



O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

Psalms 63:1

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:1

VOLUME 37

MARCH 1987

NUMBER 3

Living Water: The Drink That Satisfies

... Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

John 7:37, 38

The call of Jesus goes out today to a world that continues its maddening search for satisfaction and fulfillment. Fallen man drinks of pleasure, fame and fortune, and then finds that there is no satisfaction, only an addicting need for more. Even those who have been to the "Living Fountain" need to be reminded that He alone offers peace and fulfillment. Let's not be tricked into thirsting after any other drink, as "living water" is the only drink that satisfies.

Jesus answered and said unto her, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:13, 14

Are we thirsty? If we are then we haven't been looking to the "Living Water" to quench our thirst! Are we content to be totally fulfilled and sustained by our relationship with our Lord Jesus. Is He the source of our confidence, nourishment and joy? May we all be consumed in the coming days by an exclusive thirst for God and the desire to more fully know His Son. Philippians 3:8.

Come, let's go to the fountain!

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

The following is a condensed report translated from a taped, detailed description of a trip by a Hungarian ministering brother to visit fellow believers living in the Bucovina district of Russia. Such visitations have become more frequent in recent years, giving them opportunities for a closer walk and fellowship with each other.

"Heavily loaded with luggage and boxes filled with warm winter clothing, we were accompanied to the railroad station by a large group of brothers and sisters. That evening we departed in faith and with great expectations, but not without some concerns. Miraculously, the guardian angels watched over us as we crossed the borders without any incident. On the train we spent a peaceful night, arriving at our first destination at about 10:00 a.m. To take the next train to our final destination, we were to wait till evening, and what appeared to be a long, boring day, ahead of us, turned into a sweet and joyous fellowship, as 15 brethren came to meet us. They also were a great help to us with our luggage as we were to travel several hundred kilometers. Among the group were three elders, one deacon and an 80-year-old brother. We were all overjoyed as we met and got better acquainted with each other. We traveled all night and arrived at our final destination at 8:00 a.m. Again, a number of local brethren waited for us at the station.

"After reporting to the local authorities, we split into smaller groups and, as tourists, we had to visit certain points and sites of interest and of historical value (render unto Caesar etc.). Later in the afternoon we hurried on to the home of a brother for church services. More than 70 were waiting, deeply moved as we greeted one another in the Lord. The room was crowded (wall to wall). Most worshipers stand during services and only the guests are seated.

"Opening hymn, Zion's Harp #12, was followed by reading Psalms 95 and John 15:1-16. Services were held in Hungarian with the assistance of an interpreter. Reading the scriptures is valued very highly, as well as the reading of the hymns. Generally, the local folks weep for joy. How I wish that we, too, who have easy access to the Word,

would value it and appreciate it as much as these local brethren do!

"At the end of the services the friends leave the room. During exchange of greetings, the congregation stands, audibly responds and weeps for joy, greeting one another with the holy kiss. Brother greets brother and sister greets sister in the Lord. Hymns are sung without books and in one melody only. Only a very few handwritten Zion's Harp hymnals are available.

"After singing, a meal was served. Tables were set up rather quickly in the same room. First the visiting guests were seated and served on individual plate settings, while the local folks ate out of a large common dish, as is their custom. After prayer, according to their custom, an old brother took the bread and broke it and passed it on to others. Interestingly, sweets and desserts are served first and followed by the main course. After dinner a prayer of thanks is given, followed by singing of hymn #3 in the Zion's Harp (Praise and Thanks), and the singing of the Lord's Prayer (Our Father . . .). This is not known to us in Hungary, but perhaps it is to you in America.

"Next day we visited a sister-in-faith in their rented home. Her husband is an alcoholic. They have ten children, and a difficult, hard life to support such a large family. They also have health problems. We sang a few hymns and offered a prayer. As we parted, the sister wept for joy and thanked us for the nice gifts and visit. In a neighboring village a father with six small children is in very poor health. In another nearby family with six small children, the mother is in the faith but the father is an alcoholic. He causes much difficulty for her and a hard life for the family. A few houses away we visited an old couple. Their home is a one-room house with a small pantry attached to it. The brother is a deacon. His wife is well educated and spends most of her time translating the entire Zion's Harp hymnal into the Russian language. She does this with great devotion and enthusiasm, so their people can understand the words and sing it in their own language. Currently only a few handwritten hymnals are available in their language. They asked us to sing hymn

#212 in four parts, as we always do. They are poor, but happy and content. Our next visit was in the home of a brother who is a widower with ten children. A dinner was prepared and served to all and again, we were treated as "cultured" people (as they call us), served on individual plates, while they ate out of a common dish, as a "symbol of love". After the meal, the few days of visiting in many homes with many brethren, enjoying the sweet fellowship among them, came to a close, and we had to say farewell.

"The gifts sent from America and the clothing brought from Hungary were distributed among the needy families. Your dedicated, sacrificial giving served as a testimony and an inspiration to these beloved brethren here. Many of them expressed their heartfelt thanks, individually and collectively, for your generous gifts of love. They give thanks to God for the prayers and the love of the beloved in the far, distant country beyond the seas, with a plea, that you continue to remember them always in your prayers.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lynn Stieglitz

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
Route 2, Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

"As we left to go to the railroad station, many wept. It was a painful experience. As in the past, many of them accompanied us to the station. This is their way of expressing their love. Fifteen brothers and sisters decided to accompany us on the train to the next transfer station, so we could enjoy more Christian fellowship while traveling thru the night, and useful conversation while waiting another 10 hours for the next train to take us back to Hungary. As we headed towards our home, we thanked God for His won-

drous protection and safe leading.

"Our beloved elders, ministers and the brothers and co-laborers in the relief work greet you with much love. Also, the brethren whom we visited in the U.S.S.R. send holy greetings to all the beloved in the United States.

As your grateful and needy brother,"
J. N.

We received word that the new Russian Zion's Harp hymnals soon will be ready for printing. The numbering arrangement will correspond with the

other East European language hymnals, so they can all sing the same melody together, but each in his or her language. We may be called upon in the near future to support this publication project. There will be more on this later.

FOOD PACKAGING PROJECT

Bro. Gerald Fiechter, Bluffton, IN

Following the directions of the National World Relief Committee, a distribution center was set up at Bluffton, IN. This building is located on South Main Street, and is used for both food and clothing packaging.

Food packing occurs six times a year, with the packing of two different sized boxes each time. A 55-pound box is sponsored by our Apostolic Christian World Relief and a 22-pound box is sponsored by the New Order Amish from near Millersburg, OH. Clothing sorting and packing is done Thursday evenings and Saturdays when we have visitors from our other churches invited to help.

In November, a number of nearby churches were invited here to help. The churches represented were: Milford, Leo and Indianapolis, IN, and Latty and Junction, OH. Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) also helped. In January we invited more churches to help with this work. We are glad that brethren and friends came from Alto and Bay City, MI. There is a blessing in working and fellowshiping together, and we hope to continue this in the future.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Greetings in love and esteem in our dear Saviour's name.

The Lord has surely blessed the labors of our brethren in giving and distributing the Bible and New Testaments this past year, with 18,247 Bibles being shipped to our churches. Many opportunities were found to give and share God's Word. Bibles were given to individuals, placed in prisons, reformatories, rescue missions, the Salvation Army, in motels, doctor and optometrist offices, sent with food and clothing shipments to the needy, sent with mission teams to India, Haiti, Mexico and Central America. Bible tapes and braille Bibles were provided for the blind and for those with poor eyesight. Brethren in several church areas have been able to work together to expand the outreach in giving the Bible.

With many revisions of the Bible being offered to the people today, we have grave concern about the additions, deletions, changes and paraphrase that have changed the thought and meaning of the Word. We remain committed to giving the King James Version and will be providing Bibles, tapes and Testaments of the King James Version.

Listed below is a summary of the Bible distribution of the last three years.

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
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247

Bibles Distributed — Fourth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1986 —	1729	1729
September 1986 —	865	2594
October 1986 —	1667	4261
November 1986 —	1565	5826
December 1986 —	2651	8477
January 1987 —	1113	9590
February 1987 —	1785	11375

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.

Listings of Bibles, testaments, tapes and braille Bibles at the Leo, IN, Bible Distribution Center will be sent to each congregation.

We wish to express our thanks for the generous contributions to the Bible Fund, enabling the work to continue and to grow.

David Bertsch,
Mission Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ATHENS, AL PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM

The Apostolic Christian Preschool needs a volunteer for the summer program for the school-age children. Some background is helpful but not required. Any sister or brother who is interested can contact Sis Evie Blunier at 204-233-0591 or Route 11, Athens, AL 35611. We also need volunteers to come for at least one or two weeks, if possible, to help with the Preschool children. Accommodations are available.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

We are learning more about Jesus and the miracles He performed while living on this earth. The children listen so intently and seem to absorb all they hear. Our prayer is that what they hear will stay with them as they grow and that someday it will bring forth fruit in each of their lives. It's a special blessing to hear them talk about the Bible stories as they play. One day after hearing the story about Jesus bringing a boy back to life, one little girl said, "Miss Marilyn, these are your kids. They died and you have to pray so Jesus will make them alive." She laid some toy men on the table and then added, "But you have to have big faith!" She had obviously been listening during Bible story time and realized that Jesus has the power to do mighty things if only we have the faith to believe.

We have enjoyed some warm weather and outdoor play and are looking forward to Spring. We have a theme each month that we learn about besides our Bible stories. For example, we will learn about plants in April and hopefully, plant a garden. In February, we are learning about Our Bodies, Health and Safety. The children are realizing how special God made each of us. We have done many activities and projects and definitely have fun while we are learning.

Sis. Eunice Kelley has been added to our staff. We welcome her.

We ask that as you make plans for the summer, that you would consider

TEACHER NEEDED AT ATHENS, AL PRESCHOOL

There is a need for a teacher at the Athens, AL Preschool. Any sister interested should first discuss the need with her local church elder. The next contact would be the Athens Preschool Administration, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, for further details. It is preferred that the sister be a certified teacher; however, any sister with teaching training or experience would be considered. We want to express our thanks to Sis. Evie Blunier for her labor of love in working with the preschool children of Athens for these 2½ years.

Athens Pre-School Board

spending some time at the Preschool. Last summer we had thirteen volunteers and are looking forward to more this year. We welcome any brother or sister, married or single, who is willing to be used for the Lord. Accommodations are available. We prefer our volunteers to come for at least one or two weeks, but will welcome any amount of time. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. God will use your talents to help us if you are willing to let Him. The blessing will be yours!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Uriel Gehring

We are approaching the end of another winter season. How quickly we march through the seasons ordained by our great God. It seems but a fortnight ago we were talking about the arrival of winter, and now we anticipate the next season on God's calendar, spring. Spring lends itself so beautifully in the Creator's schedule. All of nature that has been sleeping all winter suddenly wakes up and reaches heavenward, seemingly recognizing from whence its help cometh and from whence it draws its power to grow. What a parallel to us, His creations. When we "wake up" and reach to the Son for our help, we, too, begin to grow spiritually. The more we reach out to Him, the more the world sees "Christ in us," the stamp of God's approval on His adopted children, as members of His family. "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:15-19.

All we have or ever hope to be, has been bestowed on us because of His love for us. It behooves us, then, to share with others the love we have received of Him. "God loveth a cheerful giver." The children at our Home are the objects of your love and ours. What a privilege it is to share with them the love He has given us. Let us take

advantage of the opportunity God gives us, as the door to giving and sharing is always open. We need your continued prayers, that we, His spiritual offspring, may be a good witness for Him, and a light to our children. "He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love." I John 4:8.

Some of our staff members and children spent a weekend with the Alto, MI, congregation. Thanks, "Michiganders," for giving us such a warm welcome. We felt right at home with you. How rich is our fellowship, and all because of Christ's love for us.

Three of our children participated recently in a choir music contest in Fort Wayne. They represented the Leo Jr.-Sr. High School and performed very well. John W. and Marie H. received ratings of "IF" and Kara H. received a "I" rating. We are always encouraged when our children develop their God-given talents.

Bro. Bill Blunier and two of his boys, Mike T. and Bob W., spent a night recently in our own "Cabin in the Woods" in the timber area just north of our buildings (kind of like the good ol' days). The cozy cabin was heated by a wood stove.

Thelma W. (one of our girls for eight years) has moved to Shelbyville, IN, where she will live with her mother. Her last eight months were spent in our

CHILDREN'S HOME COUNSELING POSITION

This full-time position in our family/team program offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity to work with a dedicated Christian staff serving abused, neglected, and disturbed adolescents. Responsibilities include individual, group, and family counseling, intake screening, liaison work with outside agencies, and consultation to staff.

This position requires that the brother or sister have at least a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or counseling (includes guidance counseling).

For further information on job description, salary, and benefits, contact Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator, A.C.C.H., Box 151, Leo, IN 46765; (219) 627-2159.

Your brothers in faith,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

Independent Living Program. We wish her the best in every undertaking.

Among our many volunteers we appreciate so much are Bro. Dean Van Horn (Bluffton), who has been lending his culinary expertise, his aid in the schoolroom and his companionship to the children; Bro. Jack and Sis. Dorothy Krantz (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter (Chicago, IL), board members who have been houseparenting the weekend of board meetings; and all of the local people who have been helping out while we wait and look for our new Alternate Houseparents. It is so nice to have Nancy Parciak (Connecticut) helping us out in the schoolroom, especially in the computer field. This is her spring vacation from her regular duties at school. May the Lord be the rewarder of every volunteer effort.

The most recent presentations about the home were at Goodfield, IL and Alto, MI. As of this writing, 32 presentations have been given. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home. Presentations are usually given immediately after the Sunday afternoon church service. A slide presentation is also available for other settings.

Our Annual Appreciation Supper was held Friday evening, February 20. The supper is in recognition of all the efforts put forth by our local church community. Supper was served in the West House basement, and 80 - 90

people were treated to chicken casserole, jello salad, home-baked bread and banana split dessert. The children helped with the serving. Our two Assistant Houseparents, Sis. LeAnn Wulf and Sis. Maxine Sauder, were in charge of the evening. All the children and staff participated. Thank you, sisters, for a well-planned program. Also present were three board members and their wives, namely Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel (Detroit, MI), Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Jack and Sis. Dorothy Krantz (Morton, IL). Thank you to all who were in attendance. The entire evening was graced with the joy of rich Christian fellowship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

There is an air of hustle and bustle at the Home in recent weeks as our spring housecleaning gets underway. It is extra special this year because the north end residents' rooms are all getting a fresh coat of paint, new wallpaper and drapes. After 15 years of wear, redecorating was quite necessary. We are thankful that several volunteer groups from Princeville and Bradford assisted the staff in this huge undertaking. The generous sacrifice of all volunteers almost overwhelms us. So to show our appreciation in some small way, the staff and residents are planning another Volunteer Dinner and program. March 27 is the date, and we would be

happy if all volunteers with 12 or more hours of service each year for 1985 and 1986 could attend. Needless to say, the residents are excited, and looking forward to having you as guests.

Our March calendar is full of interesting outings. On the 5th, a group has tickets to the Ice Capades at the Civic Center. Another group will go to Northwoods Mall shopping. On Friday, March 13, the Forrest congregation will come and worship with us. Monday night Bingo is fast approaching. Two overnight trips to Jumers, eight residents each time, is one of the highlights this month. Then there is Sunshine Club and swimming at Eureka pool. Most of these events would not be possible were it not for volunteers who lovingly give of their time and help us as chaperones.

Those enjoying a special birthday party for the month of March are Bill Unsicker, Mike Bodtke, Maretta Roke, Margo Ebert, Anna Eberhard, Jeff Zimmerman, Edna Haynes, Frank Kyburz and Nancy Meister.

In closing, we would like to share with you Matthew 5:3-12, which has been especially adapted for use in Special Education:

HOW TO BE HAPPY

Happy are those who know they need God, for God's kingdom belongs to them!

Happy are those who are sad, for God will comfort them!

HOUSEPARENT OPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings in the Lord Jesus,

There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for an Alternate Houseparent couple. Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, who have been at the Home since 1984 recently returned to Illinois; and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr have begun as regular Houseparents.

This challenging and rewarding position offers the opportunity for a couple to work as a team with a dedicated and unified staff of fellow brothers and sisters as they strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and disturbed children. (James 1:27)

Interested couples are encouraged to write or call any of the brothers listed below for more information concerning qualifications, responsibilities, salary and benefits.

Your servants in Christ,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 or
219/627-2606

Bro. Dan Knochel
30449 Barkley
Livonia, MI 48154
313/421-0711

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
Route 2
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

Apostolic Christian Home
for the Handicapped
Veterans Road, Route 3
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-9781

NEEDED:

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**For Apostolic Christian Home
for the Handicapped**

We have a new position at the Home for the Handicapped for a program director. This person needs a bachelor's degree in education, social work, physical or occupational therapy, psychology or a similar degree. They will have a caseload of residents for which they need to develop the training programs, implement and coordinate them, and monitor their delivery. Anyone interested should contact the Home.

Happy are humble people, for they will receive what God has promised!
 Happy are those who want with all their heart to do what God requires, for God will satisfy them fully!
 Happy are those who show mercy to others, for God will show mercy to them!
 Happy are those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God!
 Happy are those who work for peace among men, for God will call them His sons!

Happy are those who suffer because they do what God requires, for God's kingdom belongs to them!
 Happy are you when men call you bad names, and cause you lots of trouble and tell all kinds of lies about you — all because you are my followers.
 Be glad and happy, because a great reward is kept for you in heaven.
 This is just how people badly treated the prophets who lived before you.

SISTER NEEDED TO TEACH IN JAPAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-the-Lord,
 We send you warm greetings of love in Jesus name. Our precious Word tells us, "... the prayer of a righteous man availeth much . . .". And we are so appreciative of the prayers many of you breathe for the brethren, friends and work here in Japan.

We write you today with a specific need we wish to share, however. As many of you know, our church operates two basic outreach programs here in Japan: an English school and a private kindergarten. And our need today has to do with finding a sister to teach in our kindergarten.

The Shioda-American kindergarten is located in the country about one and a half hours drive from the western suburbs of Tokyo. It is a 2-year comprehensive, Christian-based English kindergarten program for 32 Japanese children. This program has served area children for nearly 20 years, and our Lord who knows all and sees all has continued to provide for our needs.

Over the years our system has developed to include a classroom for 16 four-year-old entering students and a classroom for 16 five-year-old second year students. God directed, willing sisters have been offering services for these precious children on a two-year or longer rotation plan. The sisters' transportation to and from America, housing, health insurance, a monthly expense stipend (approximately \$600), a domestic travel package (approximately \$450) and an annual bonus (approximately \$600) are provided.

Sis. Sheila Moser (Lester, IA) will be completing 3 years of service in July, and is scheduled to return to the States. Therefore, we are praying for God to provide another willing sister to teach. We are searching for a sister who:

1) Is a mature Christian woman and a sister in good standing with the church.

2) Feels she is unquestionably led by the Father for humble service.

3) Holds a bachelors degree in education in the fields of either English as a second language, elementary education, special education, speech pathology, early childhood education or a related field.

4) Is an individual that is flexible, willing to begin studying/using a foreign language and is able to fully support a church which is located in a different culture and a country with less than a 1% Christian population.

We would like to leave you with several scriptural passages:

— Luke 1:37; With God all things are possible.

— Isaiah 6:8; I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me.

— Matthew 28:18; Go ye therefore unto all nations, teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. And lo I will be with you alway even unto the end of the world.

If the spirit is speaking to your heart today, we beg you to confer with your local elder, who in turn will contact our Missionary Committee representative, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. He will then contact the team here in Japan. If you do have questions concerning your role here or any other details, feel free to contact us. If you are not eligible for this position, we humbly ask for your sincere prayers.

Your needy servants in the Lord,
 Randy Mogler
 Willis R. Ehnle

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

Apostolic Christian Publications would like to call your attention to some new items now available:

1. New English version of the Apostolic Christian Church History Book. This is a rewriting of the old Volume I book.

2. A large print Zion's Harp Hymnal which makes a nice gift, especially for the elderly. It is a blessing and often a real encouragement to be able to read the words of these beautiful hymns.

3. Vacation Bible School material. We have workbooks and teacher's guides available for grades nursery through eighth grade. This material is especially nice as it is written and edited by the Apostolic Christian Church.

4. We also have some booklets available at no charge:

Spiritual Heart of Man

Ye Must Be Born Again

Winds of Doctrine

Daily Bible Reading Guide

Statement of Faith (also available in large print)

To order, write us at:
 Apostolic Christian Publications
 524 Valley Court
 Eureka, IL 61530

or call us at (309) 467-3611
 between the hours of 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.,
 Monday through Friday

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

Recently in our adult Sunday school class we heard the familiar story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. It was brought out so vividly how three people had an opportunity to help someone and didn't take advantage of that opportunity. The thieves who beat and robbed the man in the story only cared about themselves but that is what is expected of thieves. One would think that the Priest who came by next would care and stop to offer help. It was part of his job to care but he passed by on the other side. Then a Levite came, looked, and also passed by on the other side, missing an opportunity to help someone in great need. And, last of all, a Samaritan, the most unlikely person to help the beaten Jewish man, came and had compassion on him. He took time to bind his wounds, take him to an inn and care for him during the night.

He also made sure the man would be cared for until he was well and paid whatever it cost. How many times do we have an opportunity to do good and instead just turn our heads and go about our own business? Do we take time to only help those we know or do we care about a stranger? We need to not only give our money but our time to help others. It seems so many times the things that money can buy don't help as much as a kind word or a prayer. Let's also remember "... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren; ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

We have been blessed with many visitors. Ministering Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan), Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) have been here along with their wives. We appreciate their messages and are thankful for the blessings received through their efforts. We had other visitors from Forrest, Bradford, Tremont, Eureka, Cissna Park, Roanoke, Peoria, Washington, Champaign, IL, and Lamont, Gridley and Fort Scott, KS. As always, we enjoy our visitors.

Sis. Vivian (Arnold) Haggemaker, and Sis. Ora Massey have been hospitalized. Our prayers are with them.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

We have been blessed with messages by Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), James Leman (Roanoke, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Donald Miller (Minneapolis, MN) as they ministered the Word to us.

We are grateful our dear Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach returned home safely after a month in India.

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach will be at the elder's mid-winter conference in Sabetha, KS. We pray the Lord will guide the elders in the work that has to be done to keep our church "in tune" with the times.

Natalie Jean was born January 23 to Bro. Herb, Jr. and Sis. Laurie Knochel. Her brother, Andy, also welcomes her and has all kinds of toys to share.

Little Drew Jason is the youngest son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Teri Leman. Bryant and Grant are just waiting to

teach and help little Drew, who was born February 10.

We are thankful the Lord laid His healing hand on Sis. Lois Beres who had surgery, Bro. Harry Roth, Phyllis Shackelford, Sis. Laverne Roth and Shayne Pulfer.

Do what you can with what you have, where you are.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Doug Schmidgall — Ethel Smith

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

The church is a place of worship where we are taught through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Ninety-seven gathered in Prescott February 8 for services. We were blessed with many wonderful teachings and instructions to aid our spiritual growth. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) instructed us in our duties as watchmen (Ezekiel 33). There are warnings and teachings for the ministers of the flocks but we each have our individual responsibilities as born-again Christians to be good watchmen in our own lives. In Colossians 3, we are to "put on" the virtues of kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and long suffering that we might enjoy the peace of God.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God . . . Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

Colossians 3:1, 24, 25

Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix) and their wives were also with us for the day. We appreciated all the visitors and we thank them for their support.

As we mentioned last month, we would include some history of Prescott again this month. The population of the community is about 25,000. Although the town is growing fairly rapidly, job opportunities seem to be somewhat limited. The historical mining and ranching activities of the area have been replaced by service-type activi-

ties related to tourism. Tourism is promoted with arts and crafts shows, rodeos and other events. Because of the relatively cooler temperatures, Prescott attracts a large number of people from the desert areas during the summer months. About 40% of Prescott's population is retired or semi-retired. This fact, along with the tourism attractions, means that a large portion of job opportunities are service related in health services, stores, restaurants and motels. Federal, state, county and local governments employ a good share of people, particularly the Whipple Veterans' Administration Center. There is some light industry in the Prescott area but environmental concerns limit major industrial growth. Some of the jobs held by members and friends in the area are indicative of employment to be found (six in health services, three work for government agencies and one accountant).

Homes are available at moderate to moderately high prices. Most area schools are excellent. There is an active recreation and parks program. Except for some specialties, health care services are available locally at the Regional Hospitals, doctor's offices and clinics.

We encourage anyone with questions to contact one of us by calling or writing. We especially encourage people to visit our area.

We continue to hold services at least once each month, generally on the first Sunday of each month. Services are held at 2063 Thumb Butte Road. You may write to us at that address or contact Bro. Harvey or Ethel Smith at (602) 445-2164 or (602) 778-6130.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix), Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley).

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach visited us on a Wednesday evening to read the memorandum.

We thank Bro. Richard and all our visiting ministers for their efforts in our behalf.

Bro. Nick Knobloch visited us this month with a slide presentation concerning the grain shipments for the hungry in Ethiopia. We were humbled

by the destitution and poverty in that area, but more so perhaps by the efforts of Bro. Nick and so many others to alleviate some of the hunger and despair felt by the people of that country. Thank you, Bro. Nick, for sharing your experience with us.

After a very rare snowfall that was enjoyed by all, we are now enjoying temperatures in the 70's.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, February 15, we had a blessed day with many young brothers and sisters from Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and Phoenix and Tucson, AZ.

It was pleasing to hear all the young voices sing praise to God.

We thank all that were with us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:35-37. We are thankful that our new brother and sister, Bill and Mary Berg, had nothing to hinder them from being baptized and that they also believe with all their heart in the Lord Jesus Christ. We appreciate hearing their testimonies and hope they will share with many others.

We regret that Bro. Richard Hasty was in the hospital again for surgery. We hope that his recovery will be speedy and pray that God will be with him and his family in these trying times.

Have you ever seen a fight in which one man was unarmed? Well, it is not a pretty sight. Usually the unarmed man is destroyed. Since we are dealing with the devil it would seem right that we arm ourselves with the Word of God, for the Bible is the sword of the Spirit. Without it we have an unarmed spirit and destruction is sure to follow. So arm yourselves with the Word of God and fight the good fight of faith.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

We rejoiced with Bro. Joe Koch and Sis. Sandy Schneider who were united

in holy matrimony Sunday, February 1. May the love they share as husband and wife be a reflection of the love Christ had for His Church enabling them oftentimes to set aside their own needs and desires in deference to their helpmate. Parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness". Isaiah 41:10. How often we think with love and prayers of dear ones who are shut-ins, especially those in the twilight of life, when sickness afflicts the body and the spirit longingly yearns for rest in that beautiful home of the soul. Sis. Elizabeth Erismann was hospitalized for several days and is now at the home of her daughter, Margaret, with whom she lives. Also under the care of a physician were Sis. Eunice Schneider, Ray Hartmann and Sis. Hannah Schneider who suffered a badly broken arm due to a mis-step on the ice. We are happy that Bro. John Bahler can again assemble with us after being absent for a season with a severe cold.

Three of our couples recently experienced the birth of a baby, truly a creation of God! Bro. Ron and Sis. Bonnie Bahler became first-time parents Monday, January 19, when Marcy Elizabeth was born. Paternal and maternal grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider. Rachel Marion arrived Thursday, January 22, to join Rosanna and Phillip, family of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina Schneider. Her grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron, OH). Also, having their first baby are Bro. Lenny and Sis. Debbie Schneider who welcomed Levi Friday, February 13. Grandparents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider and Bro. Ron and Judy Stomberg. Congratulations are offered to all the parents with their little, new responsibilities of love!

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanished away." James 4:14. Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Elsie Lanz, 82, who was peacefully called home in her sleep Wednesday, February 11, at her winter

home in Sarasota, FL. She leaves a daughter, Sis. Muriel Fellows; one sister, Sis. Edna Roscher (Sarasota, FL) and two brothers, William Koehlert (PA) and Bro. Ernie Koehlert (Sarasota, FL).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Ed Aeschleman

Bro. Ed Aeschleman was the minister for our February 8 services in Washington. It was a blessed day to read and meditate upon the Word together and to enjoy the good fellowship with a goodly number of brethren and friends.

We were especially pleased to welcome Bro. Doug Germann and his wife, Sis. Rebecca, and their two sons, who came to us from Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Doug accepted a new position in Washington with Honeywell, his employer, and moved to the area in January. We thank God for sending the good support of this sincere young family to the small congregation in Washington. May He bless them with continued spiritual growth and with every success and happiness in their new work and home.

We continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month in Washington at the Best Western Westpark Hotel off of the I-495 Beltway at Tyson's Corner Exit. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

This month we were blessed with more than our share of visiting ministers. Bros. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers), Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH/Sarasota, FL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) joined us in worship over the past few weeks.

In addition, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) read the memorandum to our congregation. He was assisting our Elder Bro. Joe Braker; however, Bro. Joe was afflicted with a cold that caused him to restrict the use of his voice.

The first Saturday in February, the ladies held a one-gift shower for Sis. Amy Vogt (soon to be Mrs. Dale Ringger) to get acquainted with her and her family.

We are pleased to tell of the engage-

ment of Russell Huette and Janet Brewster. Russ recently moved to Clearwater, FL, from Texas. His sister and brother-in-law, Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Kuntz, are residents of Ft. Lauderdale.

We are glad to welcome Bro. Thomas Cholok into our midst. Bro. Tom was baptized in Ft. Lauderdale several years ago, and subsequently moved away. It's nice to have him back!

Once again it is the height of "the season". Our church has been filled to overflowing for almost two months now. It is exciting to see familiar faces of people we know from "up north".

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Kay Eisenmann

We were blessed well with visiting ministers this past month. We truly thank God for such blessings. Those visiting were: Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

A minister asked this question, "What does it take to make us homesick for heaven? Do we remember to pray for others, our helpmates? Can we not remember that Jesus died for us all and God forgave and forgot all our sins?" We are surely a blessed people. When we want more pay from our boss, we put more time and zeal into our earthly jobs. Do we not realize God gives us so much more than a raise? Let us, with God's help and grace, put more into our spiritual life. Yes, we are saved by grace and not works, but there are rewards in heaven. Let's all try and put more time into doing for God and may God give us the grace and desire to do it.

Dathan is in school and seems to be doing well. He needs to have a special diet to get his blood work up. It is all in the hands of God!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Lucille Heiniger

There is a land exceeding fair
Where joy and peace remain.
For strife and hate are not found there,
And love alone doth reign.

And weary from this earthly strife
The pilgrim there finds rest,
Throughout that everlasting life
God's holy name be blest.

How happy when relieved we'll be
From toils and cares of mind,
And in that holy land so free
Eternal rest we'll find.

Hymns of Zion #224

Our dear Sis. Elsie Lanz was taken suddenly from our community by the death angel who took her from this life to a better home to be with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. She leaves to mourn her loss a daughter, Sis. Muriel Fellows (Ellington, CT); a sister and two brothers, Sis. Edna Roscher and Bro. Ernest Koehlert (Sarasota) and William Koehlert (Pennsylvania); three grandsons and three great-grandsons. Services were held Saturday and the body was sent to Rockville, CT, for burial. We will certainly miss Sis. Elsie in our fellowship as she has made this her home in the winter months for many years. We are glad she could be relieved of her suffering and cares of this world.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandee Price left last Saturday for Mexico City with a group of brethren to help in the work of providing homes for the needy who lost their homes in the earthquake.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell have moved to Sarasota from Port Charlotte. Their address is 377 Oakhill Drive, Sarasota, FL 33582. Welcome to our fellowship Bro. William and Sis. Ruth.

Sis. Beth Alt has returned to the Sarasota area from Ft. Lauderdale. Welcome back to our fellowship, Sis. Beth.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), David Kieser (Princeville, IL), Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington, IL), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN and North Fort Myers, FL). We surely do appreciate all those who visit us and give of themselves for God to bring us the Word in truth and sincerity.

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

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Ephesians 4:14

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) held a Bible study on "Winds of Doctrine" in which he discussed the New Evangelical Movement. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) with the reading of the memorandum. We were also blessed with Sunday visits by Elder Bros. Dan Koch and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY). We want to extend our thanks to all of our visitors. May God richly bless them for their willing service in our congregation.

David Thames and his parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda, welcome Katelyn Jo into their family circle. Bob and Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Phil and Kay Thames (St. Louis, MO) are her grandparents.

Sis. Carolyn Fischer is recuperating from pneumonia. We pray she will have a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Marilyn Tanner

"... He shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom ..."

Isaiah 40:11

We are happy to have two new baby girls in our congregation this past month. Raquel June Knobloch was born February 11 to Alan and Mary Ann. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Francis Knobloch (Princeville).

Megan Louise Kieser was born February 13 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy. Proud grandparents are Beatrice DeSpain (Bradford) and Bro. Lori and Sis. Martha Kieser. Megan is welcomed home by Janis and Bethany. We wish all parents much grace and God's love in raising their children.

Marjorie Sturm and Steve Loudenburg were united in marriage February 14 at the Princeville fellowship hall. We pray the Lord will bless these dear ones as they make their home together.

The parents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Loren and Mary Loudenburg.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka). We want to thank them for all the love they gave to us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Cheryl Mangers

Our fellowship is so special and valuable. Such was the case January 29 when we had a housewarming for Sis. Margie Heintz. In addition to her new home, Sis. Margie has new responsibilities as a Sunday school teacher.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). Our thanks and love are extended to each of them.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

Saturday night we were privileged to listen to a Hungarian-American brother speak of the forty-four months he had to spend in prison in Hungary because he dared to hold to his faith in Christ Jesus. There were many hours of prayer, times when he tried not to think of the persecution of the next moment. Nevertheless, he was victorious and the Lord was glorified. What a contrast his prison experience was to those whom we (my students and I) saw on a recent field trip to the Cook County Jail! There our tour guide, a guard there for six years, spoke of prisoners who swore they would never do anything to return to prison because they were horrified by prison restrictions, violence and hopelessness (all of which our brother also faced). Our guard told us of seeing those same prisoners return time after time to jail. Why? They were released, but they knew not peace nor self-control. Truly even were we to be imprisoned, our experience inside — or even now our experiences as free people — can be explained by our relationship to Christ, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against

himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:2, 3.

Our visitors are always important to us. We were privileged to have Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) preach the Word to us. We were convicted and heartened, chastised and exhorted by the inspiration of the Word. We were granted special times with other visitors as well. The Lord has given us joyous times in worship, in song and in fellowship.

We are often thrilled by the Lord's planning. Bro. Kevin Rocke's engagement to Sis. Janine Wettstein (Eureka) was recently announced. She is finishing up her degree at the Mennonite College of Nursing in Bloomington, IL. They are then hoping for a June wedding. We rejoice in the love the Lord has given them, first for Him and now for each other. We wish them much joy, patience and understanding as they await their marriage.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Mary Bertschi are joining our congregation as newlyweds. Bro. Ron and Sis. Mary are both from Morton originally. They will be living in Oak Park, and Bro. Ron will be working for a major airline. We welcome them warmly into our church family, looking forward to our fellowship together.

However, we have had to say farewell to Bro. Hod and Sis. Dee Rapp, who are moving to Dallas, TX. We have appreciated their contributions to our church. In service and in love, they have given us so much. We will sorely miss them but wish them the Lord's blessings always.

We had our annual business meeting the beginning of the month. Bro. Jeff Leman has agreed to replace Bro. Hod Rapp as usher. Bro. Glen Pfeifer is our new representative to the Handicapped Home, replacing our dear departed Bro. Earl Feller. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie are also taking over a special remembrance fund, formerly taken care of by Bro. Hod and Sis. Dee Rapp. We surely thank Bro. Hod and Sis. Dee, and we are grateful for the willingness of those who are stepping into new positions. The kitchen committee has also asked Sis. Melinda Knapp to join them, replacing me. I know that Sis. Melinda will be of excellent service on the committee, to the church. To my beloved church I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for each member, friend and child's help and support. I was overwhelmed, especially

this past year, with the outpouring of longsuffering and the uplifting of warmth and love in action from all. May our arms continue to intertwine closely in service, and may we be more tightly bound together, to His glory and honor.

The trial date had arrived in this criminal case, the event in question having taken place a year before. The defense called witnesses to speak for the defendant. In fact, the young man even took the stand on his own behalf. All had prepared for months for this trial, which was to decide the defendant's freedom or guilt, release or imprisonment. We didn't find out the outcome of the case for we were only observing for a short time. But let us think of our trial to come. There will be judgment for each one, and God will be the judge and the jury. Preparations must be made ahead. At no cost to us. Christ will be each one's individual defender, but the request and the covenant must be made on this side of the grave. We will have no words to speak on our own behalf, so Christ alone can make anyone's successful defense. Yet Christ, who died for the guilt of the whole world, can only defend those who have called upon Him before the trial. We do not know how long it will be until ours. Will we have made preparation?

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Elaine Sauder — Myrna Weerts

On January 11, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Steve and Bro. Ed in reading the conference letter to our congregation. It was uplifting and strengthening for us to be reminded again of the love of God and to return His love by being obedient unto Him.

Sis. Esther Neukomm has moved to Fairview Haven. We miss her presence and wish her God's comfort and care in her new home.

How shall it be when we at last returning
From weary wand'rings and from toil
and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our
heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of earth
has vanished,
The last sweat from our brow is wiped
away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's care
has banished

And gave to us new courage on our way.
Zion's Harp # 146

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Sis. Hulda Schmitt, 83, who passed away at her home. Funeral services were held February 10. Her husband, Bro. Emil Schmitt, preceded her in death. Survivors include one stepdaughter, Shirley Bauer (Marvin, Cissna Park); one stepson, Norman (Plymouth, MN); one brother, Bro. Alvin Honegger (Bluffton, IN) and one sister-in-law, Bertha Honegger (Cissna Park). May the Lord comfort the family and relatives in the loss of their loved one.

We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann, a sister-in-law, and other relatives of the Cissna Park church in the passing of Sis. Sophia Siebanthal (formerly of Remington, IN), who had resided in the Eureka Home her last years.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Kathryn Farney, Sis. Nettie Clauss and Sis. Cora Scharlach (surgical). Sis. Clara Scharlach has moved back to her home from the Iroquois Memorial Residence Home in Watseka. May the Lord comfort and strengthen these dear souls who suffer affliction in the body.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Gail Williamson — Susan Knapp

Let me ne'er from Thee be parted,
Saviour true and full of love!
That I may live true and holy,
Send Thy teaching from above!
Keep me from the world unspotted,
That I may not only be
To Thy service here devoted,
But abide in heav'n with Thee!
Zion's Harp # 198

Joy fills our hearts as the Lord has blessed our congregation with a tiny new soul. Kathleen Sue was welcomed with loving hearts into the home of Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig. Her sister and brother, Joan and Benji, also welcome her with loving hugs and kisses. Grandparents of Kate are Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield) and Jim and Elda Mae Craig (Congerville).

The Lord has been working in hearts of two precious souls, bringing them together to walk the pathway of life hand in hand with Him. Our Bro. Anthony Blades and Sis. Patsy Bahler (Bro.

Lowell and Sis. Carla, Wolcott, IN) look forward to sharing the joys and sorrows that their Savior has in store for them during this lifetime on earth.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure, along with Waldo Remmert, announced the engagement of their children, Crystal and Kent. We want to wish both couples God's richest blessings as they plan to join hand and heart.

We were once more encouraged to strive to walk the narrow pathway with our Lord and Savior toward our heavenly goal. Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park) along with our Elder Bro. Bob Walder reminded us of our duties in our Christian walk of life. Through our elder brothers, we were renewed in our strength to struggle forward to the kingdom of God. We wish to thank the visiting brothers for their labors of love.

Ye, who fight, do this consider;
Strive aright, and trembling stand!
Daily let your feet move onward
Till you reach the heav'nly land.
Zion's Harp # 47

FOR YOU MY FRIEND

Dissatisfied and in a rut, I fell asleep
one Saturday eve,
not realizing the depth of it all, unaware
of my desperate need.

On Sunday I sat silent in church, my
mind wandering to and fro,
til near the end of the sermon I heard
the words which shook me so,
"Many are called but few are chosen,"
was the main thought of the morn,
"Have you been called and will you be
chosen?"
My stony heart was finally torn.

Fright quickly filled my mind and soul
as I pondered this question inside,
yes, I had been called, and oh, how I
prayed this feeling would abide.

I had not heeded to his loving calls, and
I knew if I passed this one by too,
He may just grow weary and give up on
me and then I wouldn't be one of the
few.

I gave my life to God that day, trusting
in His grace and love,
knowing He will keep me true as I strive
for that home above.

The trials, tests and temptations have
helped me to depend wholly on Him,
His blessings, gifts and comforts make
all the world's pleasures look dim.

I thank Him for the tender care with
which he holds me in His hand,
and have the faith that I shall meet Him
over in the promised land.

All this I tell to you my friend, with
hopes that you too will learn,
just how much the Lord can do if we
willingly to Him turn.

I've shed many a tear while on my knees
in prayer to my Father up above,
that He will spare you until the day you
yield to His undying love.

I trust that you too will pray for me,
that in heaven I may be worthy to
abide,
And oh, what a joy it would be if we
could walk through the Gates side by
side!

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

How wonderful is this time of year
when we look forward to God's promise
of springtime. "The light and strength
of faith, Lord, give me, Whereby the
Spirit's fruit is shown; A fruitful branch,
O Saviour, make me, Which from the
one true vine is grown!" Zion's Harp
62.

"Train up a child in the way he
should go: and when he is old, he will
not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Our
church family has been blest with five
new babies and we entreat God's bles-
sing upon each family.

Trent Earl was welcomed by two big
brothers, Jordan and Joshua, and Bro.
Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen. Grand-
parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay
Steffen and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl
Miller (Ft. Scott, KS).

Jim and Mary Krueger, Scott and
Derek happily received little Heidi
Ann January 18. Grandparents are
Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Moser, and
Ken and Orië Krueger (Elgin).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Kellenberger
became first-time parents January 25
when Amanda Sue was born. We are
thankful Sis. Julie has been restored to
health after an extended hospital stay.
Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Kellen-

berger and Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae Schrock.

Much happiness has come to the home of Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller as they rejoice in the birth of Christina Joy. She is welcomed by Ryan, Daren, Angela, Austin, Tristan, Shayna and Diedra. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park) and Edna Mueller (Fairbury).

Sisters Marilyn Kellenberger and Elizabeth Schambach rejoice in the birth of a new granddaughter, Jennifer Kay, born February 2. She is tenderly cared for by Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach, Jason, Matthew, Jolene, Scott and Jenean.

Our annual business meeting was held January 28 in which numerous reports were given on the operation and maintenance of our church and rest home. Bro. John Steffen was chosen to serve as trustee and is replacing Bro. Fred Wahl. Bro. Bill Wetzer was chosen to serve on the Board of Directors at the home and replaces Bro. Tom Schifferer. May God bless each one for their labors of love. "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses." Exodus 35:29.

We entreat God's Holy Spirit to inspire our elder body as they counsel together in Sabetha, KS.

We thank Bros. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) for sharing the life-giving Word this past month.

May God protect and bless Bro. Steve Scheitlin who left January 29 and will be working for Food for the Hungry in Africa for two years. Presently he is in Geneva, Switzerland, learning the French language which will help him in this work.

Heidi Schock (Bro. Norman and Sis. Virginia) and Grant Larsen (Arlington Heights) have announced their engagement and plan an October wedding. May 17 is the wedding date chosen by Bro. Anthony Blades and Sis. Patsy Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We wish them the blessings of God.

Karen Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie), Gail Hallead and Sis. Pam Steinbis have been hospital patients. Bro. Roger Weiss is recuperating from a fractured ankle. May we be diligent to

pray for God's healing.

Sis. Sandy Rudin would like to thank everyone who remembered her and her family with expressions of sympathy since the passing of her dear father, Bro. Willard Rudin (Cissna Park). May all of you be blessed for your words and deeds of comfort.

Mary Gross wishes to thank every one who lovingly remembered her 90th birthday with cards, gifts and visits. God bless you all.

—————
ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

My Father watches o'er me,

His eye is never dim;
At morn, at noon, at twilight,
I safely trust in Him.

G. B. Adams

Sis. Janet Zimmerman (Tom) and Bro. Bill Kempf have felt God's watchful eye during their stays in the hospital this past month. We are thankful they are home and recuperating. May God grant renewed health as He sees best.

Sis. Pauline Rocke (Bro. Virgil) and family wish to express their deep gratitude to all who offered prayers and expressed their love during her recent recovery from an automobile accident and for the many cards remembering her birthday. May our heavenly Father richly bless you.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner welcomed Kyle David into their hearts and home January 27. Kyle's brothers are Grant and Logan. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Alma Wackerle (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner. May their family circle be blessed.

We welcome Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank, along with their two daughters, Emily and Kate, into our fellowship. They have recently moved here from LaCrosse, IN. We are thankful they have felt the Lord's guidance and pray God will bless them.

"Word which God has spoken, Word of peaceful token, Gospel of the Lord!" Zion's Harp #97. We appreciated the visits of Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). May the Word which was spoken be blessed.

On February, we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Janine Wettstein (Harold and Loretta) and Bro. Kevin Rocke (Bro. Norman and Sis. Doris, Chicago). May God bless

them as they prepare to walk this earthly path as one in the Lord.

—————
ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

A new little son, Klint Robert, was born February 5 to Robert and Cherie Kaisner. Grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Hoffman and Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner.

"I tell you Nay, but except ye repent,
ye shall all likewise perish."

St. Luke 13:5

Three dear souls have answered the call to repentance: Charles Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma), Ryan Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) and Janis Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna). We wish them God's guidance as they surrender their all unto Him.

Our congregation appreciated the visits of Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We pray God will bless them as we have been blessed with God's holy Word.

Bro. Randy Steidinger and Bro. Doug Moser returned home safely from Haiti. May they be blessed for lending themselves in roofing a school house for a World Relief project.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Louis Wenger who passed away January 28.

Also laid to rest February 11 was Sophia Lehmann. We pray that God will comfort and console these dear families in the days ahead.

I would like to thank each one for all the cards, flowers and gifts I received. Your love and concerns were very much appreciated.

Ruth Hofstetter

"May a joyful noise unto God, all ye
lands: Sing forth the honour of his
name: make his praise glorious."

Psalms 66:1, 2

On February 8 and 15 our congregation hosted ACYF. Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) and Bro. Michael Rinkenberger (Congerville) gave the inspirational messages. We extend thanks and appreciation to God for messengers who are willing to be spent in His service.

—————
Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

DEATH IN JESUS

I wish to die in my dear Jesus
 His grievous wounds make dying joy.
 All fear of perishing now ceases;
 His blood He did to me apply.
 In Jesus I will trust alway;
 In Him I live and pass away,
 In Him I live and pass away.
 Zion's Harp #247

We are thankful that the wishes of our beloved past elder, Bro. Henry Kilgus were fulfilled as he left this earth and passed into eternity. He leaves us with many precious memories of his steadfast faith. We extend our sympathy to his children: John (Forrest), Bro. Earl (Remington, IN), Alice Myer (Bloomington) and one foster son, William Farrell (Dallas, TX). Those of our beloved elders and ministers who were with us to pay their last respects to Bro. Henry were: Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Leroy Huber (Eureka), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Art Bahler (Fairbury), along with ministering Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Merle Kaisner and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign).

We had only one hospital patient this month, Bro. Frank Honegger, and we're thankful he is home again.

Sis. Luella Bachtold has moved to Fairview Haven. May she continue to feel God's love as she adjusts to her new surroundings and enjoys the precious fellowship of those whose lives may touch hers.

We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and those with him could return home safely after spending time in India. Once again God has heard and answered our prayers.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Leman have been blessed with their first child, Kirk Leon. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman and Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury).

The engagement and approaching marriage of David Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly) and Jackie Hoffman (Sam Hoffman of St. Augustine, FL and Mary Lynn Hoffman, Fairbury) was announced. We wish them God's guidance as they plan their future.

There were many teachings for us all when Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) shared

God's precious Word with us. We thank him for lending himself and may God continue to bless him in his labors.

Correction: Sis. Anita Sohn, wife of Bro. Emil, was unintentionally omitted as a survivor of Bro. Emil Sohn when his passing was reported in last month's issue. We apologize for the mix-up.

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, prayers, words of encouragement or any other kindness shown to us during the illness and death of our loved one.

Family of Emil Sohn

Buttercups, daisies,
 And dandelions,
 Lifted up vistas
 Of long-sought Zions

And patches of violets
 I could spy
 Were busy marrying
 Earth with sky.

Until I felt
 On days like this,
 Spring was rehearsing
 Genesis.

Louis Ginsberg

DO WHAT YOU CAN

The smallest good deed is better by far
 Than the grandest good intention
 We'll never get much accomplished in
 life

If our good deeds are only just
 mentioned.

One dollar that's given is worth much
 more

Than merely a promise of twenty.
 For a dollar will buy a few little things,
 But a promise, that won't buy any.

If we always intend to visit the sick
 And don't ever put it in action,
 What we plan to do won't help matters
 much,
 And surely won't bring satisfaction.

So do what you can and give what you
 can

To help your less fortunate neighbors.
 And you can be sure that you will
 receive

A blessing for all of your labors.
 Wesley Yonts

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

How welcome is the increasing warmth of the sun, and those daylight hours to get one's work done. As fresh green is splashed hither and yon and life renewed increases, new found mirth from the soul releases. The budding twig, the warming earth, the gentle rain, we praise God for the promises of Spring.

SONG IN SPRING

As I went walking
 The road from town,
 I gazed at Heaven
 By looking down.

As the renewed life in nature bursts forth, so too, the newness of life in Christ is beheld as we greet our sister, Heather Knapp. A daughter of Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp, Heather was baptized February 8. May she continue to place her trust in God's uplifting grace.

Our annual business meeting was held February 11 with new officers, Sunday school teachers and trustees being elected. May each of these brethren seek grace from God to perform their new responsibilities.

We are very grateful for the visit of Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). He so willingly ministered to us and also expressed to us the need for additional houseparents at our Apostolic Christian Children's Home. He described the challenges and sacrifices of this important work. May God's blessings be on the efforts of all that are working to help children cope with an abusive or neglectful environment. Daily let us be thankful for loving Christian homes that attempt to provide firm guidelines through this maze of worldly temptations that beset our youth.

The lives of two families were brightened with the arrivals of baby boys. First-time parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Jahala Gerst, rejoice as they hold Kyle Roth born February 12. Happy grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marge Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth. Gary and Sis. Patti Musselman are enjoying their new son, Dirk Alvin, who arrived February 20. He is receiving much love from Jenell, Jessica and Curt. Mrs. Barbara Granning (Bloomington) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman are the excited grandparents.

Give Your Address Change
 To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

“. . . that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness . . .”

Ephesians 4:1-2

“In a child of God one should see true, sincere lowliness (which alienates itself from all highmindedness and the world-spirit), as we see in Jesus Christ Himself, Who descended from His glory and died on the tree of the cross. Every day and at all times they beheld in Him a disposition of lowliness as one who would be as nothing in this world. That is the distinguishing mark of one who is called and a saint — he is lowly in heart (Philippians 2:1-8). We seek not our own things here, but the salvation of others . . . To be lowly does not mean to hang one’s head, but to serve. To serve Christ requires a disposition to withdraw from all that is considered great and be content even to be slandered and have our name repudiated as dangerous people. For the children of this world do not understand the love of the children of God which impels them to serve in all lowliness . . . ‘Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart,’ the Savior says. True lowliness and meekness in heart are of God, just as Christ in this was well-pleasing to the Father.”

S. H. Froehlich

We rejoice for each soul who comes under conviction of sin and is able by the grace of God to surrender his heart and mind to Christ in repentance. When we are lowly in heart, the Lord lifts us up and gives us peace. Jeanne Gramm (Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane) has acquired this blessed peace and is looking forward to baptism February 22, Lord willing.

Sis. Anna Grusy, 90, laid down her armour of faith and crossed over the “Jordan” River into that better land February 14 to rest in the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to her loved ones who will especially miss her: her husband, Bro. Albert, who resides at the Eureka Home; two daughters, Eleanor Baer (Edelstein) and Gloria Fox (Mount Prospect); three sons, Albert, Jr. (Chillicothe), Norman (Portland, OR) and John (Chehalis, WA); and her 21 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Lucille Hofmann and Bro. Hen-

ry Miller have been hospital patients.

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Kieser

“. . . Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth . . .” Luke 15:7. We are rejoicing over two new converts who have recently joined our group. They are Eric Zehr (Gridley) and Rod Farney (Cissna Park). We gladly welcome them and wish them many blessings from above.

This past month, God has blessed us with many interesting Bible studies. Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) explained some of the parables in Matthew 18. He stressed that we should not get upset over little things and even if someone hurts us, we should not hold anything against them. If we cannot forgive others, how can we expect God to forgive us? We learned what kind of people God uses from Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington/Normal). He explained the personalities and backgrounds of a few of the disciples who followed Jesus. The twelve were a very diverse group, but yet they united together to be servants in God’s work. The life of Elijah was portrayed by Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley). He expressed that the prophets in the Old Testament, such as Elijah, give us courage if we would just take the time to read about them. Another prophet, Elisha, was brought out by Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). He talked about the many miracles and actions of Elisha as he lived his life serving God. Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury) spoke about Jeremiah and how God used him to warn the backsliding Israelites.

We rejoice with Sis. Janine Wettstein (Eureka) whose engagement to Bro. Kevin Rocke (Chicago) was recently announced. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their lives together.

Just a reminder: Our Bible studies are held Thursday evenings in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us!

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Sis. Lena Stieglitz has been called Home. Her funeral was February 10. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her daughter, Sis. Annette Tanner, her family and friends.

February 15 was the wedding day for Sis. Mary Wuthrich (Bro. Jim and Sis

Eunice) and Bro. Ron Bertschi (Sis. Pat). We wish them God’s blessings as they walk life’s pathway together.

We wish to thank Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for teaching us God’s true and holy Word. May Bros. Earl and Jaye and their precious families be richly blessed for their labors of love.

Winter can seem so long for our loved ones who are shut-in or hospitalized. A note of love, a visit or a phone call would surely help shorten their day.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Kathy Huthmann

Sis. Lucille Thomas and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer were united in marriage February 4. We wish them God’s blessings and hope that Sis. Lucille will soon feel at home in the Naumburg, NY, church.

With heartfelt appreciation, we thank our ministering Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) who came and shared God’s Word with us. May God bless them.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Jack Perdum. We pray that they can feel the comfort of our dear Lord in the loss of their loved one. Jack had peace with God and was looking forward to being baptized when God called him to his heavenly home.

Bro. Oscar Hoerr would like to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards and gifts during his recent illness.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. John Hoerr and Sis. Ella Hoerr. May God grant them His healing power.

We welcome a new brother into our family. Jon Ginzal gave his testimony and was baptized January 17. Jon’s parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary.

“Be still and know that I am God . . .” Psalms 46:10. God has led our Sis. Joan Meister to move from home to the Athens, AL, congregation. She will continue her education in elementary education at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. We will really miss her but know that she will feel at home in Athens.

We have three new babies this month. Rosalie Ann was born January 20 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel. Renee, Rachel, Willie and Bonnie all welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz. Bro. Scott and Sis. Brenda are first-time

parents of Amanda Rachel, born January 22. Amanda's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Larry and Sandy Guingrich. Jesse Cole was born January 26 to Dennis and Becky Unsicker. He has a big sister, Lindsay. His grandparents are Sis. Carolee Unsicker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl (Roanoke).

I would like to thank all my relatives and friends for their prayers, cards, visits, gifts and beautiful flowers given to me during my illness.

Sis. Lois Elsasser

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Hebrews 6:10

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). On February 15, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle spoke much of completely submitting our lives to our God. On February 7, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller related the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. We received many warnings and encouragements. Elder Bro. Phil and Bro. Bob Meyer ministered to us February 8. May God bless each of them and their families. We can show our thanks and appreciation to them and to Almighty God by our obedience to the Word.

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so: Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong."
 Jesus Loves Me

Andrew Philip was born January 18 and is the son of Sis. Barb and Bro. Phil Ehnle. His brother, David, and sister, Ashley, welcome him home. Also welcoming him are grandparents, Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter and Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle.

Amanda Jean is the first-born of Sis. Brenda and Bro. Randy Kieser. She was born January 29. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Martin and Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser. May God bless these family circles as they spend

much time and talent in the nurturing of these precious little souls.

A number of the brethren from our congregation have recently traveled to Mexico to help in the work project there. We are thankful for their safe return. May God's blessings be upon all the labors of all the brethren who have lent themselves.

Hospital patients this month were Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna), Sis. Helen Schick and Sis. Marjean Lehman.

"Consider ye mortals, the wonders of nature

Which God in wisdom did create.

Did not our Creator in power and order
 For man His wondrous works instate?

How can we behold the great work of creation

And not feel moved His name to praise?
 From whom are these wonders? O give
 Him the glory!

Our voice in honor to Him raise."

"I am the Creator of wisdom and goodness,

The God of order, light and grace;

Embracing each mortal with love and salvation

Who come before my holy face."

The Heavens Are Praising

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

Our first family sing for 1987 was the last Sunday evening in January. We were thankful that the Mortonaires and our Bible class could sing for us. What a wonderful way it was to spend a Sunday evening.

We are so thankful that God is still calling souls to him. Those who have answered his call are: Kirk Hoffman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jean), Joni Schumacher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane) and Peggy Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge). May God grant them much grace.

Bro. Les Luginbuhl spent some time in the hospital and has since returned home. Gene Whitten, a recent convert, and his little granddaughter met with a tragic accident. We can only commit them to our heavenly Father that He will extend His loving arm of mercy and heal according to His will.

Steve and April Wagner are parents of a son, Benjamin Joseph, born January 23. His sister is Christena Marie. Grandparents are Ralph and Sis. Jean-

ette Wagner (Roanoke) and Mr. and Mrs. Marino Grotti (Toluca).

Welcoming home a little daughter and sister are Joe and Terri Barth and Jonathan and Jessica. Jacqueline Dyan was born January 27. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schlosser.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel are busy grandparents. Bro. Ross and Sis. Nancy Gingrich have a new daughter, Audrey Jennifer, born February 2. She has a sister, Angie. Bro. Ross's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Gingrich (Eureka).

Bro. Randy and Sis. Lucy Koehler welcomed their third son, Robby Daniel, February 2. He has twin brothers, Ricky and Ryan. As stated above, Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel were busy grandparents as Sis. Nancy and Sis. Lucy are sisters and both babies shared the same birthday. Bro. Randy's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Koehler (Benson).

On February 8, Kristen Lynn was born to Bill and Jan Rassi. She is a sister to Jason and Kayla. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Angela Rassi and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schieber (El Paso).

First-time parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Kim Leman. Little Ryan Lee was born February 10. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure (Congerville) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman.

Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) was with us for our February Bible study and shared with us ways to overcome temptation. May God bless him and his family.

I wish to thank the many friends, relatives and neighbors for their prayers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. All was much appreciated. May God bless you.

Sis. Emma Blunier

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

Visiting us this month was Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington/Normal). We thank him for giving of himself on our behalf.

Bro. Fred A. Beutel, his daughter, Julie, and small son, William, were involved in a pickup truck accident, hospitalizing them all. We are thankful that God spared their lives and all are

recuperated at this writing. Sis. Sophia Sauder fell and broke her wrist. We are happy to see her assembling with us again.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus are the happy parents of Janelle Renee born January 28. She has a sister, Nichole, to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Fairbury).

Bro. Keith and Sis. Lyn Pflederer are first-time parents of Neil Anthony, born January 27. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Dorene Elsasser (Princeville) and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer.

Steve and Sara Garman are also happy to have another son, Christopher Dean, born February 18. He will be a little playmate for brother, Zachariah. Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz (Gridley) and Vernon and Helen Garman (Green Valley). We are happy to have these new little souls in our congregation. May God give their parents the needed grace to teach them.

Greg Martin and Cheley Hilton have recently announced their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin and Roger and Cheryl Hilton (Orland Park, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Halo Koch. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Cleo; two sons, Dr. Gary Koch (Seattle) and John Koch (Denver, CO); two daughters, Sheryl Wingert (Atlanta) and Mary Lou Fritz (Durham, NC).

We express our sympathy to Bro. Herman Laidig in the death of his sister, Lydia Glock (Germany).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

We are happy to have Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and their two boys, Billy and Ryan, back in Washington. They served as houseparents at the Children's Home in Leo, IN. No doubt they will be missed there, but we are thrilled to have them with us.

Our prayers and deepest sympathy have been with Bro. Elmer Banwart in the loss of his father, Bro. Paul Banwart. It is such a comfort when we think how beautiful heaven must be, where we will meet to part no more.

We are thankful that Marie Nester has found peace and contentment in the Lord. Our prayers are with her as

she hopes to share her testimony in the near future.

Bro. Stan Schick was hospitalized for a short time. We are happy to see him back in church once again.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Lily Pfaffman have welcomed a new little daughter, Elise, into their home. She has one brother, Caleb, and her grandparents are Ernest and Sis. Ida Pfaffman and Henry and Elizabeth Schick.

We are grateful to Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) for sharing with us at our monthly Bible study. Their exhortations and words of encouragement were a blessing to each of us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Lucille Isch — Becky Isch

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."
John 7:37, 38

The Lord has faithfully blessed us with many good teachings through His Word this past month. Bro. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North) was our visiting minister January 25. We thank him for his labor of love.

Services were held at our church for Lorene Barger, who passed away February 16. We are so thankful that she was able to tell us she was at peace with her God. She is survived by her husband, Nolan, and children, Lila Anspach, Gary and Kevin Barger. Lorene was a sister to Sis. Louella Aschliman and Sis. Dina Fae Moser and Bros. LeRoy, Lenard, Robert and Ramon Steffen.

On February 15, we were pleased to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Debbie Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) to Bro. Rick Fiechter (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter). We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Dear ones who have been in the hospital this month are Sis. Maxine Ringger (Bro. Dave), Bro. Lester Gerber (Sis. Rosemary), Sis. Lillian Bertsch (Bro. Walter), Sis. Nova Kipper (Bro. Carl), Sis. Anna Meyer and Bro. Sam Kaehr. May God grant them strength and good health according to His will.

Sis. Hulda Steffen, 88, passed away February 16. We extend our love and

sympathy to her sister, Sis. Mary Steffen.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, 'Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.'"

Mark 5:19

The Lord again has answered our prayers concerning our loved ones, Clem and Joni Reinhard (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Alphonse and Sis. Lucille Reinhard, Bluffton) who have recently found the grace to turn their hearts and lives over to Him. May God continue to bless their home with faithfulness to God and joy to tell "how great things the Lord hath done for them".

Blessings of a grandchild have come to Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen for the first time. Son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen (Indianapolis) are parents to Clayton Christopher, born February 10. As this "heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3) is extended to one more generation, we wish them and their loved ones continual guidance and direction for "... as did their fathers, so do they unto this day." (II Kings 17:41).

As does joy, so does sorrow come. Our prayers have been with Sis. Velma Fulkerson and her family in the passing of her husband, Bro. Sy, January 19. Surviving are two sons, Terry and Ron; a daughter, Kay (Warren) Rauhe; four sisters (Ohio) and seven grandchildren. May they have much to tell of the strength of the Lord in time of need.

Spending time in the hospital this past month has been Bro. Oscar Schaefer (Sis. Agnes) and Bro. Harry Isch (Sis. Clarice). We wish them the return of good health and pray that always they will remember, "Nothing will happen to me today, nothing good, nothing bad; nothing will happen to me today without passing through the Father's hands." (Steve and Maria Gardner).

We give thanks to Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) who visited with us and ministered to us this past month. We always welcome Bro. Orville and Sis. Naomi to fellowship with us at Bluffton North.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"

Psalms 103:2

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton can attest to the truth of this verse, as their second child, a precious baby girl, named Mary Beth, was born to them February 12. Mary Beth has a big brother, Samuel, and her grandparents here in Francesville are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel.

On Sunday, January 18, our Sis. Valerie Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam) and Bro. Jan Gutwein (Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine) were united in holy matrimony. Our sincere thanks go out to ministering Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) for sharing this special day with us. We are glad to welcome Bro. Jan and Sis. Val as a couple to our congregation and pray that God will bless them as they establish a Christian home in praise of Him!

Our annual church business meeting was held Wednesday, January 28, and after prayerful consideration, the following offices were filled: Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Gene Huber; Sunday school teachers, Bros. Todd Gudeman and Brian Huber; church trustee, Bro. Larry Leman; World Relief Committee, Bro. Rich Wuethrich; ushers, Bros. Dale Pelsy and Jeff Tanner; Missionary committee, Bro. Earl Anliker; fellowship center trustee, Bro. Doug Leman; Parkview Haven board, Bro. Sid Leman.

Sis. Velda Overmyer (Bro. Lee) was hospitalized this past month but is home again, for which we're thankful. Bro. Emil Gutwein is home recuperating from a broken leg. We wish them both God's nearness and blessings for speedy recoveries.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23, 24

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed
 During the past few weeks, our con-

gregation has been served by visiting ministers to whom we extend thanks. We are grateful for their willingness to bring the Word to us. The ministers have included the following: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), Bros. Karl Westfall, Chris Huber and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Elder Bro. Orville Ringger and Bros. Jim Rinckenberger, Kent Ringger and John Reinhard (Bluffton), Bros. Wendell Gerber and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North), Bros. Edwin Bahler and Ken Schneider (Remington), Jack Bollier (Leo), Michael Thomas (Valparaiso) and Everett Hari (Bloomington/Normal, IL).

A goodbye lunch was served for Bro. Brian and Sis. Diane Hoerr who moved to Lexington, KY. We hope to see them once in awhile!

We extend our sympathy to Kay and Warren Rauhe. Kay's father, Bro. Sy Fulkerson, passed away suddenly. May we all find comfort in God's promise: "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." I John 2:25.

We welcome a baby boy into our midst. On February 10, Clayton Christopher, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen.

We are happy to have a young couple join us from the Philadelphia church. Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson will make their home in Tipton, IN.

Christians throughout the world sing the well-known hymn, "Amazing Grace". There may be no sweeter word in the believer's vocabulary! Grace means the "unmerited favor of God". It is God's kindness and love toward man. John describes Jesus as being "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus manifests God's love for us; God's forgiving heart turned toward a lost and sinful world. Christ took the full penalty of our sin giving His life to redeem unworthy, rebellious mankind.

If it were not for God's grace (Christ dying for us), God would deal with us on the basis of His law, and there would be no hope. When the sinner confronts God's justice, he must die. How could sinners be spared? Only one way — God supplied what was needed. Jesus satisfied the broken law and the demands of justice. In His sacrificial death, we live.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

I John 4:10.

Grace operates in a Christian life, sanctifying, satisfying and sustaining.

Grace sanctifies us to become more holy. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11-12.

Grace gives us hope, it satisfies our longing for fellowship with God. "Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:13.

Grace sustains us throughout life. "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9.

In the familiar hymn, we sing joyously and thankfully:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares,
 I have already come;
 'Tis grace that bro't me safe thus far,
 And grace will lead me home."

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Sandy Heinold

Life brings many changes. Our congregation was saddened to learn that such a change would take Bro. Scott, Sis. Elaine, Emily and Kate Frank from our midst, as they have felt led to Eureka, IL. As we bade these dear ones farewell, we were comforted to know that we are all trusting in the same God who does not change. We certainly wish them well as they establish their new home and may we remember each other in prayer.

On Saturday evening, January 31, we gathered together to listen to the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. Even though we were privileged to hear the tapes, how good it was to again be reminded of our duties as Christ's ambassadors. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ed Frank in bringing these timely words of encouragement and warning to us.

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Art Bahler were the visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. It was brought to our attention as we read in Revelation, chapter 3, how there was not one good thing to report on the church of Sardis, except that

there were a few who had not defiled their garments. What a sad condition that church was found in and it is a lesson to each one of us that we must hold fast to those things which we have received and heard so that the Lord will not find us in such a state when He comes again.

After having surgery, Bro. Enos Cadwalader is recuperating at Parkview Haven (Francesville). We trust that the Lord will provide for him and his dear wife, Sis. Martha, and that Bro. Enos may again enjoy a measure of health, God willing.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

"... Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep... I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

John 10:7, 9

We would like to extend our thanks to Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) for coming and sharing God's Word with us during our midweek service. We were reminded that Jesus is the shepherd, and we (His children) are his sheep. "And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice." John 10:4. There are many times when we are out in the world (in school, at work, etc.) and aren't among God's children. We must then be careful to keep our ears tuned to His voice, so that we may follow His will for our lives, and continue to walk close to Him.

We are looking forward to hosting College Weekend March 28 and 29. With the help of the Lord, our topic is going to be "The Hand of Prayer". "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:17, 18.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth the fruits of holiness.

Let me use disappointments as material for patience.

Let me use success as material for thankfulness.

Let me use danger as material for courage.

Let me use reproach as material for long suffering.

Let me use praise as material for humility.

Let me use pleasure as material for temperance.

Let me use pain as material for endurance."

Author Unknown

Sis. Dorothy Norr was recently hospitalized again. Through this and previous such experiences, she continues with cheerfulness and courage, evidence of His abiding grace. We are thankful she is feeling better.

Voices of Praise (IL) brought us joy and pleasure, as true to their name, they praised Him in song.

Bro. Sandor Bako (Akron, OH) shared his experiences in a concentration camp. Thanks are expressed to him for this sharing and helping us have a greater appreciation for the freedom we have enjoyed. Do we really appreciate it enough and remember to thank the Giver of this rich blessing?

Visiting minister, Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) is thanked for delivering His message, Sunday, February 22.

This and That from Here and There:
Right kind of faith will manifest itself in work for Him.

Our last work can be greater than the first. We dare not be satisfied with what's been done. We must continue to serve.

Is an excuse sometimes a reason stuffed with a lie?

There is no pride like the pride which is dressed up in humility.

If you don't want the fruits of sin, better stay out of the devil's orchard.

The penalty for choosing to live without God in this world, is to be compelled to live without Him in the world to come.

It's a solemn thing to say 'tomorrow' when God says 'today'.

God speaks to those who will take time to listen.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr — Sue Schieler

Early in the new year we had a blessed evening together as Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend) came to help read the memorandum of our 1986 brotherhood conference. We also have been blessed to have Elder Bro. Orville

Ringger (Bluffton), Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton) and Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan) minister to us recently.

On January 25, the South Bend brethren gathered with us for an evening of hymn singing, and what a joy it was to hear young and old voices blending together singing praises to God.

Many of us gathered together to sing to shut-in brothers and sisters and it was surely a two-fold blessing, as we who participated received a rich blessing, too.

Our dear brother, Al Wuthrich, was hospitalized, but is happy to be back in church again. What a joy it is to see our dear sister, Tina Lehman, back in church after being shut-in for five months!

On January 28, our church chose Bro. Nelson Beer and Bro. Will Schieler to assist Bro. Walter Steffen and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in the ministry. Bro. Phil Beer has been chosen to replace Bro. Nelson in the high school Sunday school class.

We would like to thank all who remembered Mike after his accident and during his recuperation with all the love, kindness, prayers, gifts and cards. May God bless each of you.

Don, Martha & Mike Haab

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Let shadows come, let shadows go,
Let life be bright or dark with woe,
I am content, for this I know,
Thou thinkest, Lord of me.

Selected

Bro. Morris Braker has moved to St. Louis, MO, to be near his family. His address is 1059½ Toelle Street, St. Louis, MO 63137. We are thankful for Bro. Morris's time here and the opportunity to know him. Our prayers are that the Lord will continue to protect and guide him.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Earl Kilgus in the death of his father, Elder Bro. Henry Kilgus (Forrest).

On February 13, the church had a funeral for Sis. Sophia Siebenthal. She was 86 years old and had lived in the Eureka Nursing Home for 18 years. Preceding her in death was her husband, Ed. Her son, Curtis, resides in Denver, CO.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) visited our congregation this month with words of wisdom. We are very thankful for those willing to give of themselves in the Lord's work.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Odell Pitman, Art Nussbaum and Sis. Louise Waibel. Sis. Louise would like to thank those who remembered her with cards, gifts and in prayer. It was greatly appreciated.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jill Lehman — Annie Meyer

It is really special when one can make friends of like mind and faith and we had that great opportunity when we were blessed to have a young group from Princeville, IL, come and share a weekend with us. We really appreciated the good singing Saturday evening and the precious fellowship Sunday. Looking back, we see that many new friendships were formed and how blessed a weekend it was for all.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

There are friendships that we cherish
in our daily walk of life,
Friends with whom we meet and labor
in our earthly toil and strife.
Friends among the aged and youthful,
friends that live from us apart,
Friends of higher rank and station, find
a place within my heart.

But I prize the friendship highest of the
one whose heart is true.
Friends who live by truth and goodness
and who live in Him anew,
Friends whose hearts are up in heaven
though their feet traverse this sod,
Find a place of highest merit in our
fellowship with God.

There's a tie of noble kinship in a soul
who loves the Lord.
There's a friendship warm and lasting
if he heeds the Master's Word,
There is mutual understanding and a
sympathy so kind,
In the tie of Christian Friendship, as on
earth we oft-times find.

When at last these ties are riven. When
we're called to go on high,
Oh, how sweet to meet in heaven,
friends forever you and I.

H. B.

Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL),

Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) were the visiting ministers who shared with us this past month. We thank each of them, and their families, for being with us and sharing God's precious Word. May God bless their efforts.

Reminder: April is the month for Silver Lining dues.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Trish Bucher — Peg Huber

Winter can be so cold, bitter and barren. How we look forward to spring! But, just as our hearts on earth yearn for spring and the new life it brings, our regenerated hearts look forward to eternal life, the grand reunion, and most of all, seeing Jesus! ". . . and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:17.

Death has left a void in the family of Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Kimerer. We extend our sympathy and prayers for God's comforting hand in their lives. Our church family will really miss "Grandpa Joe" (Joe's father). He was always smiling and so appreciative. His grateful attitude was an inspiration to those around him.

We're happy that Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger and Sis. Caroline Lester's hospital stays were short and wish them a full measure of restored health.

". . . Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it." Colossians 4:17. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men . . ." Colossians 3:23.

At our recent annual meeting, Bro. Andy Moser was elected Sunday school superintendent; Bro. Eric Aeschliman, Bro. Tim Bucher, Sis. Dawn Ailes, Sis. Lois Bucher, Sis. Cindy Susdorf and Sis. Peg Huber, Sunday school teachers; Sis. Trish Bucher, Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Rolly Meiss, treasurer; Wayne Paarlberg, assistant treasurer; and Bro. Con Paarlberg, trustee.

We thank Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) for leading us in a Bible study on "Attitude Toward Sin" and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann for sharing the Word with us recently. May He continue to grant His servants renewed strength that they may "mount up with wings as eagles; . . . run, and not be weary; . . . walk and not faint," (Isaiah 40:31) in spite of the added duties they are entrusted with.

Our congratulations go to Peggy Rossi in her marriage to Richard

Knapp (Harvey, IL). We wish them much happiness and joy as they walk hand in hand together. We welcome them to visit us often!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

Our Bible class enjoyed the weekend of January 24 - 25 when the Bible classes of Elgin, IA, Bradford, IL and Francesville visited. How wonderful if these times together nurture lasting friendships through the years ahead. Thank you to the teachers and wives who brought them.

As we look forward to spring, the season of new beginnings, two couples are also planning new beginnings in their lives. On January 25, our congregation heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Patsy Bahler to Bro. Anthony Blades (Congerville, IL). Parents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler and Evert and Alice Blades (Assumption, IL).

February 15 was a special day for Sis. Pam Kyburz and Bro. Bruce Furrer as their engagement was made known. Their parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Janet Furrer. May the Lord bless these two couples as they plan for their future together.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

At recent testimony services we heard grace explained as

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense.

This was really good food for thought.

Recently we had Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) share God's Word with us.

Sis. Lu Landes was in the hospital. She is now in the extended care unit of our local hospital where her sister, Sis. Estella Landes, has been for many years. Both Sis. Lu and Sis. Estella need the prayers of those they love.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Faithful was he until death's day,
Now God will wipe his tears away.
What are the sorrows of this time
Against God's glory, so sublime?

So now redeemed one, sleep and rest!
Homeward we turn to do our best,
That we in joy and trembling be
Made ready for eternity.

Zion's Harp #248

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Paul Banwart (West Bend). Bro. Paul faithfully served our congregation as elder for several years and we know he will be sadly missed by his family and the West Bend congregation.

As one earthly pilgrimage had ended another is just beginning. May God richly bless the life of little Miriam Joy Zupke. Her parents, Mark and Ruth, and her brother, Matthew, welcome her into their family circle.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39. These comforting words were spoken to us in a sermon last Sunday. Isn't it encouraging to know that the most important gift we will receive can be ours permanently?

We have been well blessed with visiting ministers this month, and we thank them for coming to be with us. They were: Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Wegman as they were married January 4. We are thankful they will continue to live here with us as Bro. Dave is employed at University Hospitals and Sis. Karen is attending the College of Pharmacy. We wish them God's blessings upon their marriage.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

O Lord behold us gathered here,
As children 'round a light!
We pray thee, Lord, that Thou come
near

And guide our hearts aright.

Zion's Harp #216

We were grateful to God that Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) was among

us and fed us from God's Word. We appreciate the ministers who visit here as well as all others who take the time to share their love and fellowship with us. It's such a blessing!

On January 20, first-time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly Mogler welcomed Rosalee Jean. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler. May God bless this family as they raise their daughter according to directives found in the Holy Bible.

Bro. Andy Mogler and Bro. Ernst Metzger recently submitted to surgery and medical patients were Bro. Jake Metzger, Sis. Lydia Mogler (Bro. Phil), Ken Feuchtenberger and Anna Knobloch (Otto). Let us continually pray for our loved ones as they suffer pain during the process of healing.

"BEFORE YOU CAN DRY ANOTHER'S TEARS, YOU TOO MUST WEEP"

Let me not live a life that's free
From the things that draw me close to
Thee —

For how can I ever hope to heal
The wounds of others I do not feel —
If my eyes are dry and I never weep,
How do I know when the hurt is deep —
If my heart is cold and it never bleeds,
How can I tell what my brother needs —
For when ears are deaf to the beggar's
plea

And we close our eyes and refuse to see,
And we steel our hearts and harden our
mind,
And we count it a weakness whenever
we're kind,

We are no longer following the Father's
way
Or seeking His guidance from day to
day —

For, without "crosses to carry" and
"burdens to bear,"

We dance through a life that is frothy
and fair,

And "chasing the rainbow" we have no
desire

For "roads that are rough" and "realms
that are higher" —

So spare one no heartache or sorrow,
dear Lord,

For the heart that is hurt reaps the
richest reward,

And God enters the heart that is broken
with sorrow

As He opens the door to a brighter
tomorrow,

For only through tears can we recognize

The suffering that lies in another's eyes.
Helen Steiner Rice

We have recently shared the sorrow of loved ones as Sisters Alice Metzger (Bro. Eli), Leona Wulf (Bro. Bill) and Esty Metzger (Bro. Fred) lost their father, Bro. Paul Banwart (West Bend). Also, we offer sympathy to Sis. Jolene Metzger (Bro. Marvin) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Beverly Wirtz (West Bend).

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach

We know that the angels in heaven rejoice over one lost sinner who repents. The weekend of January 24-25 we assembled to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Bill Schrock (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith) and Janelle Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo). We welcome them as our brother and sister-in-the-Lord and strongly encourage them to continue building upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ. May others observe a good light and example in their lifestyle.

We are so thankful for occasions such as this and among our visiting ministers for the weekend were: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) have also recently served on our pulpit in Oakville.

We rejoice with our Bro. Charles Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva) as his engagement to Sis. Charlene Luthi (Sis. Della and the late Bro. Don Luthi, Morris, MN) of Minneapolis, MN, has recently been announced. May they listen and follow as God directs their footsteps into holy marriage. Their wedding date has been set for March 22.

Thought: Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

IOWA, PULASKI

Sarah Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever

liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

St. John 11:25, 26

With Easter just a few short weeks away, it causes us to stop and reflect anew of the great price that our Savior paid, so that we might have the hope of eternal life. We only need to repent, become converted and live our lives according to His teachings and example.

A new little daughter, Angie LaNae, was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich. She was born January 31 and is welcomed home by Brent and Stacy, along with grandparents, Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman (West Bend) and Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; A time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

We appreciate having visiting ministers, but are always sorry when the visits must be for funerals. We extend our sympathies to several families this month. Our retired Elder Bro. Paul Banwart, Sr., who labored as minister and elder from 1936 until 1970, passed away after reaching the age of 96. His funeral was held January 23. He was preceded in death by his helpmate, Elizabeth, in 1960 and is survived by his children: Arthur (West Bend), Sis. Clara Anliker (Bro. Sam, Madison, KS), Bro. Elmer (Sis. Esther, Morton, IL), Miriam Frieden (West Bend), Bro. Edwin (Sis. Ada, Mediapolis), Sis. Leona Wulf (Bro. Wilhelm, Hills, MN), Paul, Jr. (Emmy), Benjamin (Betty) and Robert (Kay), all of West Bend; 46 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren. He is survived by two brothers, Bro. Silas and Ben (West Bend); three sisters, Sis. Lena Grimm (Bro. Eli), Louisa Anliker (Reuban) of West Bend and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert, Bloomfield). Preceding him in death were three brothers and one sister.

January 26 we laid to rest our Sis. Beverly Wirtz, 60, following a lengthy illness. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Verner; six children, Sis. Judy

Fehr (Bro. Dennis, West Bend), Sis. Jolene Metzger (Bro. Marvin, Rock Rapids), Bro. Michael (Sis. Lila, Rodman), Bro. James (Sis. Joan, Rodman), Charles (Trela, West Bend) and Douglas (Rodman). Also surviving are 21 grandchildren and 7 sisters. Preceding her in death were her parents, a sister and two brothers.

Funeral services were held February 5 for Bro. Clarence Zaugg, 63. He is survived by the following sisters and brothers, Sis. Louisa (West Bend), Leah Franck (Kenneth, Battle Creek, MI), Eva Banwart, Sis. Elma Mogler (Bro. Ervin), Sis. Betty R. Banwart (Bro. Albert), Ruby Besch (Bob), Walter, Bro. Ed (Sis. Helen), Bro. Oscar (Sis. Frances), Richard (Dorothy) and Don (all of the West Bend area). Preceding him in death were his parents and one sister.

May our heavenly Father comfort and bless the families of Bro. Joe Benninger (Sis. Evelyn) who was buried in Bern, KS, February 3. He had lived most of his life in this area. We would also remember Benj and Betty Banwart and family in the loss of her mother, Helen Crotts. We treasure many fond memories of these dear ones. Among the visiting ministers the past month were: Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott) and others who attended the services.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Helen Anliker (Bro. Leonard), Sis. Christine (Conrad) Schmidt, Matt Fehr. We know our loved ones appreciate our prayers and concern for them when they are not feeling well.

We extend our good wishes to Julie Wickman and Troy Olson as they make their plans for their future together. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman and Garry and Janice Olson (Ayrshire). An April 4 wedding is planned.

The following poem was submitted by the children and grandchildren of Sis. Beverly Wirtz.

In loving memory . . .

Mothers Never Die —
They just keep house up in the sky
When we are children, we are happy
and gay

And our Mother is young and she laughs
as we play,
Then as we grow up, she teaches us
truth
And lays life's foundation in the days
of our youth —
And then it is time for us to leave home
But her teachings go with us wherever
we roam,
For all that she taught us and all that
we did
When we were so often just a "bad little
kid"
We will often remember and then
realize
That Mothers are special and
wonderfully wise . . .
And as she grew older, we look back
with love
Knowing that Mothers are "gifts from
above",
And when she "goes home" to receive
her reward
She will dwell in "God's kingdom" and
"keep house for the Lord"
Where she'll "light up" the stars that
shine through the night.
And keep all the moonbeams "sparkling
and bright".
And then with the dawn she'll put the
darkness away
As she "scours" the sun to new
brilliance each day . . .
So dry tears of sorrow, for Mothers
don't die . . .
They just move in with God and "keep
house in the sky,"
And there in God's kingdom, Mothers
watch from above
To welcome their children with their
undying love!

HSR

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle spent the month of February in the States attending the winter conference and spending time with their children, other family and friends. We hope they enjoyed their time there and will return refreshed spiritually and physically.

There's a blessing in just knowing
That we're in the Master's care —
That He's watching, guiding, loving,
And is with us everywhere.

Jon Gilbert

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We have no special news this month, but as usual we were blessed through

the Holy Scriptures and very thankful for those who teach us. Luke 21:1-5 was read and meditated upon, and the brother likened the "casting of gifts" to our talents. It was easy for the rich men to give in the area of abundance. So it is easy for us to serve the Lord in the areas where we are talented. The poor widow didn't have much in money, but gave all she had. That was likened to the brother or sister who tries very hard in the areas they are weak and stumble to serve the Lord the best they can. This portion again reminded us that man looks on the outside and makes quick judgments, but our loving and patient God sees the heart.

KANSAS, BERN
Shirley Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

"Farewell, Farewell, my morning dawns,
 Farewell, my rest I see.

The strife is o'er, my morning dawns,
 The Master calleth me . . .

Farewell, Farewell, let me go on
 That endless rest to share;
 Be faithful till the Saviour calls,
 Farewell, till we meet there."

"Farewell, My Morning Dawns"
 Hymns of Zion #194

Again, our congregation has been touched, as we bid our last farewells to two dear ones in the faith. Sis. Amanda Meyer passed from this life January 14. Surviving her are one sister, Sis. Sarah Meyer, and one brother, Bro. Roy Meyer (of their home near Bern). Although it is with quivering lip and tearful eyes we say farewell to loved ones in the faith, we must rejoice, for death is but a gateway to a better land. Bro. Joe Benninger of the Apostolic Christian Village in Sabetha left the sufferings and trials of this world January 31. Surviving him are his wife, Sis. Evelyn, and many nieces and nephews. Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) conducted the memorial service of Bro. Joe.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
 and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

Although there has been weeping in our congregation, we too have reason to rejoice . . . Bro. Joe D. and Sis. Kathy Rokey have been blessed with a new little bundle, Shana K. who was born February 3. Shana has three sisters

and two brothers welcoming her home. As little children are brought into this world there is much rejoicing. Yet, behind the joy, each parent must feel the awesome responsibility of rearing a child in the ways of the Lord. Each parent realizes that his or her words and actions will be patterned through the keen observation of each little child. I am reminded of a short little story concerning this very thing . . . A mother and father had taught their young son to say a short prayer aloud. Before each meal the father would ask his little boy to say the prayer. As the boy grew older he began to notice that he was the only one who ever said a prayer aloud in their home. One evening as the three sat down to eat, the father as usual turned to his son and asked him to pray. In pure innocence he turned to his father with eyes full of question, "Daddy, are you too big to pray?" Yes, a parent is watched by many pure little eyes. May we always strive to be good examples to them.

We always appreciate having visiting ministers in our midst. Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Earl Banwart and Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve their fellow brethren.

In the Word we are instructed to — "Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thessalonians 15:22. Our junior and senior Bible class was invited to Sabetha, KS, the weekend of February 7 and 8 where they enjoyed a time of fellowship with the Lester, IA, and Sabetha Sunday schools. The students heard many timely messages including a speech pertaining to the "Evils of Rock Music". We can only hope and pray that these messages of warning will not go unheeded.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr

We thank and ask God to bless our recent visiting ministers and their wives, Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Bro. Noah Gerber and Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA).

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young — Judy Kraft

Truly, Showers of Blessings were received the weekend of January 24 and 25, through the testimony and baptism of Bro. Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen). We were blessed by

the teachings from the inspired Word that weekend by visiting ministers, Bro. Al Langhofer and Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Elder Bros. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Arthur Nohl (Morris, MN) and were blessed with the opportunity to fellowship with many visiting brothers and sisters that weekend. We were further nourished and refreshed by the observance of holy communion, conducted by Elder Bros. Ronald Nelson and Arthur Nohl.

We also thank ministering Bro. Ervin Knecht and family for being with us one Sunday. Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. Casting all her cares on Jesus, Wendy Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) has made known her desire to surrender all to God.

Kara Marie was born January 17 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. She has one brother, Kent Douglous. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter (Sabetha) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft.

Bro. Rudy Bahr is home recuperating from surgery.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling — Janice Bahr

It was indeed a blessing to have God's Word brought to us by three visiting brothers. Elder Bro. Norbert and Sis. Doris Steiner (Croghan, NY) were present one Sunday. Elder Bro. Norbert assisted in the reading of the memorandum from the conference which reminded us of some of the responsibilities of being part of the body of Christ. Ministering Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman and family attended our church and shared with us on their travels back to Sabetha. Having Elder Bro. Edwin and Sis. Geralene Ringger (Gridley, IL) share with us recently was also a special blessing.

May God's blessing be upon Amy Allenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois) and Ted Schoneboom who were united in marriage December 20. They are making their home in Independence, MO).

In the hospital this month were Bro. Elmer Tanner, who is now home, and Bro. Arnold Ott, who suffered a heart attack. Floyd Tanner was also a hospital patient who is now home. May we remember to keep them in our prayers.

We were saddened by the death of Diane Stucky (the late Bro. Ulysses and Sis. Mildred Farney) after suffering a long illness. Our sympathy also goes to the family of Viola Schupbach Carey, who passed away this month in Colorado Springs, CO. In times like these we are especially grateful for God's promise not to leave us comfortless.

Our congregation recently enjoyed a covered dish farewell supper for Bro. Charles and Sis. Esther Terry. We pray for a special blessing on them as they prepare to make their new home in Sabetha. We know that our loss will be Sabetha's gain.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

We enjoyed having visiting brethren minister to us this month. Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) were willing to give of themselves and serve as useful tools, meet for the Master's use.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Sam Anliker and Sis. Clara in the death of Clara's father, Bro. Paul Banwart, who passed away January 21 after a short illness.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Stephen Schrader and Ruth Ott. Ruth remains hospitalized at this time and would appreciate our prayers.

Marla Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) is moving to Denver, CO, where she has found employment. We wish her God's blessings in her new undertaking.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

We have felt a great blessing in hosting the mid-winter elder conference here in February! Many gathered from near and far to discuss spiritual matters pertaining to the welfare of our souls. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have Jesus right here in person to answer every question that arises? The day is coming when He shall come and take away the glass we view so darkly; and then we shall understand more perfectly! "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12.

We are thankful to have Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger as a new lamb in Christ's

sheepfold. She was baptized in Morris, MN, but is now assembling with us. May God bless each step she takes as the Saviour walks beside her.

Our dear Bro. Phil Metzger has been hospitalized. When we become ill or the body fails in some way, we're reminded of the power and control that the Lord has within our lives. It's good for us to realize that we're only a breath away from the other side of Jordan.

Many young adults from the Lester Bible class spent a weekend with our Sunday school. We enjoyed having them, and trust that God can add His blessing. We were also refreshed in the Word through Bro. Max Reimschisel's visit from Wichita.

Reminder: April is collection month for Silver Lining in Sabetha.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Sherry Fritz

We are grateful that as we start the new year, our Lexington congregation has once again been blessed with another family moving here. Bro. Brian and Sis. Diane Hoerr, and little son, Andrew, have been brought here by work. They previously lived in Muncie, IN, and traveled to Indianapolis for church. We welcome them and rejoice in the Lord's blessings to us. His Word in Joshua 1:9, "... the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" is a joyful promise to each of us who have moved.

Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) visited in January to share God's Word with us. We thank him and his family for traveling here to share their fellowship with our small congregation.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Juanita Gerst

"THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP"

Friendship is a priceless gift
that cannot be bought or sold,
But its value is far greater
than mountains made of gold —
For gold is cold and lifeless,
it can neither see nor hear,
And in the time of trouble
it is powerless to cheer —
It has no ears to listen,
no heart to understand,
It cannot bring you comfort
or reach out a helping hand —
So when you ask God for a gift,
be thankful if he sends

Not diamonds, pearls or riches,
but the love of real true friends.

Helen Steiner Rice

The first weekend of February, Alto hosted the Leo Children's Home. It was a very enjoyable weekend as we all became friends with the children and some of the staff of the home.

On February 15 we heard the Word of Life from Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN). Bro. Uriel also told us more about the Leo Children's Home and how it operates.

As we live each day may we think of this saying I found in An Apple A Day, by Jo Petty, "If you would know the greatest sum in addition, count your blessings." How true that really is!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

"... Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, we find a threefold cord, not lightly rent apart." "The Union of Hearts," Zion's Harp #79. January 25 marked the wedding day of Bro. Howard Wieland and Sis. Pauline Stoller (Latty, OH). We wish them many blessings in their marriage and extend a welcome to Sis. Pauline.

We, with the angels, rejoice over souls who recognize the need for conversion and turn to the Saviour's healing blood. John Jackson (Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda) has come to the foot of the cross to seek remission and redemption. Marshall Rylance has experienced forgiveness at the cross and has been announced as being at peace with God and man. We anxiously await having these two souls with their special talents as brethren in the body of Christ.

"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship ..." Mark 4:37. Ofttimes great storms arise in our lives and we feel as a ship beat with the waves of life. Those experiencing storms in the form of physical sickness requiring hospitalization have been: Bro. Curt Heimer, Sis. Shirley Wright and Al Wieland. As Christ said, "Peace be still" to the storm, may He also whisper peace to them and let the resulting calm be felt.

Death again knocked on the door of a soul in our community. Dick Meylan (son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Helen) passed away after experiencing a short illness. While we mourn his passing, we are warmed by the fact that Dick in his last days acknowledged the need for a

Saviour and could express his desire to repent.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Donna Hartzler

We always appreciate visitors. Special thanks is offered to Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for ministering to us Sunday, February 1. His inspired message reminded us there are two destinations. Where are we headed? Bro. Kent, his wife, and other family members came to visit his brother, Bro. Curt, who was in the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. Bro. Curt has since been released.

"Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts." Psalms 119:173. Thanks be to God, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach has recuperated after becoming ill in India, necessitating his return home a few days early — a real testimony that God still answers prayer and manifests His healing power.

Bro. Louis Varga was a hospital patient, but has been released. We pray Bro. Louis can feel the Lord's presence and healing power.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanna Varga have been granted their U.S. citizenship. They, and their children, Sis. Nella, Steve, Jr., Helen and Dayen, are now in the process of moving to California. We will miss them, but trust the Lord will bless them as they make their home in the San Diego area.

"... Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Luke 3:4. There is evidence God is still on the throne of grace. Lydia Fortenbacher has acknowledged the need of a Saviour to direct her life. We pray she can build her faith upon Christ, the firm foundation.

The World Relief Board of Trustees' terms of office are on a rotating basis. Bro. Floyd Wieland's term has expired, and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner has been selected to serve in his place. "... he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." Proverbs 14:21.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Barbara Olson

A MOTIVATING HOPE

One of the most encouraging teachings in the Bible is the truth that the Lord Himself will return to earth. Three times in Revelation 22 this promise is repeated. As the pages of divine revelation were about to be closed, God called attention to this

grand theme announcing in the words of Christ Himself, "Surely I am coming quickly". Think of it! The last words of our Lord before leaving this earth 20 centuries ago remind us that He is coming back for us. If such a forceful assurance closes the canon of Scripture, shouldn't this hope be continually in the heart of the child of God? The expectation of seeing our Savior, being like Him, and being with Him for all eternity should prompt us to serve the Lord.

In this sinful, old world it's very easy to lose the upward look. Yet we must keep the hope of Christ's return burning ever so brightly in our hearts. The Apostle Paul talked about this when he said, "For our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). May His last words, "Surely I am coming quickly," be a motivating hope in all our service for Him.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to share with us.

We're happy to share news of the engagement of Sis. Charlene Luthi (Sis. Della, Morris, MN) to Bro. Charles Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva, Oakville, IA). May God bless this couple as they make plans for a March 22 wedding.

Thought — The hope of glorification keeps before us the need of purification.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

Springtime is right around the corner! Spring is release, freedom from the bondage of winter, joy over returning warmth and life. But suppose there was no winter. How could anyone love the spring who had not known the winter? What thrill would there be in running streams if you had not seen them icebound? Would you be thrilled with a slender, pale-green leaf on a black stem?

There cannot be day without night, joy without sorrow, nor spring without winter.

Here in this life we experience joy and sorrow intermingled. There have been those who have layed loved ones to rest. We extend our sympathy to these families.

Graveside services were held February 3 for Tanner Shea, infant son of Dennis and Karen (Schmidgall) Poe of Paragould, AK. Tanner was born January 30. Sis. Mabel Schmidgall is the grandmother.

Kathryn Schaefer was laid to rest at the age of 82 years. She leaves to mourn her husband, Emil, and one daughter, Marilyn Nohl (Robert).

Tony and Kathy O'Keefe welcomed their first child, Katie Rose, born February 1. Bro. Earl and Sis. Minnie Kussatz are the grandparents. We hope Tony and Kathy experience the joys of parenthood.

We were excited to hear the engagement of Sis. Charlene Luthi (Sis. Della) and Bro. Charles Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva, Oakville, IA). March 22 is their planned wedding day.

We welcome Sis. Gail Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby), Sis. Shawn Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen) and Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger (Sis. Diane and Mark) as lambs into the family of God. We received such a blessing throughout the weekend as we heard their testimonies and witnessed their baptisms. Then Sunday evening, we gathered together and the elder brethren read to us the memorandum. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Ken Lawson and Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) were among us for the special weekend. We appreciate their efforts in sharing God's holy Word with us.

Ministering Bros. Dennis Warner and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) shared with us spiritual food for thought February 15. We are always glad to have visitors in our midst.

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." Job 22:21. The gift of peace has entered into the hearts of Guy and Lynette Koehl, Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) and Paul Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda). This gift of peace is the calm we experience in "coming out of" a rushed and confused world; it certainly is a treasure.

We remember in our prayers Bro. Ernest Koehl, Kenny Feuchtenberger, Bro. Gene Schmidgall, Bro. Lloyd Fehr and Bro. Leonard Wulf. All have been hospitalized this past month.

I met God in the morning
 When my day was at its best

And His presence came as sunrise
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long His presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive
them
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I, too, had loosed the moorings
And His presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way
You must seek God in the morning,
If you want Him through the day.
Author Unknown

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt**

Our prayers are with our shepherd,
Elder Bro. Harold Messner, and his
wife, Gerry, as they attend the elder
conference in Sabetha, KS. May they
all be inspired as they meet, with con-
cern for the salvation of the souls in
their flocks.

Dustin Messner (Russell and Teresa
and grandson of Bro. Mike and Sis.
Joyce) was hospitalized for major sur-
gery and is home doing well. "Prayer
changes things" as only God has the
gift of health to give us. An expression
of thanks was given for the prayers and
concern.

We cannot expect the Lord to walk
with us if we are not going his direction.
"My Lord an offering do I bring; My
heart I give to thee. I gladly give this
heart of mine, Which thou dost ask of
me." Zion's Harp #163. Our friend,
Kelly Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis.
Lois) has turned to the Lord in repent-
ance. We rejoice with them and trust
she will be another light to shine into
the darkness of the world where there
are many souls who need help.

With the Easter season coming, we
would like to give tribute to the Bible.
It's object is "Christ Jesus." His birth,
death and resurrection are our hope
and salvation.

This Book reveals the mind of God,

the original state of man, the way of
salvation.

Its author is God; its writers are men;
it's infallibly inspired. It's given you in
life; opened in judgment; and will en-
dure forever.

It's a mine of wealth; a river of
pleasure; and a paradise of glory. God's
glory is its end, the Lord Jesus Christ is
its wonderful object, and our good its
design.

Here heaven opens; paradise is re-
stored; hell's gates are disclosed. Its
histories are true; its doctrines are
holy; and its precepts binding.

Read it thoughtfully; read it fre-
quently; and read it prayerfully. Read
it to be wise; believe it to be safe;
practice it to be holy; memorize it to
grow.

God's Word is the traveller's map,
the pilot's compass, the pilgrim's staff,
the soldier's sword, and the believer's
log. The Bible contains light to direct
you, comfort to console you, food to
sustain you, wisdom to teach you and
fire to warm you.

It involves the highest responsibility;
it will reward the greatest labor; it will
condemn all who will trifle with its
sacred contents.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

Do you pray without ceasing? I won-
der how much more loving we would be
if we truly prayed without ceasing?

The annual business meeting was
held January 18. Bro. Edwin Strahm
was elected trustee, and his wife, Sis.
Ramona, is now on the food committee.

Jane Patton had major surgery and
was quite ill. We thank God for answer-
ing our prayers and she is assembling
with us again.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Stoller — Carol Braker

We have been blessed with three
visiting ministers. Bro. Earl Banwart
and Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA)
and Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka,
IL) were God's willing servants. It is so
impressive to have the Word brought
forth, with teachings so appropriate for
our Lamar congregation, although the
visiting minister knows nothing of our
needs. God certainly provides through
His inspiration.

Sis. Charlotte Banwart should be

remembered in prayer as she has not
been feeling well. Also, Bro. Noah
Schlupp, Sis. Janice Frieden and
Linda Barton have been hospital pa-
tients.

May God give to all His extra
strength and courage that we may walk
the narrow way.

March is the month for the Silver
Lining collection in Lamar.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

The month of February held many
blessings for the church in St. Louis.
On February 1, Bro. Earl Ringger
(Gridley, IL) ministered to us and on
February 15, Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tre-
mont, IL) brought us the Word. These
men, as all of our ministering brothers,
have so many duties and demands on
their time. When they and their fami-
lies make the special effort to travel to
the small churches, of which there are
so many now, we hope they can feel our
love and appreciation. We know they
will be rewarded for their efforts. Both
Sundays there were about 50 in attend-
ance. We thank each visitor for coming.

As ministers come here from our
various churches, we once again ap-
preciate our church and the consisten-
cy we see. Although each has an indi-
vidualized manner of speaking, we al-
ways see the Bible as the source from
which to seek God's will and upon
which to meditate. Each one strives to
discern as closely as possible what was
literally meant by the divinely-inspired
writers of the Bible. "Study to shew
thyself approved unto God, a workman
that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly
dividing the word of truth." II Timothy
2:15. When Paul exhorted Timothy to
rightly divide the Word of truth, he
implied that it was possible to divide it
incorrectly.

Bro. Earl spoke on overcoming
temptation. We all are tempted, and no
one is tempted in a unique manner.
God gives us ways to overcome temp-
tations and not to sin. We need to turn
to His Word to receive the strength
needed to overcome Satan. One effec-
tive tool is to go and read and reread
how people in the Bible handled temp-
tation. One invaluable example is
Christ Himself, when Satan tempted
Him in the wilderness. Satan knew and
quoted the Word, but he had incorrec-
tly divided it, taking passages out of
context. Christ corrected Satan, gain-

ing strength from the truth and thus was able to resist his temptations.

We are pleased to report that Bro. Morris Braker, formerly of Remington, moved here the first part of February. We also joyfully welcome Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold and their tiny daughter, Alyssa, who moved here the third week of February. They formerly attended the Princeville, IL, church. We know how difficult relocating is, and that is amplified when one leaves a well-established church and comes to a fledgling church. God is only a prayer away, and we have certainly felt His presence here. We trust that our newcomers will, too.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

Abraham Lincoln

The annual business meeting was conducted January 23 by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. The new trustee elected was Bro. Don Hoerr who replaces Bro. Jim Sutter. Sis. Elaine Hoerr will take Sis. Joann Wiegand's place on the food committee. Beginning next September, Bro. Norman Haerr and Rodney Heimer and Sisters Eleanor Yackley, Ruthie Hoerr and Lois Sutter will assume duties as the new Sunday school teachers. Our thanks goes out to those who have filled these offices and may God direct and inspire those who will take their place.

A sincere "thank you" to Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and ministering Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We felt privileged to have Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer visiting us on their honeymoon. May God bless their union together. ". . . for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: . . ." Ruth 1:16.

At this time Bro. Curt Heimer has temporarily been released from the hospital in Ann Arbor, MI, for a brief stay at Sue's parents' home. Our thoughts and prayers continue with them at this time of uncertainty and may they continue "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

A TIME TO TRUST

"Sometimes I suffer from occasional spiritual amnesia and I forget the lessons of the sparrows. Sparrows know who they are. They never try to be eagles. They know why they are here. They never tell God how to lead, and from their little bills down to their tail feather, they know exactly who to trust! They never forget it's God who watches over them. Today, Lord, remind us all of the sparrows, for you can be trusted."

Joyce Landorf

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Heidi Haerr

Our little congregation is thankful to the following ministering brothers and their families who visited with us in the past month: Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Bros. Dan Stoller and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) all traveled to our church to share God's Word. We also appreciate the many visitors from various churches who were with us recently. We are few in number and each visitor is a welcome guest.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Our congratulations and best wishes for God's blessings go to Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Sis. Lucille Thomas who were united in marriage in Peoria, IL. We welcome Sis. Lucille into our area of New York State.

Bro. Paul Schamback has returned home from Haiti where he spent some time with the World Relief Group doing carpenter work. We are thankful that there are dear ones willing to give of their time and talent to help those who do not enjoy all the things of life that we are privileged to enjoy so freely in our country. May God richly bless those who give of their time to help others.

Sis. Minnie Farney is now a resident of the Lewis County Extended Care Facility in Lowville. Sis. Mabel Ebersol has been able to return from the hospital and is continuing to improve slowly at the home of her daughter and family.

Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr. was hospitalized a few days while he was undergoing tests and treatment. We are glad he is again in our assembly and ministering to us. Loren Virkler has a cast on

his leg as the result of breaking an ankle in a farm accident. We are thankful his injury was not more serious.

A covered dish meal was enjoyed at the Croghan church Wednesday evening, January 21.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our elder brothers as they are traveling for the conference in Sabetha, KS. May God bless the efforts of our brothers in their deep concerns for our needs and welfare in this life. May we each heed their advice and timely warnings.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Three of our Naumburg elder folks celebrated birthdays this month. They were Sis. Minnie Taube (at her home), Sis. Rosella Schultz (at her son, Norman's home) and Sis. Iva Poling at the Kallos home where she resides. We had refreshments for them after a singing.

Some of the folks from this area traveled west to witness the marriage of Elder Bro. Robert Beyer to Sis. Lucille Thomas. We wish them God's richest blessings.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

One mummy lies colorless, pale amidst rows of naturally colored dark mummies in the museum in Cairo, Egypt. The guide says the pale mummy is the Pharaoh from the time of Moses who was drowned and when they fished his body out, the water had done something to his skin they couldn't change. This is interesting to the Bible scholar for the Bible says God hardened Pharaoh's heart. There are three kinds of heart hardening: first, because of ignorance; second, to know better and still refuse; and third, is when God removes His Spirit so there is nothing left to soften. The first time Moses came to Pharaoh, he was ignorant, as he had the idols of his land. But as he began to see the plagues and mighty hand of God, he knew better. Finally, Pharaoh let Moses go, but then changed his mind and went after them. God had enough and withdrew His Spirit, hardening his heart, and when Pharaoh started across the Red Sea, it closed on him. Pharaoh lies today, the one pale mummy, as a divine visual aid testimony of a hardened heart.

Sis. Joan Stoller and Bro. Glen Greenbank became one in the Lord to

share their lives with each other. Parents are Bro. and Sis. Bob Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. and Sis. Gordon Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ). The newlyweds are at home in Doylestown, and we welcome Sis. Joan in our midst.

A thanks goes to Bro. Glen Greenbank for a job well done in teaching Sunday school, and now that his term has expired, Bro. Randy Miller will be the new teacher.

Alma Carie will reach her four score years March 16.

Bro. Ned Spangler and son, Eric, and Bro. Dave Graf left on a work project to help in Mexico.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Henry Dotterer assisting our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer with the reading of the memorandum.

We were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Harold Emch, Ron Steiner, Vic Bauman, Fred Domka and Gary Maibach.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

Karen Laparo

My little girl excitedly waved a paper in her hand, exclaiming, "Mommy, look! I spelled my name!"

"Um hum," I said, glancing at her childish efforts.

But then she continued; "See, there's the C . . ." And behold, I could make out a crooked letter C! "And there's the H . . ." Sure enough, there were the markings of an H!

And as I studied the paper closer, I could make out each letter of her entire name! Then the thought occurred to me that perhaps that is how I should be looking at everything. There is beauty in all things if we look close enough.

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

We are rejoicing with the angels for the first new convert in our little Columbus church! John Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm, Princeville, IL) has turned his back on the world of sin and strife and is dedicating his life to God. We all wish him God's guidance and nearness in this time of conversion.

We say a sincere thank you to Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for ministering to us this past month. May God provide His just blessings.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

We each recently received a short booklet distributed by our church elder body entitled, "The Winds of Doctrine." Again, we are humbled to realize the love which our Lord has for us that He has enlightened our elder body to warn us of dangers facing the church in 1987!

Bro. Adam Manz and Maude Slane (mother of Sis. Betty Manz) were hospitalized this month.

Often we hear brothers address "our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" in their prayers. In a recent sermon, Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) emphasized the meaning of that phrase. While talking about pride, he explained that it is selfish to accept Him as our Saviour but in pride to refuse to accept Him as our Lord. Is it not humbling to realize it takes grace daily to accept Him as both our Saviour and our Lord?

OHIO, LATTY

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

Zion's Harp #237

On January 25 we were privileged to once again witness the artwork of God as Bro. Howard Wieland (Bay City) and Sis. Pauline Stoller were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

We were very blessed by the ministering of God's Word this past month. The ministering brethren were: Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN); and Bros. Ray Schlatter and Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Floyd Wieland (Detroit), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Don Manz (Junction) and Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

"... Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14

First-time parents are Rick and Denise Plummer with the arrival of Kurt Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann Plummer. We also rejoice with Tom and Kim Sinn with the arrival of their son, Blake Thomas. He is welcomed home by one sister, Joni. Maternal grandparent is Sis.

Lillian Schlatter, and paternal grandparent is Sis. Tootie (Bertha) Sinn.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Ellen Stoller (Bro. Willis) and Bro. Dan Reinhard (Sis. Delores). We wish them a speedy recovery in the days to follow.

"A CLOSER VIEW OF HEAVEN"

As I lay on my bed one more time,
As I think of the hill I have to climb;
I ask my dear Lord, "Why me, Lord?
with such a task?"

Then I hear that still small voice, "Is it too much, what I ask?"

Are the nights too long and the valleys too deep?

Is the pain too great and the hills too steep?

Are the clouds too darkened filled with heavy rain?

Then I get a closer view of heaven as I look with tears of pain.

So let's keep on marching faithfully as we go up and down.

Who knows? For you or me heaven's portals may be just over the crown.

Dan Reinhard

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"Having clothed yourself with Jesus And your faith has made you whole, Do not fear the tribulations That assail and try your soul." (Zion's Harp #52, vs. 5). Carmean Gearheart has been announced for peace in our Lord. Judy Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) and Carri Mann are giving their lives to the Lord. "Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today! Haste to flee His condemnation; Seek the straight and narrow way." (Zion's Harp #52).

Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) and Bro. Dave Beer (Sis. Lena) have been hospitalized. May God's mercies restore them to good health.

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou has heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 1:13. We recently read the account in John 21 where the Lord asks Peter three times, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" . . . twice the Lord instructed Peter to "Feed my sheep". Is it because if the sheep are fed, the lambs will follow?

Worry is the calculator of life:
It ADDS to your gray hair.
It SUBTRACTS from your blessings.

It MULTIPLIES your troubles.
It DIVIDES your attention.

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

I Peter 5:7

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

“Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, all is vanity.

“And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.”

Ecclesiastes 12:8-10

We were privileged to be gathered together with the Smithville brethren Saturday evening, February 14, to hear our beloved Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier, Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Bro. Henry Dotterer read the memorandum to us. May we allow God's strengthening grace to enable us to keep His commandments and keep our garments unspotted by the world.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.”

Isaiah 49:13

May God indeed have mercy upon those who are suffering from infirmities of the flesh. Those who endured afflictions were Michael Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene), Jordan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie), Bro. Harry Saurer (Sis. Esther), Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle (Sis. Joan), Sis. LuAnn Musser (Bro. Michael), Sarah Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart), Sis. Lucille Beery (Howard) and Lisa Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Janee). We, also, extend our wish for a full recovery to Sis. Helen Babin (Bro. Emmanuel)

who has been unable to gather with us for some time.

OHIO, SARDIS

Alice Ramsier

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Rosella Figel and her family in the passing away of her husband, John Figel, Sr. John died February 16 while a patient in the Bellair City Hospital. “The family of John Figel, Sr. (Sis. Rosella) would like to express their sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness shown toward us, for the prayers uttered on our behalf, for the food brought to our homes, for the cards, gifts, flowers and calls. Your thoughtfulness, support, and kind words will always be remembered by us.”

The engagement of Andrew Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Linda Lehman was recently announced. They plan to be married September 5. We pray that God will bless and lead them in this important step in life.

The painting is finished on our new church building and we are ready to begin with the woodwork.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

“Thus united, And in concord, Let us walk the path of life, Hand in hand, O may love bind us For each other's welfare strive. (Zion's Harp #237). On January 25, we were privileged to witness Bro. Glen Greenbank (Akron, Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily, Phoenix, AZ) and Sis. Joan Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen) take the vows that bind them as husband and wife. We will miss Sis. Joan in our congregation, but surely wish them God's richest blessings.

We are thankful that we have ministers willing to follow the commandment the Apostle Paul gave to Titus, “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.” (Titus 2:1). Visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer, Bro. Ernest Graf, Bro. Paul Gasser (all of Akron), Bro. Merrill Laukhuf, Bro. Ray Sinn (both of Latty) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

“... Though I must endure affliction, Yet I feel my Lord's affection; He is here my strength in life, And helps me in ev'ry strife. (Zion's Harp #157, vs. 6). Chester Greenbank (Josephine) was hospitalized this past month and we are thankful he is able to assemble

with us again. Little Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer) remains hospitalized at this time.

Saturday evening, February 14, we, along with the Rittman congregation, were privileged to hear the memorandum read. May God bless the elder brothers who labor so diligently on our behalf, and may we ever strive to give them our full support.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehklau

Frances Laidig

A person had this prayer, “God grant me Thy grace that I may know myself as Thou knowest me.” These words express a deep concern to be in harmony with God. Every person should have this desire to be in accord with his Creator. It is God who shows man the better way of life. We can be great in the sight of man but this is not always so in the sight of God. The voice of people is not always that of God. God speaks in a still small voice. We are blessed if we strive with the help of God to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Paul Rywalski was elected to serve as our new trustee and Sis. Lois Newman and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele as our volunteer coordinators for the Apostolic Christian Woodhaven. In Sunday school, Sis. Connie Sancraint is the new teacher for the junior Bible class. We pray that God's blessings will be with them in fulfilling their duties in His service.

Kristi Warham (Brian), daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele is home from the hospital and appears to be making a good recovery from her recent surgery. May the blessings of God be with her as she continues to regain her good health.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

“The Lord is my Shepherd”.

Psalms 23:1

Come my sheep, shadows deep fall
over land and sea, fast the day fades
away;

Come and rest with me. Come and in
my fold abide —

Dangers lurk on every side, till at last
night is past; In my fold abide.

Come my sheep and I will keep watch
the long night through. Safe from
harm and alarm,

I will shelter you. Through the night
my lambs shall rest
Safe upon the Shepherd's breast,
folded there free from care through
the night shall rest.
Come, my sheep, calmly sleep sheltered
in the fold, Weary one homeward
come . . .
Winds are blowing cold. Rest until the
dawn shall break,
Then with joy my flocks shall wake;
pastures new wait for you when the
dawn shall break.

Dorothy B. Polsue

The Shepherd is responsible for the sheep, not the sheep for the Shepherd. The worst of it is that we sometimes think we are both the shepherd and the sheep, and that we have both to follow. Happy are we when we realize that He is responsible, that He goes before, and goodness and mercy follow.

Here in Oregon we have had a very mild winter, and now we are looking forward to the many visitors that will be coming to our area for their vacations this year.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Over a year ago, during the winter, when things looked pretty bleak, an old friend sent a sympathy card accompanied by a small cardboard box. We were surprised to open it and find a handful of spring crocus bulbs and a note: "Plant these now and in the spring when they bloom they will be a reminder of God's promise of eternal life, and that will give you courage." And it did. Every spring blossom and each budding tree can be a message, not only of the resurrection, but also of God's ability to bring new life out of the seemingly dead earth of winter. This latter miracle can be seen any time of year, when God converts the heart of a soul, that was seemingly dead in sin to newness of life.

Let's be thankful for the annual miracle of spring and for God's daily miracles of converting "newborn" Christians and for keeping growing Christians on the path that ever winds upward to heaven.

March is Silver Lining month for Silvertton. The subscription rate remains \$7.00 per year. You may renew your subscription or add a new one for a friend by paying your Silver Lining correspondent.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers in Philadelphia were Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) along with their wives. We are thankful to God for the Word and for our dear brothers who labor to bring it to us in its truth and power.

We extend our sympathy to our dear friend, Ed Baer, and his family in the loss of Ed's grandmother, Sis. Anna Grusy, who resided at the Eureka church home. May God provide His divine consolation to all those in bereavement.

Our congregation welcomes our dear friend, Lori Hardin (Oakville, IA). Lori recently took employment in Cranbury, NJ, and we look forward to having her worship with us in Philadelphia.

TEXAS, DALLAS/FORT WORTH Sandy Schmidt

Here are a few words spoken by Jesus, here on earth:

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
"I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep, and am known of mine."

St. John 10:11, 14

Praise be the holy Word. Our life-spring! I hope all of us take advantage of it.

Our visiting ministers include: Bro. Earl Banwart and Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Jon A. Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

On the eighth of this month, a few of us visited Zapata, TX. We really enjoyed it.

I would welcome the visitors to our area to contact me for any help or a visit. I live close to the airport. Sandy Schmidt, 214/594-1344.

SILVER THREADS

SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER

I thirsted in the barren land of sin and shame,
And nothing satisfying there I found;
But to the blessed cross of Christ one day I came,
Where springs of living water did abound.

O sinner, won't you come today to Calvary,

A fountain there is flowing deep and wide;
The Savior now invites you to the water free,
Where thirsting spirits can be satisfied.
Melodies of Praise #269

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)
left hand and the right hand. To those on the right hand, He said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants. When I was sick, ye visited me and when I was hungry, ye fed me; when I was in prison, ye came unto me; ye clothed me when I was naked." They said, "When did we do this?" (See Matthew 25).

The Prophet Isaiah said our obligation, if we want to please God, is to fast to undo the heavy burdens that others have, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke, to deal thy bread to the hungry, and bring the poor that are cast out of the house. This is the kind of thing the Lord wants. (See Isaiah 58:6, 7). God wants a life of sacrifice from us. He wants us to show that we love Him. It's not enough to just say we believe, because the devils say that. We have to prove it by a life that is dedicated to serving our God.

How do we do that? He talked of love in this chapter (I John 4). This love is a love that we demonstrate one to another. It is not a love to God alone, but a love for our fellow man. He said, "How can we say we love God, whom we have not seen, if we don't love our brother,



Apostolic Christian Children's Home

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

1987

**CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15, 1987**

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
LEO, INDIANA**

whom we have seen?" (See I John 4:20).

Yes, we can say we love our brother and those around us, but do our actions prove it? Are we kind? Are we considerate of those around us? Do we consider the impact our life has upon the lives of others? Do we consider how our life might affect the lives of our children and the children around us? Are we working to preserve a true faith? Are we teaching our children to love, be unselfish, be giving, charitable and kind? When we see our brothers and sisters with needs, are we willing to go out of our way to help them?

The Bible teaches that we should weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. If we are selfish and don't care, we don't do this. (See Romans 12:15). Loved ones, we have a precious heritage. Many of the things we have been taught from our youth up teach us how to show our love one to another.

When we go and share in the sorrow of our loved ones, sometimes it takes an effort on our part. Sometimes we have to set aside our work that might seem so important to us and take time out of our busy schedules because we care that somebody else is hurting.

In times of rejoicing, think how Christ spoke of that marriage feast in heaven. The invitations were sent out, but they were too busy to come. (See Luke 14:16-24). We have opportunity today to rejoice with those who are rejoicing, taking time out of our schedules and putting forth effort because we love our loved ones.

We think of many other ways we can show love one for another. We can be very selfish as we go through life thinking only of ourself, but that's not the love the Bible talks about. The Bible says that true charity is joy and that we are to have it in our hearts. One of the best ways we can help our neighbors is for them to see a true joy of Christ within our lives and the faith that we have.

But it is not always this way. There are some who come to serve God reluctantly. They complain about the fellowship, the church, the obligations and responsibilities they might have in serving God. What happens? Often we see examples where the children will say, "I want no part of that." They turn away from the ways of God. When we truly love serving our God and we are willing to do anything to serve God, our

children can see that. They are going to see what is most precious to us in life and they are going to want the same thing.

We think of the peace we are to have. If we love one another, we are going to be at peace with one another.

Last night as we read in the Bible together, it reminded us that if our brother trespass against us, we have an obligation to him to go and rebuke him. (See Luke 17:3). Do we do that, loved ones? Do we rebuke our brother when he trespasses against us? Or, do we go and complain to others and never talk to the one who has trespassed against us? The Bible goes on and says that if he repents, forgive him. If he repents seven times in the day, forgive him. (See Luke 17:3, 4). Loved ones, it is very difficult to have enough love that we truly forgive and forget. How many times have we heard the phrase, "That's the last straw; that's all I can take." When we reach the point that something is the last straw, it means that we haven't forgiven and forgotten the past. We've allowed things to build and build until we reach the point that the one last thing is too much.

When we have a true love, we are willing to forgive and forget the things of the past. We are willing to be at peace. We strive for peace one with another. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers . . ." Matthew 5:9. He spoke often of the necessity to forgive so we can be at peace with God and with one another.

Loved ones, we cannot take lightly the teachings in our faith. When we come to Christ, recognize our need of a Saviour and repent, we make peace with one another. We are willing to seek the forgiveness of God and of our loved ones because we have that love the Bible teaches us about.

We learn to be patient with one another. Part of the fruit of the Spirit and that true charity is to overlook the weaknesses and failings of those around us. We learn, as the Bible teaches us, to esteem and respect one another highly in love for their works sake. (See I Thessalonians 5:13). Easy? No, it is not easy to do this. It takes an effort.

It wasn't easy for Christ to die upon the cross, but He did it because He loved us.

The Bible teaches us that if we love God, we will experience heaven. (See I Corinthians 2:9). But to love God, we have to love one another. We have to

put forth that effort to help, to build, and to strengthen.

The Bible speaks of hope that is part of charity. Charity hopeth all things. (I Corinthians 13:4-7). It is that positive expectation of good that teaches us to look on the good side and at the good of our loved ones.

Yes, each of us have our faults. We all fail and fall short of the perfection that the Bible speaks of. (II Timothy 3:17). We have to overlook those faults and failings on the part of each other. We have to have true love for one another.

He goes on and says, "How do we know the Spirit of God?" "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:" I John 4:2, 3. If every spirit that came to us would first of all say, "Jesus is of God," or "Jesus is not of God," then we would know. But, it isn't always that easy. We know what Spirits are of God when they confess the ways of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Confessing Jesus goes beyond just saying that Jesus is the Son of God. It's a lifestyle and approaching the Bible as truth. John goes on and talks about the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error. (I John 4:6).

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them . . ." I John 4:4. If we are truly of God, we will have overcome the world. Satan is going to try to deceive us.

Think of the good seed that was sown. Some of it fell by the wayside, and some was picked up by the fowls of the air. (Matthew 13:4). Today, the Word of God goes out in many different places. There are some sitting in this assembly who are not even listening. Their thoughts are on the things of yesterday, or on the cares and concerns of tomorrow. The Word of God is not even touching their hearts. Satan comes and plucks it right out of their hearts. Some seed fell among the thorns, and they sprang up and choked it out. (Matthew 13:7). Loved ones, how many times do we listen to the Word of God and then go out on Monday and let the cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches enter in and choke out the Word? It is unfruitful. How many times do we go out and face temptations and problems and become

angry and upset? We won't deal lovingly as the Bible teaches us, because the cares of life have entered in.

How many times, as we are sitting here, do we worry about what is happening in the world? Do we worry about the economic situation, losing our money, or our possessions? Perhaps there are some here today, sitting and worrying about the stock market and what is happening in financial areas. The deceitfulness of riches enter in and choke out the Word. It is unfruitful in our lives.

If we want the Word of God to be fruitful, we have to allow it to penetrate our lives, change our lives and pattern us after Christ. If we want to be called Christians, we have to be Christ-like with the same nature, same attitude, and same approach to life that Christ had.

The seed that was sown upon stony ground had no depth of root and immediately it sprang up. (Matthew 13:5). There are those who hear the Word of God, get all excited about it and want to run out and tell everybody about what they found. Then, in a very short period of time, they run into some problems. The heat of the day comes, and they forget all about what they have heard in the Word of God. If we want seed to fall in good soil and bring forth the intended fruit, thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold, we have to allow it to work in our lives. It must be allowed to change us, mold us and shape us in the way that God wants us: filled with love.

It is not complicated to serve God. We only have to go back to where Christ summarized all the law and the prophets into loving God with all our heart, soul, strength and might, and loving our neighbor as ourself. (Luke 10:27).

Think of our dealings with each other as Christ put it in another place: "Whatsoever ye would that men shall do unto you, do ye likewise unto them." (See Luke 6:31). That's our standard in dealing with one another.

When somebody fails us, or does or says something that bothers us, how would we like for them to respond if we would have been the one to have said or done that? If you see somebody in need, what would you want them to do for you if you were in that same need? That's all we have to look at. It doesn't become very complicated like a whole list of regulations, but that we deal with charity and kindness.

He says, "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us." I John 4:6. How many times when we hear the Word of God do we shut it out because we think of something about the background of the person who is speaking. We find some excuse to shut out the Word of God because we don't want to listen any more. The Word of God might prick our hearts and tell us that we don't measure up, and we don't want to hear that.

The Bible says, "Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth. Whom He loveth not, He chastened not and is not a son." (Hebrews 12:6-8). Loved ones, do we feel the chastening of the Spirit of God in our life from time to time? If we never do, it is time that we beware and look out because we've been deceived.

God really loves us. He is going to continue to work with us throughout our life to encourage and strengthen us. We have to be willing to listen to the Spirit of God, hearing and understanding what God wants us to do.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God." I John 4:7.

Sometimes we see the sad examples of parents who claim to love their children. But, the way they demonstrate their love to their children is to give them everything they want. Invariably, we can see the result of that. Those children grow up thinking the world owes them everything. They become very selfish and care only about themselves. They become spoiled and are not good citizens of the world.

As children of God, in our love one for another, it doesn't mean that we give each other everything we want. Love means that we work and reason together. Love means that we care about, respect and esteem one another. We respect the various gifts and talents that God has placed within the church.

We can read in Corinthians where the apostle pointed out that God sees the needs of every church. He places within the church some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists. (I Corinthians 12:28). God gives the church what it needs.

If we can learn to function together as the body of Christ, learning to work, esteem and respect one another, it is then that we can become strong enough as a church and in the love of God that Satan can't overthrow us. The spirit of

deceit cannot enter in and deceive some and tear away. The Bible points out that Satan is going to come as an angel of light and try to deceive even the very elect. (Matthew 24:24 and II Corinthians 11:14).

Loved ones, if we can learn to work together, we can overcome. Then we can get to this point where, "There is no fear in love." I John 4:18. We think of the power Satan has. But when we have love within us, love one for another, love in the church, and love for God, we will have a strong enough faith that Satan is not going to overcome us. We don't have to fear Satan then.

It doesn't mean that we never fear anything because the Bible points out many times throughout the Bible, "Fear God, and live." Jesus said, "Fear him who has the power to take thy life and cast thee into hell." (Luke 12:5).

Fear is for God alone. He is the Supreme Judge. We have to fear and have a healthy respect for our God. We don't have to fear Satan if we are filled with love. But John doesn't just say "love casteth out fear." He said, "perfect love casteth out fear." I John 4:18.

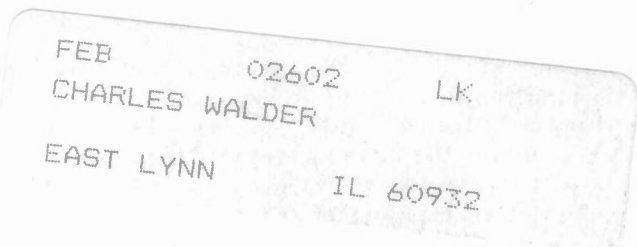
Perfect love is not easy. We think of the fruit of the Spirit. We might have some evidence of it within our hearts, but unless we have all of it, we have not reached that perfect love.

Loved ones, we need to examine ourselves to see where we are falling short, where we can improve, and where we can do better. As long as we are striving, we can go back to the Bible.

God asks of us to do the best we can in life to continually develop a greater love one for another, and demonstrate it through our life in the way we react and treat one another. That is how we show those around us in life that we are children of God. It's not the things we talk about alone, but our speech, conduct, lifestyle and every part of our walk of life. That demonstrates perfect love.

When we do, we don't have to fear judgment or death, but we will look forward to death and to that time when we can cross that River Jordan and enter the kingdom of heaven. We will have the full assurance of our faith that there is a mansion prepared for us because that is what Jesus told us. (John 14:2).

Loved ones, heaven is worth striving for. Let's commit ourselves to developing perfect love.



SERMON BY BRO. WILLIAM SCHLATTER OF JUNCTION, OH

Text: Isaiah 58 and I John 4

"Love Is of God"

As we read through the Scriptures, we read so often of love. We hear a lot about love today throughout the world and Christianity. Let's really examine what love means as taught by the Scriptures. It is very difficult to have that perfect love that the Bible teaches us.

This love is not a love of complacency. It is not just making every effort to let people have their own way. As we consider what the Bible says of love, let's look at ourselves.

John pointed out very clearly that true love is the love that Jesus had for us.

It is easy for us to love those that love us in return. Jesus spoke of that. He said, "If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them." Luke 6:32. So, this love the Bible is talking about is something that requires a great effort on our part.

The Apostle Peter, in his writings, pointed out that as we grow in our Christian walk of life, we start with faith. We add virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and finally, true charity.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, pointed out what this love really means and how it encompasses all the good things of life. It encompasses the fruit of the Spirit of peace, joy and long suffering one to another. It doesn't come naturally to the natural man, but we love by the Spirit of God.

He started out in this chapter, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits..." I John 4:1. There is a lot of controversy nowadays as to what is the Spirit of God and the spirit of evil.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the church of Corinth, pointed out that there are many diversities of gifts within the church. Different ones have different gifts. He pointed out that to one

is given the gift of discerning the spirits. That's why we have a body of believers. God has called us to work together with a unity of mind, spirit, purpose and goal so we can help one another.

Loved ones, if we go through life and think that we know the way of truth and no one can tell us anything, we can be sadly deceived and misled. We find so many examples through the Bible of that.

We can go back to King Ahab, a very wicked king. He reached the point where God decided that his life would be no more. God asked, "How are we going to get him to go out to battle so his life can be taken in the battle?" A spirit came to God and said, "I will go out as a lying spirit and in the mouths of the prophets and we will deceive King Ahab." (See I Kings 22:22).

The Lord told him to go out and do so. There were four hundred prophets in Israel that told Ahab to go, the Lord would be with him and he would be victorious in battle.

A true prophet, Micaiah, came from Judah at the request of the king of Judah. He came and said that a deceiving spirit went out and deceived those prophets. Micaiah told them that King Ahab would be killed in battle.

Loved ones, we can find from examples that there are deceiving spirits that go out into the world and try to mislead even God's very elect. He said there were many false prophets gone out into the world. (See Matthew 24:24).

There are false prophets today teaching other than the truth of the Bible. Consider what God wants for us in life. He didn't call us just to say that we believe that Jesus lived, died and rose again. We can go back to what James wrote: "The devils also believe and tremble." James 2:19. When Christ was here upon earth and was teaching the people, they didn't believe Him.

They didn't believe that he was the Messiah. He asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I am?" (Mark 8:27). They had all kinds of answers for Him.

When we look at it, there were some who always knew who Christ was. Let's think about when He met a man that was filled with unclean spirits. What happened? Time after time the man with the unclean spirits said, "I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God." Luke 4:34. Satan knows who Jesus is. The devils believe and tremble.

Loved ones, there has to be a difference in our life as we walk through life. We believe the Bible and we believe in the Son of God. People can say that they accept Christ, but will He accept us?

Let's go back to what He wrote and spoke through the Prophet Isaiah. The children of Israel had been disobedient and the punishment of God was brought upon them. They went back and decided that God had asked them to fast and keep the holy feast days.

The Prophet Isaiah says that God was not pleased with them. He was not pleased with their fasting or the way they kept their feast days and the holy days. He said, "I didn't ask for this kind of a fast. That is not what I choose for a man to afflict his soul, to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him." (See Isaiah 58:5). This was not what God asked for.

He said, "This is the fast that I have chosen... to loose the bands of wickedness, to eliminate the wickedness from our lives and the lives of those around us, and to undo the heavy burdens." (See Isaiah 58:6).

Remember what Christ said in the parable where He talked of the Judgment Day. He separated them on the

(Continued on Page 29)