



In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:3

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Christ's Intercession For Us . . .

How Must We Respond?



But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not . . .
Luke 22:32

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

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter.
John 14:16

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be as one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.
John 17:20, 21

It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
Romans 8:34

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
Hebrews 7:25

And having a high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . .
Hebrews 12:21, 22

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:16

When we think of the throne of grace and of Christ's priceless intercession for us, may we in turn come boldly to intercede for others.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith . . .
Ephesians 3:14, 16, 17

VISITING THE RUSSIAN BRETHREN

Submitted by Bro. Andy Hunyady

May our Lord be glorified, together with the Holy Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. May He be glorified through us all, as the Holy Spirit labors in us.

It is a great joy to me to be able to come to you all through heaven's help, even though it is in weakness and the silence of these lines. I am also grateful to be able to greet you in the Lord, and I do it in great love and respect, along with all the brethren there. Above all, to all those who were moved by the Lord to help and intercede for those loved ones in our part of the world, who suffer misery. We are also mindful of your many prayers for them and for us all, as well as for your sharing of your riches so unselfishly, and your labor of love with such great zeal. I am firmly convinced the Lord will not be slack to reward you, but will richly bless you with eternal rewards already on this earth. He will also pay special notice in His kingdom, as fruit pleasing in His sight, giving you such riches which neither rust, nor moth can corrupt. This is my prayer for all of you in our Lord.

I have many reasons to write to you an extensive letter about all the things which happened to us in the last few days. Namely, about our long trip with several other brethren, as we were able to finally travel to our beloved fellow brethren in R. We finally were able to reach them with your many gifts of love, with the blessings of the Lord under heaven's protection.

For the above reasons, I desire to give an account in short, but with "knowledge" I ask you to understand me! The travel agency had arranged our trip, so that we would be able to spend New Year's Eve "with our friends". On the evening of December 28 "with heavy winter clothing and with packages beyond our ability to handle" we started on our journey, accompanied by our loved ones, in faith and with great desires, but also with considerable apprehension. It was marvelous to experience at the border, and throughout the way how His angels watched over us, so that we would not "dash our feet against the stone!"

We arrived in peace (to the border) the next day at 10:00 a.m. There we were delayed until 10:45 p.m. before

we were able to continue toward our destination. However, the Lord richly blessed our boring delay and He sweetened our stay, since help arrived to help carry our many pieces of luggage (15 of them volunteered to travel the several hundred kms from their villages so they could be waiting for us). We were able to spend our waiting and travelling times together. There were three elder brothers among them. One elder brother was close to 80 years old but he was willing to shoulder the burden of travel. Also, several assistant elders and ministering brothers came along with some sisters. We greatly rejoiced to be able to greet and become acquainted with them in the Lord. We also committed to them the many gifts sent to their fellow brethren. The destination of our trip was a major city where we arrived at 8:00 a.m. There we were met with more brethren. This city was close to several villages where your brethren live. After we fulfilled our "legal" obligations (to go sightseeing in the city, give to Caesar what is Caesars . . .) we hurried to the home of one of the brothers for the afternoon worship service. Many (70) of them were waiting for us. After some very humbling mutual greetings, hymn #12, Psalm 95:1-8 and John 15:1-16 were read. (The services were translated into Hungarian, a first!) They greatly value the Word! When the Bible is read, the whole congregation weeps, even at the reading of the songs. There are very few songbooks and Bibles. How I wish that we also could equally appreciate the same, we who have such easy access to both! After the worship service the friends leave the room. They highly regard the exchange of greetings. The whole congregation arises and remains standing for as long as greetings are extended. They all together and aloud acknowledge each greeting with great joy. They also greet each other with the holy kiss (brothers with brothers, etc.). General singing followed in the tiny room, jam-packed from wall to wall. (Seating space was available only for the guests.)

There are very few song books. The few they have are hand written, and we have taken a few with us. But they love to sing! They sing mostly in unison, or

rather, as each remembers the melody, without hymn books. Yet they magnify the Lord from the heart, and weep as they sing. In their simplicity they are quick to learn, and they do it with joy.

After singing they quickly and with obvious experience, set up and prepared a table in the same tiny room. They placed separate plates for the guests, while they themselves used common plates. After the giving of thanks, the elder brothers cut the bread and distributed the pieces to everyone present. Later one of the brothers confided in us that they like to share a common plate out of brotherly love. Besides this, their manner of eating also considerably differs from our usual ways. (They start with the baked sweets, and finish with the roasted meats . . . if there is any left when their turn comes up.) They carefully and unselfishly share their meager food with each other. After eating, they again offer their thanksgiving. They sang hymn #13. After that they all arise and together sing The Lord's Prayer; "Our Father Who art in Heav-

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

en . . ." This song is unknown to us. Do you know this song? If you do, please send us this hymn.

The following morning we visited a sister in her rented place. She lives there with her 10 children and a drunkard husband. It is with great misery that they maintain both their daily living and their physical health. After the usual song and prayer services she thanked us for the expressed love (and gifts) from her heart. From there we continued our way to an old sister, then on to another village to some beloved brethren, where we again found a good many of them gathered. The host brother was a very weak and frail believer with six children, one smaller than the other. His sister was also there with six children. Her husband is an unmerciful drunkard, who spends the family's meager supply on drinks, plunging his family into great misery.

From there we visited a very old couple in the neighborhood, living in a pantry-sized, one-room, tiny little house. The brother is a deacon, his wife is an educated woman. They have dedicated and spent their entire lives to carefully and with great hardship translating the songbook, so the brethren could understand and sing the hymns in their own language. They hand-write every song, and do it with the same size print as the originals. They have several of these handwritten books in circulation. They requested that we sing hymn #212 in 4-part harmony. While we were singing, the sister kept time with her hand. They are poor, but they are contented!

They prepared lunch at the home of a widowed brother with ten children. There they ate with their usual "brotherly manner", (common plate and all) while we ate our food with our "high class, cultured" way, (that's what they said) and that's how we had our lunch. They conclude their meals with the usual custom of singing "Our Father Who art in Heaven" as I mentioned to you earlier.

In the afternoon we looked up a brother in another village. With six children, a barely healthy wife and a very meager home, they received us with great love. During our short visit there, numerous brethren came to visit. For New Year's Eve, (The New Year's Eve which was our reason for getting permission to travel here . . .) they were waiting for us in yet another village. Approximately 50 of them

gathered for worship services. After the joyous meeting and greeting, an old brother related that the home of the brother who propagated, or spread the faith in this area, stood on the same spot years before. He further related to us the story of his conversion and his laboring as he spread the Gospel. The worship service was again in Hungarian from Matthew 25:1-40. We continued singing until 11:30 p.m. After that they served supper. Following the supper, we were invited to the home of a younger minister brother for counseling together with the local elder brothers. We conversed together almost till morning about spiritual and church matters.

After a short rest, we had to take care of the necessary "official obligations". After that a faithful, older sister waited on us for lunch. Following the meal we went to a young brother's home, with six children, in a nearby village. They have a few animals, poultry and 2 skinny cows that produce about 5 quarts of milk a day. The simple home consisted of 2 rooms and a kitchen. The larger room was used for the meeting place, as about 50 of them came together. For the New Year's Day worship service, the sermon was given in their own language, and translated for us, from Luke 2:1-20. In their circles they commemorate those events on New Year's Day.

These events followed with the most painful parting. The time neared to say farewell. After the Common Supper, the Lord's Supper, we visited an old, sick sister. For nearly 30 years she has been paralyzed and almost all the time she lays in bed. (In that position she spends her time knitting for the needy.) When someone is there to help her, she gets on her crutches, and leaning on them she stands awhile. The diligent, local brothers have remodeled her miserable looking, shabby dwelling from some of the help sent there. (It is not plastered yet.) A precious soul, content with the Lord's will, who demonstrated a great joy as she magnified the Lord's holy name with great enthusiasm, blending her voice with ours. Near to her lives a very dear and faithful family. The brother is an assistant elder. They have 15 children. They do not abound with the visible things, but their love is so abounding. We indeed found that your overflowing enthusiasm to help them certainly is not unnecessary, as you bear in your hearts

their plight. We, also entrusted and privileged with this journey of good deeds, were greatly rejoicing that the Lord has given us this opportunity. He allowed us to become partakers of this great joy, of which I have the pleasure to write to you, even though with lines that lack so much.

Finally, after 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday we returned to the train station. Many brethren accompanied us. The hour of parting had arrived! Around 8:00 p.m. our train finally left homebound. As an expression of their brotherly love, 15 of them travelled back with us to the station, where we switched trains. There were two elder brothers among the brethren. We were able to spend the night with much worthwhile conversation. With a very short rest for our bodies, we got off the train at 8:00 a.m. and spent the day waiting at the station in the company of our beloved brethren, becoming partakers of many joyous hours of fellowship, as a precious gift. With unforgettable memories and the pains of parting filling our hearts, we started the final leg of our journey home.

Our trip home was not without problems. In such times of need I turned to the Lord for help, as I believe, the others did the same, and thus, everything turned for the better. We have been able to experience how marvelously the Lord does perform all things. As we think back upon our trip, our thoughts are filled with amazement how marvelously has the Lord led us. We haven't been everywhere, but everywhere we went, to the worship services, or visiting the sick and the poor believers, we always extended your loving greetings. All those brethren, individually and collectively, expressed their loving appreciations and greet you all with much, much love from their distant homes in the Lord's holy name. They further have requested that their greetings be forwarded to all the brethren, with their requests, that in your pleadings remember them also. There are among them some who are better off (in comparison) and there are those whose lot is very hard. Their monthly income is 80 - 120 Rubels. They can save very little at home. (Some poultry, a garden, etc.) This is our observation, though we visited only a few.

About 80 . . . 80,000 Forint or about \$1,600.00 reached them through the former means, and so, there is still

66 . . . left. Most likely, as I have written before, this also will reach them in March and there will be no more! Dear brother! If you all think it right to continue, please look for opportunities! We took with us a tape recorder and tapes, to their great joy. We also took along "books", vitamins, medicines, and the "extra winter clothing" on me was also given away. And in whatever way I lacked, please do forgive me.

I desired to write sooner, but our situation turned into hardship as a consequence of my wife's sickness. The care of our 13 children totally fell upon me. I wasn't even able to go to work through the whole month of December. Again on January 15, she was back in the hospital for two weeks. She was operated on, and now she has to rest, so she can recuperate. Please do not take this as an excuse from me, and much less as a complaint. But this is the reason I have not written before. But it pressed me so much, that now, taking

advantage of the quietness of the night, I have penned this letter, so you all would be informed.

I want to also let you know that often I visited the authorities about the food packages. I spared nothing to succeed in what you dear brothers have hoped to achieve. I just now received the final answer. Unfortunately, nothing can be accomplished over and above 1 kg. That's the word from that capital and they will not agree. The brother here adds several personal messages to different brethren here, then he continues with these greetings. Finally, we greet all of you with much love along with the dear laboring brothers in all the holy congregations. . . . All the beloved elders, ministering brothers, my younger brother and brothers who are co-laborers with me in this many-sided work of relief administration, all send greetings with my dear wife and myself, your weak and appreciative brother in Christ.

stop a Hindu man was resting on a flat board cot. It was a vast contrast to the comfort we find in the motels in the United States. The lack of what we call necessities was made up by the outpouring of friendship and our Indian friends sharing of all they had. It was truly a lesson to us.

The drive through the mountains was a beautiful sight to see as the narrow road wound its way up the high mountains. With such narrow roads, there were many tense moments as cars and trucks tried to move over to allow passing. I was in the front seat trying to get accustomed to the traffic and driving (such as using the horn as a warning when rounding a curve in the mountains). We arrived safely at the VIP Hotel at Nasik where we had a nice room and shower. There were meetings with the advisory board, a group of very dedicated Christian friends. Mr. Suryawausbi was a big help in translation and has done much during the years to translate writings and sermon tapes to the Marabarti dialect. One day was given to a convocation (conference) with the pastors, ministers and board members. Bros. John, Jim and myself each had two topics to present, similar to the agenda and presentation of our church general conference. The intent listening on the part of the pastors and ministers was a heart-touching experience. They are asking and pleading for us to teach and explain to them, our faith and belief.

Bro. John Klotzle addressed two topics: "Unity Within the Church" and "Serving the Lord through Mission Service and Not for Material Gain".

Bro. Jim Hoerr spoke on: "The Pious Life Versus Immorality" and "What the Lord Expects of a Christian".

I presented the topics: "The Importance of Awareness of the Depth of the Conversion Experience" and "Marriage in the Lord".

It was a very blessed day sharing and teaching from the Word of God. Our precious Christian Indian ministers are so interested in learning. How important it is that we respond to their plea for help.

Before traveling to visit the village churches and Christians, Mr. Patole took us to "downtown" Nasik to a clothing store. The World Relief Committee had sent funds to buy dresses, shirts and pants for all the children in the villages. Sis. Lois and Sis. Virginia picked out the children's clothing in a

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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|------------------|-------|---------|
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| September 1984 - | 749 | 1658 |
| October 1984 - | 686 | 2344 |
| November 1984 - | 1246 | 3590 |
| December 1984 - | 944 | 4534 |
| January 1985 - | 850 | 5384 |
| February 1985 - | 505 | 5889 |
| March 1985 - | 1077 | 6966 |

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind.

MEMORIES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

(Continued from March Issue)

JOURNEY FROM KHARDI MISSION COMPOUND TO NASIK

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear:"

I Peter 3:15

The orphan boys, the mission workers and some of the Khardi villagers

came to bid us farewell. They had loaded all our baggage on the bus and bid a final farewell. As we went north, Bro. John said we would stop at the Golden Rose Hotel. As we pulled in, we saw an open-sided pole building, which served as an open-air restaurant and resting stop. The owner welcomed us and gave us a cool soft drink. He had served as our interpreter during a meeting with the Khardi village PANCHYAT (mayor) and council. We certainly experienced many acts of kindness and friendship. At this rest

range of sizes. With much effort, the Indian sales clerks packed many cartons of clothes to be loaded on the top of the van. It was a major task to get the bus through the narrow streets, packed with pedestrians, ox carts, bicycles, scooters, cabs, motorcycles and stray cattle. The shops line the streets, with many shopkeepers displaying their merchandise on the sidewalk. I was just amazed at all that was happening around me. We now had all our baggage, cartons of Bibles and cartons of children's clothes packed in the bus and on the top. So began our preparation to travel into the mountains and tribal villages to visit and worship with the Christians there. It was a memorable and heart-touching experience that we will write about in the next issue.

(Next month: Visiting the tribal villages)

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.

hearts and minds at Easter time. "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." This beautiful refrain is part of the lovely Easter hymn, "Christ Arose". It tells of the greatest victory ever won, the victory over death, and by none other than our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. May we ever praise Him for His unspeakable gift to the sons of men.

The children and staff are looking forward to spring break. This affords us a time to "look" at the wide, wide world outside the home area. It gives us all a deeper appreciation of our many blessings here, and elsewhere, in this great land of ours. What great freedom God has wrought for us in the United States of America.

Our present "break" plans are as follows. Beth is going with Sis. LeAnn to Morris, MN; Robin is going to Fairbury, IL to be with her family; Daleen is going to South Whitley, IN to be with her family; Sis. Judy L. to Rockville, CT to be with her family; Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie and family to Morton, IL and the East House (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan and Billy, and Sis. Maxine and Thelma, Bertha, John, Chuck, Jerry, Randy and Eric) to Sarasota, FL to visit our church and to do some sight-seeing; Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheryl vacationing; and the Gehrings to Leoti, KS and Burlington, IA to visit their family. On our busy break schedule we pray for God's protection.

Along with the excitement of spring break and the change in weather and scenery, we are already planning ahead for the warmer, summer months. In past years, our summer program has largely been developed and carried out with the support, time and energy from many interested volunteers across the country. This summer, again, we are extending an invitation to our Christian brothers, sisters, friends or couples who would like to volunteer several days of their summer vacation. We recommend a minimum of one week, however, on occasion, we have appreciated the extra hands on a special project for a shorter stay.

In previous summers we have been blessed with people who have offered their talents in a variety of areas such as: music, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, gardening (outdoor work), drama,

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Judy Luginbuhl

Spring is upon us, and what a pleasant time of year in the great Midwest. Winter has lost its sting, and the warm winds of spring are gently warming the earth. The dull brown of the earth is bursting forth with a gorgeous green, the white of winter snow is history for a season, and all nature is anticipating the coming of the planting season.

Symbolic with the new life that spring brings, is the new life that Christ, through His suffering, death and resurrection, brings to the weary soul who is sick of sin and its drab outlook in the world, and more importantly, in the world to come. What an awakening when the dawn of a new life in Christ is upon individuals. Behold, all things become new, the former things are passed away. This great transformation is renewed in our

pottery and ceramics (we have a kiln), teaching, recreation (phys. ed.), computers, woodworking, photography or simply an interest to understand and develop relationships with young people. We want to encourage anyone who has a special talent, interest or project they would like to initiate or assist with to please contact us. If you have no strong direction in any specific area, but you would like to offer your time in some capacity, we also welcome you.

We would appreciate hearing from those of you who are interested as soon as possible indicating: 1. The dates you'd be available to volunteer (our summer program will cover the weeks from June 10 through August 23) with the exception of summer break, July 19 - 23; 2. The length of stay; 3. Activities or project in which you'd like to participate; 4. An address and phone number where you can be reached.

Many of us have received countless blessings in our lives: emotionally (with the stability of Christian friends and families), materially and spiritually. I am so often reminded of the scripture in Luke 12:48, "... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required ..."

Once again we thank you for your continual support and prayers.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

With the harsh chill of winter behind us, God is now speaking in the beautiful, harmonious tones of spring. The balmy sunshine not only warms the earth, but also the heart of man.

The observance of Christ's death and resurrection and the tender love shown to our mothers on Mother's Day are very much a part of this season. When the holy women attempted to anoint the body of Jesus on the morning of the first day of the week, they wondered who would "roll away the stone". The thought occurs to us: Where was Jesus' mother at that time? Was she among those who communed with the risen Christ? Was the "stone" in her heart, which must surely have had crushing weight when her beloved Son was crucified, now rolled away - gone forever?

Mothers of handicapped children often find within themselves a weighted stone of responsibility, and yet a calm, quiet courage is a characteristic we often observe. As one mother of a

small retarded daughter expressed it, there will be a day of triumph:

But when the shout of triumph sounds
O'er sky and earth and sea,
And glorious resurrection comes,
All changed like Him we'll be.

Then far above life's cruel jeers
And inconsistencies,
My small, retarded child will have
Her opportunities.

And I'll thank God eternally
For His sweet messenger to me.
Nina Beegle

On March 22, it was our privilege to host an Appreciation Dinner for our many valuable volunteers. Truly they are friends of our residents, and it is in their behalf that we agree with the unknown author who wrote:

Blessed are you who take the time
To listen to difficult speech,
For you help me to know that
If I persevere,
I can be understood.
Blessed are you who never bid me to
"hurry up"

Or take my tasks from me
And do them for me,
For I often need time rather than help.
Blessed are you who stand beside me
As I enter new and untried ventures,
For my failures will be outweighed
By the times I surprise myself and you.
Blessed are you who ask for my help,
For my greatest need is to be needed.
Blessed are you who understand that
It is difficult for me
To put my thoughts into words.
Blessed are you who with a smile,
Encourage me to try once more.
Blessed are you who never remind me
That today I asked the same question
twice.
Blessed are you who respect me
And love me just as I am.

New to our facility, but not new to us, is Marian Funk. Though she has spent time among us, she has just now come to live here; and we welcome her warmly. The daughter of Wilbert and Violette Funk (Morton, IL), she has two brothers, Glen and Bill, and three sisters, Jane, Gail and Sherry. This loving family includes also seven nieces and eight nephews. Fried chicken, ice cream, hamburgers and french fries are Marian's favorite foods. Hobbies for

Marian include crocheting and going on trips. Birthday time for Marian is November 20.

Here as a temporary, short-term resident is Christy Furrer (Wolcott, IN). We hope it will be a pleasant time for her.

Until we meet again by way of the printed page, remember: "The brightest and most enduring flowers along the waysides of life are smiles, the sparkle of the eye, loving words, little acts of kindness . . . They never wholly fade from memory. Often after years, they are brighter than on the day we first beheld them."

Edgar Linton

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Schrenk

Our fellowship hall is completed now. We have used it several times. What a joy and privilege it is to have such a lovely building to use. We were able to see the slides of India when Elder Bro. David Bertsch was here. We also saw slides of the Philippines and have had a wedding in our new building. Randy Moore and Lisa Miller were married there. Randy is the son of Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris.

We had a very hard winter in Alabama this year - the coldest temperatures of the century. We had several snow storms and the northern part of the state, where the church is, had lots of ice. That's all past now and spring is here with temperatures in the 70's now. Yesterday, when we returned from Michigan, the tractors were out in the fields and the red earth looked so fresh and ready for a new season. The Redbuds are ready to burst forth and daffodils are everywhere.

We had many visitors as people were traveling to and from the South. We wish to thank each one for taking time to worship with us. It's such a blessing to us, and hope it was for you. May God be your rewarder.

Little Todd Haggermaker has just had surgery. All seems to be okay and he and Sis. Judy should be back to worship with us. The flu was really bad in the South this year but should be past now and everyone should be together again for worship service on Sunday.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

The Lord hath done great things for us; wherefore we are glad (Psalm

126:3) and with this grateful feeling, Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton became first-time parents of Samuel Joseph on March 12. The happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola VonTobel (Francesville, IN) and Lynette Marshall (Phoenix, AZ).

We have enjoyed the messages of the following visiting ministers: Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI), Bro. Edward Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH).

We have been blessed having all the many, many visitors over the winter months.

We are thankful Sis. Toni Bentley and Sis. Lois Beres are getting along nicely. Sis. Martha DeMille and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf have not been feeling well lately. Bro. Tim Sutton had a hand injury and was treated at the hospital. Bro. Ron Hoerr had outpatient surgery.

Since last visiting you, Arizona has had snow storms, ice, thunderstorms, floods, but here in Phoenix, the Lord sends nice weather and those little darlings of good cheer – the hummingbirds.

God be with you till we meet again!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Our friend, Ruth Newberry was recently hospitalized. We hope that Ruth can feel the many prayers that have been uttered on her behalf. We certainly wish her God's blessings at this time.

Our Elder Bro. Richard Schubach was with us for a Wednesday evening service to read the letter from the Elder Conference. We thank Bro. Richard for being here to administer what the elders put forth in the letter. We were reminded of many encouraging and uplifting thoughts, not the least of which is how much the elders need and covet our prayers.

Steve and Maria Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Pazzi) were announced during Bro. Richard's recent visit as having found peace through repentance. We were so happy to hear that they have found peace and now eagerly await baptism. May the Lord continue to dwell with Steve and Maria and bless their lives together. Our congregation in Tucson is small and we feel uplifted that we now have two soldiers to help in our fight of faith. It is certainly cause to be thankful!

We were recently host to the California and Phoenix Sunday School

Bible Classes. As has been the case before, the weekend proved to be a blessing to everyone concerned. We thank the Lord for His blessing on the weekend. We also know there was a lot of laboring on the part of the Sunday School teachers from all three congregations and we thank them so very much for their efforts in providing an opportunity for our young adults to gather together. It is so important to continue weekends like this one as it provides a chance for our young people to feel the love and warmth that comes from being together.

Our visiting ministers recently, in addition to Elder Bro. Schubach (Phoenix) have been Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan) and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) We thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us here in Tucson.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

Although our seasonal changes in Southern California aren't as drastic as in some parts, spring is evident as we again see God's beautiful work as trees blossom, flowers are more abundant and the mountains and hills are lush and green. The Lord sent plenty of showers and plenty of sunshine this past winter to cause this spring to be so beautiful. No matter how far along man progresses in areas of technology, medicine or any other area, we will never come close to the wonders of God's creation of life. The breath of life, life of nature and eternal life which comes to us by rebirth through Jesus Christ, are all made possible only by Him. May we always remember that our Creator is not only almighty and to be respected; but He is also so mercifully compassionate and will never cause us to fall if we remain close and obedient to His Word.

We are thankful that improved health was given to Bro. Albert Kaisner as he was able to move back to his home from the hospital. Sis. Elizabeth Feldman had a short hospital stay, but is back home again and doing very well. May the Lord continue to strengthen them both in body and spirit.

Bro. Glenn Hackenjos was able to travel to Haiti with four other brothers to participate in a Works Project, by helping to build a schoolhouse. We're thankful the Lord protected Bro. Glenn, and trust he will be blessed for sharing his time and God's love.

How good it is for us to sit under the sound of God's true Word and be fed with spiritual food so that we'll have the strength to go onward and forward towards our Heavenly goal! "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." II Corinthians 4:5. We sincerely thank all our brothers who willingly serve in the ministry, and appreciate those who come from many miles away and share the Word with us. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). May the Lord bless and keep them in His care.

Soon Mother's Day will be here and many of us will have the opportunity to tell our mothers how much they are loved and appreciated. Yet for various reasons, there are also many who will not have such an opportunity. I do not wish to sound discouraging, but would like to encourage all the moms who read this to listen and respond to your children's needs, especially their need of your time and your love. A child's heart is beautiful, precious and delicate. May God bless all you dear mothers for your daily sacrifices, and help you to raise your children in a way pleasing to our Lord and Saviour.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic

There is joy among the angels,
Singing round the throne above,
When repentant tears are flowing,
While the risen Lord is showing,
All the riches of His love.

There is joy among the angels,
When a sinner heeds the call;
When he turns to Christ believing,
And from Him is love receiving,
Grace that saves us one and all.

There is joy among the angels,
When His cause is speeding on,
When the notes of praise are ringing,
That the gospel work is bringing,
Precious sheaves for harvest morn.

There is joy, Oh, there is joy!
Joy that never can be told.
When a soul that long has wondered,
Comes within the Saviour's fold.

Gospel Hymns #171

We rejoice with the angels in heaven,
and are encouraged in our faith when

we see that dear friends are still heeding the loving and patient call of our Lord. Jeff Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger, Elgin) who has heeded that call has begun to walk in the footsteps of the Saviour. Our prayer is that many more dear souls who are enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin would give their lives to the Lord, and taste of the lasting and eternal pleasures found only in Jesus, our Redeemer.

Our ministering brothers this month were Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). May God richly bless our ministering brethren for laboring so faithfully in our behalf.

Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month; currently at Bro. Victor's house (619-755-3341). Bro. Peter Petrovic can also be contacted for further information (619-489-5165).

**CANADA,
 SASKATCHEWAN, REGINA
 Mary Nesbitt**

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Master let it be,
 In working or in waiting,
 Another year with thee.

Another new year has begun and we wish to thank our dear brethren who came and ministered to us in the years gone by. We truly appreciate the sacrifices they make to bring us the "Scriptural Truth", and thank the Lord daily, that their time and effort were available to us. We also thank their dear wives who accompany them as well as visitors, who are very welcome. We appreciate the Christian fellowship which is very sparse here, but very needful.

We extend grateful thanks for the gifts which help to support the many challenges and responsibilities for our church, and for the many efforts which seemingly go unnoticed. We also thank the missionary committee for their support.

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

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

We wish to extend our thanks to our Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park,

IL) for visiting us and for their labors in our behalf.

During the weekend our elder brothers were here, we were all blessed to see the Lord working in another soul's heart as Rod Schmidt started repenting. We certainly give him our prayerful support.

Silver Lining dues for Denver are due in May. Please pay \$7.00 per subscription to Marlene Leman, 16836 E. Harvard Place, Aurora, CO 80013.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
 Michelle Virkler**

... This union of our hearts
 Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
 We walk the path of life
 While cheer and trust increases
 When God in truth abides
 When two join hand and heart
 We find a threefold cord, not lightly
 rent apart.

Hymn #79

Bro. Scott Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma) and Sis. JoAnn Gerber (Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly) were married March 10. We certainly all pray that God will abide and watch over them in their new undertaking.

Stephen Ross is our new bundle of joy. Parents are Merrill and Christine Bachiochi Kloter. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bachiochi and paternal grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Florence Kloter. We wish them God's blessings with their gift from God.

Sis. Elsie Lanz has returned home from Florida. We trust the Lord will protect her and keep her in His loving arms.

... May we also love each other,
 May our motive be so pure
 That each member for his brother
 Death and torture can endure
 So did Jesus love us truly
 When He shed for us His blood
 You will grieve His heart unduly
 If you seek your selfish good.

Hymn #33

The above hymn was just recently read and then we sang the beautiful words as God would reveal to us how we should be toward one another. Let us always keep that foremost in our hearts and minds.

"Wait on the Lord

Be of Good Courage and
 He shall strengthen thine heart
 Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Psalm 27

For those who seem afflicted with trials, and burdens of this world, may we find comfort in the reading of Psalm 27.

As we all look forward to spring just around the corner, may we be like a bud on the tree and renew our spirit and walk with Him and ever be strengthened and receptive to His holy Word.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
 Billie Klopfenstein**

Our area has been blessed with an exceptionally mild and sunny winter and spring is arriving in the same vein. The orange trees are in blossom and the night blooming jasmine is particularly fragrant so the evening air is filled with sweetness.

There have been so many visitors to our church recently. Each visiting elder or ministering brother is appreciated greatly. The past month we have heard sermons from Elder Bros. Art Nohl, Edwin Ringger and Bros. Ed Ault, Bob Meyer and Wendell Gerber. Bro. Glen Hackenjos also spent a Sunday with us on his return trip from Haiti.

My son and I were recently discussing the writings of an educator who has had several books published in recent years. All of his books have a strong, positive attitude interspersed with a theme of love. As I reminded my son during our talk, there is not one new idea in any of the man's books. Every subject he has written about and everything we have need of when relating to our fellow man is contained in the Bible. It all just needs to be put into practice more often.

Thought for the Day: God's Word is greater than any human wisdom.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
 Marie Keller — Edna Meister**

**WE LOVE
 THE VENERABLE HOUSE**

We love the venerable house
 Our fathers built to God;
 In heaven are kept their grateful vows,
 Their dust endears the sod.

Here holy thoughts alight have shed
From many a radiant face,
And prayers of humble virtue spread
The perfume of the place.

And anxious hearts have pondered here
The mystery of life,
And prayed th' Eternal Light to clear
Their doubts and aid their strife.

They live with God, their homes are
dust;
Yet here their children pray,
And in this fleeting lifetime trust
To find the narrow way.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

We were truly blessed again this month with visiting brethren and ministers from many different areas of the United States. We are so fortunate to have the freedom to worship anywhere we have churches in this country and overseas.

Visiting elders were: Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Donald Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL).

Also the visiting ministers this past month to bring us the true Word of God were: Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH), Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville, IL). Bro. Harold Schmidgall reminded us about the ten lepers healed of their disease (as in comparison to our cleansing and baptism). "Nine" went their own way and "One" was thankful for his cleansing. We also should be as the thankful leper who was cleansed. May we lead a good life and keep our light shining for others to see.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Deacon Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) held our first communion service on March 13 in our new church.

We also had full support to keep the North Fort Myers church open year around. We are truly thankful for all that God has done for us in our lives here on earth. May He help us grow that we may be united together in heaven with Him.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Elaine Gudeman — Elda Martin

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
To our Sisters in the Lord,
Here from afar and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord.
Welcome, welcome, all ye loved ones;
Greetings in the Savior's name.
Peace and love impel the greeting,
Greetings do our love impart;
Christian greetings are a blessing,
As a prayer console the heart.
There is comfort, peace and blessing,
Of a greeting in the Lord.

Hymns of Zion #7

During the winter season we are blessed with the love of many Christian greetings and visiting brethren, especially those that labor to minister God's Word. We thank Bros. Arthur Nohl (Morris, MN), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Harold Emch (Girard, OH), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL).

This month we have had several hospital patients. Sis. Minnie Nuest underwent eye surgery and has been making a rapid recovery as did Bros. Alvin Schrock, Werner Kupferschmidt and Richard Laukhuf. All are home and doing very well. Sis. Debbie Little has been hospitalized all month due to complications during pregnancy and we are thankful that so far the report is good for both mother and baby. We all anxiously and prayerfully await the birth of their little one.

Still convalescing are Louise Joos and Elsie Lanz.

Elsie Lanz and her family wish to thank everyone for the love, kindness and generosity shown to her during her illness this winter. She has now made the trip north satisfactorily and is resting at home with her daughter. She will be going to the St. Francis Hospital for further tests and treatment.

At this Easter season we are once again reminded of the price that our Lord and Savior paid for our salvation.

THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

Out onto Calvary's hill, Where Jesus
died I'll go,

To hear the words He speaks, To see
Him in His woe.

How great the pains O Lord, Afflict
Thee on this day;
"My God, my God", He calls, "Forsake
Me not I pray".

No vengeance fills His heart; For them
I hear Him plead;
"They know not what they do, Forgive
them for this deed".

"I thirst", He cries in pain, For there
is no distress,
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,
Endured not at His death.

He bows His head and cries, "'Tis
finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul." Life's victory
is won.

Zion's Harp #89

Jesus has done His part, the price
has been paid. He stands with loving
outstretched hands offering you the
gift of life eternal. Won't you accept
His priceless gift today?

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Charmin Sellers — Nancy Foltz

Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which
was crucified; He is risen . . .

St. Mark 16:6

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Robert Beyers (Naumburg, NY), Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN). Our deep appreciation and gratitude go to these gentlemen for taking time to come and share the Word with us.

Our congregation has been blessed with visitors this year and we look forward to all who are able to come and worship with our congregation in Atlanta. We thank the Lord for His goodness.

Our services are held each 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Ramada Inn, I-75, Delk Road Exit, Marietta, GA. For further information, contact Don Sellers at 404-923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at 404-451-9191.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Nancy Kaufmann — Jan Gudeman

We cannot appreciate enough the labors of love of visiting ministers bringing the Word to us. This past

month we were blessed by strengthening words from Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

We have a new little baby boy in our congregation. Bro. Ron and Sis. Ellen Farney have little Kale Allan. Kale is welcomed also by his big sister, Cally. Grandparents are Sis. Joyce Domnick (Morton, IL) and Bro. Gerry and Sis. Gerry Farney (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanne Haerr have just returned from a trip to California where Bro. Ray had minor surgery to improve his voice. We pray for Bro. Ray's continued progress, and thank our God for good doctors and new techniques so that our lives may be made better.

At this beautiful spring time of year, when nature awakens, when flowers bloom and hibernating animals leave their winter sleeping places, let us be reminded that there will be a glorious dawn for us, too, on that resurrection morn.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

GOD REMEMBERS

I placed them here, crisp bulbs so
 brown,
 And shoved them deep into the ground.
 In haste I failed to mark the spot,
 And as days passed, I soon forgot.
 But I, surprised, when weeks marched
 by,
 Saw tulips growing half knee-high.
 I guess God marks bulbs planned for
 Spring:
 It's great how He remembers things.

P. Tanksley

We know God is all around us when
 we see the beauty of spring unfold.

February 23 was the wedding day of
 Alan Knobloch and Mary Ann Ehnle.
 Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis.
 Francis Knobloch (Princeville, IL) and
 Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle. May the
 Lord be their guide as they start their
 new life together.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress
 are the happy parents of a precious
 baby girl, Janelle Beth, born February
 27. Janelle has two brothers, Bruce
 and Scott. Grandparents are Sis. Lois
 Endress and Bro. John and Sis. Ruth
 Schrock (Oakville, IA).

Kim Dietz was a hospital patient this

month. We are happy that she is home
 again and progressing quite well. We
 pray God will add His healing touch.

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

Zion's Harp #209

We welcome our new sister, Delores
 Stoller, into our fellowship. She was
 baptized March 17. We wish her much
 grace in her new walk of life.

We sincerely thank all who visited us
 this past month, especially our visiting
 ministers, Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (De-
 troit, MI), Everett Hari (Bloomington,
 IL), Glen Dill (Tremont, IL), Elder
 Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Ed-
 win Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Joe Stol-
 ler (Princeville, IL). What a privilege it
 is to sit in God's holy house, undis-
 turbed by the rest of the world, and
 listen to His Word spoken.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

Visualize a maze on paper. One's
 purpose is to thread through the path-
 ways along a route which successfully
 reaches the goal. If one goes far into a
 dead-end passage, the only choice the
 person has is to return to the original
 juncture and go another way. To us life
 may seem like a twisting maze. At
 crucial points we may find the way
 blocked or end up spending time "re-
 tracing our steps". Yet our Lord and
 Savior sees the goal and wants us to
 reach it. Never will He allow a complete
 dead-end. When one path is blocked,
 we must believe it is for our benefit.
 Perhaps we are being urged to use
 other resources, to reach out in a way
 we might not try unless another way is
 blocked. Ah, let us allow the Maze
 Maker His way with us. In His hands
 each twist, each turn, can work for our
 good (and for the good of those around
 us), and ultimately there will be no
 more a maze but heaven (our goal) in
 our sights.

Our cup has been overflowing with
 blessings. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm
 (Goodfield, IL), Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto,
 MI) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) have
 shared valuable spiritual insights with
 us. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm assisted
 Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the

reading and exhortation of the '84
 brotherhood conference report as well.
 "More purity give me, More strength to
 o'ercome; More freedom from earth
 stains, More longings for home; More
 fit for the kingdom, More used I would
 be; More, blessed and holy, More,
 Saviour, like thee." (Hymns of Zion
 #101, vs. 3). May we follow Him, serve
 Him and reign with Him.

We are concerned for Sis. Elizabeth
 Zimmerman who has been hospital-
 ized and for her sister, our Sis. Dorothy,
 shut-in at home. We pray that, as the
 Lord wills, they may recover soon and
 be together in their cozy home, ready
 to again offer their special brand of
 Christian hospitality.

Even the people of the world trust
 that spring will follow winter and sum-
 mer will follow spring. From us the
 Lord expects trust much deeper, much
 more committed, of Himself, of our
 brothers and sisters. Let us compare
 our trust to this "worldly" example
 shared by a ministering brother: He
 and others were dining at the exclusive
 Hugo's in Hong Kong, a place where
 each waiter is specialized and per-
 forms a different part of the exquisite
 service (for which the restaurant is
 renowned). After their main course was
 removed and a waiter took their orders
 for dessert and coffee, one man sug-
 gested they test the quality of the
 service. Not everyone was having des-
 sert or coffee and those who were
 getting one were not necessarily get-
 ting the other, so they switched the
 plates and cups around. When the
 "dessert and coffee" waiter came, a
 different man, he stopped, looked at
 the table, at his information, and with-
 out a word, changed the cups and
 plates back to their original places,
 filling all orders correctly. This man
 did not assume his colleague was
 wrong; he did not question the custom-
 ers. In the serenity of perfect confi-
 dence he went ahead with his job. How
 much more should we trust our Lord?!
 Whatever life may bring, could stop us
 and bring us up short, but can we do
 less than go forward, hand in hand with
 our Lord, our will submerged in His?

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Lo, children are a heritage of the
 Lord."

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson are rejoicing over the birth of little Nathan Richard born March 8. Welcoming him home are brother, Zachary and sister, Stephany and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke (Eureka) and Sis. Mary and the late Loren Anderson.

Clyde Scharlach, 92, of Houston, TX (formerly of Cissna Park) passed away February 14 at his home. Survivors include one daughter, Mary Jane Nicolaisen (Bernard, Houston, TX); a son, Robert (Wilmington, DE); five sisters, Sis. Ella Scharlach (Fairbury), Sis. Cora Scharlach, Sis. Clara Scharlach, Sis. Nettie Scharlach and Sis. Mary Anderson (all of Cissna Park) and four brothers, Arthur Scharlach (Bluffton, IN), Aaron Scharlach (Richmond, IN), Lester Scharlach (Cissna Park) and Harry Scharlach (Hoopeston). Our sympathy is extended to the families.

Our loved ones in the hospital this month are Herbert Hofer, Bro. John Wahl and Sis. Marilyn Knapp. We wish them the nearness and help of God.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville). May God bless them for their efforts.

We are glad to have Sis. Helen Knapp back with us again after spending several months in our Peoria nursing home.

We want to express our sincere thanks to all who have so lovingly remembered us with prayers, cards, calls, food, gifts and many other acts of kindness since Charles' illness. May God bless each one.

Charles and Wilma Walder

The winter season is coming to an end and signs of spring are upon us. We rejoice in the mildness and beauty of the season, the hope and cheer it brings and the blessings we can feel from above.

Easter is a season of Hope and Joy and Cheer,

There's beauty all around us to see and touch and hear . . .

So, no matter how downhearted and discouraged we may be,

New Hope is born when we behold leaves budding on a tree . . .

Or when we see a timid flower push through the frozen sod

And open wide in glad surprise its petaled eyes to God . . .

For this is just God saying - "Lift up your eyes to Me,

And the bleakness of your spirit, like the budding springtime tree,

Will lose its wintery darkness and your heavy heart will sing" -

For God never sends the Winter without the Joy of Spring.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Tammy Knapp — Joan Schrock

A PRAYER IN SPRING

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;

And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,

Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;

And make us happy in the happy bees.
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,

And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

Robert Frost

God reminds us so wonderfully with the new life that spring brings with it, of the promise He has for each of us of the new life He has in store for His children. Spring helps us to remember the power and glory of God, and that all things are possible with God who is Creator of all.

As spring brings forth the birth of nature, there was also the birth of a child this month in Congerville. Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig were blessed with Benjamin James. Now his sister, Joanie, will have a playmate. The happy grandparents are Jim and Elda Mae Craig and Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). May God provide all parents with the grace and strength and wisdom to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

As we heard this past weekend,

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say I have no pleasure in them: (Ecc. 12:1). The congregation rejoiced as three young souls were brought into the fold and became a part of the family of God. These were Mark and Jim Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth) and Jay Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen). We welcome them as brothers-in-faith and pray that they may stay true and faithful till life's end. It is always such an encouragement to hear the testimonies of dear souls and helps us review our walk of life, also.

This past month we have also had two souls become united as one in marriage. They were Bro. Ben Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu) and Sis. Kathy Miller (Sis. Betty Miller). We pray that they may set up a Christian home as a glory to God, and that they may strengthen each other in the ways of the Lord.

The visiting ministers that lent themselves for these special occasions this month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Tim Zimmerman and Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury IL). We are so thankful for these faithful brothers who bring forth God's Word to us week after week. Each time we hear the Word something new is revealed to us. We pray that God will bless these brothers for their faithfulness.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don) and Bro. Emil Stahl (Sis. Adele). We are thankful they are both back home and recovering. May God continue to strengthen and watch over them. May we remember also to thank God for our health and offer a prayer for those who are sick.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

What comfort and rejoicing in the beatitudes found in Psalms 32:1-2! "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." We rejoice with our newly born brother-in-Christ, Jeff Cargill, because he was able to bring his testimony on March 16 before the body of believers in Elgin that told of

his peace with God after coming in repentance for his past deeds. God is so faithful to forgive us when we come with a contrite heart before him. We cannot begin to comprehend His goodness. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) shared this weekend with us, and we were the benefactors of their ministry to us.

Jeff Kellenberger has returned to the Elgin area from San Diego and is seeking the Lord in repentance. We pray that an ample measure of the Holy Spirit be granted to Jeff that he can be transformed into a child of God, and may the mercy of the Lord continue yet in these last days until all men could be drawn unto him.

A son, Matthew Michael, was born to Paul and Kim Moser February 11. He has a sister, Nicole, and two sets of grandparents, Wally and Bebe VanLent and Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeanette Moser. May the Lord cause his face to shine upon them as Paul and Kim attempt to rear these two children.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom Moser (Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeanette) and Sis. Dawn Mengler (Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mengler, Elgin) in their betrothal. They have set April 21 as their wedding date. We trust that the Lord will go with them as they plan for this day and then as they walk together as one.

Sis. Anna Schmidgall celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday on March 13. Many loved ones from far and near remembered her with various expressions of love through cards and gifts and she wishes to express her appreciation to all who remembered her.

Through God's divine will and power, we believe that various loved ones in our Elgin congregation have been restored to a measure of health after a time of illness. Sis. Helen Banwart, Sis. Leola Schambach, Lillian Foell, Bro. Sam Graf and Bro. Art Schmidt have all been hospitalized and have been able to return home again. We thank the Lord for this and trust that He will continue to strengthen them day by day.

Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Ken Weertz (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) have visited us and brought teachings from the Word of God. We especially thank these brothers and all those brethren who teach the truth for their faithfulness in speaking the Word of God for we can read in Romans 10:17

that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

A precious little boy was born to first-time parents, Tim and Kim Getz. Tyler Lee was born February 23. Grandparents are Lon and Kandy Kupferschmid and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Getz (Roanoke, IL).

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Rachel Hodel, Sis. Madeline Cawley, Sis. Verda Blunier and Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene). May God, who knows all the needs of all, restore health as He wills.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier wish to express their appreciation for the many cards they received for their anniversary. They are thankful for everyone's loving thoughts and prayers during this time of illness.

We appreciated Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) expounding on the message of salvation February 24. May God richly bless him.

"The Lord again has given His counsel and His will . . ."

Zion's Harp #138

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) who assisted in the reading of the Elder Conference memorandum Saturday evening, March 9. We are grateful for our elder body in whom the Holy Spirit can reveal and clarify the Lord's will. On Sunday we were fed the Word of Life and thank Bro. Sam for his willingness to serve. A potluck supper followed after services with our family hymn sing in the evening. It truly was an uplifting weekend.

"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5. We are thankful Bruce Martin has heeded the Lord's call and turned his back to the world. We wish him God's precious grace and strength to overcome and build on the firm foundation, the Rock, Jesus Christ. His parents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Delores Martin.

"The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross" is such a beautiful and fitting hymn for Easter time about Jesus' suffering on Calvary where He died for you and me so that we might live. To think someone died for us; I wonder if we truly appreciate His suffering?

". . . How great the pains, O Lord, Afflict Thee on this day My God, My

God, He calls, Forsake me not I pray . . ."

Zion's Harp #89

The resurrection assures what Calvary secures.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

March 10 was the wedding day of Sis. Janet Fehr and Bro. John Schmidgall (Forrest). Through faith in God, they have taken their marriage vows and we wish them much happiness down life's pathway. Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn and Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Forrest).

The past month we have been blessed with visiting brothers, willing to share God's Word with us. Our thanks is extended to Bros. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Earl Gerber and Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Louella Wenger, 77, who passed away February 19. Surviving are her husband, Louis; two sons, Robert (Fairbury) and Perry (Strawn).

March 18 was the funeral of Ernest Grace, who passed away March 15. Our sympathy is extended to his son, LeRoy (Fairbury); a daughter, Rosemary Stockle (Colfax) and several grandchildren.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as two dear souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. John Dohman, husband of Sis. Judy, and Crystal Fehr, daughter of Wayne and Norma, have found grace to embark upon a life of faith.

We observe Mother's Day in the month of May, and, as we pause in remembrance, we are thankful to God for Christian mothers who loved and taught and sacrificed so much.

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

Robert Laissig

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

An enjoyable day of blessings was shared when Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton) brought forth the Word of Life. Our hearts were filled to overflowing and we thank them for their labors.

Bro. John Schmidgall (Bro. Dave

and Sis. Alma Jean) and Sis. Janet Fehr (Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn, Fairbury) were united in marriage March 10. May God add His blessings to this union of hearts.

Anita Kay is the little bundle of joy welcomed by Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger. Those at home to enjoy her also are Bethany, Loren, Devon, Ryan and Alisa.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman (Bro. Allen), Ben Rinkenberger, Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Bro. Elmer Ifft and Sis. Martha Honegger (Bro. Paul). We're thankful to say all have returned home and we wish for them continued health.

Our hearts are rejoicing with the angels in heaven with our new convert Allen Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jeanne). May he surrender his all and build on Jesus Christ the Solid Rock.

We're looking forward to the reading of the memorandum. May we each do our part in heeding the timely warnings given in love by our elder brethren.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Pam Wiegand

Another month has passed by and we have four new babies to announce. Jared Neil was born February 26. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist. He has two older brothers at home, Jason and Justin. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis Zobrist (Goodfield) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville). Greg and Laura Musselman have a new baby girl, Michele Katherine, born March 5. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Eileen Musselman (Deer Creek) and George and Darlene Schultz (Galesburg). Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand have another little girl, Jennifer Renee, born March 11. She has two older brothers, Kevin and Daniel, and one older sister, Larisa. Grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville). Clayton Jon, son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre was born March 12. He has two sisters, Meika and Brooke. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield) and Karen Monfre (Decatur).

We're thankful for another soul who has turned his life over to the Lord. Bruce Hohulin has found peace in his

heart and plans to give his testimony March 23.

Bro. Edmund Kloter has announced his retirement from the ministry. We have enjoyed and benefitted from his sermons so much. To say we will miss them is surely an understatement. Our prayers are with Bro. Edmund and Sis. Lorene and their family.

Vance Moore, father of Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen passed from this life February 21. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Brenda and her family.

Our thanks go to Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) for his recent visit and services.

Bro. Sam Schieler wishes to thank everyone for their recent visits, gifts and prayers.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

We were glad for the message of truth that was brought to us by our visiting ministers: Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). We were reminded that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, and if we abide in Him, we will bring forth much fruit. The brother explained that the fruit is obedience and there are two types of this good fruit: the fruit that we do (such as love, kindness, patience and faith) and the fruit from what we don't do (such as resisting temptation and denying one's self). As it is necessary to prune a grapevine, so it will bear more fruit, so the Lord prunes us. The brother pointed out that if a grapevine is not pruned, it will grow lots of leaves and look nice, but the fruit will be sparse. Likewise, we were encouraged to let the Lord prune in our lives so we will be more than just a show of leaves, for someday the Lord will ask, "What have you done for Me?"

Our hospital patients have been: Sis. Dorothy Ringger, Sis. Ada Christensen, Sis. Linda Stoller and Bro. Fred Miller.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman have been blessed by the birth of their daughter, Kristin Leigh. She was born February 15 and has a sister, Jessica, and a brother, Andrew. Kristin's grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss (Gridley) and John and Lois Zimmerman (Fairbury).

Bro. Roy Hodel and Sis. Helen Schlipf (both of Gridley) were united in holy matrimony on March 6. We wish

them God's abundant blessings as they enjoy their life together in Him.

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

"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."

St. Mark 16:6

How very wonderful to know that Jesus died and rose for us that we might have a hope of eternal life! Have you ever stopped and really thought about what life would be like if we could not have that hope that we would someday rise again to eternal life in heaven? What if Jesus had not been willing enough, had not been perfect enough to be a sacrifice for us? What if there were no life after death? As Paul writes in I Corinthians 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." How much we have to fear dying if we don't have that hope that we will live eternally.

But, Jesus was willing to come to this earth; he did live a perfect life; and God is willing to forgive us for our sins for the sake of His Son who gave His all. He's even willing to forgive us who drove the nails into His hands so cruelly by continuing to live in our own sinful ways. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." St. John 15:13. Jesus showed the greatest kind of love that will ever exist when He came and died for us.

We not only can claim God's forgiveness because Jesus died for us, but we also have the comfort of the fact that He rose again. How wonderful to have Jesus seated at the right hand of God, interceding for us when we humbly entreat Him. And how thankful we can be that we have the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, which was sent to us as a faithful Guide. For Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever;" St. John 14:16.

With the Holy Spirit guiding us on our way, we need to walk closely so that we are ready when Jesus comes again. He is coming again, and the day gets closer every time the clock of time ticks. We have been reading and learning so much about Jesus' second coming as we have been looking at Revelation during the last three Bible study

sessions. Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) has been with us to help us see more clearly the order of the things which are to come. But, through it all we should not fear those things that are to come with Jesus' second appearance. We need to take the teachings to heart only so it will spur us on to greater dedication and service: dedication for doing the commandments of the Lord and walking in the Spirit and service in bringing the message to the many unsaved souls so they, too, might know of the wonderful love which is in Christ Jesus. May each of us take a closer look at our lives and see that we have enough oil in our lamps to be ready and burning brightly when our Lord returns again to take away His Bride, the Church.

When God sent His messages to the seven churches, the church with which He could find nothing wrong was the church of Philadelphia, the Church of Love. To those that do not deny Jesus' name and have kept God's Word, and to him that overcometh, he writes, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Let us all strive to be part of the true church for which these blessings are promised.

The semester is fast winding down to a close at ISU, and College Weekend is being planned again. It is to be held by Purdue University March 30 and 31. Bible study is still held every Thursday evening at 7:30 in Schroeder 244. We welcome all to attend.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Henry Barth was called into eternity. His service was February 14. May our Heavenly Father comfort his wife, Patricia, his family and friends.

Sis. Lucy Bruell was called home. Her funeral was February 16. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Ida Bauman was called home. Her funeral was February 21. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

May God bless Sgt. Bill Martin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jane) and Sally Dyer who were married in Folkstone, England.

Sis. Caroline Strunk wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards

and deeds of kindness while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so kind.

Sis. Stephanie Zimmerman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Myrna) and Bro. Greg Hunziker (Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria, Peoria, IL) were united in marriage on March 10. May God truly be the head of their home.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to God for watching over our loved ones who went to Honduras and Haiti on World Relief Projects. We are thankful for their safety while travelling to and from and while working on the relief projects. We saw slides and heard the report on March 16.

Bro. Joe III, Sis. Barbara and Eric welcome Tracy Jean into their hearts and home. Tracy was born March 15. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lillian Getz and Bro. Joe, Jr. and Sis. Millie Zimmerman (all of Morton).

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria, IL), Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) for ministering God's holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Easter season is a time for all children of God to remember the great sacrifice that God made by sending His Son, Jesus, to die upon the cross. May we remember to thank Him for our salvation and go daily out to Calvary's Hill.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Margo Marx — Susi Herman

A MOTHER GIVES SO MUCH

It's not the things that can be bought
That are life's richest treasure,
It's just the little "heartgifts"
That money cannot measure . . .
A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
A sympathetic nod
Are priceless little treasures
From the storehouse of our God . . .
They are the things that can't be
bought
With silver or with gold,
For thoughtfulness and kindness
And love are never sold . . .
They are the priceless things in life
For which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich recompense
In giving them away . . .
And who on earth gives more away

And does more good for others
Than understanding, kind and wise
And selfless, loving mothers
Who ask no more than just the joy
Of helping those they love
To find in life the happiness
That they are dreaming of.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth were blessed with a baby girl, Laura Rose. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dot Hoerr and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL).

Also newly born recently was Aimee Beth, little daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman. Aimee has two brothers, Nathan and Chad, and one sister, Michelle. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy Herman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), who ministered God's holy Word unto us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Mary Bertchtold, Sis. Ella Hoerr, Sis. Loretta Eisenmann, Sharon Hopwood, Steve Hoerr and Jeremy Hopwood, son of Steve and Sharon Hopwood. We wish all these loved ones God's healing mercies.

The Lord said, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a help meet for him . . ." We believe the Lord still does this today as Bro. Scott Hoerr and Sis. Brenda Guingrich have faith they were brought together by the Lord. The parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Larry and Sandy Guingrich. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they prepare for their life together.

The family of Sis. Mary Tanner wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of love and kindness, cards, letters and prayers during Mary's illness and now at this time. "Words cannot express our gratitude. May God richly bless you, everyone."

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Marjean Lehman

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:10, 30

We were blessed with many visitors this past month. What a privilege it is to meet and greet those of like mind and faith. We especially thank the dear brothers who brought us the true and living Word. They were Bros. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), John Leman (Bern, KS) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God bless them for their labors.

"When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united . . ."

The Union of Hearts,
Zion's Harp #79

On March 10, Bro. Jason Williamson (Robert and Sis. Joyce Williamson, Latty, OH) and Sis. Wendy Locher (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine Locher, Altadena, CA) were united in holy matrimony before many witnesses.

On March 3, Bro. Keith Knobloch (Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Princeville) and Sis. Lisa Pflederer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pflederer, Francesville, IN) were united in marriage in Francesville.

On February 23, Mary Ann Ehnle (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla, Bradford, IL) and Alan Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances, Princeville) exchanged wedding vows at the fellowship hall in Princeville. "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." Matthew 19:6.

May God bless them as they walk life's path together.

"God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love."
Unknown

The death angel has been in our midst and taken Bro. Carl Ehnle, Jr. to his eternal home. He passed away at his home February 28. Both parents preceded him in death. Another solemn reminder of the brevity of our lives.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. On March 5, Mark William and Ryan Earl arrived to share the hearts and home of Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia (Streitmatter) Stoller. They were also welcomed by big brothers, Douglas, Todd and Alex. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmatter (all of Princeville). Almighty God can give wisdom to guide children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Bro. Dave Kieser had the misfortune of suffering a head injury while working at home. He seems to be recovering nicely.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35. The Word of God was once described as the Book that contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred content.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Carol Knapp — Carol Rumbold

Blessed doubly by becoming grandparents twice within a week were Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell Aeschleman. Their daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Ben Fehr, welcomed Alecia Dawn on February 26. Big brother, Isaac and paternal grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr, enjoy Alecia too.

On March 2, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman received Scott Alan as

their second child. His sister, Jodi, Grandpa and Grandma Aeschleman, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher welcomed baby Scott with love.

God gave Trisha Marie to Jim and Sis. Jan Bates on March 4. Trisha's family consists of big sister, Mandy, and grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Erma Moser and Sim and Virginia Bates.

It was with love and joy that we welcomed Annie and Scott Hodel into the family of God following their testimonies and baptisms. They are the children of Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann Hodel.

We were blessed as we gathered one evening for our pre-communion service. We were reminded that one way we can show our love to our Savior is to willingly sacrifice things of the world. Let us also remember not to measure ourselves by ourselves, but rather by the proper ruler, our Ruler.

Hospitalized this month and home again were Bro. Warren Hodel and Sis. Emma Blunier. We are always thankful for our caring physicians and the care of our Great Physician. Our Sis. Marie Blunier has been shut-in most of the winter, and we look forward to having her worship with us when she is able.

We also thank our visiting ministers and their families for their visits: Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

It is a joyful time of the year as we welcome beautiful spring days and the wonderful Easter season.

We had a blessed weekend March 16 and 17 as two new sisters were added to the fold. We welcome the two daughters of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy Dill, Lisa and Laurie, as they shared their testimonies and were baptized. Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria) was with us on this joyous occasion.

We also appreciate the visits this month of Bros. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We thank all these brothers for their inspiring messages.

We had sadness mixed with our joys this month, as the Lord has seen fit to call home our dear Bro. Ed Koch February 21. Bro. Ed leaves behind a son, Malcolm Koch (Bountiful, UT); a daughter, Joyce Kumao (Berkeley,

CA); and five grandchildren as well as his sister, Sis. Hanna Koch, with whom he has made his home for the past fifteen years.

Our hospital patients this month have been Ben Schmidgall (Helen) who had major surgery and is now recuperating at home. Janese Hangartner (Jerry and Sis. Melba) also had surgery and we are happy she is back at work again. Bro. Ernest Schaefer (Sis. Frieda) had surgery and is still confined to the hospital. Christopher Schweigert (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky) spent a few days in the hospital for tests but has returned home and is back in school again.

Sis. Hanna Koch recently fell and broke her leg and has spent several weeks in the hospital, but is now able to be taken to Restmor in Morton for recuperation. We pray for God's healing power for all our sick folks and hope they will be back worshipping with us again soon.

Sis. Hanna Koch wishes to thank everyone for remembering her with prayers, gifts, food and many kind deeds during her brother Ed's illness and death, as well as during her hospitalization.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Cheryl Mangers

We are thankful that Sis. Mary Leigh Nussbaum is back in our midst again after submitting to surgery.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We thank them for the teachings and love shown to us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sally Plattner

Acts 9:3, 4: "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven.

"And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Paul's conversion was wonderful, a miracle, a shout from the heavens. At the time he met Christ on the road to Damascus, he was pursuing his "religion" with zeal. After his conversion, he channelled that misdirected energy full force for Christ.

He knew where he stood and he knew his Lord was real. Is this same

Lord as real in our lives? If someone were to ask us how we know there is a God or how we know the resurrection took place, could we say with the zeal of Christ's spirit in Paul - I know?

That question is asked many times and can be very unsettling. Does man know anything? Our faith is based on our meeting with Christ, our unity with the spirit, our belief in our Lord's resurrection. Are we required to say that we know or just that we believe?

After being asked that very question, the following points came to mind.

1. Paul used his own conversion as his greatest testimony. He told how he was walking down the road one day when Christ called him. He reversed his direction and started down that same road, only in the other direction.

Christ's word for this was "metanoia", to make a 180 degree turn, to reverse one's direction, to become transformed. What greater evidence could Paul have presented?

2. A Christian's words can encourage an unbeliever to seek Christ, but they can never convert him. John 3:27, 30. If we could bring someone back from the dead, there are folks who would still not believe. We can plant the seed but God brings the increase.

3. It is so easy to take our eyes off Christ, tune out the spirit and let our conversation float down never-ending tributaries that lead nowhere. Debates follow, which leave the Christian red-faced and looking foolish. Keeping a prayerful heart, and holding fast to Christ's work in our lives and His resurrection for our sins is the essence of the directive in Matthew 28:18-20.

Vs. 18, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

20, "Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) with us this month.

We were sorry to hear that Bro. Rich Dreeste lost his brother, Phil, and an aunt (both from the St. Louis area).

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Carolyn Meyer — Eunice Fiechter

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Tom Heyerly (Sis. Carolyn), Richard Fiechter (Wava), Mary Lou Fiechter (Lloyd and Pauline), Trudy Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena), Sis. Justine Gerber (Bro. Don), Sis. Marty Moser, Bro. Henry Stoller (Sis. Helen), Sis. Emma Levy and Sis. Salome Fiechter.

Many blessings were received when we heard the testimonies of two young friends. Troy Ely (Jack and Evelyn) and Nathan Gerber (Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo) were baptized Sunday, March 17. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) helped our Elder Bro. Orville Ringger with this work of joy. Also visiting us for this upbuilding weekend was ministering Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). We thank the brothers for their willingness to be used in the Lord's work.

March 3 was the wedding day for Bro. Scott Gerber and Sis. Melinda Cowens. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and John and Flo Cowens.

A baby girl, Danielle Rae, was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Sherri Longenberger. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longenberger and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhofer.

The Valparaiso choir visited us the weekend of March 9 and 10. Along with them was ministering Bro. Mike Thomas. We thank all of them for a nice time of fellowship and worship.

Our World Relief sewing groups have their last meetings of the season in April. The sewing meetings give us an opportunity to do good for those less fortunate. They also provide a time of fellowship and the chance to become better acquainted with those of our church family.

The engagement of Sis. Gail Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) and Bro. Frank Szabo (Mozes Szabo) was announced recently. They are planning a June 2 wedding.

Bro. Louis Gilliom (Sis. Ethel) who had been a hospital patient in recent months passed away. We extend sympathy to his widow, Sis. Ethel, and his children, Bro. Kenneth Gilliom (Sis. Marie), Bro. Dave Gilliom (Sis. Marcene), Mrs. Bernard (Linda) Geels and Mrs. Rex (Lorene) Brinneman and also to his brothers and sisters who survive.

As we think of approaching special days we are reminded that Mother's

Day will soon be here. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote this thought: "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." This is a good thought for us to put into action toward our mothers.

Perhaps some of the Silver Lining readers would like a report as to how things are going in the Bluffton area since we have two churches.

Our churches are referred to as the country church, the city church, the old church or the new church. The official names are Bluffton and Bluffton North.

We have had two churches for more than two years, the first worship service being held in the Bluffton North edifice on Thanksgiving Day, 1982.

Our ministers and elders work together in sharing responsibilities. Our Wednesday evening worship service is held together, alternating church buildings on a weekly basis. We work together on many Sunday School activities, World Relief projects and charity projects.

We have our Vacation Bible School in the summer together. This is held at the larger Bluffton church, as there is a large enrollment. We have the closing Bible School program together; however, our annual Sunday School Easter and Christmas programs are held separately.

By having two assemblies, many more people have church duties, as more help is needed to operate two facilities.

The Lord has continued to bless each congregation. Both churches have had converts for which we praise Him. Should the Lord delay His coming, we pray that we may continue in oneness, love, hospitality, kindness, charity and purity of doctrine. We trust we shall be like the wedding song we hear occasionally — "Each For (supporting) the Other and Both for the Lord."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Geisel — Virginia Rauch

"A soul winner is one who never gets used to the sounds of marching feet on the way to a lost eternity." It is our Christian duty to witness to those lost souls, so that they may have a hope of life eternal! Prayer and an understanding of God's Word are some of the tools we must use when witnessing. These truths were in evidence as they were related to us by visiting ministers, Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL)

and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN). We appreciated these brothers lending themselves in proclaiming the Word. We welcome them, their wives and families back anytime.

Loved ones hospitalized this month are: Sis. Charlene Lantz (wife of Bro. Dan, Jr.), Lynn Francesi, June Lopez, Landon Gerber (infant son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla) and Sis. Emma Levy. We pray that they will feel God's comfort and healing hands.

Two families in our congregation are rejoicing in the arrival of a new addition to their homes. A daughter, Danielle Rae, was born February 19 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Sherri Longerberger. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longerberger and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger. A son was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev Joloff February 13. They named him Robert Howard. Grandparents of baby "Robbie" are Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner. We wish them all God's grace as they raise their "little blessings" in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The Lord has seen to bring two of His dear children together. The engagement of Sis. Kelli Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Trent Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) was announced. They are planning a June 30 wedding. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

On March 9 we enjoyed a family hymn sing at the fellowship hall. We were privileged to have the Valparaiso choir here. They sang praises of God to us. It was a blessed evening of praise and fellowship. How we enjoy the fellowship of those of like heart and mind. It surely is a taste of heaven, to enjoy this Christian fellowship.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

A mother's touch is a touch of love. Mother's are so willing to give of themselves in raising their children. Truly mothers spend much time on their knees praying for God's directing hand.

March 3 was a special day for Bro. Keith Knoblock and Sis. Lisa Pfloderer as they were united as one. Parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pfloderer and Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knoblock.

Our congregation has been blessed with another baby boy, Zachary Adam, born February 28 to Bro. Todd and

Sis. Penny Denton. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser and Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Denton. We thank the Lord for the little ones.

We are grateful for the visiting ministers we've had this month. May God bless Bro. James Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) for their efforts. We enjoy visitors.

On March 9 our Francesville congregation enjoyed slides from Japan. Sis. Vicky Ramseyer provided us an interesting evening learning of the events in Japan.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bro. Alvin Getz who passed away March 9. His wife, Sis. Pearl has been hospitalized this month and we pray for a speedy recovery for her. Also hospitalized was Sis. Valera Culp. We pray they both will be home soon and feeling much better.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

When perplexities arise, and difficulties confront you, look not for help to humanity. Trust all with God. The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us weak, and brings no strength to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities, which they cannot relieve. While it may give us temporary relief to confide in a friend or minister, our infinite unerring Heavenly Father gives us the strength and wisdom we seek.

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom and it will be given you. If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement or loneliness, we

have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6. "He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also and him that hath no helper." Psalms 72:12.

We were thankful Bro. Tom Speicher (Milford) and his family could spend the day with us and share God's Word. For the last four years Sis. Gail Gutwein has been a missionary in the Philippines. She recently shared with us her experiences through pictures and testimony. She was very thankful for our prayers and financial support. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenchwander were privileged to spend a short time in Honduras, helping to build a school. We thank them for sharing their slides with us and are encouraged to see one example how our financial support is utilized.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch — Deb Nuest

We received many good teachings from the Word of God brought to us by visiting ministers, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) and Bro. Kenneth Weertz (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless them and be their rich rewarder.

GOING HOME

Gone to rest and his reward,
Faithful servant of the Lord.
Weary pilgrim of earth's shore,
Now at rest for evermore.

Laid aside earth's toil and pain,
And our loss is but his gain.
Saints will live e'en though they die
In the realm beyond the sky.

Gracious, meek, and mild in life,
Loving, gentle, in earth's strife,
Oft in mortal pain was he,
Bore afflictions patiently.

Bless his loved ones here, O Lord,
Let them share in his reward,
For all loving service shown,
Keep them, leave them ne'er alone.

(From - My Garden of Verse)

Since the passing of her husband, Bro. Vernon, our dear Sis. Emily Bucher has moved to Tucson, AZ. We miss her very much here in LaCrosse. Sis. Emily will always treasure the memories and love shown her while she

and Bro. Vernon were attending the LaCrosse church. We wish her God's special grace and nearness in the loss of Bro. Vernon and the contentment of God's love in her new church home in Tucson.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

"Visit your local post office on the eve of April 15, and you will witness an incredible crush of humanity standing in line to beat the taxman's deadline.

"And what is at stake? A few dollars in taxes and penalties. By contrast, consider what is at stake when God's deadline for responding to the gospel finally arrives. That's one 'Final Notice' you can't afford to receive.

Like the payment of taxes, death is an inevitable consequence of simply being alive. But, curiously, more people worry about their taxes than worry about their eternity. Perhaps if salvation were only available until April 15, more people would take it seriously. But no one is guaranteed even that long to decide, for only God knows when your 'Final Notice' has been given."

From Timeless Insights

Sis. Bertha Steiner settled the account and made that wise decision to live for Him many years ago. She was called Home March 11 at the age of 91 years. Services were conducted by Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. John Bollier. Surviving are three daughters, Alberta Ely, Lorene Wiley and Erma Selking, and 10 grandchildren.

Jeff and Betty Stieglitz were blessed with the birth of a son, Grant Benjamin. He is also welcomed by his sister, Renita, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Dix, and Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz.

Dwight Souder, accompanied by his wife, Sis. Betty, has spent some time at Mayo's. It is hoped he may soon enjoy better health.

April showers refresh the earth cleaning away the winter grime. Springtime is somewhat accepted as clean-up time indoors and out. We want clean yards and gardens, clean houses and clean cars. We want clean clothes, clean bodies, clean teeth. We don't want air pollution, bad breath or ring around the collar. All this cleanliness is admired; but will not help in the day of judgment unless our hearts are clean!

Some thoughts
from Silent Evangel

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser

"He shall give His angels charge over thee." Psalm 91:11. Sis. Frieda Ruch was hospitalized and has since become a resident of Lakeland Loving Care Center in Milford. Others have also been recent hospital patients, but are again worshipping with us. We welcome back Bro. Elmer Haab, Bro. Bob Wolferman and Sis. Leona Martin (Bro. John, Jr.). "O Lord my God, I cried to thee for help, and thou hast healed me." Psalm 30:2.

"And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.'" Genesis 2:18. Two families in our congregation will be welcoming new daughters-in-law in the near future. Mark Sumpter, son of Jim and Sis. Irene, is planning an April 20 wedding with Tracy Rinker (Jan and Frieda Rinker, Syracuse, IN). Bro. Levi and Sis. Katherine Beer's son, Tim, is engaged to Judy Lantis (Nappanee). Her parents are Donna and P. Carson Lantis.

As we approach Mother's Day, I see another occasion for honoring my mother. It is always a time of loving reminders. And as a mother of small children, it is a good time for me to quietly reflect on this God-given role in my life. How can a mother make the most significant impact on the lives of her children? She can do this by praying earnestly and regularly for each of them, believing that God wants them to have a place in His kingdom for His glory.

The following is an excerpt from A Mother's Heart, by Jean Fleming, entitled, "A Woman of Influence".

"I have no regrets about the years I have spent as a full-time wife and mother. My feelings about them mirror the sentiments of the missionary to Korea whose gravestone says, 'If I had a thousand lives to give, Korea should have them all.' These words move me deeply. If this woman would have had her life to live over and over again, Korea would have had her first life and her thousandth. But, like all of us, she had only one life to live.

"I feel fulfilled as a mother. While many women feel the pressure to do something more with their lives, if I had

another life to give, I would be a full-time wife and mother again.

"I enjoy the challenge. The task of mothering can be as broad as I make it. Consider the endless variety of jobs a mother may do: that of teacher, nurse, dietician, psychologist, chauffeur, trainer, disciplinarian, interior decorator and seamstress.

"The aspect of mothering that excites me most is the knowledge that I am making a permanent difference in my children's lives. I am a woman of influence. I impart values, stimulate creativity, develop compassion, modify weaknesses and nurture strengths.

"When I read my child a story I am doing far more than entertaining him. I am expanding his world with language, words, thoughts and imagination.

"When I sit beside my child's bed at night to talk and pray, I'm doing far more than cultivating a bedtime ritual. I'm tuning in to what he is thinking, catching up on his day and listening for fears, hopes and questions.

"This personal time gives me an opportunity to point to the Lord Jesus Christ and His relevance to the situations my child faces.

"Ultimately, my greatest desire as a mother is that my child would become a member of God's kingdom, and live life for His glory. Thus, prayer becomes one of the most important things I do to influence my child's life in a deep and lasting way."

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much." James 5:16.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

Our thanks go to Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for being with us and uplifting us in God's Word. The visit of a group from Gridley was welcome fellowship also.

A distinguished orthopedic surgeon takes a look at the hands of a carpenter, Christ. "Like most Christians, I've wondered what Jesus looked like. Strangely, the New Testament doesn't give us a clue. He worked long years as a carpenter so they must have been strong, and — at the beginning of His ministry, anyway — calloused. Those fingers must have been infinitely gentle and soothing when they touched the deaf man's ears or the blind man's eyes. Imagine the authority in that forefinger when, as John tells us, Jesus stooped down and wrote an answer in

the dirt after they tried to trick Him into condemning the woman taken in adultery. Reflecting the personality of their owner, I believe the hands of Jesus were strong, but gentle and beautiful in every gesture. I can see them clasping the hand of the dead girl, Jairus' daughter, lifting her to a sitting position, drawing her back to life. I can see that strong right hand clenched around the whip, knuckles white with anger, when He drove the money-changers out of the temple. For most of the year I visualize the hands of Jesus whole and perfect: breaking bread at meals, helping the disciples with the sails of their boats, etc. . . . But on Good Friday my mental images change. It is the torn and bleeding hand of Jesus that speaks most eloquently to me. As a surgeon I know what appalling damage and excruciating pain must have been caused by the huge iron nails driven through the hands of Jesus, severing tendons, muscles, nerves, bearing the weight of that tortured body. I bow my head when I remember that this suffering was for me. Thomas, who refused to believe the Lord was risen until he saw and touched the wounds in His hand and side, cried 'My Lord and my God'. I think that cry was wrung from him not just because he was convinced that Christ was risen, but also because those hands were so torn and he understood what Christ had suffered for him. And the knowledge was almost more than he could bear. Every time I operate and look beneath the skin at the marvelous structure of the human hand, I am reminded that Christ gave up His perfect hands for me. And I say, with Thomas, 'My Lord and my God.'

C. Scott Harrison, M.D.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig

The special day for honoring mothers will soon be observed. May it be a time of true happiness for mothers and their families; and a time of fondly remembering the dear ones who are with us no more. We are also mindful of those who are not mothers but would enjoy being remembered, from time to time, with visits, telephone calls or letters.

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Jesse Beer visit us and feed us from the Word one Sunday afternoon.

A blessed Sunday evening was spent with the Milford brethren as we joined

them in their observance of Family Night. Listening to the children sing, with or without their parents, was very enjoyable.

Sis. Leona Lehman was once more hospitalized for foot surgery, but is happy to be able to assemble with us quite soon again as His healing power has been very evident.

In the March issue, little Stephanie Meyer's maternal grandparent's last name was mistakenly written as Meyer and should have been Kipfer (Bluffton North).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Jill Hitz — Patti Bucher

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". Are not the winds of March, often like the tempestuous seasons of our own lives? When we have trials and strong temptations, aren't we driven to pray harder, which brings us closer to God and what His desire is for our lives? "It will surprise you what God can do." Many times, we can only realize what He can do, when we are tossed about by the winds and storms, and thereby brought closer to God. Then it seems, the winds are brought in control and we can rest in Him and on His promises. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God . . ."

Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." We were blessed to have Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and his family with us on a recent Sunday. He told us a little about the 'Children's Home' and of the children there. It makes you thankful for Christian homes and parents, as there are so many in the world who don't, or didn't have this environment in their lives.

Our dear Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) were together to read to us the memorandum. We thank these brothers for their efforts of love, knowing God will richly reward them.

A blessed time was had by all who travelled to Bluffton as guests of the Bluffton North congregation. We thank them again for the chance to grow through Christian fellowship and love.

It is truly with joyous anticipation and thankful hearts, that we plan groundbreaking ceremonies March 31, for our new church edifice. God has surely heard and answered our prayers. We pray God will continue to

provide for us in this great undertaking.

**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Jody Getz

It's hard to believe that April is already here. The semester is almost over, which can cause us to become anxious and eager for it to end. However, as the Gospel of Matthew tells us: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6:34.

Our visiting ministers in March were Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso). We appreciate the ministers and the visitors who come to be with us at our bi-weekly services.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

A sweet baby boy was born to Kent and Robin Blume. Kirby Lane, born March 8, has two brothers, Cody and Landon. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Collins (Stendal, IN).

Sis. Virginia Oberlander and Bro. LeRoy Kyburz have both undergone surgery this month. It is our prayer that God will add his healing touch that they may soon enjoy good health and strength.

We thank Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) for sharing the Word with us. We certainly appreciate our neighboring churches for lending themselves when some of our own ministering brethren have need to be absent.

IOWA, AMES-DES MOINES

Nancy Ann Teubel

God has blessed our gathering with visitors and two ministering brothers who spoke the Word of Life. May God bless Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester) and Bill Funk (Garden Grove) for their laboring in the ministry. Also, we give special thanks to all visitors; we appreciate your support.

The evidence of spring is all around us; the budding of trees, the color of the grass as it turns from brown to green, and the blooming flowers. How refreshing it is to see the beauty of God's colorful creation. Have you ever related the seasons within a year to the growth in your own spiritual life? Maybe after a long hard struggle you find

yourself awakening from spiritual hibernation, slowly emerging out of a dark cave of discouragement and disillusionment. Struggle forward — the same God who renews the dull brown earth with beauty, is ready to renew your life. May your days be filled with the beauty of God's love.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Dixie Messner

We were especially grateful for the visits of Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bob Walders (Congerville, IL) who helped our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) read the memorandum. They seemed such willing servants, and we did appreciate their efforts. Also visiting us this month was Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

Bro. John Rowell was chosen to be our new minister. We want to offer a special prayer for Bro. John, his wife, Sis. Nelda, and their children. We know it is not an easy job but if we all trust in God the true Word will come forth and we can be fed.

"What are these wounds in thine hands?" Zechariah 13:6, were words read to us lately. And the brother was able to also relate them to Zechariah 12:10, "... and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced . . ." Do we really take time to think of how our Saviour has suffered for us?

The family of Bro. Dennis Massner wishes to thank everyone for all the prayers, food, cards and gifts during Sis. Gail's hospital stay, return home and subsequent birth of their daughter, Sara Ann. May God bless you all.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Steep and thorny is the way leading us to full perfection; Blessed they who therein stay, battling under Christ's direction. Blest is he who runs the race, on the way not falls from grace.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; (I Peter 4:12-13).

How many times in our lives are we, like Jonah, tempted to run away from the will of God or a certain trial which we are to face? Let us remember that God has a purpose in all that He does and has promised "My grace is sufficient for thee" (II Corinthians 12:9) and then "run with patience the race that

is set before us . . ." (Hebrews 12:1).

Up then, comrades; wend your way through the wilderness with courage, Look to Jesus; watch and pray! God prepares you for the conflict; In the weak He shows His might, And through Christ we'll win the fight.

Zion's Harp #99

We wish to extend our sympathy to Melvin and Vicky Moore and family in the death of Vicky's father, Abe Habeger.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156

If we want to sit at God's table, we should be willing to work in His fields.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Denise Duckworth

"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

Our hearts are always renewed and encouraged when we are privileged to sit under the sound of God's holy Word. Special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Harvey Heiniger (Burlington).

On May 12 we set aside a day to honor our dear mothers. This is a very special day, but the best way to honor our mothers is to love and respect them each day throughout the year.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

We ponder the challenges and responsibilities of parenthood as Mother's Day approaches. The way we live our life and the things we talk about have a profound influence on our children's attitudes. To strive for sincerity and obedience is such a small thing but the rewards are beyond measure. A serene and peaceful heart is an example to our children and gladdens the heart of God. This is a portion of the song "Faithfulness in Small Things" from Zion's Harp #179. This is the test of true devotion, To keep and hold fast

to the Lord; And evermore without omission in all things to obey His Word. In small and unimportant matters, Yet to be careful and sincere, Not knowingly to faults consenting, However small they may appear.

If thou the great sins wouldst be shunning, In fear of punishment and yet The lesser faults in thee allowing, 'Twould not true honesty beget. That would not be a true devotion, Which sacrifices all to God; 'Twould be to follow selfish motives And serve two masters in your thought.

We rejoice to report a new convert, Joel Moser. We are thankful that when he felt the Lord was calling Him, in prayer, he answered the call.

On February 21, Clarence and Eileen Scholten became the parents of Bradley John. He has one sister and the grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Vera Knobloch and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scholten. Elizabeth Ann was born March 8 to Dan and Darcy Gerber. She has a sister to welcome her home and her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Roeman.

We have a large number of sick and hospitalized. We pray for God's healing touch for Bro. Henry Kellenberger, Bro. Freddie Metzger, Sis. Flora Metzger, Bro. Alvin Leuthold, Sis. Freida Mogler, Bro. Stan Warner, Bro. Jake Wulf, Joshua TeSlaa and any others who may not have been brought to my attention.

Our young convert, Jim Knobloch, has moved to Zapata, TX. We miss him and pray for God to sustain him in his walk of life.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

Greetings from Oakville! God has certainly provided well for us! The spring is here, and the weather is warm. "He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth." Psalms 104:14. Yes, the farmers are in the field, the women are in the garden. Soon the seeds that are planted will spring forth and begin to grow. Let us always remember, even as these little plant seeds grow, so must the seeds of our spiritual life. "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice..." Psalms 97:1.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers. Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder

(Congerville, IL) have recently brought forth the Word in our congregation.

We have recently gathered with the brethren in Burlington to hear the memorandum. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) assisted Bro. Ed with the summary of the Brotherhood Conference. We always feel lifted in the spirit when we hear the exhortations that are delivered through the spirit. Let us strive to follow them closely.

IOWA, PULASKI DeAnn Wuthrich Mary Jane Knapp

NO PRAYER GOES UNHEARD

Often we pause and wonder when we kneel down to pray —
Can God really hear the prayers that we say . . .

But if we keep praying and talking to Him,

He'll brighten the soul that was clouded and dim,

And as we continue our burden seems lighter,

Our sorrow is softened and our outlook is brighter —

For though we feel helpless and alone when we start,

Our prayer is the key that opens the heart,

And as our heart opens the dear Lord comes in

And the prayer that we felt we could never begin

Is so easy to say for the Lord understands

And gives us new strength by the touch of His hands.

Helen Steiner Rice

God again has shown that prayers are heard and answered when He granted our dear friend Howard Muselman the grace to seek his salvation and find peace with God and man through repentance and conversion. We sincerely rejoice with Sis. Irene and their son, Bro. Roger, as they have patiently waited many years to be able to walk together in the Lord. We pray for God's continued blessing for Howard as he awaits baptism in the near future.

On February 24, Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) willingly offered himself in God's service. May God grant him a special blessing for this effort. The following Sunday evening, Elder Bros.

Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) lovingly shared with us the conclusions from the annual conference. It is very humbling when we stop and think of the many hours our elder brethren devote in order to preserve our precious faith. Does each one of us do our part to try to make their burden lighter or do we resist their kindly admonitions and instructions which only makes the burden heavier?

We are thankful that Bro. Richard Teubel is again home from the hospital and able to assemble with us following surgery.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

We were privileged to have Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) with us ministering from the Holy Word. We love the Word because to all of us it is comforting, encouraging and corrects us where we need to be corrected.

Sis. Debbie Bruellman (Bro. Mark) submitted to surgery and is doing well now. Sis. Lydia Wilson is at home after spending time in the hospital. Theresa Kellenberger (Joel) has also been hospitalized for surgery. May God bless all the sick.

This poem comes to mind as two couples in our congregation have new babies.

There is a special kind of closeness

That only families know

That begin with childhood trust

And deepens as you grow

There's a special kind of happiness

In sharing little things

The laughter, smiles and quiet talks

That daily living brings.

There's a special kind of comfort

In knowing your family's there.

To back you up, to cheer you up,

To understand and care.

Of all the treasures life may bring

Your family means the most

And whether near or far apart

That love will hold you close.

Unknown

Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz, Matt, Katie, Michelle, Luke and Josh welcome home Mark William, born February 12. Grandparents, Sis. Emma Meyer (Lester, IA) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Beverly Wirtz also welcome him.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler and Isaac also welcome home Joel Robert, born February 16. Grandparents are

Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman (Forrest, IL).

As spring weather approaches we think of Easter and its special meaning to us. The blood shed for each of us, the resurrected Christ and the blessed Easter Day. The words in this poem express our feelings.

THE BREATH OF GOD

The breath of God
Stirs to life the green and growing things

That sleep beneath the sod.
He breathes on me
And in each resurrected flower
The Living Christ I see.

Myra Brooks Welch

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

Spring is quickly approaching us here in Japan. God has been showering the countryside with rain and already the recently nourished plants are beginning to respond. The plum trees are blossoming and soon the cherry and peach trees will follow suit.

We are thankful that Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois have safely returned home from their visit to the States. While they were gone, we all missed them, but realize they truly needed and appreciated the fellowship with the American churches they visited.

Saegusa-ojii-san, has been confined to his bed this past winter making it difficult for his daughter-in-law, Sis. Haruko-san to attend church. Also with the sick is Sis. Uchida-san. She fell recently fracturing her arm and will be in the hospital for the next few months. We ask that you remember these souls and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

If you care to send a card or letter to them, their addresses are:

Haruko Saegusa
422 Shioda, Ichinomiya-cho
Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun,
Yamanashi-Ken
409-14 Japan

Morie Uchida
Kokubu, Ichinomiya-cho
Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun,
Yamanashi-Ken
409-14 Japan

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue — Yoshio Yamazaki

Long winter has gone and spring is just coming. We really are thankful to God that He created such beautiful nature things around us.

We are planning a Sunday School children's outing this spring vacation and also an Easter program. We try to encourage them to come to church.

We put new lights in our church assembly. We thank God for providing the thing which we needed and blessed us.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Visiting ministers were Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS), which were greatly appreciated.

Hospitalized were Bro. Reuben Moser, Sis. Lena (Amos) Strahm and Waymer Esslinger.

TRUSTING HIM

Sometimes our tasks seem difficult
And very hard to bear,
Sometimes they almost seem much
more
Than our rightful share —

But should we walk down any street
And look in any door,
Life's problems most folks have to
meet
Would equal ours and more.

We would not change our lot for theirs
With all things weighed together;
Thus we must see beyond the cloud
And look for fairer weather.

The sun is always shining high
And giving forth its radiant light;
It's but earth's shadow or a cloud
That keeps it from our sight.

When cloud or shadow pass away,
As clouds and shadows will,
We suddenly then realize
The sun is shining still.

And He who keeps the sun and moon
And all the stars in space,
Can also chart a pathway that
Our willing feet can trace.

Bertha Annis

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young — Doris Bahr

Ivery Kathryn was born March 4 to

Bro. Scott and Sis. Kathy Strahm. Ivery has a sister and a brother anxious to love and help care for her. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm and Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch (Morris, MN).

Hospital patients this month, in need of special prayer, are Sis. Esther Knapp, who underwent major surgery and Karen Somerhalder (Randy), daughter-in-law of Bro. Joe and Sis. Edna Somerhalder. May God grant His healing powers.

Perhaps one function of flowers and trees is to remind us of the restorative powers possible. We have all seen trees damaged by storms, the grip of winter. Then spring comes and with the healing touch of God, leaves come, hiding the hurt and after a time, it is hard to find the damage, due to the tree's repair power. People, like trees, are hurt. Some may never recover but perhaps most do. For like the trees, they have an astounding ability to repair their hurts. For after all, we have the same Healer.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Patti Knobloch — Lori Aberle

After the winter comes the spring
To show us again that in everything
There's always renewal divinely
planned,
Flawlessly perfect, the work of God's
Hand . . .
And just like the seasons that come
and go
When the flowers of spring lay buried
in snow,
God sends to the heart in its winter of
sadness
A springtime awakening of new hope
and gladness,
And loved ones who sleep in a season
of death
Will, too, be awakened by God's life-
giving breath.

Helen Steiner Rice

We hope that each and every one of you are experiencing the blessings of springtime as we are here in Manhattan. May this new season stir in each of us a fervent new desire to obey God our Father.

Visiting ministers with us this month were Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Loren Strahm and Bro. Lloyd Kraft (both of Gridley, KS) and Bro.

Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS). Again, we greatly appreciate their efforts.

Singing this month was held at the home of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

With spring approaching, it is always a time to think of new life, and for each individual to think of when we each began our new life with Christ and to be so thankful that He loves and forgives each of us.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Irma Ott, who is still in a Houston, TX hospital, Sis. Bea Diel, and Bro. Sam Schupbach. We need to remember each of these loved ones in our prayers, and remember their families in prayer also.

Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel are now making their home in the Cherokee, OK rest home.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

"Ah, now it is done! Now I live unto Thee;
My Light and my Life, oh, abide Thou with me!
To follow Thee ever shall be my sole aim
Thro' shade or thro' sunshine, thro' honor or shame.

Zion's Harp #209, vs. 7

It was love which first deeply impressed the heart of our new sister, Patricia Traywick. With her testimony (March 23) she was baptized and welcomed into our small fold of believers as another child of God. We wish Sis. Patricia God's sufficient grace for each day, that love will grow stronger.

All of us were reminded of Love in reference to I Corinthians 13. In verse 5 it says, "Doth not behave itself unseemly . . .". The meaning of Unseemly is "not according with established standards of good form or taste, not seemly (suitable, proper, fitting or becoming)." Let me go a little further and define the small word, with such deep and wide meaning, Love. (Keep in mind that this is not the full definition of Love). Love: unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another, the fatherly concern of God for man, brotherly concern for others, a person's adoration of God, to hold dear - Cherish, to feel affection or exper-

ience desire, strong affection for another out of kinship or personal ties, warm attachment, enthusiasm or devotion, and, to like or desire actively (of which I add deeply). It's hard to say that we do have enough Love for one another. Love . . . may it ever grow in fullness with pure and upright hearts, that through the spirit we may be granted the grace to overcome all of those evil thoughts and feelings that Satan is bombarding us with.

Visiting us in the past weeks has been Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS). We thank him for remembering us and being with us for a short while.

Those with afflictions and in the hospital in the past weeks have been Sis. Matilda Emch (medical), Bro. Bernie Emch (surgical) and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (medical). We are happy to report a clean slate, with each back home again. Bronchitis had a firm grip on Elder Bro. Sam, but it is now under control, and he again is able to stand before us.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker would like to express many heartfelt thanks to everyone for their cards, prayers and visits while in the hospital.

Soon graduating from higher school of learning is Bro. Jim Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy). He will be graduating from Kansas State University (Manhattan). Wherever he will go, or whatever he will do, may it all be left up to the Lord. We wish him God's blessings.

A full double rainbow was what some of us in our area got to see on a Saturday in late March, after a short shower. The bottom rainbow was so bright and brilliant with the colors, that no picture could ever be painted to show the beauty of it. The top arch of rainbow was visible enough to blend in with the bright one. If only a full picture could have been taken of it. A double (in fact full) rainbow is a rare sight to be seen.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

Warmer weather and days of sunshine have allowed many of us here to work in our gardens. The experience of planting those little seeds in which there is so much potential brings to mind a scripture passage written by the Apostle Paul: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but

God that giveth the increase." I Corinthians 3:6, 7.

If we could only constantly keep in mind that of ourselves we can do nothing and thereby, continually submit ourselves to God's will. As we live among men, let us plant the good seed of faith in Jesus Christ; let us water it by sound doctrine and by unfeigned love; and let us look to our God for the increase. In Him is all the power to bless our efforts and to convert the souls of men.

We welcome Sis. Esther Grimm to our congregation and community. She recently moved here from her home congregation at Morton, IL.

Sis. Lena Steiner was hospitalized, but we are thankful that she is now up and about again.

Sis. Marie Kellenberger broke her ankle, and we pray that the time of healing will pass swiftly for her.

Curtis and Valerie Keim were blessed with a precious baby on March 17. He has been named Derik Wade and is welcomed home by Crystal Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wengler are the happy grandparents.

Ministering brethren visiting us were Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS). We are encouraged that there are those God can use to proclaim the Gospel.

Note: Silver Lining dues of \$7.00 are due this month.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

We have eagerly welcomed spring to Kansas. What a refreshing time spring is with the nice cool sunny days, and the birds expressing themselves in song. The crocuses were the first flowers I noticed coming up. They look so pretty and special amid the brown dry grass.

The new life of spring is (or should be) like our new life in Christ is. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. Everything is new — new flowers, buds on trees, grass, warmth, new attitudes, desires, focus, destiny, etc. We should be recognized as a totally different person by the grace of God. Not so much outwardly, but inwardly. That is the part that people really notice and look for, rather than the outward. Let us make sure we are totally new inside, clean by

Jesus, and refreshing to the world. As the new life in spring is such a desirous change from the deadness of winter, so should our lives create a desire in others for the newness of Life we possess in Christ. Something so different from the staleness of the world.

As spring brings new life, we have also experienced death of a loved one. Dick Cooper died February 21, leaving his wife, Janet, and children, Clyde and Heidi. Our prayers are raised to the Lord at this time for them. Janet is the daughter of Bro. Art and Sis. Gussie Wullschleger. May the Lord minister comfort to the family of Dick.

Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA) was with us February 24 to preach God's Word. It is always special to have Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally and their children with us.

In our Wednesday night Bible study we are studying the book of Joshua. We have been learning through the battles Joshua and the Israelites fought that we can only win against Satan and temptation if we fight in the strength of the Lord. As Joshua was victorious when he sought the Lord, so will we be. But when they didn't seek the Lord and His way, they only saw defeat, as we can only see defeat on our own strength. It has been a good study with many applications for us in our Christian walk.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity . . ." I Corinthians 13:13. The Lord has led two couples together. The engagement of Lynette Wright and Greg Munsel has been announced. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Shirley Wright and Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores Munsel. God's guiding hand has been with Sis. Kathleen Miller and Bro. David Wernli, as they announce their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger and Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty Wernli (Lamont, KS). May the Lord bless these couples as they plan their future.

Hospitalized this past month for surgery was Del (Sis. Inez) Grew. Our prayers are with him as he is on the road to recovery.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. Mark Ramseyer has found this wonderful peace with God through his faith in Jesus Christ. He is now looking for-

ward to his baptism. His parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy Ramseyer.

Our congregation has been blessed to have visiting ministers with us this past month. They are Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We thank these brothers for lending themselves in God's service.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 11:15. The Lord has been with our congregation and has sent a brother to preach His Word. The duties of the ministry have been laid upon Bro. Bill Waibel. Our prayers of love and support are with Bro. Bill, his wife, Sis. Carol and their family. May God's grace be with Bro. Bill, so the Lord can speak through him.

"Bird and blossom seem to tell us of the possibility of new life for our own souls. This spring day speaks to us of beginning again, of new beauty that can come to reburnish our own barren lives." Peter Marshall

As spring brings new life to plants and trees, may the Lord bring new life to our souls.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

"Blessed is the love of mother, Gift divine, from God above; On the earth there is no blessing like her tender, guarding love."

Johann Zundel

As Mother's Day approaches, may each and every mother's love be blessed with God's gentle guidance and grace.

Our joys were overflowing as we shared the weekend of March 16 and 17 with the Francesville choir. Their songs, fellowship and inspiration were a blessing for us all. It surely is times like these that encourage and strengthen our Christian walk of life. Our warmest thanks to the Francesville choir for bringing so many spiritual gifts our way.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Joe and Jan (Bauer) Kavulich in the passing of Joe's mother, Stella Kavulich. We are thankful that the trials of sickness are over for her and trust they can feel God's hand of comfort.

So often within a congregation our prayers and love reach out to those with particular needs and trials. They may include those struggling in their faith or repentance; those in elderly years longing to go to their eternal rest; those with family conflicts and those continuing to face treatments for disease. The needs among individuals may vary; however, our prayers extend to them all, that we can uplift and strengthen each other in overcoming weaknesses and trials. ". . . for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isaiah 56:7.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

THE EMPTY TOMB

When Jesus' followers arrived at the tomb on that first resurrection morning, they found that the stone had been rolled away. When they entered the tomb and saw that it was empty, they were greatly perplexed. But then two heavenly messengers appeared and gave them this encouraging news, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!" (Luke 24:5-6). This scene with its empty tomb expresses the uniqueness of Christianity among the religions of the world. Jesus Christ is the only living, risen Savior.

R. W. DeHaan

At this Easter season may we truly be thankful for a Savior who died for us and who lives for us.

We have had two visiting ministers this past month. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) for their ministry.

We wish to extend a warm and loving welcome to Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti (formerly from Urbana, IL) who have now made their home in Rice Lake, WI. It is such a joy to have a new couple here to join us in worship. We hope they will soon feel very much at home here.

We want to thank the Winthrop church for hosting the World Relief and Sewing Group Conference March 9. It was truly an informative and inspiring gathering.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Vera Schmidt would like to thank everyone for all their prayers, cards, love and gifts

during his illness and stay in the hospital.

Thought: The resurrection assures what Calvary secures.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Hildegard Koehl

Rhonda Zeltwanger

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. It is said that once Mendelssohn came to see the great Freiburg organ. The old custodian refused him permission to play upon the instrument, not knowing who he was. At length however, he reluctantly granted him leave to play a few notes. Mendelssohn took his seat, and soon the most beautiful music was breaking forth from the organ. The custodian was spellbound. He came up beside the great musician and asked his name. Learning it, he stood humiliated, self-condemned, saying, "And I refused you permission to play upon my organ!" There comes One to us, who desires to take our lives and play upon them. But we withhold ourselves from Him, and refuse Him permission, when, if we would yield ourselves to Him, He would bring from our souls heavenly music. Sheryl Luthi (Sis. Della and the late Bro. Don) and Dennis Joos (Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith) have chosen to yield themselves and allow God to begin His work in leading their lives. We rejoice to have converts!

Ken Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Bro. Fern Tohm, Sis. Louise Mohrman, Bro. J. B. Moser, Mike Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), and Sis. Emma Schmidgall have all been hospitalized during this month. May we each remember them and their families in a special prayer.

Ashley Laura is the name chosen for Dennis and Michelle Feuchtenberger's new daughter. Her brother and grandparents, Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger are happy to welcome her into the family. Rachel Marie joins her sisters, Rhonda and Robyn in the home of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Wulf. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf are the grandparents. We thank God for the opportunity to pass His love to another generation.

David Joos, Sr. passed from this life at the age of 73 years. Our love and sympathy go to his wife, Neil, and their children, Don Joos, David Joos, Jr.,

and Shirley Arsenault and their families. We also know that Bro. Carl, Bro. Gottlieb, Lloyd, Sis. Anna Nohl and Hilda Hendrichs will all greatly miss their brother.

Bro. C. R. "Chuck" Koehl left this earth "for a better home awaiting" at the age of 71 years. Bro. Chuck had suffered much physical pain in his last years, but Elder Bro. Leo Moser reminded us in the funeral sermon that to suffer can give great gain. Sis. Esther and their children, Bro. Kenneth, Bro. Harvey, Bro. Dale, Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA) and their families will feel an empty spot in their homes and hearts, but may their love for God sustain them.

Rita Luthi (Harold and Bernice) and Larry Bye have announced their engagement. Also Dale Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara) and Michelle Ann Kallhoff will marry. May God be in their plans and in their future homes.

Our high school graduates are Randy Fehr (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane), Doreen Goll (John and Helen), Scott Joos (Jerry and Cathy), Jennifer Kellenberger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Dianne), Eric Koehl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen), Rita Luthi (Harold and Bernice), James Nohl (Alvin Nohl, Jr. and Patricia Koehl), Joan Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Duane Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi). May they remember their teachings from home as well as school and make room for Christ in their lives.

The family of Dave Joos would like to thank each and every one for their kind deeds, thoughts and prayers. They felt your love at this difficult time and are grateful. May God reward you as only He can.

April was our month for collection of Silver Lining dues of \$7.00!

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner

Mary Lou Schmidt

Matthew 25:34-36, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

We were truly inspired to give more of ourselves after the World Relief

meeting, held here on March 9. We want to thank everyone, especially ministering Bros. Francis Rother (Morton, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) for making the weekend so memorable.

The winter winds and snows of March prevented us from holding church services one Sunday. As we sat in our warm homes, our thoughts were with those who are often denied the opportunity to assemble in God's holy house! May we never take the privilege of assembling together for granted!

We only had one hospital patient this month, Bro. Ray Messner. We pray God will restore his strength, and give him an added portion of love and grace.

With Mother's Day approaching, we found this poem and thought we'd like to share it with you. We hope it will recall special memories of your own mother!

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something, that no one can explain;
It is made of deep devotion, and of sacrifice and pain.
It is endless and unselfish, and enduring come what may.
For nothing can destroy it, or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving, when all others are forsaking;
And it never fails or falters, even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing, when the world around condemns.
And it glows with all the beauty; of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation;
And it still remains a secret, like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many-splendored miracle, man cannot understand;
And another wondrous evidence, of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Anna Lou Mattix

This past month we were fortunate to be spiritually fed through the ministry of Bros. Loren Strahm, Joe Aberle, Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Lester Hartter. May God richly reward their efforts.

As the bright spring sunshine warms the frigid earth after a long winter, we eagerly await the magnificent trans-

formation of our drab, barren surroundings into a colorful panorama of refreshing beauty. Much like our anticipation of a long-awaited spring, many lost souls are searching for relief from their barren and hopeless existence not knowing that Jesus Christ is the way and the life they are longing for. May we each do our part to point these souls to the Son, so that the warm rays of His love may penetrate their cold and lonely hearts and transform their existence into a beautiful new life.

YOUR CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Why do some never come to understand
God's offer of hope and plan of salvation?
With the abundance of Bibles found in this land
Why does such an ignorance of His Word exist in this nation?

Perhaps some have never heard a preacher Christ's teaching declare,
Had the privilege of a Christian upbringing,
Been taught how to reach God through sincere and fervent prayer,
Or experienced the thrill of exalting Jesus' name in harmonious singing.

Some may have never seen a sinner's guilt and sorrow transformed
Into a new life radiant with real peace, hope and joy.
Their unfortunate hearts may have never been warmed
By reading the ageless Gospel story.

These troubled souls may be searching for an inner calm
In the midst of life's tempestuous sea,
But they may not know where to find the balm
That will heal their wounds and set their burdened hearts free.

They may be seeking for the purpose of their existence
And wondering why they are here.
Maybe, they are desperately trying to make sense
Of this ever-changing world with minds clouded by fear.

Yet how are these lost souls going to understand
How Christ came to bring new hope and reconciliation
To all who inhabit Earth's land

If they never hear the Holy Scripture's proclamation?

My dear brother and sister please listen I pray!
Perhaps as the beam shining from the lighthouse on the shore
Into the nights darkness to help ships find their way,
The life you lead and the words you speak each day
May be their only guide unto our Saviour.

So if you see the importance of your example and light
On the lives of others who traverse this sod,
Be sure your glow brightly penetrates the night
That some lost soul not be denied their way to God.

Yes, only you can keep your light radiantly beaming
Only you can know if to Jesus you are daily true.
Be careful! For even now, some non-believer may be wondering,
"What is the Gospel according to you?"
Kent Miller

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Braker — Becky Marti

We know that God continually calls those who stand outside His covenant of grace and we are thankful that there are still those who are willing to turn their backs on the world and seek Him in humble repentance. We rejoice that Mary Probert (Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti) has answered this call and we pray that she will feel God's grace and strength as she seeks to do His will.

God has sent a baby son to bless the home of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht. To welcome Jeremy Jacob home were Michelle, Melinda, Denise, Daniel and David.

We are thankful that Sis. Charlotte Banwart has again been able to assemble with us. We pray that God will continue to grant His healing power.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by

the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

We want to thank Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) for ministering to us this past month. May God bless them for their efforts.

Services will be held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 North Lindbergh Blvd. We welcome you! Dan and Becky Gudeman (314-275-2227).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

HE NEVER SENDS WINTER WITHOUT THE JOY OF SPRING

Springtime is a season
of Hope, and Joy and Cheer,
There's beauty all around
to see, and touch and hear.
So, no matter how downhearted
and discouraged we may be,
New hope is born when we behold
leaves budding on a tree,
Or when we see a timid flower
push through the frozen sod
And open wide in glad surprise
its petaled eyes to God.
For this is just God saying —
"Lift up your eyes to me,
And the bleakness of your spirit,
like the budding springtime tree,
Will lose its wintry darkness
and your heavy heart will sing"
For God never sends the Winter
without the Joy of Spring.

We're happy that Sis. Rose Hoerr is recovering satisfactorily after her second knee surgery within the past six months. May God continue to shower her with His love and healing touch throughout the days ahead which always require extra patience when we experience reverses in our health and everyday routines.

"My cross is not too heavy
My road is not too rough
Because God walks beside me
To know this is enough."

Anonymous

"A Grandma's love, devotion, wisdom and help made a great difference in our lives —

She strengthened our family ties,

helped the children toward maturity and gave us all a greater sense of family continuity." Frank Field

Our sympathy to Bro. Steve, Sis. Pam Kiefaber and their family in the loss of Pam's grandmother, Margaret Baxter, 87, of Palmyra, MO.

On the wall of an Institute in New York City there is a plaque entitled, "A Creed for Those Who Have Suffered". Here is that wise inscription:

I asked God for strength that I might achieve,
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among men most richly blessed.

Author Unknown

"Godliness with contentment is great gain."
I Timothy 6:6

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Lee Bahler and Al Schneider along with others who came to be with us from Rockville, CT. May God richly bless His servants in a like manner to the blessing we received as a result of our visiting brethren.

Sis. Mary Diggelman, who underwent surgery for a fractured hip about a year ago, was required to reenter the hospital for some additional post-corrective surgery. After a weeks stay in the hospital, she returned to her home and is making good progress. God has again heard the prayers of many for both Sis. Mary and for Bro. John, who faithfully stands at her side.

May the God of glory reveal to many the saving grace of His risen Son as we again enter the Easter season.

He is not here: for He is risen, as He said.
Matthew 28:6

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

What did you do this morning?
Did you think to pray?
Did you ask God's blessings
Upon His church today?

Did you think to praise Him
For sending us His Son,
Who brought to us salvation
And love to everyone?

Did you thank Him gladly
For His own holy Word,
The Bible, where we read about
Our risen, reigning Lord?

What did you do this morning,
When you arose today,
Did you think of Jesus
And did you think to pray?

Author Unknown

These verses are so appropriate for us each day. We have celebrated the Easter season when we were reminded of God's sending of His only Son to earth to live and die for our sins. Each morning we should arise and thank Him for this sacrifice made for each one of us.

We were reminded of the many excuses we use in this life to do other things in place of worshipping on the Sabbath or other times, when Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was in our midst Sunday, March 3. Our thanks go to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene for visiting us and for sharing God's precious Word with us.

We enjoyed a covered dish supper together February 20 at the Croghan church, followed by a short song service.

We are glad to report that Bro. Gerald Grau has been able to return home following several surgeries including the amputation of his leg. He and Sis. Polly have been in our thoughts and prayers in the past weeks and we pray they can look to God for their comfort and strength in the days ahead. Bro. Chet and Sis. Kate O'Brien have been able to assemble with us again. Bro. Chet was hospitalized for a few days last month.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

A covered dish meal, fellowship and song service was held at the Croghan church.

Sis. Pearl Colgrove is in the Carthage Area Hospital where she had to undergo surgery. Our ministering Bro. Leland Hirschey is in the House of the Good Samaritan (Watertown) for surgery. We hope they can soon return home again. May the Lord be ever near them.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

The season of commemorating Pentecost is here. At the Feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament, the Israelites were to offer two loaves of leavened bread, or bread that is raised. This was symbolic in that at Pentecost God poured out His Spirit, and the two loaves were the Jews and the Gentiles, as now both could be raised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Shewbread, which means pierced bread, was put in the holy place of the tabernacle. Again, it was symbolic that Jesus is the Bread from heaven, the Bread of Life, pierced bread.

The Children of Israel gathered manna and ate of it. Manna means leavened bread. Partaking of it raised them up, giving blessings to them of something better, like in Psalm 105:37, "He brought them forth with silver and gold and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."

Amos 4:5 states that a sacrifice of thanksgiving should be with leavened bread, which is bread that is raised. Philippians 4 states that we are to make our requests with thanksgiving, and in thanksgiving it is raised to God.

At Pentecost the Kingdom's Holy Spirit resurrection power was poured out. Resurrection means: 1) to raise, 2) to rise and 3) to stand up. It appears that it intensifies - gets us up and raises us higher to something better.

Matthew 13:33 likens the Kingdom to leaven. Putting leaven in a loaf will raise it. Being born again into the Kingdom raises us up giving us blessings of the Holy Spirit resurrection power that intensifies and gets us up, raises us to stand and raises us higher physically, mentally or emotionally into something better.

Our thanks go to Bro. Dave Graf for his dedication in filling his term in Sunday School, and now Bro. Eric Graf is the new teacher for that class. The Lord will give him grace to fill that teaching position.

Bro. Glenn Greenbank gave his

Sunday School students the treat of taking them to Girard for a Sunday.

Sis. Helen Burr is recuperating from hip surgery, and Robert Kaufman is home after being hospitalized.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

During the past month we were pleased that Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) was able to come and share God's Word with us in Columbus. We appreciated, too, the sweet fellowship, with his family and all our visitors. It's such a blessing when we have guests. That Christian love is so apparent, and everyone can be uplifted.

Mother's Day is not far away, and as we approach this holiday, let's consider John's second epistle, in which he speaks to the "Elect Lady" and her children.

Whether it is written to a church or to a particular woman, there are many similarities contained therein. This epistle emphasizes a mother's role in the family. As the father is the "head", mother is the "heart" of the home. She nurtures love; the love of God and love of neighbors, protecting each from false ideas and beliefs.

Finally, she encourages her own to "walk after His commandments". Just as the "Elect Lady" was commended because her children were then found walking in the truth, today, Christian mothers usually have the greatest opportunity to plant the seeds of God's Word in the hearts of their children, and foster in them, an earnest desire to seek God's will for their own lives.

So we thank the Lord for "mother's tender care", and pray that God blesses each one throughout the year.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

As I read over my husband's church diary, I find that we had no church on January 20. It was very cold and snowy. Then I see that he rejoiced over our church lot being plowed out nicely. We have a "Good Samaritan" who has kept our lot cleaned out for a number of years and there is never a bill. Praise the Lord!

On February 3, we enjoyed an evening of singing at the Akron church. We always feel a warm welcome there.

On February 21, Harold and I started on a trip to Florida where we enjoyed precious fellowship with our brethren there. We give special thanks

to Bro. Ron Steiner and Bro. Ron Palitto for serving here in our absence. We also thank those who come to worship with us and help with singing.

All our home folk are quite well now. Sis. Louisa Lance is much improved after being seriously ill. She is hoping to be back to church soon. Edward Deislinger is back worshipping with us. Sis. Ella Deislinger was able to stay all day for the first time since last September when she had the misfortune of breaking her hip. Bob Deislinger was present even though he had his hand in a cast. Each one puts forth much effort to be present as each one is so necessary in our small group.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalm 127:3. The Lord, then, has rewarded two of our couples with little ones. Thor Elias was born February 19 to Chip and Barb Etter. Thor is their first child. His grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Kellie Marie is the new daughter of Kevin and Judy McKay. Kellie has an older brother, Kyle. Kellie's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz. Having received the Lord's reward of children, these new parents also accept the responsibility of teaching these little ones about God and His ways.

In Proverbs 31:10, the question is posed "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." In today's society, young men date young women to seek an answer to this same question which was posed centuries ago. Our Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) believes that he has found the answer to this age-old question. In the precious tradition of our church, he did not date, but asked God to help him search this virtuous woman. God has answered his prayers. His engagement to Sis. Laurie Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva, Latty, OH) was recently made known. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans to begin their lives together.

OHIO, LATTY Laurie Stoller — Patty Gerber

"How can we behold the great work of creation
And not feel moved His name to praise?
From whom are these wonders? O give
Him the glory!

Our voice in honor to Him raise."

"The Heavens Are Praising"
Hymns of Zion #49, vs. 4

The fresh days of spring certainly move our hearts to praise Him for the beauty and newness of the season. We marvel and wonder as new life comes to the earth again after a fierce and cold winter.

The most precious creation that God gave to us was human life. We share the joy felt by Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller in the birth of Caleb Edward. Sara, Ben, Corbin and Reid are very happy to have a new little brother.

Several from our congregation enjoyed the spring beauty as they traveled to Princeville for the wedding ceremony of our Bro. Jason Williamson (Bob and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Wendy Locher (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Chris, Altadena, CA). The weekend was not only beautiful on the outside, but also on the inside as our souls could be refreshed with God's Word. We hope Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy will be happy as they establish their new home in the Francesville area.

Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction) shared with us over the past month. We are thankful for all of our ministers' willingness to serve.

We pray for healing and returned strength to Sis. Mary Stoller who was hospitalized, and to Bro. Tim Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) who was recently injured.

God again has answered prayer in directing two lives together. We look forward to the marriage of Sis. Laurie Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva) to Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Juliet, Junction). May God continue to guide each of these souls as they make preparations for life together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) ministered to us on February 24. He pointed out that the sun is always shining; it's just cloud covered sometimes. Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Joe Ramsier (Rittman) shared the conference memorandum with us March 8. Bro. Jesse remained to minister to us on Sunday. He reminded us that the Lord has given us each an assignment and He is counting on us to do our best; we really don't want to leave the Lord down now do we?

We recently had the account of Jesus healing the man who was waiting for the movement of the waters at the pool of Bethesda. The blood of Christ our Saviour is for all mankind; not just the first in the "pool". We are not in a race with our fellow man to be first; but as the man by the pool needed someone to assist him into the waters, there are many around us needing our help to find Christ at Calvary.

Joy - a very small word we so often use during the Easter season. This poem points out the reason it is so useful to us to describe our Christian walk:

The J, of course, is Jesus, first!
The O, why, that means others
The Y means you come last yourself
After all your sisters and brothers.

Judy Kiel

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to our Easter Sunday School program; at the time of your reading, if the Lord tarries, it will be a joyful memory.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn Sauder are happy grandparents; two in one week! Rick and Wendy Sauder welcomed Jessica Jo into their family circle February 24. Justin and Joshua are the big brothers willing to teach Jessica many things; singing for Jesus will be one of them. Gary and Vicki Sauder are first-time parents. Blake Robert was born February 27.

Sis. Kay (Bro. Ron) Rufener was a hospital patient (surgery) this month. It has been a long winter for Sis. Kay and she is happy to be able to assemble with us again. As Bro. Gary had said, the sun was shining but Kay's cloud covering has now lifted. Joe Sabo had eye surgery and is getting along very nicely. Sis. Peg (Bro. Frank) Graszl has been ill and confined. We wish her God's grace unto patience. Sis. Hermine Beer was in the hospital for surgery, Bro. Ray Cordrey (Bryant, SD) for surgery, Jeremy Zimmer (Bro. Jim, Jr. and Sis. Cheryl) had an accident resulting in a knee injury.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Judy Stoller — Verla Stoller

"I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place." "I will praise thee: For Thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation." Psalm 118:5, 21.

Those who have turned to God to seek their salvation are Darlene Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet) as

well as David (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha) and Teresa Marty.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:19.

Several experienced afflictions and were hospitalized. They included Howard Beery (Sis. Lucille), Sis. Mildred Hartzler, Aaron Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie), Richard Marty, Bro. Rudy Zollinger (Sis. Brenda), Jim Winkler, Sis. Pearl Marty, Bro. Herb Bauman (Sis. Berniece) and Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley).

"I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing when they, who are so fresh from God, love us."

Charles Dickens

Blest with their first child were Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer. Jessica Lynn's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer.

Welcoming their first son are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery. Glad for a brother are Laurie, Michelle and Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery, and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Akron).

Rudy and Barb Maibach now have one son and one daughter with the birth of Katherine Nicole. Their son Bradley as well as grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach, rejoice with them.

Ken and Carol Rupp welcomed their second daughter, Amanda Jo. Megan will enjoy a playmate. Grandparents are Ken and Sis. Lillian Rupp, and Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer.

"Let us love one another: for love is of God . . ." I John 4:7. Announcing their engagement are Heinz Zierau and Tanya Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda).

March 3, Bro. Ernie Stetz and Sis. Diane Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen) exchanged their wedding vows.

Bro. Jon Kipfer (Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn, Latty) and Sis. Suzanne Rufener (Bro. Isaac, Jr. and Sis. Verna) were united as husband and wife March 17.

May God be the head of their Christian homes and add His blessings unto them.

Once again we were blest with visiting ministers who encouraged us to seek the kingdom of God. They were Bros. Bill Brake, Delbert Indermuhle and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis); Bro. Ray Sin (Latty); and Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN). "If thou put the

brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ . . ." I Timothy 4:6.

We have a holiday called "Mother's Day" which is set aside to honor our mothers. Surely we should and do appreciate them each day. We often find of our mother that "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Proverbs 31:26.

Remember May is the month for Rittman's Silver Lining dues collection.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

As the earth "springs" forth with new life, it brings to mind the new life God gives to those who follow His plan of salvation. Our dear friend, John Riggensbach (Sis. Hazel), has found peace in his heart and is awaiting to give his testimony and be baptized March 31.

Mother's Day brings deep thoughts of love and gratitude to our hearts and minds. As we think of our mothers, we think of never-ending love and unselfish motives, found only in a true mother's heart. No task is so great, no day is too long or hard in time of sickness. She is always encouraging those in grief or distress. To all mothers, "Happy Mother's Day!"

As another school year ends, it is the final year of school for many people. We have one graduate, Andrew Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula). May he always look to God for guidance as he starts a new beginning.

Sis. Terry and Bro. Gary wish to thank all for their prayers, gifts, cards, food and help during Terry's and little son, Joey's stay at the hospital.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla**

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Pete Baltic and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for bringing to us the gospel message of salvation. May God's rich blessings be with them, their wives and children.

We are looking forward to spring and its new life, the time of year that reminds us, especially, of our dear Saviour. Our Easter program will be on Palm Sunday. The children are also anticipating a happy spring vacation.

We, in the congregation, will wel-

come the return home of our ministers, Bro. Walter Rehklau (Freda) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Dorothy) from their winter stay in the South.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Barbara Moser

Lord God, my Father, mighty Shield,
 Thou hast Thy love in Christ revealed
 Before this world's foundation.
 Thy Son is now betrothed to me,
 My heart its joy in Him doth see,
 And bows in adoration.
 What bliss is this! He that liveth,
 To me giveth Life forever.

O joy to know that Thou, the Word,
 Beginning without end, art Lord,
 The First and Last, Eternal!
 And Thou at length—O Glorious Grace!
 Wilt take me to that holy place.
 The home of joys supernal.
 Amen, Amen! Come and meet me.
 Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
 Lord, I look for Thy returning!
 Zion's Harp # 223

Sis. Anna Cooper is again assembling with us. We thank God for her speedy recovery.

A new little granddaughter has brightened the lives of Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl Miller. Steve and Julie are the parents.

On Friday, March 8, a singing at the home of Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser was enjoyed by the Portland and Silverton congregations.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rose Lee Kuenzi

Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich have welcomed another little son into their hearts and home. Rick Alan was born February 22 and weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. Brothers and sisters at home to help him feel loved are Becky, Lori, Kristy, Brian, Jill and Mark. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Millie Dietrich and Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA).

We heard again recently that a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. And so are our lives . . . an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. At this time of year it seems those of us who still have close ties to the farm can't help but compare the hope of a new season with the hope of a new life in Christ. Every day we see earthly things that remind us of our heavenly calling. No doubt, that can be true in

any occupation but is especially evident when working with nature itself. Often the hard work and dedication of the farmer (as in sower, gatherer, reaper and other terms) is compared to the effort a Christian must put forth to reach his heavenly goal. Words such as: "Hasten gladly to the labor", "Work for the night is coming", and "Forth to the harvest field away!" and many more such songs encourage our spiritual lives with words common to farm life. As planting time comes again to the farm, may God give courage and the optimism that today's farm facilities need to face the economic pressures around them. Sometimes after hard work and trying to do the best you can, the result is still disappointing. "Lord, help each one remember that the "Harvest" awaiting in heaven will in no wise be insufficient to meet our needs, if we are obedient to Thy Word." "Lay up . . . treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt." Matthew 6:20.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**
Ann Gasser

On a Saturday in late February, the 1984 conference tapes were played at the church. We were exhorted to unity and holiness. With us that weekend and the following was Sis. Nancy Aeschleman's mother, Sis. Rose Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We were blessed by her cheerfulness.

Members from the Rockville, CT congregation have been faithful in supporting us with visits. It is approximately a five hour drive which can be a nice weekend trip.

TEXAS, DONNA-McALLEN
Joyce Nohl

Meet today and part tomorrow.
 Smiles of joy and tears of sorrow.
 Such is human life.
 But in gentle resignation,
 And with sweet anticipation,
 Of a higher, holier station,
 We endure the strife.

Meet today in social union.
 Spend the hour in sweet communion.
 As in seasons past,
 Christian friendship is a treasure,
 Pure in nature, rich in measure,
 Filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
 While the moments last.

If tomorrow tears are starting,

At the tender hour of parting,
 Brief will be the pain;
 Time on rapid wings is flying,
 Christians on their Lord relying,
 Present, absent, living, dying,
 Soon will meet again.

Hymns of Zion #53

The title of the above hymn is Meeting and Parting. We here in the valley experience both every winter season. It is such a joy to meet our visitors when they come and assemble with us. And then comes a sadness as one by one they go back to their homes and families. May God protect them and be with them always.

Our last service of the season was held March 3. We thank the following ministers for serving us this season: Bros. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA) and Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS). It takes special effort for those who come and serve us as it is approximately 110 miles from Zapata where most of the ministers are wintering. May God richly bless them for caring and putting forth the needed effort. We thank God for servants such as these for without them there would be no valley service. Our largest assembly this season was 53. We can feel the love flow as we meet one with another. We look forward to next season and Lord willing, we will again have willing servants to come and serve us. We give all praise and thanks to our God who has lovingly looked down upon us and cared for us this past season.

We also want to thank the brethren and friends who came to assemble with us. May God be with you till we meet again.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

Most all of our winter residents have returned to their homes in the north and only our summer residents are here.

We have been blessed with rain making our area lush green; the desert cactus and flowers are blooming profusely.

Anyone coming to South Texas this summer is most welcome to come and worship with us in Zapata.

Please note there is an address change for all church correspondence. It is now P. O. Box 1374, Leland Plattner, Zapata, Texas 78076.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

better resemble Him now. If we claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, we must be like Him now. Later, we shall have a new glorified body. We won't be engaged in conflicts anymore.

It is a challenge, and it is a blessed experience when we know that we are on the winning side, isn't it? Our Saviour is leading the way, guiding our lives, steering our ship of faith. He is the Captain, and we are constantly looking to Him for direction to guide us in power and strength; and He is there!

Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. His Spirit will abide in us forever, so let's "Rejoice evermore" in the Lord.

The Apostle Paul, who experienced so much hardship, said: "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich." He continued, ". . . as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." II Corinthians 6:10. When we have Christ, we have everything! Indeed, the unsearchable riches of Christ are for one and all who totally, without reservation, surrender to Him.

Do not use your bodies as instruments of sin. Instead, enjoy a wonderful transforming life in Christ Jesus. These earthly bodies are prone to sin, and many people who are bound by them would like to shake themselves free from sinful habits.

A new year is coming. People are going to make resolutions trying to reform their lives, but that's not the answer. You know as well as I do. It's not reformation. No, the resolutions last a little while, but it's not the permanent answer.

The solution is transformation, and that's out of man's reach. Why would Christ have come, and the Father have made such a sacrifice, if man could reform himself and be justified in God's sight?

Beloved, the power of God is required. We can read: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth . . ." Romans 1:16. We must believe totally, without reservation, in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and make a full surrender in commitment to Him.

Beloved, we need to do that. Brothers, sisters and friends, every day we need to present our "bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God . . ." which we are told is our "reason-

able service". Romans 12:1.

Well, we got a bit off the text here. Chapter 16 in Revelation is very gruesome. It is not necessary to reread it. We know that terrible times are in store for this poor troubled world which is to be burned up with all its works. There will be "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness," Peter tells us. II Peter 3:13.

Peter also says that since "all things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" II Peter 3:11. Oh, it's so important that our conduct is proper and Christlike. With seasoning of grace and with seasoning of salt, we can influence others for our blessed Saviour. Cause no one to stumble, but rather be a blessing to others and be used by God. If only I could be more yielded to Him. We all want to serve Him better, don't we?

The Word of God is very precious and we need it so much. If we do make New Year's resolutions, may one of them be to read in His mighty Word of Truth, the very source of faith, more every morning. Then through the day we can meditate on what we have read. The Psalmist said this is how he kept from sinning: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11.

The Holy Word is the source of our faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. Faith is vital. After we take our last breath, we'll lay faith aside and we'll never need it again. Though important now, beloved ones, it is the victory that enables us to overcome the world.

This last book, Revelation, continually reminds us that whosoever "overcometh shall inherit all things," and can claim the promises of God that are exceedingly great and precious. Revelation 21:7.

It's so important, beloved, that we not only remain faithful but that we overcome. These two things we must emphasize if we are going to reach the mark and win the race.

Yes, there will be a tremendous earthquake, as we read here. We hear of more earthquakes every year, but this will be the greatest of all. What a terrible time that will be.

There are vials of wrath. One will be poured out on the sun, and men will be scorched. What will be the results? None will repent; they will only blas-

pheme God. They will gnaw with their teeth and tongues for the pain and agony that they will experience.

This is not a parable. Parables are good examples for us but let us consider St. Luke 16. Jesus said that there was a certain rich man, and a beggar named Lazarus. He did not say that it was a parable; it was an account. That poor rich man who had had it so nice upon this earth was in pain and agony. He still had all his senses, and he saw the beggar, Lazarus, in Abraham's bosom. The rich man said, "Send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:24.

Nothing was ever granted to him again. He thought of others, his own loved ones, his five brothers. He didn't want them to come and share his misery. Sometimes we hear this remark from unbelievers: "Well, I'll have plenty of company there in the lake of fire in hell, in the lake of torment." The rich man didn't want anyone to share that misery, especially not his own who were nearest to him. Oh, how terrible, beloved!

It isn't God's will that any should miss the mark and be lost. May we be more faithful in sounding the warning, and in abiding in the Saviour. Let us look forward to His coming, and continue in prayer without ceasing. Let us be an honor and glory to our Lord continually.

"Love one another with a pure heart fervently." I Peter 1:22. Keep this first love that is so vital, beloved ones. Repeatedly we are warned that our love could diminish. From our Zion's Harp, as well as throughout the Word of God, we are exhorted intensely to have love one toward another. By this shall all men know that we are indeed the true disciples and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15. "Let us go on unto perfection . . . Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 6:1 and 12:2. Let us all seek Him while He is to be found. He is nearer today than ever before. Let us all call upon Him in sincerity and truth, and love Him with all that is within us.

Most important of all, "love His appearing". II Timothy 4:8. I believe that it could take place before some of us meet again.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER

EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. ROBERT J. MILLER OF PORTLAND, OR

Text: Psalm 27 and Revelation 16

Perhaps we don't near of the wrath of God as often as we hear of the love of God. It is, of course, a lot more pleasant to speak of God's love. But God is a just God, beloved, is He not? God is a holy God. He cannot tolerate sin or let it go unpunished.

God punished sin in the person of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. That is so beautiful! To think that He was made sin for you and for me, beloved, "that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (Christ)." II Corinthians 5:21. It's all there in a "nutshell". Summed up, He was made sin for us. That was God's will and purpose.

God's love is great, as is His compassion and mercy. He is indeed rich in mercy. "For His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-6.

Today we feel His presence and have His Spirit. What more do we need? Nothing more but His continual grace. We must not only live in the Spirit, but we must walk in the Spirit. That's so important, isn't it? Our adversary indeed is fierce and wrathful and will do his best to torment us. He has practiced deception for many, many years, hasn't he?

Isn't it wonderful to know, beloved, that "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world?" I John 4:4.

The devil is powerful but he is not all-powerful. That mighty Spirit of God that the Lord Jesus spoke of as the Comforter will lead and guide us into all truth and righteousness. May we never grieve or quench Him, whoever we are - friends, brothers or sisters.

Oh, how sad it will be when the Spirit of God will cease to strive with man. There will be no more repentance

granted, no more grace. How sad that will be.

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:37. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," the Lord said before the flood. Genesis 6:3.

Today, the Spirit of the bride says, "Come. Whoever is thirsty, come." "Whosoever will, let him (come and) take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. That is the final and beautiful invitation in this Holy Book that lives and abides forever.

The Spirit is faithful, and He is still striving with man. How about the bride? Who is the bride? We are, beloved brothers and sisters. We are the bride of Christ. Are we saying, "Come"? Are we cooperating with the Holy Spirit?

First of all, are we living in the Spirit? We are living in the world, but we are not to be of the world. Are we living in such a manner that Christ can always be seen in our daily living? Many people don't read the Bible except through our lives.

We are told that we are living epistles, and that we are read by all men wherever we go. They notice us and they examine us. Often we would fall short, if it were not for the grace of God. How we need to examine ourselves, beloved, to see whether we really are Christlike; whether we are true ambassadors or whether we might blush to speak His name, ashamed of Him and of His Word. I hope that we are never like that. Oh, to have boldness as the apostles of old had!

We are blessed and we are a fortunate people, beloved ones. We "have it made" so to speak. We are off to a good start, or perhaps we have reached the middle of our lives, or are near to the end.

Yet, we are told that "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be

saved." Matthew 24:13. How sad if we would run the race almost to the end and then stumble, or if we would have excess baggage that would hinder us. We are told in Hebrews to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us . . ." Hebrews 12:1. We should cast it off, sever it from us, and then run the race with patience.

James speaks of patience: ". . . be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:8.

The Psalmist says: "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him." Psalm 62:5. I need to tell myself that. You do, too, perhaps.

We heard in our forereading: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart (and mine)." Psalm 27:14. Haven't we often found it so, when the devil torments us and tries to discourage us?

Yes, beloved, "We are more than conquerors through him that (first) loved us." Romans 8:37.

We need to "Rejoice evermore" in the Lord, and not let trials and tests get us down. The Apostle Paul didn't, did he? "This one thing I do," he said. "(I forget) those things which are behind . . ." Philippians 3:13. Failures; difficulties. He might have glanced at them, but he didn't let them get him down.

Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14.

If we confess our failings and shortcomings and never cover up anything, making things right immediately when the Spirit prompts us, we can walk with our blessed Lord as Enoch did. Then one day He will take us, as He did Enoch, and translate us. Oh, what a wonderful, beautiful hope, beloved!

When we see Him, we will be like Him and see Him as He is, but we had

(Continued on Page 31)