



"But they cried, saying,
Crucify him, crucify him."
Luke 23:21

"He is not here: for he is
risen, as he said. Come, see
the place where the Lord lay.
"And go quickly, and tell
his disciples that he is risen
from the dead;"
Matthew 28:6, 7

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The Cross

The mighty tree, the cross, is
spreading
Its arms of suff'ring ev'rywhere;
For wheresoe'er man's foot is
treading,
The cross is certain to be there.

With thousand figures dark and
dreary,
The cross comes nigh with pain and
dart;
Reproach, contempt, and suff'rings
weary
Hold their sword close to thy heart.

Though far or near if thou wouldst
travel,
A cross is ever standing nigh;
And thou wilt always draw it nearer
If thou wilt try to pass it by.

O, do not fear the cross' affliction!
The Saviour suffered on it, too,
To cause eternal joy and pleasure
To ripen evermore for you.

But if thou wouldst relieve its
pressure,
The figure of the cross then heed.
'Twill teach thee how to ease thy
suff'ring;
To consolation it will lead.

Two beams are in the cross united;
A short one lies across the long,
But instantly the cross is lightened
When short lies parallel to long.

This figure then explains the
meaning:
Why often hard our suff'rings press;
And how relief we may be gaining
When souls are laden with distress.

The longer beam is God's direction;
Across it lies thy will, perverse.
Thus brings the cross pain and
affliction;
God's dispensation seems for worse.

Resist not then God's regulation,
Although His hand may press thee
hard;
But conquer thy own will with
patience;
Soon cross and suff'ring will depart.

If thus thou'lt overcome thy wishes
And let God's will prevail in thee,
Then thou wilt find peace in thy
suff'ring;
And grace thy great reward will be.

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

Zion's Harp #171



NEED FOR ADMINISTRATOR AT APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WOODHAVEN

The churches in Michigan along with Toledo, Ohio, have begun construction of a 66-bed nursing home in Livonia, Michigan, a western suburb in the Detroit metropolitan area. Foundations are in and construction on the superstructure is proceeding.

The attractive wooded site adjacent to our church should provide a very beautiful environment for the occupants of this home.

We have a certificate of need for shelter care, and we have an application to upgrade this certificate to acute nursing care. In constructing the facility we are making provision for both.

We are in need of an administrator for this program. This is an excellent opportunity for a brother or sister to further develop their professional ca-

reer and to be of service to God in caring for others.

Therefore, if any of our brethren are interested or are aware of someone with the proper qualifications, we would sincerely appreciate your forwarding a resume to either Bro. Phil Bahr, 17366 Westbrook, Livonia, MI 48152 or to myself at 14726 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

We also will be in need of a nursing supervisor and nurses or aids. Here again, applications may be forwarded to the above brethren.

We are grateful for the support we have received, and believe it is a privilege to provide help for brethren and friends who are no longer able to care for themselves.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Maibach, Jr.

OPPORTUNITY: HELPING THE HAITIANS

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

Our World Relief and Works Projects program has approved the 1985-1986 project to send teams of volunteers to Haiti to construct the roof for school buildings. There are seven projects planned for this time period and we were privileged to be part of the fourth team to go to the seacoast village of Corail (Cori).

Much of the planning and scheduling was done by Bro. Harold Witzig (Morton, IL) and project leader, Bro. Phil Isabel (Remington, IN). We appreciated the planning and work that was done and the help and advice we received.

We had received work team instructions which gave us information of the project location, general information concerning the Republic of Haiti, schedule, health care needs and some commonly used Creole words. A list of gifts and needed items we could take along for the Haitian families, especially all types of hand tools and carpentry tools, was also given to us. We took as many tools along as we could carry in our two suitcases.

Departure day, January 23, was soon upon us. Brothers from Remington, Wolcott, Leo, IN, and Bay City, MI,

were to meet in Miami, FL, for the flight to Haiti. This being the first flight for John Willis (Children's Home, Leo, IN), he had a window seat. From Atlanta, GA, we flew along the west coast of Florida and the pilot spoke of passing over Fort Myers and we thought of our brothers and sisters there. We stayed all night in Miami and were met by Darrell Brooks, of World Team, who briefed us on what to expect on our arrival at the Port-au-Prince airport and passing through customs. A beautiful flight to Haiti, some 600 to 700 miles, was had by all.

Robert Stewart, World Team Missionary leader, met us at the airport. Robert would be our guide and leader for the entire stay in Haiti. We passed through customs, our bags were opened and inspected and we passed through with no problems. We loaded all the suitcases on top of the bus and were all aboard for the trip to the mission station at El Keyes (Kies). Driving through the streets of Port-au-Prince, we saw so much poverty and so much need. Most of the people were walking on both sides of the street. Many women were carrying loads on their heads and we saw many brightly

painted buses just loaded with passengers.

We stayed overnight at a mission compound in Port-au-Prince. We were very graciously welcomed, served a very good meal and given a cottage for a night's rest. The next morning we packed up again and started on the 130-mile journey to El Keyes. We passed through many villages with many people at the open-air market-places trying to either sell or buy the food or produce.

The mission station is on the top of a hill with beautiful flowers and tropical trees surrounding the mission cottages. We were welcomed by Mrs. Stewart and the staff and a delicious dinner was prepared for us. After dinner, we loaded the two four-wheel-drive trucks and a trailer with the steel roofing, the tools and the generators needed for the project. On the trip to Corail, we travelled over tortuous mountain roads filled with large rocks and so steep that we had to travel in low gear and four-wheel-drive for five

(Continued on Page 30)

THE SILVER LINING

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USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

HE IS RISEN — HE IS NOT HERE

(Mark 16:6)

Bro. Jerry Messner, Winthrop, MN

"Up Calvary's mountain one dreadful morn, walked Christ my Saviour weary and worn" . . . Gospel Hymns #363.

As we approach the time of the year commemorating the trial and death of Jesus Christ, let us go back in time and, in our minds, attempt to witness what our blessed Saviour endured, for 'twas there my Lord was crucified, 'twas on the cross He bled for me, and purchased there my pardon free" . . . Gospel Hymns #355.

On that fateful night our Lord resorted to the place where He often

went with His disciples for, as Luke put it, "And He came out, and went, as He was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and His disciples also followed Him. (Chapter 22:39). The Garden was not new to Him. Jesus went there often, perhaps for quiet communion with His heavenly Father; for already He knew what terrible agony lay before Him.

It is impossible to imagine what tremendous mental torture Christ was going through as He knelt alone in the Garden; as the thoughts of obedience to His Father warred against His desire to avoid the anguish He must suffer. It wasn't the pain alone, of nails into His mortal flesh but of every sin of all man-

kind from "In the Beginning" (Genesis 1:1) to the last "Amen" in Revelation 22:21.

He prayed earnestly, sincerely, pleadingly to a loving Father, (a Father so full of love that He used the Aramaic term "Abba" meaning "Daddy") to let this cup, this pain, pass from Him. But how thankful we can be that He was obedient unto the death on the cross.

In His High Priestly prayer Jesus said, "Father the HOUR is come" . . . (John 17:1) the HOUR for which He was being prepared; the HOUR which was prophesied for so many, many years; the HOUR of which Moses wrote about in Genesis 3:15, "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"; the HOUR in which God would be glorified.

After the mock trial in which our blessed Lord was laughed at, scorned and denied, by even those who followed Him and witnessed the many, many miracles He performed, whose very life was traded for a murderer, came the dreadful day in which the lives of the entire human race would be changed forever.

St. John's gospel, Chapter 19:1 says very simply, "then Pilate therefore took Jesus and scourged Him". Scourged, the Greek word "phrageloo" is used to describe what our Lord went through. The scourge was made of leather thongs, weighted with pieces of bone or glass. The victim, our Lord, was stripped naked and tied in a bending position over a pillar. As the thongs came down upon His back, the tips, with bone or glass, would wrap around His chest and tear the flesh as the straps were pulled back. In this position, with the head hung low (the excruciating pain was so severe the victim would pass out and be revived with salt water on the open wounds), blood would trickle from all openings in the head.

Thirty-nine stripes were administered so the law of Forty stripes would not be broken (Deuteronomy 25:3).

Then came the crown of thorns, the humiliation of being mocked and laughed at by the soldiers, "but as a sheep before the shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Isaiah prophesied the government would be upon His shoulders; now the law of life, the crossbeam, was upon His shoulders. As He walked to Calvary, so weak by the loss of blood,

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Greetings in our precious Saviour's name.

Many of our brethren from our congregations have been active in giving and distributing the Bible. Many accounts have been heard of the blessings realized in visiting the homes, rest homes, prisons and rescue missions, when inquiry and request has come from someone wishing to have a Bible or Testament. Many requests come from individuals who have sight problems, where a large print Bible or Testament enables them to read again. We now have the KJV of the Bible on cassette tapes for those persons who can no longer see. For the blind, we have sets of braille Bibles in stock, ready for those needing a braille Bible.

During the past two years, 24,702 Bibles and Testaments have been shipped to our congregations for distribution by our brethren.

Contributions to the Bible Fund for Bible distribution can be sent to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and requests for Bibles and Testaments can be sent to Elder Bro. David Bertsch.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890

Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812

Bibles Distributed — Third Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1985 —	876	876
September 1985 —	1369	2245
October 1985 —	1259	3504
November 1985 —	1088	4592
December 1985 —	1610	6202
January 1986 —	1068	7270
February 1986 —	1283	8553

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testament, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

another was compelled to carry the crossbeam. (The Romans wanted to be sure He was not going to cheat death by crucifixion.)

Listen! Can we hear the sound of the hammer striking against the nail as it pierced His flesh? Can we feel the pain of our sins that put Him there? He was so perfect, so holy, and yet, so obedient to suffer this for us.

As the cross held Jesus suspended between heaven and earth, the muscles of His body screaming from the pain of attempting to hold His body together in such an awkward position. His lungs burning in an attempt to inhale and exhale, the nails tearing at the flesh of His hands and feet, and above all, feeling forsaken by His heavenly Father (Psalm 22:1).

When God saw the travail of His anguish, He was satisfied and out of mercy allowed Him to die.

The darkness, the renting of the veil, the graves opened and saints which had died walked the earth again, then followed the burial of a dead Christ . . . but wait! The tomb is empty! He arose! He overcame death! PRAISE THE LORD!

----- APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

It is still winter time in Indiana — how beautiful it is. This morning we were awakened to six inches of newly fallen snow on the ground with the temperatures in the twenties — quite a difference from the unseasonably warm forty and fifty-degree readings of the past few days. Variety in the weather is the password of the day in the great Midwest. The area schools were all closed for the day, which meant a sudden new schedule for the day for the houseparents and the children. How flexible they must be to new situations on short notice — one of the many challenges for the Home staff! Presently, a fine drizzle of snow and sleet is wending its way earthward; and we are emphatically reminded, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1. As one gazes into the eastern sky, his glance is met with an impenetrable haze of atmosphere that limits visibility to a few hundred yards, and one feels a little "shadowed" in; but how comforting are the words, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide

under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1. His eyes see the ends of the earth, and the thoughts and intents of our hearts — what a privilege to serve Him.

Another week later we are deluged with a fog so heavy and thick that schools in the areas are closed for the day. In the afternoon, however, the fog lifted and it was a beautiful, spring-like day. Our great God serves us such a variety of weather, we stand in utter awe and amazement at His greatness. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct all thy paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6. This is the key to a victorious life.

Dividers have been added to the classroom in the administration building, giving the children five individualized study areas and giving the room a more professional look.

The remodeling of the former office building into a multi-purpose apartment and the addition to the machine shed are progressing nicely — thanks to all the volunteers. Plans for future resident homes are in the making.

Winter activities include some tobogganing, sledding, ice skating, as well as continued work on 4-H projects and shovelling snow.

John W., who went to Haiti with a number of brethren, including Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Bill Klopfenstein, reports a productive trip. The plane trip was great, the food was good, as were the sleeping quarters and the fellowship. The work team put a roof on a school house and made benches while they were there. John is grateful for the opportunity afforded him and says "thank you" for the prayers and support.

We have two new residents at the Home. Daleen C., age 16, from Whitley County, recently joined our family at the West House; she was a former resident here. Alexis J., a 14-year-old girl from the Fort Wayne area is now in the East House. We look forward to including them in our family and trust their stay will be pleasant and profitable for them and the staff. Tom M., who had been a resident here for the past nine months, has returned to the Indianapolis area.

The most recent presentations about the Children's Home were at Gridley, IL and Wolcott, IN. Any church wanting a presentation should

contact the Home.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer, Mark and Sarah, visited us recently. They are former houseparents here. So nice to see them back at the Home. How Mark and Sarah have grown!

We wish to thank Sis. Elaine Norr for inviting the Home, staff and local houseparent volunteers out for pizza — it was delicious. Thanks also for sharing your home for fellowship and a treat for the evening.

As a result of a new phone system having been installed, our phone numbers have changed to the following: Office - 219/627-2159; East House (Bill and Joan Schick) - 219/627-2601; West House (Bill and Cheri Blunier) - 219/627-3006.

----- APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The humbled human heart, obedient and dependent as a child, is valued by God. Many of our residents have these characteristics, which often serve as an example to the staff members. Recently, I had the pleasure of teaching seventeen of our residents in a Sunday school class. The students continue to enlighten their teachers in many ways. In reducing the essence of scripture to its simplest form, I received a new sensitivity to faith, love and suffering. Teaching the handicapped demands honesty with ourselves. It takes facing just how much we lack in being all we should be. Our love for God depends on facing ourselves, realizing our failures and needs, and trusting God's promise of forgiveness through Jesus. Your importance as a person is based squarely on the fact that God loves you. It's not enough to tell the handicapped person "God loves you". He must experience that love through God's people, you and/or me. Their I.Q. should not be so important. The individual is important. There are many ways by which people become handicapped and God, Himself, planned them all. All children are prescribed by God, are precious in His sight, and have a purpose in His plan. They may not seem to fit in our plans, but in His all-seeing plan.

While working at the Home we have lived through lessons of pain, patience, play, tears and laughter. The Home encompasses uproar balanced by peace. Pure bedlam has become unbelievable order. We have learned discipline together. We have been taught lessons in

honesty, dignity, integrity and forgiveness. While watching some of the residents struggle with physical and mental handicaps, true courage is displayed many times.

Handicapped? Yes.
God's gifts? Yes.
My teachers? Yes.

Each season brings its calendar celebration, and most importantly (to the residents at least) birthdays! Those celebrating birthdays in March are: Bill Unsicker, Mike Bodtke, Maretta Rokey, Margo Ebert and Anna Eberhard, Jeff Zimmerman, Edna Haynes, Frank Kyburz and Nancy Meister.

Soon plans will be made for Easter vacations. It is such a happy time when the residents can join their families on holidays. Even more precious are the invitations extended to residents out of kindness and love. These people are not always relatives — but are simply following the Lord's instructions when they invite the blind, the maimed and the halt into their homes for a holiday meal.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter, so beautiful! Glorious,
skies seem forever blue,
As all nature, revived and pulsating,
burst forth anew.
Symbolizing, through each tiny seed
rising up from the sod,
The glorious Resurrection of Christ,
the Son of God.
Eastertime means life anew, and we,
just like the flowers,
Redeemed shall rise from the dust,
Eternal Life is ours.

Eva Adams

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

We were privileged to view the slides of our World Relief project in Ecuador. Bro. Nick Knobloch (Princeville, IL) visited on a Wednesday evening to inform us about the grain project. Viewing the slides made me realize how much I take for granted. We heard how God can use any of us in big ways when we are following His guidance for our lives. We were encouraged to be true servants and not get caught up in doing only "big" things, but to let God's love shine no matter how insignificant we feel.

Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) also visited on a Wednesday evening. He reminded us of our hope of heaven and

the open invitation to repent and be converted. Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) also ministered to us. We appreciate their efforts.

We have had many visitors from our congregations in Lester, IA, Bluffton, IN, Morris, MN and Princeville, Eureka, Peoria, Chicago, Roanoke and Cissna Park, IL. We enjoyed a bus load of young people from Tremont, Princeville and Bradford, IL. The fellowship was special and we really enjoyed an evening of singing praise to our Lord. We appreciate all our visitors and extend a welcome to anyone who wants to come.

Bro. George Kelly has been a hospital patient and has returned home. Beverly Martin has been hospitalized due to diabetes and has also returned home. We pray for their health.

We also want to thank the volunteers who have helped during the past month. We painted our pre-school and want to extend our thanks to the home people who helped. We have had many visitors who have helped and appreciate their deeds of kindness.

My heart is overflowing with praise to our God. He is truly a God of love and wants only the best for His children. He teaches us many things in ways beyond our comprehension. We all have struggles and temptations but when we can praise God for the hard times it is then that we are truly yielded to Him and he can fulfill His will in our lives. We need each other's prayers and support so we can draw closer to the Lord and be used in the Spirit wherever we are.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"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. February 2 was a beautiful sunny day, when Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach performed the marriage of Sis. Kelly Kraft and Bro. Steve Freed. Their parents are Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft and Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed. A buffet reception was held at The Cedars. May the Lord bless this happy couple as they start a new household of faith.

Many visiting ministers came forth to proclaim the Word this past month. We are grateful for the encouraging messages from Elder Bros. Joe Waibel

(Bay City, MI), Willis Ehnle (Japan) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), ministering Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), William Emch (Lamont, KS), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS).

We extend sympathy to many families. Bro. Ed, Sis. Linda, Sis. Dorothy Zollinger and Sis. Katherine Laukhuf flew to Rittman, OH, for the funeral of their father, Bro. Elmer Zollinger. All eight children were with Sis. Clara. Bro. Clarence and Bro. Al Yackley flew to Colorado for the services of Clarence's brother, Erwin. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith, Sis. Lynn Fischer and Jeff Fischer travelled to Fort Scott, KS, for the funeral of their aunt, Sis. Mary Reeber. Bro. Allan Freed flew to Illinois for the funeral of his mother, Anna Freed.

We have reason to rejoice, having learned that Nancy Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) has found that precious peace every convert searches for. We pray the Lord's continued guidance that Nancy may build on the strong foundation, placing her faith in the Lord.

We pray the Lord will bless the mid-winter elders conference. Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara will fly back east February 17.

We have truly enjoyed our winter visitors and the Lord has blessed us with more than our usual amount of warm days.

Hospital and home patients have been: Bro. Harry Roth, Paul Doolittle, Sis. Emma Sanders, Sis. June Tooley, Sis. Cathy Emch (Jerry's), Annabelle Stetzler (Morton, IL), Sis. Evelyn Hoerr and Bro. Ted Knochel.

The disaster of the space shuttle brought the reality of the real disaster our nation suffers. It was unbelievable to hear of the many children who did not know they could seek comfort in the Lord. They would have found much comfort in Psalm 46:7.

We are happy to report Jeff Fischer has chosen to become a child of God. We rejoice with him in finding the path that leads to our heavenly home.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

This past month our congregation has been blessed with many wonderful teachings from God's Word brought to us by visiting ministers. We want to thank the Lord and Elder Bro. Wendell

Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA), Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Bro. William Emch (Lamont, KS), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN).

It was truly an enjoyable evening when Bro. Vernon Leman came and showed slides of our brethren in Romania. A few weeks later Bro. Loren and Bro. Jay Knapp showed slides that they took in Haiti while there on a World Relief project. After viewing these slides, we were all humbled by how blessed we are to have warm homes with plenty to eat and wear and freedom to worship as we like. Those who live in Romania and Haiti need desperately to be remembered in our prayers and with our financial support.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held February 8. In keeping with tradition, the men prepared and served the food, giving the ladies an evening off. We appreciate their efforts. It was a blessing to once again be able to spend time with our brothers and sisters-in-faith. We realize that there are many others in the world today who must do without this simple pleasure that we take so much for granted.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic — Sherise Strahm

Our assembly continues to be blessed each month as we have had numerous opportunities to fellowship with many visiting ministers, brothers, sisters and friends. In January, the precious Word filled our hearts as it was brought forth by Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). We are simply overjoyed and encouraged by the love and support shown to our congregation. Because of increasing numbers, we ask for your prayerful support as we seek God's direction in assembling in a larger building rather than a home. A friendly reminder to those planning to visit: Bible study is held regularly every Thursday evening at 7:30, and services continue to be held here every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at Bro. Peter Petrovic's home, 1890 Lendee Drive. For further information, please call Bro. Peter at (619) 489-

5165 or Bro. Elmer Getz at (619) 484-2702.

This loving Saviour stands patiently, Tho' oft rejected, Calls again for thee. Oh, boundless mercy, Free, free to all! Stay, child of error, Heed the tender call.

Tho' all unworthy, Come, now come home — Say, while he's waiting, "Jesus, dear, I come."

Chorus: Calling now for thee, prodigal, Calling now for thee; Thou hast wandered far away, But He's calling now for thee.

Gospel Hymns #10

Our congregation was overjoyed when news reached us that two dear friends have accepted God's gracious invitation. Denes and Joy Fulop have surrendered their lives to the Lord. Both originally from Hungary, Denes and Joy reside in the San Diego vicinity and have assembled with Altadena and San Diego for a lengthy period. By the grace of God may they continue to seek His will and guidance as they experience many newfound joys in the Lord.

"... To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts . . ."

Hebrews 3:15

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed."

Isaiah 50:5-7

Even as Isaiah spoke these words and trusted in God, a soul has been called from the darkness to put his trust in God. Our prayers go with Joe Hohulin (Bro. Mel and Sis. Shirley, Roanoke, IL) that he would have the faith to continue in the way of the Lord.

We hope that Sis. Pam Edelman (Cliff and Sis. Barb, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Stan Wulf (Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona, Lester, IA), who were married in Sabetha, January 19, will be able to fulfill their scriptural duties in that . . . "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid

with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." I Peter 3:6, 7. Our prayers shall continually be with them in their married life.

We have a new addition in the Denver church. Karl Braun (Bro. Herm and Sis. Sharon, Elgin, IL) has moved here from Elgin, IL. It is our prayer that God will bless him during his stay here.

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and his wife, Sis. Lavonne, spent a Sunday with us. We thank the Lord for bringing him into our midst and ask Him to bless Bro. Roger for speaking God's Word in truth and simplicity.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"Though troubles assail
And dangers affright
Though friends should all fail
And foes all unite
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide
This promise assures us
The Lord will provide

Zion's Harp #86

Through our trials and daily afflictions we find one thing that always remains the same; our love for Jesus Christ and His love for us who believe in Him. Our God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5); His mercy and love endureth forever.

Ofttimes we question, perhaps, why a loved one has to leave us, but doesn't it seem the Lord always finds a way to comfort and strengthen us. Our lives seem to grow with more faith and our eyes look heavenward to that glorious resting place. Are we prepared? We need to strive daily to deny ourselves those things that don't provide blessings but only pleasures which will not attain for us eternal life. We must grow in faith. Comparing to the Lord's sacrifice, are we really doing all we can to better our Christian walk?

"Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give Thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4

As spring nears, the buds on the trees spring forth. May we also grow in the Lord's service.

Easter — the resurrection of Jesus

Christ. As we think of the trials and afflictions the Lord endured for us, let us examine our lives and set our priorities in order.

During this past month, the following have been in the hands of physicians or been hospitalized: Bro. Jake Trube and Sis. Helen Kloter. We trust the Lord will restore them to new health and keep them in his love and care.

Timothy Peter was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Millie Gerber and Mrs. Janet Goric.

"We wish to thank our many friends and relatives for their many kind expressions of love and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved father and husband, Bernard Virkler. May God richly bless you."

Sis. Carolyn Virkler and family

"Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you."

Hymns of Zion #138

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

Proverbs 3:5, 6

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE Dale Ringger — Jeff Graf

We welcome Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bradford, IL), who is working in our community for a few months. We also welcome all our other brothers, sisters and friends visiting us here in Fort Lauderdale on vacation.

Bro. Hans and Sis. Kathy Schuon have relocated to Atlanta, GA. Their new mailing address is as follows: 983 Dassow Court, Alpharetta, GA 30201. We wish them God's care and blessings in their new endeavor. We will miss them.

Bro. Brian Webb has been elected by our congregation to serve us in the pulpit ministry. Our prayer is that God will evidence His presence and strength to Bro. Brian and his wife, Sis. Jane, as they allow God to work through them in this important work. We thank our Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for providing oversight of this election.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Marie Keller — Edna Meister

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

John 3:16

As we read and study the Bible about the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus for our sins so we can have everlasting life, we cannot help but feel the love of God for each and everyone of us. Without a hope of salvation, what hope would there be in our lives today in this dark and sinful world?

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Ephesians 1:7

We received many exhortations and instructions this past month by our beloved and visiting ministers Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and his wife, Sis. Elna, (Goodfield, IL) and the girls with us for about two weeks and the beautiful messages that he brought to us.

Our beloved Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm read the memorandum to us Sunday, February 9, and we truly appreciate the elders' efforts to guide us in our Christian walk of life.

"In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Lucille Heiniger

It seems so short a time that has passed since we commemorated the humble birth of the Christ-child in a lowly stable with a manger for His bed. Soon we will be reminded of the real reason for His coming to this earth. With even more reverence must we respect His death than His birth since our eternal destiny depends on His

precious blood that was shed at Calvary, if we come in true contrition and repent for our sins. What great compassion He, the innocent one, had for us sinners to give His life for us. We should be forever thankful for such wondrous love to us.

A dinner was held in a local restaurant in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen Leman. Three of their four children and their families were here for the occasion as was Helen's sister, Sis. Carol Bucher (Francesville, IN). Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen are from the Forrest, IL, congregation but spend several months in the winter here at Sarasota. We wish them many more blessed years together.

The annual meeting was held in January with Elder Bro. Ben Maibach conducting the meeting. The following new officers were elected: Bro. George Reardon - new trustee; Sis. Edna Roscher - secretary; Sis. Beth Alt and Sis. Sue Eisenman - Sunday school teachers; Bros. Tom Gudeman and Richard Martin and Sisters Aldine Martin and Elda Martin - substitute teachers; Bro. William Roscher - assistant treasurer; Sis. Margaret Pflederer - kitchen committee; Sis. Aldine Martin - alternate kitchen committee; Sis. Lucille Heiniger - Silver Lining reporter; Sis. Vera Martin - assistant Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Lloyd Pflederer - recording; Bros. Harry Knapp, Bob Herman and Walter Banwart - recording in winter months; Bros. Jeff Streittmatter and Rod Martin - to assist song leaders in the sanctuary. We wish to thank those who faithfully served their term of office. May God bless each one for their efforts.

We are happy to see Sis. Helen Kloter assemble with us again after being absent for several weeks. Our prayers go out for Philip Bartoni who has been very ill and for Bro. Harold Schmidgall who submitted to surgery this past week. We wish for them a speedy recovery. Others on the sick list are Sis. Gerry Laukhuf and Sis. Lydia Vonia and Bro. Harvey Banwart was taken to the hospital yesterday. We hope his problems are not too serious. They all need our every prayer in their behalf.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Alpha

Strahm (Sabetha, KS), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We appreciate all our visiting ministers who so willingly expound the Word of God to us.

Our church apartment will be available the first of April. If interested, call or write to Sis. Beth Alt, 5644 Antoinette Street, Sarasota, FL 33582, phone 813-377-0264 or Bro. Richard Martin, 5480 Sawgrass Road, Sarasota, FL 33582, phone 813-377-9328.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sis. Ella Schlipf, Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr and families in the passing of their loved one, Bro. William Funk (Garden Grove, IA).

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Our thanks goes out to Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) for presenting the memorandum to us. May we be encouraged to serve our Lord as our dedicated elder brothers encourage us to do. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) offered a special message to our young adults (ACYF), when they gathered in Bloomington to sing songs of the Lord to families and friends. We thank the ministering brothers for their time and service.

John Grusy (Chicago), son of Connie Grusy (Bloomington), has made a beginning toward a new life. May John find much comfort and guidance in the Lord.

Bro. John and Sis. Emily Maurer are parents of a little girl, Rachel Emily. Aaron and Andrew welcomed their little sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer and Louis and Jean Kieser (Okeechobie, FL).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

How wonderful that two more precious souls have turned from the ways of the world and are making Jesus their choice! We rejoice with Bill Endress (Sis. Lois Endress) and Susan Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha). We wish them God's unfailing grace.

With saddened hearts we said our farewells to Sis. Deloris Stoller and her

son, Kenny. The Lord has led them to make their new home near Kansas City, MO. We will surely miss them and surely pray the Lord will be by their side as He has in the past.

We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich whose family hosted an open house for their golden wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years together.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky Joos and family upon the death of her father, Raymond Roger (Chillicothe). May the Lord be their comfort and strength during their lonely hours.

Our visiting ministers this past month were our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). We truly want to thank them for sharing the Word with us.

IN MEMORY OF TWO SONS

Somewhere upon a battlefield,

In a war of bygone years,

One of our nation's brave sons fell,

And brought a mother's tears;

An unsung hero of our land

Died so we might be free,

I'd like to take his hand in mine,

Say, "Thanks, you died for me,

Though some may soon forget, by one

You shall remembered be."

Somewhere upon a lonely hill,

On a rugged cross of wood,

Another Son laid down His life . . .

The precious Son of God;

Somewhere in heaven up above

It brought a Father's tears,

And so He knows that mother's heart,

Oh, yes, He knows and cares,

Did He not sooth her deepest grief,

And calm her anxious fears?

And through the death of His dear Son,

By the sacrifice He made,

Our freedom from all sin was won,

The debt was fully paid;

I'd like to take His hand in mine,

Say, "Christ, you died for me,

I thank you for your suffering

Upon the cruel tree,

Though others may perhaps forget,

I give my all to Thee."

Russell Stellwagon

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John

1:29b. We can learn so much from John the Baptist. His whole life was spent in helping to prepare others for Christ's coming. When Christ came into people's lives, John made sure they were aware who and where He was, and then he stepped aside so Christ could perform His work. John wanted no glory for himself; he only wanted Christ to be glorified. His only work was the furtherance of God's work. So, we are reminded, should be ours.

God's gifts to us are all UNDESERVED! One of those undeserved gifts we take too much for granted is the abundant grace and supply of those who read and expound upon the Word Sunday after Sunday. May we ever be more appreciative. Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) were our visiting messengers. Bro. Phil, along with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, read the conference report. May we all, with the Lord's help, repent daily, hourly, so that we may ever have the attitude of submission, keeping our eyes on what is important - Christ and Him crucified.

At our annual church business meeting, many were willing to take new responsibilities. Bro. Norm Stahl will be our new church treasurer; Bro. Dean Beutel, trustee; Bros. Dan Hangartner and Larry Stevig, ushers; and Sis. Marlene Lau, member of the kitchen committee. To those who have already completed their terms, we say thank you for your labor and concern for Christ and His church. Especially we would remember Bro. Karl Lehman with our love and gratitude. He had been trustee and then treasurer for over thirty years and has agreed to continue yet as assistant treasurer. To those who are beginning new responsibilities, we offer our support and prayers. And to those who have no titled office but are each one so important to the Lord's work, we say thank you and may each also continue in His work, knowing the Lord is highly pleased with each cup of cold water (and more).

We rejoice in the Lord's goodness. Bro. Brent Stoller and Sis. Kay Roth (Congerville) are engaged as a result of the Lord's guidance in their hearts. We look forward to their coming marriage and wish them God's continued grace and guidance as they anticipate this important step.

Their wedding, February 9, in Cissna Park marked, for Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce (Young) Kaiser, the beginning of the work, love and commitment of their Christian marriage. Truly we wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they walk hand in hand and heart in heart.

The church is stirred and our hearts are lifted up when souls are seeking the Lord. New converts are Judy (Bertschi) Snyder, John Grusy and Carl Bednara. We cry, we share and we pray that the Lord will help these souls to be well-founded on the rock of Christ. We would that Satan's temptations would never budge their hearts. We plead that the Lord will continue to convict souls of their sin as He holds out the solution to washing it away in His blood.

As we welcome, we must also say farewell. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr and their infant daughter, Rebekah, have been drawn to special work for the Lord as alternate houseparents in Leo, IN, at our Children's Home. We enjoyed having them with us. We are grateful that they have answered the call for His work. Though we miss them, our love and prayers are with them.

"One sails east and the other west,
Driv'n by the selfsame wind.
'Tis not the gale that guides them so,
But the set of the sail within."

A minister quoted this recently (and I have paraphrased - keeping the meaning, I believe, but missing the exact words). We all realize how a person can, from the same difficult experience, become bitter or better. Somehow I think this poem is also symbolic of the ways the major events in Christ's life are viewed, by the world and by His body of believers. The set of the sail of the world is to ignore, to substitute, to emphasize wrongly. Christ Himself is ignored as the central figure as often as possible. The spiritual aspects of His birth, death and resurrection are completely ignored. Expensive gifts and costly baubles are made requirements of the seasons. Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny are substituted for Christ Himself, and Christmas (Christ's birth) has much more emphasis than Easter (not the end but our lifeline to the eternal). On the other hand, the body of Christ would separate self from the celebrations of the

world. True peace enables the believer to concentrate on his Savior, with Christmas pointing to the fullblown glory of Easter, with the joy of others being given more emphasis than the cost of gifts or the time and space given to substitutes the world would foist upon all men. Truly we, as believers, should think in terms of Christ - giving to those less fortunate, renewing the Spirit within rather than the clothes without. Being in the world, we sometimes are jostled by it. Let's check the spiritual jib of our sails, and have a wondrously blessed "unworldly" Easter!!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

On February 9, Sis. Joyce Young and Bro. Mike Kaiser were nited in marriage. The parents of the couple are Roland and Mary Anne Young and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine Kaiser. May the Lord bless them in their married life together.

Bill and Barb Holbert are the happy parents of Aaron Benjamin who was born January 7. Three sisters, Margaux, Cherisse and Lila, welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Greiner (Cissna Park) and Bernice McBride (San Diego, CA).

Funeral services were held Monday, January 20, for Francis Knapp, 62, who died January 18 at his home, following a long illness. Survivors include his wife, Sis. Irma Jean; a son, Doug (Urbana); a daughter, Donna Hinrichs (Urbana); two brothers, Lester (LeRoy) and Bro. Harry (Cissna Park); five sisters, Olive Hagen (Victor, Brook, IN), Lillian Hasselbring (Melvin, Herscher), Evelyn Bucher (Lowell, Valparaiso, IN), Bertha Honegger and Sis. Leona Walder (Harry), both of Cissna Park.

We offer prayers of heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Irma Jean in the loss of her husband, and to the children in the loss of their father.

We have been blessed with two visit-

ing ministers this month, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). We wish to thank them for lending themselves in His service.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. LaNae Rudin (surgical), Bro. Harry Walder and Bro. Willard Rudin. We pray that God will bestow His healing power to each one.

There was a glorious dawn
On that first Easter Day,
For Jesus who arose
From the tomb wherein He lay.
He was glorified at last,
And paved for us the way,
And proved that for all trials
God, in heaven, will repay.

Henry Kipfer

As we look forward to spring, our thoughts go to Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, who now sits at His Father's right hand interceding for us.

The family of Irma Jean Knapp wishes to express their sincere thank you for the many deeds of kindness shown unto them during the loss of their loved one.

A sincere thank you to all for your many kindnesses during my hospitalization and recovery in the fall of 1985.

Bro. Edward Alt

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart
. . . in all thy ways acknowledge him,
and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

On February 9, it was made known to our congregation of the engagement of Sis. Kay Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) to Bro. Brent Stoller, Chicago (Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily, Princeville). May God's blessings be upon them as they plan their new life together.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Peninna Miller (Bro. Clarence) and Bro. John Wettstein. May they look to God for His sustaining strength. We often take our good health for granted until it is taken from us.

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

Zion's Harp #89, vs. 7

As we approach this Easter season, may we pause a moment to remember our Lord's suffering upon the cross when He shed His precious blood to cover our sins. May we always be thankful that the grave could not hold Him, but He arose victorious and is now on the right hand of God, interceding for us that we might have that hope of eternal life with Him.

We extend our sympathy to Clarence Schlipf in the passing away of his mother, Sis. Rose Schlipf (Gridley, IL).

It is again time for collection of Silver Lining dues in Congerville. The amount due is \$7.00.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

As we look forward to the beautiful springtime season and new growth which comes forth by God's handiwork, may our hearts be strengthened to know His promises are true. Most of all, we thank Him for the blessed Easter event.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

St. John 17:3-4

Bro. William Gudeman presented Bibles to our dear seventh grade children in Sunday school. We pray this precious Word and seed will take root in both old and young and cause many hearts to embrace this living hope.

Our congregation welcomed back home from India our beloved Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Walter Gasser. They could testify of the love of God among the believers there and were grateful for God's protection and prayers offered in their behalf.

Bro. William Reber submitted to heart surgery and, with the blessings of God, could return home again and is doing well. We are thankful.

Wayne and Joyce Schifferer welcomed a dear baby girl, Krista Lynn, January 25. She will also be loved by Jessica and Aaron. Grandparents are

Sis. Louise Schifferer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora Schambach.

I Corinthians 12:12, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, . . . so also is Christ." Our annual business meeting was held February 5, at which time Bro. Wilmar Troike was chosen to serve as trustee. Our sincere thanks is extended to all who help in the physical function of the church. We were reminded that fervent prayer to God on behalf of our precious faith is the greatest help which each of us can offer.

We are especially thankful that during the past year our Apostolic Christian Resthaven could be completed and is now operating at near capacity. Services are held at Resthaven every first and third Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m. The Chicago ministers also share in this endeavor. Bro. Gene Moser was chosen to serve for five years on the Board of Directors for Resthaven. Bro. Jerry Cargill was appointed to fill out a two-year unexpired term.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg Kellenberger and Sis. Debbie Steffen as they were united in holy matrimony February 16. May God bless and help them to establish their Christian home. Parents of the couple are Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (and the late Bro. Gerald).

In St. Luke 13:3 we read, "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." We were so richly reminded that this is not an option, but a commandment of God. Our hearts are filled with deep appreciation for Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), who recently shared God's living Word with us.

Sis. Anna Scheitlin wishes to thank everyone who remembered her on her birthday. God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

"... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

We were thankful to hear the testimony of Gary Getz Saturday evening, January 25. The following day we rejoiced to welcome him, following bap-

tism, as our brother-in-the-Lord. His parents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz. May many more seek His grace and favor while there is yet time.

We were thankful that Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) was willing to come and speak the truth to us this past month. May God bless him.

Sis. Rose Schlipf from the "Home" passed away January 24. Services were held at Gridley, IL. May God comfort her family.

That your Saviour loves you dearly,
 He upon the cross has proved,
 Where in torments most severely
 He from God was far removed.
 In His anguish
 He must languish
 For the sinful men He loved.

Yet Thy suffering has defeated
 Satan's pow'r, yea, death and hell;
 Through Thy death Thou hast
 completed
 Thy dear heav'nly Father's will.
 Thus is given To us even
 Life eternal to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #226

We are coming into the time of year when we remember our dear Lord's cruel death upon the cross, and His glorious resurrection. He paid the supreme price for us that we might have the hope of life eternal. The struggles and the battles that we here on earth must endure will be worth it all when we see Him face to face, the One who died and rose for us!

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Carol Bazzel — Joann Zehr

Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr have been blessed with a little bundle from heaven. Susan Renee was born February 3 and has two sisters, Angela and Lisa, and a brother, Daniel, to welcome her. Grandparents are Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville) and E. D. and Marjorie Herr (Westphalia, KS).

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Urban Steidinger, 80, who passed away February 5. Survivors include his wife, Ollie (Moser); seven sons, Bros. Maurice, Donald, Eldon, Dennis, Tom, Charles and David; five daughters, Sisters Mary Lou Kaeb (Cissna Park), Marjorie Edelman (Sabetha, KS), Velda Glueck (Tremont), Barbara McDonald (Fairbury) and Judith Bachtold (Strawn). He had 81 grandchildren and 31 great-grand-

children. How parting brings sadness and we trust that God will comfort this dear family.

Today, February 18, the news came of the passing of a dear sister, Salome Zimmerman. She had endured many years of affliction and her patience has been an inspiration to all who knew her. She leaves her husband, Bro. George; four step-daughters, Sis. Thelma Slagel and Anna Lou Van Antwerp (Fairbury), Sis. Florence Cook (Tremont) and Eldora Steinle (North Carolina); and a step-son, Donald Zimmerman (Fairbury). Our sympathy is extended to each of these families.

We appreciated the labors of Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

As we look forward to the season of spring, the blessed Easter season will be upon us. May we realize more fully what our Savior has endured for us that we might live — and with thankful hearts, strive to walk close to Him.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

"IT IS FINISHED"

"It is finished," said the Saviour.
God the Father's plan was done.
He had brought to men salvation,
Through Christ Jesus, God's own
Son.

"It is finished," said the Saviour,
"I have done as God had willed.
Full atonement now is purchased,
Every prophecy fulfilled."

"It is finished," said the Saviour,
Finished is redemption's plan.
Open is the door to Heaven,
With salvation brought to man.

"It is finished," said the Saviour,
"All the agony is through.
I shall die, but shall be risen."
Sinner, this was all for you.

E. Gano Karns

Once again as the Easter season draws near, may we each one take the time to ponder the great price paid for our salvation. May it be an encouragement to each of us to daily walk a little closer to our Savior.

We appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers, Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bro. John Hart-

man (Fairbury, IL) in bringing God's living Word to us.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Bros. Emil Sohn, Elmer Ifft and Larry Bachman, Sisters Ida Kaisner, Candi Stoller and Esther Nussbaum.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin have welcomed a new little daughter, Betsi Louise. Also happy to have a new sister are Scott, Andy, T. Anne, Kenton, Heidi and Joseph.

Bro. Emil Sohn has moved to Fairview Haven. May the Lord continue to provide his every need.

I'd like to thank each and every one who so lovingly remembered me and my family with cards, visits, gifts, flowers and food while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God richly bless each one.

Sis. Mary Masters

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

From the Bethlehem manger-home,
Walking His dear form beside,
We to Calvary's mount have come,
Where our Lord was crucified.

Scornful words the soldiers fling;
Wicked rulers Him deride,
Saying, If Thou be the King,
Save Thyself, Thou crucified.

Wondrous love for sinful men,
Of the sinless One that dies!
May we wound Thee not again,
Thou, O Christ, the crucified.

Gospel Hymns #488

While reviewing those last days our Saviour walked among mortals, we again feel the heart-wrenching sorrow resulting from His cruel, unjust suffering. Gazing at the cross, we question how God could have had — and still does have — such wondrous love for sinners.

We are thankful to God that we commemorate Christ's death and resurrection in the spring of the year. The renewal of life cycles in the spring gives us great reassurance. How reassuring to witness the warm, green, budding earth burst forth into blossom and song. May our souls be filled with God's hope and eagerness to grow.

Rejoicing in a new little life are Scott and Molly Heinold. Their son, Nathaniel Scott, arrived January 10. Joyous grandparents are Lawrence and Peggy

Gries (Metamora) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold.

We owe deep gratitude to these visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA).

May those we love who must suffer pain, feel God's tender, comforting arm around their shoulders. Our hospital patients were Sis. Hilda Leman, Bro. Ira Rokey, Bro. Wes Knapp and David Wiegand.

Sis. Margaret Newlin expresses her sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown during her hospitalization and convalescence.

Our hearts were saddened by the sudden passing of our Sis. LaVina Fehr February 18. May God's grace strengthen her husband, Bro. Oliver, her children and dear grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"Family Worship" was the topic of the Bible lesson taught us by Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park). One of the many inspirational thoughts was the fact that we are all learning and need to be learning whether we are old or young. We are to be taught in the school of the cross where we deny ourselves and take up the cross of Jesus Christ which embodies humility, sacrifice and love.

The reading and hearing of God's Word should be a constant activity for our whole life. We never will reach an age when we can lay down the Word of Truth and think that we know all we need to know and have no need to read it again. Because we are flesh and blood, we are apt to forget God's truths if we are not frequently reminded.

Learning takes place the best when there is good order. The Bible says to "let all things be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40. In our homes we must establish an orderly environment for the reading of God's Word so the listeners can be attentive and learn. A set time each day (at the supper table for example) will establish a beneficial routine and help us not neglect this important duty.

Learning begins at an early age. The prophet Isaiah asked, "Who shall he teach knowledge and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?" Isaiah 28:9. He answered by saying, it begins with those who are "weaned from the

milk", in other words, very young children.

Learning often occurs from repetition. The prophet further explained the method that would teach the young children and all of us: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." Isaiah 28:10.

We need to hear and read over and over again the familiar commandments of God so they can become deeply impressed in our heart and mind. If we are diligent to train our children by teaching them the ways of God over and over again, when we sit in our house, when we walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise up, Deuteronomy 6:7, we can then trust in the promise that when they are old they will not depart from it, Proverbs 22:6.

Although we are sad to see our loved ones no longer among us, we are glad for them that they have ended their earthly pilgrimage and can now be at rest, at home with the Lord.

Sis. Matilda Witzig, 81, passed away January 20. Our sympathy is extended to her four sisters, Sis. Emma Beckley (Remington, IN), Sis. Anna Schneider (Peoria), Sis. Ruth Meyer (Fairbury) and Sis. Pauline Witzig (Gridley); her four brothers, Bro. Alpha, Bro. Sam, Bro. Edward and Bro. Elmer (all of Gridley). The family of Sis. Matilda wishes to express their sincere thanks for the many deeds of kindness shown unto them and for all the prayers, gifts, cards and notes of sympathy during the loss of their loved one. May God bless you all.

Sis. Rose Schlipf, 92, passed away January 24. Our sympathy is extended to her three sons, Bro. Elmer and Bro. John (both of Gridley) and Clarence (Carlock); her four daughters, Sis. Dorothy Witzig and Sis. Ruth Ann Schlipf (both of Gridley) and Lois and Marilyn Schlipf (both of Morton); her brother, Bro. Elmer Aberle (Morton); and her two sisters, Sis. Lena Wiegand and Sis. Mary Aberle (both of Eureka).

Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp are the happy parents of Timothy James who was born February 4. He has two sisters, Lindsey and Elise. Timothy's grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Wava Kaupp (Gridley) and Bro. George and Sis. Isabelle Bauer (Cissna Park).

Our hospital patients have been Mike Stoller (Bro. Don and Sis. Vyra),

Sis. Diane Tegard, Bro. Amos Funk, Sis. Frances Funk (who is now at the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home), Sis. Vi McKinley, Jake Ringger, Sis. Viola Witzig, Carl Schlipf, Sis. Setta Klopfenstein and Bro. David Wettstein. It seems that many of our loved ones have been ill this month, and we are thankful that most of them are feeling better again. No doubt they can all testify how much they need the prayers of those they love. Jesus said, "I was sick and ye visited me . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:36, 40.

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). Bro. Uriel gave us a brief presentation on the Children's Home in Leo that was both interesting and informative.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Joanne Kaisner

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,

For a soul returning from the wild:
See! the Father meets him out upon the way,

Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child."
Ring the Bells of Heaven,
Tabernacle Hymns #202

We are rejoicing that God has called Susan Kieser into the fold. We pray that she may ever feel God's nearness, grace and blessings in her new walk of life. Her parents are Bro. Loris and Sis. Mart (Bradford).

God has blest us with many ministering brethren this past month. Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) spoke on discipline, Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) talked about personal Bible study, Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest) spoke on manipulation and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) talked to us about being a light in this dark world. We are thankful for each one! May God bless them for sharing with us.

Bible study is held Thursday evening in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m. We invite everyone to join us.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Sally (Barth) Swearingen, formerly of Morton, was called into eternity. Her funeral was January 23. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Bill; her daughters, Jennifer and

Jessica; her family and friends.

Bro. Jon, Sis. Christie Lou, Andy, Jesse and Brian Zeller welcome into their hearts and home, Nathan Christopher. Nathan was born January 27. His grandparents are Henry and Sis. Norma Zeller, Ralph Meyering and his great-grandmothers are Sis. Emma Rocke and Sis. Kathryn Grimm (all of Morton).

We are rejoicing with Sis. Teresa Leman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Rod Blunier (Bro. Walter, Roanoke, IL) as the Lord has drawn them together. May our heavenly Father bless them as they shall soon become "one" in Christ Jesus.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) ministered God's holy Word unto us Sunday, February 16. May our heavenly Father richly bless him and his family for their labors of love. We gathered at our fellowship hall for a church potluck and ended our blessed Lord's day by singing hymns of praise unto our heavenly Father.

We have those loved ones who are in the hospital, shut-in or ill at home. We also have those who have lost loved ones. May God's grace, peace and caring love ever be with our loved ones and may they be assured of our prayers and sympathy.

At this Easter season, let us each be thankful that Jesus Christ died and shed His innocent blood for "even me".

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,

The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best

For a world of lost sinners was slain.
In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,

A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,

To pardon and sanctify me.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Tabernacle Hymns #135

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

GOD'S LOVING PROMISE

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.

God hath not promised
We shall not know
Toil and temptation,
Trouble and woe.
He hath not told us
We shall not bear
Many a burden,
Many a care.

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.

May the promise of God's love be a blessing to you at Easter and always. May we all remember the pain He felt as His only Son endured the pain on the cross for the remission of our sins.

Our lives have been enriched due to the unselfish giving of ministers who visited our congregation. May God bless the lives and families of Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO).

We extend our sympathy to the families of Sis. Emma Hoerr and Fred Schwab who passed away recently.

The Lord has drawn our Sis. Carol Messner (Bro. Don and Sis. Vi) and Bro. Ron Christ (Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris, Princeville) together in love. May our heavenly Father richly bless them as they "Twain shall become one" in Christ. A June wedding date is planned.

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B., Francesville, IN) and Sis. Jill Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) announce their plans to marry in June. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they plan their future together.

Gary Hohulin and Lesa Wright were united in marriage. May the life they share hold many joys. Their parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Ronald and Janet Wright (Washington).

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lydia Stoller, Sis. Barbara Hoerr

and Sis. Wilhelmine Baurer. Our thoughts and prayers are continually with those who are ill.

This special "Thank You" comes from our Sis. Miriam Messerli: "I would like to thank the Peoria Young Group for singing to me in the hospital and the choir for sending the beautiful flowers. I would also like to thank everyone for the love and prayers offered in my behalf. May God bless you all!"

Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, Rhoda Christine. She is welcomed home by big brothers, David, Phillip and Benjamin. Grandparents are Elton and Connie Sceggel and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister.

God's gracious hand entrusted little Julia Kay into the care of Bro. Chris and Sis. Marsha Stickling. Little Julia has brought joy to her first-time parents and also to grandparents Ben and Sharon Stickling and Bro. Russell and Sis. Roma Rumbold (Princeville).

A dear baby son, Jacob, was born to Bro. Sparyk and Sis. Rhonda Meister. Happy grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli. Kari, Molly and Tara are thrilled with their new baby brother.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

"Sit and pause awhile my spirit, this great miracle behold; See the King of highest merit on the cross so bare and cold! Out of heaven God has given His own Son in love untold!"

"These the fruits of our transgression, fell unto Thee, Saviour dear, While this wrathful condemnation we deserved as sinners here. These afflictions and convictions we unworthy ones should bear."

Zion's Harp #226, Golgotha

On February 15, we were fortunate to hear the conclusions of the memorandum of the conference held in Morton. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) here to assist Elder Bro. Joe Stoller. We want to take this opportunity to thank these brothers again.

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."
Revelation 2:11

We were also fortunate to have ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS) with us this past month. May God bless the ministers as they preach the Word in all truth.

"Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion with our dear loved ones who've gone before;

In that fair homeland we'll know no parting, beyond the sunset forevermore!"

Hymns of Zion #172

Our congregation wishes to express our sympathy to Sis. Beulah Ehnle in the death of her brother-in-law, Bro. William Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and to Sis. Helen Schick in the death of her father, Andrew Hauk.

"I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were past,
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.
I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when days were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore,
And I could change it nevermore."

Unknown

Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann are the thankful parents of little Hannah Jolene born January 15. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Esther Herrmann. May God bless their family circle.

Hospital patients were: Bro. Dale Martin, Bro. Alan Martin, Bro. Willie Stahl and Richard Stahl. May God bless them with restored health according to His will.

"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

On January 19, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller announced the engagement of Bro. Ron Christ and Sis. Carol Messner (Peoria). Their parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ and Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner (Peoria).

On February 9, Bro. Joe announced the engagement of his son, Bro. Brent

Stoller, to Sis. Kay Roth (Congerville). The parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville).

Thought: Christ is the secret, the source, the substance, the center and the circumference of all true and lasting gladness.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

With the coming of the Spring season, our thoughts are of Easter and the special meaning it should have in our lives. May we always thank God for the resurrection of His Son, Jesus, and the hope for life eternal.

First-time parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer, who welcomed little Samuel Curtis into their home January 29. Grandparents are Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Fischer and Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Eureka).

Those of our loved ones who have been in the hospital are Bro. Rudy Hoffman, Helen Hodel, Sis. Ann Sauder and Sis. Melinda Hodel. May God's healing power be upon them.

The Mixed Choir from Morton was with us for our hymn sing January 26. May God bless their efforts of singing praises to Him through the beautiful hymns.

Ministers visiting and sharing with us this past month have been: Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury). May our heavenly Father reward them for their labors of love.

The engagement of Bro. Rod Blunier (Bro. Wally) and Sis. Teresa Leman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria, Morton) was announced February 2. We wish them God's blessing.

On February 8, Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Lavina Leman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless them and be near to them for many more years to come.

God has again called one of His loved ones home. Our dear Sis. Anna Leman passed away January 22 at the age of 96. She is survived by her two sons, Charles (West Bloomfield, MI) and Bro. Jim (Roanoke); two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Yergler (Harry, Cissna Park) and Sis. Mary Ellen Ringger (Fred, Gridley); and one sister, Sis. Mary Reiman (Robert, Peoria).

Our prayers and deepest sympathy

have been with Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl in the loss of their dear son, John, who lost his life in a tragic accident February 8. He is survived by his parents and two brothers, Bro. Robert and Andy (Roanoke); two sisters, Mrs. Peggy Schroeder (Ron, LaRose) and Mrs. Becky Unsicker (Dennis, Dunlap).

After the funeral of their son and nephew, John, the Luginbuhl family was notified that their father, Bro. Herman, had passed away. What a time of double sorrow, but we know that God will never allow more to come over us than we're able to bear. Bro. Herman is survived by his wife, Sis. Marjorie; three sons, Bro. Robert, Bro. Leslie and Bro. Ray (all of Roanoke); one daughter, Sis. Luella Pelsy (Elsworth, Francesville, IN). Also surviving are one brother, Bro. John Luginbuhl and four sisters, Sisters Rose, Ida and Emma Luginbuhl and Sis. Louise Bally (Rockville, CT).

Our hearts have truly been touched by all the deeds of love and words of comfort since the death of our precious son, John. May God be your rich rewarder for sharing our sorrow.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl
and family

We are humbled and grateful by the out-pouring of love and caring at this time of sadness in our family. May we convey our appreciation for all of the many acts of kindness and words of comfort. God bless all of you.

The Herman Luginbuhl Family

The family of Sis. Laura Weyeneth wishes to thank everyone for their love and kindness during the loss of their dear mother, who by her loving way, touched the lives of many.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

EASTER THOUGHTS

I want to worship in God's house
This holy Sabbath day.
I want to hear the scripture read,
To sing, and softly pray.

The message of the Easter morn
Will fill my heart again.
He lives, my Saviour lives in me,
Will be the glad refrain.

Kathleen Lemmon

We rejoice with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Zuercher in the birth of a new baby daughter, Melissa Joy, born January 30. Happy to have a new little sister are big brother, Aaron, and sisters, Tricia, Tamara and Marci. Grandparents are Bro. Curtis and Sis. June Zuercher and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Frieda Schaefer.

Our congratulations go out also to Tom and Dianne Endress. They have a new little daughter, Kristin Michelle, born February 18. Little Kristin has one big brother, Kyle. Happy grandparents are Fred and Ruth Endress.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck on the recent loss of Sis. Velda's father, Urban Steidinger (Fairbury).

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch. Sis. Florence recently lost her stepmother, Sis. Salome Zimmerman (Fairbury).

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Julie Koch (Bro. Dan), Bro. John Greiner (Sis. Emma) and Sis. Sandy Dill (Bro. Kenneth). Bro. Walter Aberle (Sis. Vera) had hand surgery and is recuperating at home.

Our thanks goes to Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) as he spent a recent Wednesday evening with us assisting Elder Bro. Dan Koch in reviewing the conference memorandum. We are always appreciative of the concern our brothers have for us.

Again, we experienced a time of rejoicing, as we gathered on a Wednesday evening to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our Bro. Ben Schmidgall. We rejoice with Bro. Ben and his dear wife, Helen, in his new found faith. We give thanks to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) for sharing this wonderful evening with us.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Cheryl Mangers

We are thankful for Jerry Vogel's recovery after recent outpatient surgery.

We are so glad that Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti have again made Champaign-Urbana their home after living in Wisconsin. Their steadfast faith and realization of what is really important in this life after experiencing the tragedy of a fire which destroyed most of their personal belongings has truly been an inspiration to us all.

We wish God's blessings to our Sis. Joyce (Young) and Bro. Mike Kaiser (Chicago) now as they begin their walk

of life together as husband and wife.

We appreciated so much Bro. Virg Metzger (Chicago) being back in our midst for services.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Ellen Cox

THIRTY PIECES

Oh, what did thirty pieces buy?
 They bought the cry of "Crucify".
 The profit from a kiss.
 They bought a trial that mocked its name.
 They bought each false and fear-filled claim
 And Pilate's cowardice.

Those bits of silver bought the nails,
 The cross, the crown, the human wails,
 The vinegar and gall.
 They bought release for one who killed
 So blood untainted might be spilled . . .
 They bought it all.

Those little coins bought death for two,
 Our Lord and him who was untrue.
 They were a princely price.
 They bought for a repenting thief
 Whose dying gasp was of belief,
 A life in paradise.

They bought the veil that darkened day.
 They bought the empty tomb's dismay,
 And Christianity.
 Oh, what are thirty pieces worth?
 The shame and glory of the earth
 For all eternity.

Margaret Rorke

Our thoughts and prayers were with
 Sis. Pearlina Streitmatter, Sis. Sue Ruppert and Ernie Pfaffman, who were hospitalized this past month.

We are grateful to Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for sharing the Word with us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Evelyn Ringger — Lucille Isch

Ministers visiting and sharing with us have been Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Robert Meyer and Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North).

We welcome into our brotherhood two young couples who have given their testimonies and were baptized. They are Jay and Rhonda Grube (Bro. Dan

and Sis. Delores Reinhard) and Dan and Tammy Neuenschwander (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris).

The wedding of Bro. Sam Steffen (Bro. Lenard and Sis. Ilean) and Sis. Kris Gerber (Bro. Don and Sis. Justine) was held. We wish the new converts and bride and groom God's richest blessings.

Four new babies who arrived recently were welcomed into their families. Katy Ann was born to Gene and Joni Longenberger, Jason Alan to Dale and Joni Schwartz, John Phillip to Lynn and Jenny Frauhofer and Landon Ray to Larry and Sharon Stoller. May the Lord bless each of these families as they look to the future.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Mary Ann Gerber and Bill and Jane Aeschliman in the death of Judy Aeschliman Bailey, their granddaughter and daughter.

Recent hospital patients have been Marie Anderson, Sis. Beulah Clark (Bro. Dick), Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr and Bro. Herb Frauhofer (Sis. Lucile).

Many attended the "Biblical Principle For Finances" presentation by Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL). May God richly bless him for his service.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"I need the prayers of those I love." Hymns of Zion #201. Our prayers and sympathy are with the loved ones of Bro. Lawrence Gerber, who has gone to his rest January 31. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Melvena; four brothers, Bro. Lewis Gerber, Bro. Roy Gerber, Bro. Henry Gerber and Bro. Norman Gerber; his two sons, Bro. Jerry (Sis. Pauline) and Cary; and his four grandchildren. His race is won, he has fought a good fight of faith and now lays hold of eternal life.

As God has welcomed Bro. Lawrence home, we welcome his granddaughter, Darlene Gerber (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline), into the fold. February 8 we were blessed to hear her testimony and rejoiced to greet her as sister-in-Christ Sunday, February 9. May God, who provides the joy amidst the sorrow, provide the grace to meet her every need.

"For by him were all things created . . . all things were created by him, and for him." Colossians 1:16. "And ye are Christ's and Christ is God's." I Corinthians 3:23. Everything we have is

God's. He has ownership. We have stewardship. So expounded Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) during his presentation of financial management using Biblical principles. We wish to express our appreciation to ministering Bro. Marshall for his time and his helpful instructions and to all others whose efforts made this presentation possible. Could there be a better way to say thanks other than to improve our stewardship?

We express our appreciation, also, to ministering Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) who has spent time with us this past month. We welcome Bros. Wayne and Marshall and their families back anytime.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13. On December 18 Michael Rauch (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia) and Susan Hilton (Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy Schldenhauffen) were united in holy matrimony. May Christ, the source of love, abide in their home all the days of their lives.

Several of our loved ones have spent time in the hospital this month. Our prayers are with Bro. Alvin Honegger (Sis. Alice), Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Gladys Fiechter and Bro. Calvin Rauch. Though their bodies be down, may their spirits be up, for God is in control and He does hear our prayers. Lord willing, may they soon see good health again.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. Praise be to God for making our salvation a reality and to Christ for being obedient to His Father's will.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lynne Wuethrich

God sent His Son, they called Him,
 Jesus,
 He came to love, heal and forgive.
 He gave His life to buy my pardon,
 An empty grave is there to prove my
 Savior lives.

Because He lives; I can face tomorrow,
 Because He lives, all fear is gone.
 Because I know He holds the future,
 And life is worth the living, just
 because He lives.

From the hymn "Because He Lives"

Our congregation has been uplifted

as we've had six friends announce that they have attained peace with God and man through repentance and conversion. Lisa Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Jeff and Gina Tanner, Dale and Terri Pelsy and Allen Pelsy are all looking forward to their baptisms. We are so thankful that they have found the grace to continue on and make a commitment to God.

We want to wish God's divine direction to Tim Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna) and Sally Pfladderer (Mr. and Mrs. Les Pfladderer) as they have announced their engagement this past month. A May 31 wedding is being planned.

Our prayerful support is given to our two brothers who have been entrusted to teach our Sunday school children. They are Bro. John Huber and Bro. Brad Wuethrich.

Hospital patients this month were Benjie Maston and Bro. Bill Huber (Sis. Betty). We pray for a speedy recovery for each one. We each should be more thankful for our good health.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Luella Pelsy in the recent death of her father, Bro. Herman Luginbuhl (Roanoke). We pray God will comfort them in this loss.

We want to thank Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) for ministering God's Word unto us. We appreciate our neighboring congregations and pray everyone will always feel welcome to visit us.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Winslow — Judy Dubach

Hospitalized in our area were the following brethren: Sis. Velma Bollier (Jack, Leo) and Bro. Wendel Gudeman (Francesville). We are so thankful for the Bollier family, that God's blessing and hand of healing has been extended to Sis. Velma, their mother. She is now at home recuperating from open-heart surgery. We are thankful for the times Bro. Jack shared God's Word with us as he was here to spend time with his wife and family. Bro. Wendell's stay was short and sweet, but he is faithful with the cardiac rehabilitation program. We will continue to pray for God's strength and grace for both Sis. Velma and Bro. Wendell.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) spoke on the memorandum for us in January. We thank them and their families for their efforts, and all our

elders, for these words of instruction and guidelines.

Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) visited his brother's family and shared God's Word with us. It truly is a blessing to travel anywhere and find God's house and His children gathering together to worship.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch — Debbie Nuest

The LaCrosse congregation is thankful that two friends, Larry Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher) and Bill Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller) have repented and have found peace with God. Larry and Bill are looking forward to sharing their testimonies and baptisms with us in the near future.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN). We appreciate them sharing the Word of God with us.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

Calvary — What a sacrifice for us!
Resurrection — What a hope for us!

"God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory." I Peter 1:21

"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power." I Corinthians 6:14

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe with thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."
Romans 10:9

"God said it.
I believe it.
That settles it."

As we rejoice in His victory, we anticipate the reminders to be given at our program scheduled for March 23.

An afternoon and evening spent in attendance at a seminar on personal financial planning with a Biblical approach by Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) was informative and profitable. More blessing followed by his ministry on Sunday.

We welcome Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr and their baby, Rebecca, who moved here from Chicago in answer to His call to serve at our Chil-

dren's Home. We hope they will soon feel at home in our church family.

We praise Him for the safe return of Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Bro. William Klopfenstein and John Willis from Haiti at the time of rioting and unrest there. They were able to complete the work project which they had gone to do.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Sylvia Steiner, Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein. How thankful we are that the One who created our bodies is able to heal and restore!

Bits of This and That:

A Bible which is falling apart usually belongs to someone who is not.

Growing Christians spend their time producing fruit.

What you invest in is what you believe in.

There are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watched them happen, and those who wondered what happened.

There's work for each one; God gave each at least one talent! Do we deny the grace of God and His help when we say we can't do anything? Dear reader, even if you're wheelchair-bound, you are so useful in His service as you pray for others. Intercessory prayer can bring glory to His name.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser

"A child is a joy that grows deeper, pride that grows stronger, love that touches your heart every day."
(author unknown)

Two homes were blessed with the arrival of precious little ones in January. We offer our love and congratulations!

Cris and Terry McDaniel and their young daughter, Jennifer, welcomed Cody Ryan into their hearts. His grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup and Jack and Jeanetta McDaniel.

Kimberly Susanne is a delightful new experience for her parents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Esther Hoover. Don and Sis. Ginny Hoover and Stan and Edith Nasiatka are Kimberly's grandparents.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce Wolferman's daughter, Jill, recently had a brief hospital stay. Mark Pamer, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Karen's son, re-

ceived serious injuries in a car-train collision. God miraculously spared Mark's life and blessed him with healing in answer to many prayers.

Our teenage Sunday school students enjoyed a recent weekend with visiting young people from LaCrosse, IN and Mansfield, OH.

February 14, 1936 was a very special Valentine's Day for Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Beer — the beginning of life together as husband and wife. Their family and many friends honored them at an open house on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. As they look forward to celebrating future anniversaries, may God's loving presence be their daily blessing.

The Meaning of Easter

To the world it means that the perfect plan of salvation has been provided . . .

"I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

I Corinthians 15:1, 3 & 4

To God it means that He is satisfied with the work of His Son . . .

"Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father." "Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."

Romans 6:4; 4:25

To the believer it is a pledge of immortality . . .

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept . . . For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

I Corinthians 15:20, 22

To the unconverted it is a challenge to believe and be born again . . .

"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." "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Hebrews 7:25; John 1:12

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Five persons were studying what

were the best means to mortify sin. One said, to meditate on death; the second, to meditate on judgment; the third, to meditate on the joys of heaven; the fourth, to meditate on the torment of hell; the fifth, to meditate on the blood and sufferings of Jesus Christ; and certainly the last is the choicest and strongest motive of all. If ever we could cast off our despairing thoughts, we must dwell and muse much upon, and apply this precious blood to our own souls; so shall sorrow and mourning flee away.

— brooks —

What a profound truth! Often I have found myself trying to be motivated to overcome my sin by thinking upon the first four ways instead of applying the blood of Christ to my stained soul. What an opportunity we have during this season of praise towards Christ's resurrection to apply His life-giving blood to our soul.

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) ministered to us this past month.

Bro. Walt Bahler experienced surgery and spent considerable time in the hospital recovering.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

CHRIST AROSE!

Low in the grave He lay — Jesus, my Savior!

Waiting the coming day — Jesus, my Lord!

Vainly they watched His bed — Jesus, my Saviour!

Vainly they sealed the dead — Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey — Jesus, my Saviour!

He tore the bars away — Jesus, my Lord!

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!

What a joy to know that the Saviour made the supreme sacrifice so that whosoever will might be redeemed from his lost condition.

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) spent two Sunday afternoons with us

recently. We were blessed by his ministry, and thank him for caring for the needs of our congregation. It's always a pleasure to have Sis. Shirley accompany Him.

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Mildred and Ernestine Meister in the passing away of their sister-in-law, Edith Meister (Elmer), who had been hospitalized for nine months. May her family be comforted.

Sis. Helen Martin is happy to be home again after spending quite some time in the hospital and nursing home although she must still spend some time recuperating.

We will collect for the Silver Lining in April. Dues are \$7.00. If there are any additions or deletions desired, please contact your reporter.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Peggy Huber — Cheryl Bucher

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted"

St. Matthew 5:4

Even in times of sorrow we can find reason to be thankful. Although our small congregation was shocked and deeply saddened by Bro. Ray Heinold's death, we are grateful that he loved the Lord. Bro. Ray was killed when a semi-trailer swerved and struck his car head on. We were all vividly reminded of just how very uncertain our lives are, that we should be living our lives just as we would want them to be when Jesus comes for us. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to his entire family. He is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Marie, and his children, Sis. Janet Hari, Sis. Mary Honegger, Phillip and Keith. We will surely miss Bro. Ray's smiling face, but we rejoice, too, because he has won the victory. May each family member feel the nearness of God, and all the prayers, during the days and months ahead.

Sis. Marie Heinold wishes to thank everyone for each prayer uttered in behalf of her and her family, and for the many contributions to the Valparaiso church building fund and to Parkview Haven in memory of her beloved husband, Ray.

Our visiting minister this past month was our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), who was here with us at our annual meeting. We know God will reward his labors on our behalf.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Keeley and their two small children, Anna and Leah, to our congregation here at Valparaiso. They came from Bloomington, IL, and are residing in Dyer, IN. We wish them many blessings, and surely, God's guidance as they establish their home here.

Our new church is coming along nicely. Completion, hopefully, will be mid-April.

As Easter draws near, I am reminded of a song. The song, "Ten Thousand Angels" tells what all Christ endured. But, the chorus reminds us of what Christ COULD have done, if He hadn't loved us so very, very much.

They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden where He prayed; They led Him thru the streets in shame. They spat upon the Savior so pure and free from sin; They said, "Crucify Him; He's to blame." Upon His precious head, they placed a crown of thorns; They laughed and said, "Behold the King". They struck Him and they cursed Him and mocked His holy name. All alone He suffered everything. When they nailed Him to the cross, His mother stood nearby; He said, "Woman, behold thy Son!" He cried, "I thirst for water," but they gave Him none to drink. Then the sinful work of man was done. To the howling mob He yielded; He did not for mercy cry. The cross of shame He took alone. And when He cried, "It's finished," He gave himself to die, Salvation's wondrous plan was done.

He could have called ten thousand angels, To destroy the world and set Him free. He could have called ten thousand angels, But, He died alone, for you and me.

**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Lily Vogt

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) shared the Word with us this month. He talked about the destruction of the space shuttle Challenger and how that when one or more of God's physical laws are broken, there is sudden destruction. When one of God's moral laws are broken, there is also destruction, but not necessarily as sudden. I thought of how fast our lives can be taken from this life. I asked myself — am I ready to die and meet my Lord? This is a question we should ask ourselves daily. God wants us to be ready and watching

for His return. Whether we die before Jesus returns or are living when He returns doesn't really matter. What is vitally important is if we are prepared for that day!

Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) also came to bring forth the Word of God. We would like to thank Bro. Dan and Bro. Gene for their labors of love.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
 Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler**

"How sweet to hold our newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he gives;"

(Gaither)

Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer are the happy parents of a new son, Luke Robert, born February 14. Luke's sisters and brother are Briana, Heather and Mark. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pfladderer (Francesville).

Sis. Karla Bahler (Bro. Lowell) was a hospital patient this month. We pray that God's healing power will be with her.

We look forward to the Easter season with humility (a remembering of the suffering and agony our Lord endured for us) and with joy (His triumph over the grave).

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

We are again thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Al Aberle (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). The Lord surely does bless us with willing servants who so faithfully share God's Word with us.

Jim Mitchell was a hospital patient but has returned home.

Our prayers are with our elder brothers who will be meeting again this week to share their concerns for us. Let us pray that we can all do our part to lessen their burdens.

**IOWA, ELGIN
 Gloria Frieden**

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!

Tabernacle Hymns #205, chorus

God's plan fulfilled! Let us prepare so that Christ's suffering be not in vain for any of us.

The following is an Easter poem written by two of our Bible class students, Betty and Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne).

THE EASTER STORY

Jesus was sent to walk among man
 He taught that from our lives sin we must ban.

What a sacrifice that must have been
 To leave heaven and walk among sinful men.

Jesus taught the people by parables and stories.
 He told them of heaven and all of its glories.

Though multitudes of people followed and believed what He said,
 There were still many others who wished He were dead.

The chief priests and scribes sought to kill Jesus, but of the people were afraid
 Then Judas, for thirty pieces of silver, his Lord Jesus betrayed.

At the Last Supper Jesus served his disciples wine and bread
 This was to signify His body and the blood He was to shed.

On the Mount of Olives, prayed Jesus, God's own Son,
 "If Thou be willing remove this cup, not my will Thine be done."

Praying in agony, sweat drops formed on Jesus' face
 An angel from heaven was sent to give Him strength and grace.

With a kiss, Judas betrayed the Son of man.
 And even those who were close to Him forsook Him, and ran.

Before the cock crew twice Peter denied Jesus thrice;
 And as he did this he turned and looked into the face of Christ.

Pilate and Herod found no wrong in Him and wished for His release.
 "We want Barabbas freed and Jesus crucified" the people's cryings did not cease.

Christ in a purple robe and crown of thorns was adorned;
Then He was mocked and beaten by soldiers, and by everyone was scorned.

Jesus was weak from the people's beatings, for very strong was their will,
So Simon, a Cyrenian, was called upon to carry the cross up Calvary's hill.

As the soldiers were crucifying our Lord Jesus, a Jew,
He cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

A sign was hung above the cross saying "This is Jesus, King of the Jews".
The chief priests asked to change the sign but Pilate did refuse.

The soldiers divided Jesus' garments after He had been nailed fast;
But because His coat had no seam, lots for it they cast.

Said the thief on the right, "We deserve our punishment, but this man's making a great sacrifice."
And Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

From upon the cross, Jesus saw Mary and the disciple He loved like a brother.
He said, "Woman, behold thy son," and to John, "Behold thy mother."

A sudden darkness fell over all the earth at about the sixth hour.
It lasted until Jesus died; in this way God showed His power.

At the ninth hour as Jesus suffered upon the cruel tree,
He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Seeing that the scripture had been fulfilled first,
Being weary Jesus saith to the soldiers, "I thirst."

"It is finished" Jesus saith before the mighty host,
"Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit" and gave up the ghost.

As Jesus gave up the ghost, the veil in the temple was rent.
This was to signify the new dispensation

of grace that was sent.

The soldiers, after breaking the legs of the thieves, found that Jesus had already died.

So that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus was pierced, and blood and water flowed from His side.

Joseph, of Arimathaea, begged Jesus' body and laid it in a cave;
And so the disciples did not take it, a watch of soldiers was set at the grave.

From Friday eve 'till Sunday morn all was still where the body lay.
Then angels came to break the seal on that bright Easter day.

"Who'll roll the stone away?" questioned the woman with Mary Magdalene.

But when she saw that the stone was gone, Mary ran from the scene.

The other women looked into the tomb, but the body of Jesus it did not bear.
Said the angel, "Tell the disciples to go to Galilee, and Jesus will meet them there."

Mary ran to tell Peter and John, and when at the tomb they did arrive,
The thought flashed across John's mind that Jesus had risen and was now alive.

Mary in her sorrow was asked by a man, "Woman, why weepest thou?"
When he spoke her name, she recognized her Lord, and before his feet did bow.

Several times Jesus showed Himself after He had risen from the grave.
He instructed His disciples to preach God's Word so from hell men's souls he could save.

As Jesus blessed His disciples, He rose up in the sky.
His work on earth was done; He was going home to heaven on high.

Betty and Sandy Butikofer
February 1986

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

With what joy I am writing to you all today! Our congregation has been blessed with having two new converts this past month. Trent Miese (Ed and Sis. Barb, Gridley, IL) and Melody

Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA) have each found the need and grace to seek the Lord. We pray for God's nearness and guidance as they take this most important step in life.

It has come to our attention that there is an error in the minister's book regarding directions to our church. It should read, "I-80 to Hwy. 965, N. 3 miles, right at Casey's store, left on George St., 3 blocks to church." We regret any inconvenience this error has caused.

We want to extend a warm thank you to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA).

I would like to share an excerpt from *Streams in the Desert*, p. 31. May it be an inspiration and comfort to anyone who may be struggling with some trial.

How an old harper dotes on his harp!
How he fondles and caresses it, as a child resting on his bosom! His life is bound up in it. But, see him tuning it. He grasps it firmly, strikes a chord with a sharp, quick blow; and while it quivers as if in pain, he leans over intently to catch the first note that rises. The note, as he feared, is false and harsh. He strains the chord with the torturing thumb-screw; and though it seems ready to snap with the tension, he strikes it again, bending down to listen softly as before, till at length you see a smile on his face as the first true tone trembles upward.

So it may be that God is dealing with you. Loving you better than any harper loves his harp. He finds you a mass of jarring discords. He wrings your heart-strings with some torturing anguish; He bends over you tenderly, striking and listening; and, hearing only a harsh murmur, strikes you again, while His heart bleeds for you, anxiously waiting for that strain — "Not my will, but Thine be done" — which is melody sweet to His ear as angels' songs. Nor will He cease to strike until your chastened soul shall blend with all the pure and infinite harmonies of His own being.

IOWA, LESTER

Our landscape is covered with ice and snow as I write, but we look forward to signs of spring as the Easter season approaches. God has never failed to change the seasons and instill

new life in our barren soil when the season arrives. Thusly, sinners experience newness of life when they repent and become converted after living a life devoid of Jesus' nearness. His suffering on the cross has defeated Satan's power and given all who call on Him a hope for life eternal.

Sis. Beth Mogler and Bro. Myron Knobloch exchanged marriage vows February 9 in the presence of many witnesses. Among our visitors for the occasion were ministering Bros. Lennie Meyer, Jim Plattner, Doug Grimm and Kent Mogler. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch. We are happy that they will be establishing a Christian home in our community.

On February 16, the marriage of Sis. Beth Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor) and Bro. Tim Feuchtenberger (Bro. and Sis. Wally, Morris, MN) was solemnized. Elder Bro. Art Nohl was with us for the occasion. They will be making their home in the Morris area. Sis. Beth will be missed by our congregation and her family, but we know she will soon feel at home in her new surroundings.

A reception was held for Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam Wulf who were recently married in Sabetha, KS. May the Lord be the unseen guest in the homes of all these young couples.

A son was welcomed into the family of Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold February 5. Michael Jon has a brother and two sisters and his grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold and Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger. On February 14, Drew Robert was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger. He has four brothers to welcome him and his grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz.

A baby girl, Camille Ann, was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori Moser February 15. Her grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser and Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and she has a brother to welcome her home.

Our dear Sis. Rose Moser had the misfortune to break her hip and is hospitalized. Other hospital patients have been Bro. Alfred Feucht and Sis. Violet Knobloch. May the presence of God be felt by those who suffer frailties of the flesh or have a heavy burden to bear.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Babies are truly a miracle of God's creation. Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy Larson are fourth-time parents of little Adam John. Big brothers, Nathan and Clint, and big sister, Melissa, complete their family circle. Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Schrock and Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Larson (Wapello) are the happy grandparents.

We are certainly thankful and so much appreciate the efforts of Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) as they have recently assembled in our congregation and lent themselves in the Lord's service.

Easter will soon be here. Let us spiritually prepare ourselves for the trip to Calvary that our Savior took to free us from the burden of sin and grant us peace with God.

IOWA, PULASKI Mary Jane Knapp DeAnn Wuthrich

It is hard to believe that Easter is almost here, and spring is just around the corner. May we all be spiritually uplifted as we remember Jesus on the old rugged cross, and the price that was paid for us all.

We can all say we had a blessed weekend January 25-26 when we were able to hear the testimonies Saturday evening and witness the baptisms Sunday of our two dear converts, Dan Metzger and Doug Wiegand. It truly was uplifting to each and every one of us. It should renew our vows and give us encouragement, and we are so thankful that souls are still answering God's call. We sure do want to thank our visiting ministers that were here that weekend to carry out these important duties. Among them were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA). May God bless them for their deeds of love and kindness. We also want to thank Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) for ministering unto us this past month. We had so many good teachings — if we can only remember them and apply them to our lives.

Hospitalized patients this past month have been Bro. Matt Musselman, who remains in the hospital at the present. He is doing better, and we pray that God will continue to strengthen him, that he may soon return home.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

There was reason to rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt as we listened and witnessed their testimony and baptism. We are thankful they could feel their closeness with God as He led them through repentance and offered them His precious peace. Elder Bro. Harold Messner, Bro. Elmer Schmidt and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) were here for this blessed weekend. Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr was assisted by Elder Bro. Harold Messner with reading the memorandum on Sunday evening. We appreciate their timely warnings.

On January 12 the engagement of Bro. Rod Schmidt (Denver, CO) to Sis. Cindy Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) was made known. Parents of the couple are Sis. Betty Schmidt and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter (Princeville, IL). Also made known is the engagement of Tim Banwart (Bob and Kay) to Pam Nelson (Don and Judy, Ogden).

We're thankful to report that our hospital patients this month have all returned home again; namely, Bro. Ray Anliker, Arlie Banwart and Charles Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen). At this time Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner) is hospitalized for treatments.

May our hearts be very glad as we realize the real meaning of the coming Easter season. It always brings to mind . . . He Died So We Might Live!

JAPAN, SHIODA Sheila Moser

With the anticipation of spring and the blossoming of the various fruit trees of this area. I can't help but think of our life here on earth as a fruit tree. Fruit trees must be cared for so very carefully if they are to produce the finest fruit. The gardener must use patient skill to care for each individual tree; protecting it from environmental influences, pruning away bad branches and providing each tree its essential needs.

God, as the Master Gardener, has a special plan for each of His "trees". Some are exposed to great danger, trials and suffering only to be cared for by the Gardener, resulting in a strong, everbearing tree.

Bro. Saburo Utsuki was such an individual. He went through many tests, trials and sufferings in his lifetime. Those who knew him will remem-

ber him as a man of humble dignity, a being that seldom complained and was always willing to give of himself both in spiritual and earthly blessings.

Many of us here in Shioda and throughout the States shared in the sorrow with the passing of Bro. Saburo January 14. His precious memory will always linger with us who knew him.

On January 26, a Bible study and Sunday school were held in the Tamahata church. Services had been discontinued there several years ago but after prayerful consideration, it was felt that services should begin again on a once a month basis. We hope that souls will be led to worship there so the services can be continued.

Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) spent a few days here in February visiting his daughter, Kathy. He was on his way back to the States from India. Hearing about the church work in India was so good for us as it helped us to appreciate the little things that are so often taken for granted. When our family members from America can spend time with us here in Japan it is such a blessing. The special time of sharing by loved ones is long remembered by each of us.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

This past month we were blessed by visits by brothers on their way to India and returning home. We received many teachings and kind admonitions from them to strive forward in our Christian walk of life. Our "ego" is very strong and how necessary it is to pray and even confess to our brethren our weaknesses that we may gain the victory over Satan. We must be willing to be "watchman on the wall" according to II Corinthians, chapter 1.

Our dear Bro. Saburo Utsuki passed away after several months of illness January 14. He was like a "father" to our assembly and he will be missed among us, but we have joy in that he could cling to the precious faith until his last breath, and we feel his soul is "Forever with the Lord" as was sung at his funeral. Services were held in the Utsuki home by our local elders, Willis Ehnle and Akito Inoue, as II Corinthians 1:1-5 was read and meditated upon. He leaves to mourn a dear family: his wife, Sis. Shizuko; two sons, Hajime and Akira; five daughters, Kazuko, Sis. Yoshiko, Tomoko, Sis. Hiroko and Nobuko; and seven grand-

children. A daughter preceded him in death. The family wishes to express their appreciation for the condolences in cards, gifts and flowers.

On January 15, a national holiday, our annual brotherhood meeting for our two churches took place in our church with our local elders presiding. We thank God for each brother and sister and friend of our fellowship. The children also had a special time together that day.

A wedding reception was held for our friends, Goro and Stella Shintani, as they were recently married. We trust that God will be near unto them as they travel life's pathway together.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

Sis. Lydia Bieri Meyer passed away January 15 at the age of 90. She was born January 22, 1895. Surviving are seven children: Anna Rose Lang (Dubois, NE), Andrew (Kansas City), Eldon (Lee's Summit, MO), Ellen Rosetter (Holston, KS), Sis. Ruth Hertzler (Bro. Frank, Bern), Sis. Alma Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Clyde (Omaha, NE). A brother, Benjamin Biere (Kansas City), also survives. We express sincere sympathy to this family.

We appreciate having visiting ministering brother, Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), who came to attend the funeral of Sis. Lydia Meyer.

We offer congratulations to Mark Esslinger (Waymer and Pauline), who graduated in December from college at Kansas State University. We wish Mark well in his undertaking.

On Sunday, February 2, the engagement of Sis. Lori Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha) and Bro. John Baumgartner (Leslie and Leora) was made known. A summer wedding is being planned. As they take this step in life, we wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Carroll Plattner was hospitalized due to a motorcycle accident. We are glad to have him assembling with us again. Bro. Dennis Esslinger had a mishap working at his place of employment and Matthew Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) was hospitalized.

Even as the angels rejoice in heaven, so do we as Jeff Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy) has made his most important decision in life. May God grant him much grace in his repentance.

Omitted last month was the election of two song leaders to fill the position

of coordinating song leaders. Elected to this position were Bro. Steve Hartter and assistant, Bro. John Baumgartner.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Sis. Waneta (Bro. Eldon) Plattner in the passing away of her mother, Sis. Dorothy Sinn (Ft. Scott).

May we not only now at Easter time, but every day of the year remind ourselves of the tremendous price that was paid many years ago that we may have eternal life in heaven above.

EASTER REFLECTIONS

With OUR EYES we see
the beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more . . .

With OUR EARS we hear
the birds sing sweetly
to tell us spring again is here . . .

With OUR HANDS we pick
the golden daffodils
and the fragrant hyacinths . . .

But only with OUR HEARTS
can we feel the MIRACLE
of GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all men . . .
And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our "pilgrimage to God"
and inherit His Easter Gift
of ETERNAL LIFE.

Helen Steiner Rice

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

Our small congregation has recently lost three loved ones.

Sis. Dorothy M. Sinn, 68, died January 23. May God comfort her husband, Bro. Danny; children, Bro. Charles and Bro. John (Ft. Scott), Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern), Betty (Mission, KS), Sis. Ruby Grimm (Sabetha) and her six sisters.

On January 28, Sis. Mary E. Reber, 78, was taken from this life. She leaves two brothers, C. W. "Dutch" (Phoenix, AZ) and Dave (Carthage, MO); a sister, Clara Avery (Barstow, CA); and nieces and nephews.

Emery H. Cordill, 89, brother of our Sis. Ella Banwart, passed away February 13. Graveside services and burial were in Lamar, MO.

May God bless Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and their wives for assembling with us to read the memorandum.

The engagement of Bro. Jerry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) to Sis. Maria

Schrader (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy, Lamont) was announced February 9. May God bless their forthcoming marriage and lives together.

The family of Sis. Dorothy Sinn would like to thank everyone for the thoughtfulness, love, prayers, cards and many deeds of caring. May God bless each one of you.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Volta Young — Judy Kraft

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

I Peter 1:3

We are thankful to God and want to offer encouragement and support to Victor Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean), who has made known his desire and longing to surrender his life to God.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark Kraft (Sam and Carol, Emporia) and Sis. Mary Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty, Lamont), who, having faith that it is the Lord's direction and will, have shared with us the announcement of their engagement.

A number of our congregation gathered at Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft's home one Sunday afternoon for a housewarming and singing.

Our annual business meeting was held in February. May God bless those with duties and obligations to fulfill. May we be willing participants in the needs of the church, each doing our small part.

A special thanks is extended to visiting ministers, Bro. John Lehman (Bern), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha) and Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker (Lamont).

We have missed the presence of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm. Both were confined to home for a time due to an eye infection.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

Sis. Mildred Frieden (Bro. Joe) and John Farney have been hospital patients who have undergone knee surgery this past month. John and Sis. Mildred are at home and doing well. Sis. Lucy Hoffman (Bro. John) is in the hospital here at Kiowa. We pray for

God's healing hand to be over them.

Several of our congregation gave of themselves in a labor of love at Newton, KS, February 11 at a World Relief day there. It is always so nice to fellowship with brothers and sisters from neighboring churches whom we do not get to see very often and to work together to help those who are less fortunate than we.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jill K. Luthi

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

February 9 was a special day to remember, as there were made known unto us the betrothals of two sisters of our congregation. Announced were Sis. Maria Schrader to Bro. Jerry Bahr (Fort Scott) and Sis. Mary Wernli to Bro. Mark Kraft (Gridley, KS). Parents are Bro. Stephan and Sis. Dorothy Schrader, Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr, Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty Wernli and Sammy and Carol Kraft (Emporia, KS). This will be the third marriage in both of the Schrader and Wernli families in a 26-month span of time. At this time, the wedding dates have been set at May 18 for Sis. Mary and Bro. Mark and May 25 for Sis. Maria and Bro. Jerry. We look forward to being a witness of the three-fold-cord and in sharing our joys with them. May God be their Director and bless them accordingly in their new walks of life together.

I am reminded of a verse in Song of Solomon, 8:7 . . . "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned." The word contemned means despised, scorned, disdained. Nothing is, nor ever will be more precious or so strong as love. It brings us down upon our knees to think of the boundless love that God had for us as sinners; that He gave His only begotten Son to shed His blood for our sins! His boundless mercy, as we are reminded of in Zion's Harp #220, "A gift that I did not deserve; Such wondrous love, It is so marv'ulous, That such for me should be reserved. But since I know, I will rejoice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice." . . . "Thy blood for sinners does

implore: Compassion! grace, forevermore." (Verse 1 and part of verse 6).

We want to thank and always remember those ministers who have taken their time and effort to be with us in the past month. With us for the afternoon of the 9th was Bro. John Lehman (Bern). There is always a special teaching in Bro. John's words of inspiration, for he is direct and to the point. We were reminded strongly that Satan is daily at work planting weeds in our hearts. We need to get rid of them by being obedient to God's Word; to let God and His Word cultivate and fertilize our hearts from worldly lusts and temptations. To be prepared, there must be cultivation to overcome the weeds, then there is the fertilization to enrich the soil (our hearts) to become fruitful and produce a great abundance of grain or fruit, not weeds. There is a lot of food for thought, is there not? Also with us the last weekend of February, 22 & 23, were Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Darrel Stoller (Bern); both for their first time visit to Lamont. It was truly an uplifting weekend, as we had visiting couples from Elgin, IL, Morris, MN and Wichita, also. Bro. Darrel reminded us of our gifts — are we as the rich men casting in part of our gifts, or are we as the poor widow who cast in her all of two mites (St. Luke 21)? Bro. Doug reminded us of planting the "right" seed that will be bountiful with fruit or grain, not just chutes or leaves.

Called to rest February 26, at the age of 87, and eight weeks after her husband, was Sis. Caroline (Carrie) Emch Gleichman. Remembered most of Sis. Carrie will be her words of wisdom and her cheerfulness; always content and never complaining. May those moments ever linger with us. Survivors include two daughters and two sons, Sis. Kathleen Galatin (Wichita), Sis. Joyce Moser (Morris, MN), Richard Gleichman (Oklahoma City, OK) and Bro. John Gleichman (Detroit, MI); three sisters, Sisters Matilda and Eva Emch (both of Madison, KS) and Lydia Fankhauser (Lamont); three brothers, Bro. Bernie Emch and Martin Emch (both of Madison, KS) and Alvin Emch (Emporia, KS); and nine grandchildren.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." St. John 14:27. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which ye also

are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15.

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Heidi Baumgartner — Kim Meyer

Greetings one and all! With such warm weather it seems like spring is not far away. To us students, this brings thoughts of spring break, which is approaching quickly.

The first church service in the chapel this semester was brought to us by Bro. Harvey Grimm and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern).

Hosting a singing were Sis. Lanette Meyer, Sis. Kim Meyer and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner at their apartment.

The engagement of Sis. Lori Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha) to Bro. John Baumgartner (Les and Leora, Bern) was announced February 2. We have enjoyed having Sis. Lori in our group down here and we wish them God's love and blessings.

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) was our minister. It's such a blessing to be able to assemble, even in a small group, around God's Word.

We certainly enjoyed the presence of the Bern and Sabetha young groups as they came down on a Sunday evening for a meal, singing and fellowship.

Wednesday, February 12, Chris Strahm, Marla Schrader and Angela Plattner hosted a singing for us. Singing praises in the middle of the week can also be inspiring to our faith.

Thanks to each and every one for their efforts put forth on our behalf. They are deeply appreciated.

A reunion is being planned for Kansas State University alumni and others who have lived in the Manhattan area. This reunion will be held Saturday, June 28 in the Kansas State Union Ballroom. An attempt has been made to contact everyone included in this group. If you have not been reached and are interested, please contact Galen Rokey, R.R.#4, Sabetha, KS 66534, phone 913-284-2747.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

Spring is such a beautiful season of the year as new life returns to the barren fields and budding trees appear. Doesn't it remind us of the barren soul of man, dead in sin; when he seeks his God through repentance and conversion, and is brought to "life" in the Spirit! We have reason to rejoice as two dear souls are seeking God and exper-

encing this new life in Him. Will others feel this tender need to make a full commitment to their God before it is forever too late? When Christ returns, will He find faith on the earth? What if He came today? Would we be ready?

Our thanks go to Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) for ministering God's Word to us this past month.

The annual church business meeting was held in January for our congregation. How precious are the times when we gather together in unity! One of the greatest sources of happiness can be found by having fervent love and giving of ourselves one toward another!

Sis. Lori Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) has been announced to Bro. John Baumgartner (Les and Leora, Bern). We wish them God's blessings as they put their trust in Him, and walk the threefold path of life hand in hand . . . heart in heart.

As our elder brethren have assembled for the winter conference recently, our prayers have been with them that God's spirit, wisdom and leading would dwell richly in their midst.

In remembering the "Old Rugged Cross" that our Saviour shed His blood upon, and pondering its divine values; may its wondrous beauty never grow old nor be dulled by the carnal mind. He is not dead, Rejoice, He lives.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) was a visiting minister January 19.

As we celebrate Easter again, we reflect on the death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. What is your picture of Jesus during the experience of the betrayal, arrest, trials, sentencing, His path to the cross and His actual death? Was He the helpless victim of injustice?

No, that isn't the picture of Jesus we receive from the Scriptures. But we see Him as being totally obedient to His Father's will, even unto death. He had a servant's attitude all through His life even up to, and including, His very last hours. What greater example could He leave us than the washing of His disciple's feet. The disciples had just been arguing about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24), and then Jesus, who by far is the greatest, makes Himself as the lowest form of a servant and washes their feet (John 13). These were Jesus' last few hours, and He chose not to focus on the upcoming

humiliation and suffering He would endure, but to serve His disciples. His eyes were on them up to the end. He didn't let circumstances (upcoming cross) get in the way of serving others.

How do we compare in our attitude of service to Jesus' attitude? How dedicated are we to serving others? Is it easy to come up with excuses because of certain situations we are in? May Jesus' example be real to us and lived out in our actions.

"He is not here, for He is RISEN!" (Matthew 28:6). How joyous it must have been for the two Marys to hear those words of triumph! And we, too, rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Note: Change of address for minister's book: C. Al Langhofer, 2419 Benjamin, Wichita, KS 67204, res. phone 316-838-8995, office, the same.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester Huber

. . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow . . .

Isaiah 1:18

The only first and real problem man has ever had is sin. Apart from this, man is a replica of God Himself. Nothing on earth can compare to a man or woman that has been to Calvary in true faith and repentance for cleansing, for holiness, for whiteness and purity. The highest ecstasy and peak experience humanly possible for man to reach is to worship God in a daily experience of cleansing "White as Snow". This is the work of God, ("that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent," John 6:29), that we believe in "The Cleansing Power of the Innocent Blood of the Lamb of God" and exercise a daily, cleansed walk before a compassionate God who impersonated His love to man in His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Emery Deak and Sis. Sherry Fritz were hospitalized this past month. We wish them God's continued blessing of healing.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) for sharing God's living Word with us and the inspiring messages. We appreciate the loved ones who came with them, and also our loved ones who came from Francesville and LaCrosse, IN. There is always a rich blessing in Christian fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Liz Blough**

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!
 Man of Sorrows, what a name For the
 Son of God, who came Ruined
 sinners to reclaim!
 Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In
 my place condemned He stood;
 Sealed my pardon with His blood.
 Guilty, vile, and helpless we; Spotless
 Lamb of God was He. "Full
 atonement!" Can it be?
 Lifted up was He to die; "It is finished,"
 was His cry. Now in heaven exalted
 high,
 When He comes, our glorious King, All
 His ransomed home to bring, Then
 a-new this song we'll sing,
 Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

P. P. Bliss

Webster defines Easter as — an annual Christian festival in the spring celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

Let us draw our hearts and thoughts to Christ at Calvary as we approach this Easter season.

The results of our 1986 annual business meeting are as follows: S.S. Teachers - Bro. Brad Baumgartner and Sis. Penny Erismann; Substitutes - Bro. Ron Erismann and Sis. Treasure Steffen; Trustee - Bro. Wally Gerst; Secretary - Bro. Ted Steffen; Treasurer - Bro. Otto Schlatter; Kitchen Committee - Sis. Christine Wingeier; World Relief - Sis. Cathie Schrenk. We're thankful for all who lend of themselves to help our church run efficiently.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Pam Schlatter**

Easter time is an opportune time as the song states to sit and pause to be awed by the price of salvation our Saviour was willing to pay for us. To think a King was willing to humble himself to the point of being cursed so we might have salvation! "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Galatians 3:13.

Our congregation was given a solemn reminder of the brevity of life. One of our Sunday school students, Bruce McNally, was unexpectedly taken from this life in an auto accident. We extend condolences to his parents, Lyle and Marlene McNally, his sisters, Marcia and Karen, and his grandmother, Sis. Alice Eisenman.

Several have been absent from our assembly due to illness. Among those who were hospitalized are Sis. Viney Wackerle (Bro. Wallace), Sis. Lois Wieland (Bro. Gerry), Sis. Irma Bragiell (Frank) and Lisa Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol). When physical ailments strike, we do everything possible to remedy the ailment; so we should be reminded that when spiritual problems distress us, we should immediately seek out the Great Physician.

Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) visited our congregation and lent himself as an instrument to further the gospel. We were reminded to reach towards the mark of perfection, Jesus Christ.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Bev Bahr**

"This do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

What a solemn hour we shared February 15 as our brethren gathered together to partake of holy communion in remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for remission of our sins. How appropriate, as the Easter season approaches, that we be reminded of the enormous act of love that Christ performed for each and every one of us. We want to thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti and his wife, Sis. Mary (Lamar, MO), for sharing a blessed weekend with us. Bro. Gene also conducted a Bible study on Sunday evening on "The Effects of Music on People". It was an inspirational and informative evening and we appreciate his extra efforts to share so much with us.

Bro. Guy Wieland was hospitalized due to knee surgery and is recuperating well. We pray that God will bless him with strength and good health.

Bro. Paul Sabados and his family want to express their heartfelt thanks for all the love, prayers and support of so many during Bro. Paul's hospitalization and continued recovery. May God bless each and every one who shares His love with others.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Barbara Olson**

"Yes, Christ the Lord is risen,
 Has come forth from the grave;
 He breaks the chains of death for you
 And now has power to save."

With Easter approaching, we need to think of our newness of life in Christ, and rejoice in His great kindness and unselfishness and love that he has for us. We are so thankful that he loved us enough to die the death of the cross for us. It humbles us to know that we were the ones deserving that death, but because of Christ's love for us, He died in our place for our sins.

IS YOUR ALL ON THE ALTAR?

You have longed for sweet peace,
 And for faith to increase,
 And have earnestly, fervently prayed;
 But you cannot have rest
 Or be perfectly blessed
 Until all on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
 Your heart, does the Spirit control?
 You can only be blest and have peace
 and sweet rest,
 As you yield Him your body and soul.
 Gospel Hymns #810

We are rejoicing with our new convert, Tim Lawson (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon), who has found new life in Christ Jesus. Our thoughts and prayers are truly with him.

Our congregation was blest this month by the inspiring messages of Bro. Elmer Schmidt and Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). On February 16 we were privileged to hear the memorandum brought forth so clearly by Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). We appreciate their willingness to come, and to be used by the Lord in our behalf.

On February 12 Bro. Richard and Beatrice Miller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's blessings always.

Hospitalized this past month was Debra Joos.

Thought — Man's soul finds no rest until it rests in God.

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

Have you ever wondered what the daily needs are for a Christian life? In searching through the scriptures I found five things that God says are necessary.

1. We need the mercy and compassion of God. Lamentations 3:22, 23 says, "It is of the Lord's mercies that

we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

2. We need His care and provision to furnish our daily bread and other necessities for living. "Give us day by day our daily bread" Luke 11:3.

3. We need the Word of God each day. Nehemiah 8:1, 5, 8, 18 says that we must bring out the Bible, open it, understand and obey what the Word says day by day.

4. Deuteronomy 33:25 says that we need His strength each day to meet the trials it may bring.

5. And the Levites and the priests praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord. II Chronicles 30:21. We should praise God each day.

If we make God a part of each of our days on this earth, we are renewed inwardly each day and we become more like Him. Isn't this the goal of each one of us?

Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) brought God's Word to us this month. Bro. Steve spoke to us about humanism Saturday evening and helped with the deliberations of the memorandum Sunday evening. We had a very inspiring weekend and thank him so much for his efforts.

Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), John Greiner, Sis. Lois Schmidgall and Bro. Harold Gramm were all hospitalized this month. They are all feeling God's healing mercies and are assembling with us.

Justin Jon is the first son born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Sara Wevley. They also have two daughters, Brittany and Mickinzy, who will enjoy their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch.

With many tearful embraces, we said farewell to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Koehl and their son, Terry. They have moved to Arizona and will be assembling with the Phoenix church. We hope they can feel our prayers and love as they adjust to all the changes in their lives. May God be close to them.

Silver Lining dues should be paid by April to your reporter for the Morris church. Thank you.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Mary Lou Schmidt
Wanda Messner

BECAUSE CHRIST LIVES

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

Ministering Bros. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Don Miller (Minneapolis) were with us this past month. How thankful we are to hear our precious brothers bring forth the "inspired" Word of God! May they continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit, as they stand to proclaim God's messages to us.

On January 26, we had many visiting single brothers and sisters from Morris, Minneapolis, MN, Lester, IA, and West Bend, IA. We are thankful for each of them, for they play such an important part in our church.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows like sea billows roll:
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say;
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Hymns of Zion #55

Marcy Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae and Gene) has found this beautiful peace, and can say, "It is well with my soul." We rejoice with her, and wish her God's blessings.

January 10 was the wedding of Bonnie Messner (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn) and Walter Eskuri (both of Gaylord, MN). May the Lord lead and guide them in their new life together.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Linda Ziegenhorn

Jesus tells us in Luke 12:22-31 not to worry about what we will eat or wear, for He provides food for the ravens and glorious raiment for the lilies. If God provides so abundantly for the fowl of the air and the grass of the field, just think how he will provide for us! God will provide for our needs (not necessarily our wants) if we will just trust Him and pray in faith.

We would like to thank the ministers of the Lamar, MO, Bern, Sabetha, Lamont, Ft. Scott and Gridley, KS churches for so faithfully providing us with ministers on Sundays.

We are now having a hymn sing at the church the first Wednesday night of each month and listening to tapes on the third Wednesday night of the month. If any visitors are in the area, we welcome them to come and worship with us.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti — Janice Stoller

Five young and tender souls surrendered their hearts and were added to the fold February 2. They were Janese and Janel Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) and Michelle, Melinda and Denise Knecht (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy). May they always strive to remain true and faithful and stay close to God.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers in our midst for that weekend. They were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Charlotte Banwart was hospitalized for surgery this past month but has now returned home. We do continue to remember her in prayer, and hope that she can feel God's help and nearness. Also hospitalized for surgery were Bro. William Stefan, Sr. and William Stefan, Jr. Both have returned home once again.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker have a tiny little bundle of joy in their home once again. Little David J. has two older sisters, Carol and Sarah, to welcome him home. May they ever ask God's help as they seek to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

March is the month for Silver Lining collection in Lamar.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

Bro. Kent Heimer suffered painful chemical burns on his leg and foot while pouring concrete at work. May God extend His healing power for a speedy recovery.

We extend our sympathy to the Yackley families in our area, at the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Irvin Yackley (Nucla, CO). Irvin was one of Andrew and Tillie Yackley's eight sons and part of the first family who moved here and helped to establish the "Little White Church on the Levee" (1918).

May God's blessings rest upon every aspect of the elder conference which we are looking forward to hosting next week. May the fellowship we hope to share with both brothers and sisters be a happy time now, and a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven.

The "old" but always appropriate verse in song comes to mind for this occasion:

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

With the love of God inspired
There is joy for us on earth;
May the spirit, we've acquired,
Grant us blessings, peace and mirth."
Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1, 3

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Ed Aeschleman

Easter comes early this year and it is always a blessed day as it reminds us that the Lord arose from the grave on that day for us, and even more important, that we may arise from our grave one day and be with Him in heaven. Easter also tells us that spring is nigh at hand, bringing warmth and new life on the earth and this we anxiously look forward to following a hard winter.

We appreciate so much our visiting ministers. During the past month, Bros. Everett Gerber, Dan Stoller and Lee Bahler came from Rockville, CT, and Elder Bro. Roy Sauder came from Peoria, IL. The Word is powerful and true and we thank God for brothers who stand forth to proclaim it in *its*

soul-convicting truth and not to just tickle the ears of the hearers.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler

Beautiful morning! Grief and pain,
Weeping before the tomb,
Fly at thy dawning, Jesus rose,
Jesus dispelled the gloom.

Morning of resurrection joy.
Day when the Savior rose,
Singing shall greet thy opening hour,
Singing shall mark thy close.

Beautiful Morning,
Gospel Hymns #246

As the Easter season is once again here, we have been reminded of Christ's suffering and sacrifice in our stead. He loved each one of us enough to give His life as a ransom for our sins. Because of His love, we can be assured of everlasting life in His presence if we give our life completely in His service while here on earth. If we only take one day at a time, we find that it is not a great sacrifice on our part to remain true and faithful unto Him and His teachings. Let's keep the thoughts of this beautiful hymn in mind as we travel life's pathway and look forward to that beautiful resurrection morn when we can be reunited with our loved ones in heaven.

God has called another dear one home to heaven. Our sympathy has been extended to Sis. Carolyn Virkler and her family. May they be comforted by God's promises for us. We want to express our thanks to Elder Bros. Loren Stoller, Alfred Bahler and Corbin Bahler, and ministering Bros. Earl Kilgus and Kevin Ryan for being here for Bro. Bernard's funeral services. Church services were also held in the evening.

During this winter season we have had many loved ones, old and young, who have been missing from our assembly for one or two Sundays because of the flu. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all and may God's healing hand restore all to good health. At this writing, Bro. Gerry Grau (Sis. Polly) is hospitalized. May he and his family also be strengthened by God's love.

We enjoyed a covered dish meal and evening of fellowship when we had visitors in our midst February 6.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder

We have had some birthday singings this month. One was for Sis. Minnie Taube at her home for her 90th birthday. Another singing for Sis. Rosella Schulz, 85, was held at her son, Norman's, where she has been staying the last while. We also sang for Iva Poling at Kallett's Adult Home.

Bro. Bernard Virkler (Castorland) passed from this life leaving his wife, Sis. Carolyn; three sons, Bros. Wayne and Terry (Rockville, CT) and Owen (Watertown); two sisters, Sis. Lois Schamback (Beaver Falls) and Sis. Pauline Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT); and a brother, Kenneth (Rockville, CT). Grandchildren, nieces and nephews also survive. Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) conducted the services. Burial will be in the Croghan Cemetery in the spring.

We wish to thank our many friends and relatives for all their kind sympathy and love shown during Bro. Bernard's illness and death.

Sis. Carolyn Virkler and family
Those who spent time in the hospital recently were Sis. Corine Virkler and Sis. Minnie Taube. We are glad to report that they are home again. May the Lord continue to help them recover.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

We noted previously that Nehemiah rebuilt the walls and gates around the temple, symbolic that today we are the temple and ought to have walls and gates around the areas of our will, and the first seven were mentioned.

The eighth is the Water Gate. Water is important in Israel where it is hot and dry. Water indicates the Word, washing of the water by the Word. There is a gate for the Word to be carried in and out of our life. Both water and the Word refresh and cleanse and we can look into water or the Word and see our image.

The ninth is the Horse Gate. Horses carried the burdens of the merchants in and out. God wants to carry our burdens, for we are to cast our care upon Him, and we are to bear one another's burdens.

The tenth is the East Gate, through which Jesus passed on the way to Calvary. Jesus said He is coming back, and at Jerusalem today the East Gate is bricked shut, a fulfillment of Ezekiel

44 as they think they will keep out the Messiah. They even put a cemetery there as Jews don't walk through a cemetery. Ezekiel, in Babylon, states the Spirit of the Lord caught him up and carried him to Jerusalem to show him how the priests were in idolatry; and the Spirit of God was grieved and began to lift from the Holy of Holies, moving toward the east of the temple and to the East Gate, and hovered over the Mt. of Olives and then left. When Jesus returns on the Mt. of Olives, it will split in two and Jesus can walk across the valley through the East Gate to the temple and establish His kingdom. There is a gate of our personality that ought to be open for the return of Jesus; it is our hope, and hope helps keep us pure.

The eleventh is the Miphkad, which means assignment. God has a special assigned place for each of us, and we can be sensitive to His assignment for others.

The twelfth is the Ephraim Gate (Nehemiah 8:16) which is the double portion. Deuteronomy 21:17 states that the first born was to have the double portion. When we are born again, we become God's first born and entitled to the double portion. How marvelous for the gates or areas of our life that the Holy Spirit is watching over to open and close that we might have the greatest places of discipline, blessing, power and anointing from our Lord Jesus Christ.

A thank you goes to those who have fulfilled terms of duty: Sis. Barbe Ritzman on both the kitchen committee and in Sunday school, and Bro. Duane Collins as usher. Sis. Janice Graf will take the place on the kitchen committee, Sis. Carolyn Miller as Sunday school teacher, Bro. Tom Graf as usher, Sis. Joyce Gasser on the auxiliary of the nursing home, and Bro. Robert Ritzman will continue as representative for the children's home.

Sis. Kathryn Novotny had surgery and Sis. Bonnie Bako is back to work after being hospitalized.

We appreciate the visit of Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Henry Dotterer who assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer in bringing to us the conference conclusions.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

As Easter approaches, we're reminded of the tragedy and triumph,

which took place in the span of a few short years. Christ was so blamelessly crucified, but He overcame the grave, giving us all the eternal hope of salvation, if we are willing to receive. The Lord waits for us to come home, as the prodigal son did in Luke 15.

It seems that a few decades ago, a young man was riding on a train with several other passengers. He moved about very nervously, not able to sit quietly for any length of time. Finally, an older gentleman sat down beside him and asked, "What's the trouble, son?" The young man, after a moment, began to tell how he was returning home after three years of being gone from his parents. He'd left after an argument with his father and told them he'd never be back. Now he was only going to stop if, as he told his mother, there was a white sheet hanging outside the house to let him know that it was alright with his father.

As the train rounded the final curve, a house could hardly be seen for the white coverage on the hill. They'd put out every white sheet, spread, sock, towel and handkerchief they could get their hands on. The boy was out of the train and running up the hill as fast as his feet would carry him, before the engine stopped completely — another son returning home where he belonged.

Today, because of Christ's redeeming blood, we too, can "get off the train" and know the Father will welcome us home.

This past month we were visited by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis), who shared God's Word with our congregation. We thank these brothers and all who traveled the winter roads to fellowship with us. We are holding services every Sunday now, and ask the Lord's blessings upon our Bro. Andy Hunyady for lending himself to the Lord's ministry every other week. May God bless him and all those who proclaim the truth.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Twice in the month just passed we have experienced the miracle of birth as two little boys were born. Frederick Eli was welcomed home by Bro. Don, Sis. Connie, Chris, Sam, Scott and Cheryl Manz and by grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle and Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Alan Jacob was welcomed home by Bro.

Paul, Sis. Sandra, Greg, Wendy and Timothy Manz and by grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier and Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise Manz. God's richest blessings are extended to the parents who again experience the sheer joy of guiding these little souls and the grave responsibility of showing them God's way.

OHIO, LATTY Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard

EASTER MESSAGE

The Easter bells peal out their chimes
Of glorious good cheer.
They bring good tidings, tell the world
The message of the year.

They tell of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Who gave His life for us
And who was resurrected — news
So great and glorious.

The Easter message! Happy song!
All Christians must declare
Their praise of Christ the risen Lord,
And all His love must share.
Roy Z. Kemp

We were privileged to hear Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) bring forth the gospel truth unto us. May the ministering brothers always feel welcome here at Latty.

Matt and Jordon Miller rejoice with their parents at the birth of Todd Christopher. The grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Mary). We are glad God has applied His healing hand and he is feeling much better.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron) and Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) read the memorandum to us, reminding us there are many dangers as we walk the Christian pathway. "So when persecution comes your way, remember: The fact that you're attacked means that you resemble your Saviour!"

The Sunday school spent a terrific weekend in Milford, IN, with the La-Crosse, IN, Sunday school. We give thanks to those who made it possible for our young people to enjoy themselves in an uplifting way. There are so many influences on young people today . . . it seems so timely to see that

they have many experiences with the right influences. Again, we say thanks to the Milford Sunday school; may God bless you richly.

Sis. Elda Riggenschick is back on her feet after foot surgery. Walking is often taken for granted. May we remember that walking in the footsteps of Christ is not always easy, but it is a truly blessed way to walk.

With Easter, our thoughts turn to Calvary and the events leading to Christ's death and resurrection. It's interesting that in the same night, the Lord was anointed out of love (Mary) and betrayed out of hate (Judas). You are either Mary or Judas. Christ is either enthroned or betrayed — there's no middle ground. Men either pour out their love to Him, or sell Him for whatever price they have deemed proper.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

Saturday evening, January 25, the Smithville and Rittman congregations met together at the Rittman church to hear the memorandum read. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) assisted our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and deacon Bro. Henry Dotterer in this labor. We thank Bro. Eugene for so often lending himself in service to our congregation. May God richly bless Him. May we always be uplifted in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is ever near our side willing to help us in whatever need we may have. Truly He is our comforter.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30. We have three souls who have decided to take up Christ's yoke and follow Him. They are Dan Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Jim Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) and Jennifer Kois. May they each one be richly blest in their new walk of life.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11. The Word was brought to us by Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) who visited us on a Wednesday evening. May God bless him in his efforts in bringing forth God's message.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:19. Those who were afflicted in the flesh and thus had to be hospitalized were Sis. Ruth Ingold, Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace), Chris Hilty (Sam and Judy), Lisa and Lynn Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee) and Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred). May they each one feel God's healing touch upon them.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Our Bro. Elmer Zollinger has been relieved of his pain and could go home to rest. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Clara; his sons, Bro. John (Sis. Marge) and Joe (Rittman), and Bro. Ed (Sis. Shirley, Phoenix, AZ); his daughters, Sis. Martha Dotterer (Bro. Henry) and Sis. Marian Hartzler (Bro. Joe) of Rittman, and Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf (Bro. Alvin), Sis. Dorothy and Sis. Linda (Phoenix, AZ). May God comfort each one.

The family of Bro. Elmer Zollinger wishes to express their sincere thanks to everyone who has shown their love with deeds of kindness. May God bless you.

We are told in Ecclesiastes that there is a time to every purpose under the heaven. As well as a time to die there is a time to be born. A son, Eric Benjamin, was born to Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach. A brother, Amos, and a sister, Joanne, as well as grandparents, Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger welcome him into the family circle. Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne Kipfer welcome their firstborn, a son, Brandon Isaac. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Latty, OH). Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenschick now have a son and a daughter. Joshua now has a sister, Crystal Rose. Glad for a new granddaughter are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggenschick and Boyd and Barbara Acker. Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzie Beery welcomed their first son, Caleb Earl. His sisters are Mollie and Katie. Grandparents who also are glad for a grandson are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH).

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as

himself and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Ephesians 5:33. The Lord has called Bro. Roger Bauman (Bro. Herbert and Sis. Berniece, Smithville, OH) to join with Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) in setting up a Christian home. They are making plans to be united in holy matrimony April 20. May God bless them in this time of preparation.

Let us take time to pause and meditate upon Christ's death on Calvary for the atonement for the sins of the world. In the garden He prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42. Suppose Christ had not sought to do His Father's will, where would that leave us today? If we do not do the will of the Father, what mission in life will we be failing to accomplish? Let us always seek to do God's will and thank Him for His gift of Calvary. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." Luke 23:33.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

Easter is a very special time for Christians. It holds the possibility and meaning of a new life in Christ. What does Easter mean to people? As believers, we think of Jesus and His resurrection after shedding His blood and dying on the cross. We think of salvation we receive because of Christ's obedience. Probably many unbelievers don't recognize Christ at Easter. They might think of Easter as the beginning of spring and of the flowers and trees that are coming back to life after they have been dead all winter. This thought somewhat parallels what the Christian sees in his Easter. Just as the flowers, Christ died and lay in the ground. Then as the flowers bloom again, Jesus arose from the dead. But Jesus is different from flowers — He will never die again.

In another sense, Christians are likened unto Christ, and the unbeliever unto the flower. For through Christ the believer dies unto sin, and arises unto a new life; life that will never die again, but receive the promise of eternal life with the Lord. "Jesus said unto her, I

am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" St. John 11:25-26. The unbeliever is like the flower. He is given life, but will die — without Christ; this death is eternal. "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power" II Thessalonians 1-9. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:23. God has made it so free for us to have everlasting life. How can we thank Him enough for salvation and the glorious eternity He has promised to us?

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

Our calendar shows that Easter comes early this year. Right now, it is snowing and cold, and it seems like spring is a long way off; but, Lord willing, it won't be long until the sun starts to warm the earth again. Just as seeing the earth come to life again in the spring gives us new zeal and encouragement to accomplish our work in our everyday lives, so should being reminded of what Jesus has done for us renew us spiritually.

THE RESURRECTION

Why come ye at break of morning,
To the Lord's grave in such deep
mourning;
Who'll roll the heavy stone away?
'Tis away; oh, do not murmur
Ye faithful ones, come now, draw
nearer,
The stone is gone Oh, look therein!
See angels in the cleft!
Bring joy to you bereft,
Hosanna, hosanna,
Why seek with tears the Master here?
He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!
Hymns of Zion # 45

On January 18, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of four dear souls who sought their Lord in repentance, and then witnessed as they buried their old lives in the waters of baptism, and rose to a newness of life January 19. Our new sisters are Sis. Gwen Stoller (Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta), Sis. Lynn Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Tammy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Kathy Dotterer

(Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda). May God bless them as they begin their walk as His children.

On January 25, we were privileged to assemble with the brethren at Rittman to hear the memorandum read to us. It was good to be reminded of the need to stay as close as we can to our Lord, and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in each step of our lives.

"Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly; Call aloud and spare them not . . ." Zion's Harp # 112. We are thankful for all our ministers who are willing to stand before us, and preach the Word. Visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer, Bro. Ernest Graf, Bro. Ron Palitto (all of Akron), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis), Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). May God richly bless them for their efforts and labors of love.

"Though troubles assail And dangers affright, Though friends should all fail And foes all unite, Yet one thing secures us whatever betide, This promise assures us: "The Lord will provide!" Zion's Harp # 86. Often times, we can't understand why God allows afflictions to come our way, but we just have to put our trust in Him, knowing He will provide for all of our needs. Those hospitalized this past month are Sis. Beverly Indermuhle (Bro. Brian) and Sis. Berniece Bauman (Bro. Herb). We pray that God, as the Great Physician, will grant them renewed health and strength, and that they can soon assemble with us again.

"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. Believing it is God's will for their lives, Bro. Roger Bauman (Bro. Herb and Sis. Berniece) and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane, Rittman) have announced their engagement. May God bless them as they begin their walk of life together.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehklau Frances Laidig

As spring comes, we may think of it as the best season of the year. There is summer, winter, spring or fall. Which really is the best of all?

Summer with its sunshine everything alive and growing

Winter with the air crisp and the beauty of snowing
Spring has new life showing all around
And then, fall in color, no more beauty could be found.

God knew the importance of each, summer, winter, spring and fall
So in His love He blessed us with them all.

"And he changeth the times and the seasons: . . ."

Daniel 2:21

We are now looking forward to the beauty of spring, one of the special seasons which God gave to us. Giving to us Easter brings the wonderful promise of a new spiritual life through the resurrection of our dear Lord and Saviour.

The Lord has called our dear Bro. Daniel Fetter to his heavenly rest. We extend our sympathy to his brothers and sisters.

Sis. Karen Breitwieser (Bro. John) and Warren Newman (Sis. Lois) are at home, having been in the hospital. We pray the Lord will extend His healing hand and restore to them health and strength as it is His will.

Sis. Frances Laidig feels especially blessed to have her aged mother, Sis. Emma Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), with her at this time.

Our annual membership meeting was held January 26. Reelected were Bro. Douglas Harman as trustee, Bro. Glen Whittaker as usher, Sis. Frances Laidig as Silver Lining reporter and Bro. Al Weigele as Sunday school teacher for senior Bible class and Sunday school superintendent. Our new dinner coordinator is Sis. Sharon Rager.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We rejoice with Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ed) that she is once again able to assemble with us after missing several weeks. She was suffering with a pinched nerve and had to undergo back surgery. Thankfully, she is recovering nicely now. Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie and family wish to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their love, prayers and support. All the cards, calls and meals that were brought in were so very much appreciated.

Another hospital patient this month is Sis. Mildred Dietrich (Bro. Clarence). Sis. Millie recently had surgery

preparatory to accepting kidney dialysis again. Our prayers will continue to be with her and her family. May God grant strength and healing.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**

Ann Gasser

Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) was used of God to bring us valuable instruction. We were reminded of some of the pharisees who appeared righteous, but were unclean. This was a warning to each of us to guard against such hypocrisy. We appreciate the visit of Bro. Kevin and his family. Also enjoyed that Sunday were others from Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa.

**TEXAS, DONNA-McALLEN
Joyce Nohl**

It has been such a blessing to have services in the valley again this year. We have older residents who are unable to travel to Zapata for services and they are thankful to have the opportunity to hear the Word in Donna.

Bros. Edwin Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL), Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) and Leland Plattner have brought the Word to us this year. We want to thank them and their wives for making this special effort for us. May God bless them.

Services are held in Donna, TX, at Silver and Seventh Streets. March 9 and 23 are the last two Sundays scheduled this year. If you are in this area, please visit us. Our telephone number is (512) 682-0219.

**TEXAS, FORT WORTH
Mary Plattner**

Services are continuing to be held on the first and third Sunday of each month in Fort Worth. Ministers who visited recently are Bros. Elmer Schrenk (Zapata), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL). We certainly thank these brothers and those who traveled with them for coming so many miles to serve here. There are currently about eighteen people in the Fort Worth area that gather on a regular basis for these services. Anyone wishing more information should contact Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS).

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner**

This is the season of the year we see many visitors in our area and we're glad

to see them assemble with us on Sunday. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr was here in early February to give an exhortation on communion. Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL) and Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA). We thank them for their efforts, especially for coming the many miles.

Opportunity: . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

hours of driving to cover 40 - 50 miles.

We arrived after dark at Corail, staying at Pastor Joseph's home. We were received with a hearty welcome by the family, the church members and many of the villagers. A supper was prepared of Haitian coffee, fish, chicken, rice, tomatoes and potatoes. Even though we could not understand Creole, we could feel their welcome.

On Sunday morning at 8:30, our team brothers and Robert Stewart gathered in the front room for our church services. We sang several hymns, meditated on God's Word and prayed, thanking the Lord for bringing us safely on our journey, for the Lord's blessing and for the opportunity to help the Haitian people. At 9:30 we walked to their local church and as we approached, we could hear their heartfelt singing. Pastor Joseph and Pastor Adoine held the service and an interpretation was shared with us. In the evening, an introduction was given for each and we each explained where we live and gave our expression of thanks. We sang two hymns in English. At the close of the service, each one came to shake hands and give their well wishes.

We got up early on Monday morning to get started on the school which was located across from the church. The local members had cleared the site and put up the concrete walls. Our project was to fabricate the roof trusses, then lift the trusses in place and cover the roof with tin roofing. There were a lot of willing church members wanting to help and many villagers, adult and children, observing. The brothers from Bay City and Wolcott really knew how to put up the roof in a hurry.

We worked on cutting the lumber to size, planning and assembling 25 school benches and desks. On Monday evening we had a singing and prayer around the supper table. It was truly a time of Christian fellowship. We had a

very heavy rain Tuesday afternoon and night. There were some leaks in the roof where we slept. We had buckets to catch the rain. We also had to use the spray to keep the mosquitos away. On Wednesday, the brothers went to the school early and were finished with the roof by 9:30. Then they came back to Pastor Joseph's home to pack and share the gifts with the family, church members and villagers. We then went back to the church where a large crowd had gathered, and Pastor Joseph and the church deacon spoke of their thanks for all the labor and for the school building where children could now go to school. We all then sang, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again". They sang in Creole and we sang in English and again a heartfelt handshake and farewell was given.

We then started the rough ride back to the mission compound at Keyes. Along the way we saw many poverty stricken homes and families, and many Haitians walking along the road and our hearts felt for them with a longing to help them. On arrival back at the Keyes mission compound, we were immediately surrounded by mission personnel, telling of the mob raid on the mission food warehouse. The food being stolen and many other acts of violence, rebellion and burning were taking place throughout the nation. We were advised by the American ambassador to stay inside and not move about. On Friday we loaded all our luggage and boarded the van, trying to get to Port-au-Prince. We had traveled about 100 miles when we came to a fire barricade across the road with a mob of people behind it. Robert Stewart went to talk to the people and there was no way we could get through.

We went back the 100 miles to the mission compound. We encountered another road block as we arrived back at Keyes and had to turn off on a side road to get to the mission. As we drove through two streams, there was a threatening mob, but we passed safely through. On Saturday we had the same warning, to stay in. By noon Pastor Adoine came from Keyes and said the trucks were coming from Port-au-Prince, so we loaded the bus and started to the airport. The road was all clear and we arrived at the airport. We passed through customs and boarded the plane for Miami. We are so thankful to be home safe, for the care and concern for our safety by Robert Stew-

art and for the many prayers for us at home and throughout our churches.

We were deeply impressed with the work in helping the Haitian people by Robert Stewart and the World Team organization. We surely can have confidence in them and their work and that the help and aid we send and contribute will all be used for this good work. We would encourage the continuation of the works projects effort in helping to build schools for the children. There are many other needs that we will share with the World Relief Committee.

The Volunteer Team for this trip included: Bro. William Klopfenstein (Leo, IN), Bro. Norm Knochel (Bay City, MI), Bro. Kurt Munsel (Bay City, MI), Bro. Dean Pashak (Bay City, MI), Bro. Tim Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Irvin Furrer (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and John Willis (Children's Home, Leo, IN).

Notes of Thanks:

We were in Haiti from January 24 to February 2, 1986 on a work project. After several hair-raising events caused by political unrest, we still accomplished our project. Truly we should count our blessing here in this country. One missionary told me, the main reason for the tension is the shortage of food. I support our World Relief projects in Haiti. Let us read Proverbs chapter 28 and verse 27.

Bro. Norman Knochel

I am humbled and thankful for the opportunity to visit the people and see first hand the great needs of the Haitian people.

First, a special thanks for all the prayers offered on our behalf and the World Relief efforts of World Teams and our home church for its prayerful and financial support in making this most worthwhile trip possible.

Truly we, as a team, felt God's Holy Spirit and His protecting hand throughout our stay, especially the last two days.

We met and had fellowship with many beautiful Haitian Christians and missionary people experiencing a warm and lasting Christian love. May God's name be praised for whatever we accomplish while in Haiti.

Bro. Dean Pashak

My experience in Haiti has left me with both joy and sadness. Joy in that Jesus Christ is preached (Philippians

1:18) and sadness because of the condition of the country. In spite of all they lack, there is no lack of love and kindness. The open expression of their love for God and each other is heart-warming. May God grant us here, in America, that we forget not the two most important commandments! Luke 10:27.

In Christian love,
Your Weakest Brother,
Kurt Munsel, Bay City, MI

SILVER THREADS

HALLELUJAH FOR THE CROSS!

The cross it standeth fast, Hallelujah!
hallelujah!

Defying ev'ry blast, Hallelujah!
hallelujah!

The winds of hell have blown, The
world its hate hath shown,
Yet it is not over thrown, Hallelujah for
the cross!

It is the old cross still, Hallelujah!
hallelujah!

It's triumph let us tell, Hallelujah!
hallelujah!

The grace of God here shone, Thro'
Christ the blessed Son,
Who did for sin atone, Hallelujah for
the cross!

'Twas here the debt was paid,
Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Our sins on Jesus laid, Hallelujah!
hallelujah!

So round the cross we sing, Of Christ
our offering,
Of Christ our Living King, Hallelujah
for the cross!

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah for the cross;
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
It shall never suffer loss.

Gospel Hymns #400

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

It has been trained to go over to another pen or truck and these stupid animals follow that goat to the truck and the slaughter! You and I sometimes get carried away and we do not realize just who we are following. Are you and I following the good shepherd, the chief shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ? Or once in a while get our eyes set on something else that is not the good shepherd, and lose our life as these sheep going to the slaughter?

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

death is darkness! Have you ever been in utter, total darkness not really knowing where you are? It is a terrible feeling and you do not know what you could run into. Why did the psalmist, David, write this? Because his chief shepherd is Jesus Christ, God Himself. We run into the valley, where everything seems to be so dark. We do not know exactly which way to turn and what is going on, but we follow the true shepherd: "I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Let us talk about the shepherd's staff. He uses that staff as protection for the sheep. When the lion or the wolf comes, he uses it to fight these wild beasts. But he also uses his staff for discipline. That shepherd's staff has a hook at the end with which he can reach out and hook a sheep around the neck and stop it dead in its tracks. When the shepherd yanks on that staff and stops that sheep on the run, it hurts. And sometimes, if it is hard enough, will break the sheep's neck. Again, this is you and me. Once in a while God reaches out with His staff, hooks us and stops us cold in our tracks because He loves us and keeps us from other harm. Can you imagine a sheep running away and battling with a lion? Who is going to win? The sheep does not have a chance! We can liken the lion to satan himself and us to the sheep. When we come out from under the protection of the shepherd, we are in deep trouble. A sheep does not have a chance with a lion and we do not have a chance with Satan. If we are out from under the protection of the Shepherd, we are doomed.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

If we will let the good shepherd be our shepherd and stay close to him, let him discipline, feed and water us, we will find refuge for our souls in heaven above. But if we insist on being on our own and doing our own thing, woe be unto us! God is a God of love; He sent Jesus Christ for us. Today He extends the day of grace and if there is anything that stands between us and God, there is still time to correct it. For tomorrow there is no promise. Won't you please make everything right with God?

FEB 02602 LK
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SERMON BY BRO. CHARLES HEMMER, PEORIA, IL

THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

Text: Psalm 23

This is an exhortation on the shepherd and the sheep. What is a shepherd? The dictionary tells us that a shepherd is one who cares for and watches over a flock of sheep. The Lord Jesus Christ is the chief shepherd and we are the sheep with the chief shepherd watching over the sheep.

We know from practical experience that domestic sheep are very dumb and may not survive on their own. We read in this beautiful psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." If we will let Jesus Christ be our shepherd, there is not one thing that we will want, because we are His sheep. But sheep will cause problems, because they are dumb. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." A sheep cannot find food on its own. Most animals, if you will let them go, find a prey of some kind; even your dogs and cats, if you do not feed them, will find something somewhere. But a sheep has to be taken to the green pastures; "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters." We, as sheep, are led to the green pastures. When the sheep are led to the green pastures, they consume not only the top part of the grass, but will eat the roots. They will dig down and eat the nourishing part of the root.

Sheep and cattle have much the same type of stomach. But cattle only have teeth on their lower jaws, while sheep have teeth both on the upper and lower jaws and can dig into the roots and partake of the nourishing roots. Do we, as sheep, partake of the nourishing root of the Word of God or just eat the tops? Where we eat determines what we eat, and what we eat determines the nourishment we are going to receive.

What kind of spiritual food are we eating today? Do we allow ourselves

one spiritual meal a week or many spiritual meals? Just coming to church for a service, going home and never opening the Bible will not give us the roots. We are just eating the top part of the green pasture. The good shepherd watches over His sheep. Some food is harmful and if the sheep get the wrong kind of food, they could actually be killed and destroyed.

Sheep have four stomachs and as they take on food, it goes into the first stomach and stays there until the animal stops, rests and relaxes. And if it keeps on going and does not consider what it has eaten, the food will ferment, create gas, start bloating and death is very near. We take on spiritual food today and what do we do with it? Do we try to digest it? A sheep will go off to the side, lie down and chew its cud. In time, it will bring back the food out of its first stomach, regurgitate, chew and mix it with its digestive juices and, when swallowed again, it goes into the second and third stomachs, and so on.

Do we consider the Word of God and digest it? When you hear a sermon or Sunday school lesson, when you dig into the Word of God, do you sit back and think: what have I read? This makes sense, this does not; and we try to sift it out. Just how does it fit my life? God directed me to read this passage of scripture just to be able to say; well I read several chapters today. We ask the person what he read and he might say, I don't know. Maybe it would be better to read just a few verses and digest them and get to the root. We can get to the root of the Word, and God will bless us.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters." A sheep lives in fear. As we go through the Word, it tells us: "Fear not, fear not because we are His sheep. A sheep will not drink from a

running stream as it is afraid of it. And so the Word tells us: "He leadeth me beside the still waters." There is an account of shepherds of old. When they led their sheep out into the pastures and they needed a drink, and there was a running stream and they were afraid, they would lie down across the water with their bodies and dam up the water so it would be still and the sheep could drink. After they had their drink, they would walk around in the water and play some. But what would they do then? Instead of appreciating what the shepherd had done, they walk over him with their dirty feet. What about you and me? God provides for us the living water, and what do we do? We are just as guilty as those dumb sheep: we walk over the shepherd with our dirty feet. Do we really appreciate what God does for us, or do we take advantage of God?

"He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." Sheep are followers. It is pretty hard to drive sheep; they are dumb and stubborn, but they follow. And we, as God's sheep, are no different. We follow, but what and who are we following? The news media in the world today gets on one thing or another and everybody gets on the band wagon because we are followers. Just a week or so ago there was a big ball game and we all got excited because we are followers, like sheep. The Word tells us that God is going to separate the sheep from the goats. As God's sheep, are we going to follow a goat? In the Peoria stockyards, years ago, and I am not sure but what they still do, they have a goat and when they want to take a herd of sheep from one place to another, rather than drive them, they take this goat that has been trained and put it into the pen of sheep.

(Continued on Page 31)