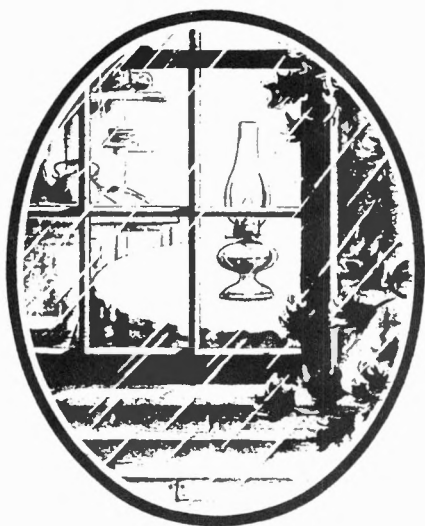




"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."
Luke 2:19

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed;"
Proverbs 31:28



Home and Mother

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household,"
Proverbs 31:26-27

TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE

1 When I was but a little child, how well I recollect How I would grieve my mother with my folly and neglect, And now that she has gone to heav'n, I miss her tender care. O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

2 Though I was often wayward, she was always kind and good, So patient, gentle loving, when I acted rough and rude. My childhood griefs and trials she would gladly with me share; O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

3 When I became a prodigal, and left the old roof-tree, She almost broke her loving heart in mourning after me, And day and night she pray'd to God to keep me in his care; O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

4 One day a message came to me; it bade me quickly come If I would see my mother, ere the Saviour took her home. I promised her before she died, for heaven to prepare; O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

Chorus: Tell mother I'll be there, in answer to her pray'r. This message, blessed Saviour, to her bear! Tell mother I'll be there, heav'n's joys with her to share ; Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there.

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.

ABOUT A DEAR BROTHER-IN-CHRIST

Written by Bro. Randall Mogler, Shioda, Japan

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, and not on things of the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Colossians 3:1-4

We were filled with sorrow as we stood around Bro. Saburo's body for the last time. Some of his daughters gently touched him in an act of love and thankfulness for what their God-fearing father had given them in his lifetime. No doubt all of us had many thoughts filling our hearts and minds at that moment.

Here it was, January 17, 1986. Bro. Saburo Utsuki had lived a full life of 85 years. In many ways he had experienced joys and successes. He had experienced moments of pain and distress. But in all this normality we knew good and well that God had given us many precious blessings because of the faith and loyalty of this man. So often God had poured His love and wisdom through this man . . . and this love was visible; within reach of those around him.

Maybe some of us were wondering why Bro. Saburo was so influential, or why the responses to his circumstances and daily life seemed to build in us faith in God. How could what he said and did make us remember that "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow"? We knew that it was his lifestyle — his priorities — that stirred such emotions within us.

Way back in January, 1951, when Bro. Willis Ehnle met Saburo, loyalty and commitment were already a part of his character. Bro. Willis had met Saburo's son at the Tokyo Army hospital and was later invited to the Utsuki home. A friendship, commitment, and loyalty had been established. Later, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois came to Japan as a newly married couple following the Lord's command: "Go ye therefore unto all nations . . ." (Matt. 28:18-20). It was Saburo Utsuki who became the guarantor which allowed this couple to come to the Far East and preach the gospel of our Lord. From those early beginnings sprang our churches in Japan, and a way had been opened for many to hear that "though sins be as scarlet the blood of Jesus can make them white as snow."

Several of Saburo's children first came to know Jesus, repented of their

sins, and were baptized in the name of our Lord. Perhaps because Saburo believed that a commitment meant loyalty and 100% involvement, he did not immediately follow these new teachings. But because of friendships and already-established involvements he gradually was willing to listen to more of God's Word and he continued to seek the true meaning of life. He didn't fully embrace this faith but he did try to encourage his children to honor their commitment.

Our Father's Word tells us to ask, seek, and knock, and He will answer us. Praise be to God, Saburo later found the grace to give his heart to Jesus. His wife, Shizuko, by this precious grace also, was able to give her life to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Early beginnings and loyal commitments have given eternal rewards.

I have some very encouraging personal memories of our dear brother. In my sharing of these memories, I in no way intend to glorify man. All praise goes to God from whom all blessings flow. And I'm certain Bro. Saburo

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

would not want to be put in an elevated position. Perhaps it is good to share our memories of faithful brethren who have gone to their heavenly treasures. We can all be encouraged in our own walks as we see Jesus in the lives of those we love.

I observed Bro. Saburo's life at home, with his business friends, with his brethren in Christ, and during his terminal illness. In all these areas the Lord God of Heaven and His teachings consistently surfaced as a priority in his life.

Several of the brethren from our congregations attended an 85th birthday celebration for Bro. Saburo. Over the years his business had allowed him the opportunity to become acquainted with several influential Tokyo-area businessmen and educators. At this 85th celebration, many individuals stood up and said very kind things. These orations went on for quite some time, and finally Bro. Saburo was asked to stand and speak. He thanked everyone and quickly went on to say that it was in God's hands if he would live longer, and that really everything is in God's hands. He had asked Bro. Willis to read a portion of scripture and to pray. Priorities were established, and many, who had perhaps never had the chance, were able to hear God's Word and see an example of it working in someone's life.

One thing was certain, whenever Bro. Saburo was with his brothers and sisters-in-Christ. We were always treated the same, no matter what environment we found ourselves in. Spiritual conversations, prayer, perhaps a Bible reading, and a lot of down-home hospitality seemed to be a part of these interactions. On Sundays we miss his pleasant countenance so much in our little flock. But we, too, remember that we have been directed by the Lord working in a brother's life to 100% commitment and a life of priorities with Jesus Christ at the hub.

None of us ever doubted the fact that Bro. Saburo was a respected, beloved father when we traveled to the Utsuki home. His loyalty and commitment to those closest to him was certain. But my favorite memories of these visits are our worship times and dinner conversations. I was often led to the small room upstairs next to the bedroom. There we would sing a song or two, pray to our Father, read His Word, and maybe discuss what we read a

little. One time I remember after praying, Bro. Saburo wanted to pray, too. It was almost as if Jesus were in the room and Bro. Saburo had a few more things for which to thank Him. So we prayed a second time. We read John 14 without knowing I had chosen one of his favorite chapters. He had particularly mentioned the words, "In my father's house are many mansions. Don't be afraid." Within one year's time after that discussion, Bro. Saburo had gone to his heavenly mansion. Priorities were established in this home. Commitments were honored.

During our dinner and relax times, I particularly recall conversations we had about Bro. Noah Shrock. Bro. Saburo had gone to the United States at Bro. Noah's invitation. Noah had visited the Utsuki home and a friendship and commitment had been established. He would laugh heartily as he reminisced about the manner in which Bro. Noah walked, talked and laughed.

We both knew that he remembered Bro. Noah's example of love and faith in Jesus, too.

The Word says, "to everything there is a season. A time to be born, and a time to die." When Bro. Saburo was taken to the hospital to fight the cancer that had overtaken him, worship times continued in that little hospital room, too. One of Saburo's daughters told me the nurses were surprised because her father would thank them for installing his I.V's. Surely his faith and established commitments to Jesus followed him through the valley of the shadow of death. Through this the Lord continued to work in his life!

Bro. Saburo is now at home with Jesus and we thank God for faithful brothers who have gone to their rewards. In these precious examples we truly are reminded that depth of commitment, priorities and loyalty all play a vital role in God's plan for each of us.

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

Mail and correspondence with our brethren and friends in Romania is less frequent than in previous years. However, we did receive a number of thank you notes and greeting cards during the Christmas holidays and again at Easter time, expressing gratitude and praise to God and heartfelt thanks to the many benefactors whose love and thoughtfulness has been proven by deeds of kindness. They also sent warm greetings and best wishes to all.

Temperatures in all of Eastern Europe were rather warm this past winter and it was a great relief for all compared with the previous severe and record-breaking cold winter. Energy supplies of all sorts and food still continue to be in short supply and are rationed. The rationed portions are reduced in size and quantity and, in many cases, just not available at all. Fortunately, the food packages do help to ease their problems. The first shipment originating at the Bluffton, IN Distribution Center should have arrived around the middle of March or shortly thereafter for local distribution. We are anxiously waiting for confirmation as to the success of this noble undertaking.

Through our contacts and sources of information we are able to keep abreast with conditions and developments and

the welfare and treatment of our beloved brethren. In addition, during the past few months we have been pretty well informed by the various news media, and national magazines about the violations of basic human rights, religious persecutions, etc., in Romania, where millions of people are suffering. With poor economic conditions and shortages, the elderly and children are the greatest victims.

One particular incidence saddens our hearts. We have been informed that the one and only church building in the country that was located at #12 Baba Dochia Street in the city of Timisoara (Temesvar), and has for more than 110 years served as a house of prayer for the Nazarene believers was ordered demolished last summer. The reason: "... as per general urban plan". Until about 1983 this building was allowed by the officials to remain open for use as a church (perhaps for propaganda purposes to impress foreign visitors). Each Sunday morning and afternoon services were conducted for two groups of worshippers as the building was not large enough to accommodate all the local believers all at the same time. Since closing, the more than a hundred members in that city are now scattered and assemble in small groups in private homes in the

different parts of the city. The land has been expropriated by the government and no compensation or expropriation papers were given to the members, because, according to the law, the "Nazarenes do not exist". These and other similar atrocities and violations are well known by key members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the State Department. During his visit in Bucharest, Romania, last December, Secretary of State George Schultz discussed these cases with top ranking officials and personally interceded in behalf of the Nazarenes. In Congress, especially in the House of Representatives, there is a strong movement to suspend the "favored nation" status of Romania, until these violations are corrected.

Dearly Beloved, let us therefore intercede for these, our dear brethren, before the throne of grace. Who knows, but what the Lord will hear our fervent, persevering prayers as He once did the prayers of the church for Peter. Acts 12:5.

News of a brighter nature comes from Czechoslovakia. Here are a few excerpts from a letter received from an elder brother: "Dearly Beloved in the Lord! May the holy and blessed peace of our dear Lord be with you always, and may He bestow upon you all the heavenly blessings which are good and needful for you to continue your journey upon the narrow path which leads us unto eternal life. This is my heartfelt wish for a greeting!"

"Dear brother . . . I thank the Lord

and you with all my heart for your letter which brought us much happiness. We also think of you often . . . remembering you in our prayers . . .

Thanks be to our God, we are all well and in good health both bodily and spiritually. Our younger brethren are all employed and have good earnings. All men over 60 and women over 57 years of age receive retirement pensions. Many of our brethren own automobiles, and own or live in comfortable homes with nice furnishings. Food supplies, bread and baked goods, are available in wide varieties. Meats and meat products, sugar, etc. are plentiful and reasonably priced. Clothing is also in good supply and in a wide range of styles moderately priced. Unemployment in the entire country is nill. Parents with children receive extra allowances until the children reach the working age. Medical care and services are free. There are no beggars here . . .

"As far as our faith and spiritual welfare is concerned, we are thankful to God, we are satisfied. Though the "Nazarene Believers in Christ" are not recognized in our country, we are allowed to meet, and hold services in our homes. Separate meeting houses are not necessary and not needed since our number is small. In certain areas there are only 20-30 members and in the entire Slovakia there are about 120 members. Because we are not a recognized religious body, it is impossible for us to own and maintain a church building. During our meetings we read and preach the word, and sing out of the Zion Harp hymnal. We can hold burial services for our members, etc."

"Last week I visited with Elder Bro. Jan B. and he also received your letter. He is close to 90 and is weak and slow to get around. He extends his love and greetings to you."

"Now I conclude my letter, we greet you and your family with much love. We also greet the dear brothers who visited here with you and all the beloved brethren there . . . We wish you from the heart much blessings of peace and the never ending love of our holy God to be with you forever."

"We remain, bound with you in the love of our Lord, as your least brother in the Lord."

J.Z.

"And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on

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
March 1986 —	2174	10,727
April 1986 —	1051	11,778

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.

the right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Matt. 25:33-36

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

Glancing out the east window of the administration building, one's eyes are met with a variety of aspects of the great out-of-doors. To the immediate front is "Old Glory", prominently flashing her colors in the gusty breezes of springtime, reminding us of our rich heritage, "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave." Surrounding her are trees in full blossom and some flowers bursting forth, all seemingly agreeing with her majestic flirting with the sweet-smelling fresh air. The ground is a rich green mat of fragrance that will soon need mowing. A little further distant are our calves and Dude, the horse, nibbling at fresh alfalfa shoots. Further distant, across the north-south road is a farmer plowing his field with a two-bottom plow that is pulled by seven horses, three in front of four. The horses weigh between 1500-2000 pounds apiece, and the farmer informed me he could plow an acre in about two hours, a far cry from our motor-driven machinery and its plowing prowess. Overhead a giant jet zooms across the skyline, tilting earthward, presumably for a landing at Baer Field in rustic Fort Wayne, IN. Hundreds of feet below the jet and nearer the office building, a huge hawk drifts lazily through the air, looking for its prey. What a great gift is the vision God has given us wherewith we can observe, with utter awe, His great handiwork ("In the beginning God created . . ."). We can also observe, by comparison, the small contribution man has made to the present world scene. Of the five senses, undoubtedly vision lends the most vividness to life's scene as we behold the beauty of His creation. Along with the other four senses, it enhances our relationship to the Almighty and His world. We must concur with the Psalmist who said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

We are all made in a special way. We are individuals! There are no duplications in the Master's blueprint for us, His creatures. Our children are all special and have special needs; what a challenge for us to meet these special needs as best we can. Oftentimes we desire more insight into the developmental behavior of children and young adults, and we implore the Almighty for that insight. We are always encouraged when we see positive changes in our children's behavior patterns. Our behavior is a reflection of our attitude, and a change in behavior indicates a change in attitude. On our attitude hinges our ability to fulfill our place in this present world, and our residency in the world to come. It has been said, and rightly so, "It's not our aptitude, but our attitude that makes us what we are." Let's develop positive attitudes in all areas of life.

The first weekend in April we were treated to some positive attitudes as the staff and children were guests of the Princeville, IL congregation. On Saturday evening we were served a mouth-watering supper at the fellowship hall. This was followed by a short program by the Princeville youth and our youth, and a hymn sing rounded out the evening. We were all assigned sleeping quarters with various church families. The next day we all attended church, enjoying God's Word and rich fellowship. Before leaving for home, we were treated to a delicious pizza supper at Bro. Nick Knobloch's farm home. What a refreshing weekend. Thank you, Princeville congregation, for sharing with us.

Two boys from the Home accompanied our Administrator to Champaign-Urbana for College Weekend, and both felt they profited from the fellowship with our young believers.

Our children are taking part in various extra-curricular activities at school — several are involved in track, one will be in a play, and Thelma is looking forward to graduation. One house recently enjoyed a campout and a trip to Chicago where they viewed the skyline from the Sears Tower, visited O'Hare Airport and the Shedd Aquarium, and battled the Chicago traffic — all meaningful and learning experiences.

Among the gifts we continue to receive is an antique player piano. It is quite an attraction. We also appreciate the young people from our Bluffton

church who recently treated our children to an airplane ride.

Some gardening has been done, and we look forward to fresh produce in the not-too-distant future. It is always exciting to see the gardens grow. We plant and sometimes water, but God gives the increase.

Very recently, the staff traveled to Black Lake Lodge, a children's home, about an hour's drive from here. They were dinner guests of the Black Lake Lodge staff. They appreciate and value sharing ideas and experiences with co-workers in our field. The trip was pleasant and profitable.

Mother's Day in May is a time to remember our God-given mothers in a special way. They ponder many things in their heart, as did Jesus' mother. Our housemothers portray the mother's role so effectively here at the Home. Let's remember them and all mothers in prayer always.

Our annual Representatives Meeting was held Saturday, April 19, at the Home in the basement of the West House. Our two new Board members for a five-year term are Bro. Bob Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Jack Krantz (Morton, IL). Our two retiring Board members are Bro. Stan Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Urb Bauer (Cissna Park, IL). Our administrator and all the Board members present gave a presentation about certain aspects of the Home. Questions were asked by the audience and answered. Thanks to all the speakers, elders, and all who were in attendance, the meeting was very pleasant, productive, and informative. We feel new enthusiasm was generated for the Home and its objectives — to help children with special needs. Included in the presentations was an expansion program for future resident homes. A delicious noon meal was served at the Leo church for seventy-five people. Thank you, Leo sisters. An added benefit was the rich fellowship.

The most recent church presentations about the Home were at Oakville, IA, Princeville, IL and Indianapolis, IN. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home.

We are beginning to plan the schedule for our summer program and are looking for volunteers who would like to assist us. Our summer program will extend from mid-June through mid-August. Volunteers are encouraged to commit a time period of at least one

week (however, this can be flexible.) Please contact us by phone (219-627-2159) or by mail (Box 151, Leo, IN 46765) if you are interested and would like information, schedules, and applications.

Mark your calendars! Our annual auction is scheduled for August 16, 1986.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As the grass has once again turned from brown to green and the tulips, daffodils and flowering trees are all in gorgeous bloom, let us once more give sincere thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for all His love and goodness to us! This is especially relevant as we so recently celebrated our Lord and Savior's triumph over death and the grave. Many of our residents went home for Easter to be with their families and loved ones — a time cherished by all.

After being indoors most of the winter months, quite a few of our residents have been enjoying the lovely spring weather by taking walks and riding their bicycles. Everyone is eagerly looking forward to many spring and summer outings!

On Friday evening, April 14, our residents presented their annual "Talent Show" for their families and friends. It brought tears to many eyes as we watched them put forth so much effort to perform for us. They enjoy doing this immensely, and their hearts are in it completely from start to finish.

Birthdays are very special to our residents and they appreciate receiving cards and letters very much. Those who have birthdays in the month of May are: Judy McRoy, Sam Grimm, Melinda Crouch, Terry Stoller, Herb Stieglitz, Anna Stichling, Ray Virkler, Ruth Klopfenstein, Marilyn Schlipf, Marlene Moser, Jeff Holtz, and Charlene Hirstein.

With Mother's Day rapidly approaching, we would like to honor our mothers — those who have already gone to their heavenly home, and those who are still here doing a most important work. To those who are fortunate enough to have their mothers . . . appreciate them more each day. The following poem expresses our loving thoughts of a Christian mother.

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

It takes a Mother's LOVE
to make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
no matter where we roam . . .
It takes a Mother's PATIENCE
to bring a child up right,
And her COURAGE, and her
CHEERFULNESS
to make a dark day bright . . .
It takes a Mother's THOUGHT-
FULNESS
to mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her SKILL and her
ENDURANCE
to mend little socks and shirts . . .
It takes a Mother's KINDNESS
to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
and bow her head in prayer . . .
It takes a Mother's WISDOM
to recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
by her loving words and deeds . . .
It takes a Mother's ENDLESS
FAITH,
her CONFIDENCE and TRUST
To guide us through the pitfalls
of selfishness and lust . . .
And that is why in all this world
there could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
as completely as a MOTHER!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."
Romans 8:28

We have had many good teachings in our adult Sunday school. We have discussed the struggles and temptations of a Christian's life and how to work through the hard times. We were warned through the parable of the ten virgins to be prepared when Christ returns. I have enjoyed the sessions very much and find that they help tremendously in my Christian walk.

Bros. Elmer Schrenk and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) ministered to us. We heard about Satan's deceptive power but that we are serving a merciful God who sent Christ to shed His blood and to intercede for us. We should live every day as if it will be our last. It is so important to have a relationship with Jesus, our Savior. Our most important duty on this earth is to commit our lives

to God and then to be a servant and a disciple to others. God has promised a home in heaven for those who obey Him! Are you ready to meet your Maker? We thank the ministers for visiting and allowing God to speak through them.

We have had visitors from Cissna Park, Chicago, Eureka, Peoria, and Princeville, IL; Latty, OH; Burlington, IA; and Bay City, and Alto, MI. We enjoyed the fellowship with our visitors and hope they will come again.

We enjoyed a church picnic Easter Sunday. We went to a state park and enjoyed the beautiful sunny weather. The children participated in an egg hunt.

We are planning our summer program at the preschool. We appreciate the response from volunteers. We have heard from several who have let us know when they are planning to be with us. Others have informed us that they plan to come but aren't sure of the dates. Please let us know if you are planning to volunteer even if you are unsure when you can come. We would like to know as soon as possible. You can call Sis. Evie or myself at 205-233-0591. We appreciate anyone who could take time out of their summer to help here. God will bless you!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

We are happy to announce the arrival of Joanna Kathleen, born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer. Big sister, Bethany, and big brother, Joseph, also welcome Joanna, who was born February 20. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann (Peoria, IL) and Laszlo and Helena Kummer (Peoria, IL).

We would also like to welcome little Ryan Jay Knapp to our church. Ryan was born March 14 to Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa Knapp. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer and Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp, all of Tucson. Ryan had surgery a few weeks after being born but is now home.

Our congregation recently hosted the Bible classes from the California and Phoenix congregations. It is always so good to see our brethren and friends from these churches and spend time fellowshiping. We hope that through these gatherings our Bible class students will form a bond that will last and become stronger as they grow older and hopefully one day turn to the Lord.

Those of us who have attended past gatherings as friends and now as believers can appreciate just how special those bonds are and how important they are in our spiritual lives.

We had our annual Chili Supper last month. Our friend, Loyal Enz, once again supplied us with a plentiful supply of hot chili. We thank Loyal for his work and time.

We have been listening to the conference tapes the past few Wednesday nights. It is comforting to know how concerned our elders are about our spiritual welfare and also very humbling to be reminded of our duties as servants.

Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Lou Ann Funk of our congregation, recently suffered burns on his hands and other portions of his body in an electrical accident. Although we cannot imagine the amount of pain and suffering an injury of this type causes, we wish to let Bro. Tim know that our prayers and thoughts are with him so many times throughout each passing day. We also are praying for Tim's wife, Sis. Debi, as she is needed to lend support and encouragement to Bro. Tim during a time which is also difficult for her, as well as all of the members of Tim's family, both here in Tucson and in Peoria.

Bro. Richard Kraft, (Lamont, KS) has been spending time here in Tucson this winter working and congregating with us. We welcome Bro. Richard to Tucson whether it be temporary or permanent.

Our friend, Dean Sinn, has found grace to repent and turn his life over to the Lord. Dean is now living and working in the Tucson area. We welcome Dean to Tucson but most of all to the family of God which he now has a desire to be a part of. We want to encourage Dean in his repentance and hope that we can be a support to him.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Shirley Luthi

We extend a sincere thanks to visiting minister Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) who, during his recent visit, shared God's Word with us. We trust God will richly bless him for the blessings we received from his willingness to serve.

Sisters Mary Beth Klotzle (Altadena), Sherise Strahm (San Diego) and Susan Wagenbach (Washington, IL) have safely returned from a two-week

visit in Japan. We enjoy hearing about their many experiences including the loving hospitality and many kindnesses shown them by our precious brethren and friends in Japan. "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." Proverbs 25:25.

Early Easter morning those interested gathered at a local mountain overlooking the city to celebrate Christ's victory over the grave with songs of worship. This is an annual event for us and we are often blessed by visitors who join us during this special season.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, March 23, Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger served communion to our small group. Bro. Ed Ruehle was able to take communion with us.

Bro. Glen Hackenjos came and ministered on the resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday.

We thank the Altadena ministers for serving us God's Word.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic — Sherise Strahm

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity."

Ecclesiastes 11:8, 9 & 20

We rejoice with Rose Jevremov (Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna) as she begins her new walk with Christ.

With many prayers and thoughtful consideration, our group now assembles at Meadowbrook Middle School, located at 12320 Meadowbrook Lane in Poway. As always, we gather every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month and welcome visitors. For further information, please contact Bro. Peter Petrovic at (619) 489-5165 or Bro. Elmer Getz at (619) 484-2702.

Our appreciation is extended to our visiting ministers, Bros. John Klotzle and Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena), as we gathered around the precious Word.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

In all the years of mankind, never before has the coming of our Lord been so close. Perhaps in these last few days God's children will give more earnest heed unto scriptures such as Hebrews 12:5-8. "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." In light of such scripture and knowing that God works in many wonderful ways, we should look for His guiding hand wherever it may fall. We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) thought enough of us to give of their time and read wise counsel from the memorandum.

We extend a hearty welcome and warm greeting to Sis. Barb Baer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary, Princeville, IL). May she be fruitful in the Lord's work.

In the writing of the Old Testament, the saints that were old in faith are still referred to as lambs. We thank the Good Shepherd for watching over our dear Sis. Elizabeth Jivan, who was hospitalized recently.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

Our hearts rejoice with our dear friends, Dean and Joann Kupferschmid, who have found their new life in Christ. May God be ever by their side and watch over them.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

Christian Steven was born to Steven and Mary Ellen Trueb. Maternal grandparent is Siv P. Harvey and paternal grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Adele Trueb.

Elisabeth Anne was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane Ballasy. Grandparents are Sis. Marion Andrews and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy.

"... Jesus, friend of children..."
Zion's Harp # 167. David Cone, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Amy, was hospital-

ized this month. When our dear little children become ill, we realize so much more how a child is such a precious gift from God. May we always treasure our days with our loved ones. We are so pleased David can be back home again.

As Mother's Day and Father's Day approaches, we certainly all have much to be thankful for. Our parents' love, guidance and spiritual values are so important to our entering the heavenly gates where there shall be such joy and peace.

Graduation Day for our dear friends is quickly approaching. May their sights be set towards our heavenly Father and spiritual goals, as well as what their future may bring.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Billie Klopfenstein

March and April in south Florida are usually two ideal months, weather-wise, but this year March turned into the "rainy season", which normally doesn't begin until June. However, April has been ideal with bright, sunny skies and cool mornings and evenings, and warm, beautiful days.

Our annual Sunday school picnic and egg hunt was held Easter Sunday at a local park. There were still quite a number of visitors with us so we had a very nice crowd. All of our winter residents have now returned to their summer homes and we miss them but look forward to seeing them in the autumn.

The spiritual blessings bestowed on our congregation during the past month were just tremendous. Ministering Bros. Wally Ramsier, Paul Gasser, Art Gudeman, Ed Alt and Al Schneider gave us many good teachings to ponder. Everyone appreciates so much the efforts of our visiting ministers and also our local ministering brothers.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are thankful to hear once more about our Risen Lord at this blessed Easter time. Our hearts should ever be thankful for such great love!

We are thankful for our visiting ministers: Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL),

Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We also thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) who helped our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach to bring us holy communion. Communion is always such a blessing!

We are now at the time of the year when our "winter folks" go back north! Oh, we surely miss them, but are assured we have their prayerful support! We wish them all God's blessings till we meet again! Our assembly will be down to a precious few, but they are so precious! We are thankful to have two full-time ministers now, and we invite any visitors making their vacation plans to come south and visit our North Fort Myers church!

For all of those dear loved ones who have remembered our little grandson, Dathan, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please keep him in your prayers, as he still is not out of the woods. At this time we don't know much more, but he still can't see out of one eye!

At this time we also want to say a very special "thank you" to our "winter" minister, Bro. Art Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) and his wife, Mary. We miss them when they go home after having such beautiful times with their open hearts and home. May God bless them as only He can!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Lucille Heiniger

A daughter, Alyssa Nicole, their first child, was born March 27 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Siladie. She is also welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Adele Trueb (Rockville, CT) and George and Betty Siladie.

Our sympathy goes out to our dear Sis. Maria Bartoni in the loss of her dear husband, Philip. Besides Sis. Maria, he is survived by a son and daughter in California, his mother, two sisters and a brother. Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Doug Sabo had the services here. In his last several months here, he was able to repent and find peace with his God. May God be a comforter to her at all times and help to fill the void.

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord,

unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."

I Corinthians 11:26-28

How wonderful that our Lord arranged it that we can take inventory of our life and strive to align our lives with God's holy will before we observe this holy occasion. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Dale Eisenmann served communion to us the first Sunday after Easter.

Dathan Eisenmann had surgery a few weeks ago and is now improving. Also on the sick list is Sis. Elsie Lanz who is in the hospital at this time. We pray that each has a speedy recovery.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Melvin Getz on the passing of his mother, Sis. Laura Getz (Eureka, IL). Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Roche as Sis. Laura was a sister to Bro. Orval.

During the last couple of weeks our attendance on Sundays is getting smaller as those from the north return to their homes after spending the winter months with us here. We will miss each one, and if it is the Lord's will, we hope to see them again next fall.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ben Maibach and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We are glad when each comes and gives of themselves to expound the Word of God to us.

The workshop meetings of the World Relief are completed for this season. The committee thanks each one that felt it was worth their time to help in this needy work. May God bless you all.

NOTE: I wish to thank everyone for all the deeds of kindness, prayers, food, gifts and especially the brothers who stayed with Philip during the last days of his critical illness. I am sorry if I missed thanking anyone. May God bless each and every one.

Sis. Maria Bartoni

The collection for the Silver Lining is the month of June. Dues are \$7.00. If there are any additions or deletions desired, please contact your reporter.

Mother's Day will be past and Father's Day approaching when you get this issue. A daughter of some of our believing parents wrote this in tribute

to her parents on their recent anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MOM AND DAD

Forty years ago God brought you together
 To travel life's pathway through all kinds of weather.
 The family kept growing until you had four
 Delightful children to try you sore.
 Many hours of hard work on the farm were spent
 So you could feed us and pay the rent.
 We didn't know all the sacrifices you made
 But we knew we could count on you to come to our aid.
 The memories we have of our growing up years
 Bring us laughter, pleasure and even some tears.
 Through good times or bad, whatever it was
 We knew you loved us and cared — just be cuz!
 We then left home to find our way
 It hurt when we ignored what you had to say!
 Now praise be to God, we can rejoice
 Cause we've made the Lord our Number One Choice!
 Only after we became parents, too
 Did we really understand what we put you through.
 To all of us, you mean so much
 Only a Mom and Dad have that special touch.
 We know God will reward you some day
 For the love you've given us along the way.

Love,
 Your Kids

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

We are thankful to have had the opportunity and privilege to partake of holy communion April 4. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) for assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Koch in the serving of the Lord's Supper — "A precious time for us".

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank them for their labors of love.

Best wishes are extended to Alvie and Jacqui Eaton who were joined in marriage March 15. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Maxine Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Eaton. We wish them many blessings as they begin a new life together.

We congratulate grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari, on their new granddaughter, Ashley Jordan Kiefer. Bro. Rich and Sis. Gale are Ashley's parents.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred Vogel are new grandparents with the arrival of William Allen McCann. Paul and Becky are the proud parents.

The engagement of Bro. Tal Kaufmann and Sis. Heidi Haeffli was announced March 30. Parents of the couple are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haeffli (Peoria). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together.

May God bless our graduates with His guidance in all their future plans. Kathy Stoller (Lyle and Sis. Lois) and Jon Hofmann (Wilbur and Jeanne) are our graduates this year.

"Mother's Day is remembrance day
 And we pause on The Path Of The Year
 To pay honor and worshipful tribute
 To the Mother our heart holds dear
 For, whether here or in heaven,
 Her love is our haven and guide.
 For always the memory of Mother
 Is a beacon light shining inside
 Time cannot destroy her memory
 And years can never erase
 The tenderness and the beauty
 Of the love in a Mother's face
 And, when we think of our Mother,
 We draw nearer to God above,
 For only God in His greatness
 Could fashion a MOTHER'S LOVE.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

On Good Friday we were privileged to have our Sunday school students present to us a message in song about our risen Saviour. May our children receive a blessing from the messages in the songs as we were blessed with their beautiful singing.

Our congratulations are extended to Mike Rumbold and Shiela Henderson as they have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together. Their

parents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta and Jean Henderson.

The weekend of April 13 was inspiring for us and our many visitors who heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two young souls. We welcome Bro. Wes Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie) and Bro. Tim Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha) into God's family. Ministers with us for the occasion were Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Joe Stoller, as well as Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) and Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville).

We were privileged to have holy communion April 19. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) was here to help Elder Bro. Joe Stoller serve us the Lord's Supper. It is always so humbling to think of what Christ has done for us and how unworthy we are, just as a lamb in the flock. We want to thank Bro. Nathan for all his love and concern in this matter.

Also ministering to us this month were Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield). We surely want to thank all of them for the wonderful messages they brought forth and for all their efforts.

I am unable to fully express my deep appreciation and humble thanks to all members and friends of my beloved church, to our dear ministers and everyone who has remembered us in so many nice ways. It is indeed very strengthening to one's faith. Thanks to my dear family, relatives and friends who encouraged me so much. May God richly bless you for your deep love and sincere prayers.

Bro. Roy Ehnle

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28, 30

To the graduates:

THANK GOD FOR DISCONTENT

To graduate excites in me
 A most unusual pride,
 And yet surprisingly I find
 I'm still unsatisfied.
 I've barely scratched the surface of
 Rich wisdom concealed,
 And now I'm destined to seek on

Until more truth's revealed.
 Perhaps on shores of truth I stand
 Clutching one shiny stone;
 Perhaps disquietude I feel
 Is thirst for truth unknown.
 What if from Commencement Day
 Until God's Kingdom comes,
 I must in ranks of discontent
 Keep step with distant drums?
 What if unrest I feel today
 Is a blessing God-sent?
 Heaven's gift to graduates —
 Then thank God for discontent.

Perry Tanksley

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I am grateful that my Father in heaven is so patient with me. Even though He must often be saddened, He continually reminds and chastises me. When I have been most upset today, what did I see? On our Bible verse calendar on the table was, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Psalm 51:10. Along our journey a sign read: "Love not only gives. It also forgives." We tell our daughter the verses in Proverbs are addressed to females as well as males.

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life . . ."

Proverbs 6:20-23

So are we all grateful to our earthly parents for their continued care and prayer.

We were thankful for Bro. Earl Banwart's Easter visit. From West Bend, IA, to Chicago is a long journey. Truly we are blessed by each willing minister of the Lord.

We are ever welcoming, yet also letting people go. Paul Sauder, originally from Tremont church and now working in our area at Wrigley Research and Development, and Todd Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy), have sought the Lord in repentance. Their eyes and hearts and minds are opened, and the Lord is at work, performing all the miracles He has promised submissive souls. Surely we

are prayerful, joyful and awed in the Lord's perfect work and time.

We also have a new and perfectly teachable young man among us. He is Bruce Douglas Gottier, born April 15, to loving parents, Bro. Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier. His grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider and Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier (all of Rockville, CT). May the Lord bless Bruce and all the extra ties of love his coming creates among his relatives and his church family.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1. The Lord has granted Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Emily Lehmann more than three-score and ten years; however, the earthly years have taken their toll. Thus they have taken the opportunity to move into our new Elgin Resthaven. We will miss them, though we hope to see them at Resthaven. Their love and their faithfulness we will always remember. May the Lord grant them peace and contentment in Resthaven.

Sis. Sara Adam has lost a brother. Our hearts ache for those who are bereaved. So many thoughts must fill our minds; may the Lord provide the answers and the calm.

Osteoporosis has gotten a great deal of publicity in recent years. When the body, especially of a woman, doesn't get enough calcium and enough exercise, the bones become hollow. Since the bones "hollow" out over a period of many years, no one seems to be aware of the deficiency until a break occurs. We can perhaps think of our own spiritual self as a body which needs to be given the proper nutrients and exercise. For our spiritual skeleton to remain filled, so that we do not become brittle, we need much infilling of the Word and Spirit. Our prayer, reading and listening constantly, day by day, week by week, will help keep life in our bones. But also day by day, we are among those for whom Christ also died, and surely we must exercise our meekness, our goodness, our patience, our love, our joy, our peace, through Christ, in their presence and for their benefit. Satan cannot break us or any part of us in two if we apply this antidote. ". . . exercise thyself . . . unto godliness . . . godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." I Timothy 4:7, 8.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Elaine Sauder — Myrna Weerts

On Palm Sunday our congregation was blessed to hear the Sunday school children tell us the Easter story. We were reminded of the great price that was paid by our Lord and Saviour.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
 Through Thy blest sacrament, which
 we
 Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
 To Zion's realm and holy land.
 We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

On Good Friday, our congregation was privileged to partake in holy communion as we felt the nearness of the Lord.

Announcement was made on Easter Sunday of the engagement of Bro. Tal Kaufmann and Sis. Heidi Haefli. The parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haefli (Peoria). May God bless this young couple as they make plans for their future life together.

"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 Wednesday evening, April 16, Bro. Ezra Feller and Sis. Edna Hoffmann were united in marriage. May the Lord be with them as they continue their pilgrim journey together.

March 27 was a special evening for the elderly of our church. Our Sunday school children entertained them with a supper and program at the fellowship hall.

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,
 Nor pain nor death can enter there:
 Its glitt'ring tow'rs the sun outshine;
 That heav'nly mansion shall be mine.

Hymns of Zion #247

Bro. Lucien Kuntz, 95, formerly of Cissna Park, a resident of Fairview Haven Nursing Home for the past four years, died April 11 at St. James Hospital (Pontiac). Survivors include one son, Charlo (Cissna Park); three daughters, Katherine Nease (Waterloo, WI), Sis. Mabel Farney (Cissna Park) and Marguerite Shofler (Hoopeston).

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bro. Lucien Kuntz and also to Sis. Lucille Walder and to Sis. Anna Hari in

the passing of their brother, Wilbur Eberhardt.

We were blessed with visiting ministering Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), Walter Anliker (Eureka), Harold Emch (Girard, OH), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). Each ministering brother is so appreciated and we do thank each one for visiting us.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. George Bauer, Sis. Helen Lackey (surgical), Bro. Albert Kaufmann and Sis. Lilly Waldbeser. May the Lord bless each one with a full recovery.

She's a little old fashioned, that sweet mother of mine,
 There are many whose beauty will my mother's outshine;
 She's a little old fashioned as I plainly can see,
 But she is forever sweetest mother to me.
 She's a little old fashioned, that sweet mother of mine,
 Tho even her plainness now my heartstrings entwine,
 Other hands may be whiter but none other so dear,
 For they smoothed my pillow for many a year.
 She's a little old fashioned, she stays closely at home,
 So calm and contented altho others may roam;
 And in tender young childhood 'twas a shelter for me,
 And she who so graced it, dearest ever shall be.

Heavenly Highway Hymns #289

As our thoughts go to Mother's Day, we think of our dear mothers who taught us the way and have said many prayers on our behalf.

Our annual Sunday school meeting was held April 14. Our new Sunday school superintendent is Bro. Fred Waldbeser and incoming teacher is Bro. Max Kaeb. We wish them God's grace and wisdom in this important work with our youth.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
 Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

For a mother's love is fashioned
 After God's enduring love,

It is endless and unailing
 Like the love of Him above . . .

Helen Steiner Rice

May God bless all the mothers today, tomorrow and always.

We want to welcome back all those who were south for the winter. Praise be to God for their safe journey home.

Our loss is another's gain. We extend our farewells to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein and family. We were sad to see them go, but have faith that they will be welcomed joyfully in the Bluffton area.

Our hospital patients this month were Ruth Miller, Ida Eglin and Mark Funk. We pray our Lord will bless them with good health once again.

We want to extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Irene and Sis. Esther Schrock over the loss of their sister, Sis. Ida Graff (Milford, IN) and brother, Philip Rassi (Elkhart, IN). May God's love comfort them in the days ahead.

This month we were thankful to have Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, Bro. Vernon Leman, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) with us. May God bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
 Elizabeth Schambach
 Betty Bachtold

"Tell me the old, old story . . . of Jesus and His love." Tabernacle Hymns #116. Such was our blessed portion as our dear Sunday school children told of the agony Christ bore for us, His resurrection and the love He still bestows upon us.

Sara Schrock and Jeffrey Dietz exchanged wedding vows March 29. May their marriage be blessed with faith, tenderness and loving kindness. Parents of the couple are Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae Schrock and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford).

Bro. Frank Schock submitted to heart surgery and was able to return home. Nan Stettner (Don) was also able to return home following hip surgery. Sisters Helen Banwart and Mary Moser remain hospitalized at this time. We are thankful to God for restoring health where it can be His will and may His goodness and love be extended to those who must endure bodily afflictions.

We share our sympathy to Sis. Helen Liebig and to all the family of Sis.

Mildred Liebig Dietrich who passed away April 3 in Silverton, OR. Also our sympathy is extended to Ann Farney in the passing of her brother, Frank Schaaf, April 14. He was the son of George and Carrie Goll Schaaf and resided at Countryside Manor. May God comfort their hearts.

Bro. Kevin, Sis. Denise Kilgus and Amber have welcomed into their hearts and home little Natalie Rose, born April 14. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeannete Kilgus and Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka).

Visiting ministers include Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury). May God bless and reward our dear brothers as they so willingly give of themselves.

The first annual Benefit Bazaar for Apostolic Christian Resthaven will be held Thursday, June 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

A Mother is someone who knows all our needs,
 Our hopes and our dreams and desires,
 With a genuine interest in all that we do —
 Someone who guides and inspires.

A Mother's heart is so full of compassion,
 So generous, kind and forgiving —
 A Mother's smile is so loving and tender
 And adds so much gladness to living.

A Mother is someone with infinite patience
 Who soothes all our troubles away,
 Someone with limitless Faith in her children
 And love for them day after day.

A Mother is full of true wisdom and strength,
 Of loveliness, insight and grace —
 She's someone whose Love we will cherish forever,
 For no one can take "Mother's" place!

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
 Kathy L. Rocke

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. Due to boiler problems, we were unable to assemble in our church building for over two weeks.

How we take for granted that our church will always be open! We are thankful God saw fit that our church was spared from disaster and we are again assembling in it.

On Monday evening, April 7, many gathered to houseclean our church building. Surely many hands make the work light as we worked and could fellowship together.

“. . . thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” Psalm 23:4. Our Sis. Laura Getz passed from this life into eternity March 30. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, Bro. Jesse; one daughter, Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield); four sons, Bros. Melvin (Peoria), Merlyn and Jerry (Roanoke) and Allan (Eureka); four brothers, Bros. Raymond, Virgil and Harry (all of Eureka) and Orville (Sarasota); and one sister, Sis. Alvina Rocke (Eureka). May God truly comfort each heart.

Sisters Kathryn Schumacher and Ruth (Rocke) Schumacher have our sympathy in the passing of their brother and brother-in-law, George Swing.

Hospital patients this past month have been Merle Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy), Maurice Crawford, Bros. Tim Carr, Virgil Rocke and Brian Wiegand, Becky Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila), Sisters Viola Leman (Bro. Vernon), Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon), Kathy Lou Rocke and Sara Tanner (Bro. Paul). How thankful we are that the One who created our bodies is able to heal and restore!

We were thankful to hear that Norman Knapp (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean) has professed peace with God and is desiring baptism. We look forward to hearing his testimony of faith and conversion.

“God gave the world stars . . .
and there was beauty
God gave the world sun . . .
and there was warmth
God gave the world rain . . .
and there was life
God gave the world mothers . . .
and there was love”

Unknown

Soon we will be commemorating Mother's Day. May we ever be thankful for our Christian mothers!

The family of Laura Getz wishes to thank everyone for their love, deeds of kindness and sympathy during the loss of their dear mother and wife.

Jesse Getz & family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

On March 23, Bro. Ben Wiegand (Bro. David and Sis. Ethel, Urbana) and Sis. Michelle Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings in their future life together. Visiting ministers that day were Bros. David Wiegand (Urbana), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago).

Our Sunday school students presented their annual Easter program Sunday evening, March 23. It is always inspiring as they remind us of the suffering and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

Two homes were blessed with new babies. Wesley Martin was born to Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger April 7. He has one brother, Alex Lee, and his grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest). Travis Joseph was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner April 8. He has one sister, Jennifer Marie, and his grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury).

Bro. Reuben E. Fehr, 80, passed away April 11 after an extended illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sis. Carolyn, and to his children, Bros. Glenn, Wayne, Kenneth and Warren (all of Fairbury), and Sisters Jane Steidinger and Susan Fehr (Fairbury), Patricia Menold (Sabetha, KS) and also to Darlene Stork (Chatsworth), Loida Mueller (Sibley) and Kathleen Slagel (Pontiac). Also surviving are four sisters, Lavina Schmidgall, Caroline and Olive Fehr (Fairbury) and Elizabeth Meister (Ashkum) and five brothers, Joseph (Morton), Amos (Peoria), John and Edwin (Fairbury) and Bro. Herbert Fehr (Fairbury).

We also thank Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Carl Wyss (Washington) who visited here and ministered to us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

MOTHERS

Bless the one, Oh Lord above,
Who taught us how to pray;
Bless the heart who shares your love
With others day by day.

Bless the hands so sweet and kind
That serve you daily, too,
And when they weary let them find
New hope and strength in You.

Unknown

Our cups have been filled to overflowing as we've enjoyed inspirational messages from visiting brethren as well as our own brethren who share the pulpit. We thank Bros. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for sharing the precious Word with us. May God bless you for your efforts and may we as hearers bring forth the proper fruit in our lives.

Several of our loved ones have suffered misfortune or endured afflictions of the body. These include Bro. Ivan Steidinger, Sis. Alisa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene), Sis. Martha Honegger, Ed Schrof, Tom Bushman and Charles Leman. We're thankful for those restored to health and trust God will grant patience to those who wait upon Him for His healing powers.

A precious little daughter, Myra Michelle, has come to bless the home of Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger. Happy to have a little sister are Lynn, Carrie and Raya Jo. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Lisa Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) to David Doran has been announced. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for the future.

Our beloved Sis. Lydia Kilgus, wife of our retired Elder Bro. Henry, has finished her race and was called home to her eternal rest. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Henry and to their children: Bro. Earl (Remington, IN), Alice Myer (Bloomington) and John (Forrest). Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) was present to share the services with our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

As Springtime is synonymous with new life, we rejoice in a birth and in a soul experiencing rebirth through our Saviour. Brightening the lives of Dave and Pat Kuntz is little Christine Hope who arrived March 19. She is lovingly

held by Joshua and Angela, her brother and sister. Happy grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold (with whom Christine shares a birthday) and Bill and Maurine Kuntz (Goodfield). God has worked in the life of our dear friend, Jerry Mooberry. We are thankful God has granted him peace of heart, and we praise Him for His abundant grace.

On Good Friday we were permitted to partake of the Lord's Supper. We are indebted to Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) for sharing and assisting with this important task. Though our unworthiness weighed extremely heavy, we were humbly unified to rededicate our lives to His work.

We are grateful, too, for Bro. Steve Martin's (Eureka) ministry. By Sunday our spiritual tables seem barren and we are eager to fill them with God's spiritual food.

Easter sunrise services took us back in time to the morning when Christ's followers hastened to the tomb and were so mystified by what they failed to find.

This past month it was our joy and privilege to host the Lester, IA, Bible class and teachers. A very blessed weekend was enjoyed. We pray these young adults realize how truly precious is this fellowship of those of like mind and purpose.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Sis. Clara Zobrist for the loss of her sister, Esther Newlin.

Sympathizing tears have also flowed for Bro. Daniel and Sis. Verla Wiegand. They have experienced two great losses. Sis. Laura Getz, Sis. Verla's mother, and Sis. Lena Wiegand, Daniel's mother, were both called to their heavenly home. We beseech God on their behalf to send comfort. For their loving mothers and for all mothers:

NIGHT AND MORNING

The morning sits outside afraid
Until my mother draws the shade;

Then it bursts in like a ball,
Splashing sun all up the wall.

And the evening is not night
Until she's tucked me in just right
And kissed me and turned out the light.

Oh, if my mother went away

Who would start the night and day?

Dorothy Aldis

A mother is someone who can bring a touch of warmth to anything by simply being there.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

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

Romans 5:8

The love of God is one of sacrifice. When His love dwells in us, we, too, become willing to make any sacrifice that can help our brother or our fellow man. Christ's love that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit gives us the grace to even love our enemies. If we ever feel despitely used or mistreated, we, like Jesus, can pray, "Father, forgive them."

Recently we heard that the soul who blames others for his unhappiness must go to Calvary or he won't be healed. We must recognize that Jesus loved us and made His tremendous sacrifice for us while we were yet sinners. We did not deserve His love, we deserved to die. An unkind, inconsiderate person may seem undeserving of our love and kindness. There may be little virtue that we can perceive that could endear us to him. But when we remember our own former wretchedness and how in our unbelief we rejected our Lord and Saviour, we understand that because He loved us, we, too, must love the unlovely. Like Jesus, we, too, should be moved with compassion toward the wayward brother or those who are still in their sins.

We are thankful that two young men have turned to the Lord in repentance and faith. Curt Meiss (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan) and Trent Meiss (Ed and Sis. Barbara) are looking forward to baptism now that they feel they have the peace of God in their hearts.

God has blessed two homes with precious new daughters. Bro. Richard and Sis. Gale Kiefer are the happy parents of Ashley Jordan, who was born March 21. Ashley's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Louise Kiefer (Gridley) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari (Bloomington).

Tina Lee is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm. She was born March 29 and has a sister,

Tara, and a brother, Tyler. Tina's grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores Marti and Annie Gramm (all of Gridley).

Phil Meiss (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan) is engaged to be married to Melissa Hopkins (Mr. and Mrs. John Hopkins, Kettering, OH).

Alan Gramm (Bro. John and Sis. Mary) is engaged to be married to Pam Bouteille (Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Bouteille, Vina del Mar, Chili).

Bro. Harold Schmidtgal has been in the hospital.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Joanne Kaisner

On March 20, we had our Easter program. It was held at the Bloomington church. We were privileged to have the Bloomington choir sing a few songs for us. Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) had the inspirational message. We thank everyone who participated and attended.

The engagement of Sis. Heidi Haefli (Peoria) and Bro. Tal Kaufmann (Cissna Park) was announced. May God bless them as they plan their life together. They are both students at I.S.U.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) spoke on the Body, Soul and Spirit; Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) talked about the Word of God; and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) spoke on Singleness. We thank God for our ministers who are so willing to give of themselves.

We elected our new officers for the 1986-1987 school year. Bro. Alex Paton is president, Bro. Brian Fehr is vice-president, Sis. Joanne Kaisner is treasurer and Susan Kieser is secretary. A special thanks is extended to those who held the offices this past year.

Our last Bible study of the semester will be held May 1. Our summer Bible studies will be May 22, June 12 and 26, and July 10 and 24.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Our Easter program was March 23. We are thankful to be reminded of our Saviour's suffering, bleeding, dying and His triumphant victory over the grave. Let us continue to thank our heavenly Father for giving us all that living hope. We say thank you to all who participated in the Easter pro-

gram and to all who came to hear our program.

Easter time finds many loved ones coming home to be with their families. It is wonderful to see our loved ones when they come "home". We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and his family for coming "home" and ministering God's Word unto us.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Marty Belsley are very happy to welcome a new son, Marcus Lee, into their hearts and home. His sister, Nicole, thinks her new brother is precious, too. Marcus was born April 5. His grandparents are Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mabel Belsley (Morton, IL).

Sis. Lucy Hohnstreiter was called home. Her funeral was April 7. We pray that our heavenly Father will comfort and bless her family and friends.

We were so kindly reminded about deception and the end times by Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) April 12. We appreciate that Bro. Phil and his wife, Sis. Maureen, Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) could be with us for the weekend.

On Sunday, April 13, we held a potluck at our fellowship hall. We ended a blessed Lord's Day by singing hymns of praise unto our heavenly Father.

We have loved ones who are in the hospital, shut-in and who have lost loved ones. A note or card would let them know we are thinking of them.

Spring brings thoughts of graduation. We will have some graduating to schools of higher learning and some will be starting out on their vocations. May each loved one never forget to take time to study the greatest textbook of all — the Bible. May God bless all our graduates.

When we had hurt feelings or were physically hurt, who did we turn to for comfort? Many of us turned to Mother. Mothers are truly the heart of the home. Many of us are fortunate enough to be able to tell our Mothers how much we love and appreciate their Christian guidance. Some of us have precious memories of our dear Mother's care and prayers.

The memories of by-gone years,
My mother's love, my mother's tears,
The tho't of all her constant care
Doth bring the answer to her prayer.
O mother, when I think of thee,

'Tis but a step to Calvary;
Thy gentle hand upon my brow
Is leading me to Jesus now.
Tabernacle Hymns #294

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Margo Marx — Susi Herman

A TRIBUTE TO BUSY MOTHERS

A busy mother you may ask,
"How can I do these many tasks?"
'Tis true you can't do every one
But do what counts when day is done.

The children you and Father raise
Will someday leave to go their ways.
What will you think will come to mind
As thoughts back through their
memories wind?

A shirt that needs a button on,
Or Mother praising God in song?
A garden with its share of weeds,
Or when they helped plant tiny seeds?

Their Sunday shoes with all their scuffs
Their jacket with its tattered cuffs?
The time you had the house so clean,
No smudges on the windows seen?

So soon forgotten those will be;
But things of lasting worth they'll see —
The times you gathered round to bring
Praise to the Lord as all would sing.

The time you said that God is near
When frightened by a childish fear;
The time you stopped your work so
quick
When call for help came from the sick.

The Bible verses that you drilled
As with God's Word their minds were
filled;
The stories read at end of day,
The times you knelt with them to pray.

The comfort given when they cried
Because their only puppy died;
The times you held their hands so tight
When walking from the barn at night.

Oh, busy mother, don't despair
When dust collects on here and there;
And may God's wisdom you bestow
To guide your children as they grow.

Author Unknown

May we continue to pray for our
mothers and praise the Lord for their
loving kindness. May we have precious

memories of the mothers who have gone on before us.

It was very enriching to watch our Sunday school students present the Easter story in word and song. We trust each one will be blessed for the effort put forth.

As is the tradition in Peoria, on Palm Sunday, we partook of holy communion. Truly our Savior's suffering and His total sacrifice is brought to mind again as these words are heard: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Corinthians 11:26.

Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement of Sis. Heidi Haefli (daughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Tal Kaufmann (Bloomington), son of Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) was announced. We wish them God's blessings and guidance, and pray that they will put God at the head of their new home.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Minnie Maibach. She will be sadly missed by the Peoria congregation.

"There's a new name written down in glory . . ." As the song says, we are rejoicing with eight young souls who have turned from the world. On April 5 and 6 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Serena Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita), Sis. Kim Schaefer (Sis. Barb), Sis. Julie Dunbar (Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Aimee Hoerr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene). On April 19 and 20, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Lori Herman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Kristi Wilcox (Bro. Adam and Sis. Margo Marx), Sis. Amy Rieker (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Michelle Brewer (Sis. Kathy). We wish the Lord's blessings in their walk of life and as they face every decision may they find the Spirit of God.

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) richly provided us with spiritual food for thought. We are thankful when we have a visiting minister with us. May God bless Bro. Edwin for his gift of love.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the loved ones who have been hospitalized in the past month. They are Sis. Barbara Herman and Bro. Rudy Hoerr. We pray for God's healing power and strength for each one.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"Oh, friend so kind and truthful
come pour Thy spirit fruitful Upon
each prayerful heart!

Each time we come before Thee to
worship and implore Thee, Thy light
and grace to us impart."

Zion's Harp #215

We were able to drink from the
springs of Living Water when the Word
was brought to us by Elder Bro. Alfred
Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Terry Far-
ney (Wichita, KS), Bro. Uriel Gehring
(Leo, IN), Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern,
KS), Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont),
Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro.
Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS) and
Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).
May God bless them for bringing forth
God's message.

"And he took bread, and gave
thanks, and brake it, and gave unto
them, saying, This is my body which is
given for you: this do in remembrance
of me . . . This cup is the new testament
in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19, 20

We were privileged to partake of
holy communion on Wednesday eve-
ning, April 9. Elder Bro. Ed Ringger
(Gridley) assisted Elder Bro. Joe Stol-
ler. We thank them for their kind love
and willing service.

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of
Jesus,

to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving
grace.

In all the earth there is no higher
standing

than this — to follow in the Saviour's
ways

What all the world could never give,
A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd
will receive."

Zion's Harp #16

We rejoice as another soul has come
out of the world of sin and darkness.
Sis. Sue Herrmann gave her testimony
of faith and was baptized on March 23.
Her parents are Bro. Noah and Sis.
Evie Herrmann. May God's blessings
flow upon her pilgrim journey.

On March 23 we listened as the
Sunday school students told us of
Jesus' denial, suffering, death and
resurrection. We were reminded of the

sacrificial love of our heavenly Father
and His Son. May each student receive
a blessing for using their time and
talent for the Lord.

Two families in our congregation
have new little bundles of joy. Derek
Alan was born March 24 to Bro. Dana
and Sis. Martha Kay Regier. Grand-
parents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley
Kieser (Bradford) and Richard Regier
(Princeville).

On March 29, Kendall Robert joined
the family of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary
Stoller. He is welcomed home by big
sister, Rachel. Grandparents are Bro.
Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Al
and Sis. Judy Langhofer (Wichita, KS).
May God bless these family circles as
they nurture these dear little ones in
God's love.

On March 29, Bro. Daniel and Sis.
Natalie Feucht were able to celebrate
their 50th wedding anniversary. May
God continue to bless them as they
walk life's pathway together.

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

Deuteronomy 31:8

Surgical patients have been: Jay El-
sasser, Bro. Jim Elsasser and Sis. Rita
Menold. Also hospitalized was Bro.
Willie Stahl. May God's hand heal and
restore according to His will.

On April 4, Russell E. Streitmatter
passed away. Funeral services were
held April 7. We extend our sympathy
to his sister, Sis. Edith Martin.

"Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go
Anywhere He leads me in this world
below;

Anywhere without Him dearest joys
would fade,

Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid."

Hymns of Zion #179

Our prayers go with Sis. Barb Baer
as she relocated to Denver, CO. Sis.
Barb will be missed by our Princeville
congregation. May God bless our paths
wherever they may lead.

"The world always needs fathers who
give guidance by the lives they live . . .
fathers who teach young hearts to find
beauty, compassion and peace of
mind."

Hadin Marshall

"They that wait upon the Lord shall
renew their strength; they shall mount
up with wings as eagles; they shall run,
and not be weary; and they shall walk,
and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

Mother's Day is a special day for all
of us to thank God for our Mothers. For
those of us who are Mothers, may we
stay close to the Lord and strive to be
good examples to our children.

On Palm Sunday we were able to
commemorate the Lord's Supper. Let
us always have a thankful heart and
appreciate what the Lord has done for
us. We especially thank Elder Bro. Bob
Grimm (Goodfield) for helping with
this service.

We appreciate the efforts of our
visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Jesse
Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Marvin
Schmidgall and Bro. Steve Martin
(Eureka) and Bro. Art Baurer (Prince-
ville) in bringing God's living Word to
us.

Irvin O. Beer, 80, passed away
March 22. Surviving are one brother,
Roy R. Beer (Roanoke); and two sis-
ters, Mrs. Anna Hangartner and Sis.
Margaret Beer (both of Roanoke).

We extend our sympathy to the fami-
ly of Sis. Laura Getz (Eureka) and
especially to her sons, Bro. Merlyn and
Bro. Jerry of our congregation.

The Bible class of Francesville, IN,
and their teachers were visitors April 5
and 6. It brings a joy to our heart when
we see our young people together and
may the efforts of the teachers be
richly blessed.

Hospital patients this month were
Aaron Blakey, Sis. Rose Sauder, Sis.
Dorothy Pfister, Bro. Morris Knapp,
Matthew Leman (Russel and Joan),
Harlow Blunier and Scott Aeschleman
(Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill). May God
bless them with restored health ac-
cording to His will.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

O, Mother, when I think of thee,
Tis but a step to Calvary;
Thy gentle hand upon my brow
Is leading me to Jesus now.

Tabernacle Hymns #294

Visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Jim Byrd (Roanoke). We thank each for giving of themselves and may they soon return.

We were again so wonderfully reminded of the crucifixion and death of our Lord this Easter season, as our Sunday school presented their Easter program for us. We thank all who participated, both students and teachers.

Bob Mooney and Bro. George Lang both had surgery. We are sorry their names were omitted last month. Also having surgery this month are Sis. Arlene Huette (Bro. Ken), Sis. Marie Schmid, Sis. Sophia Sauder and Sis. Lena Sauder. Lisa Koch (Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Julie) was hospitalized with pneumonia. At this writing Sis. Sophia Steiner (Bro. Dan) is in the hospital.

Sis. Emma Aberle (Bro. Al) dislocated her shoulder in a fall. She is recuperating at home. We are thankful that most are back assembling with us again.

Bro. Stan and Jennifer Koch are happy first-time parents of Elizabeth Marie, born March 26. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Matilda Koch. May God give them the grace to rear her in the fear and nurture of God's Word.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle (Walter) Wiegand are making their first home here in Urbana following their wedding in Fairbury March 23. They both are completing their senior year here at U. of I. May God bless their new life together as husband and wife.

We are thankful that Sis. Alisa Hamilton is already back in our midst after her recent surgery.

Our traditional early Easter morning brunch was again enjoyed at Jerry and Lois Vogel's.

Our University of Illinois students hosted college weekend at the Urbana High School April 5 and 6. The weekend offered the opportunity for young people to assemble together, focusing on their spiritual lives through teaching and fellowship. The theme for the

whole weekend was Relating To One Another In Love, based on John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Speakers on Saturday included Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Joe Braker (Morton) and ministering Bros. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Earl Ringger (Gridley). A total of nineteen ministers attended the Saturday discussion groups which focused on the uniqueness of Christian friendship. The Sunday service was shared by ministering Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). Our love and appreciation to each of these ministers. A total of 254 people were fed Saturday and 200 on Sunday.

We bid farewell and pray for God's direction and blessings for Dave and Karen Yergler and daughters, Genae and Macah, as they leave our congregation for their new home in Polo, IL (northern Illinois).

We are thankful that Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) could be with us for Wednesday evening Bible class and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) for Sunday services.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Ellen Cox

"... That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

"After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:23-26

We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for serving us holy communion Saturday evening, March 22.

Our Washington congregation enjoyed having several from the Eureka congregation worship with us while their assembly's furnace was being repaired. It was inspiring to see so

many of our benches filled and to hear the beautiful singing.

We are grateful to Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) for ministering to us this past month.

Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal) spoke at our recent Bible studies. Bro. Steve spoke on Humanism and Bro. Kevin on Discipleship. We truly appreciate the efforts of these brothers whose teachings help us to "... put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Evelyn Ringger — Lucille Isch

"... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" Mark 1:15. We rejoice with these ten precious souls who have given their testimonies and were baptized: Jon and Melissa Elliot, Sherry (Reinhard) Snodgrass, Martha (Gerber) Lobsiger, Troy and Brenda Kipfer, Chris Frauhiger, Myron Kaehr, Mike Barger and Stacey Cook. Bro. Philip Stettner and Bro. Robert Meyer assisted Bro. Orville Ringger in this blessed occasion.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Debbie Reinhard's baby, Curt, underwent surgery and is recuperating nicely. Other hospital patients were Sis. Marie Kipfer (Bro. Joe), Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice) and Sis. Lydia Steffen.

Our best wishes go to Kevin Reinhard and Shelly Rhodes who recently were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rhodes, and grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Ada Gerber.

We rejoice with Bro. Charles and Sis. Ida Meyer as they commemorated their 60th wedding anniversary April 3. Bro. Ray and Sis. Viola Ringger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 13.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

After the clouds, the sunshine,
After the winter, the spring,
After the shower, the rainbow —
For life is a changeable thing;

After the night, the morning
Bidding all darkness cease,

After life's cares and sorrows
The comfort and sweetness of peace.
Helen Steiner Rice

Our hearts and prayers are with our dear friend, Jodi Towle (Jeff), daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch, who has been seriously hurt in an accident and is in the hospital. Yet we rejoice in the spirit with her, as she has placed her heart and her life in our Saviour's hands.

Also repenting is Larry Bertsch (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Wava). May his new life be full of joy in the Lord.

Others who have spent time in the hospital are Michael Hoover (Phil and Cindy) and Sis. Lydia Steffen. We pray they both feel God's healing hand.

Many parents and teenagers were privileged to listen to ministering Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton), who spoke to them on the ever important subject of Communication during morning Bible class, April 13. Bro. John also ministered to the congregation in the afternoon. We thank Bro. John, Sis. Pam and boys for sharing the day with us.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is remembrance day
And we pause on the path of the year
To pay honor and worshipful tribute
To the Mother our heart holds dear . . .
For, whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide.
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside . . .
Time cannot destroy her memory
And years can never erase
The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face . . .
And, when we think of our Mother,
We draw nearer to God above,
For only God in His greatness
Could fashion a Mother's love.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

READY

Ready to suffer grief or pain
Ready to stand the test,
Ready to stay at home and send
Others if He sees best.

Ready to speak, ready to warn,
Ready o'er souls to yearn

Ready in life, ready in death,
Ready for His return.
Hymns of Zion #124

These words could have been spoken by our dear Bro. William (Bill) Rapp as he passed from this life Sunday, March 30, at 90 years of age.

Just two days earlier, March 28, Bro. Bill and his dear wife, Sis. Esther, testified of having peace in their hearts with God and man, and were baptized before a cloud of witnesses at the Parkview Haven Retirement Home. Our prayers go out to Sis. Esther that her newly found peace and faith in God will sustain her in every lonely hour.

Another dear one testified of peace with God before going to rest. Hazel Huber (Fort Wayne, IN) spent her final days of a lingering illness in the Parkview Haven Retirement Home where she received loving care. Hazel passed away Thursday, March 27, at 62 years of age. We extend our sympathy to her remaining three sisters and five brothers. The loss of those close in heart always leaves a void that can't be totally filled until we can meet above.

We also extend our thanks to Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) for sharing with our home ministers in Hazel's funeral services. We were given the opportunity to compare our lives to the "Mirror" of God's Word.

The spirit of true humility was evident in each of five new brothers and sisters who gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized April 19 and 20. They are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina (Denton) Tanner, Bro. Allen Pelsy and Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri (Polf) Pelsy.

Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted in this wonderful work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for lending themselves.

One evening my husband and I were talking about the church of Ephesus that was told in Revelation 2:4, "Thou hast left thy first love."

I asked him what he thought that meant, and he brought up the five converts that were just baptized — how when souls are in true repentance their hearts are set on doing what really matters. They love coming to church and being with believers whenever possible, they have submissive, willing-to-learn attitudes, and esteem others better than themselves.

I was humbled to think how easy it is to get away from that fervent first love

and spend time thinking and doing things of no lasting value. May we all strive to be part of the church of Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-11).

News of three little babies brought joy to us this past weekend.

On March 25, Olivia May was born to Dean and Leona (Yaggie) Speece. Olivia has one sister, Krystle, and her happy grandparents are Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois Yaggie.

Mike and Corinne (Gutwein) Dornhecker (Denison, TX) gave birth to a little girl, Elyse Annette March 31. Elyse has one older brother, Weston, and her grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Adeline Gutwein.

Tyler Joseph was a welcome addition to Bro. Harvey Bob and Sis. Ellen Gutwein's family. Tyler was born April 15 and has four older sisters and brothers, Nicole, Heather, Stuart and Lance, to help care for him. Tyler's grandparents are Harvey and Marilyn Gutwein.

We heartily welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene (Von Tobel) Sutton and their son, Samuel, from the Phoenix, AZ church to Francesville. Bro. Tim is employed in the area. We know they are missed in Phoenix, but at the same time are glad to have them here and wish them God's blessings wherever the Lord leads.

Sis. Yvonne Gutwein (Bro. Carl) was hospitalized, but we are happy to see her back with us again. Our continued prayers are with Sis. Mary Westfall (Bro. Carl) and their family as she undergoes treatments.

A special thanks fills my heart at this time of year for the Godly parents and grandparents God has given. May God richly bless each of you.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Kathy Freed — Gail Bradford

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Bonnie Vollmer at the birth of their first child, Joshua Robert. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich and Robert and Helen Vollmer (Francesville).

We gathered early in the morning on Easter Sunday to praise the Lord for the gift of His Son, and to rededicate our lives to Him.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Jesse Beer (Milford) shared communion with us Saturday, April 5. We enjoyed the fellowship of a church dinner Sunday. Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) also visited us. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo) informed us about

the activities and future plans of the Leo Children's Home. Also attending the presentation were: Bros. Tom Speicher (Milford), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Dale Strassheim (Milford) and John Bollier (Leo).

Bro. Uriel expressed thanks for the dedication of the staff at the Home, and asked for prayers in their support. These children all lack the foundation of a secure and loving home, which is extremely difficult to rebuild. But as Bro. Uriel asked, "Where would they be, if not here?"

It may seem that each of us can do so little to ease the pain around us. But emboldened by the Lord's example, and encouraged by His teaching, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. When we think of those in need, whether at home or afar, deeds and prayers should follow our thoughts. Our hands cannot minister where our feet don't take us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Debra Nuest — Sandy Heinold

Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) was with us for our monthly Wednesday evening Bible study concerning Humanism. Bro. Steve pointed out how Humanism, being a worldly religion, believes in a "live for today", "do your own thing" type of thinking. Let us be on guard against these thoughts which can enter our minds. Although we are in the world, let us not find ourselves running with the crowd, and partaking of the things of this life which can be so detrimental to our spiritual health and welfare.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington). We sincerely appreciate these brethren sharing the Word with us.

Our dear Sis. Clara Heiniger, who is at the Parkview Nursing Home, will be having her 78th birthday May 27. We want to thank her many dear friends and relatives who have remembered her. She no longer is able to write or answer the many letters she did so much enjoy.

NOTE: We hope many will remember Sis. Clara with a birthday greeting.

The Editor

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.

Proverbs 17:6

A special day in May and a special day in June have been designated to honor mothers and fathers. That family is indeed blessed who now has or has had Christian parents who have always been there with good advice, guidance, care, provision and love. Many who follow Him can say, "Thank you, dear parents, for being examples of faith and love of the Lord."

"If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the scriptures."

(Daniel Webster)

The following serious question is addressed to all fathers today:

"Take stock of yourself and consider your child,

Your time and your thoughts are his due;

How would you answer your God should He ask.

What sort of father are you?"

Anonymous

A child is more likely to see God as Father if he sees God in his own father.

(Our Daily Bread)

Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita Klopfenstein have been given added joy and responsibility in parenting with the arrival of baby, Abby Rose, who joins her brother, Austin. Welcoming grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein.

We thank Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) for his recent visit and ministry to our congregation.

You have often heard the cliché, "Life begins at forty," but ask the youngster when he will have an exciting, pleasant, satisfying life, and he will answer, "When I'm in school!" Ask the pupil in school, and he will answer, "When I'm out of school!" Ask the young adult, and he will answer, "When I'm successful!" Ask the busy family man, and he may answer, "When the children are grown up!" Ask the older adult the same question, and he will probably answer, "When I retire!" Ask

the elderly person, and he will answer, "When . . . when . . ."

TODAY life can become peaceful, satisfying with deep joy if it is surrendered to Him and lived in Him . . . Happiness? Oh no, not always, and maybe not even often, for happiness is so dependent on happenings, and we have not been promised a rose strewn pathway in this life. Into every life some rain must fall; but the Christian has so many promises to claim:

I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.

Joshua 1:5

Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy.

Psalms 16:11

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

Isaiah 26:3

My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33:27

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven.

Matthew 5:12

And on and on! Beautiful promises! Dear friends, Come and Taste, and See.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser

"The Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with Thee; He will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6

The promises of God are flawless, unending and everlasting. As His beloved children, we can claim His promises daily and in all life's situations. Some in our church family have needed a special measure of God's strength in recent weeks.

Little Simon Beer, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, and Sis. Helen Baumgartner were hospital patients. Kayla Tinkey, Thad and Sis. Sonya's daughter, is wearing a cast on her leg. Sis. Emma Furrer (Wolcott) is also recovering from a broken leg in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Marcy and Bro. Steve Haab. We ask God's blessing of healing for each.

One family, in a very brief time span, said their final goodbyes in this life to two loved ones. Sis. Ida Graff went to be with the Lord March 22. We offer our sympathy to her family, especially her sons, Bill, John and Doug; and her sisters from the Milford area, Sis. Helen Baumgartner, Sis. Leona Price and Sis. Betty Beer. Only weeks later these same sisters experienced another loss with the death of their brother, Philip Rassi. Again it is good to remind each other that the promise of Deuteronomy 31:6 is sure!

Spring brings new beginnings and blessings. Benjamin Lynn, born April 5, is the newest little blessing in the Schlipf family. Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy are his happy parents and Rob, Katy and Kristi, his brother and sisters. Welcoming a new grandchild are our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Sis. Shirley and Carl and Lola Schlipf (Gridley). "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalm 127:3.

"The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Moreover, by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping them there is great reward." Psalm 19:9 and 11. We thank our visiting ministers for encouraging us to be faithful to God's Word. They were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo), Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH).

Bro. Dale Strassheim has for some time been living and working in the Minneapolis area. His wife, Sis. Carol, and their children, Angie, Brian, Eric and Alison, will be joining him in their new home in May. A farewell singing is planned for April 27 in their honor. In Psalm 19:8 we read, "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." We gratefully acknowledge the various ways Bro. Dale has served our church through the years and most recently, as a minister. We thank Bro. Dale for being a yielded vessel through which God could "rejoice our hearts and enlighten our eyes". Our congregation will miss this dear family and the blessing of their fellowship, but we know God will use them to bless others in a way He chooses, wherever they go. The words of "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" take on special meaning.

"When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain.

But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again."

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

WHERE THERE ARE HOMES

So long as there are homes to which
men turn, at close of day;
So long as there are homes where
children are,
where women stay —
If love and loyalty and faith be found
Across those sills —
A stricken nation can recover from
Its gravest ills.
So long as there are homes where fires
burn, and there is bread;
So long as there are homes where lamps
are lit, and prayers are said:
Although people falter through the
dark —
And nations grope,
With God Himself back of these
homes —
We have sure hope.

Grace Crowell

Experiencing the joy of motherhood again is Sis. Brenda Clark. Her husband, Bro. Ron, and children, Rochelle and Justin, welcome Braden Vance into their home. He was born March 28 and his grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and James and Lorraine Clark (all of Remington).

Our graduates from high school this spring are: Greg Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) and Sue Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen).

Our brotherhood partook of communion April 13. Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) gave their time to our congregation for this purpose.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life . . . Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 11, 12, 28

How thankful we were, and are, for our virtuous mothers. We hope and pray many, many more mothers will follow their examples.

Our thoughts do turn, especially at this season, to those whose lives were

sacrificed in the service of our country. It is our prayer that more names may not need to be numbered with them.

We were blessed with the fellowship of a group of brethren from Bluffton on a recent Sunday. Following church services a dinner was served, and then a time of singing of hymns was enjoyed. Thank you for coming.

Bro. Steve Stoller (who has been employed here for a while) is happy to have his wife, Sis. Anna Marie, and children, Andrea, Natalie, Ned, Neil, Michelle and Lana (Princeville, IL) join him in establishing their home in Wakarusa. We gladly welcome them into our church family.

It has been called to my attention that some travelers have trouble in finding our church since it is called the South Bend church. Its location is just off of 331 on Madison Road. It is about 9 miles north of Bremen or about 7 miles south of Mishawaka. The phone number is 633-4921. We welcome visitors.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Peggy Huber — Cheryl Bucher

"What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding? The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming . . ." What a joy to see the grass become pretty green and see the blooming of the early spring flowers. There is truly an awakening of all of God's creation.

Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) were our recent visiting ministers. Our hearts were lifted up and encouraged in the ways of the Lord. We know God will be the rich rewarder of those who so willingly and tirelessly serve others.

Sis. Judy Paarlberg (Bro. Wayne) was recently hospitalized, but she is home and feeling better.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Lily Vogt

We have been blessed this past month with ministers willing to travel over the miles to proclaim God's Word. We would like to express our thanks to Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford). May the Lord bless each one in His loving care.

As the school year is drawing to a close, there are loved ones who will be finishing their schooling. Those graduating are Sis. Jody Waibel, Bro. Chris

Ledford, Dan and Loren Gutwein. Rejoicing with them, we pray they will look to God for further direction in their lives.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

Our hearts were uplifted as we gathered together for holy communion. May we go forth with new courage to fight the battle against Satan and may we be able to say "Victory in Jesus". Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred in this most solemn occasion. May they be blessed for their efforts in carrying out the Lord's will.

We always receive a special blessing when we have visitors who come and spend a Sunday with us. Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) brought us many wonderful teachings this month. A sincere thank you to these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

Sis. Emma Furrer suffered a leg injury and is recuperating at the home of her daughter, Bro. Steve and Sis. Marceil Haab (Milford). Our thoughts and prayers are with her. We trust that God will add His healing touch so she may soon assemble back with us.

Congratulations to our graduates! Troy Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita), Sis. Sandy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Cindy Hopkins (Sis. Diane) will graduate from high school and Tony Albrecht (Roger and Marilyn) will graduate from college. May God direct their paths whether they seek higher education or employment.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Dixie Messner

We gathered together to do our annual church housecleaning Saturday morning. When we all work together, time flies and before we know it everything is shiny and clean. As we were cleaning, we had to think of the upcoming communion. The comment was made that just as we have to clean God's house, we must also clean our hearts so God can continue to dwell there.

We want to thank Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for sharing this holy sacrament with us.

Graduates from high school this year are Bro. Landon Rowell, Sis. Timna Taeger and Sis. Carolyn Massner. We

are thankful those young people have chosen first to serve God, and trust that God will now direct them how to serve others too.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 28

With grateful hearts our thoughts turn to our mothers in appreciation for all they do for us. How often they willingly make sacrifices for our benefit. May God grant them each a special blessing this Mother's Day.

We are happy that Bro. Lawrence Butikofer's health has improved and he can again worship with us. Bro. Lawrence had major heart surgery last December.

In referring to worldly events, many of us have heard the expression, "I'll buy my ticket at the gate." But let's remember that there will be no tickets sold at the gate of heaven. Preparation must be made in advance. Let's prepare now!

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Sally and Glen Funk

We thought spring had arrived with lots of beautiful weather, but we certainly had a cold front arrive to remind us of God's power, and how quickly he can change anything, especially nature.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Rachel Smith have moved from Garden Grove to Leon. They still attend our church. We are happy for them in their new home. Their address is: Eugene Smith, 702 Eastland Avenue, Leon, IA 50144.

We have a new baby in our church for everyone to enjoy. He is Joseph William, son of April and Buck Parmer. Joseph has a proud brother, Aaron. He was born February 22 and his grandparents are Donna and Ernie Parmer and Sis. Verle Funk. Great-grandmother is Sis. Bertha Moser.

Our Sunday school children enjoyed a weekend at Pulaski, IA. Many thanks to the brethren there for all their efforts and for inviting us.

On April 14, Elder Bros. Sam Huber and Ed Lanz came to us and read the memorandum. We had a wonderful evening and thank them and their wives for their time and efforts.

Thanks to all the visitors we have had this past month, and to Bro. Roger Aberle for coming to minister to us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Our congregation was blessed with having several visiting ministers this month, including Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL), Carl Feucht (Lester, IA) and Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We greatly appreciate the efforts that they and their families put forth to serve us.

We had the privilege of hearing the memorandum this month. While we were encouraged and exhorted, the overwhelming love of our elders for our church and each member individually was so evident. May we each strive daily to do our part in holding up their arms by supporting them through prayer and obedience.

We owe our hearts, our lives, our everything to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ, for our perfect salvation. He gave His life for us; should we begrudge anything He may require of us? There is so much liberty in Christ if we only seek earnestly to do His will. "If it pleases you to please God, you can do as you please."

It really is not difficult
A blessed man to be;
We trust the Lord with good result,
And live in Him so free.

Then one is neither slave nor lord
But just a happy child,
Becomes more blessed as he gives
His life to Him so mild.

We do not view our labor as
A task that we must do;
The Lord in us at all time has
Done what He asks to do.

Zion's Harp #169

IOWA, LESTER

Mary Ellen Knobloch

Kathy Metzger

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation, heed the word of God today." We rejoice that Kim Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy) has heeded God's call and is working out her soul's salvation. May we continue to remember Kim and all our converts in our daily prayers.

The weekend of April 6 brought Bro. Floyd Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Zelt-

wanger into our midst along with a large group of visitors from Morris, MN. We appreciate the ministering brethren and the efforts they put forth in expounding God's Word to us.

Our only hospital patient this month was Lou Moser. We are thankful to report he is home and has recovered fully. When sickness befalls any one of us, we are assured God's grace will help us to bear the infirmities of the flesh.

Along with spring comes graduation and with graduation comes many new horizons for those involved. Our high school graduates include: Derek Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Matt Knobloch (Gilbert and Sis. Vicki), Virgil Knobloch (Orvie and Lauretta), Lynn Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce), Trent Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Bart Metzger (Keith and Mary), John Metzger (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane), Leslie Roeman (Bro. Edward and Sis. Amelia), Brent Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline), Lisa Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor), Sherri Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris), John Popkes (Sis. Eleanor), Anita Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley). Our college graduates are as follows: Sis. Kim Feuchtenberger and Sis. Paulette Feucht, both with RN degrees from Sioux Valley School of Nursing, Dawn Martin Metzger with an associate degree in Business from Sioux Falls College and Bro. Blair Metzger with a degree in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University. May each graduate seek God's help with decisions regarding higher education or employment.

A TIME OF WAITING

Motherhood is a courageous field
We meet many that want to try.
Soon we find a family begins
As Mom "waits" for the newborn cry.

Babies and toddlers; through
Sickness and health Mom does learn.
Soon a school bus comes into view
As she "waits" for their return.

Junior High and High School and
Leaving home brings busy days.
Tears of joy and sadness mingled
As Mom "waits" on her knees and prays.

Yes, Motherhood is a blessing
We realize it more and more.

But the greatest blessing of all
Is a Mother who "waits" on the Golden
Shore!

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp — Sarah Teubel

We were blessed to hear messages spoken by Bros. Merle Kaisner and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) this past month. We were also blessed, the same weekend, with the Fairbury, IL, and Winthrop, MN, Bible classes. Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6.

Graduation soon will be upon us. Khristi Wuthrich and Bro. Matthew Musselman will be graduating this spring. We wish them the Father's nearness as they embark on a new beginning.

Bro. Russel Wuthrich was a hospital patient this month.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, we are reminded of our precious Mother's love. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Proverbs 31:28.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

On Sunday evening, March 23, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr serve us holy communion. "This cup is the blood of my new covenant, Which for many sinners I have shed; There-in lies the promise and the power, Of each one who unto sin is dead." (Zion's Harp #26). We appreciate the many precious teachings they have laid to our hearts.

"There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave," (Gospel Hymn #40). We are happy and thankful that Patty Banwart (Art and Madeline) has been announced having peace with God and man. We look forward to her testimony and baptism.

Recent surgical patients who have again returned home were Sis. Marilyn Banwart (Bro. Victor) and Sis. Anne Schmidt. Also hospitalized were Jerry Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) following a motorbike accident and Bernadine Jurgens. Bernadine is now a resident at Clear View Manor. Bro. Ray Anliker (Sis. Louise) is presently a patient in a Sioux Falls, SD hospital while Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner) is in the hospital in Des

Moines. We trust that the Lord will provide daily for each one.

We are happy to report a new daughter, Heidi Ann, in the Tim and Gloria Mogler home with big brother, Justin, to help welcome her. Grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly Mogler and Max Wilcox (Emmetsburg).

Ron Fehr, son of Judy Gates (Don) and Rodger Fehr, is engaged to Sandy Iben (Ogden). We wish them God's blessings.

Life is like the seasons
Each one its changes bring,
A fertile seed takes root and grows
Thus youth is like the Spring!

Louis H. Guenther

Our congregation has four seniors that soon will be graduating. They are: Anne Banwart (Paul Jr. and Emmy), Diane Fehr (Eldon and Verdell), Tammy Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) and Tammy Schmidt (Jim and Sherry).

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

Spring has finally arrived following a mid-March snow storm. The cool temperatures this spring caused a delay in the blossoming of the peach trees in this area. As the anticipation of the beautiful blossoms grows and the trees finally display their full splendor, it is a reminder that God's plan and timing is always perfect. Waiting for the blossoms to open, like for God's will to unfold, is usually well worth the lesson in patience.

"And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." I Corinthians 11:24. On April 6, we were served holy communion by Elder Bros. Willis Ehnle and Don Sauder. Taking part in this blessed event is a special reminder of the death of our Lord and Saviour and the sacrifice He made for us. It is so humbling to think we can never show enough thanks to God for the gift of His Son.

It is really a wonderful thing, the Love of God. It binds the hearts of His children together to form a lasting fellowship. Again, we have been blessed with many visitors. Bro. Frank's parents, Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder (Roanoke), Sisters Mary Beth Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Sherise Strahm (San Diego, CA) and

Susan Wagenbach (Washington, IL) were with us recently. We are thankful that the way to Japan opened up for them and that they could share in and contribute to our fellowship here.

Tom Ehnle has returned to Japan to spend the next few months here with his parents. We are happy to have him here and hope he will have a blessed stay.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and flowering bushes are all in full bloom here in Japan, and we are reminded of God's goodness and blessings to us as the season changes from winter to spring.

We all experienced a "springtime" in our lives as we heard the blessed story of the cross and then the glorious resurrection truth Easter Sunday. On that day we were especially privileged to have in our midst Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder (Roanoke), parents of Bro. Frank, who serves here. The Scriptures of Mark 16 and John 20 were explained to us of the great love Jesus our Saviour had for mankind. The closing sentence given in the message was: "If we have the proper love for our brethren and fellow man, all the mysteries of life will be revealed to us." This gave us much food for thought as it takes prayer and asking for God's grace to love our brethren and our neighbors as ourselves. Several of Bro. Frank's English students, who do not often attend, were present that day; another reason for special joy and thanks.

Our Easter program by the children was presented in the afternoon with recitations, songs and the flannel graph story of Easter. Each child was given a gift and, in closing, Bro. Don reminded them that the best gift they can give to their parents is to believe and have faith in our risen Lord and Saviour.

Other guests present that day were sisters from Altadena, CA, San Diego, CA, and Washington, IL. Bro. Robert Knapp, Eureka (with Caterpillar) weathered the snow storm to assemble with us the week before Easter also.

Fred Hess (Columbus, IN) is spending time here also with Cummins Engines. We appreciate the fellowship of every visitor and we trust God's protection and traveling mercies will be with each one.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

Greg and Carol Renyer have a new bundle of joy in their home. Little Geoffry Allen arrived March 18, a playmate for Clinton and Cabriel. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and George and Clela Renyer (Sabetha).

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita) in our community to speak on God's precious Word.

Hospitalized were Ted Strahm (son of Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) for surgery and Myron Menold (son of Bro. James and Sis. Louise). We are glad to see their faces in church again.

Bro. Pete and Sis. Esther Esslinger are new residents of the Apostolic Christian Home.

Vicki Grimm (daughter of Pam and Larry, Sabetha) and Dwight Edelman (son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) were united in marriage April 12. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

We express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Kathy (Richard) Strahm in the passing of her mother, Sis. Mildred Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Pat (Don) Menold in passing of her father, Bro. Rueben Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

As we come to the end of another school year, we wish our graduates God's blessings as they meet life's many challenges. High school graduates are Holly Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Janie Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann), Kristy Hertzell (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth), Terry Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise) and Brian Strahm (Clayton and Mariam). Our college graduate is Bro. Edwin (Romona) Strahm from K-State.

Elder Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella Hartter enjoyed their 45th wedding anniversary celebration which was given by their children. Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella wish to express their many thanks for cards, gifts and fellowship. God bless you.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young — Judy Kraft

The Gridley-Lamont congregations were privileged to hear the conference conclusions read and discussed by Elder Bros. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) and Sam Anliker (Lamont). We have also been blessed with the teach-

ings of other visiting ministers, including Bro. Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bro. James Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN).

The Sunday school children added a special touch Easter Sunday with a program for the congregation concerning the wonderful gift of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection.

Chris Somerhalder (Sam and Sandy Somerhalder) was hospitalized with pneumonia.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

On April 13, we were privileged to have with us Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and his wife (Francesville, IN). Bro. Wendell presented the Word with much joy and love. We are thankful for our brothers-in-faith who lend themselves to teach us God's holy Word. We need to let them know their efforts are appreciated.

The month of May always brings thoughts of graduation. Krista Farney (John and Sheryl Farney) is our only graduate from here. We pray for God's hand to guide her as she leaves the comfort and security of her friends and her family to go on to higher education. It is exciting and frightening to leave a community one is familiar with to go to college, but we can be comforted to know that God is everywhere and he is always willing and able to help us through any problem if we will only ask Him for help. We must give our problems and concerns to God and not fret over them. God already knows the outcome of our concerns. If we will rest them in His hands and wait patiently for His guidance He will lead the way. Trust in the Lord.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

"He answereth nothing."

Mark 15:3

There is no spectacle in all the Bible so sublime as the silent Savior answering not a word to the men who were maligning Him, and whom He could have laid prostrate at His feet by one look of divine power, or one word of fiery rebuke. But He let them say and do their worst, and He stood in The

Power Of Stillness — God's holy silent Lamb.

There is a stillness that lets God work for us, and holds our peace; the stillness that ceases from its contriving and its self-vindication, and its expedients of wisdom and forethought, and lets God provide and answer the cruel blow, in His own unfailing, faithful love.

How often we lose God's interposition by taking up our own cause, and striking for our defense. God give to us the silent power, this conquered spirit! And after the heat and strife of earth are over, men will remember us as we remember the morning dew, the gentle light and sunshine, the evening breeze, the Lamb of Calvary, and the gentle, holy heavenly dove.

A. B. Simpson

The day when Jesus stood alone
And felt the hearts of men like stone,
And knew He came but to atone —
That day "He held His peace".

They witnessed falsely to His word,
They bound Him with a cruel cord,
And mockingly proclaimed Him Lord;
"But Jesus held His peace".

They spat upon Him in the face,
They dragged Him on from place to place,
They heaped upon Him all disgrace;
"But Jesus held His peace".

My friend, have you for far much less,
With rage, which you call righteousness,
Resented slights with great distress?
Your Saviour "held His peace".

L.S.P.
from Streams in the Desert

Spring has indeed sprung in our area of the nation. We are surrounded by fully budded trees, fully bloomed flowers, green grass and the singing of the birds; all accompanied by sunshine and southerly breezes. It has truly been a blessed and mild winter that has come to completion, and we have enjoyed the blessings that God has given us; those of showers of rain upon the dry earth. The look of spring was that of vibrant colors. God has given us a lovely look of His creations and of nature.

When spring arrives in Kansas, there is the process of burning off of the dry and dead grass in pastures. For several weeks the air is filled with the odor of

burned pastures. One can take a short drive in the country during the time of dusk and observe that it is as if the world were on fire, for several pastures are being burned at one time. It is perhaps within only a few days to a week that little stubs of green grass begin to appear, and before long, the pastures are fully covered with only the living green grass. These fires across the prairies remind me so of the separation that is yet to come. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1. I firmly don't believe that any of us want to be as stubble when that day shall come. So let us keep our feet firmly planted upon the rock of salvation!

Our best wishes go to Wayne Anliker and Dawn Loechler in their engagement. An August 9 wedding is planned. Parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker and Bill and Carol Loechler (Overland Park, KS). Both Wayne and Dawn will soon be graduating from Kansas State University (Manhattan) in May with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Elementary Education. Wayne plans to enter optometry school at Houston, TX, this fall. May the Lord be their Provider and Director in their new walk of life together.

Since my last writing, we have had the rewards of visiting Elder brothers being with us. On March 22, we were reminded by our own Elder Bro. Sam and Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) of the memorandum. Surely it was a blessed evening of coming together and being reminded of the duties and concerns our elders have for us. With us April 13, for a first-time visit, was Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN). It has been 56 years since his last time in our area. Evening services were held in Gridley, and again we were blessed to hear Bro. David expound upon God's Word. April 19 was set aside as the evening in which we were reminded of the death and suffering of our Lord and Saviour. With us for this occasion was Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO). Our thankfulness cannot be expressed enough for the efforts and presence of each visiting elder and minister. We welcome each and every one of you — whether you're just traveling through

or you decide to come our way.

Our only hospital patient since the last writing has been Sis. Susan (Bro. Bill) Emch with surgery. We're thankful that she is back home and assembling with us again.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." II Thessalonians 3:16.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Psalms 34:14.

Wishing everyone a nice and happy summer season! Let us be thankful for what we have, the land in which we live, and most of all, our freedom that was given to us as a nation and through Christ our Lord. For those who do not yet have that inner peace, may they seek it while God's clock of life is still in motion. I recently saw a sign that read as follows:

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own,
Live, love, toil at will
Place no faith in "tomorrow" for
The clock may then be still.

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Heidi Baumgartner — Kim Meyer

With the campus displaying God's beautiful creation we are able to enjoy flowering red buds, other blossoming trees and colorful tulips. Adding to the scenery is new lush, green grass.

The Lord has been good to us in showing not only physical beauty, but also granting us many spiritual blessings.

Serving us from the Lamont congregation were Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Bill Emch. The efforts made by them and their wives, and by others assembling with us are greatly appreciated.

Wednesday, April 2, Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm invited us to their home for an enjoyable singing.

Then Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel traveled from Wichita to worship with us. Even though a small group attended, we can read where just a few are together for God, He will be with them — certainly He was.

Hosting another singing were Sis. Lanette Meyer, Sis. Kim Meyer and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner.

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:9

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Jeremiah 33:3

We rejoice to report that there are more souls among us calling unto God with repentant hearts. We trust that our Father will hear their prayers and the prayers of others on their behalf and will truly help and lead them in wonderful ways.

Communion is a special occasion. We come feeling so unworthy, and as the service progresses we can feel God's love and mercy surround our very being. What would we do without the atonement that comes from the broken, bleeding body of Christ? Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Sam Huber in serving us the Lord's Supper March 21.

Ministering brethren with us this month were Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO).

Our friends, Kristy Hertzell (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth, Bern, KS) and Brian Schweitzer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle) have announced their plans to be wed. We pray that the love of our Lord may enrich their married life.

Life brings many decisions and changes. As each of us face these crossroads, let us seek the counsel of the almighty, all-knowing God. Graduating from high school is Loretta Edelman (Clemens and Sis. Marjorie) and from college is Selena Bailey (Larry and Sis. Linda).

Two new babies are bringing much joy to first-time parents. Kendra Leigh was welcomed into the home of Randy and Cindy Edelman March 25. Cliff and Sis. Barb Edelman are happy with their first granddaughter. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm were blessed with Ryan Wayne April 7. Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm are the grandparents. May God grant each of us wisdom

and strength to train our children in His ways.

"Are You 'Just A Housewife'?"

One wife became furious when her husband — while filling out his income tax returns — wrote in for her occupation: None. Yet that's just the way most of us feel about our position in life — that being a housewife and mother is about the most menial task in the world.

"Anyone can do dishes and have babies," sighed a young mother of three. "My whole life will be gone before I know it. I want to do something important."

If only she had realized that she was doing something important — that her job was the most important one in the whole world!

God had entrusted in her care three little ones made in His image, three lives that might some day be chosen vessels for Him.

Moreover, her husband's happiness, welfare and accomplishments were in her keeping. "It takes two women to make a good man," runs a proverb, "his mother and his wife."

Of a woman who accepts this challenge of not just "doing her duty", but joyfully helping her entire family live full and fruitful lives, King Lemuel writes in Proverbs, chapter 31, "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her."

For an eye opener as to the wonderful "career" you, the housewife, can realize, read that entire chapter. And thank God for the exciting ministry He has given you!

Marie Frost

This Mother's Day may we look to God's Word for direction in what a mother should be and not to the sophisticated, career-oriented pattern of the world.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"
Colossians 3:23

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Easter was such a beautiful day for us here in Wichita. The clean, fresh air really fit the Easter spirit. We had a "sunrise breakfast" before church and a share time of what the Lord had been doing in our lives the past year.

The weekend of April 11-13, we were privileged to have the World Relief Committee in Wichita for their meet-

ings. We pray the Lord can use World Relief to minister to people all over the world. We had the opportunity to see the slides of Bro. Dick Beery of the earthquake damage in Mexico City, Bro. Jim Hoerr's slides of India and Bros. Roy Schrock and Gary Ifft spoke about travels in communist Europe and Russia. It was all very interesting and truly should make us appreciate the wonderful gift of freedom the Lord has given us. May the Lord bless these brothers for their efforts.

In these critical times it is comforting to know the Lord is in heaven and He is in control.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester Huber

Watch Ye, Stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, (be a man) be strong. I Corinthians 16:13. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. II Corinthians 12:10. Both of these Scriptures are found written to the Corinthians. Humanly speaking, we might become confused. However, in the Spirit we can discern the meaning God is strong, strong enough to uphold the worlds by the Word of His Power. Yet, His Power was manifested in weakness through loving lost humanity by way of the virgin birth, the swaddling clothes and babe of the Bethlehem manger. We, too, realize our strength is made perfect after the same experience of weakness and submission toward the will and Word of God. Let us be strong about total surrender to the will and Word of God.

We are grateful to our ministering brethren who have come and shared God's living Word with us in the past few weeks: Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). May God bless them and all the loved ones who came with them, as well as those who visit from time to time as they travel through here. It does enrich our fellowship. With our small congregation, each additional person means a lot.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

A mother's love is a special love
It's gentle, it's tender, it's deep and it's strong.

It's kind and forgiving, when we're right
or wrong;
It's sure as the morning, that starts
every day;
It's with us no matter what life brings
our way;
It's something to treasure, for its
priceless worth,
The dearest, most beautiful best
treasure on earth!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

Jack and Sis. Laura Pardo have good reason to rejoice this Mother's Day. They are the proud Mama and Papa of a baby boy, Chad Thomas, born April 11, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. We congratulate them and wish them much joy and happiness.

Elder Bro. Joe Waibel and Sis. Elizabeth shared this past Sunday with us. Their daughter, Donna, and son-in-law, Bro. Wally Gerst, and family were glad to have Grandma and Grandpa come for a visit.

This following little story I found very interesting and thought it worth sharing with our readers: (reprinted from *Lyric Religion*, a book of hymn stories):

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Wainsgate, A Yorkshire village, was mourning because the minister was moving. A call had come to a much larger church in London; he was to be the successor of the noted expositor, Dr. Gill. The salary paid by the village church, two hundred dollars a year, was altogether too small for the needs of his growing family, so the move seemed to be the natural, in fact, the only thing to do. The men were loading the wagons with the minister's furniture and books; they had come to the last load. All around the wagons the men and women and children of Wainsgate were weeping over the loss of their beloved pastor.

Seated on one of the packing cases, the pastor and his wife could not restrain their tears. At last the wife said, "John, I cannot bear this! I know not how to go!" And the pastor replied, "Nor I either. Nor will we go; unload

the wagons, and put everything in the place where it was before."

And so, out of a genuine love for their people, they stayed at the little Baptist church to which Fawcett's conversion at the age of sixteen through a sermon of George Whitefield's had indirectly led him.

Out of this experience, John Fawcett (1740-1817) wrote from his heart the hymn which has made him known wherever Christians meet and sing, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds".

"MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB"

Mary had a little boy, his soul seemed white as snow, he never went to Sunday school 'cause Mary would not go.

He never heard the stories of Christ to thrill his childish mind. While other children went to class, this child was left behind.

And as he grew from babe to teens, she saw to her dismay, the soul that once seemed white, became a dingy gray.

Realizing he was lost, she tried to win him back, but now the soul that once seemed white, had turned an ugly black.

She even started back to church and Sunday school too! She begged the preacher, "Isn't there anything that you can do?" The preacher tried, and failed, and said, "We're just too far behind. I tried to tell you years ago but you would pay no mind." And so another soul is lost - that once seemed white as snow. Sunday school would have helped - but Mary Would Not Go!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

"... I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12

God continues to work in the hearts and lives of people He loves, leading them into the light of salvation. We are thankful that Colleen Reardon has surrendered her life to the Lord and we pray for God's grace and guidance that salvation in its fullness can be hers. Colleen's parents are Bro. George and Sis. Marie Reardon (Sarasota, FL).

Bro. Dan Knochel has had throat surgery and is recovering well at home.

Also, Rosalind (Reardon) Thomas has been hospitalized and we trust that she will be home again soon. We pray that God will bless all those in need, whether in body or in soul, with His strength and good health.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord; . . ."

Jeremiah 30:17

We are so thankful that Sis. Ruth Gudeman has received reports of healing and recovery as she continues chemotherapy. We rejoice with her and pray that God will ever abide with her and her family in all ways.

On Saturday, April 11, our choir gathered together to make a record of several of the hymns they have sung throughout the year. A lot of prayer and effort was put forth to make this possible and we trust that, when completed, their songs can be an inspiration and comfort to many.

Our fond farewell is extended to Brian and Kathie Barton who have recently moved to Jacksonville, FL, due to a job transfer. We look forward to their return visits to see their families and trust they will feel God's nearness always.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

This month we pause to honor that special person in our lives whom we lovingly call "Mother". The divine record of a virtuous mother reads, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed." Proverbs 31:28.

The corroding effects of time have brought a dreadful change to a scene where once walked devoted, godly mothers. It is no accident that God put His hand upon Timothy, for he grew up under the influence of Eunice and a grandmother, Lois. With Moses, there was a faithful Jochebed. It's unlikely that Samuel would have become the Almighty's messenger without a godly Hannah. Almost invariably, great men have had great mothers.

O God, give us mothers whose chief concern is the rearing of children for righteousness - who make the home a little corner of heaven on earth! Not women with brazen looks, heavily painted faces, and foul language. But give us mothers whose gentle hands speak of sacrificial labor for their families; whose loving voices sing softly of

Jesus and His love, and who uphold their families in prayer. God, give us mothers — Christian mothers!

May 1986 will always be special to our high school graduate, Leah Miller (Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine). We wish God's blessings in whatever her future holds.

Our midweek service brought Bro. Michael Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). May the Lord continue to richly bless and inspire our visiting and local ministers for their untiring efforts in bringing forth the Word of God.

Thought — There will be more reflection OF Jesus when there is more reflection ON Jesus.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

Our Easter weekend was certainly a special time as we gathered together in God's house to be renewed by the Holy Word ministered unto us. With grateful hearts we listened to visiting ministers bring the Word of Life to us. Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) were all labourers in God's vineyard. May the Lord continue to inspire and bless our dear ministers for their untiring efforts.

We were fortunate to have Bro. Harold Gramm stand up and minister to us again. Bro. Harold had been absent from the pulpit for some time following his surgery. We are thankful for God's healing mercies.

Marvin Moser (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion) and Colleen Reed were united in marriage March 23 in New York. Marvin and Colleen will make their home in Chicago. May God's love abide in their hearts and home.

The engagement of Jan Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma) to Randall Pederson has been made known to us. When two fond hearts unite in love, the yoke is easy and the burden is light. May they find this to be true in their forthcoming marriage.

Help us, Lord, to always be mindful of those who are afflicted in mind or body. Kenny Feuchtenberger is hospitalized in Rochester undergoing treatment. Bro. Orville Nohl, Rose Reiner, Bro. Albert Joos and Byron Wulf were all confined to hospital beds.

Whitney Jean, born April 14, has been wrapped securely in a blanket of love by parents, Rick and Julie Gramm.

Whitney has an older sister, Alexis, who is thankful for a little playmate. Happy grandparents are Mrs. Vera Jones and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ida Gramm. May God direct Rick and Julie in raising their precious little daughters.

We are glad to have Bro. Jim Wulf among us again after spending time in Haiti. Bro. Jim helped in constructing a school roof. We certainly have countless blessings to be thankful for here in America.

GOD'S GIFTS

More than hearts can imagine
or minds comprehend
God's bountiful gifts
are ours without end —
We ask for a cupful
when the vast sea is ours,
We pick a small rosebud
from a garden of flowers,
We reach for a sunbeam
but the sun still abides,
We draw one short breath
but there's air on all sides —
Whatever we ask for
falls short of God's giving
For His greatness exceeds
every facet of living.

Helen Steiner Rice

Among God's most precious gifts —
His very special blessings — are wonderful mothers who have given of themselves to raise their dear children.
Happy Mother's Day!

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner Mary Lou Schmidt

Dear graduates: As you journey down life's pathway, may you take part of this special poem with you.

TRUST YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR

Take the Saviour's loving hand
and do not try to understand,
Just let Him lead you where He will
through pastures green, by waters still,
And place yourself in His loving care
and He will gladly help you bear,
Whatever lies ahead of you
He will see you safely through,
No earthly pain is ever too much
if God bestows His merciful touch.

Helen Steiner Rice

The Winthrop senior Bible class has three graduates this year. They are Darrin Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou), Chad Mattes (Pat and Sis. Barb) and Dan Messner (Duane and Mona). May God ever lead, guide and direct their paths!

Our junior and senior Bible class hosted an Easter Sunday breakfast for everyone. It was a beautiful way to start the day; set aside to remember Christ's victory over death! May these children always enjoy working together for their church; as they did that morning. May God richly bless them and their teachers for their efforts; it was truly enjoyed by all.

We want to thank the Pulaski Sunday school for having our junior and senior Bible classes this past month. How important it is for our youth to experience and feel that special love, which comes from Jesus Christ, that binds our churches across the land so close together!

Ministering Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis) and his wife shared a Sunday with us. May God bless him during his ministry; and may he always feel God's strength and reassurance.

With Father's Day approaching, we lovingly think of our fathers; who with special love have set a godly example. May we always remember the godly wisdom they have taught us, and put it to practice. "With thoughts of Dad come special thoughts of days the heart will always treasure."

A beautiful little bundle from heaven was sent to the home of Jason and Nancy Messner. They are the happy and thankful parents of a baby girl, Kelsey Rae. Sis. Carol Ann Messner (and the late Bro. Dennis) and the Glen Schuellers are the delighted grandparents.

Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt and Sis. Florence Messner were our surgical patients this month. Both are recovering well.

Our congregation was shown slides of Haiti and their culture. After viewing those slides, it made us all more appreciative of what we have. May we never tire in thanking God for the many blessings of daily life that we so frequently take for granted.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Linda Ziegenhorn

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalms 46:10

It is in the stillness, the quietness and solitude that God comes to us and speaks to us and puts His arms of love around us. Are you getting alone with God and reflecting on His greatness, His goodness and His grace often enough for this to happen?

On March 23, we had our Easter program. The children told us the wonderful story of Christ's resurrection. We are so thankful that our Sunday school is large enough to have a program and pray that it will continue to grow.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers who faithfully come every Sunday so we may have services. Most have to drive several hours and we truly appreciate their efforts.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti — Janice Stoller

Springtime must be one of the most beautiful times of the year when we once again see nature spring to life. The crops are sown once again and there is hope for harvest. Here is a poem that might be appropriate for this time of year.

We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears,
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

May we also sow that we may hope to
reap not thorns but flowers.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bob Marti at his passing. May God comfort them. Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) was here to assist Elder Bro. Gene Marti with the services.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"CALVARY"

Out on to Calv'ry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words he speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

He bows His head and cries,
"Tis finished, all is done,

O God, receive my soul,
Life's victory is won."
Zion's Harp #89, vs. 1 & 7

Palm Sunday was especially impressive when our Sunday school presented the annual Easter program. A "thank you" is extended to both teachers and students for all their efforts and we know God's blessings were shared by all.

Hospital patients this month were little Shane Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) and Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen), both medical. Our prayers and concerns arise for any and all who have health problems, that God may restore fully, if it be His will.

"Put your dearest wish in God's hands today
And discuss it with Him as you faithfully pray,
And you can be sure your wish will come true
If God feels that your wish will be good for you.

Helen Steiner Rice

We will miss Bro. Jon, Sis. Pat, Ryan, Brandon and Blake Knapp as they have moved to Eureka, IL. May the fellowship we have enjoyed be a happy memory and . . .

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds,
Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156, vs. 1

We wish to thank visiting ministers, Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Kent Ringger (Bluffton, IN). Each one having a different gift, each one special and each one laboring for the Lord in our behalf.

Our oldest pillar, Sis. Marie Butikofer, celebrated her 87th birthday April 11 at her winter home in Florida with her daughter and husband, Bro. Wm and Sis. Ruth Cottrell. Few of us have the ambition and endurance Sis. Marie possesses and if it be God's will, she will soon be back in Taylor where her roots are.

"Blessed be he of the Lord who has not left off His kindness to the living."
Ruth 2:20

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers during the past month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Rem-

ington, IN), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler and Bro. Kevin Ryan (both of Rockville, CT). Many good spiritual teachings were offered for our benefit. We thank God and these brothers who traveled many miles to bring God's Word.

Sis. Mary Diggelman submitted to additional eye surgery. She spent several days in the hospital, but is now at home. May God lay the power of His healing hand upon her that she might make a full recovery and be able to see well again.

God has granted Bro. Dimitrie and Sis. Aurelia Luiba fifty years together in marriage, during which time they have faithfully served the Lord. May He continue to bless them with a strong faith, reasonable health and added years.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

On Easter Sunday our Sunday school children presented a small program of song and verse. Our prayers are that they will all remember what they have been taught in their youth and turn their hearts over to our heavenly Father who sent His Son to die for each of us.

Sis. Minnie Farney remains in the hospital following surgery for a broken hip as the result of a fall in her home. In January, Sis. Minnie celebrated her 96th birthday and is now looking forward to returning home soon. We miss her in our assembly and hope to see her smiling face with us in the near future. Our thoughts and prayers have been with her and the many others who cannot assemble each Sunday.

Betty Richie has also a broken elbow from a fall. We are glad she is able to be out and hope her recovery will be complete.

Our sympathy, love and prayers have been with Bob and Diane Purvines and Cary in the loss of their infant son, Robin. May they be comforted by God's love for each of us.

We have begun our midweek services for the summer months. They are held on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. We alternate with the Naumburg congregation and welcome all who might be traveling in our area to assemble with us.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG**Rachel Snyder**

Sis. Rosella Schultz had to spend some time in the hospital but is now able to be with her son, Norman (Mary) where she is now making her home.

Our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer was at the Watertown hospital for surgery. May he feel the Lord's presence.

OHIO, AKRON**Joyce Gasser**

"Eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared . . . for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10. Previously we noted after Nehemiah rebuilt the walls and gates around Jerusalem, he gathered the people to read the Word. Then he tells them the source of their strength. It is in the Word. They should not only eat it and drink it, being sweet and building them up, but give it to others, for it is in sending portions, or giving the Word to others, that we have joy and joy brings strength.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser have returned safely from a trip to Brazil, South America. They visited some of their family who are working in the Amazon region. It was a blessing to see their churches prospering and their efforts and outreaches being blessed by the Lord with increases in number and virtue of the believers.

Sis. Monica Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder) was announced to become the bride of Bro. Bill Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman, Rittman). We wish the Lord's blessings upon them as they become one in marriage.

We offer congratulations to our high school graduates. Dan Graf (Bro. and Sis. Art Graf) plans to work with his father who is a building contractor. Bryon Palitto (Bro. and Sis. Ron Palitto), Lisa Spangler (Bro. and Sis. Ned Spangler), Terri Gallagher (John and Margi Gallagher) and Susan Grawunder (Bro. and Sis. Fred Grawunder) all plan to attend Akron University.

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Desma Klopfenstein**

Throughout the Bible there are many stories of women whose faith in God helped them meet the challenges of their day. As I looked for one particular story to share this Mother's Day time, my thoughts turned to Elisabeth,

mother of John the Baptist, and cousin to Mary, mother of Jesus.

Elisabeth was well beyond child-bearing years when the Lord answered her prayers for a baby. Not only did she have a son, but called his name John to which her husband agreed, knowing these were God's instructions.

Elisabeth is remembered as an outstanding mother, of whose son Jesus said, "Of them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." As a devoted, godly wife and mother, Elisabeth trusted God to supply her every need.

Today, how pleased God must be when He sees a mother following this lovely example. For this mother, or any woman who will choose Christ through conversion, truly this shall be a very happy and blessed Mother's Day.

Last month Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville) came and shared God's Word with us. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

We also welcome Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp (Chicago, IL) to Columbus. Although, they are to be here only temporarily, we are thankful that God has blessed our congregation with such an enthusiastic young couple.

Finally, a special blessing was ours a few Sundays ago when the Mansfield junior high Sunday school class came and sang their Easter program for us. It was a day we'll remember for a long time.

OHIO, GIRARD**Kathryn Emch**

Since we last visited, winter has gone and we have welcomed the springtime birds and flowers. God's promise of "summer and winter, seed time and harvest" still holds true.

Our dear Sis. Louisa Lance has gone home to be with her Lord. She had grown restless with this earthly life and her last months were spent at home with her daughter, at the Apostolic Christian Home, and finally in the hospital. Her family spent many loving hours with her until the end.

Sis. Margaret Kincaid has been in the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman since the end of 1985. We are so grateful for this loving home. Mother Emch has been there over nine years.

As I look over my husband's notes I am reminded that one Sunday our church lunch was provided by Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope Gasser (Rittman). We

truly enjoy the Christian fellowship of our brethren who come to worship with us and to participate in prayer and song leading.

We thank Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield) for filling our pulpit one Sunday in our absence. We really appreciate the willingness of our brethren to help our little flock.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Les Manz**

Our visitors this month included Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) who brought us God's Word in Spirit-inspired sermons.

We shared a special blessing as we gathered around the family of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of their son and our new Bro. Bob Manz.

OHIO, LATTY**Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard**

"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."

St. John 3:16

We were once again reminded of the love of God and the shed blood of Jesus Christ as we gathered together for Good Friday services and an Easter message.

Hospitalized this month were Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) and Caleb Stoller (Bro. Bill, Jr. and Sis. Barb). We are glad they have recovered and are doing fine.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

We are glad that three souls will soon give their testimony of faith.

"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

The engagement of Bro. Eli Schlatter (Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie) and Sis. Janel Price (Bob and Aldean) was announced. May God guide and direct

their lives as they make plans for the future.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Viola Schlatter and her family at the passing of her sister, Hazel Huber (Francesville, IN).

We were once again reminded of our earthly duties as pilgrims of Christ as we heard the Word ministered to us by Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL). May God bless them for their labors of love.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Carma Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet) has found the grace to come into repentance. We wish her much continued grace and blessings from God.

MOTHER

When God created sun and stars
And placed them in a sky of blue;
When over earth His fingers ran
Awakening blossoms of lovely hue;
When mountains rose beneath His
touch,
And stretching miles of shining seas,
He paused and said, "Now I will make
Something surpassing all of these,"
And then it was, while angels smiled,
That God awoke, to glorious birth,
Mother, whose love and tender care
Has blessed and gladdened all the
earth.

Katherine Edelman

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

Sunday, April 13, was a day of rejoicing in our congregation as well as in heaven. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron) were assisted by Bro. Ken Sauder as Sheli and Ron Fairchild became our new brother and sister-in-the-Lord. "... and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19, 20. On the same day, the engagement

of Bro. Marvin Beer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Robin Washington (Bro. Barnie and Sis. Beverly) was announced. Obedience should be the delightful, spontaneous result of loving God. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin have their priorities in order: God first, obedience to God in marriage and God's blessings will continue to follow. May we support them in prayer.

Tender-hearted obedience brings delight to God and blessings to you. May God bless Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheli in their new walk of life and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin as they make plans to walk their life together for the Lord.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. . . Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:10, 27, 28, 30. Happy Mother's Day to all those who have been blessed with the title of Mother. Don't let the world underestimate the importance of a Mother's love, responsibility and importance. Yes, Grandma makes a terrific babysitter; yes, you can pay a lot for day care and preschool but no one can take Mom's place. God bless each one of you.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

"Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament, which
we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on."

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5

On April 5 we were blessed by the sacred act of partaking of holy communion. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Henry Dotterer in serving the same. Bro. Eugene reminded us that Christ, because of the weight of our sins which He carried with Him to Calvary, actually had to endure the condemnation a sinner would feel on judgment day. How thankful we should be to realize that because Christ died for us we need never feel the condemnation of having the Lord tell us on judgment day "I never knew you!"

"Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my word in thy mouth."

Jeremiah 1:9

The Lord is still allowing His words to come forth from the mouths of our ministers. Those who shared their services with us this past month were Bro. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank them and ask God to bless them in their labors.

"And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:6-7

We rejoiced to hear the news that a loved one, Clara Jenkins (Don) had decided to give her life to the Lord. May she find the Lord is ever near to lend His aid as she walks the pathway of life which leads home to Him.

"... and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord . . ."

Ezekiel 34:26-27

Three families were showered with the blessing of a newborn child sent to them from heaven. Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche were blest with another daughter, Rachel Marie. Kelly, Gerri and Sarah welcome Rachel to their home. Bro. Andy and Sis. Lillian Maibach are Rachel's delighted grandparents.

Dave and Joan Wilging were blest with a son, Nicholas David. Trisha will be glad for a brother. Grandparents of Nicholas are Bro. Ken and Sis. Wilma Ramsier.

Jeremy William arrived to bless the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. LuAnn Musser. Jason and Jessica will help take care of their new brother. Bill and Sis. Donna Young are Jeremy's grandparents.

We are told that, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

Those hospitalized due to tribulation in the flesh were Mary Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Bro. Homer Hartzler and Sis. Anna Blough. May God send His healing touch upon each one so that they can once more assemble with us.

God has once again drawn hearts together to be united in holy matrimony. Bro. Bill Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores) and Sis. Monica Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva, Akron, OH) have announced their engagement and forthcoming marriage in June.

Bro. Roger Bauman (Bro. Herbert and Sis. Berniece, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) joined hands to begin their walk together through this life April 20.

May God bless these loved ones as they join together in their service to Him.

Remember Rittman's Silver Lining dues are to be paid during the month of May. They may be given in an envelope with your name and address to either Diane Gasser or Judy Stoller.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier over the arrival of their "little bundle of love". Joshua Robert was born March 31. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier and Bro. Howard and Colette Harman.

Mother's Day, one of the most precious and memorable occasions that is set aside throughout the year, is a time to give thanks to God for one of life's greatest gifts and joys . . . Mothers!

The work on our new church site is progressing nicely. The contractor has the site leveled off and we are real happy with its new appearance. The area surrounding the church has been reseeded and we are waiting for some spring showers. Lord willing, we look forward to beginning construction this summer. May God give us much grace to accomplish our goals.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

May is the month in which we set aside a day to remember our mothers. We should appreciate them every day. Proverbs 31:27 says, "She looketh well

to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

Thankful for the safe arrival of Jill Karese are parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach. Faith, Ann, Dawn and Garth are glad for a little sister. Jill arrived earlier than expected, so she is spending some time in the hospital until she gains a few more pounds.

Other hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Larry Miller (Sis. Edith), Sis. Roberta Stoller (Bro. Andy) and Bro. Dean Marty (Sis. Martha). "In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Savior." (Zion's Harp #46).

On Saturday evening, April 5, we were privileged to assemble with the Rittman brethren to partake of holy communion.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament, which
we

Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5

Our new brother, Dean Beery, has repented and found that peace that passes all understanding. On Sunday, April 6, we were privileged to hear his testimony and witness his baptism. May God richly bless him as he begins his walk as one of God's children.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2. We are thankful for our ministering brothers who labor so diligently to bring us the Word. Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) was our visiting minister this past month. May God richly bless him for his efforts.

Remember, May is the month for Silver Lining collection for Smithville. Please give your \$7.00 dues to one of your reporters.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Frances Laidig

NEW BIRTH FROM ABOVE

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

And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed.

Zion's Harp #34, vs. 1

God again gave us a joyful weekend as a precious soul became a child of the King and an heir of His eternal kingdom. On March 22 and 23, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Edith Fetter. Her name is now written in the "Book of Life" which is in heaven. We pray that many more souls will seek their soul's salvation while it is still the day of grace.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) were with us for the administration of this work of the Lord.

On this occasion, we also heard the reading of the memorandum of the conference held at Morton, IL.

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and his wife, Sis. Louise, along with the members of the Bluffton choir were our guests over the weekend of April 12 and 13. It was a blessed time of fellowship and singing hymns of praise to the Lord. We thank Bro. Carroll for his inspiring message and the choir for visiting us.

"Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing."

Psalm 100:2

Sis. Lois Newman (Warren) is home from the hospital recuperating from surgery. Our prayers are that she will make a good recovery.

MOTHERS

A special prayer for mothers
everywhere,
Somehow we always expect them to be
there
With faith and encouragement for the
day
Giving us comfort when troubled on
our way.

"As one whom his mother comforteth."
Isaiah 66:13

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

"Fallen asleep." I Corinthians 16:6

MOTHER HAS FALLEN ASLEEP

"Mother was tired and weary,
Weary with toil and with pain;

Put by her glasses and rocker,
She will not need them again.
Into heaven's mansions she's entered
Never to sigh or to weep;
After long years with life's struggles,
Mother had fallen asleep.

"Near other loved ones we laid her,
Low in the church yard to lie,
And though our hearts are near broken,
Yet we would not question 'Why?'
She does not rest 'neath the grasses,
Tho' o'er her dear grave they creep;
She has gone into the kingdom,
Mother has fallen asleep.

"Rest the tired feet now forever,
Dear wrinkled hands are so still;
Blast of the earth shall no longer
Throw o'er our loved one a chill.
Angels through heaven will guide her,
Jesus will still bless and keep;
Not for the world would we wake her,
Mother has fallen asleep.

"Beautiful rest for the weary,
Well deserved rest for the true;
When our life's journey is ended
We shall again be with you.
This helps to quiet our weeping, —
Hark, Angel music so sweet!
He giveth to His beloved,
Beautiful, beautiful sleep."

They had finished her crown in glory,
and she couldn't stay away from the coronation.

Our hearts were saddened at the death of our dear Sis. Millie Dietrich (Bro. Clarence, Silverton). We will surely miss her and our heartfelt prayers go out to her family.

Bro. Nathan Steffen was with us Sunday, April 6, and we appreciate his words of wisdom. May God bless him for his labors of love.

Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen are on a tour of Europe for a few days. We pray that they have a safe journey there and back home again.

It will soon be time for the cool, wet weather to go away and we are looking for a summertime of many visitors to our area again.

We welcome Melissa Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) to our area for the next few months. She is here for part of her college training, working with a nursery. She spent a few months last summer with us and we are glad to have her with us again.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

On the Saturday night before Easter, we were given the opportunity to again hear the Easter story through the songs and readings of the Sunday school children and young people. Nearly forty youngsters participated, including four young men from Lester, IA, who joined our young choir group for the occasion. As was mentioned in word and song, we hope the beautiful story of Christ's gift will not only be a reminder and encouragement to those of us already on the path, but also a call to those who hesitate to begin and a precious seed planted in the very hearts of the children themselves.

We rejoice with and congratulate Sis. Jane Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna, Lester, IA) who recently received word that she has passed her State Board exams, and is now officially a Registered Nurse. Sis. Jane is using her nursing skills as a RN in the OB department of the Willamette Falls Hospital in Oregon City. We wish her God's continued blessings in her work and her Christian walk.

"In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Savior.

He'll shield and defend His child to the end;

No suffering or death shall appall thee.

In patience then bear all trial and care;
Above streams of bliss will refresh thee."

Zion's Harp #46, vs. 1, 5 & 7

The suffering she bore here and the promise she carried in her heart there made the passing of our dear Sis. Mildred Dietrich (ministering Bro. Clarence) a victory over her last battle. Sis. Millie was born March 19, 1922 and died April 3, 1986. We will miss her greatly and extend our love and sympathy to the dear ones she leaves behind. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Clarence; and children, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan, Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy, and Sis. Carol (all of Silverton) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bern, KS); a sister, Sis. Helen Liebig (Elgin, IL) and thirteen grandchildren.

We greatly appreciate Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and ministering Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin, IL) who conducted the funeral service. Their comforting presence, along with all those

who came to share our sorrow, was truly heart-lifting. May God bless us all as we journey on toward a common goal.

The family of Sis. Mildred Dietrich wishes to thank everyone from the depth of their hearts for the kind expressions of sympathy and love extended to them during the illness and passing of their beloved wife and mother.

Barry Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) has finished his Basic Training and Naval Training Schools and has been stationed at Whidbey Island in Washington, just five hours driving time from home. His new address is: AMS AA Barry Bolliger, Attack Squadron 128, NAS Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA 98278-6200. We are happy to have him back in the northwest.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ann Gasser

The Hermanns have felt direction to move back to Morton, IL. In late March a farewell dinner was held for Bro. Fred, Sis. Kathi, Jessica and Jared. Bonds of love still connect us, but we'll miss their physical presence.

On Easter Sunday we were together for another church dinner. Generally, we like to plan these fellowship dinners about once a month.

TEXAS, FORT WORTH

Mary Plattner

We are certainly thankful for the brothers and their families who have made a special effort to come to Fort Worth to hold the services. Those who have been here the past two months are Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL), Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS).

Anyone coming to Texas is most welcome to worship with us. Services are still being held at the Holiday Inn South in Fort Worth. Take exit 44, off I-35 W. Services are being held the first and third Sunday of each month.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

The winter season is past and God's creation is blooming again. And, with the warmer weather in the north, our winter residents have departed.

We are indeed thankful for those who came to spend time here in Zapa-

ta. Among those to minister for us were Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS). May God richly bless each one for their labors.

Andy Plattner (Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary) will be graduating the end of May. Our prayers go with Andy as he leaves us to enter college to prepare for a business career.

In remembrance of our mothers: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy word," Luke 1:38. Such was the faith of the mother of our precious Saviour.

We certainly wish to encourage those who are able to come to visit us. Everyone is certainly welcome.

**WEST VIRGINIA,
 NEW MARTINSVILLE
 Minnie Weltz**

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association of Limestone Ridge was held in the home of Minnie Weltz Monday evening, April 7, with several attending. The usual order of business and plans for the future were cared for and the annual all-day meeting at the country church will be held, as usual, the last Sunday in June; this year, June 29, with the time and program as in former years.

Frank Barth, who is a patient in the Health Care Center here, remains about the same, some days better than others.

Lillie Barth Wade is very ill and at this writing is a patient in the local hospital, suffering with shingles.

J. Howard Riggerbach and daughter, Bonnie, escaped serious injuries recently as they were traveling to see their daughter and sister and family in New York. They incurred much damage to their car but they were safe.

Mrs. Frank Durig has been quite ill but is at home again and much improved.

Margaret Witschey was a hospital patient for several days recently but is convalescing at home at this time.

Margaret Durig is recovering very nicely after having gall stone surgery several weeks ago.

I was the unlucky one April 8. While on my way to see my sister in the hospital, my car was struck by a large truck (his fault, not mine), doing much

damage to my car and to my nerves. I am now under a doctor's care, trying to get back to normal.

Our weather has been real good, with still a hint of Easter being a bit early this year.

SILVER THREADS

**HOW BELIEVERS
 SHOULD RELATE
 TO EACH OTHER**

Romans 12:10 — Be devoted to one another, give preference to one another.

Romans 12:16 — Be of same mind toward one another.

Romans 13:8 — Love one another.

Romans 14:13 — Let us not judge one another.

Romans 14:19 — Pursue the things that make for the building up of one another.

Romans 15:7 — Accept one another.

Romans 15:14 — Admonish one another.

I Corinthians 12:25 — Care for one another.

Galatians 5:13 — Serve one another.

Galatians 6:2 — Bear one another's burdens.

Ephesians 4:1-2 — Show tolerance to one another.

Ephesians 4:32 — Be kind to one another.

Ephesians 5:18-21 — Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, be subject one to another.

Colossians 3:9 — Lie not to one another.

Colossians 3:12-13 — Forgive each other.

Colossians 3:16 — Teach and admonish one another.

I Thessalonians 3:12 — Increase and abound in love for one another.

I Thessalonians 4:18 — Comfort one another.

Hebrews 3:13 — Encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:23-25 — Stimulate one another to love and good works.

James 4:11 — Do not speak against one another.

James 5:9 — Do not complain against one another.

James 5:16 — Confess your sins to one another, pray for one another.

I Peter 4:9 — Be hospitable to one another.

I Peter 5:5 — Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.

I Peter 5:14 — Greet one another with a kiss of love.

I John 3:23 — Love one another.

A Mother is a blessing
 So gentle, kind and wise
 She's the first

To give encouragement
 The last to criticize —

The one you know will be there
 Whenever skies are gray,

The first to lend a helping hand,
 The last to turn away —

Each special thing about her
 Is so lovely to recall —

A Mother is a blessing,
 The most precious one of all.

Mary Dawson Huges

MY MOTHER'S PRAYER

I never can forget the day
 I heard my mother kindly say,
 "You're leaving now my tender care;
 Remember, child, your mother's
 prayer."

I never can forget the voice
 That always made my heart rejoice;
 Tho' I have wandered God knows
 where,
 Still I remember mother's prayer.

Tho' years have gone, I can't forget
 Those words of joy — I hear them yet;
 I see her by the old armchair,
 My mother, dear, in humble prayer.

I never can forget the hour
 I felt the Savior's cleansing pow'r;
 My sin and guilt He canceled there,
 'Twas there He answered mother's
 prayer.

Chorus:
 Whene'er I think of her so dear,
 It seems her angel spirit's near;
 A voice comes floating on the air,
 Reminding me of mother's prayer.

Oh, praise the Lord for saving grace!
 We'll meet up yonder, face to face;
 The home above together share,
 In answer to my mother's prayer.

Gospel Hymns #808

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

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

(I can't put into words the vision that I had), and I thought that it was almost a dream. "Am I really here?" The smells and the things that we saw were far removed from the culture of an affluent society.

The need there was great, and we felt utterly weak and helpless. If something serious had happened to us, before we could get help we probably would have died. To hear sirens wailing and see ambulances coming to help is not a part of the norm. Sometimes it is good to see the hopelessness of the flesh that exists in many places today. Then we ask ourselves, "Am I really thankful? Am I really grateful? Do I really appreciate the blessings of God? Have I appreciated His goodness to us in this land?"

When we wake up in the morning and the sun is shining in the sky, do we thank the Lord for another day of grace? Do we thank Him that the calendars continue on? Or is this just one of the many things that we take for granted?

The Apostle Paul is reminding us here that we have an earthly house . . . This is flesh. It is not immortal. It is going to die. It is going to perish. It can become sick or ill. It can become hopeless and helpless. That's why our Lord wants to reconcile us, transform us, renew us and take away the vileness that is a part of the mortal flesh that we are so proud of and dress up so much. If we spent half as much time addressing our spiritual body as we do taking care of this natural body, we would certainly be lots better off.

I remember a poem that a brother spoke to us when he came to visit us in our home congregation at Bay City, MI when I was a little boy.

The angels from their realm on high
Look down on us with wondering eyes,
While here as passing guests
Build such strong and sturdy nests.
Where we'll spend most our days
Scarcely have time one stone to lay.

How very true . . . how very sad.

Dearly beloved, the integrity and credibility of God is brought into focus

and to our attention so that we do not walk in ignorance and are not deceived, but that faith in our Lord and Saviour is part of us. We believe it with all of our heart, our mind, our soul and our body. We believe it without doubt or reservation. It is the most important commodity that we have. It is the most important thing. We are dealing, dearly beloved, with eternity, never-ending eternity.

Have you ever heard the story about the transposition of the east coast to the west coast of these United States? A single little bird would endeavor, one grain of sand at a time, to move the entire east coast to the west coast. It would fly all the way over and fly all the way back, then pick up another grain of sand and carry it. Eventually, that task would be completed.

What would that time frame be to eternity? As the blink of an eye. As nothing, because eternity goes on and on and on and on. I am sometimes frightened when I think of the severity of eternity if we are unprepared.

I think about the rich man who lived by the steps where Lazarus, the poor beggar, dwelt. We are taught that he lived on the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. The rich man died, and Lazarus died. The rich man was in great agony in hell (contrary to what Jehovah Witnesses and other people teach — that there is no hell). There is a hell. The Word of God, our Saviour, and the apostles all tell about it. It is in the ministry of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Remember the rich man lifted up his eyes because he was in great torment. What was the request which he asked of Abraham? He begged that Lazarus would be sent to wet his lips because he was in such agony. Then he begged that someone would go to his brothers and tell them of his plight, so that they would not have to endure such agony.

That word, dearly beloved, was ministered two thousand years ago. I call your attention to that man; no one has gone to moisten his lips. No one has gone to alleviate any of the pain. That flame is still languishing and licking about at his feet, because the fire will not be quenched. It is just the beginning. It is very important that we are serious about this whole matter, and put the proper evaluation upon it, that we recognize the truth of it.

Paul said, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were

dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1. But we have to groan for this. It has to be the earnest expectation and the desire of the heart. We have to desire "to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." II Corinthians 5:2.

Again, what is your priority? What do you groan for? What do you deeply desire? What is the first inclination that you have when you get up in the morning? What is your first thought? Is it a Godly thought, or is it a physical thought? During the day, when you look about and behold God's handiwork, what do you think? "What can I have? What is mine?"

What did the man say when he looked at his barns and surveyed his crops? He said that his barns were filled, and he would build more. What did God say? "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee . . ." Luke 12:20. What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and he loses his soul? It profits him absolutely nothing. That isn't the Father's desire or His pleasure. God doesn't threaten us. He entreats us. He wants to give us eye salve so that we can see and discern. He wants us to be appreciative and be willing to tell others about Him, to tell enthusiastically with all of our heart, with all of our mind, and with all of our soul.

There are so many people in the world today who are utter failures in everything they say and do. In whatever capacity they may be in, at work, at home, spiritually, in relationship to their country and their government, they fail because they are not dedicated. They are not sincere. They go through a task by habit, or ritual. They live, but not in the fullness of the abundant life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I believe that the only way to be happy and content, whether you are a sister or a brother, a servant or a master (I'm speaking in the vernacular of the old day), in the church, in business or whatever, is to do everything wholeheartedly as unto the Lord. Do it without doubt or reservation and the blessings of God will be poured out upon you. Only then, by the grace of God, will you be able to live victoriously.

Dedication. Perseverance. We read in the morning hour about putting on the whole armour of God. We perse-

vere not to make a success of ourselves, but to work as unto the Lord. Do it wholeheartedly. I would not want to be a part of a church that I couldn't embrace with all of my heart, my mind, my soul, and my body, because I don't think that you should be a hypocrite and I don't think you can fool the people. If you aren't into it wholeheartedly, you are not a lively, viable member. You are just a joiner.

In every organization it seems that there are three types of people. There is one type who sits back and does nothing. There is another type who sits back and criticizes those who are willing to go ahead. Then there is the third type who are the doers, and those can expect to be criticized. You will find that situation not only in church, but in almost any type of organization.

There are people who just belong.

There are people who just belong. There are people who take an active vocal part. Then there are people who are really doers. They are the people who really make things work. It is so easy to be a part of something and not have your whole heart in it or be fully dedicated. I want to tell you, dearly beloved, it shows. I wouldn't want to be a part of a marriage that I didn't put my all into. Life is too short. You only pass through this life once. We are talking now about temporal things.

Think about the house of God and spiritual things. It was never intended that only at the time of our repentance we should be watchful, careful and obedient, trying to get the love and support of the brethren so that when we give our testimony, we would be accepted by them.

I know that during the time of my repentance, dearly beloved, I thought the church was absolutely perfect. The only sins that I could see were my own sins, and they were great and many. The plea and prayer on my heart was that by the grace of God, repentance would result in remission of sin, and the Lord would convert my heart and be willing to accept me.

I was getting my heart and my life in order by His help and His grace. I needed the prayers, strength and encouragement of the brethren. My plea was that when I shared my testimony with the church, if I wasn't ready and right in the sight of God, that the church would discern it. I had that confidence in the body.

My prayer was thus because it was in

1942 when the war was at its worst. I'm speaking of World War II. I believed that in a very short time I would have to leave home and my congregation, and go into the great conflict. Time was very precious and very, very short. But I had confidence in the church, and my plea was that they would accept me at least among them. I wanted above everything else to be a part of the church that I had in the past taken for granted.

I am glad to tell you that today my aim and my heart's ambition is still to be a part of God's holy church and His people. I love our church. I have found nothing that compares with it. I know that the church is filled with shortcomings because it is filled with people like myself. We have not attained perfection, but we are struggling.

The apostle Paul said, "... forgetting those things which are behind ... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:13, 14.

This is the groaning that we speak about, that we earnestly desire "to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." II Corinthians 5:2. It is to be clothed with the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After our conversion, what is our condition? Paul says, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Ephesians 2:19, 20. Consider that very, very carefully. Let us ask ourselves, "Is this our position?"

"In whom all the building fitly framed together . . ." (we are not odd pieces, but we are fitly framed together) "groweth . . ." (it does not stand still; it's not in a state of remission or regression) "unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Ephesians 2:21, 22.

This is what it's all really about. This is the groaning. "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan . . ." II Corinthians 5:4. Do you groan in the spirit?

One day I went to visit an aged sister, the wife of a minister. She was in the hospital, and she knew that she was approaching the end of life's journey. She shared with me when I came in and stood by her side. I had known her for many, many years. I loved and es-

teemed her as a child of God.

She confessed to me with a troubled heart. She said, "Bro. Ben, my body is so weak that I just can't put my thoughts together to pray. I just can't form prayers." "Yet," she said, "there are Zion's Harp hymns that come to me, and there are thoughts that I have; but I just can't concentrate in prayer." Then she said to me, "But it seems to me that somewhere the Word mentions the groaning of the spirit."

I said, "You are so right." It was a lesson to me that I will never forget. I opened the New Testament, and I opened exactly to the chapter and verse that she had reference to.

Paul writes to his beloved brethren that the Spirit will pray for us with groanings and intercessions that cannot be heard. This happens when we are well and healthy. If the time comes when our strength is diminished, if we grow old and faint, the Spirit will continue to intercede for us.

We are people of two parts, dearly beloved. There is a fleshly part and there is a spiritual part. One has to take the predominance. The heart will either be filled with the spirit of love of God, or it will be filled with the spirit of this world.

Sin and evil do not mix with good. The Lord said that we can't serve two masters. We must love the one and hate the other. We can't carry water on both shoulders.

We are dealing with a God who has eyes as flames of fire, who can discern. We are not equipped, we are not able, we are not capable of bargaining with Him. As far as the heaven is above the earth, are the Lord's ways above ours, dearly beloved. Let us not ever forget it.

This is really what He is telling us, though perhaps in a little different way from that in which I am laying it to your heart. Through the blessing and increase of God, we hope that we can learn and benefit from these teachings.

"For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened . . ." II Corinthians 5:4. We don't want to be naked and exposed; we want to be clothed with the garment of humility . . . to be arrayed in white.

The prophet said, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18. Here we are in the presence of God in the house that He has prepared. We

are reasoning together so that we can be lifted, enlightened, encouraged, strengthened and edified. This is why we come to the house of God.

Jesus told the disciples and the apostles, "I will not leave you comfortless." John 14:18. In a little while He would go to the Father. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3.

Paul said, "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." II Corinthians 5:5. The assurance of the Holy Spirit to teach, comfort, and direct us in all things, this is the earnestness of that Spirit. But we must be proper receptacles. We must have a desire. The Spirit isn't just poured out upon us, but is ours for the asking. The Spirit is God, and he will not be defiled. He will not co-mingle with sin, filth, or unrighteousness.

"Be ye holy; for I am holy." says your Lord and God. I Peter 1:16.

We can always be confident in the certainty of the Word of the Lord. It doesn't say maybe or perhaps. The Word of the Lord says "shall" and we are so grateful.

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight)." II Corinthians 5:6, 7.

The apostle Paul, who had a close relationship with God, said, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour . . ." II Corinthians 5:8, 9. Are we labourers in the vineyard of the Lord? Paul said that he was an ambassador for Christ.

Daniel was given a vision. He did not have the Word as we have it today. Christ had not yet been manifested to the people. Daniel was given insight into things that you and I have seen spiritually and that our forefathers had experienced.

What did Thomas say to the Lord Jesus Christ? "Except I shall see in his hands . . . and put my finger into the print of the nails . . . I will not believe." John 20:25. Then when Thomas saw the Lord, he was ashamed. The Lord

spoke words of comfort and encouragement to you and to me when He said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed." John 20:29.

Also, when Jesus was transfigured, Peter, James and John, who were with Him, said, "It is good for us to be here." Mark 9:5. They saw Moses and Elias, men of God. Their faces radiated because of what they had seen. It was strengthening and fortifying. You and I have sat under the blanket of the umbrella of salvation, and it has been shared with us.

"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." II Corinthians 5:9. Here again is our responsibility and the truth of the matter. The way we live today and tomorrow, if God wills the world will stand, determines whether we are pleasing and acceptable to Him.

We often say that Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. I would like to elaborate upon that statement. Today we read, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Corinthians 5:10. Jesus Christ is the Author of the book of life.

There are two books, We can read in John's Revelation that one of the books is a book of deeds. The pen is writing every day of what we did yesterday, what we do today, and will write what we do tomorrow. Christ is the Author of that book.

We are told in the Word of the Lord that another book was also opened. That was the book of life. Whoever's name was not found written by the blood of the Lamb in that book ". . . was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:13.

Christ will say to many, ". . . I know you not." Matthew 25:12. For those He will not stand as a merciful High Priest, not as the Intercessor between heaven and earth, not as the Redeemer. (You might read the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth chapters in Matthew.) Then He will preside as the Righteous Judge between heaven and earth.

All are going to stand before Him, both the quick and the dead, both great and small. On the right hand will be the sheep . . . to whom He will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

But on the left, workers of iniquity, those whose names were not found written in the book of life, who have rejected the wise counsel and kind invitation of the Lord. Many in that day will cry, "Lord, we preached thy name in the streets." But the sad annunciation will be made, "Be gone; I never knew you."

Only those who enter the fold through the straight and narrow gate (the Lord Jesus) will be accepted. For our Lord says, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14.

But ". . . wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Matthew 7:13.

Knowing that we must stand before the judgment seat of God, and "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord . . ." this is what our mission and our commission in life is: ". . . we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. For we commend not ourselves . . ." II Corinthians 5:11, 12.

Our ministry and the ministry that is consistently brought before you does not lift us up; we are ministering the truth. ". . . but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart. For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. For the love of Christ (your servants who stand before you do it out of love) constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." II Corinthians 5:14, 15.

Our ministry, beloved, is not of deceit or vain glory or filthy lucre. God has given us a blessing. He has shared with us the most precious gift of all, the abundant life in the Lord Jesus Christ. When someone has something that is precious beyond all evaluation, it is only natural to want to share it. That is what we are doing today, sharing our experience, and may God bless it to all of our hearts.

(Sermon edited for publication
by Silver Lining Staff)

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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. BEN MAIBACH OF DETROIT, MI

Text: II Corinthians 5:1-15

In this Scripture it is pointed out very emphatically and very clearly that a common expression often heard is said in sincerity, but unfortunately wrongly. It is: "I have accepted Christ," or "Have you accepted Christ?". Very common terminology. Dearly beloved, I think it brings into focus how man has elevated himself, has lifted himself up. He has turned the truth around, one hundred and eighty degrees. Our Lord and our Saviour Jesus Christ, when He was with the apostles said, "Have I not chosen you twelve . . .?" John 6:70. He made it very clear that He had chosen them. Today men have turned this whole matter around and have placed themselves upon a plane that is out of perspective with the vision of God.

The truth of the matter is that man has fallen, that man is not deserving of the consideration of God. We crucified the Prince of Peace. We should have been nailed to the cross, not He. He did no sin. He did no wrong. But we rejected Him. We can say, "We weren't there . . . we didn't drive any nails into His hands." But it was because of us that He had to die. We were just as guilty as the Romans, and just as guilty as the Jews. He came to this earth to sanctify and to redeem us, but we would just not have Him. We were busy and preoccupied in other things.

We are still too involved with other things today. Our priorities have gone awry. We want to serve God, but there seems to be hardly enough time. Isn't that the way it is in your life, and in mine? It is important that we look into the mirror of God's Word and say, "Where do we really want to go? What is life all about? Why are we here? What are we doing to glorify our Savior?"

Salvation is ours for the asking. The Lord calls and invites us, and He gives us assurance that whoever seeks will find. If we knock, the porter will open

the door. The Scriptures are there and the Word is filled with promise.

Much responsibility is laid upon us. What do we do with that kind invitation? The important thing is to love and serve the Lord. Our sinful lives are not acceptable to God. Our aims, our hopes, our aspirations, our convictions, generally were far from the kingdom of heaven. We were filled with earthly pursuits.

When you travel to certain parts of the world and see the low standard of living, you perceive consequences of an affluent society. One result is that the more we get, the more we want. That is an absolute fact. The easier things come, the more we take them for granted . . . and the less we really appreciate what we have.

Persecution and poverty beget humility, because there is need. When we are sufficient, when we have things pressed down and overflowing, we may have the attitude, "Well, I am deserving of it," and "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." That is not the will or desire of God. It is very important that we recognize this.

Paul is pointing out to the children of Israel that we have this earthly house, our mortal body, and when it is dissolved, we can have a building of God. And it is going to be dissolved. I really think that people ought to visit hospitals and nursing homes on a regular basis and see the deterioration of the mind and the body, and see how corruptible this flesh really is. When we are well and strong, we think, "It really doesn't matter."

I mentioned last Sunday that as a young man starting in my business career, I was injured on the job. I fell. In falling, I injured myself and had to be hospitalized. I was in the hospital, lying on my back for about two weeks, not able to put my feet on the floor. The

time came that I healed, for I was young and strong.

At the time of my accident, I was already converted, a young man and young in faith. I really didn't understand the limitations of the flesh, its fragility and weakness.

The doctor came in one morning and told me that I was making progress, and that I was going to be able to start walking. He said, "I will send some help down to support you." I was young, and thought that I was strong. Very honestly, I didn't mean to be proud, but I was embarrassed. Two nurses came in, got on each side of me, and told me to put my feet on the floor and that I should be careful. I really felt very, very good. I was a little light-headed. I had been inactive for two weeks, but I had gone into the hospital strong and well except for my injury.

I thought that since I had walked all my life I would just put my heart to it, and I would do it. I put one foot on the floor and then the other foot. I stood by myself and I tried to move, but I could not move either foot. Those nurses, who were knowledgeable, knew that that would be the situation. If they had not been there to assist me, I would have fallen in a heap on the floor.

It was a learning experience. It happened over forty years ago, but I remember it as though it were yesterday. Sometimes we have to learn the hard way. But, dearly beloved, it is wonderful that we live in a society in which there are those who are willing to help us.

On my last trip in India there was a time when we were out at the foothills of the Himalayas and we were far removed from society in general. We had walked through wilderness and jungle, and then into a village. I looked upon the scene that lay before my eyes

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