is not mandatory, but very helpful as it prepares one to be better able to communicate with the parents and neighbors. Japanese lessons are available by some of our own brethren. Most of those involved in the work in the School take on-going Japanese lessons.

To those interested, any of the Missionary Committee brethren would be happy to answer questions, or you can contact Bro. Willis Ehnle or myself. We stress, it is not a vacation, but rather a very responsible opportunity to lend yourself to a very important work in God's vineyard. Replacement for Sis. Margie Heintz should be by mid-summer '85.

Your needy servant,  
Ben Maibach

an experience I had several years ago. While attending an agricultural field day, standing in the midst of thousands of people, a total stranger came by and handed me a small pamphlet. I slipped it into my pocket and later read it at home. Following is its contents:

### WATCH YOUR SPEECH

A visiting minister was asked to lead in prayer in Sunday school, and when he had finished, a teacher heard one of the girls whisper, "Gosh, what a prayer!" Such an exclamation seems incongruous in expressing one's appreciation of a prayer, but a little thought will lead anyone to the conclusion that "gosh" is not an appropriate word for a Christian to use on any occasion whatsoever. When we look into the original meaning of such interjections, we may be surprised that even some Christian people are habitual users of expressions which the dictionary terms "minced oaths".

A very commonly used interjection is "Gee". It is capitalized in Webster's New International Dictionary and given this definition: "A form of Jesus used in minced oaths". This derivation is even more apparent when the form "Geez" or "Jeepeers," now frequently heard, is used.

Two other common words and their definitions are these: "Golly," a euphemism for God, used in minced oaths". "Darn, darned, darnation," are said to be "colloquial euphemisms for damn, damned, damnation". Persons who allow their lips to utter "Gosh-darned" quite freely, would be shocked if they realized the real meaning of the word.

Since there is no occasion for the Christian to use anything other than reasonable adjectives to emphasize the thought he desires to express, how can he use any form of our Lord's holy name as a means of expression or as an exclamation. Certainly there is no room at all for minced oaths and near-curse words at anytime.

(Author Unknown)

"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36

## IDLE WORDS?

Bro. Marvin Lehman, Bradford, IL

When we gather together to worship and whenever we pray, we do so in Jesus name. To every child of God this name is the sweetest, most precious and dearest name known in his heart. The name, "Jesus," is, to the believer, the very symbol of love, sacrifice and

suffering which brought us unto salvation. Yet, at times, in our weaker moments, as we converse with one another, we soil our lips and dishonor our Lord's name through careless and thoughtless expressions.

To illustrate, let me share with you

### NOTICE

Please keep in mind when making plans for 1985 - the 9th Annual Children's Home Sale will be held on the fourth Saturday of August.

— August 24, 1985 —

Thank you very much!

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORK PROJECT

### NEED FOR FULL TIME SECRETARY AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is a need for a full-time secretary for the Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

Duties will be to serve as receptionist, secretarial, clerical and computer work, including preparing office order forms, monthly billing forms, updating the home computerized mailing list and prepare labels and reports as needed.

The qualification requirements for the secretary are:

1. Must be a sister, sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order
2. Must have the support of her home church elder
3. Applicants should be 21 years or older. Consideration will be given to all applicants
4. A resume is required to be sent

with your request for an interview

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

Additional information concerning this secretarial work can be obtained by writing or calling:

Bro. Uriel Gehring  
Box 151

Leo, IN 46765  
Phone: 219/627-5138

Bro. Ron Kipfer  
1215 E. Spring Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Phone: 219/824-5722

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
Route 2 - Box 157A  
Grabill, IN 46741  
Phone: 219/627-2923

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## MEMORIES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

(Continued from February Issue)

### ARRIVAL AT THE KHARDI MISSION COMPOUND

As we traveled north of Bombay, we were able to see and witness the rural farming area. The farming is very primitive, using oxen or water buffalo and a wooden plow. The farmer would go a few steps and then have to urge the oxen on. We saw the threshing floors and the oxen tied to a pole, going round and round, treading the grain out, just as in Biblical times. We passed all modes of travel. Many people were walking, oftentimes the women bearing burdens on their heads. There were Indian farmers with two-wheeled carts taking hay or produce to the market. Often the wife and children would be riding in the cart. There were large trucks hauling produce and merchandise to the cities. These trucks were gaudily painted in many colors and designs. Often there were young and old clinging to the top of the load for a ride to town. All this traffic was mixed with herds of sheep, goats and cattle (they are considered sacred). I was amazed at a life so different from ours.

The driver got us safely to the Khardi Mission Compound and we found a welcome sign over the gates. Again we were so kindly received. The Khardi Mission is the original home for

the Bagwhats. We stayed in this home while visiting. This mission compound has a church, dispensary, orphanage, home quarters for the staff and Pastor Aghumkar. There are 30 orphan boys being cared for. They sang hymns for us and recited portions of scriptures during a welcome service the next morning. The Village Pouchyst (mayor) and some of the village officials were there and all of the mission personnel. Again in their custom, garlands of flowers were placed on our neck and we could feel the warmth of their Christian love. After the service, we presented the gifts we had carried for the orphan boys and for the ladies of the mission. We visited the dining quarters and sleeping quarters for the boys.

"For I was hungry, and ye gave me food; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked and ye clothed me; . . ." Matthew 25:35-36.

What a wonderful blessing it was to see these boys healthy, well fed and happy. What a contrast to the many children we saw, underfed and living in poverty. The orphan boys all lined up around the large room (their sleeping quarters) and sang hymns and recited scripture verses. They all have a bed roll and sleep on the floor. In our land, the children have so much. If they

could just see these children happy with so little.

A beautiful Sunday morning greeted us, as we were able to attend services in the chapel. The orphan boys, in their white pajama suits, sat on the floor in the front. The women and children sat on one side and the men sat on the other, all on the floor. There was a bench in the back for Sisters Lois and Virginia to be seated with some of the Indian women. Here, 12,500 miles from home, with hymns, prayer and the Word, we were able to share God's Word through an interpreter, with the Indian Christians.

On the next day we visited the open well across the road from the mission compound. All the water used must be hauled by ox cart. We also visited the Pipe Line Channels. The British troops were stationed in these barracks before they left when India gained independence. This land and barracks were given to the mission by the British. A retired minister and his wife live here, again in very meager circumstances. A walk out to the mission cemetery was a very sobering experience. We had to think of this small group of Christians holding fast in faith until death, surrounded by a vast sea of humanity caught up in idol worship.

Next: Visit to Nasik and out to the villages.

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## REPORT FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

Since the first of the year, all of the European continent suffered the coldest winter weather ever reported. Our brethren living in the East European countries, and particularly in Romania, had additional burdens to bear; severe food and heating energy shortages. In many small villages the schools have been closed and small children are required to walk many kilometers to the neighboring village schools. Many are inadequately clothed. Many deaths have been reported in these countries due to the heavy snows and severe cold weather.

Food shortages are worsening. Our monthly list of families have increased from an average 170 to 265 since the first of 1985. Village dwellers and those distant from the cities suffer the most. Many families can no longer raise



their own poultry, for meat and eggs, due to total lack of feed grains. Food packages, made possible by your most generous gifts, are most welcome and in many cases serve as a lifesaver.

To worsen the situation, World Relief Funds sent to elder brothers for distribution to the very needy for clothing, fuel or other necessities, were held by the banks for a year or longer and eventually returned to Bro. Leon Graf. No explanation was given. Another indication just how little consideration is given to the needy, elderly citizens by those in authority.

Dearly Beloved, let us remember these brethren in bonds in our daily prayers, that God in His great love and mercy will strengthen them in their faith to endure the severe trials and hardships.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."  
Proverbs 19:17

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

As I gaze out the window, my glance is met by ten inches of snow, clean and fresh, and literally glistening as the sun pours down its positive rays. Rising above the snow are the trees in the woods, seemingly reaching into the azure blue of the skies; and beyond the woods, more blue sky in the horizon. What a picture is painted by the Master painter. "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all." The midwest is certainly blessed with a variety of seasonal scenery, and ere long, spring will be showing her beauty with her bursting out of greenery and her warm wafts of refreshing air. All of these phenomena are given us by our Creator for our enjoyment and mutual benefit. How many times and ways can we be reminded that He is God, that His power is infinite, and that He loves us. Are we reciprocating by proving our love for Him? If we love Him, we will keep His commandments and He will cause His face to smile on us and bless us. What a master plan of life He has for each one of us, if we allow Him to mold us according to His good will and pleasure.

The children have just completed one week of no school because of inclement weather. They expressed "good" and "not so good" reports of

being home all week. They enjoyed the snow, the sledding, the snowballing and shoveling snow, to a degree, but they felt rather "bottled up" on the home grounds. They could not release all their pent up energies as they would have liked. Oh, for the "zest" of youth again! We believe that in the eternal ages, all the redeemed of the Lord will be the possessors of eternal Youth and we shall never grow old.

Our new administration building is progressing nicely, thanks to the many volunteers who so freely give of their time and talent. What a blessing there is in a labor of love and a work of faith.

### "BROKEN PIECES"

All across this nation homes are falling,  
And daily the number increases,  
And the ones who suffer most aren't  
the mothers and the fathers,  
The children are the broken pieces.

When a nation is filled with broken  
pieces,  
It's so hard to build among the ruins.  
You mothers and you fathers,  
If you will not stay together,  
Your children pay the price for what  
you're doing.

The children are the broken pieces,  
When a home falls apart.  
The children are the broken pieces,  
Who's going to mend their tender  
hearts.  
God, come and mend the broken pieces.  
Steve Chapman

At our Home we are attempting to mend these broken children. Their needs are great and it is so evident that their lives are the broken pieces of divorce and other problems. These problems are by no means isolated to Northern Indiana, but rather broken homes are a nation-wide epidemic. We serve very few children in the national aspect.

In the course of conversation, it's common to hear many of our Christian brothers and sisters express strong interest and desire to know more about and share in the work at our Home. However, to actually participate or serve as a houseparent in one of our Homes is not always a feasible option to gain that understanding or experience. Yet, this type of ministry is not confined to this particular location but can be carried out in a variety of

different ways in each of our communities. Our options are endless. To name a few: Foster Parenting. Adoption, Take in an unwed, expectant woman or a mother and her child, become a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to some needy child, reach out to a neighbor or a family in need. We want to encourage anyone who shares this burden to pursue those convictions. The Lord can use us wherever we are; the choice is ours.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."  
James 4:17

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

From the inexplicable anguish of Christ's crucifixion, as expressed by Jesse Wilmore Murton: "Is it nothing to you that He prays alone,/While sweat of blood from His cold brow drips/ In great dark blots, as the halting words/ Are wrung from His drawn and pallid lips?/ Is it nothing to you that the friends He loved/ Could slumber throughout His anguished pleas -/ Could flee and leave Him, betrayed, alone,/ In His dread dark hour of agony? --- to the joy of His resurrection, as expressed by Charles Wesley: "Christ the Lord is risen today,/ Sons of men and angels say./ Raise your joys and triumphs high,/ Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply."

Your monthly visit to our Home finds us contemplating the somnolent season of the year, which is sensing a deep inner stirring, in anticipation of Spring's revival of leaf and bud. There is an air of expectancy in the quiet time between winter and spring. The awakening of nature is so symbolic of Christ's resurrection, which brings new life to weary souls.

An alert, listening ear at the Home is often able to catch some interesting comments. As one resident was watching the falling snow make a lovely scene around the evergreens, she said, "It's beautiful! And to think that some people say that there is no God!"

Though the winter days are confining for many of the residents, others are able to participate in such enjoyable activities as sledding and basketball.

Again, among our valuable volunteers are those who cook the Sunday dinners to relieve the kitchen staff. Four or more volunteers, working under the guidance of one kitchen staff

member, cook and serve all of the food on the planned menu, often furnishing the dessert for the 100 plus people. An important part of serving the food is adjusting the menu to the numerous, special diets. After dinner, the tables are cleared and re-set for breakfast. Dishes are washed, and the kitchen is cleaned. After several hours of concentrated work, the volunteers leave for home, hopefully with the knowledge of a much-appreciated task well done.

John Paul Eddy, our resident number 97, has come to make his home with us. The son of Kathy and James Eddy (Hanna City, IL), he has one brother and two sisters. Cake is John's favorite food; music and bells are an enjoyable pastime for him. At the present time, he is attending school at Hanna City. Birthday time for John is January 27. Welcome, John!

Until next time, let's make each new morning the opening door to a better day than the one before.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

##### Ron and Ev Hoerr

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.

I John 5:14

These words mean much more to Penny Schuster, since her testimony and baptism on February 2 and 3. Sis. Penny is the daughter of Bro. George and the granddaughter of Sis. Hulda Heinold (Bluffton, IN). We also welcomed Bro. Kim Huber into our brotherhood the same weekend. He is the son of Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophia Huber. We trust these two dear souls will enjoy a closer walk with the Lord everyday. After the baptism all were welcomed to gather at a local cafeteria and then return to church for a singing. The weather was quite unusual for us. We had rain and sleet mixed with some snow! The first snow since 1976.

Bro. Randy Meyer felt the call of the Lord to go to Haiti to help with some construction there. May the Lord bless him and all the other brethren who followed this same leading.

Bro. Ed Zollinger, Sunday school superintendent, with Bro. Jim Meiss as assistant, gave us the following list of Sunday school teachers: Bible Class - Ed Zollinger, Jacob Hoerr; Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades - Herb Knochel, Sr., Jim Meiss; Fourth and Fifth Grades - Leon Baumgartner; Second

and Third Grades - Nancy Baumgartner, Kelly Kraft; First Grade - Liz Martin, Cheri Zollinger; Pre-School - Sue Sanders; 3 - 4 Year Olds - Wanda Hoerr, LouAnn Klopfenstein, Stefanie Baum.

Visiting ministers who have brought us inspiring messages were Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Bro. James Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Willis Ehle (Japan) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

We give thanks unto the Lord that our elder brothers could meet in Fort Lauderdale to guide us in our walk with the Master.

Bro. Tim Sutton had the misfortune of a hand injury. Sis. Marjorie Frautschi was hospitalized for a broken hip, the week they planned to return to Indiana. Sis. Toni Bentley was a surgical patient and is progressing very well. Sis. Lois Beres and Sis. Emma Sanders have been confined at home this past month. Sis. Lois also had surgery. Peg Bach is improving.

The Bible tells us to rejoice in the Lord and what a better way for the junior and senior high school classes than to travel to Tucson for a busy weekend. Many single members from several of our churches visited here with us the same weekend. Their singing and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We have enjoyed the many visitors and want to thank each of you for spending time in our lovely weather that now has reached the 80's once again.

Our congregation sends Easter greetings to all. Grace be with you, mercy and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. II John 3.

This is our last call for the Silver Lining dues.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

##### Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

This winter we have again been blessed with winter visitors from many churches. We want to welcome these brethren and encourage others to visit our small church here in the Southwest. Among our visitors have been ministering brethren Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) and retired Elder Bro.

Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL). We especially thank the ministering brethren who have brought God's precious Word to us.

Our Annual Senior Citizen's Supper was held last Saturday night. The Sunday School Bible class holds this supper every year to help raise money for their Sunday School activities. We want to thank the students for all their work and efforts, and we also appreciate the senior citizens attending and helping our Sunday School in this way.

Reminder to Tucson congregation: If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year, it is now due. Thank you.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

##### Mary Beth Klotzle

"Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:18, 19

Words cannot be written nor spoken to fully express the magnitude and greatness of God's love towards us in sending His Son to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. And only God, in the person of Christ, could live life without sinning and thus be that perfect sacrifice. Is there any question of whom we should make a lifelong commitment to? Doesn't He deserve to be honored with all our mind, strength and soul? What a loving Father He is to grant grace and meet all our needs. While we are still human and at times fall short, we can continue to learn, grow and keep our eyes on that eternal goal! May He cause all of our hearts to be filled with renewed hope, faith and joy as we remember the glorious resurrection during the coming Easter season.

The Sunday School Bible class spent a weekend in Tucson with the Arizona junior and senior Bible classes. Such weekends as these will be remembered and appreciated more and more as time goes by. Many thanks go to the teachers, parents and whole congregations who support these times by giving of their love, time and prayers.

Our entire young group also enjoyed a weekend of fellowship in Arizona. We extend a sincere thank you to the



Phoenix and Tucson young group for their planning and Christian hospitality. God has certainly blessed us richly with opportunities to travel, meet and be encouraged by sisters, brothers and friends within our precious faith. May we all remain true to Him as we continue through this life to our heavenly goal.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) and Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL). May God continue to bless and keep them always for their efforts of love.

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Peter and Marian Petrovic

During the past month we were blessed to have Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Walter Rehklau (Toledo, OH) minister God's holy Word unto us. We will long remember the precious hours spent together with these dear brethren from both near and far.

As we approach the time of the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection, let us deeply ponder upon that important day when Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of the Father, hung upon the cross, suffering for sin, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. May our hearts be melted with godly sorrow, animated by love and gratitude, and thus induced to yield ourselves willingly to His service.

Services continue to be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at Bro. Victor Jevremov's home.

### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

We were exhorted by visiting Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) that our God is the Alpha and Omega but that we must "Labour therefore to enter into that rest." Hebrews 4:11.

We are blessed to have the additions of Dave Romen (Lester, IA), Dave and Joan Schneider and children, Brian and Amy (West Bend, IA) and Bill Banwart (Eureka, IL) in our congregation. We hope they will feel God's nearness as they make their homes here.

Many times in this life young people face outside pressures to fellowship with unrighteousness. But it is always a welcome event when young people from across the country can gather in soberness to worship the living God.

Such was the blessing some of our dear young people felt when they gathered in Phoenix recently.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

#### Michelle Virkler

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

Hymns of Zion #218

Our hearts were saddened by the passing of five-year-old David Aaron Zahner. David died from injuries sustained when he was struck by a van outside his home. David's parents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie (Luginbuhl) Zahner. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Clara Beckley Zahner and maternal grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Pauline (Virkler) Luginbuhl. David leaves three brothers, Michael, Shawn, Jonathan, and a sister, Elisa. The funeral services were held on Thursday, February 14.

"Carry me, faithful Shepherd, carry me  
As Thy Lamb in Thy Compassion  
In Thy Arms with Shepherd fashion  
In faith I on Thee rely  
Bear me to Thy home on high"

Zion's Harp #152

When tragedy strikes we all feel so helpless, but we can rejoice that God called such a precious soul to be with him, and now David rests in Jesus loving arms. We can find comfort that David is safe from all earth's trials and cares. For the family, our hearts are overflowing with love and prayers for continued strength and courage to face the days ahead.

"Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him."

James 1:2

As one life passes away, another is born. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina Schneider are the parents of a baby boy, Philip Ernest. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider, and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron, OH).

"I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me"

Psalms 16:7

Bro. Scott Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma) has been announced to Sis. Joann Gerber (Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly). A March 10 wedding is planned.

Bro. Vern Lanz (Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda) has also been announced to Sis. Deanna Rufener (Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma (Rittman, OH)). A May wedding is planned. We rejoice that God has directed these couples to share their lives together.

Those that have been in the care of a physician or been hospitalized during the month of February are Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl, Bro. Harold Lanz, Sis. Martha Schneider and Sis. Rose Gottier.

"For I will restore health to you,  
and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord."

Jeremiah 30:17

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

#### Billie Klopfenstein

Our Elder Bro. Joe Braker and his wife, Sis. Shirley, recently spent a couple of busy weeks in our midst. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and Sis. Elna spent time with us also. Bro. Joe and Bro. Bob read the memorandum and spoke to us about upholding our faith and living according to God's Word. We were also privileged to have Bro. Bob and Bro. Joe minister to us during their visit.

The 1985 Winter Elder Conference was held in Ft. Lauderdale on February 13, 14 and 15. It was a blessed time for all of us. There were many new people to get acquainted with and to come to love in just a few short days. The blessings flowed all through the conference as we heard messages from Bros. Leroy Huber, Ronald Nelson, Lavoyd Moore, Orville Ringger, Don Sauder, Joe Stoller and Loren Stoller. Many beautiful prayers were also offered by various brothers.

On Friday evening Bro. Richard Schupbach showed slides of India and commented on his trip to that country. The whole conference was just a special time for the Ft. Lauderdale church and we will have many fond memories to look back on.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Roy Grimm who became ill during the conference. We trust he is feeling better by now.

Bela Tar has been hospitalized for a few days but is back at home and feeling better. Our prayers have been with him and his wife, Monica.

A big thank you to all of our winter visitors who helped our local people during the conference. We also want to thank our part-time residents who lent their apartments and homes to house the elders and their wives. Every bit of help received was deeply appreciated.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**  
**Marie Keller — Elsie Troxel**

As we think of Easter Day,  
"Christ rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky."  
Hymns of Zion #89, vs. 3

Early in February Elder Bro. Ben Maibach led our business meeting and numerous members were appointed to office. Bro. Vic Beer retired as trustee and Bro. Les Meister was elected to replace him.

In a recent sermon, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) stressed I Corinthians 4:7, "What hast thou that thou didst not receive?". He further stated, "We must have gratitude, respect and humility."

We were truly blessed this past month with many visiting ministers and their families: Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville, IL), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) said, "As long as we have sincere sheep, the Lord will provide shepherds."

Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) told us a nationwide survey shows that less than 15% of our population read the Bible daily. He exhorted us to spend time each day in meditation and Bible reading. Other visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH).

Again, we sincerely thank all our visiting ministers.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
**Doris and Diane Rocke**

God's glorious gospel preached to

mankind awakens them to true repentance. Our new brother-in-faith, Burley Ziegler gave his testimony of his changed heart, experienced the burial of his old self through baptism and the laying on of hands. May he ever feel the love of all his sisters and brothers in the Lord.

We thank Elder Bro. Ben Maibach for his continuing work again with the annual election. Vacant offices filled were: Sunday school - Bro. Bill Roeshner; Treasurer - Bro. Lloyd Pflederer; Trustee - Bro. Jeff Streitmatter, Jr.; Kitchen - Sis. Ruth Streitmatter; Ushers - Mike Siladie, Eli Anliker and Elmer Anliker.

Sis. Elaine Gudeman will be your new Silver Lining correspondent. Any special news or messages can be given to her. Bro. Tom and a daughter, Jennifer, complete her family.

We thank all who have served this past year and ask God to add His blessing.

March was the special collection month for the church building loan balance. We are very grateful for all gifts and labor towards this project. The attendance has filled the sanctuary which gives us a great satisfaction for all the labor and a job well done. The Fort Myers church has been completed for assembling and has been filled to capacity. How this pleases our God to have a place of worship for those who are seeking salvation. We feel His blessings.

Sis. Minnie Neust had eye surgery this month and is recovering nicely. Bro. Doug Sabo is recovering from surgery. May they feel God's nearness during their recovery. Bro. Dave Wing-eier has returned to Florida after heart surgery. We are so grateful for the strength given and feel his faith was increased by our prayers and love.

Visitors bringing the gospel messages to us this month were Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Roy Sauder (Peoria, IL), Joshua Broquard (Fairbury, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Rudy Graf (Akron, OH), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott,

KS), Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer (New York) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS).

As the dawn of another Easter sheds light upon the world, the people will commemorate that glorious event. It was because of His love for us that He said, "not my will, but thine be done." Then after the resurrection He said to His disciples, "all power is given me in heaven and in earth . . . lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18, 20. How thankful are we that the cross and grave was not the end? What a joy this can be to every child of God, that faith holds out for us an eternal hope. So let us renew our hope again in this Easter season.

**ILLINOIS,**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Jan Gudeman — Nancy Kaufmann**

We had the privilege of hosting a group of brothers and sisters from the Bluffton congregation this past month. It is always such a joy to be able to spend time together praising the Lord. Our visiting ministers from Bluffton were Bro. John Reinhard and Bro. Kent Ringger. Also visiting us from the Princeville congregation was Bro. Jim Plattner. We want to thank them all for their inspiring messages.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Sis. Lena Steiner (Sabetha, KS). She was the mother and grandmother of Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanne Haerr and family. We want to express our deepest sympathy and pray God will give them the grace and strength to accept His almighty will.

We held our semi-annual business meeting on January 30. Bro. Brent Nussbaum will be replacing Bro. Jim Kellenberger as secretary and Bro. Ron Hodel will be replacing Bro. Howard Maurer as trustee. We want to thank Bro. Jim and Bro. Howard for their past services.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Marilyn Tanner**

This past month Bros. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and their families visited our congregation. We are always thankful for the ministering brothers who proclaim God's Holy Word. May they be blessed.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro.



John Tanner and his family in the loss of his sister, Sis. Mary Tanner (Peoria).

We also wish to express our sympathy to Clarence and Sis. Sharon Bruell in the loss of their mother, Sis. Lucy Bruell (Morton). May the Lord comfort these two families.

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the many expressions of love and sympathy after the accident which took the life of my beloved husband, Cliff.

My heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude is extended to everyone who called and came to visit, sent cards, flowers and gifts, and remembered me in prayer while in the hospital and since returning home. A special thank you to all who remembered me with Christmas and birthday cards.

Your kindness, love, concern and prayers were felt and deeply appreciated. May God bless you all.

Marjie Sturm

#### HE SOFTLY CRIED

They whipped Him with a lash  
As He went forth to die,  
And falling beneath His cross,  
They heard Him softly cry.  
They cursed Him as a criminal,  
And He died unforgiven  
By those who nailed His hands,  
But cried while nails were driven.  
They cursed Him to His face  
Before His heart was pierced  
And He died softly crying  
From pain that seemed so fierce.  
I think it was His tears,  
And how He softly cried,  
Praying, "Father forgive . . ."  
That won me to His side.

P. Tanksley

#### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Sometimes we feel so useless, so tired, so worn-out, and full of nothing worthwhile. One ministering brother said to another, ready to stand and preach, "The Lord will provide," and the latter said, "He'd better. He sure doesn't have much to work with." The Lord can use us better when we have no strength of our own, and He knows just how to use us. We have a potato peeler of stainless steel that cuts so well now but loses that keen edge quickly. We have another made of carbon steel which keeps its edge but in the trauma of dishwasher cleansing tends to rust. So the Lord sees our

different talents and carefully uses each of us to complement the other and all of us to glorify Himself. In our weakness is His strength manifest.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) visited us and shared his ministry. We appreciate his God-given words and example.

Bro. Tom Neu has agreed to serve as one of our ushers, and Sis. Lois Metzger has joined the kitchen committee. We are especially grateful to those who are willing to accept such responsibilities in the church, and we thank those who have so recently stepped down from these positions for their faithful service.

We welcome three newcomers. Jaron Grimm from the Princeville, IL area, is working in a Des Plaines bank. May we learn to know her and extend our love. And, born January 30, dear little Calvin has been bestowed upon Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy. Alisha, Andrea and Jonathan are ready to be Mom and Dad's helpers at home. Dave's dad from Kansas and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL) are also such a support. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Schoenbein have been blessed by the arrival of Joshua on February 8. Sis. Lydia Schoenbein and Bro. Les and Sis. Irene Kaiser (Morton, IL) are his delighted grandparents. Our prayers and love are with each baby and his family.

We have two dear sisters who are physically hurting. In this bitter winter, Sis. Winnie Lehmann and Sis. Christine Fuhrmann have rarely been able to come fellowship with us. We miss them, and our hearts ache for their infirmities; yet they are accepting. We pray the Lord will give them strength enough to fellowship with us again soon.

Revelation 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." We rejoice for Sis. Charlotte Meyer's mother, Sis. Lena Haerr Steiner, that the pain of earth has been eclipsed by heaven's glorious realms. But for those who remain, Sis. Charlotte, Bro. Lenny, their children, and Sis. Heidi Haerr, also a granddaughter, there is grief, not a hopeless grief, yet cutting and painful all the same. When one who loves so well and is so well loved dies, the separation (even if only for a short time) is sharp

and tearing. However, comfort is available from the Lord, often by the touch of caring brothers and sisters. May we be supportive of these dear ones in prayer, word and deed.

Sometimes the example is vivid. My two (going on three) year old nephew was beside me in afternoon church. Having a hearty dose of humanness, he wanted to stand and look at people in the bench behind us. Patiently and consistently, his mother brought him to his knees, allowing him instead to kneel and not to stand. Every thirty seconds, or so it seemed, time after time after time, she corrected his posture and made him kneel. Gradually he realized there was no other way, and he obeyed and stayed on his knees. In only an afternoon my dear nephew learned (though he may need some reminding). But I wonder how long, O Lord, will it take Thee to teach me to be obedient, that I may learn in all things to kneel according to Thy will, rather than to stand in my own strength.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain  
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.  
He'll lighten the load, And level the  
road  
And bear thee on hands of compassion,  
Zion's Harp #46

The death angel came quickly and quietly to our congregation three times this month. We were all saddened by the death of Sis. Sophia Funk, 89, who passed away January 22 at the Menonite Hospital of Bloomington. She had been a resident of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home since April 1984. Survivors include her husband, Bro. Jake; three daughters, Sis. Irene Stoller (Melvin, Haviland, OH), Sis. Iva Stoller (Darl, Latty, OH) and Sis. Melba Steffen (Eldon, Cissna Park).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Esther Hodel, 73, who suddenly became ill and passed away February 4 in the Watseka Hospital. Survivors include her husband, Bro. Paul; five daughters, Mary Jane Mueller (George, Watseka), Carol Crist (Les, Arroyo Grande, CA), Sis. Lois Neihouser (Bro. Andre, Francesville, IN), Sis. Joyce Bauer (the late Bro. John, Cissna Park), Gloria Leman (Douglas, East Peoria); one foster daughter, Sis.

Mildred Vogel (Bro. Clarence, Cissna Park).

Our sympathy also goes out to the family and relatives of Lena Aeschliman, 98, who was born March 2, 1886, at Cissna Park. She passed away February 7 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, AZ. Surviving are three daughters, Bernice and Ellen Aeschliman (both of Sun City, AZ) and Judith Barry (Palos Park, IL); two sons, Orin (Largo, FL) and Wilbur (Sun City, AZ). She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Aeschliman, her parents, five brothers and five sisters. Burial was in our Cissna Park church cemetery where her husband is buried.

Our hearts go out to all those who were saddened by the death of their loved ones. May the Lord be their comfort and strength during their lonely hours.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder have been greatly blessed with 50 years of married life together. Many relatives and friends came to share in their joy at an open house February 10 at the fellowship hall. Our ministering Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) came to enjoy the day with us.

February 17 was a special day for Sis. Beth Bauer and Bro. Max Kaeb as they exchanged their wedding vows before many witnesses. The parents are the late Earl and Sis. Grace Bauer and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. We wish them many blessings as they begin their married life together. Ministering Bros. Everett Hari, Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Edwin Bahler and Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN) came to spend the joyous occasion with us.

We think of those who are sick and in the hospital; Bro. Charles Walder, who is still hospitalized at this time, Herbert Hofer, Bro. Wayne Hauptli and Sis. Nettie Obergfel, who have returned home again. May the Lord pour in the healing balm.

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen: He is not here; behold the place where they laid Him. Mark 16:6. As the Easter season is approaching, let us remember how our Lord suffered, was crucified and shed His blood for our sins.

come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

St. John 12:12-13

As we approach Palm Sunday, each day, let us strive to walk in our Lord's footprints.

A little ray of sunshine, named Henry Jason, has come into the lives of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily Wettstein. Happy grandparents are Clarence and Lorene Schlipf and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka). May God give them the guidance to raise this precious bundle in His ways.

We truly rejoice with Bro. Sam Blunier (Eureka) and Sis. Boni Ott as they became one in the Lord on January 20. Their parents are Clayton and Sis. Margret Ott and Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz Blunier (Eureka). Even though we will miss Boni's smiling face, we are sure she will be appreciated in Eureka.

We pray God will bless those ministers who lent themselves in our behalf this month. We can be so thankful God brings us His teachings through his faithful servants. These ministers were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Fanny Schieber (Bro. Harvey) and Deb Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri). We are glad they are both home and pray God will continue to keep His healing hand over them.

At our annual business meeting this month, Bro. Benny Wettstein was elected as usher, Bro. Jake Rinkenberger, Bro. Larry Ifft, Sis. Kathy Knapp, Sis. Shirley Ifft and Sis. Norma Stahl were elected for Sunday School teachers; Bro. Jerry Banwart was elected as secretary; and Bro. Steve Schrock was elected trustee. We pray that these brothers and sisters can find grace from God to fill their positions.

Emil Stahl wishes to thank all who have sent them cards, gifts, flowers and visits while he was in the hospital and since he's home and also for the many prayers offered.

blessed truth. He suffered the severe agony of the cross and shed His blood as a sin covering for all who would seek it forever. Such love, compassion, courage and humility is incomprehensible to us, but He went willingly as Isaiah 50:6 says: "I gave My back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting." He bore all this because of our transgressions and He "opened not His mouth". Since the grave could not contain Him, He has arisen victoriously over death and has ascended to the Father where He sits at His right hand to make intercession for us. This is the gift of eternal life which is open to all who seek it.

There are four souls who have been willing to give over their hearts to this Saviour in our Elgin congregation and we are so grateful. It is so encouraging to observe the handiwork of God when He draws another soul to Himself and converts the heart by His transforming power. Glen and Shirley Schifferer, Greg Kellenberger and Vicki Kellenberger are these newly yielded souls and we pray that God will give them an abundant measure of grace to pick up the cross and follow the Saviour.

Sickness has afflicted several of our loved ones, and we want to be mindful of them always in our prayers and be of assistance to their physical needs as the Lord would give us opportunity. Nan Stettner is at home, but needs our ongoing support in prayer and deed. She has expressed much appreciation for all the gifts of love given her during her recent hospitalization. Sis. Katie Kachelmuss had need of hospitalization and is now residing in the Americana Health Care Center. Mary Lindoerfer is at home again after spending some time in the hospital. Marion Graff remains hospitalized at this time.

The home of Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller has been blessed with a new daughter, Diedra Edna, born February 2. Ryan, Daren, Angela, Austin, Tristan and Shayna share this home and the grandparents are Edna Mueller (Fairbury) and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park). May the Lord dwell with them that the children may be reared to serve Him.

Bro. Morey Weiss has moved from our community to Vermont where he is presently employed. He has the advantage of being near his children there, and we trust that the Lord will be near to all of them.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Joan Schrock — Tammy Knapp

On the next day much people that were

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

Christ has arisen! How we should continually magnify His name for this

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Kathy L. Rocke**

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

Zion's Harp #237

January 20 was the day Sis. Boni Ott (Clayton and Sis. Margaret, Congerville) and Bro. Sam Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth) exchanged their wedding vows. We welcome Sis. Boni to our congregation and pray that God will richly bless their life together.

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Mike Knecht and Sis. Lisa Leman made their engagement known January 20. Their parents are Richard and Janet Knecht and Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman. May God direct them as they plan for an April wedding.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Clara Huber (Elder Bro. Leroy) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Lena Steiner (Sabetha, KS) and sister-in-law, Sis. Anna Rassi (Morton). May God's comforting spirit be with all those who have suffered loss of loved ones.

Hospitalized this past month or confined to their homes were Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Bro. Leland), Sis. Laydine Hinrichsen (Bro. Thurman), Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Norman), Sis. Verda Blunier (Bro. Vernon) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall. We ask that God will spiritually and physically strengthen those who have suffered bodily afflictions.

"My loving Father, Thou dost take me To be henceforth Thy child and heir." Zion's Harp #41. After hearing his testimony of faith and conversion, we welcomed Bro. Don Frank into our brotherhood. May God grant him sufficient grace to daily walk this earthly path according to His will. His parents are Bro. Richard (and the late Sis. Nathalia) Frank.

We were thankful for ministering Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke). May God bless them for bringing forth the Word of God.

We had the privilege of hosting the ACYF singing on February 10 and 17. We thank each teacher and Bible class student who took part. It was very inspiring and we hope everyone received a blessing through their efforts.

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

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

The Bible is like a compass — it always points the believer in the right direction.

—————  
**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr**

The weekend of January 26 and 27 was a very blessed one as five converts gave their testimony and were baptized. They were Neil Bahler (Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne), Crystal Broquard (Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione), James Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Mary Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) and Phyllis Welborn (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger). May they feel God's nearness in their new walk of life. We had many visitors and sharing God's precious Word with us were Elder Bros. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont, KS).

Other visiting ministers recently were Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Leroy Hartman (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

We have had various ones hospitalized during the last month due to illness, surgery or injuries from falling. We are always glad to hear when they are able to return to their homes.

As we approach the Easter season and think of the great price that was paid for each of us, the words in verse 2 of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" seemed so fitting:

Upon that cross of Jesus, Mine eye at times can see

The very dying form of One, Who suffered there for me;  
 And from my; smitten heart with tears,  
 Two wonders I confess —  
 The wonders of His glorious love, And my own worthlessness.

Hymn #301 — Tabernacle

—————  
**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Kathy Leman — Sharon Adams**

Our congregation thanks Bro. Gary Anliker for lending himself in God's service. We have such a privilege to be able to assemble freely and hear the

Word of God expounded to us in such full measure. May we ever be thankful for this.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Bro. Elmer Stoller and Bro. Craig Rudin. Let us always keep a prayer on our heart for those that must endure affliction.

Our dear Sis. Rose Tyler was laid to rest on Sunday, March 3. She is survived by her daughter, Sis. Louise Anliker (Bro. Emil). It is a blessing to be able to go home when we have made preparations for eternity.

Bro. Jeff Zimmerman and Sis. Stephanie Waibel are engaged to be married. Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman and Eldon and Marge Waibel. May God go with them as they make their wedding plans.

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

Let us remember as Easter approaches that Christ died and rose again that we poor mortal beings might have eternal life.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Louise Anliker wish to thank everyone for their gifts, cards, flowers, meals and expressions of love for their 50th wedding anniversary and the passing away of their mother, Sis. Rosa Tyler. May God bless each one.

—————  
**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Bev Joos**

We have just celebrated the wonderful birth of our Saviour and King. Though often times our thoughts drift to our loved ones who have preceded us in death, it is especially so during the year's holidays when families gather together. Think how tremendous it will be when reunited families spend Christmas in heaven. Sis. Persida Wiegand shares these wondrous thoughts by Albert Simpson Reitz.

**MY FIRST CHRISTMAS  
 IN HEAVEN**

I had my first Christmas in heaven  
 A glorious, wonderful day!  
 I stood with the saints of the ages,  
 Who found Christ the Truth and the Way.



I sang with the heavenly choir;  
Just think! I, who longed so to sing!  
And oh, what celestial music  
We brought to our Savior and King!

We sang the glad songs of redemption,  
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,  
And how they called His name Jesus,  
Who to us a blessing became.

We sang once again with the angels,  
The song that they sang that blest morn,  
When shepherds first heard the glad  
story  
That Jesus, the Savior, was born.

Oh, how I wish you had been there;  
No Christmas on earth could compare  
With all the rapture and glory  
We witnessed in heaven so fair.

You know how I always loved Christmas;  
It seemed such a wonderful day,  
With all my loved ones around me,  
The children so happy and gay.

Yes, now I can see why I loved it;  
And oh, what a joy it will be  
When you and my loved ones are with  
me,  
To share in the glories I see.

So dear ones on earth, here's my  
greeting:  
Look up till the day dawn appears,  
And oh, what a Christmas awaits us,  
Beyond all partings and tears.

If questioned, the majority of man-  
kind would probably reply that Christ-  
mas is the most important holiday of  
the year. Is it? Certainly, it is the  
Beginning of our promise. The mere  
birth of our Saviour, however, does not  
make God's plan of salvation complete.  
We must travel to the cross on Cal-  
vary's Hill. There, at Golgotha, the  
most horrifying of deaths led to our  
redemption. As the blood was shed  
from the pierced side, our eternal hope  
was obtained. Let us observe Easter,  
the Fulfillment of our promise in this  
manner:

Eagerness to serve  
Awareness of His purpose  
Steadfastness in faith  
Thoughtfulness in words and deeds  
Expressing oneself in prayer and  
song  
Realizing we, of ourselves, are  
nothing.

We rejoice in the news of weddings,  
for the Apostle Paul compared this

holy relationship to be as sacred as that  
of Christ to the Church. Beth Hartter  
and Jerry Gouge (Eureka) have shared  
their wedding vows and are now one.  
Sis. Kenda Roth has announced her  
engagement to Bro. Ted Taufer (Mor-  
ton).

A very sweet son, Brad Courtney,  
arrived February 5. Brad's joyful par-  
ents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary  
Knapp. He will be a playmate to his  
sister, Angela. The happy grandpar-  
ents are Sis. Wilma Knapp (Eureka)  
and Paul and Janice Zook (Washburn).

We are most appreciative of the  
efforts of Elder Bro. Eugene Marti  
(Lamar, MO) who assisted in the read-  
ing of the memorandum on January 26.

Our prayers for renewed health have  
been with Bro. Sam Schieler and Sis.  
Loida Knapp as they have undergone  
surgery this past month.

Sincere sympathy is extended to  
Bro. Adolph and Bro. Ben Tanner in  
the loss of their sister, Mary Tanner  
(Peoria).

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"If you wish to have a family worship  
time be part of your daily life, you must  
treat it as a medical emergency." Elder  
Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) was  
recently with us to talk about being  
good parents. This was one of the many  
good thoughts he left us with. So many  
of us have found how easily the many  
activities and full schedules associated  
with school age children can push Bible  
reading aside because there "just  
wasn't time". Unfortunately, the eve-  
nings when there is enough time don't  
happen often enough. But if we treat  
the spiritual training of our precious  
children as a medical emergency  
(which indeed it is if they are to be  
spiritually healthy), no doubt God will  
bless our efforts, and as we sow, we will  
reap.

Our hospital patients have been,  
Lola Schlipf, Sis. Ella Cargill, Sis.  
Mary Martin and Sis. Carol Stoller  
(Bro. Larry's wife).

#### SUPPOSE

If all that we say In a single day,  
With never a word left out,  
Were printed each night In clear black  
and white,  
'Twould prove queer reading, no doubt.  
And then just suppose Ere one's eyes  
he could close,

He must read the day's record through;  
Then wouldn't one sigh, And wouldn't  
he try  
A great deal less talking to do?  
And I more than half think That many  
a kink  
Would be smoothed in life's tangled  
thread,  
If one-half that we say In a single day  
Were left forever unsaid.

Author Unknown

"In the multitude of words there  
wanteth not sin; but he that refraineth  
his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19

#### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Audrey Martin

"Wherefore take unto you the whole  
armour of God, that ye may be able to  
withstand in the evil day, and having  
done all to stand."

Ephesians 6:13

Paul related the arming up of our-  
selves with spiritual armour to that of a  
Roman soldier, one who must be able  
to endure great amounts of stress and  
tribulation. We are to have our loins  
girt about with the truth. We should  
girt or secure the Word of God tightly  
about us so we have freedom of move-  
ment in Him when the battles come our  
way. We need to have on the breast-  
plate of righteousness protecting our  
hearts, the most vulnerable portion of  
our body. The Roman soldier's breast-  
plate was very sturdy, but yet flexible  
and covered his most vital organs from  
the neck to the knees. We need to have  
God's righteousness for our protection  
of our spiritual body. The soldier had  
to have his feet properly shod to pre-  
vent his stepping on one of the very  
sharp pieces of wood which were often  
planted by the enemy to cripple him.  
We are shod with the preparation of  
the gospel of peace when we first  
repent and become converted and are  
given God's peace, and also when we  
are spiritually prepared at all times,  
keeping that peace in our hearts. We  
should shod our feet so that we can  
swiftly carry the "good news" of peace  
to others. A valuable piece of equip-  
ment is the shield of faith. The shields  
of that time were made of a layer of  
wood covered with a layer of metal and  
of leather. They were specially treated  
to extinguish burning arrows upon con-  
tact which were fired at them. May our

faith be durable enough to quench the darts of Satan and his followers. Two other parts of the armour mentioned were the helmet of salvation to protect ones head, which man needs to think clearly, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We need to be practiced up in handling this sword so we don't have to clumsily try to pull it from the sheath when the enemy strikes. We should be able to use it with skill and ease. If we put on this whole armour daily, we will be prepared to fight the enemy by the grace of God.

Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) held two Bible study sessions on depression and how to overcome it. Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) taught us about God's perfect and permissive will. Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) spoke to us on proper ways of witnessing, and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) gave us insight into the Roman soldier's armour and related it to our spiritual armour. Bible study is still held in Schroeder 244 every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. We welcome all to come and share God's truth with us.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

##### Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn Roeschley welcome into their hearts and home, Gabrielle Katherine. Gabrielle was born on January 15. Her three sisters are Stephanie, Geana and Summer. Her happy grandparents are Sis. Mabel Roeschley (Morton, IL) and Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman (Sabetha, KS). Great-grandmother is Sis. Naomi Bauman (Morton, IL).

We are rejoicing with Sis. Sara Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sarah) and Bro. Phil Rapp (Henry, Jr. and Sis. Berniece) as the Lord has drawn them together to become "one in Christ Jesus". May God continue to richly bless them and truly be the head of their home.

Bro. Ted Taufer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Eunice) was directed by our heavenly Father to become "one in Christ Jesus" with Sis. Kendra Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine, Goodfield, IL). May God continue to bless them.

Marie Malizzo (Sis. Marlene) and Keith Schick (Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane) gave their testimonies of faith on January 19. We witnessed their baptisms on January 20 and welcomed them as our dear sister and brother in our most precious faith. May the Lord continue to lead, guide and direct them

as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

Sis. Anna Rassi was called Home. Her funeral was on January 28. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Bro. David, her family and friends. Shortly after his wife's passing, Bro. David received word that his sister, Sis. Lena (Haerr) Steiner (Sabetha, KS) had been called Home. May God bless and comfort her husband, Bro. Noah, her family and friends. May the Rassi family continue to feel our prayers and may God fill the vacant chairs with His love.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Chris Kaiser welcome into their hearts and home Kelly Rose. Kelly was born February 2 and has a sister, Kim. The happy grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Emmadale Baer and Sis. Till Kaiser (all of Morton).

Sis. Sallie Belsley (Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas) and Bro. Todd Hoerr (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora, Peoria, IL) were united in marriage on February 3. May God bless them and be the head of their home.

Sis. Carrie Geiger wishes to extend her sincere thanks to all who expressed their love and consideration while she was in the hospital. May God bless all who were so kind.

Bro. Doug, Sis. Carol and Casey Getz welcome into their hearts and home, Staci Jo. Staci was born February 5. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Getz (all of Morton). Her great-grandfather is Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL).

Roxie Rapp was called into Eternity. Her funeral was February 13. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Mary Knapp was called Home. Her funeral was February 13. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

May we continue to remember our loved ones who are in the hospital, sick and/or shut-in with our prayers, phone calls and/or cards.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

Give Your Address Change  
To Your Reporter

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Margo Marx — Susi Herman

##### EASTER IS

Easter is a sunny time  
When soft, warm breezes blow,  
When crocus and bright daffodil  
Replace the ice and snow.

Easter is a happy time  
When bird songs fill the air,  
When childish laughter, light and gay,  
Is ringing everywhere.

Easter is a joyous time,  
So let your voice be heard  
In joyful alleluias  
To Christ, the Risen Lord.

Easter's Resurrection time,  
And let us not forget  
That He who rose up from the grave  
Is living with us yet.

Easter is so many things  
All lovely to behold,  
To cherish in fond memory,  
To guard, and to enfold.

Mrs. Paul E. King

It seems impossible that Easter is just around the corner! We had an over abundance of snow in February so we are relieved to see the signs of Spring in this area. Let us not forget the true meaning of this Easter season and that He who arose from the grave is still with us each day in all we do.

Two families in our congregation have joyfully received new additions to their households. Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel were blessed with a new daughter, Bonnie Jean. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz. Bonnie's sisters, Renee' and Rachael, and her brother, William, all welcome her.

Jay Radley is the name given to the first son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie Geyer. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Hazel Geyer and Ivan and Erma Steiner (Morton). Deanna and Penny are happy to have a new brother.

We thank our Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) for their labors of love.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Oscar Hoerr, Sis. Martha Bittner and Anna Traub. May God grant them strength and good health according to His will.



Bro. Toby Schneider wishes to thank all the relatives and friends for the many prayers, cards and gifts he received while recuperating at home from a fall he had. "May He bless you all for your kindness."

We give our love and sympathy to the families and close friends of Sis. Evelyn Thomas, Sis. Mary Tanner, Louise Williams and Rose Emma Ackerman, sister of Phillip J. and Lena R. Hoerr.

February 3 was the wedding day of Bro. Todd Hoerr and Sis. Sally Belsley (Morton). Their parents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley (Morton). We share their joy, that God has enriched their lives by giving them each other.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Marjean Lehman**

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

"In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblemished and unprovable in his sight;

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;"  
 Colossians 1:21-23

We have been together on Wednesday evenings to hear the tapes of the conference held in Lester, IA. As God's Word instructs us, we are encouraged by our elder brethren to live our lives in Holiness.

We offer our sympathy to Cordelia Musselman in the loss of her brother, Alfred Spahr (Davenport, IA).

"What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
 All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!

Hymns of Zion #161

Don and Carol Baer welcome a sweet baby girl into their hearts and home. Her name is Megan Christine and she was born January 30. Children are a blessing sent from heaven. We wish them God's blessings in nurturing this little soul.

We extend congratulations to Bro. Harold and Sis. Anna Streitmatter on

their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless them as He has in the past. Thank you: Our sincere and heartfelt thanks for remembering us with so many cards, and loving and kind deeds for our 50th anniversary.

Harold and Anna Streitmatter

"Send, Lord, Thy holy teaching  
 To us in humble preaching,  
 Yet in the Spirit's pow'r,  
 That we, a new creation,  
 In love and true devotion  
 May bear our burden ev'ry hour."

Zion's Harp #207

We thank Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) for lending himself to us in the preaching of God's Word.

Sis. Karen Steiner slipped on the ice and broke her ankle. Sis. Wilma Martin had surgery on her hand. We pray for God's healing for both of these dear sisters.

"He who feeds on Holy bread  
 Will always have his spirit fed,  
 And even the poorest of men can afford  
 To feast at the table prepared by the  
 Lord."

Author Unknown

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Carol Rumbold — Carol Knapp**

"If we have the ability to rejoice with those who rejoice we will always have something for which to be thankful." This thought was shared with us by a visiting minister at a recent Bible study. The messages of the following visiting ministers have given us reason to rejoice: Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

Three homes have been blessed with new babies, and each of these little ones has the privilege of having an older sibling to welcome them. Sam and Robin Hodel and Mandy are happy to have little Andrea Lynn added to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel and Richard and Beverly Koehler. A little girl named Jessica Dawn has been welcomed into the home of Joe and Terry Barth. She is a baby sister to Jonathon. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth and Charles and Dixie Schlossler. Jim and Jane Thompson and big brother, Jared, have found a special place in their home and hearts for little Jordan

Carl. Grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlis Sauder and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thompson, Sr. We wish God's blessings for these Moms and Dads as they experience the joys and the challenges of parenthood.

Our Sis. Eileen Roth became the bride of Bro. Kirk Stoller (Latty, OH) on February 10. May God's blessings be abundant in their newly established home. We are confident that Eileen's radiance will continue to be a source of joy for those around her in Latty as it has been here in Roanoke, including our little ones whom she taught in Sunday School. Their parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna Roth (Roanoke) and Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty, OH).

Those with whom we rejoice also include Bro. Ray and Dolly Rechkemer whose family hosted an open house for their golden wedding anniversary.

Recent hospital patients include Sis. Lydia Schaefer, Sis. Mary Hoffman, Bro. Gene Bertschi and Bro. Lou Zimmerman. Let us take a moment to remember them in prayer.

As we anticipate this Easter season, may we rejoice to know our Lord is risen!

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Dorothy Wagenbach**  
**Carolyn Bolliger**

There was One who was willing to die  
 in my stead,  
 That a soul so unworthy might live;  
 And the path to the cross He was  
 willing to tread,  
 All the sins of my life to forgive.  
 They are nailed to the cross,  
 They are nailed to the cross,  
 O how much He was willing to bear!  
 With what anguish and loss Jesus went  
 to the cross!  
 But He carried my sins with Him there.  
 Gospel Hymns #783

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley), Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and John Steiner (Oakville).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Arnold Rassi and family, as they recently lost a sister, Sis. Lena Hoerr Steiner (Sabetha, KS) and a sister-in-law, Sis. Anna Rassi (Morton). May



God comfort the bereaved hearts.

Ruth Endress (Fred), Bob Sauder (Sis. Elizabeth) and Si Wagenbach III (Simon and Sis. LaVonne) all had the misfortune of braking bones. We hope they are all mending nicely.

Sis. Betty Schweigert (Bro. Les), Sis. Sophia Steiner (Bro. Dan) and Bro. Reuben Schweigert all were surgical patients. We are happy they are all recuperating nicely. At this writing Sis. Hanna Koch is in the hospital. We hope she can soon be dismissed and her health improved.

We recently rejoiced with Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophia Steiner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Jewel Sauder, as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries. We wish them many more years together.

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me and the cards and many gifts you dear ones have sent me while I was in the hospital. I appreciated it very much.

Bro. Ernest Schaefer

#### ILLINOIS, URBANA

##### Cheryl Mangers

On Sunday, February 17, we bid farewell to Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti as they left our congregation for their new home in Ricelake, WI. Our prayers go with them.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford). We thank them for their labors of love.

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

##### Sally Plattner — Ellen Cox

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalm 136:1. Every morning we wake up in a warm bed, protected from this cold mid-western winter, able to look forward to a day provided with food, clothing and shelter. Can't we really acknowledge that the Lord is good? Isn't he merciful to each of us?

We were blessed with three visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). May God bless each brother and his family for sharing with us.

Our friends, Sue Rupert and Melvin Martin were hospitalized and are now recovering at their homes. We hope

that they are able to assemble with us again soon.

Bro. Rich Dreeste's brother, Phil, died suddenly in St. Louis, MO. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Rich and his family.

At our New Year's Eve service, one of our ministering brothers challenged us by asking how many souls we would tell about the Lord Jesus Christ in 1985. January is now gone and as this is being written, February is halfway over. Are we accepting this challenge and working toward it? I, for one, have work to do! May the Lord help each one of us for there is yet so much work to be done in His vineyard.

As the Easter season approaches, may we seriously consider what the Lord has done for each of us. He came to live on this earth, die for our sins, then rose again so that we might have the hope of eternal life with Him. Can't we again agree with the psalmist that the "Lord is good and his mercy endureth forever".

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

##### Eunice Fiechter — Carolyn Meyer

It was a disappointment to all when church was cancelled on Sunday, January 20 because of bad weather. We also did not meet on Wednesday evening, February 13 because of snow again. A week certainly is not complete when we are unable to worship together.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen Bertsch welcomed their new son, Bradley David into their family on February 7. We are sure Jenny, Ryan and Zachary are happy with their new little brother as well as his grandparents, Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Barbara Pfister. May God grant their family many blessings.

Our retired Elder Bro. John Yergler and his wife, Sis. Ella, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary January 30. May God's blessings be theirs in the golden years.

On January 26 Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter's daughter, Lisa and Doyle Weil were united in marriage. His mother is Mrs. Nora Weil. We wish them much happiness in their future together.

Bro. Daniel Lantz Sr. was confined in the hospital but is now at home convelescing. Others having hospital stays this month were Bro. Harry Towner, Sis. Rowena Reinhard and Sherri

Gerber. Our prayers are with each and every one of them.

Sis. Leah Ringger has moved from her home in the country to the Meadowvale Care Center in Bluffton. April 1 she will be 94 years old. She is our Elder Bro. Orville Ringger's mother. Also, Sis. Evelyn Pease, who has resided in Mobile Manor for many years, has moved to Coopers. Our prayers are with them both as they settle in a new home.

With thankful hearts, we approach the Easter season, as we can rejoice together in Christ's resurrection.

Christ is the world's Paschal Lamb.

He is the Great "I was, I am".

Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,

He conquered over death and tomb,

He rose His own to justify,

And draws all men up to the sky.

If you have found the Christ — His Way,

Then you can keep this Easter Day.

Henry Beer

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

##### Virginia Rauch — Cindy Geisel

Easter comes but once a year,  
With a message for all to hear.  
Christ, on the cross, His life has given,  
So that all might go to heaven.  
Then He rose up from the grave  
Triumphantly, our lives to save.  
Oh, sinner, listen to His call,  
Jesus died for one and all!

As snow has cleansed our earth with a blanket of pure white snow, so repentance cleanses the soul and makes it snow white. We were privileged to hear the testimonies and then witness the baptisms of six dear souls on February 10. They were Beth Flueckinger, Susan Maynard, Joy Baumgartner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce), Ervin Kaehr, Rod Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyl) and Chris Honegger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy). Let us continue to remember them in prayer as they begin this new walk of life in Christ.

Two more precious souls have turned from the ways of the world and are making Jesus their choice. Waiting to be baptized in the near future are Andy Shively (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sally) and Cindy LeMaster. We wish them God's unfailing grace.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Tami Gerber (Bro.

Dale and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Doug Kaehr (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen, Bluffton). We wish them much happiness in the days ahead as they plan their June wedding.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis) minister to us this past month. We welcome them and their families back any time.

Remember, if you have laboriously and faithfully accomplished your appointed task, go to sleep. God will be awake.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

#### TREASURE OF CALVARY

Men search for treasure of diamonds and gold,

I found a treasure — it's value untold;  
One day, believing, my eyes did behold  
This treasure of Calvary.

I found a treasure at Calvary,  
Worth more than all of this world to me;  
And it will last for eternity —  
This treasure I found at Calvary.

O it's so precious, this treasure divine,  
Christ is my Saviour, forever He's mine;  
All earthly treasures I gladly resign  
For treasures of Calvary.

How wonderful it is at Easter time,  
and all year, to realize we possess this  
"treasure of Calvary". Truly, nothing  
compares to it.

On Saturday, January 26, many gathered at the Fellowship Center for an inspiring afternoon and evening together. Ministering Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) shared with us "A Biblical Approach to Financial Planning".

We were reminded that we are only stewards of any earthly possessions, and we were exhorted to ask God's direction in how we use what we've been entrusted with.

Bro. Marshall was also with us on Sunday. Our thanks to him for his loving service to us.

We enjoyed fellowship with a number of couples from Bloomington, IL on February 10. Ministering Bro. Kevin Knapp was among those visiting. How thankful we are for brothers who willingly wait upon God's Spirit for words to speak! Our thanks to Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) for serving us on

a recent Sunday, also.

On November 3, David Overmyer (Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol) was united in marriage to Sherri Firkins (Mr. and Mrs. Howard, Wolcott). We wish God's richest blessings on their lives together.

Babies bring special joy to families! Dennis and Kitty Gutwein welcomed a little girl, Lydia Ruth, into their family on February 7. Two big brothers, Jonathan and Jacob welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich and Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gutwein.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Charlie Baumgartner in the death of his father, Henry Baumgartner (Milford, IN).

We also offer our sympathy to Sis. Lois Neihouser at the death of her mother, Sis. Esther Hodel (Cissna Park, IL).

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 30. The following offices were prayerfully filled: Sunday School Superintendent - Bro. Ken Wuethrich, Sunday School Teachers - Bros. Harvey Gutwein, Gene Huber, Randy Gudeman and Ben Metz, Church Trustee - Bro. Dick Overmyer, Ushers - Bros. Charles Anliker and Ron Vogt, Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Rick Wuethrich, Missionary Committee - Bro. Keith Schladenhauffen, Parkview Haven Board - Bro. Bill Huber.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

#### Lynn Winslow — Judy Dubach

God's Word answers, I know everything you think — every thought that comes into your minds. Ezekiel 11:5. "You Lord know my every thought." Psalm 139:2. How wonderful. God knows; someone understands what we are thinking! You're blue or frustrated. You have a need, but you don't know what it is. God's Word encourages, "My God will supply every need of yours". Philippians 4:19. How can God do this? He knows your needs. You're in anguish, overwhelmed by grief — no one can feel the pain of your sorrow; you reason, "Yes Lord, You know the facts; You know even what I'm thinking; but do you know how I feel?"

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to

help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:15, 16

The scriptural truth on which these Biblical answers are based is the fact that God knows everything. God always knew everything and therefore, never had to learn anything.

What does the phrase "God knows everything" mean? We need a picture for our minds in order to comprehend the aspect of God's character. For illustration, take the idea of "movement". "Known completely unto God are all his works from beginning of the world." Acts 15:18. A total knowledge of all His works would mean that God knows every wing flutter of each fly, bee or bird at this very moment. Every gentle sway of grass is known by God. Every human step, jerk of head and tap of fingers is perceived by God. (Psalm 139:1-3). Another amazing thing about God's omniscience is that not only does he know the minutest detail of the past, present and future, but He knows all the possibilities; He knows the "what ifs". (I John 3:20). Have you ever wondered, "What if it had all happened another way? God knows exactly what would have happened. How obvious that we should seek counsel and direction from our God who perceives the whole picture. "Wait for the Lord — I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go." Psalm 27:14.

God knows everything about you and yet He still loves you. What relief knowing you do not have to be something you're not; you're loved even as you are. No one can sneak up to God and reveal something that will cause His love for you to diminish. How comforting to realize that because God knows our frame, He knows what we will need in the future as well as the present. "Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24. Trust your present situation and future to Him — "For He careth for you" and will never fail you.

Excerpts from Behold Your God

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer in the death of her mother. As one soul has found its Home, another is striving for its home. Bro. Bob Horn (Sis. Diane) gave his testimony promising to follow the Lord, then was baptized January 27. We thank our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for being with us. Other ministering Bros. Jack



Bollier (Leo) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley) were present to share the Word and visit their children.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Thelma Schlatter**

"Oh, sing His praise, the news proclaim,  
 He burst the tomb, He lives again!  
 Sound forth His praise, the story tell,  
 He lives, our Lord, Immanuel!"

Jennie Lawson

Bro. James Rinckenberger's (Bluffton) ministry and the visit of young people the same weekend brought double blessing.

We were sorry to hear Sis. Margaret Frautschi (Bro. Al) was hospitalized during their vacation in Arizona. The latest and good news is that she is improving nicely.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz, Sisters Betty Luginbuhl and Elaine Norr went to Jamaica and Haiti where they offered some time in His service.

"So much in this world is valued materially; reduced to a marketplace price. It has to be. That's just the way it is. But there are also values outside the material realm.

"What value can you place  
 On a fragile human life?

What is the net worth

Of a child, a husband, a wife?

Are they worth the big investment?

The time, the care, the tears?

The sleepless nights, the midnight  
 talks,

The worry, pains and fears?

Unknown

If you ever ask these questions

Then go on, ask more:

Why our dear God and Saviour never  
 doubted

When in love He died for you."

The Log

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Joyce Kaiser — Shelby Beer**

We recently gathered together to hear the testimony of faith of our dear friend Sue Losee (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mim Speicher). On Sunday, January 26, we witnessed her baptism and welcomed her into the family of God. May our heavenly Father sustain, keep, bless and guide her as she walks the narrow path of life.

We continue to be thankful to God for the restoring of good health to our

dear Sis. Dorothy Martin who had recent surgery.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Pete Doll's family in the loss of his mother and to Sis. Marcy Haab's family in the loss of her sister, Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter (Wolcott). We truly beseech God's comfort in this time of sorrow.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Ann Troup are enjoying two new granddaughters. On January 29, Jennifer Ann was born to Terry and Cris McDaniel. Harold and Sis. Angie Higginbotham welcomed Jocelyn LeAnn into their home on February 17. They also have a son, Neil. Truly our responsibility as parents is to "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Not only at this Easter season, but throughout our lives, may we continually be reminded of what Jesus did for us that day at Calvary.

I stood one day at Calvary  
 Where Jesus bled and died,  
 I never knew He loved me so  
 For me was crucified.

And as I stood there in my sin  
 His love reached down to me,  
 And oh, the shame that filled my soul  
 That day at Calvary.

I knelt one day at Calvary  
 My eyes were filled with tears,  
 To think such love I had refused  
 Through all these wasted years.

And as I knelt I heard Him say  
 "I did it all for thee."  
 And oh, the love that filled my soul  
 That day at Calvary.

I prayed one day at Calvary,  
 "I'm Thine for evermore,  
 Forgive me, Lord, for all my sin,  
 My lost estate restore."

And as I prayed to me He gave  
 Salvation full and free,  
 And oh, the peace that filled my soul  
 That day at Calvary!

Walt Huntley

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**

**Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler**

On February 7, Evan Daniel was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller. Amanda and Leah are Evan's older sisters and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank (LaCrosse) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Edie

Stoller (Latty, OH) are grandparents.

The angels rejoice over one sinner that repenteth . . . (Luke 15:7). Likewise, we rejoice that Sue Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) has chosen to forsake a life of sin and vanity and take advantage of Christ's redeeming blood.

Christ's redeeming blood . . . can we ever fathom its depth, infiniteness and power? The price that was paid . . . do we see ourselves as being responsible for His pain? The manner of nailing a criminal to the cross was simple. The cross was laid upon the ground and the one to be crucified was stretched upon it and spiked there. The hole for the cross was previously dug. Then the cross was carried to the hole and dropped into it. This of course drew every nerve and muscle into tension and produced the greatest imaginable suffering. As we think upon this most intense hour of history, what an opportunity to go back to the cross of Calvary and claim the promises that Christ left for us there.

**MY NEVER AGAIN LIST**

NEVER AGAIN will I confess "I can't," for "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess lack, for "My God shall supply all of my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess fear, for "God hath not given me the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess doubt and lack of faith, for "God hath given to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess weakness, for "The Lord is the strength of my life" (Psalm 27:1).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess supremacy of Satan over my life, for "Greater is he that is within me than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess defeat, for "God always causeth me to triumph in Christ Jesus" (II Corinthians 2:14).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess lack of wisdom, for "Christ Jesus is made unto me wisdom from God" (I Corinthians 1:30).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess sickness, for "With His stripes I am healed" (Isaiah 53:5) and Jesus "Him-



self took my infirmities and bare my sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess worries and frustrations, for I am "Casting all my cares upon him who careth for me" (I Peter 5:7).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess bondage, for "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17). My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit;

NEVER AGAIN will I confess condemnation, for "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Words are containers. They carry faith, or fear, and they produce after their kind. The work of God conceived in the heart, formed by the tongue, and spoken out of the mouth is creative power.

(Selected)

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Pauline Laidig

#### SIGNS OF SPRING

When robins come, And bluebirds sing;  
When bees do hum; We know 'tis  
spring.

Another proof Of spring I know,  
From maple trees, The sap does flow.

Beneath the bark Of leafless tree,  
The nectared sap Is flowing free.  
No stir, no sound Does reach the ear,  
The trees all dead And mute appear.

The sun, moist earth Will thus  
complete,  
And give to us This nectar sweet.  
The sugar trees, To them I turned  
From them my heart A lesson learned.

Though outward charm I do not know;  
I trust His life Through me may flow.  
God's sweetness pure May ever fill  
My heart and mind To do His will.

Thus as a tree, When bleak and cold,  
His love shall fill This earthly mold.  
And I shall blossom As a tree,  
When Springtime comes And sap flows  
free.

A Legacy In Song  
By Bro. Henry Beer

How do we look forward to spring,  
especially after experiencing some real  
winter weather? And even more so

should we desire to have God's spring-  
time in our hearts?

When Bro. Mark, Sis. Kristie, Jonathan and Cecily Meyer started assembling with us, they brought a sweet little baby daughter and sister with them. We welcome little Stephanie's grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Goldie Meyer (Bluffton) and Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Meyer (Bluffton) to worship and fellowship with us when they come to visit their loved ones.

Sis. Marge Mangold and Bro. Ernest Germann have returned to their homes from the hospital. May God be very near both of them.

April is the month for the Silver Lining collection, which should be given only to your reporter.

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher — Patty Bucher

God has been so faithful. We recently held our annual meeting and went over the business of our church. New brothers and sisters were elected into several positions. We trust fully in the Lord's guidance and direction to everybody filling an obligation in our dear congregation.

Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) visited us with a guideline on financial planning. God is the most important part of our lives. Everything each of us possess is a gift of Him. It is our duty to be a good and faithful steward of everything he has blessed us with. We must be sure, in all circumstances, we are doing the will of our omnipotent Father. We also enjoyed Bro. Marshall as he ministered to us on Sunday. May the Lord bless him richly as we have learned so much from his labors with us.

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be here soon. Christ arose for each of us. The love Jesus showed for us on Calvary's cross should be meditated upon — not only during this Easter season, but every day of every year.

We are looking forward to a bus trip to St. Louis. May God bless our planning and fellowship together.

Reminder: Valparaiso Silver Lining dues need to be collected this month.

### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Jody Getz

Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN) was the visiting minister for our bi-weekly service on January 31. During

the message, we were instructed to not only pray for blessings from the "Word," but to pray for the ability to use those blessings by reaching out to others and sharing with them.

College weekend will be here this spring on March 30 and 31. We are looking forward to another spirit-filled weekend at which we will learn how to effectively continue to grow in our spiritual walk of life.

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

"My lifetime doth pass away;  
Hourly to the grave I hasten,  
And I know each fleeting day  
My allotted span will lessen.  
Think, man, death comes soon or late.  
Tarry not, it will not wait!"

Zion's Harp #253

Sis. Lynetta (Furrer) Hofstetter passed away on February 1 at her home. We wish God's comforting nearness to Bro. Ted, their children, Bro. Steve, Kevin and Janell, and her mother, Sis. Emma Furrer, and her sisters and brothers.

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) in our church on February 10.

### IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES Nancy Teubel

Many visitors shared with us the blessing of having our cup filled to overflowing with the Word of God! A special thanks to Bro. Bill Funk (Garden Grove) for ministering unto us. Also a special thank you to all visitors, we certainly appreciate your support of our gathering here in Ames. It reassures us of our calling from God to come to this area — some for employment, others to continue their education. But more importantly we are obeying God in His guidance to settle here. May God richly bless you all for you love and support!

### AN EASTER BLESSING FOR YOU

The meaning of Easter is HOPE —  
May it be with you everyday!  
The spirit of Easter is LIGHT —  
May it always guide your way!  
The essence of Easter is LOVE —  
May you have enough to share!  
The promise of Easter is LIFE —  
May yours be free from care!

Lois E. Stewart

**IOWA, BURLINGTON****Dixie Messner — Edith Massner**

We are very pleased with the new addition we have added to our congregation again this month. First, we want to welcome little Sara Ann Massner, born January 22 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail. Rachel, Darren, Dawn and Dallas are also glad for a new sister. Even though Sis. Gail was restricted to bed a few months, we are thankful everything went well.

January 20 we also welcomed three new members to our family in Burlington. Bro. John Buster (Sis. Ingrid), Sis. Timna Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Deyona Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) gave their testimonies Saturday and were baptized Sunday. One of the converts made the comment that she was embarrassed to kneel and pray before she repented so she would pray in bed. Let's hope God's children aren't afraid to show their lights to the world. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) who was also here for the weekend.

Of course we don't want to forget to thank the Oakville ministers, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Bro. John Steiner, Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank for their constant support when one of our ministers are absent.

We're glad to have Bro. Blaine Aplegarth back with us after a short stay in the hospital.

**IOWA, ELGIN  
Gloria Frieden**

In Acts, chapter 20, we read where the Apostle Paul went to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to instruct them in feeding the flocks. He warned them that wolves would enter in among them, not sparing the flock. If this was a warning in Paul's time, how much more it is today. We know in a physical sense what harm can come when wolves are in with a flock of sheep; so, in a spiritual sense, much spiritual harm can come to us if we are not warned and prepared for the wolves which may come among us in many forms. How thankful we should be that our shepherds continue to care for their flocks, and for this purpose are even now gathered together. May God grant His Holy Spirit among them that all may be carried out to His glory and honor, and for the preservation of the church.

As Easter is approaching, we are

reminded again of the death and resurrection of our Good Shepherd, Jesus. How great is His love for us. May His death not have been in vain for any of us.

We shall all repent! If we chose not to do it in this life then we shall surely do it continually through all eternity.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE  
Eileen Funk**

We are beginning to witness the beauty of Spring!

**THOUGHTS IN SPRING**

I marvel that a man can be  
Insensate to a fern, a tree,  
A flower growing in the wood,  
Or willow fringe where fence posts  
stood . . .

How can he doubt the grace of God  
When beauty springs from stick or  
clod?

How can he doubt God's grace who sees  
The light, lace-patterned through the  
trees,

The sun and rain, the fecund earth,  
The ancient miracle of birth,  
Who knows the wind and clouds, the  
sight

Of lifting seas and start at night?

How wise was he, how wise, who sent  
The spring to be His argument!

Revah Summersgill

We enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters at our annual business meeting.

Everyone in our congregation seems to be enjoying the blessings of good health at this time.

We extend a hearty invitation and welcome to all our loved ones to come worship and fellowship with us.

Reminder: Garden Grove Silver Lining subscriptions are due in March.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY  
Denise Duckworth**

"I asked Jesus, 'How much do You love me?' 'This much,' He answered, and He stretched out His arms and died." It is truly humbling to realize that there is One who loves us so much that He gave His life for our sake. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we can live each day rejoicing in the fullness of God's love.

Our visiting ministers this past

month have been: Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville). May they feel the rich blessings of the Lord as they submit themselves for His service.

**IOWA, LESTER  
Alice Metzger**

Our Winter has been relatively mild, with very little snow and our thoughts turn to Spring. With Spring comes the Easter season. Jesus died the cruel death so that we might have a hope of eternal life. He arose from the grave, a promise to believers for a home not built by human hands. What a marvelous plan of salvation! The Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in His Book alone, but in every leaf of Springtime.

This special season will hold more meaning than ever for our dear young converts. They are Marilyn Knobloch (Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith), Diane Larson (Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty Metzger) and Greg and Lori Popkes (son and daughter-in-law of Sis. Eleanor). We rejoice with the angels that they have answered the call and begun the heavenly race.

On January 23, little Dava Jean was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling. Sis. Diane spent several weeks in the hospital prior to her birth and we are thankful they are doing fine. The grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold and Bro. Herman and Sis. Evelyn Stickling. The little girl has a brother and a sister who are mighty proud of her. Jay Daniel was born to Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine Knobloch on January 25. He has one brother and his grandparents are Bro. August and Sis. Florence Knobloch and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker (Lamar, MO).

Our hospital patients appreciate the kindnesses shown to them while ill. They were Bro. Jake Metzger, Bro. Freddie Metzger, Sis. Flora Metzger, Sis. Mary Metzger and Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla).

On January 27 our visiting ministers were Bros. Carl Wyss, Russell Wuthrich and Virgil Metzger. They, along with their families and many other relatives, were here to observe the 100th birthday of Grandpa Fred Metzger. Fred has a keen mind and enjoyed the day with his 12 living children, 84

grandchildren and 176 great-grandchildren of whom all but a few were present for the occasion. He also received many cards and well-wishes for which he is most grateful. He attends church every Sunday and visits with as many as possible during our fellowship hour. He is a true example of God's infinite mercy.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**

"Marriage is honourable in all . . ." Hebrews 13:4. January 27 was a special day in the lives of Bro. Colin Wagenbach and Sis. Barb Gerst, for on that day, through God's direction, they became man and wife. We certainly wish them God's blessings throughout their lifetime together. Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Sis. Hilda and the late Bro. Carl Gerst are their parents.

Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) was in our congregation for Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb's wedding.

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) has also recently been with us to assist our Elder Bro. Ed with the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls in Burlington.

The winter has been long this year and it can certainly seem to drag by. We mustn't let our spirits slump and be down in the dumps, for as there is winter there is also the springtime. Even in our spiritual lives, it isn't always springtime, nor winter. If we always had the springtime, would we truly thank God and live for Him or would we maybe get to a point where we felt that we didn't need him anymore? In contrast, the winter time in our spiritual lives really makes us feel our nothingness. We certainly do rely and give thanks to God for His help and guidance to bring us to the springtime again. It reminds me of the song, "Bring Back the Springtime". When in the spring the flowers are blooming bright and fair, After the gray of winter's gone, Once again the lark begins its tuning, Back in the meadows of my home. Lord to my heart bring back the springtime, Take away the cold and dark of sin; O return to me, sweet Holy Spirit, May I warm and tender be again." (Kurt Kaiser).

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

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

Again, on happy Easter,  
 We sing our carols gay,  
 While on God's holy alter  
 The fair, white lillies sway:  
 Yet, if we'd keep this Easter  
 As He would have us to,  
 Our hearts, as well as voices,  
 Must now be ringing true.  
 So, don't you think, at Easter,  
 When all the world is bright,  
 We ought to try the harder  
 To do whatever's right?  
 God loves to hear our voices,  
 But deeds are sweeter still  
 And we surely please Him,  
 If love our hearts shall fill.

Helen Elizabeth Coolidge

On January 30, Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubal were blessed with a baby boy, Jonathon Eugene. He has a sister, Sara Lynn to welcome him home. Grandparents are Gene and Marvel Christy, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubel (Pulaski).

We have had several hospitalized this past month. Among them have been Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich, and two surgical patients, Bro. Doug Schock and Dennis Teubal, and also Bro. Richard Teubal whom still remains hospitalized. May God be with each one of them.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler**

We were pleasantly surprised to have Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) to minister the Word to us on January 13. Elder Bro. Harold Messner and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MO) were here on Sunday, February 3. In the evening, we were privileged to hear the reading of the memorandum. We appreciate the many teachings and concerns for our spiritual walk of life. We missed mentioning Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) as a recent visiting minister. Our sincere thanks are extended to all of them.

Reuben and Louisa Anliker welcome a new great-grandchild, Lynn Eileen, daughter of Mark and Barb Anliker. Grandparents are Sidney and Bonnie Anliker.

Our congregation gathered at the fellowship center for an evening meal, as we bid farewell to Dave and Joan Schneider, Amy and Brian. They have

moved to Denver, CO. We surely wish them God's blessings as they establish a home there.

Hospital patients this month have been Josephine Thoman, Bro. Jim Wirtz, Julie Rongved, Sis. Jesse Fehr and Sara Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth) who had corrective hip surgery. Amy Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Brandon Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth) both had the misfortune of breaking an arm. Craig Banwart (Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn) and Tammy Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) both had knee surgery. This is our wish for all shut-ins: "The blessing of the Lord be upon you." Psalm 129:8.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Arlie and Eva Banwart at the death of his father, Bro. Emil Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS). Bro. Emil reached the age of 99 years and was a faithful pillar in our church. There is a vacant spot in the hearts of Eli and Marilyn Wirtz caused by the death of her mother. We extend our sympathy.

We enjoyed a large group of visitors on Sunday, February 3, when our single group hosted a blessed weekend with brothers and sisters from Winthrop, MN, Morris, MN, Minneapolis, MN, Lester, IA and Elgin, IA.

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**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Margie Heintz**

As we await the coming Easter season, may we live each day so that the accomplishments of Christ's life, death and resurrection are evidenced through the love, joy, peace and holiness in our lives.

We were privileged to have American visitors in our midst last month. In mid-January, ministering Bro. Homer Reineck and his wife, Dorothy, spent a week in Japan. Bro. Homer's messages were encouraging and instructional to all of us, and we were strengthened by the spiritual fellowship and love that we shared, which transcended even language barriers.

Bro. Willis left for America in early February with our prayers for a safe and spiritually rewarding trip. The absence of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois emphasizes to all of us the need to support each other in prayer and in loving actions, and to work together to support our fellowship wherever the Lord has led us.

Recently new friends have been attending our Shioda fellowship for Sunday services. It has been encouraging



to see the benches filled! Our prayer is that those who attend will listen and hear the truth of God's plan of salvation, and that they will desire to learn more. We as brothers and sisters also have responsibilities to these visitors, as well as to each other, as was emphasized in a recent Sunday afternoon service: "... love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35.

### JAPAN, TOKYO

**Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue**

Our annual meeting for the believers was held January 15, a national holiday. We assembled at Shioda with the brethren there and were exhorted by our local elders in "holiness", not an option but an essential in the believer's life. The special fellowship that day was also blessed.

As we bade farewell to the loved ones there little did we know that 10 minutes later a phone call from the United States would come telling us that the Lord had taken a dear soldier and pilgrim "home", Sis. Alice Beer. To know that her mother was prepared to meet her Creator as Lord and Saviour brought much comfort to Sis. Lois Ehnlé in the midst of sudden news.

We spent blessed hours with ministering Bro. Homer and Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Toledo, Sarasota). They arrived here after spending time in the Philippine Islands attending a soldier's reunion where his unit had spent time 40 years ago. Bro. Homer's message to us was from Psalm 24 and John 10. As David realized God as our true Creator and Ruler of the universe, we know Jesus is our Shepherd and He knows our voice. 'Tis wonderful to have these words recorded for us.

Airman Paul Knoblock from Yokota spent the day with us also. We certainly enjoyed his presence.

Sis. Kathie Inoue has been ill for some time with the effect of a cold. Let us remember her in our prayers.

### KANSAS, BERN

**Linda Esslinger**

Hospitalized were Sis. Darlene Stoller, Sis. Cynthia Strahm, Bro. Lester Hartter and Belinda Stoller (daughter of Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria). We are glad they are out and doing fine.

Bro. Noah Edelman passed on January 17 at the age of 83. He was born on March 11, 1902. On December 11,

1929, Noah was united in marriage to Lillian Schrock. Sis. Lillian passed away on December 14, 1974. Noah had been a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged. Surviving are one daughter, Nila Snyder (Sabetha) and one son, Bro. Morris. Services were held January 19.

Waymer Esslinger wants to thank everyone for the cards and gifts sent to him while he was in the hospital after his accident. Also, thank you for all the cards and gifts sent to him for his birthday card shower. May God bless you all.

### EASTER PRAYER

Help me, Dear Lord, to raise my eyes  
Above all petty care,  
And find upon the arching skies  
Truths You have written there.

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

Help me to hide each bitter loss  
So none but You will see  
The weight and torture of the cross  
I bear up Calvary.

Help me to meet each hour, each day  
Courageous, faithful, true.  
Help me to know and keep the way  
That leads, my Lord, to You.  
Enola Chamberlin

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

**Judy Bahr**

As I stepped outside this morning to get the mail the birds were singing. After so much snow and cold weather it was a much welcomed sound. Surely Spring is almost here. It also reminded me of the parable of the fig tree and Jesus taught... "when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door." Matthew 24:32-33. We can see the changes in the earth from winter to spring. Can we also see the changes in the world that speak of our Lord's returning? "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Emil Banwart. Uncle Emil passed away January 24 after

spending a couple of days in the hospital due to a fall he had in his home. After living 99 years, it seems strange to go to church and not see Uncle Emil sitting in "his" place.

Taira Banwart had an appendectomy recently. She is the daughter of Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart.

We thank Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and his wife for spending a weekend here and ministering God's Word to us.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

**Vola Young — Doris Bahr**

Bro. Nick Knobloch (Princeville, IL) was in our community January 19 and shared his slides from some of his travels and operations involved in relief shipments to needy areas. He has been very active in charity work and instrumental in feeding the starving through his efforts of helping with dispersion of loads of corn to areas of different countries in need.

(Editor's Note: The World Relief article by Bro. Vernon Leman on page 2, explains the shipment of grain to starving people and the opportunity we have to help with contributions through our local Church World Relief Representative.)

Several of our believing married couples invited a family to their home the weekend of February 9 and 10. They enjoyed fellowship together Saturday and were present to worship with us Sunday.

This spiritual inspiration was found in a book written by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman:

The morning watch is essential. You must not face the day until you have faced God, nor look into the face of others until you have looked into His.

You cannot expect to be victorious, if the day begins only in your own strength. Face the work of every day with the influence of a few thoughtful, quiet moments with your heart and God. Do not meet other people, even those of your own home, until you have first met the great Guest and honored Companion of your life — Jesus Christ.

Meet Him alone. Meet Him regularly. Meet Him with His open Book of counsel before you; and face the regular and the irregular duties of each day with the influence of His personality definitely controlling your every act.

Give Your Address Change  
To Your Reporter

**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Janice Bahr — Gay Farney**

When some fellow yields to temptation  
And breaks some conventional law,  
We look for no good in his makeup  
But, Lord, how we look for the flaw.  
No one asks, "Who did the tempting?"  
Nor allows for the battles he's fought.  
His name becomes food for the jackals,  
The saints who have never been caught.

I'm a sinner, O Lord, and I know it,  
I am weak and I blunder and fall,  
I am tossed on life's stormy ocean  
Like a ship that's caught in the squall.  
I am willing to trust in Thy mercy,  
To keep the Commandments Thou'st  
taught.  
But deliver me, Lord, from the  
judgment  
Of the saints who have never been  
caught.

Author Unknown

When I read the above, I wondered how many times we mercilessly judge one another, condemning one another without knowing all the facts, and then viciously spread the gossip to others, whether true or not. It's sad to admit, but I'm sure many of us are guilty, and God must be so disappointed to see His children, His lights to the world, do these things. May He forgive us, and help us to watch our tongues, that only love and kindness can flow therefrom.

Isn't it a joy to be able to do something for the Lord? We held our annual meeting one evening this month to elect or re-elect brothers or sisters to the various duties in the church, and I had to think again as I always do, what a privilege it is to be a part of God's family, and help in the order of His church. May each of us who has a part be happy and sincere in the work God has appointed us to do.

We have had many loved ones ill with flu, etc., this month, and a few hospitalized for various reasons. They include Sis. Irma Ott and Sis. Bea Diel. We so hope they can all be up and around again soon, and that God will be with them while they are recuperating. We are so thankful to have Sis. Kathryn Miller and Sis. Alice Tanner out of the hospital and in our midst again.

Because of the flu here, the Manor has been quarantined, but we were allowed one Sunday to hold services there at our appointed time, and, of course, received a great blessing.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Mildred Frieden cannot find words to express their thanks to everyone for the love and support they were shown during the recent fire they had in their home. May God bless each and every one for their kindness.

**KANSAS, LAMONT**  
**Jill K. Luthi**

"Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

"Let us lift up our hearts with our hands unto God in the heavens."

Lamentations 3:40, 41

We are very thankful that we were able to have with us in the past weeks visiting Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) who assisted in reading the memorandum. There is never enough room to express the important exhortations that are given to us. With Holiness as the theme, I believe the overall statement to stress is that we, as individuals, need never think of "self". First and above all is God without any "ifs" or "buts". Then comes others... neighbors, friends, loved ones and brothers and sisters of faith. At the very bottom and last of all comes "I" or "self". Can not those three, in order, be expressed and represented in the shape of an upside-down triangle, a Yield sign? And to whom should we yield?

First and above all... God the Father  
then ..... Others  
and last of all ..... I

It is important to remember the highest position and state of Supreme Being is God, the Creator, Himself. We, as individuals, deserve no other position, no, not even in the middle, but the lowest. We are to esteem others instead of ourselves. "For if man thinketh himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3.

Also visiting with us was Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA). It was a pleasant surprise to have Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally, along with their children, to remember us. The Funks, for some time, assembled with us when we were still in our former country church. We wish for God's blessings showered upon them, and again thank them for remembering us.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave

unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24. The betrothal of Sis. Kathleen Miller (Bay City, MI) and Bro. David Wernli was made known to us February 24. We wish them both God's blessings as He sees fit, and that they have none other than God, Himself, as the Overseer and Provider for them both. They are planning a March 31 wedding. Parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruesegger (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty Wernli.

As the time approaches that our nation remembers the Saviour's death and crucifixion, I find no better or more appropriate reading than Isaiah 53:

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with stripes we are healed.

"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:4, 5, 10 & 12

May it always be a daily remembrance of our Saviour's death and crucifixion for our sins, and that many more may come to know Him before it is forever too late. How our hearts bleed for those who are yet lost in this dark, cruel and sinful world!!!

Sisters Eva Emch and Hulda Jacobs wish to express much thankfulness for all of the cards, prayers and visits while in the hospital. Both are back at home after suffering a fractured pelvis and undergoing a triple heart bypass, respectfully.

Sis. Matilda Emch is hospitalized at this time. Our prayers are that the Lord will always be in her presence and grant her the healing power as He sees best.

Born to John and Beverly Gilligan (Emporia, KS) on January 16 was a 6 lb. 13 oz. girl, Lori Ann. Lori is wel-



comed home by a brother, John. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary Isch.

Reporter's Correction: Aaron Vernon Luthi was born November 20 instead of November 22.

### KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Lori Aberle — Patti Knobloch

#### UPS AND DOWNS

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

And you feel you're facing a long, steep hill,

Just settle down and start to climb, Take it one-step-at-a-time.

Don't fret about how long the road, How tired you are, how big the load,

Just keep your eyes upon the top, Plod along and never stop.

And when you reach the peak, you'll thrill

That just ahead it's all downhill!

Author Unknown

These words are so true. No matter what station we hold, as we go through life, we must take time to slow down and trust in the Lord as we take one step at a time.

On January 16, Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) spent the evening with us. Bro. Jim Schrader and Mike Strahm hosted a singing at their house January 23. The following week, singing was held at Sis. Lori Aberle, Christy Meyer and Sis. Patti Knobloch. On February 6, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Alphonse Strahm (Bern, KS) ministered the true Word unto us.

We again thank everyone who remembers us down at Kansas State with letters, prayers or visits.

### KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter

"Like as a lamb He was brought to the slaughter, Speechless as sheep to the shearers led; He was cut off from the land of the living, For our transgressions on Calvary bled.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, And with His stripes we are healed."

Tabernacle Hymns #350

How thankful we can be that Jesus Christ loved us so much that He became sin for us and died in our place.

What a wonderful and complete salvation can be found through faith in His blood.

We were happy to hear the testimony of Christ's saving power from Bro. Scott Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne), and to witness Scott's baptism the weekend of January 19 and 20. We continue to pray that more souls will take up their cross and follow Christ.

"I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, Where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade." (Gospel Hymns #764)

Sis. Lena Haerr Steiner (Bro. Noah) passed from this life to where the roses never fade on January 25. We will miss her kind ways and smile in our congregation. Sis. Lena's children are Bro. Raymond Haerr (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Loretta Schafer (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Norman Haerr (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Chicago, IL).

Bro. Noah and family wish to thank everyone for prayers, gifts of love and cards after the passing of their loving wife and mother. God bless you all.

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) brought to us edifying teachings from God's Holy Word. We appreciated their efforts to be with our congregation.

Sis. Elsie Lambert (Bro. George) and Bro. Joseph Traub (Sis. Viola) experienced sickness and were hospitalized. May they have found comfort in Christ during that time.

The evening of January 29 our congregation held our annual business meeting. It is a blessing to have a body of believers that can function with peace and order, each one willing to do his/her part.

### KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

We are thrilled to have Sis. Ruth Yackley joining our fellowship again the past few weeks. Sis. Ruth has been absent from our congregation for some time because of her health, and it is a joy to have her with us again. May the Lord continue to strengthen her both physically and spiritually.

In Matthew 17:14-21 Jesus admonished His disciples for their lack of faith in performing the task He had called them to do (see Matthew 10:5,

8). He said because of the unbelief they were not able to cast out the demon. It only required a small amount of faith, but the faith must be pure and in Jesus only.

Do we have the faith that Jesus will enable us to do that to which He has called us to do? Do we believe that Jesus has the power to supply us with, so we may fulfill His purpose?

First of all, have we sought specifically for the part Jesus wants us to play in the building of His church, what our particular ministry is, how He wants us to serve Him in reaching others and preparing the world for the harvest? He has a specific purpose for each one of us in building His church. "Goye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19. We have each received a commission from Jesus to teach others about Him. We must have faith in Jesus that He will enable us to do this effectively. This requires prayer and fasting - or giving up something we enjoy to serve God more fully. This will allow a closer communion with Him and more openness to His will.

Easter is upon us again, and what a special time it is to remember and reflect upon Jesus' victory over Satan and death. Without the resurrection, the cross would have not held any power. Without the resurrection, we could not experience salvation. The whole Christian faith is based on the resurrection of Jesus, and what a glorious event it is! I want to share the experience I had in visiting the garden where Jesus' tomb still remains. It is a peaceful, secluded and beautiful place that one could spend much time. The presence of the Lord can really be felt. The feeling of joy was so overwhelming as I stood before the tomb and realized that this is where my Lord was victorious for me. I will never forget that place or feeling. May this Easter bring each of us to a deeper love for Jesus and the great work He has done for us.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester Huber

I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which thou hast shewed unto thy servant. Genesis 32:10. Jacob was on his return to his own kindred after spending years at Padanaram working for his Uncle La-

ban for his wife, Rachel. He had fears of meeting his brother, Esau, from whom he had fled to save his life. In this state of humility he prayed these words to God. When we come to ourselves, how often we experience the same feeling. Luke 15:21.

We certainly are not worthy of the least of our blessings and appreciate the sacrificial efforts of those who have come, those who pray, those who so graciously share in the burdens for a "little flock". With honorable mention of the following since the first of the year, Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) as our visiting ministers. We appreciate all visitors as well which include Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz and family, of whom the Lord has provided to make their move to reside here permanently. Praise God! We realize having been through this years ago what it means and pray much grace may be given to make the necessary decisions for schooling children, occupational responsibilities, etc. We pray the Lord is speaking to other families by means of occupational opportunities in the area or possibly just to share the opportunity to support establishment of small churches. The Lexington area has many openings available for professional services. If you have an interest, we can submit personnel information on hospitals, universities, educational institutions, industries, IBM, etc. Our state governor is going to Japan to interest them in our state. I believe as Apostolics, we should appreciate the opportunity to witness our faith in Kentucky. May God manifest His will is our prayers. Our address is Route 1, Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

Easter season reminds us of the agony our dear Lord suffered in our stead upon the cruel cross of Calvary. But we also are joyous because He arose from the grave and is no longer dead.

I serve a risen Savior; He's in the world today.

I know that He is living, whatever men may say.

I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer:

And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

In all the world around me I see His loving care;  
And tho' my heart grows weary, I never will despair.  
I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast.  
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian; lift up your voice and sing.  
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives. He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.

I wish to thank all who have offered gifts of love and prayer for Bro. Ferd and Brian, and myself, since the onset of my illness. It was just so very humbling to feel your love, and your prayers, at a time when they were needed the most.

With Christian Love,  
Sis. Jane Grawburg

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The weekend of February 9 and 10 brought many youthful faces to our congregation, when the Alto and Detroit Sunday schools visited. We pray that the Lord was with our young people and they were able to enjoy the fellowship together.

We want to thank Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton, IN) who was able to come and share this weekend with our Sunday schools. Our thanks also goes to Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI) who came and ministered the Lord's Word to us this past month.

Many of our dear ones have been hospitalized throughout this month. Sis. Hermine (Bro. Alf) Kaeb, Bro. Wallace (Sis. Alvina) Wackerle, Ronald (Kathryn) Wackerle and Lyle (Rosemary) Wackerle were surgical patients. Bro. Ed (Sis. Minnie) Freidinger and Bro. Don (Sis. LouAnn) Wie-

land have been medical patients. As the Lord is the healer for all mankind, may we trust that as many prayers go out to Him, He will heal each one according to His will.

May the Lord be with each one of us during this joyous Easter season as we remember our dear Saviour's death on the cross.

#### REJOICE! REJOICE!

"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled" —  
Let not your soul be sad —  
Easter is a time of joy  
When all hearts should be glad,  
Glad to know that Jesus Christ  
Made it possible for men  
To have their sins forgiven  
And, like Him, to live again . . .  
So at this joyous season  
May the wondrous Easter story  
Renew our faith so we may be  
Partakers of "His Glory!"

Helen Steiner Rice

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Luke 22:32

We have been blessed to have two couples turn their hearts and lives unto the Lord. We are rejoicing with John and Linda Reardon and Doug and Carole Maibach. John and Linda's parents are George and Sis. Marie Reardon and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lois Belsley. Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and Michael and Janet Basford are Doug and Carole's parents. It is our continued prayer that God's nearness and grace can be theirs throughout their walk of faith.

January 11 was the wedding day for Rick and Katie Hitz. Their parents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz and George and Edie McCargar. May Rick and Katie feel the blessings of God within their marriage and truly enjoy the fulness of His love.

Our sympathy is extended to the Gabriel Burgos family in the passing of Sis. Lydia Schlatter (Toledo, OH). She will truly be remembered as a special grandmother to them and a source of love to many.

Sis. Esther Orcsik received word from Hungary that her sister, Theresa Fulop passed away at an early age. We



pray that God will comfort her and her family in their time of sorrow.

Our junior and senior Sunday school students spent a weekend in Bay City. It was an enjoyable time for all and our sincere thanks to the Bay City brethren and parents who made the weekend such a blessed one.

As we anticipate the arrival of Easter in springtime and the rebirth of God's creation, may we allow our faith to be a part of that regeneration and grow into all the fulness God intended for us to share. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10.

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**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Barbara Olson**

**HOW TO FEEL GOD'S NEARNESS**

No man has ever seen the wind  
 Neither you nor I;  
 But when the winter trees bend their boughs,  
 The wind is passing by.  
 No one has seen Almighty God.  
 Neither you nor I;  
 But when we bow our heads in prayer,  
 God is standing nigh.

Unknown

We were grateful to have Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) with us this month. His daughter, Sarah, is at Shriners Hospital, and our prayers are truly with her. We pray for God's healing power as Bro. Kenneth Schmidt was hospitalized this month.

Bro. Rob Schmidgall was elected to serve as usher and Sis. Barbara Olson was elected to Silver Lining correspondent. With much prayer, thought and research, we have purchased two acres of land for a new future church building. We will now wait for God's direction as when to build.

Thought — God formed us; sin deformed us; Christ transforms us.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Hildegard Koehl**  
**Rhonda Zeltwanger**

Up from the grave He arose! With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. Hallelujah! Christ arose! (Melodies of Praise #338) With thankful hearts let us approach this precious time of year, Easter!

Our congregation has been blessed with the addition of four babies. Gary and Sandy Fehr welcome their first

boy, Mitchell Gary, into their home. Mitchell's sister, Amy, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diarie Fehr, have plenty of love to share with him.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger have a new little ray of sunshine, Bradley Joseph, to brighten their lively home. Bradley has three older sisters, Michelle, Lynette and Barbara. Happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger.

First-time parents are Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth Jones. They have many reasons to be thankful for a healthy little girl, Amber Marie. Amber's grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl. We all truly believe that children are a miracle sent to us from heaven. Each time we see a newborn baby we are reminded of the responsibilities, joys and blessings that children can bring into our hearts and homes.

Randy and LuJean Thielke welcomed a new little girl, JoLynn, into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley Nohl. We hope all goes well for these new little ones.

With saddened hearts we said our goodbyes to Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise Gramm and family as the Lord has led them to make their new home in Phoenix, AZ. We pray the Lord will continue to be by their side and guide them as He has in the past.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Emma Schmidgall, Mindy Fehr (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Judy), Bro. Mike Schmidgall, Bro. Arnie Koehl, Bro. Charles Koehl, Bro. Ferd Tohm and Bro. Harvey Joos. May God's powerful healing hand be upon them.

Karen Schmidgall (Sis. Mabel) and Dennis Poe (Paragould, AK) are planning a May 11 wedding. God's blessings to this couple.

February 14 was the wedding day for Alvin Nohl, Jr. (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie Nohl) and Kathy Kramer. We wish to express our congratulations to this couple.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$7.00 are due in April.

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Wanda Massner**  
**Mary Lou Schmidt**

**CHARITY**

Do something today to bring gladness,  
 To someone whose pleasures are few.  
 Do something to drive off sadness —

Or cause someone's dream to come true.

Find time for a neighborly greeting,  
 And time to delight an old friend;  
 Remember, — the years are fleeting,  
 And life's latest day will soon end!

Do something today that tomorrow,  
 Will prove to be really worthwhile;  
 Help someone to conquer sorrow,  
 And greet the new dawn with a smile —

For only through kindness and giving,  
 Of service and friendship and cheer;  
 We learn the pure joy of living,  
 And find heaven's happiness here!

As we approach the Easter season, we are reminded of the "true" example of charity; Christ giving His life-blood for the remission of our sins. Through our church's World Relief and sewing groups, we are given many opportunities to show our charity. We are glad to be able to host the Western Churches' annual meeting for World Relief, and anticipate greeting many of you dear loved ones. Truly, as the poem reads; only through kindness and giving, can we learn the pure joy of living, and find heaven's happiness here on earth!

Our thoughts and prayers certainly go out for our kind shepherds as they assemble together at their annual meeting! May they feel God's holy presence and guidance as they discuss the many concerns they have for their various flocks!

Ministering Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis) and his dear wife spent one Sunday with us here at Winthrop. We thank him for giving of himself, so that God's message could go out. The exhortations and words of encouragement were indeed welcomed by each thirsty soul.

Sis. Geraldine (Elder Bro. Harold) Messner, Sis. Florence Messner and Pat Mattes were our hospital patients this past month. Sis. Carrie Messner has not been able to assemble with us either; due to a lingering illness. We wish them all a speedy recovery and God's warmest and richest blessings!

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Anna Lou Mattix**

Praise the Lord! The Kansas City church is growing! Our newest addition, Matthias Edwin Smith, was born on December 19, 1984 to first-time

parents, Ron and Sis. Diane (Esslinger) Smith. We have also been blessed by the presence of Bro. Don Wales (Congerville, IL) who will hopefully move his family here in the near future.

We are so thankful for the ministering brethren and their families who so selflessly and faithfully serve our congregation each Sunday. This past month we especially want to thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Bros. Tim Zimmerman and Max Reimschisel. We are indeed a fortunate church to have 28 ministers that regularly serve in turn. We really do appreciate their time and efforts and love them every one!

At our recent annual business meeting, Bro. Joe Farney was elected to serve as trustee and treasurer. Sunday school teachers elected were Bro. Kent Miller, Superintendent - Bro. Ron Kellenberger and Sis. Linda Ziegenhorn. Sis. Barbara Wernli was chosen to serve on the Food Committee, and Sis. Anna Lou Mattix for Silver Lining reporter. We also received the good news that our church and land is now totally paid for, and we would like to thank all of the generous brothers, sisters and friends who have made this possible. Indeed, this is the House that love built!

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 106:1.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti — Janice Braker**

"And He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." St. Luke 9:23. Recently, we were so vividly reminded of our duty, to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. One day at a time is all Christ asks us to endure, and surely He will be there to help us carry that cross.

Then bear thy woes with Jesus gladly,  
And fear the cross of life no more,  
For when thy journey here is ended,  
The cross will open heaven's door!

Zion's Harp #171, vs. 11

Our friend, Jack Thiebaud was a hospital patient this past month, and we are thankful he has returned home once again. Our dear Sis. Charlotte Banwart is hospitalized at this time for surgery. It is our sincere wish and prayer that she can feel God's nearness and experience His healing touch.

Bro. Leonard Braker wishes to express his thanks for all the many prayers, cards and thoughtful deeds bestowed upon him during his hospitalization and recuperation. We are so thankful that Bro. Leonard is once again able to assemble with us.

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

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Becky Gudeman**

Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matthew 7:7

We truly appreciate those who have come to St. Louis to worship with us in this past month. We especially thank ministering Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL).

Sis. Patty Klopfenstein will be completing her year of school and returning to her home church in Gridley. We will surely miss her but thank the Lord for her fellowship, friendship and encouragement while she was here.

Bro. Bill Geyer will be moving on to a new duty in California through the Air Force. Again, we will miss his presence in our St. Louis congregation. We wish them both God's blessings and guidance in their lives.

We will once again make a schedule for services here in St. Louis for the months April, 1985 through March, 1986. We will continue to meet at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. at 10:30 and 12:30. Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We welcome you! For more information, call Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

Note: Services will not be held April 14, 1985.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart**

LONELY FARM

The whirling snow, like huge, white petals blown  
From heaven's tree, lay piled on fence and road.  
The house was old and gray, and all alone,  
And past it, storm-winds, roaring hoarsely, strode.

The fields were harvested, and now lay bare.

It seemed a wild, deserted place to me,  
That windy evening through the frosted air,  
A sad old house beneath a leafless tree.  
But, when I entered — what a change I found!

The farmer sat within a clean, warm room,  
A rugged man whom summer days had browned.  
In catalogues, he read when plants would bloom,  
And talked of fertile fields, of sun and seed,  
And all the hungry that his land could feed.

Lois Kingsley Pelton

We are experiencing a cold winter in our area as well as those in other communities, but each day brings us closer to Spring and makes us more thankful and appreciative to God for warm homes and adequate food to sustain us. "Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: Thou hast made summer and winter." Psalm 74:17.

Our sympathy is extended to several families in our church circle who have experienced the loss of loved ones. Sis. Mary Tanner (Peoria, IL), a sister of Sis. Clara Yackley, passed away. Mrs. Embrie Scott (Oakland, IA), mother of Bro. Don Scott, and Sis. Lena (Rass-Haerr) Steiner (Sabetha, KS) have gone that "last mile of the way". May happy memories of days past and the "hope" of meeting in "that city where the roses never fade" comfort one and all at this time. Sis. Lena lived here until her marriage to Bro. Noah Steiner three years ago. She passed away in a Kansas hospital with burial services here in Taylor. Survivors include her husband, Bro. Norman (Taylor); Raymond (Bloomington, IL); Sisters Charlotte Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Laurreta Shafer (Indianapolis, IN). Those of us who learned to know and love Lena will always remember the happiness she gave to others and we could observe a life so well and fully lived until the very end.

At this time our thoughts and prayers are with our elder brethren who are gathering in Florida. May God be in their midst and direct each one as they endeavor to do what would be His will for our well being.

Food For Thought: If you wouldn't write it and sign it — don't say it.



### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) was with us on Sunday, January 27. God's Word was spoken through him to the edification of the souls of all who heard.

Extremely cold weather and several inches of snow caused us to cancel church services one Sunday.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Sis. Esther Ulrich was called from this life at the age of 89 years. Services were held at the funeral home on Wednesday, February 13, by Bro. Floyd Graves and Bro. Duane Farney. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her daughter, Norene Virkler, and her grandson, Kermit Virkler. She is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Ella Lane.

Bro. Gerald Grau remains a surgical patient at the House of Good Samaritan in Watertown at this writing. He has had surgery on an artery in his leg and this week had to have further surgery. We are glad to hear he is coming along satisfactorily and hope to hear that he will again be home soon.

On Wednesday, January 16, we gathered with the Naumburg congregation for a covered dish supper and evening of fellowship and song service.

We also gathered at the Naumburg church on Sunday evening, February 3, to bid farewell to Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb Beyer and their family. We enjoyed an evening of singing together and a lunch was also served. We wish them well in their move to the Burlington, IA area, and pray God's richest blessings for them in the future.

Our prayers this week have been for the elder brethren who have traveled and are meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

There were several birthday singings this month. Sis. Minnie Taube at her home, Sis. Rosella Schultz at Valley View Courts, Lowville, and Sis. Iva Poley at the East Road Adult Home.

There also was a singing for Bro. Henry and Sis. Barbra Beyer with refreshments and fellowship afterwards. They are leaving New York to make their home in Iowa. We are sorry to see them leave, but we wish them many blessings. May the Lord go with them

and be their guide in their new undertaking.

### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

The book of Esther depicts God turning situations for the good but has no mention of the God that turns it. However, a look at the book written in Hebrew depicts 5 acrostics in the 10 chapters. An acrostic is taking the first letter of each word in the sentence and it will spell out a word or motto. Verses in Esther at turning points are Esther 1:20, 5:4; 5:13 and 7:7. In each case, there is an acrostic from Hebrew words which spell "Jehovah". The acrostic at Esther 7:5 is "I AM that I AM". God is our Great "I AM" to turn the situation for the good in all of our needs, yesterday, today and forever!

We rejoice for the three testimonies and baptisms we were privileged to witness: Joanne Graf (Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf), Monica Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder) and Patti Scott (Bro. John and Sis. Martha Palitto). We pray for the girls to continue their growing in grace and walking with the Lord Jesus.

Mark Palitto has made a beginning to walk with the Lord and we know that as he calls on the Lord for grace, he will find it being given to him.

Sis. Janet Graf has served faithfully on the World Relief Committee and since her term has expired, Sis. Carol Gasser was elected to the committee.

Our visiting elders and ministers were Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler and Joe Ramsier, Bros. Henry Dotterer, Gary Maibach and Harold Emch.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

Psalm 121:1-2, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." As we read these verses, do they bring to mind some of those hills, which God chose as settings to carry out His divine will? Moriah, Sinai, Zion are just a few on this list, but perhaps the place upon which God's mercy reached an unsurpassed height was a hill called Golgotha or Calvary. It was here that God's only Son became the supreme sacrifice, once and for all, for the sins and sinners of this world. He "was" and "is" the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. However, the story doesn't end on Mt. Calvary's

brow. Just as he had foretold, Jesus triumphed over death and the grave on the third day.

So, we can look to that final hill, the Mt. of Olives, whereon, Jesus, before ascending to His Father's house, promised to reappear and claim those who remain faithful til the end. Each day, then, let us mentally "look unto the hills", humbled by the height and breadth of God's love toward man.

We, in Columbus, were delighted to have so many visitors this past month. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for their labors of love in sharing God's Word with us. Also, we appreciated our own Bro. Andy Hunyadi for lending himself to the ministry the week that a visiting Bro. wasn't able to come.

### OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Our new Bro. Ed Schlatter erected a covenant to stay true to his God the rest of his life and then was baptized. Indeed, it is nothing less than a miracle to observe God's work in converting the hearts of our dear friends after they find grace through prayer and a true repentance. Bro. Ed's joy in serving the Lord is shared by his mother, Sis. Juliet Schlatter.

With our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller to share in the baptismal service was Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI). Also bringing us God's Word on that blessed weekend were Bro. Gene Fetter (Toledo) and Bro. Don Gude-man (LaCrosse, IN).

Our joy has been increased further as two more dear souls have made a beginning in repentance. Bob Manz and John Rose (sons of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz) have found grace to confess their sins and ask God to forgive them. They have faith to believe that Jesus' blood which was shed on Calvary's cross can cover their sins. Bob's employment has taken him to Dallas, TX where he is over three hundred miles from our nearest church. I'm certain Bob will welcome cards, letters and guests at 1919 Walnut Plaza, Apt. 1043, Carrollton, TX 75006.

### OHIO, LATTY Laurie Stoller — Patty Gerber

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,

even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

I Thessalonians 4:13, 14

God has given us a precious gift that if we believe on Him we will have a hope of salvation and need not fear death. As the Easter season approaches, we see how the "world" is again reminded of Christ's death and resurrection with earthly symbols and traditions which have no reverence or indication of Christ's gift. Aren't we thankful that to us, the Easter season is more than just a commercial holiday? Because we are reminded of Christ's gift of salvation, Easter has become a special time that we reflect on His death and resurrection. If only the whole world could realize the magnitude of this act of love, and the importance of it to their soul's salvation. Let's try to reflect God's love in our actions and words and let others know of the joy that lies within us.

Several from our congregation have experienced the loss of loved ones in their families. They are especially claiming God's promise that they need not sorrow when saints are taken, for they are "asleep in Jesus". Sis. Iva Stoller (Bro. Darl) and Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Melvin) were saddened by the death of their mother, Sis. Sophia Funk (Bro. Jacob, Cissna Park, IL). Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Janet Stoller (Bro. Gale) and Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) for the loss of their sister, Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter (Wolcott, IN). Also touched with grief was Sis. Sharon Parady in the death of her father-in-law, Richard Parady. We hope that each of these dear ones can meet again some day in heaven.

We were privileged to have Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) minister to us. We trust they will receive their reward much more in eternity.

Sis. Nettie Stoller and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain) were hospitalized. We are thankful for the progress they are making towards health.

February 10 was a joyous day for Bro. Kirk Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva) and Sis. Eileen Roth (Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna) as they were married at the Roanoke church. Many who attended, and others in thought, prayed for their well-being and happy life together.

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Linda Morrison

The postage stamp's usefulness lies in its sticking to one thing until it gets to its destination . . . a long distance or a short distance. So our lives, whether long or short, to be useful must stick to Christ. He purchased our souls at Calvary. Our dear Sis. Helen Sferro closed her eyes in death on February 9. Her spirit was released . . . to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:8) Helen is survived by her husband, Joe; one daughter, JoAnn, who faithfully cared for her mother throughout her extended illness and four sons, Jim, Tom, Robbin and Jerry.

Hospitalized were: Keith Kemper (Sis. Mary) with injuries received from an accident while plowing snow; Sis. Clara Wahl, eye surgery, and Sis. Nellie Groh, eye surgery. Todd Ramsier (Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen) received a broken arm in a school accident.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener were blessed with a third son, Timothy Alan on January 20. Mark and Josh are happy to love a new brother. Timothy had a short return stay in the hospital. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener and Bro. Carl and Sis. Ruth Beery (Rittman). First-time parents are Wes and Maggie Washington. Christopher Andrew was born February 6, adding another dimension of love to the Washington home and family. First-time grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Sis. Bev Washington and great-grandma is Mildred Dolce.

Sunday and mid-week services have been cancelled this winter season due to our heavy snows and cold weather. Bro. Wally Ramsier pointed out, we know it snows every winter yet we are unprepared. We know Christ will return, as sure as it snows in winter. Will we be unprepared?

## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Judy Stoller — Verla Stoller

Once again, as the sun warms the earth, and spring brings life to the outdoors our God has created, our thoughts turn to Easter, and how Jesus has brought us eternal life by willingly going to that cross, and shedding His precious blood for the atonement of our sins. We cannot begin to comprehend the love He has for us that made Him willing to do the Father's will. It was not easy for Him. We can read in

Luke 22:44, "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." We should daily take our thoughts out on to Calvary's hill (Zion's Harp #89) to be reminded of what He has done for us, so that we can strive to serve Him better each day.

We are thankful for ten more souls who desired to bury their old lives in the waters of baptism, and rise to a newness of life. Our new brothers and sisters are Bro. Alan Blough (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille), Sis. Pam McIntire, Sis. Shelly Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Stephanie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Bro. Brad and Sis. Sharon (Indermuhle - Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera) Oliver, Bro. Tim Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Bro. Bill Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores), Bro. Bill Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce). May God continue to lead them and guide them as they begin their walk as children of God.

We are also thankful for another soul who has gone to the foot of the cross, and turned to the Lord in repentance. Our new convert is Randy Riggensch (Vernon and Sis. Martha Jane). We wish him God's grace that he, too, might find the peace that passes all understanding.

We also think of those who have been hospitalized this past month due to illness or surgery, but are glad when they can assemble with us again. They are Bro. Lester Riggensch (Sis. Lorena), Sis. Lucille Blough (Bro. Joe), Sis. Martha Walder (Bro. Don), Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Bro. Bob Klotzle (Sis. Shirley), Brent Smith (son of Shirley, grandson of Bro. Andy and Sis. Lillian Maibach) and Sis. Nina Gasser (Bro. Joe). At this time, Sis. Nina is still in the hospital. Our prayers are also with Sis. Martha Riggensch (Bro. Will), as she is confined at home with a broken collar bone. May each one feel God's nearness and strength in times of trial.

" . . . for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God . . ." Ruth 1:16. Believing God has drawn their lives together, Bro. Vern Lanz (Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Deanna Rufener (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Velma) announced their engagement. We will surely miss Sis. Deanna, but our

prayers go with her as she moves to Rockville.

Also announcing their engagement are Ken Everhard (Bro. Dale and Sis. Margaret) and Sarah Walters. We wish each one God's blessings as they begin their lives together.

On January 20, Bro. Jim Widmer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joanne) and Sis. Karen Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) were united as one in holy matrimony. May they continue to look to God as the head of their home and strengthen that three-fold cord.

Two families have been blessed with bundles from heaven this month. Mark and Debbie Steiner are parents of a little girl, Andrea Michelle. Tara and Nicholas welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

First-time parents are Dave and Teresa Gasser with the birth of Shannon Marie. Sis. Carolyn Gasser is the happy grandmother.

We have had many visiting ministers this past month, and want to thank each one for willingly bringing the Word to us. They are Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Gene Pamer (Akron) and Bros. Pete Baltic, Fred Domka and Ken Sauder (all of Mansfield), Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis), Ron Palitto, Ernest Graf and Paul Gasser (all of Akron) and Ray Sinn (Latty). We also want to thank our own ministers for bringing us the Word every Sunday and Wednesday night. Sometimes, I think we take them for granted. May God bless each one for their labors of love.

#### OHIO, SARDIS

**Paula Figel**

"Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go, to hear the words He speaks, to see Him in his woe." Zion's Harp #89, "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross". The seven moving verses is a beautiful song anytime, but is especially fitting at Easter.

With the event of spring, we look forward to the earth renewing itself. We look forward with anticipation to new growth on every green living thing, the return of birds from their southern winter homes, and the returning strength to the sun's rays.

Having good health is a very blessed gift. Many times we take it for granted until it is taken away for a time. Several from our small congregation have been

hospitalized in the past months. Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) was hospitalized for a ruptured disk in her back and is now receiving physical therapy as an out-patient. Her condition is improving slowly.

Joey Zollinger, son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, had the misfortune of breaking his right leg on February 10. He had fallen last summer and broken his left leg. May God stand by Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry giving them strength for each new day. May God continue to be near all those who are ill or shut-in. May we continue to uphold them in prayer.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Frances Laidig  
Josephine Rehklau**

Easter will soon be here, reminding us anew of the Hope it brings for our salvation. "... hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Jeremiah 17:7.

The Bible has many passages on hope and without it life would have little meaning. We hope for so many things — hope for Spring with its new life and beauty; hope for protection, health and good things for our families and loved ones; hope for health and strength for ourselves to do the duties the Lord expects of us. We could go on and on for the things hoped for.

Hope is good. Hope gives us courage and strength. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24. Hope teaches patience. "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Romans 8:25. Hope gives us faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. "... and let me not be ashamed of my hope." Psalm 119:116.

At our annual business meeting Bro. David Beard was elected to serve as our new trustee and Bro. Paul Rywalski as an usher. In the Sunday school, Sis. Dee Beard is the new teacher for the preschool class. The Lord has work for us to do. We pray that God's blessings will be with them in fulfilling their duties in His service.

#### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Barbara Moser**

"Peace from God our Father."  
Peace, perfect peace! What music

there is in these words! The very mention of them fills the heart with longings which cry out for satisfaction, and will not be comforted. Sometimes, indeed, we may succeed in hushing them for a little, as a mother does a fretful child; but soon they will break out again with bitter and insatiable desire. Our natures sigh for rest, as the ocean shell, when placed to the ear, seems to sigh for the untroubled depths of its native home.

There is peace in those depths of space, blue for very distance, which bend with such gentle tenderness, over the fevered, troubled lives. There is peace in the repose of the unruffled waters of the mountain lake, sheltered from the winds by the giant cliffs around. There is peace at the heart of the whirlwind, which sweeps across the desert waste in whirling fury. The peace of the woodland dell, of a highland glen, of a summer landscape, all touch us. And is there none for us, whose nature is so vast, so composite, so wonderful?

There is! Weary generations passed by until at length there stood among men One, whose outward life was full of sorrow and toil; but whose calm face mirrored unbroken peace that reigned within His breast. He had peace in Himself; for He said, "My peace." He had the power of passing on that peace to others; for He said, "My peace I give unto you."

His peace is perfect, unbroken by storms, unreachd by the highest surges of sorrow. His peace is as a river: it is there in the scorching noon; it is there when the stars shine, hushing one to sleep with the melody of the waves. His peace is great; its music is louder than the tumult of the storm. Learn the lesson of the Lake of Galilee, that the peace which is in the heart of Jesus, and which He gives to His own, can quell the greatest hurricane that ever swept down the mountain ravine and spent itself on the writhing waters beneath. For when the Master arose and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still," the winds ceased, and there was great calm.

On the evening of His resurrection, our Lord entered through the unopened doors into the chamber where His disciples were covering with fear — His benediction, "Peace be unto you," fell on their ears like the chime of bells. But He did not rest satisfied with this. Indeed, His words alone would have



been in vain. But when He had showed unto them His hands and His side, fresh from the Cross, with the marks of the spears and the nails, do you wonder that they were glad? The heart must always be glad when it learns the sure basis of Peace in the Blood shed on the Cross. Rest on that precious Blood; make much of it; remember that God sees it, even if you do not; be sure that it pleads through the ages, with undiminished efficacy; and be at peace.

Our hospital patient this month has been Sis. Anna Cooper (Bro. Ray) for surgery. She is home and doing fine.

Bro. Ray Banwart was unable to assemble with us for a few Sundays because of illness.

We pray that the Lord will again bless these dear ones with new strength and health.

I wish to thank the Portland and Silverton congregations for their prayers, love and gifts during and following my recent surgery.

Sis. Anna Cooper

### OREGON, SILVERTON

**Rose Lee Kuenzi**

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bollinger with to thank everyone for all the cards, letters, gifts, flowers and meals that were given, following Sis. Carolyn's recent surgery. She is recovering well at home now and really appreciates all the love shown to them. We will be happy to see her back at church again soon.

Other dear ones missed due to illness recently are Sis. Millie (Bro. Clarence) Dietrich and Verna (Elmer) Bollinger. We are glad to have them able to assemble with us again.

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

**Ann Gasser**

During services this past Sunday, we were reminded of several of Jesus' parables and their application to our lives today. We must not become distracted so that we risk neglecting to replenish our oil as did the five foolish virgins. Conversely, how will we rejoice if we, as the five wise virgins, persevere and perhaps make sacrifices to maintain our supply of oil, so that we will be prepared to meet our Saviour.

We've been fortunate to have visitors, even during these winter months. Visiting ministers have been Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer (New York State) and Bro.

Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We thank them and their families for being with us and for caring for us in this way.

We enjoyed a monthly fellowship dinner in mid-February. Sis. Gail Gasser coordinated this meal as she has recently been selected to serve as kitchen chairman.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We have enjoyed our many guests that have traveled south to be in Zapata this winter. Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Wayne Fehr read the memorandum to us and later Bro. Leo returned in mid-February to serve communion.

Guest ministers have been Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA), Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Tom Shrenk (Athens, AL). We certainly thank all the visiting ministers who have made an effort to come to Zapata and minister unto us.

### WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE Minnie Weltz

Amelia L. Riegenbach passed away very suddenly February 13 in the local hospital following a lengthy illness. She was the daughter of John and Rosa Durig. She was preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters. Surviving are her husband, J. Howard Riegenbach, two daughters, two grandchildren, one brother and four sisters. Services were held February 16 with interment following in Northview Cemetery, New Martinsville.

Our area, as well as many in the state, has been hard hit by heavy winds, snow and very severe winter weather. Many days of school have been cancelled because of road conditions and our own being one of them. Many deaths have been caused by the severe weather. We are looking forward to spring and better conditions.

### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

rank, representing a country or sovereign."

This is what we are: the highest

order or rank representing a government or sovereign. You and I are ambassadors of God Almighty. Let us think about that further and carry it another step. Let's look at the life of an ambassador and at his message.

Oftentimes, I think that we preachers are like little Western Union boys. We don't create the message; we only carry the message. We are not the important ones. The message itself is the important part.

We are ambassadors. An ambassador travels to and lives within a foreign country. He actually dwells in that country. His policies, the ideas, thoughts and understandings are not his own. They are of his government. You and I, if we carry out our responsibilities as ambassadors, will only do what our government (our Godhead which is God Almighty) wants us to do.

Recently (I know that all of you are aware of it) an ambassador was dismissed (or he resigned). He wasn't giving the message of the country, was he? He was contrary; he wasn't in tune with his government.

Paul calls us ambassadors. If we are ambassadors, then we ought to represent our Lord and His doctrine.

A country that is in harmony with another country, at peace with another country, has ambassadors within that country. But when two countries go to war, what happens? The ambassadors are called home, aren't they? The ambassadors are called home because there is no longer peace; there is war. They are brought home for their own safety.

What is going to happen in the very near future? I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon, s-o-o-n, soon! He is coming soon to gather His own, His ambassadors, those of us who know and love Him.

Before there is a terrible war, before the great tribulation time upon this earth, the Lord is going to come and take His ambassadors home. Then there is going to be unimaginable wickedness upon the earth. Our minds can't comprehend it.

There is a restraining force in the world today. The Holy Spirit restrains the evil so that it cannot run as free a course as it would like. But when that Holy Spirit, that Comforter, that Restraint is removed and evil is able to run rampant, then evil will escalate to levels that we cannot comprehend today. It would cause fainting. It would

cause great, great distress.

You and I who are ambassadors don't have to worry about those times. We don't have to worry because we are going to be called home before the battle day, before the evil is so great and heavy. During that time, when all that evil occurs, we are going to be in bliss. We are going to be in a place called heaven, and I believe that it is a place. The Word says that it is a place.

We're going to be there, and we will begin a time of eternal joy and happiness that is even greater than the joy that we feel today when fellowshiping together. I believe, since God is an infinite God, and the Word tells that He is an infinite God, that even the joy which you and I will experience will be multiplied and become greater and greater every day. How can it be? It can be with God.

The Lord many times presents us with opposites (cold and hot, or, black and white) in the Word, but what are we experiencing across the land today? It's not the hot and the cold, is it? There is a coolness, a lukewarmness. Recently I heard a senator, I believe that he was a senator, say that he no longer says, "Yes," or "No". He said that he had a new word in his vocabulary. It was "Yo". When asked what it meant, he said, "It is neither 'Yes' nor 'No'; it is just in between."

That's what we find in the world today, "in-betweens". That's the blindness that the adversary, Satan, the devil, is using. A gray area. It is no longer white or black, cold or hot, but it is in the middle.

A man who was in my office this past week told me of a conversation which he had had with another man. The other man happened to be a preacher in another church. He was talking to him about his concern. He said, "If I preached the Word as I ought to preach it, I would lose my job. I would lose my position." When asked, "Why don't you," he couldn't answer.

What we need is preachers who will preach the true Word of God as Jesus preached it in this chapter which we read today. Can we grasp the wrath of the Lord in this chapter?

He said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" How many times did He say that? Six or seven times in this chapter. A hypocrite is one who says something, but really doesn't follow through or think so in his heart.

He said, "... for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte (that's a convert), and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." Matthew 23:15. Christ talked to them in this way at that time. But what is happening today with this lukewarm, easy belief wherein repentance and true conversion is not experienced?

That is the key, isn't it? We could talk about repentance and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. We could talk about that, and one could understand the word "repent" very clearly, that it is a turning around, a change of attitude of the heart and mind. One could get an understanding of what repentance is and say, "Yes, I believe." But unless we experience a true repentance and change, can we really believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

You know, the word "believe" has repentance in it. When people deeply believe that Christ died for their sins, they repent. When they fully realize that Christ was crucified for them on Calvary's cross, repentance occurs.

We try to understand this way of salvation. We try to grasp it all; and yet, we must throw up our hands. It is a mystery! It is a mystery how God can change man into something different. The Word tells us that we become a "new creation".

A new creation! And we wonder. We know the workings of the Spirit and we can testify to it; but, as it tells us in one place, it is like the wind. We don't know where it comes from or where it goes. It is amazing, isn't it?

Recently I saw a man who had been in a motorcycle gang. He weighed three hundred pounds, had hair down to here and was a beastly looking man. He sat in a chair right in front of me. I believe that he was a converted man at the time that I saw him.

Just this past week I found out that before he became converted, he was a member of the "Hell's Angels". As I reminisced about how I had talked with him, I couldn't get over it. Here was a man who had been a member of the "Hell's Angels" and now he is a member of the band of Jesus Christ. This change, this new creation, works, doesn't it, beloved brothers and sisters? Salvation is real.

Oftentimes, I consider the fact that we don't assemble for social reasons. Our searching in the Holy Word of God isn't something that we just do because

of church membership. Our desire is real. It's real to each of our hearts. It's real because of the conviction and the power of the Holy Spirit, and because of the marvelous grace, the wonderful, matchless grace of God.

Many illustrations can be given to explain salvation, and what God does for mankind. I am reminded of the story of a court case in the state of Pennsylvania. It became a very famous court case that was known throughout the United States.

The judge who was to preside over the case would have to give a sentence to his son, because his son had fallen to sin. Yes, that's what it is. It is sin. Crime is sin. So, he had to preside over the case.

The judge had built up a tremendous reputation. He was looked upon by the town and by those about him as a man of integrity. Many of his friends came to him and said, "Sir, if it is in any way possible, don't judge your son. Get someone else to take over this case. You have an unblemished background. You have been a man of integrity, and we are afraid that, when you judge your son, you might not do what should be done according to the law."

The good old judge wouldn't be changed, but said, "No. I will preside over this case." The weeks went by, the information was gathered, and the day of the court hearing came. The people gathered in the courtroom, and all the material and evidence was presented. The jury deliberated, and they found him "guilty".

Then it was time for the sentence. The judge pulled the old law book from the shelf, and he leafed through it and found the place where this type of sentence was. He said, "I sentence you, my son, to fourteen years of hard labor and imprisonment. This is the maximum penalty of the law in the State of Pennsylvania, and I sentence you to this maximum penalty for the crime that you have committed."

The jurors and those within the courtroom gasped at the decision of the judge. Then the judge got off and stand and walked to where his son was sitting. As he stood there and looked at the bench where he had been sitting, he said these words: "The information has been gathered. The sentence that has been given is proper and true. But," he said, "he is my boy." Then he said, "Move over, son, I'm taking your place."



FEB 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. ROD HUBER OF VALPARAISO, IN

Text: I Kings 7 and Matthew 23:1-33

Today in this beautiful land of America, we have freedom of worship. We can come to the house of the Lord and worship together. We can sing together; we can pray together; we can hear the Word together; and we can worship the Lord together. We are a privileged people. We are privileged to hear the truth that is given to us in the church.

If there is untruth given to us as we listen to the Word, we are underprivileged. We are as orphaned children. But if we can come to the house of the Lord and be fed the true Word, the true Gospel, then we are a privileged people. We are a very privileged people!

Think about the children of Israel. They were a chosen people. I want you to realize something else this morning. We are a chosen people. We are chosen of God. Have you understood our high standing? We are the chosen people of God. The Word says, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14. We are part of that few.

Oh, the privilege of assembling around the Word. It is not a credit to ourselves. We must continually go back to the working of the Spirit of God who convicts our hearts, convicts us of those things which are right and proper. Then His marvelous grace gives us the opportunity and the desire to go ahead and fulfill those convictions. It's not the working of men; it's not man's ability to stay close to the Word, but it's the ability which God gives to us. We must keep a correct perspective in all of our spiritual responsibilities and duties.

We are a part of a glorious religion, the true religion, which is belief in the Son of the Living God. "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.

That's truth. That's the basic truth,

the foundation for the religious practices and beliefs that, in faith, you and I have today. If we try to build our religious faith on anything else, we might as well just get up and walk out that door. It won't do you any good to sit here this morning if you're trying to build on anything else. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Slain Lamb, is the only foundation that we can build on.

Why build? Why build anything at all? Why build a religious faith? Why have a religious faith? The Word tells us very plainly of a plan of God from the very beginning to its ending. It's full of the mercy of God. It's full of warnings, admonitions, admonishments and encouragements to each and every one of us. There is something in the Word for each of us, and if we don't heed what is intended for us, we will be lost throughout eternity.

Some of us may go through the portals of heaven and be safe, spared of eternal hell. That's for those of us who are redeemed. But, if we don't heed the Word and build upon the firm foundation, we will lose the reward. If we build anything that is not of faith, or have done anything for self-glory or self-praise, those things will be burned up. Only those things that are done for Christ, for His glory and for His praise and for His honor, are going to last.

On the other hand, we have the lost. The lost are those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, who have not built on the firm foundation.

How do we build? We repent. The Lord Jesus Christ says that we must repent and believe the gospel. The instruction is not from man. This is what the Bible says. This is what we preach by His grace.

We have services at a County Home near where we live, and we share them with the LaCrosse congregation. Every month we go there. There is a beautiful

little chapel built onto the side of the County Home. It is decorated so nicely and it is just a beautiful little chapel. One Sunday evening when we were there, a man who lived there came in with a Bible. He asked, "Do you preach the truth?"

Oh, my heart! I was kind of low . . . I was so empty. But he asked me, "Do you speak the truth?" I said, "Yes, by the grace of God." My spirits were lifted because here was one who wanted the truth.

If we desire anything other than the truth, we err, and do not what we ought to do.

We can make many comparisons in life. The Lord often used them when He spoke. He spoke of brides and bridegrooms. Recently we attended a wedding in the Bloomington congregation, and there we saw the bride and the bridegroom.

He spoke clearly about the lost and the saved, those who are lost and those who are saved.

He talked about the brightness of heaven and the light of heaven, and then about the darkness of hell. In all of these things, He used many beautiful comparisons to explain what we are on earth for, what the purpose of our existence is.

There is an eternal purpose. If we could only grasp that this morning. The eternal purpose is to worship God Almighty in truth, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In one place He talked about ambassadors. Do you know that we are ambassadors for Him? You and I who are redeemed and know His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, are His ambassadors. If we would look up the word "ambassador" in the dictionary (I had to do this recently in a business situation), we would find that the word ambassador means: "One of the highest order of" (Continued on Page 30)