



"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith . . . be strong."
I Corinthians 16:13

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

II Timothy 4:7

VOLUME 37

MAY 1987

NUMBER 5

How to Recognize A Soldier of the Lord

HE HAS BEEN CALLED TO WARFARE . . .

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called . . ."

I Timothy 6:12

HIS COMMISSION DEMANDS HIS TOTAL CONSECRATION . . .

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

II Timothy 2:4

HE KNOWS HIS ADVERSARY . . .

"Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom withstand steadfast in your faith."

I Peter 5:8,9

HE FOCUSES HIS WARFARE ON THE ADVERSARY, AND ISN'T DIVERTED . . .

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12

HIS ARMOUR ISN'T HIS OWN, BUT IS PROVIDED FOR HIM . . .

"Put on the whole armour of God . . ."

Ephesians 6:11



HE DOESN'T WAR IN THE STYLE OF THE WORLD . . .

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God . . .)"

II Corinthians 10:3, 4

HIS STRENGTH IS NOT HIS OWN . . .

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

Ephesians 6:10

HE ONLY HAS ONE OFFENSIVE WEAPON . . .

"And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Ephesians 6:17

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

HIS ONE DEFENSIVE WEAPON IS SUFFICIENT . . .

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Ephesians 6:16

HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE ULTIMATE REWARD . . .

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Revelation 21:7

INSTABILITY OR STEADFASTNESS — WHICH?

Bro. Robert Miller, Portland, OR

"... He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" James 1:6. Recently, a few of us from Portland and Silverton were privileged to observe the mighty Pacific Ocean while staying at Yachats at a place we call "Restless Surf" on the Central Oregon Coast. Some of us were there almost two exciting weeks, while assisting Bro. Bert Gasser (Rittman, IL) and his nephew, Ralph, in erecting a chimney and beautiful agate fireplace inside (an assortment of almost 90 polished rocks on the fireplace face alone). This whole setting is a part of God's magnificent creation for us to give Him praise and honor. God blessed us with spring-like weather (second week of January) while erecting the chimney. Later the surf was very restless and the waves became violent, creating foam hip deep where the shore was rocky. While this spectacular scene is very impressive in a positive way, it is also very depressive in a negative way when we hear of and observe the lives of so many restless souls in God's sea of humanity. Satan, the god of this present world, blinds the minds of so many, (even who call themselves Christians) and is the great deceiver of precious souls. If possible, he would deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24.

What is the answer to this dilemma? God's holy and eternal Word! We are told to resist the devil and he will flee from us, James 4: 7, 8. But what good will this do if we don't follow up with verse eight? "Draw nigh to God and — purify your hearts, ye double minded." We are cleansed with the washing of water by the Word, Ephesians 5:26. This is how Jesus resisted the devil, even though He didn't need cleansing, Luke 4. Let us pray for grace to this end.

The apostle Jude writes concerning unstable, unrepentant, backslidden souls, "these are . . . clouds without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever!" Jude 12, 13.

The apostle Peter writes of "beguiling unstable souls" and "cursed chil-

dren", II Peter 2:13-15. How tragic for anyone to fall into this category; even those who were once enlightened, and have succumbed to the former life of sin! II Peter 2:22 (twice dead). How can this eternal loss of one's soul be avoided, since God is not willing that any should perish? II Peter 3:9. Perhaps the answer lies in two simple words, submission and obedience to the Spirit and Word of God. I Peter 5:5, Luke 11:28.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil . . ." Ephesians 6:10. We must receive by faith the

INSTABILITY

Proverbs 24:21
Ephesians 4:14
Hebrews 13:9
James 1:6
II Peter 3:7

Causes of Instability:

- a. Unconfessed sin
Job 11:14, 15
Proverbs 28:13
Psalm 66:18
- b. Ignoring God's Word
Psalm 119:9-11
Proverbs 15:10
15:32, 33
I Samuel 15 (King Saul)
Matthew 13:15
- c. Seek honor of men
I Samuel 15:30
John 12:43
John 5:44
- d. Pride
I Samuel 15:17
Proverbs 13:10
James 4:6
- e. Lack of faith
James 1:6-8
II Corinthians 4:18
II Corinthians 5:7
- f. Lack of patience
Luke 21:19
James 1:2-4
Romans 5:3, 4

STEADFASTNESS

Job 11:15
Philippians 4:1
II Thessalonians 2:15
I Peter 5:10
II Peter 1:5-10

Examples:

Josiah II Kings 22:2
Job 23:11
Three Hebrew captives:
Daniel 3:18
Christ Luke 9:51
Paul Acts 20:24

"Prevention of Instability and Fall"

II Peter 1:5-11
Luke 18:1 (Prayer)

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things ye shall never fall."

II Peter 1:10

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

II Peter 3:17

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

"SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Many things in life are beautiful. There are the corn fields, the fruit orchards, the mountains, the rivers, the lakes, the ocean, the architecture of buildings and music or singing which moves the soul and honors God. We can also include the animal kingdom, a herd of cattle in the meadow, a flock of geese flying south, a dog which is loyal to its master at all cost.

Now what about human beings — is there beauty in them, also? Let me say, in human beings lies the potential for the greatest beauty of all. Think of the value of a cordial handshake and greeting, of the embrace of a loved one? Think of the balm of healing and the soothing effect of someone who forgives you a wrong and in turn asks you to forgive him where he may have wronged you. Think of the beauty of the loving touch of an understanding hand, and of eyes that meet yours in a

wordless message of wholesome love.

We all need to be more friendly in a polite and respectful manner. It is an art peculiar to humans and it needs to be genuine, not a veneer showing. That requires a beauty in the soul that comes from God.

In the Bible we are instructed, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." I Chronicles 16:29. Only God can give us the beauty of holiness. It is a gift from Him to us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a hymn which reads, "Something beautiful, something good: All my confusion He understood; All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife, But He made something beautiful of my life."

If we don't have that something beautiful in our souls, let's get it. Brokenness and faith are the keys to possessing it.

those edifices and hearing first hand their sincere heartfelt gratitude to make these dreams possible.

Now the Hungarian government has informed the Budapest members that unless they get assistance from the churches in the States, they will not be allowed to start construction of their new church. Some of the Hungarian elders have told me that without this assistance the program will fail.

It is roughly estimated the cost of the church and land will be approximately \$650,000 American money, of which it is felt that in Hungary their brethren would be able to raise about one-third. The sister church is also taking a collection at this time; and it would appear that our portion would be approximately \$200,000, if possible. To date we have received approximately \$120,000 with moneys still flowing in.

We realize you have many requests for funds to assist in very worthwhile causes; but our brethren have always been responsive to genuine needs, and those of us who are acquainted with the facts have every confidence this merits

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.

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP IN THE BUDAPEST, HUNGARY CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

To our beloved brethren and friends in Christ Jesus our Redeemer! May peace and grace be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

At our August 1986 meeting in Peoria, IL, the brothers elder considered a very urgent request and plea from the brethren in Budapest, Hungary, to assist in the construction of a proposed new church to provide a sanctuary to accommodate 500 persons.

These brethren are desperate. The need is very great. The present seating capacity of their old church is 220; and when I visited there the seats were benches without backs, crowded very close together. The building was filled to overflowing with many standing and some not able to get into the assembly room.

Some years ago our brotherhood responded to a need in Neuhutten, Germany, as well as in Pecs, Hungary, to assist in their building program which included an old folks home for refugees from Eastern Europe. I have had the pleasure of visiting both of

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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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.

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David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

our consideration.

The Hungarian elders have also asked that some of our elder brothers come over and meet with them to see first hand what the problems are, and to possibly consider other matters.

Bros. Joe Ramsier, Don Sauder, Andy and Sis. Theresa Hunyady are making plans to visit the Hungarian churches in May, 1987. I know they will appreciate your prayers for traveling mercies and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this most important endeavor. They will at that time transfer whatever fund we have on hand and try to give courage and support to the Hungarian brethren, and also the necessary assurance to the Hungarian government that we are supportive.

Moneys received after the brothers' departure will accumulate. We actually have until May 1988 to complete our solicitation, and funds received will be forwarded at a later date.

Any donations are to be sent to the Apostolic Christian Mission Fund, Hungarian Church Building Program, to my attention, Ben Maibach, 14726 Fox Road, Redford, MI 48239.

May our heavenly Father bless and increase our labors.

Sincerely, your very appreciative brother and least in the faith,

Ben Maibach

THE LONG BOOK TAPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

We are happy to report that Joseph Farkasch, the guitarist and producer of the Long Book Tapes in Austria, has graciously consented to mail us the "master tapes". With his permission, we are now reproducing the "Heft" tapes Volumes II and III through the

able assistance of Ringger Ranch Recordings. Volume I will be available later this year.

Cassettes may be obtained from:

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 N. Third Street
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

or

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forestview Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

The price for each tape is \$8.50 which includes shipping and handling. Tapes picked up in Morton are \$8.00. Please indicate how many of each volume you want. If possible, combine orders from your area. Make checks payable to the "Long Book Tape Fund".

An information sheet printed in English will be sent along with each order. The corresponding song numbers in "The Hymns of Zion" will be included on this sheet. Those of you who have already purchased these cassettes may order copies of this sheet from either of the addresses above. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

THE STORY BEHIND THE LONG BOOK TAPES

A few years ago, an idea came to Josef Farkasch of Salzburg, Austria; the far-reaching effects of which he could not possible envision at that time.

Bro. Josef, a music instructor in a private boys' high school, decided to record the beloved songs from the old "Heft," or "Long Books," as they were referred to. Playing the classical guitar,

he began with song number one and has now completed three cassettes which include all the hymns through number 48.

This project was begun in 1983 as a fund-raising effort for our needy brethren living behind the Iron Curtain. When Volume II was produced, part of the proceeds from it were forwarded to the church in Vienna. Built in the 1920's, it was in much need of repair and updating. Since the completion of this project, Josef sends all the proceeds from the cassette sales to the Nazarene brethren living in Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. Therefore, double blessings are received when buying these tapes. First, from listening to the inspiring music, and second, from knowing that all the profits are being used to make life more pleasant for those living under such harsh, oppressive circumstances.

Josef has spent literally untold hundreds of hours on this project; first arranging the music for the classical guitar and the other instruments used, recording the songs, duplicating the cassettes, hand stamping and applying the labels, folding and inserting the folders, and finally, boxing them to be mailed as orders came in. All these activities took place in their living room which has been transformed into a makeshift studio. Their new home has an extra room for this purpose. These many hours spent are truly labors of love for the Lord and for His people on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Reproduction of the tapes came to a halt last Spring, 1986, when his family prepared to move to another house. There were also illnesses in the family

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS . . .

- Do you have experience and interest in working with children?
- Are you looking for a new challenge?
- Would you like to integrate your faith with your work?

If your degree and experience are related to work with children with learning, behavioral or emotional problems, consider the Counseling Position at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home. Degrees related to education or the social services may qualify in addition to social work, psychology or counseling degrees.

For more information on this rewarding opportunity, please contact Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator, A.C.C.H., P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765.

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

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.

and a recent death. We are thankful that he has granted us permission to reproduce the tapes in this country. All profits from the sales will be sent to Josef.

Originally, the cassettes were intended for distribution to the European church congregations. How thank-

ful we are that they did eventually reach America. While traveling in Europe, Gregory and Charlotte Kufchak from the "sister church" in Syracuse, NY, heard the music of these cassettes. They inquired about them and were able to meet Josef, obtaining 250 cassettes to bring back to "the States".

Since then, many of you have ordered tapes from Charlotte and have enjoyed getting acquainted with her.

The music on these tapes has been produced with much love and professional skill; the arrangement of each song reflects the meaning of the words and the music. Josef studied five years at the Mozarteum (Mozart School of Music) in Salzburg. His skill is quite evident, as those of you who already possess the tapes will readily agree. Listening to them on stereo headphones is quite a treat!

On Volumes I and II, the classical guitar and the flute are played. His wife, Sis. Christl, joins him on Volume III adding the beautiful strains of the violin. Also, Josef adds the xylophone and the synthesizer on this cassette. What sounds like a choir singing, is really the two of them each singing two parts, made possible by overdubbing and "playback" techniques used on his sophisticated machinery. Many recording sessions were necessary to produce a single song.

Their two sons, Simon, 11, and Gregory, 10, lend a helping hand in stamping the labels and packaging the tapes for distribution. This project has truly become a family affair! Four-year-old Irina completes this beloved family circle.

Josef is one of two children; his father having died when he was only four years old. Sis. Sophie, his mother, still lives in Linz, Austria, where Josef grew up. In addition to his other demanding responsibilities, he is a minister of the Gospel in the Hallein congregation just outside of Salzburg.

Christl is a nurse-kindergarten teacher, as well as a busy homemaker. She is the fourth of the seven children of Bro. Philip Mueller and Sis. Katharina, who died in January, 1987.

Many of you have visited their church on various Heritage Tours, and have met Bro. Philip, who is the elder there. It was our great privilege and blessing to worship God with them in September of 1986. Josef and Christl lovingly gave us a tour of their fair city, Salzburg, during the long "noon hour". Over a leisurely dinner we learned to know and love them both and eagerly listened to "the story behind the tapes" which made us appreciate the tapes even more.

Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH BIBLE DISTRIBUTION MEETING

The eighteen churches in Illinois have worked together to organize a Bible Distribution Committee for the Illinois Bible distribution. A meeting was held at Fairbury, IL, April 4, 1987, with fifty-five brethren and ministers attending, all who have a deep interest and are participating in giving and sharing the Bible with those requesting a Bible. Elder Bro. Art Bahler welcomed the brethren and the meeting was opened with prayer. Elder Bro. David Bertsch shared and reviewed the Bible distribution over the past 25 - 30 years, including our contributions to the American Bible Society, Gideons and Braille organizations. Our present day efforts involve sharing the Bible through local church brethren throughout the land and overseas. From two to five representatives in each church are appointed to find and locate the need for Bibles. Contributions to the Bible Fund can be sent to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. There is now established a central Bible Distribution Center at Leo, IN, with quantity orders being called or forwarded to Elder Bro. David Bertsch. During the past three years, the Bible distribution work has been blessed and is increasing. During the meeting, the brothers shared with one another the blessings of visiting individual homes, giving Bibles and visiting in prisons, placing Bibles in motels, hotels, rescue missions, doctors and optometrists offices, Salvation Army and supplying Bible tapes and Braille Bibles to the blind and the elderly who can no longer read. Oftentimes the personal visit to give a Bible reveals a need to feed, clothe and shelter the needy, that the World Relief Brethren can respond to. In the closing comments, Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman gave encouragement to the brethren in continuing this good work and of the many needy nations that don't have the Bible. Then the meeting was closed with prayer, thanking Almighty God for the blessings of the day and for the opportunity of giving and sharing the Living Word of God, the Bible.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812
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
March 1987 —	3135	14510
April 1987 —	2005	16515

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.

HISTORY OF THE LONG BOOKS

The original Long Book was compiled in Berne, Switzerland, in the late 1860's by Bro. John Meister. Gradually new songs were added. Our German edition included 55 songs. When translated into English, we added 20 more songs. From number 54 on, the songs in the European Long Book are different from ours. Several, however, can be found in our Hymns of Zion and Gospel Hymns. The Long Book used in Josef's church contains 104 hymns. Inside the cover of this book are printed the opening words of Psalm 103, "Lobe den Herrn", which Josef chose as the title for the cassettes. Translated, it means "Praise the Lord". (English Long Books are no longer in print. Each song, however, is found in the Hymns of Zion.)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WOODHAVEN

Invitation to Apply for Residency or Employment

The Alto, Bay City, Detroit, MI and Toledo, OH, congregations are constructing a 66-bed home for the aged in Detroit, MI. As we look ahead with anticipation to our projected opening date of August 1, 1987, we would like to invite anyone interested in shelter care to call or write for more information about our Home. Woodhaven is unique in that it is the only Apostolic

Christian Home where the environment of the entire Home reflects an atmosphere and/or supervision readily available as needed.

We are also interested in talking to any brother, sister or friend who has a sincere desire to work with our beloved elderly. We would like to hire a licensed nurse as our Director of Resident Services. Other available management positions include a Director of Dietetic Services and a Director of Environmental Services. We hope to conduct interviews for these positions in April and May. Interviews for nursing assistants, dietary assistants and housekeepers are scheduled for June and July.

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

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 have returned to Illinois; and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr are serving 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 Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1987

CHILDREN'S HOME AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15, 1987

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
LEO, INDIANA

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

"Christ, as spring, brings the promise of new life." This saying was seen recently on the marquis at the entrance to the Children's Home. What a perfect tribute to our Saviour Who spoke these encouraging words, "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (the new life in Christ). I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." (John 10:10-11), and this He has done for us. "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell" — and on and on goes the love of God, without beginning and without ending. What a glorious thought! We can become a part of this love if we repent, believe the gospel and allow Him to convert us when times of refreshing come to us from the presence of the Lord Himself, one of the many blessings of the new life.

Springtime, beautiful, beautiful springtime, when it seems all the creative powers of God manifest themselves . . . the green grass, the blossoming trees and the many-colored flowers remind us that He is a God of beauty. The cold winds of winter are replaced by warm breezes, the snowflakes are replaced by warm raindrops and the frozen ground is turned to mellow soil ready to receive the fertile seeds that produce food for every living creature. He controls the elements and the cattle on a thousand hills are His. What a great God we serve!

Our children all participated in the Easter Program held at the fellowship

hall Sunday evening, April 12. Our children, with all the Leo Sunday school children, from the tiniest tot through the senior Bible class, portrayed so well the Easter story. We enjoyed the beauty and solemnity of the presentation, and the respect shown by the children. Thank you, children, for the orderly program. Thank you, teachers, for your kind teaching. It was indeed a solemn moment when the ransom price for our sins was paid by Jesus on the cross. The theme of the program was "What Held Jesus on the Cross?" The answer: His love for us.

Our staff was recently certified for C.P.R. (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) and First Aid. The courses were sponsored by the American Red Cross, and the classes taught in the basement of the East House — an enlightening endeavor.

The staff and children all enjoyed the Spring Break from the public schools. Some of the children went to Illinois with staff members and spent time with various church families, some spent time with Leo church families, and some spent time with their own families. Breaks are nice, but it's always nice to "get back to normal".

Jeff J. recently competed in a track meet and placed first in several events. He also was recently listed on the Leo Jr. High School's honor roll for his grades.

Sis. LeAnn Wulf is the new leader of the Cedar Creek Companions 4-H Club of Allen County. There are twenty-five members in the group, and half of them are from the Children's Home. The Club recently won the "Share the Fun" competition at the New Haven School auditorium over eight other competing 4-H clubs. LeAnn's group will now proceed to the area contest. Congratulations, LeAnn and kids, in your club's success, and best wishes in your next performance.

Our chief agronomist, Bro. Chuck Fehr, has begun the gardening process for 1987. At this point in time, he has planted peas, onions and sweet corn. His helpers were Mike T., Mike K., Bob W., Beth H. and board member, Bro. Bill Baumgartner, with his two sons, Chris and Joel. With the help of the gentle spring rain, we are looking for a bumper crop of good eating.

We are establishing new pasture for our farm animals. I just saw a staff member hauling in some bales of hay and straw. We recently purchased 100

baby chicks. They should be delicious fryers in a few months. It's always nice to have a hand in the food we eat.

The most recent presentation of the Children's Home by this writer was at Eureka, April 6. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home. Presentations are generally given in the sanctuary following the afternoon service. A slide presentation is available for other settings.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier, houseparents in the West House, are expecting their first child this fall. Congratulations! We are assured the little one will be warmly welcomed.

Have a special spring!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Our residents are certainly enjoying the lovely spring weather, as many who are able are walking and riding their bikes. We have several pink and white flowering trees on our grounds, and they are now in full, gorgeous bloom. It is another special reminder of how great and good our God is!

On Friday evening, March 27, after our volunteer dinner, the residents helped to show their appreciation for our faithful volunteers by presenting a short program. The theme was about people having different ideas about how things should be done, and each one thought their ideas were the best. In this case, it was about how the residents should be treated — some felt they should be treated very strictly, doing what they were commanded without questions; others felt they should be allowed to do whatever they wanted to do, whenever they felt like it. Moderation and working together was stressed, and it was portrayed in a beautiful way that when we are obedient to God's Word, and trust in Him rather than man, it produces a loving, caring relationship among all people. It was very touching, and being scripturally based, it left a deep impression on many of us. The residents enjoyed being a part of the program and cheerfully cooperated with all those who worked with them as they spent much time in preparation.

Those enjoying birthdays in the merry month of May are: Judy McRoy, Sam Grimm, Melinda Crouch, Terry Stoller, Herb Stieglitz, Anna Stichling, Ray Virkler, Ruth Klopfenstein, Marilyn Schlipf, Marlene Moser and Charlene Hirstein.

The redecorating of the north end

residents' rooms and halls is now completed, and they look very nice. In each room three walls are painted off-white, and one wall is papered. The coordinating draperies and bedspreads give a "finished" look. The residents are so pleased with the "new look", and those who were able to help pick out their own wallpaper and drapes are especially thrilled with the results. Thanks again to all who helped with this project!

We will soon be observing Mother's Day, and the following poem should help us to consider once again how precious are our God-fearing mothers.

MOTHER

There is no word so sweet to me,
So full of loving sympathy
That fills my heart eternally
As Mother.

There is no one to understand
The trials we meet on every hand,
No one so noble or so grand
As Mother.

She soothes our every ache and pain;
She helps to make us well again.
She is the sunshine in the rain,
My Mother.

She is the one to whom the trend
Of all our thoughts and love should end.
She is the best and truest friend,
My Mother.

When I am through with life's mad race
And have reached heaven, by His grace,
I want to see the smiling face
of Mother.

by Martha Cooper

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

"Easter is a time of joy for all people,
girls and boys
Joyfully today we sing, Jesus is our
risen King
Jesus is living, yes He is living,
Jesus is living, the Bible tells me so."

It's a joy to hear thirty little children singing songs such as this. Our Preschool children have really enjoyed learning the Easter story. They have listened so intently and really desire to know what happened to Jesus. It upsets them that Jesus was treated so

cruelly. When we told them that Jesus was spit upon, a crown of thorns was placed on His head, and He was nailed to the cross, one little girl said, "They can't do that to my Jesus!" For these children, the best part of the whole story was that Jesus rose from the grave or that "He didn't stay dead" as they say. That truly is the best part of Easter because if Christ were still dead, what hope would we have?

We want to thank Bro. Herman Aeschliman (Bluffton, IN) for building cubbyholes for the children's mats and blankets. It has helped tremendously!

Please remember to let us know as you make plans for the summer. We have heard from six volunteers so far which is encouraging, but we need many more. We anticipate a super summer with lots of fun and well-behaved children! Our volunteers not only help at the Preschool, but give encouragement and support to the church.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We want to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bros. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN) and Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) for their willingness to minister to us. We enjoyed their messages. We have had other visitors from Rittman, Latty and Mansfield, OH, Alto, MI, Croghan, NY, Bloomington, Cissna Park, Eureka, Roanoke and Peoria, IL, and Bluffton and Leo, IN.

We can't be appreciative enough to a group of brothers from Bluffton, IN, Mansfield, OH and Alto, MI, who worked hard through cold weather to pour our concrete parking lot. They were a good example of making the best of unpleasant circumstances and working diligently together for the Lord. We enjoyed their fellowship and pray that God will richly bless them for their willing attitudes. We also want to thank two couples from Eureka, IL, who stained and varnished our kitchen and bathroom cupboards in the church. May God bless them, too. We also want to thank our home congregation for their help with the physical work and for providing food for the volunteers.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth . . ." Luke 15:7. We are delighted to welcome Sis. Ethel Haggemaker (William) into our family of God. She gave her testimony of faith Saturday, March 28. We rejoice with

her and pray that she will continue to follow God's leading. Whenever I hear a testimony it brings back vivid memories of mine and makes me thankful once again that God called me and gave me the strength to answer. It was brought out again after Sis. Ethel's baptism that no reason is good enough for not answering God's call. All our feeble excuses won't seem important when we stand before our God. If you're not a Christian why aren't you? Let's not take the chance of missing an eternal home in heaven.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

St. Matthew chapter 26 is spiritually moving, especially during holy week or holy communion time. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and deacon Bro. Noah Herman drew us to the Lord's sacramental supper Palm Sunday evening. What a joy to break bread and take the cup with the brethren.

Sis. Karen Kraft (Richard and Sis. Dorothy) was killed in an auto accident April 10. Sis. Karen's untimely death certainly is a warning to one and all that death, like a thief, can come any time. Besides her parents, she is survived by Sis. Kelly and Bro. Steve Freed. Funeral services were held April 15 at the church with interment in the church section of East Rest Haven.

Visiting ministers that filled our cup recently were Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Loren Knapp and Noah Herman (Tucson).

Our Lord has again blessed loved ones with better health as Bro. Dan Kokanovich was in the hospital and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf had out-patient tests. We are glad to see Sis. Frances Schrenck, Esther Harmon, Carol Doolittle and Joe Martin out again after they were homebound. Bro. Alan and Sis. Edith Freed went to Indianapolis when their grandson, Joshua Freed, had major surgery.

We extend condolences to the families of Bros. Alan Freed, Ron Hoerr, John Kaufman, Sis. Josephine Martin and Mary Klopfenstein as each lost a dear one.

Our church potluck supper was March 29. We thank our many wonderful winter visitors for caring and sharing with us and trust our hot summer will pass swiftly for we are looking forward to their return.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Doug Schmidgall — Ethel Smith

We are a most privileged people when we can gather together in prayer as a church and in peace enjoy the worship of our God and Creator. Our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) and his wife, Sis. Barbara, were with us in Prescott for services April 5. As a watchman concerned with his responsibilities to sound the warning, he instructed us that overcoming is the key to the kingdom of heaven. All through our life we need to be overcomers of bitterness, envy, temptations or whatever it is that might deprive us of our reward when this life is over.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment . . ."

Revelation 3:5

When we consider the blessings that are in store for us if we are faithful until the end, we realize how important it is to be obedient to God and His Word. A hymn writer was moved to express it this way:

Hark! and earnestly be heeding, what the Spirit thee doth teach
How the Word, its truth revealing, All the churches doth beseech.

Hark! for God to him is speaking, Who for knowledge pure is seeking
He discerns each hidden thing and to light our thoughts doth bring.

Zion's Harp #30

With the breath of spring in the air, we can celebrate the Easter season. We are moved by the price that was paid for the remission of our sins when we recall and meditate on the wondrous plan of salvation. It brings joy when we know that through our Lord's suffering we enjoy the love and peace of God in our hearts. A crown of thorns was placed on our Saviour's brow and he was scourged and crucified for the sins of the whole world, past and future. Do we really appreciate the magnitude of this suffering, or do we press the thorns more deeply into His brow by our deeds? As we do unto others, we do unto our Lord and Saviour.

We were greatly saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Sis. Karen Kraft, daughter of Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft (Phoenix), who was killed in an automobile accident April 10. Her

absence will certainly leave a void in the lives of those who knew her. We wish to extend our sympathy to her family but we rejoice that Karen was prepared to meet her Creator.

We have now held services in Prescott a full year and truly have felt the blessings of the Lord. We appreciate the support from the brethren and friends in the Phoenix area, especially the ministers for taking time to travel to Prescott to feed us from the Word. We look forward to visitors, so please let us know if you plan to be in our area. Services are held the first Sunday of each month at 2063 Thumb Butte Road. You may call or write Harvey and Ethel Smith (602-445-2164 or 445-4390) for more information.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Our friend, Loyal Enz, recently had surgery. He has assembled with us since the surgery and is doing well. We are so thankful he is up and around again.

We were saddened to hear of the tragic accident that took the life of Sis. Karen Kraft (Phoenix). Sis. Karen was a frequent visitor to our congregation and many of us have known her since her childhood. She will be missed by all, but her family will bear most of the pain. Our prayers are with her parents, Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft, and her sister, Sis. Kelly Freed.

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

Matthew 5:4

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Elaine Graf

We have a new baby in our congregation. Jonathan David was born to Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller March 10. His sisters are Erica and Staci. Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) are Jonathan's grandparents.

In March, a group from our congregation went to Haiti on a Work Project. They were Bro. Glen Hackenjós, Bro. Bob Crockett, Bro. Fred Witzig, David Klotzle and Keith Klotzle.

We had a Sunday school picnic March 28. Ministering Bro. Loren Knapp and his wife, Sis. Evelyn (Tucson, AZ), visited our church April 12.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

St. John 14:18

Sis. Kelly (Bro. Steve) Freed's sister, Sis. Karen Kraft (Phoenix, AZ) was killed in an automobile accident in April. May the Lord be with Bro. Steve, Sis. Kelly and her parents, Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft (Phoenix, AZ) in their time of sorrow.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, April 12, we were provided God's Word by Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ). Sunday, April 26, Bro. Carl Feucht and wife worshipped with us.

On Monday evening Elder Bro. John Klotzle went to Bell Gardens Convalescent Hospital for the testimony and baptism of Ben Ruehle being bedfast for some time. Ben's sisters were there also.

We pray that Bro. Ed and Ben Ruehle can improve in health.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Scott and Anna Hoerr

We have appreciated the blessing of the beautiful flowers in bloom this past month as springtime has come upon us. It lets us know of new life and growth in the environment around us as well as in our San Diego congregation. We welcome Bro. Steve Varga, his daughter, Sis. Nella, and son, Steve, as they join the rest of their family here in San Diego.

Our hearts rejoice with thanksgiving as Lisa Vant Hoff (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch) has given her testimony, erected a covenant with God and was baptized in Lester, IA.

In the past month we have been deeply thankful for all of our visitors. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jim Ramsier, Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Bro. Loren Knapp and Bro. Don Wagenbach.

Services continue to be held at the Meadowbrook Middle School. Please call Bro. Peter Petrovic at (619) 789-1504 or Bro. Doug Wagenbach at (619) 679-8353.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

April 2 we bid farewell to Karl Braun as he left for a three-year term of service in the army. His address is: Pvt.

Karl E. Braun, 352-70-4526, D-2-3 USATC, Ft. Bliss, TX 79916. We ask God's guidance and protection in all he does and wherever he goes.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." St. John 2:19. We are thankful to our Lord that after three days in the grave He arose and created a new temple, and that now the living God dwells within man instead of a building. Our building, however, has seen the need for expansion. Remodeling of the lower level has begun and we are hoping to have the work finished by the first of June.

Sis. Katherine Ries has left the hospital and is now staying at her daughter's home. We pray God's healing touch will continue to be with her till she is out and about. She wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, letters, gifts and prayers, and asks God's blessing upon them.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI). We thank him for his extended visit and ask God's blessings upon his words.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathe Hasty have moved into an apartment. Their new address is 4460 Burton Way #1018, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, phone 303/599-0724.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13, 14. How happy we are for Keith Luginbuhl that he is embarking upon that narrow way in repentance, committing his life to the Lord. Keith (Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine) and his wife, Linda, have lived for some time in Louisiana only recently moving back to his hometown. Surely, the angels in heaven rejoice that Keith is now seeking yet an even better home!

Jeffrey Schambach, 18, (Gloria (Lanz) Schambach) is recuperating from a very serious accident. Jeffrey was working under his truck which fell on him and his facial bones require extensive surgery. Also, Lillian Lanz, Mike's wife, (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn) is now home again after being hospitalized for surgery. Our prayer for

them, as well as for others who have been sick, is for a speedy recovery. Often when sickness and cares of this life press hard upon us we think of the future and what it will bring only to be encouraged and reminded in reading the Sermon on the Mount to live only one day at a time as Christ directed: "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34.

On April 14 God delivered a tiny bundle of love to Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn (Moser) Hoffman. "Carole Jean" is welcomed home by big sisters, Kelly and Jennifer. May they ever look to God for guidance and help in their growth together as a family. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsa Hoffman and Bro. Jim and Jane Moser.

Even though the weather Saturday evening, April 4, was rainy and dreary, our hearts were warmed and uplifted by the Holy Spirit as we gathered together to sing hymns of praise. We were thankful to have Bro. David Wiegand and his wife, Sis. Ethel (Urbana, IL) in our midst for the weekend as they took time out to be with us while visiting their son, Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle in Watertown, MA (near Boston). We appreciated hearing Bro. Dave's message on how we should walk in love and live "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13. Does not this verse present a challenge to all of us in our daily living as we prepare for His second coming?

**DISCTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
 WASHINGTON**
Ed Aeschleman

On Sunday, April 12, ministering Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) came to bring us God's Word for which we are thankful to God. God also blessed us with visitors from Chicago, IL, Morris, MN, Oakville, IA, and Philadelphia, PA, totaling 33 souls in attendance. We indeed enjoyed a beautiful day of worship and good fellowship. After services, all were invited to enjoy a picnic dinner.

On a Saturday evening in March, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein invited everyone who lives in the Washington, D. C. area to their home for dinner and fellowship. At least 25

attended and all enjoyed a fine dinner and the opportunity to visit and to learn to know each other better. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Katherine live in a highrise and have a beautiful view overlooking the Potomac River and Washington's National Airport where you can look down and watch jetliners taking off and landing on the runway below.

It seems that almost each month we learn of another family living in the Washington, D. C. area and our list now contains 28 addresses of brethren and friends. If anyone who reads this knows of someone who lives in or near Washington, please drop a line to Ed Aeschleman, 1217 Glenside Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19803 or call 1-302-478-7846 and give us their name and address so we can also invite them to worship with us.

Services are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Westpark Best Western Hotel, just off the I-495 Beltway at the Tyson's Corner Exit. All who may be in the area on that weekend are invited to worship with us.

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE
Terri K. Huber

On Palm Sunday, the annual Sunday school Easter picnic was held. The children always look forward to the "egg hunt" — probably because they find candy, not eggs! Local families and visitors alike enjoyed the barbequed ribs and chicken as well as an array of other dishes prepared and contributed by the sisters.

On Good Friday, communion services were held by Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT). We rejoice in this opportunity to rededicate our lives to our walk with the Lord.

Easter Sunday, which we set aside to remember our reason for being, Christ's resurrection, was also the time of Bro. Darrell (Bud) Klopfenstein's ordination as an elder. Elder Bros. Joe Braker, Corbin Bahler, Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) were here to carry out this work in the name of the Lord. In addition, we were blessed with the physical presence and spiritual support of several other ministering brothers, including Bro. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Glen Price (Sarasota), Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota) and Bro. David Eisenmann (North Fort Myers).

Other visiting ministers for the

months of March and April included Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) who brought his family back for a visit, Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) on a return trip from Haiti, Bro. Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN). We thank these brothers for serving us according to God's calling.

A wedding reception was held for Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger when they returned from their honeymoon after being married in Francesville. We wish them the many joys of a union made in heaven.

Our hearts go out to the family of 23-year-old George Fulop, whose life was unexpectedly taken in a car accident. We share the sorrow of his parents, Bro. George and Sis. Katherine, and his brothers and sisters: John, Frank, Susie, Mary, Paul and Kathy. May our heavenly Father comfort them. Bro. George and Sis. Katherine would like to thank all for the love and expressions of sympathy that they have received in their time of loss.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY). We heard many wonderful teachings and, if our hearts are in tune with God, we all will surely be blessed! St. Mark 11:23 comes to mind concerning moving mountains if we pray without any doubt in our hearts! Once again we were reminded that God will never allow us to be tempted above what we can overcome. Surely we all want to be overcomers and live with God in heaven forever. We have just been reminded of Jesus' death on the cross and celebrated His resurrection and have that promise that Jesus will come again to receive us unto Himself. Knowing Satan will one day be chained in the bottomless pit and having God's peace in our hearts helps us to be overcomers! It's good to know that no matter what the world says or does, God is still in control. May we all, by God's grace, hold fast to His Word. Our group is once again small, as our beloved winter residents have returned to their homes. We will miss them this summer and pray for their return. May God comfort those who in the past season lost loved ones and may they know they are only a step ahead of us.

Dathan seems to be holding his own going to school. Praise be to God!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Lucille Heiniger

Our beloved Elder Bro. Ben Maibach submitted to surgery last month. We are glad to see him again in our midst.

Bro. Orval Roche has been able to assemble with us again. Many prayers went out in their behalf.

Our sympathy goes out to Sisters Elda, Vera and Mary Martin in the death of their brother, Bro. Ray (Princeville, IL). Sympathy is also extended to his dear wife and family and his mother, Sis. Louise.

Two more souls, Krista and Kristine, twin daughters of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandee Price, have turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish for them God's rich grace and blessings as they begin their new life with the Lord. Bro. Harold Schmidgall, in one of his messages, asked, "If Jesus came, would we be ready, or would we have to say, 'wait Lord, I want to repent yet?'" That would be too late. Our greatest joy will be in glory with the Lord in heaven.

As Jesus did eat of the passover with His disciples, He took bread, and blessed, and brake it and gave to them and said, "Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them; and they drank all of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." St. Mark 14:22-24. This is a very solemn occasion to think that the Lord gave His life that we might live. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach served communion to us here.

Our visiting ministers who gave of themselves in proclaiming the Word of God that we might be fed that spiritual food this past month were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. David Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Floyd Wieland and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We thank each one for their love shown to us all.

Our annual business meeting was held recently due to Bro. Ben Maibach being in India at the time it is usually held. The following were elected: Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III, Sis. Kathy Price

and Sis. Colleen Reardon as Sunday school teachers; Bro. Richard Martin and Sis. Vera Martin as substitute teachers; Sis. Mary Martin to assist Sis. Lucille Heiniger on the Silver Lining; Bro. George Reardon for Audio Room with Bro. Lloyd Pflederer as assistant; Bro. Rodney Martin as usher; Sis. Elda Martin as secretary; David Eisenmann on Brotherhood Aid; Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Roche as custodians; Bro. Steve Alexander and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter II with Bro. Harvey Banwart as assistant for the microphone; Bro. Phil Schlatter as trustee and Sis. Aldene Martin and Sis. Mary Martin as kitchen committee. We wish to thank all those whose terms expired for untiring efforts put forth by them. May God bless each one for their efforts.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

"I love to tell the Story! 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the Old, Old Story of Jesus and His love."

Gospel Hymns #30

On April 12, we had our Easter program. The children told us the wonderful story of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. We thank all who participated, both students and teachers.

Reid Matthew was a welcome addition to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Joan Nussbaum's family. Reid was born April 6 and has a sister, Kelsi. His grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree Plattner (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola Nussbaum (Forrest, IL).

We appreciate the visit of our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and sincerely thank him for giving his services to us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

We were privileged to host ACYF March 29 and April 5. It is a beautiful opportunity to hear the voices of our dear children. We want to thank Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), our visiting ministers those two evenings. May God bless each one who took part in this gathering.

Our Easter program was presented

after our Good Friday services. How thankful we are to be reminded of our Savior's death on the cross and His triumphant victory over the grave to give us that living hope. We want to thank all who participated in the Easter program.

Our prayers are with our young people as they graduate from high school and experience new paths. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Jody Tanner (Harold and Imogene), Deanne Stahl (Sis. Charlotte), Cheryl Staley (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Rose), Michelle Monier (Joe and Donna), Gregg Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta), Roland Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane), Robert Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma), Jana Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley) and Kreig Eberle (Sue and Ronnie). May they remember the many teachings they have had at home and Sunday school.

Our college graduates are: Amy Tanner (Harold and Imogene) graduating from Illinois Central College with a degree in Dental Assistance, Daryl Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane) and Wesley Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne) graduating from Illinois State University with degrees in Agriculture. We pray for God's guidance as they begin their new careers.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Cheryl Mangers

We've enjoyed having Bro. Lester and Sis. Helen Heintz (Rockville, CT) in our midst for a few weeks as they visited their daughter, Sis. Margie.

Sunrise Easter breakfast was again enjoyed this year at Jerry and Lois Vogels. This tradition was started four years ago, right after we had purchased our land for our new church building. Our intent that year was to hold a special Sunrise service at our future church site. For those of us that were here four years ago, this now yearly tradition will always have a special place in our hearts as we held our first Easter service this year in our new church.

We rejoice with Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock in the arrival of their daughter, Naomi Patricia, born April 15. Happy grandparents include Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat Schifferer and Bro. Richard and Lyla Schock (all of Elgin, IL).

We've been especially blessed this past month with visiting ministers. Our

love and appreciation goes to Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

How many times have you heard someone say, "It's all taken care of?" Generally the person speaking has done something for us — maybe paid for tickets, brought or planned enough food without our bringing some, taken over an errand, or finished a task for us. Sometimes I'm not as grateful as I should be, especially when I feel that the person involved is always giving to me and it's my turn! On the other hand, maybe others have felt I'm the one who always gives and they never have a chance. All of us, I believe, need to be sensitive to the feelings of our "neighbors." We each need chances to give of ourselves, and we each need to be humble enough (yes, it's pride in the way) to take when someone offers, too. We have a handicapped friend who says how good he feels when he can do something for someone else. And we all need to feel that way sometimes. Thus, this being willing to give and take — supplying strength and drawing from others' strengths in our weakness, sharing in all things, is another way of submitting. Let us remember to love our neighbors as ourselves and allow each one a chance to give, as Paul says: "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Philippians 4:17. May we also show our appreciation for the care we receive — "I am full, having received . . . the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God." Philippians 4:18b.

We were privileged once again to share holy communion Friday evening, April 24, served by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and deacon Bro. Lenard Meyer. The blackness of all sin that Christ took on Himself for each of us, that which He had never been part of, was a solemn reminder for all of us. Yet Christ endured this darkest suffering that we might have His light in our souls and lives. We are truly blessed and have nothing to complain about, for eternity is so far beyond our tiny, petty world of dust and grime — and its

joys are what we are promised! May we glory in the Light and be ever thankful for His great love.

Palm Sunday and Easter were unusual Sundays in our Chicago church this year. Usually we have a somewhat larger group Palm Sunday because of the Sunday school program for Easter. This year, because of a power failure, most went to Elgin, a few to Valparaiso, IN, and a small number (including visitors) gathered in Chicago when Commonwealth Edison put in a temporary power line.

And on Easter there isn't usually a large crowd because so many go home to family gatherings in other churches. But this Easter, April 19, was the wedding day of Sis. Tina Strahm and Bro. Jeff Schumacher. They were blessed with a beautiful day, inside and outside, surrounded by a large number of family and friends, and we were privileged to share it with them. Ministering brothers who visited that day were Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Loren Strahm (Tina's dad, Gridley, KS). Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann performed their marriage, with the assistance of Bro. Lenard Meyer and Bro. Loren Strahm. We pray for Sis. Tina and Bro. Jeff that they may bloom for the Lord and grow ever closer to Him and one another as they walk in His will together now, establishing another Christian home in the Chicago area.

A little sister has arrived to join the Hinrichsen family; a daughter, a granddaughter has come to make the family more complete. Kelly Jean, born April 9, joins Joseph (now big brother) and her parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy Hinrichsen, a new soul for their love and guidance. Kelly's thankful, prayerful grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber (Morton) and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield). May the Lord provide grace for their family to provide the proper physical, mental, emotional and spiritual stimulation for Kelly as she grows.

Bro. Ray Young has been hospitalized recently. He is home and, we pray, recovering well. May the Lord grant him a renewal of physical strength as he recuperates and continued spiritual strength to bear all with patience. May we remember him and Sis. Marge in our prayers and visits.

Even in the world it is said that amazing things would be accomplished if no one cared who got the credit for each idea. We shouldn't care, as Christians, who gets the credit for our good deeds either — as long as Christ gets the glory.

Having just passed Mother's Day, I am reminded how often I don't get what I deserve from the influential people in my life. When I frown and grumble, my parents don't get angry with me. When I dissolve in tears, they forget my hasty words and irrational thoughts. When I'm angry, they think of ways to diffuse my irritation. They always react positively even when I'm acting negatively. I am thankful for my dear Christian parents who are such an example to me. And my husband and daughter treat me similarly — not the way I often deserve to be treated. I have a poster that I read every morning at home, hoping to internalize His Spirit of peace and love more — as these people of blessing have shown in their treatment of me:

"A Friend

Gives, when it's clearly
someone else's turn;
Concedes, when no one
will ever find out
who really could have won;
Smiles, when a comeback
is more than justified;
Overlooks, when there
are no guarantees
that it won't happen again;
Loves, and in the loving,
points the way to the
Greatest Friend of all."

A poster by Morningstar, U.S.A.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Myrna Weerts — Elaine Sauder

On Palm Sunday our congregation enjoyed hearing the Sunday school children bring us the Easter story. It is good for us to be reminded again of the great price that was paid for our salvation.

Our Sunday school children treated our senior citizens to a supper and program at the fellowship hall April 16. They all had a blessed and enjoyable evening.

We felt truly blessed Good Friday as our congregation partook of the Lord's Supper. It renewed in us again the vows we had made and gave us new courage on our pilgrim journey.

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

Zion's Harp #200

The Lord has blessed Bro. Alph and Sis. Ernie Eisenmann with 50 years of married life together. We enjoyed attending their open house April 12 at our fellowship hall.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Gary Brown (Forrest), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We thank these ministering brothers for coming to share the Word with us.

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney in the passing of her father Bro. Ed Grusy (Eureka). We also give our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin in the passing of her father, Bro. Lester Laukhuf (Latty, OH). May the Lord give comfort and solace where man cannot reach.

Those hospitalized were Sis. Laura Hodel who had open heart surgery, Bro. George Gudeman (medical) and Sis. Lil Feller (medical). May the Lord comfort, strengthen and heal according to His will.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Gail Leman — Susan Knapp

Kneel down by the side of your Mother,
my boy,
You have only a moment I know;
But stay till I give you this parting
advice,
It is all that I have to bestow.

I gave you to God in your cradle, my
boy,
And I taught you the best that I know
And as long as His mercies permit me
to live,
I shall never cease praying for you.

You will find in your satchel a Bible, my
boy,
It's the book of all others the best;
It will help you to live and prepare you
to die
And will lead to the gates of the blest.

Hold fast to the right, Hold fast to the
right
Wherever your footsteps may go

O forsake not the way of salvation, my
boy,
That you learned from your Mother at
home.

Author Unknown

The blessings of God-fearing, loving mothers and their prayers for us are not to be overlooked. What would we do without the prayers of our Mother's that are offered in our behalf? They're offered before we are laid in our cradle, as we leave her tender care, and as we walk with the Lord whom she has taught us of. God has given two new souls into the care of loving parents to be brought up to hold fast to the right. Eric Benjamin is the first-born child of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Miller and Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman. Jill and Frank Merritt welcome home Kourtney Lane. His happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock and Frank and Reba Merritt.

Bringing us God's precious Word through guidance of the Holy Spirit were Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont). May God bless these dear servants who so willingly minister to us.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"... Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47. Once more this beautiful story was brought to us through song and verse by our Sunday school children and their teachers.

Brian Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) has felt the need of repentance and has yielded to the loving invitation of our Saviour.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser rejoice in the birth of their first child, Britany Marie, born March 18. Happy grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeannette Moser and Ken and Eunice Mengler (all of Elgin).

Many exhortations and blessings were in store as we gathered April 4 to review the memorandum of the brotherhood conference. We offer special thanks to Elder Bro. Loren Stoller

(Latty, OH) who graciously assisted Elder Bro. Nathan.

The Work Projects and World Relief Committee meetings were held in our church April 10 and 11. Loved ones from many churches attended and sought God's direction to help those in great need physically and spiritually. Friday evening we were privileged to view slides of World Relief operations in Haiti, Mexico, Eastern Europe, as well as the packaging process in the Bluffton area. With somber minds, we learned how Russian brethren must worship and greet in secret. Do we really appreciate our freedoms here in America? We heartily thank all the brothers who gave of their time and effort to show their slides.

Visiting ministers who shared with us this past month include Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). May God bless each of them.

Sis. Jenny Schambach (Bro. Ed) recently underwent surgery. At this time of writing Karen Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) is undergoing more tests. Gail Hallead (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman) is grateful to be home after seven weeks in a Chicago hospital where she suffered kidney rejection and then meningitis. She and her parents wish to thank everyone for the many kindnesses and prayers on her behalf. May our prayers and hopes for improvement of health for these loved ones arise to God above.

Of all the earthly things God gives,
There's one above all others:
It is the priceless gift
Of faithful Godly mothers

Happy Mother's Day!

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

I do not know what is around the next turn in this winding trail of life, but I know this, whatever there is around that corner, I shall have my hand in Another's hand when I go and face it. And if I feel a little bit disturbed, I shall move my finger around in the palm of that hand till I find the scar, and then I shall know that Jesus Christ, who on

the cross was wounded for my sins, is not going to leave me no matter what corner I go around on this winding road of life.

W. B. Hinson

We were refreshed and strengthened in our souls as we partook of holy communion Saturday evening, April 11. It was a solemn occasion as we took of the bread and drank of the cup of our Lord's sufferings. We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for being with us on this sacred occasion and for his ministry the following day.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6. Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Wayne Getz were united in holy matrimony March 22. Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (all of Eureka). May God richly bless their lives together.

We are thankful for willing brothers who lent themselves in His service by parting the Word of Life unto us. May God bless Bros. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Al Aberle (Tremont), Vernon Wettstein and Frederick Knapp (both of Congerville) for giving of themselves on our behalf.

Monday evening, March 23, many gathered to houseclean our church building. What a blessing it was to work and fellowship together.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Caroline Moser (Bro. Aaron) in the recent passing of her brother, Elmer Kaupp. Services were held for him at Gridley, IL.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue Zimmerman welcomed Ryan Dale April 11. Ryan has two sisters, Rachel and Trudy, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman.

Our best wishes go to our high school graduates as they go forth to college or a work place. May God watch over them.

Wednesday evening, April 15, Eureka hosted the Easter program. We were thankful the Roanoke Bible class could be with us. The songs of Christ's suffering and His glorious resurrection were an inspiration to us. What a precious promise we have of living in those beautiful mansions above and meeting our loved ones again if we have proven to be faithful here on earth.

How blessed are we who have a mother,
Who cares and loves us like no other,
Her faith and concern are constant
through the years,
She shares our joys and even our tears.
In a quiet way she makes us aware
There is a God and He is always there.

Author Unknown

May we thank God for the precious gift of God-fearing mothers.

We are thankful Sis. Caroline Leman (Bro. Milton) could return home after an extended stay in the hospital. They want to sincerely thank everyone for cards, visits and prayers in their behalf. May God bless you for your deeds of love.

Prayer is the key of the morning
And the bolt of the night.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

Now it is accomplished! With heart and
with mind

To thee, my dear Savior, I now am
resigned!

I'll ever be faithful in life and in death,
Abiding in Jesus unto my last breath.
Zion's Harp #209, vs. 10

The heavens were rejoicing March 22 as we welcomed two new souls into our congregation. They are Sis. Renae Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Tami Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola). May God grant them an abundance of His grace each day of their life.

This month we were richly blest with seven visiting ministers. Here to share God's Word with us were Elder Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Bob Walder (Congerville), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Once again we were privileged to enjoy the Easter program presented by our Sunday school youth April 12. May God bless each student and their teachers for the efforts put forth.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr have been blessed with a new little son, Austin Wayne, born March 30. Kyann and Brett are happy to help with their new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr and

Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser.

With May here, Mother's Day comes to our mind. As children, it seems as though we can't fully comprehend or realize the depth of our mother's concern for us. But as the years go by, through older eyes and wiser hearts, we seem to appreciate the love and loyalty of our dear mothers.

"Mothers are created as reflections of the Lord.

They give life, and they're life itself —
They're love and love's reward."

Alice Joyce Davidson

Sis. Lena Aupperle, 86, passed on to her eternal reward March 22. Our sympathy is extended to her family, including Sis. Rose Fehr from our Fairbury congregation.

"If on earth we meet no more,
Let us meet at God's right hand,
Where we shall each other greet,
'mid the glories of that land."

James D. Vaughan
Gospel Hymns #774

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

GODLY MOTHERS

Of all the earthly things God gives,
There's one above all others;
It is the precious, priceless gift
Of faithful, Godly mothers.

Unknown

With thankful hearts, many of us cherish fond memories of such a person. For many, she waits on the shores of glory. For others of us, we treasure her presence still among us here.

Our visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury). We are thankful that God inspires them to bring forth His Word of truth. May He bless them for their labors.

Once again we've had loved ones who have been hospitalized. Sis. Marlene Kupferschmid (Bro. Orville), Sis. Renee Wenger (Bro. Ed) and Ben Rinkenberger (Minnie) have experienced God's healing power and have again been able to assemble with us. At the time of this writing, our beloved minister, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss is

hospitalized and awaiting open heart surgery. May he and Sis. Laura feel the many prayers offered on their behalf.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Koehl have been blessed with a little girl, Ashley Jo. Justin is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl and Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter (Fairbury).

First-time parents are Steve and Kay (Schladenhauffen) McBride of a little son, Darrin Steven. Happy grandparents are Gene and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Persida Metz who passed from this life into eternity. Surviving are Bro. Chris, Sis. Ruth and Sis. Esther (Earl) Gerber, Bro. Ben (Francisville, IN), William (Houston, TX), Bro. David (Morton), Bro. Arthur (Silverton, OR) and Elizabeth Johnson (Clifton).

We wish God's blessing on Tim Roth (Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth) and Diane McKimmey who were recently united in marriage.

We rejoice in the good news that David and Jackie Eisenmann and Brad Fleming have heeded the Lord's call and surrendered their lives to Him. We wish them God's guidance as they build upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

This pleasant month of May, so created for our enjoyment, is filled with many special moments. It is a time to again praise God for our dear mothers. We know a mother's love entails thoughtfulness by being selfless, patience with our repetitive errors, wisdom to know our needs and cheerfulness that all will be well. This all stems from her abiding faith in the Lord. May also leads us to the realization of how quickly our children have grown and are now awaiting graduation both from high schools and colleges. Whether their future contains further education or finding a job in today's work force, we pray for their welfare.

TOMORROWS

Why do you fret for tomorrow?
Why are you heavy with care
Wrapping your heart in sorrow
A garment too somber to wear!

Faith has a brighter color
Hope has a rainbow hue

And trust links them both together
In the background of heavenly blue.

You can weave these lovely colors
Into a garment so light
It will penetrate every shadow
And shine through the darkest night.

God will take care of tomorrow
With Him each tomorrow must rest —
And we hold this a sure conviction
When we give each today our best!
Beverly E. Kimzey

Our congregation received loving instruction March 21 as the memorandum guidelines were read and explained. Encouraging our unity in thought and purpose, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) lent himself for our benefit. We are grateful for his kind efforts.

Feeling the power of God's love and grace, Floyd (Shorty) Hofmann has sought our Lord in repentance. May he build on the firm foundation, Jesus, the solid rock.

Two families will feel special excitement this Mother's and Father's Day as they were blessed with precious new daughters. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin welcomed Wendy Rae April 6. Enjoying their new sister are Holly, Gretchen, Anna, Elizabeth and Aaron. Happy grandparents are Robert and Betty Van Nattan (Pekin) and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Laura Hohulin. Arriving April 7, Megan Eileen has warmed the hearts of Bro. Greg and Sis. Laura Musselman. Michele is also delighted with her baby sister. Loving grandparents are George and Darlene Schultz (Virginia Beach, VA) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman.

On that holy day, Good Friday, we felt as though our feet had trod the dusty streets of Jerusalem. Again reminded of the supreme sacrifice and horrendous suffering endured at the crucifixion, we rededicated our lives to God by partaking of the Lord's Supper. We are so appreciative of the work carried out by Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Leroy Huber (Eureka) as they assisted our shepherd in this important task.

Other visiting ministers and their families we wish to thank for their selfless labors are Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers extend to Sis. Loida Knapp and Sis. Charlotte

Bahler for the loss of their brother, Cleo Steiner (Peoria).

Those who have endured bodily afflictions this past month are Duane Freidinger and Sis. Barbara Ricketts. May they feel God's healing power.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie Wyss, Bro. Roy, Sis. Shirley and Chad Wyss all wish to express their deep thanks for all the love and support during Justin's death. Especially appreciated were all of the uplifting prayers that they have felt.

On Easter Sunday we rejoiced as the engagement of our Sis. Charlotte Bahler to Bro. Dan Steiner (Tremont) was announced. We are so happy that God has touched their hearts and wish them many blessings as they share their lives.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"Lead me gently home, Father," was the prayer of our dear Bro. Henry Miller, and now his wish has been granted. He passed away at the age of 81 April 18. We can be glad for our loved ones who have gone on before, knowing that it is better to be absent from the body and present with the Lord. The precious memories will sustain the dear ones who are left and who will miss their dear husband, father and brother. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Henry's wife, Sis. Hermine; his sons, Bro. Terry (Valparaiso, IN) and Tom (Gridley); his brothers, Bro. Rudy and Bro. Fred (both of Gridley); and his sisters, Sis. Ann, Sis. Mary and Aline Stortz (all of Gridley).

Elmer Kaupp, 77, was also laid to rest, having passed away April 7 at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka where he resided for six years. Our sympathy is extended to his brother, Bro. Walter (Fairbury); his five sisters, Emma Bessler and Sis. Marie Kaupp (both of Peoria), Sis. Caroline Moser (Eureka), Sis. Louise Finck (East Peoria) and Sis. Ida Alt (Las Vegas, NV).

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Lydia Kuntz, Sis. Julia Schieler and Bro. Paul Zehr.

We were blessed by the visits of ministering Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo are the happy parents of David Allen who was born April 14. He has a brother, Ryan, and a sister, Callie. David's grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis.

Nola Gramm (Gridley) and Jack and Louise Prevo.

Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz are the happy parents of Stephanie Marie who was born April 18. She has a brother, Jacob. Stephanie's grandparents are Harold and Bev Wells and Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz (all of Gridley).

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Susan Kieser

We here at ISU are all busy getting things done as the semester comes to an end. We sadly say goodbye to our graduating seniors, but wish them many blessings from our Father as they undertake the challenges of this world. The seniors are: Bro. Wesley Kieser (Bradford), Bro. Donnie Endress (Princeville) and Daryl Knobloch (Bradford).

New officers were elected for the 1987-88 school year. They are: President - Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), Vice President - Bro. Luis Gomez (Washington), Secretary - Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton) and Treasurer - Sis. Susan Kieser (Bradford).

This past month we enjoyed many interesting Bible studies. Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) spoke about Winds of Doctrine and the differences between our doctrine and other doctrines. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) read I Corinthians 8 and reminded us that we need to be cautious of what we do so as not to cause our weak brother to fall. This month was also our annual Easter program held at the Bloomington/Normal church. Three groups sang praises to the Lord for the rest of us to enjoy. They were Voices of Praise from Peoria, a trio from the Bloomington/Normal young group and the ISU young group. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) gave an inspiring Easter message to complete our program. The next week Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) took us on a walk-through of Jesus' last twenty-four hours on earth before He was crucified. May God bless these men richly for giving up their time for our benefit.

Our summer Bible study schedule is as follows: May 21, June 4, June 18, July 9 and July 30. Everyone is invited to join us in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m.

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

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

MY MOTHER'S BIBLE

There is a dear and precious Book,
 Though it is worn and faded now,
 Which recalls those happy days of long ago;

When I stood at Mother's knee,
 With her hand upon my brow,
 And I heard her voice in gentle tones
 and low.

As she read the stories over,
 Of those mighty men of old,
 Of Joseph and of Daniel and their trials;
 Of little David bold, who became a king
 at last;
 Of Satan with his many wicked wiles.

Then she read of Jesus' love,
 As He blest the children dear,
 How He suffered, bled and died upon
 the tree;
 Of His heavy load of care,
 Then she dried my flowing tears;
 With her kisses as she said it was for me.

Now those days are past and gone,
 But their memory lingers still,
 And the dear old Book each day has
 been my guide;
 And I seek to do His will,
 As my mother taught me then,
 And ever in my heart His words abide.

Chorus:
 Blessed Book; Precious Book;
 On thy dear old tear-stained leaves I
 love to look;
 Thou art sweeter day by day,
 As I walk the narrow way,
 That leads at last to that bright Home
 above.

M. B. Williams
 Gospel Hymns #782

May all our Mothers continue to be
 blest by our heavenly Father.

Sis. Lena Hofmann was called Home. Her funeral was March 28. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Emma Herman wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with birthday cards. May God bless all who were so kind.

We wish God's blessings on Sisters Becky Grimm and Marcia Kaiser who were recently elected as Sunday school teachers. Likewise, we wish Bros. Phil

Rapp and Tom Zimmerman God's blessings as they were recently selected to be ushers.

Our Easter program was held April 12. All of us were again reminded of the true meaning of the Easter season through verse and hymns. May our heavenly Father richly bless everyone who participated and all those who came to support us by listening to the program. It was a blessed evening.

We have those loved ones who are ill, shut-in and/or in the hospital. May we continue to remember them in prayer, with a telephone call and/or a card or note. We have had several from our congregation who have lost loved ones. May they feel our prayers and may our heavenly Father comfort and bless each family. May God fill the vacant chair with His love and grace as only He can.

Our heavenly Father has recently blessed us with some much-needed and appreciated spring showers. We have had a dry winter and are very thankful and grateful that He has been so gracious unto us. Praise His name.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kathy Huthmann

Sis. Cindy Plattner and Bro. Doug Streitmatter (Princeville) were united in marriage April 5. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Edith Plattner and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter. We pray that God will bless them as they start their new life together.

We would like to thank several ministers who visited us this past month. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton), Joe Stoller (Princeville), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) all came and shared God's Word with us.

Several people have spent time in the hospital. They are Sis. Anna Sutter, Sis. Dorthea Kieser, Marie Billerbeck, Sis. Kim Schafer, Sis. Margaret Fisher and Sis. Ruth Hartman. May God grant them His healing power.

To break Thy bread we now have
 gathered,
 In covenant to drink Thy wine;
 As brethren we unite together,
 That unto death we might be Thine
 This promise we, with heart and will;
 Give grace our promise to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #25

Palm Sunday, April 12, we partook

of holy communion. We were reminded of Christ's suffering on the cross for our sakes. We have the opportunity to take communion once a year, but may we all remember to thank Him every day for His suffering and the love He has for us.

On Sunday evening, April 5, we gathered together to hear our Sunday school children tell of the Easter story at our Easter program.

Our Sis. Ella Hoerr passed away after enduring a serious illness. Our prayers are with her family, hoping that they will feel His love and comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Marjean Lehman

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 23:35. We give thanks again to our visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). May God's blessings be upon them.

"That to enter heaven's portal and inherit life immortal, new creations we must be, on this earth from sin made free." The New Birth of Water and Spirit. On March 21, four souls gave their testimony of faith, and March 22 they were baptized. Our new sister is Sis. Joanna Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) and our new brothers are Bro. Phil Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Bro. Tim Martin (Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna) and Bro. Ronnie Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane).

On April 11, five souls gave their testimony of faith, and April 12, they were baptized. Our five new sisters are Sis. Lynn Martin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa), Sis. Karen Menold (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie), Sis. Robin Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen), Sis. Tammy Wieland (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Tonya Wieland (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy). May God's blessings be upon them as they walk with Him each step of the way.

On April 3, a special Bible study was held. Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton) spoke to us on the effects of music. We want to again thank Bro. Bob for researching this topic and sharing with us.

On April 5, in Peoria, Bro. Doug Streitmatter was married to Sis. Cindy

Plattner (Peoria). Parents are Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edith Plattner (Peoria). May God bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Emma Asal, Sis. Doris Christ, Clint Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri) and Herb Schick. Mitch Hartzler (Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki) and Aaron Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy) both suffered a broken arm.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elsa Christ in the passing of her brother. Also, we extend sympathy to Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann in the passing of her father.

On April 12, we listened to the Sunday school students tell of the steps of Jesus from the manger to the cross. May each student be blessed with this story in their hearts.

A precious baby girl arrived at the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold April 7. Little Whitney Renee Menold was born March 18. Big brother, Aaron, helped welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold. May God's blessings be on their family circle.

Thank you note: I wish to thank my family, relatives and friends for their prayers, visits, cards, gifts and concern during my three-month stay in the hospital from my car accident and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Alvina Streitmatter

The death angel has visited two families in our congregation. On March 23, Sis. Lucy Woertz was called to her rest. Funeral services were held March 25. On April 11, Bro. Ray Martin passed from this life to his rest. Funeral services were held April 14. We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Edna and to the children, Bro. Ed, Sis. Audrey Braker, Kathy, Sis. Sheryl, Bro. Tim, Sis. Cindy, Linda, Joe and Jim. Also our sympathy goes out to each one who was close to both of them and feels the separation of death so keenly. May God's comforting nearness be felt and may He give strength and courage where the help of man cannot reach.

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

I Peter 5:7

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

When the month of May arrives, one of my first thoughts is of Mother's Day. For each of us, it has a special meaning. How thankful we can be to have had Christian mothers who have kept the faith and have been good examples to us.

Hortense Diggle (the mother of Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Diggle) passed away March 18. We extend our sincere sympathy to them and to John's brother, Ed (Lake Bloomington), a granddaughter, Paula Ehresman (Littleton, CO) and eight great-grandchildren.

Those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized this past month are Bros. Bill Leman, Ralph Knepp, Russ Plattner, Willis Wuthrich, Sis. Barb Martin, Sis. Angie Rassi and Harvey Pfister. May God grant them His healing power.

We want to thank the Morton choir for sharing with us many beautiful hymns during our March hymn sing.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers this month and we truly thank them for sharing God's Word with us. They were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Marvin Leman (Bradford), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Dennis Kauffman and Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield).

April 5 will always be a very special day for our Sis. Kris Martin as, having given her testimony of faith the evening before, she was then baptized and became our new sister-in-the-Lord.

Elder Bro. Joe Braker conducted our April Bible study and gave us many wonderful teachings on how to be happy in our Christian life. May God richly bless him and his family.

After much prayer, our congregation has given their support to Bro. Tom Hoffman to assume the responsibility of serving in the ministry. May God ever be near him and his wife, Sis. Kathy, and their children.

April 11 was the evening for our Benefit Supper for our nursing home. A special thanks is extended to those who served on the committee and to the Roanoke choir who presented an inspiring Easter program.

On Palm Sunday, we were given the opportunity to partake of holy communion. What a special time this is in our lives. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fair-

bury) was here to help with this service. May God bless him and his wife for giving of themselves on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger

Dorothy Wagenbach

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls who have been added to the Lord's flock. We welcome Bros. Jeff Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann), Dale Steiner (Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Shirley), Sisters Joan Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella), Janet Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge) and Cheryl Frank (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rose Mary). We are grateful for Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) as they willingly assisted Bro. Dan Koch in this joyous and important occasion.

We wish to thank all of our other visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Bro. Wesley Knapp (Goodfield), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville).

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) lent himself on a Wednesday evening for a special talk. We thank him for this extra effort.

Another special blessing this month was holy communion. Our hearts are uplifted and we can go forward with new courage after taking part in this solemn occasion. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) for assisting our Elder Bro. Dan at this time.

We welcome several new babies this month. An especially exciting day for Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi was March 31, the birth date of their first daughter, Mary Joanna. Little Mary is welcomed home by brothers, John, Michael, Philip, Jason and Nicholas. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi and Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynette Menold also welcome a sweet baby girl born April 7. Little Sara Lynn has a big brother, Danny. Happy grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Vera Aberle and Bro. Joe and Sis. Tillie Menold (Sabetha, KS).

Byrl and Christine Austin are excited first-time grandparents. A dear little girl, Megan Ann, was born April 2

to their daughter and her husband, Susan and Dale Lindenfelser.

We were happy to meet Bro. Joe Koch's new wife, the former Sis. Sandy Schneider (Rockville, CT). His family recently hosted a reception for them.

We are thankful to see all of our sick folks back in church again. Bro. Alvin Beutel (Sis. Carol) had back surgery. Christopher Schweigert (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky) was down with mononucleosis but is now back in school. Andrea Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane) is spending some time on crutches as a result of an injury in school.

Our Sunday school children again presented an Easter program where we were reminded of the great price that was paid for us by Christ's dying on the cross. How thankful we are that he did not remain in the grave. We thank our dear children and their teachers for this inspirational evening.

We wish much happiness to our Bro. Dan Steiner, Sr. in the announcement of his betrothal to Sis. Charlotte Bahler (Eureka).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

Recently we were reminded to prepare our hearts and souls for our "Feast with the Lord". Some exhortations for communion were shared with us by Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield). Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) served us communion a couple of weeks later.

We were privileged to host the Valparaiso choir in March. Their songs of praise to the Lord were beautiful. The same weekend a reunion was held for all those in the area who traveled to Israel together a year ago. It made for a full church and we loved it. The visiting ministers were Bro. Al Langhoffer (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN). We enjoyed the blessed fellowship and are thankful the Lord granted them a safe return to their respective homes.

We extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for sharing with us at our monthly Bible study.

We find just how weak we really are when our health fails us, but we can find refuge with our Lord in His mercy and compassion. Those who have been hospitalized or ill include Anna Cagle, Cecelia Mogler and Sisters Martha

McGough and Mary Pfaffman. May the healing hand of God be with them.

"Blessings on the little children, Precious gifts from heaven above — May their days be filled with beauty May they grow in truth and love."

This day is a day of good tidings." II Kings 7:9. On March 31, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer, Arlo and Abby, welcomed Laura Lee into their hearts and home. Laura was born October 26, 1986. Their home has been richly blessed as God has sent them such a precious gift. Bro. Art and Sis. Goldie Kipfer and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ellen Geisel (all of Bluffton, IN) are the proud grandparents.

Loren and Mary Mogler have also been blessed with a new baby. Kristen Nicole was born into their home and has four brothers, Loren Jr., Wesley, Kevin and Philip, to keep her company. Her grandparents are Bro. August and Sis. Inez Mogler (Eureka) and James and Patricia Arrowood (Ventura, CA).

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

"She looketh well to the ways of her household."

Proverbs 31:26-27

A mother's love is a special love. It's gentle and tender and yet strong. May the Lord bless all the mothers as they strive to do the Lord's will in the rearing of their children.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Lucille Isch — Becky Isch

We want to thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us this month.

Our congregation was deeply saddened at the tragic death of Bro. Lloyd Gerber March 23. Bro. Lloyd was trimming trees in his yard and was accidentally electrocuted. Our hearts go out to his dear wife, Sis. Martha, and his children, Bro. Arlen, Bro. Neil (Sis. Karen), Sis. Diann (Bro. Gary) Tonner and Sis. Marcene (Bro. Dave) Gilliom. We also extend our sincere sympathy to his brothers, Bros. Gavis, Sylvan, Alvin, Floyd (Bluffton), Ed (Fort Lauderdale); and his sisters, Sisters Helen (Bro. Roy) Gerber, Leona (Bro. Ralph) Schwartz, Alice (Bro. Ervin) Schwartz, Sarah (Bill) Steffen, Minnie (Bro. Homer) Aschliman, Anna (Bro.

Ervin) Isch, Josephine (Bro. Edward) Schwartz (Bluffton). May this family feel our love and prayers during this sad time. Bro. Lloyd was devoted to his family and church. He will be greatly missed, but we are grateful for our precious memories of him.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Jerome, Sis. Gale and Jeremy Reinhard, whose infant son and brother, Adam James, was born April 7 and passed away at Riley Hospital April 9. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Berthlene Reinhard and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene Reinhard.

Bro. Dale Ringger (Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Diann) were married in Francesville March 22. They are making their home in Fort Lauderdale. On April 5, Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Sis. Fran) and Sis. Kathy Neuenschwander (Walter and Joyce) were joined in marriage at Bluffton North. Bro. Rick Fiechter (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris) and Sis. Deb Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) were united in marriage April 12. Our best wishes for God's blessings and nearness are extended to these young couples as they begin their lives together.

We have been blessed with several new babies this month. Tadd and Heidi Geisel (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Louella) welcomed Travis Andrew March 18. Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen Bertsch are enjoying Cassie Renee, who arrived March 25. Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister are her grandparents. Les and Crystal Lake are the proud parents of Byron Allen, born March 26. Ed and Rosemary Hegerfeld are his grandparents and Elder Bro. Orville and Sis. Naomi Ringger and Bill Eisenmann (Latty, OH) are his great-grandparents. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Rhonda Fiechter were thrilled with the arrival of April Diann April 15. Her grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Arlen Gerber, Sis. Sada Moser (Bro. Fred), Wendi Stump (Steve and Sis. Arlene) and Shauna Fiechter, three-week-old daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Suzanne Fiechter. We are praying for God's healing hand to reach out and touch all who are in need.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley) for being with us Friday evening, April 10, at the fellow-

ship hall and exhorting us on our "Spiritual Health". He was with us again Saturday evening, and we shared holy communion. We appreciate his efforts so much and pray the Lord will bless him and Sis. Pat for spending time with us and allowing themselves to be used in God's service.

On April 12, the engagement of Sis. Connie Macklin (Carl and Betty) to Bro. Rod Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) was announced. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they begin their walk together.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"Her price is far above rubies . . . Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her . . . a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:10, 28, 30

We praise, honor and thank our mothers, who have so diligently given of themselves for our nurturing and growth. May they know their love is truly worth far more to their children than rubies or any riches of this world.

It has been and will be a special, but busy, time for several mothers, and fathers, and families, too, within our congregation.

April 5 was the happy wedding day for Sis. Kathy Neuenschwander (Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Sis. Frances). April 12 Bro. Elmer Gerber and Sis. Henrietta Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Vince Gerber (Bro. Vernon) and Sis. Susan Troxel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo), Bro. Rod Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Connie Macklin (Carl and Betty, Bluffton) announced their engagements. In this joyful time that bonds two families together, may love flow to bind those of different hearts and minds into one.

This is also the season for graduation as many families know. To our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and friends who are taking that sometimes scary, sometimes exciting step, may they remember the Bible is the best blueprint to follow. "The best choices are God's choices." (Jo Petty, 'Gifts for the Graduate').

We want to thank Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH), Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) for their ministering services to our con-

gregation this past month. As said many times before, but still as true, we welcome them and their families back anytime.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa) who has spent time in the hospital recently. We wish for the return of good health and the continuance of God's Spirit no matter what the future brings.

Whether we be parents or child, married or single, young or old, in ill health or good health, let us all "love one another with a pure heart fervently." I Peter 1:22.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

LEAD ME, O LEAD ME

Dark is the road that lies before me
How can I find my way?
Tangled the path that beckons to me,
Lead me, O Lord, I pray.

Dangers are lurking, foes are
threat'ning,
Satan his power has shown,
Stay by my side, protect and guide me,
I dare not walk alone.

Lead me, O lead me,
Never will I go astray, O Lord!
Lead me, O lead me,
Lead me 'til I reach my heavenly home.
Peterson

On Wednesday, April 15, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) spoke to us on "Preparing Our Youth For the Path". We were encouraged to have God as the "Hub" of our family lives and to look to Him and His Word for guidance. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." James 1:5. Our thanks goes to Bro. Ted and his family for giving of themselves to be with us.

On Sunday, March 22, many gathered to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) and Bro. Dale Ringger (Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn, Bluffton, IN). Fort Lauderdale, FL, is where Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy are residing. We wish them God's blessings and nearness throughout their lives.

Our heartfelt thanks go to ministering Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing Bro. Dale and Sis.

Amy's wedding day with us. We also thank Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman with the wedding ceremony and for giving us loving advice on harmony in our homes.

The Purdue brothers and sisters had the joy of hosting College Weekend here March 28 and 29. Ministering Bros. Gene Lehman and Neil Widmer (both of Wolcott, IN) were in Francesville and shared God's Word on that special Sunday. May God bless them for their willingness to lend themselves in His service.

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich was hospitalized this past month and is back home again for which we thank God!

Bro. Alex Gutwein is currently at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. We continue to pray for his recovery and thank God for each improvement.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Ad Gutwein (Bro. Nate) as her treatments are finished. Our prayer is for a complete recovery if it can be His will.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Ben Metz and his family in the death of his mother, Persida Metz (Forrest, IL). We're thankful her suffering is over!

Just a reminder to Francesville subscribers: June is collection month for the Silver Lining. Thank you!

With my most humble and thankful heart, I wish to thank all members of my family, friends, dear nieces and nephew who live in Indianapolis, and all who remembered me with their prayers, cards, telephone calls, etc., while in the hospital and since returning home. God bless each and every one of you.

Humbly,
Minerva B. Wuethrich

We wish to thank all who remembered us during Eugene's stay in the hospital and since returning home. Your love, kindness, prayers, gifts, beautiful cards and visits meant so much. May God bless each of you.

Eugene and Millie Huber

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Kathy Freed — Gail Bradford

We express our appreciation to the following ministering brothers who shared the Word with us; Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Elder Bros. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville).

Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed thank all of you for your prayers and deeds of kindness during Josh's recent surgery. Josh needs your continuing prayers as he goes through a period of recovery.

We gathered early Easter morn to praise God for the gift of His Son. It was a beautiful morning! Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) joined Bro. Ken Wuethrich and shared the message on this most special of days.

Many of us traveled to our "home towns" and visited the churches in which we first learned about Jesus. The truth we heard and learned as children is the same unchanging scripture that guides us today.

Timeless, unchanging words for today, speaking to us now from across the ages.

The Bible is relevant, but it cannot be compromised. Some of the words of the Bible are not very palatable for "modern" man. Words such as sacrifice, humility, submission, authority, and repentance make some of its hearers uncomfortable. They run away from the absolutes of the Ten Commandments, the certainties of the Beatitudes, the authority of the Sermon on the Mount.

Acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives does require submission to Scriptural authority, repentance from sin, conversion of heart and mind and a constant attendance to a committed and holy life. None is possible unless we allow the grace of God to fill our lives, and "create in us a clean heart". We are nothing without Him. This fact alone keeps those who rely on themselves from coming to Christ.

In Matthew 8:13-14 we are told: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Will we be among the many, or the few?

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Sandy Heinold

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalms 127:3. God has blessed two families in our congregation with precious gifts from heaven.

Bro. Don and Sis. Debbie Nuest joyously welcomed their first child, Heidi

Elizabeth, into their hearts and homes March 21. Sharing in their joy are Heidi's grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest and Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman (Francesville).

Ross Joseph added a special happiness to the lives of Bro. Joe, Sis. Jackie and Jessica Feller when he joined their family April 15. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller and Norman and Marge Jacobs are the delighted grandparents.

We were privileged to have Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman (Eureka, IL) with us last month. Bro. Vernon showed his slides of World Relief areas and it made us stop and count our many blessings when we saw the condition under which those people must live. Yet, we also realize that our own prosperity could lead to our spiritual downfall if we let the love of the world and its riches crowd out the love of God. We sincerely thank Bro. Vernon for his efforts and for letting himself be used as an instrument in God's hands.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

ONLY A MOTHER KNOWS

How many cares does a mother's heart know —

How many joys does a mother bestow?
How many heartwarming things has she said —

How many tears has she secretly shed?
How many kindnesses, day after day?
How many prayers has she prayed for another?

Nobody really knows — except a mother!

Anonymous

In March Purdue had the opportunity to host college weekend. It was a very spirit-filled weekend with the topic of prayer. Prayer is our communication line up to heaven, where God's line is always open to us. We were reminded of its vital importance in our spiritual life. We would like to give special thanks to Bros. Edwin Bahler, Kenneth Schneider (Remington), Gene Lehman, Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Wendell Gudeman, Chris Huber, Carl Westfall (Francesville), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for making this an inspiring weekend.

PRAYER

How sweet the privilege of prayer,
When we our cares and sorrows share
With Him who understands.
Our Father's house has large supplies
He owns and rules the earth and skies
And bounteous are His hands.

'Tis not command nor mere decree
That makes men come on bended knee
To seek His holy face.
When'er the soul's deep needs arise.
In fears and trials it relies
On His sustaining grace.

As friend to friend will oft confide,
In prayer we seek the Saviour's side,
And tell Him all our grief.
If we but ask He'll lend His aid;
Where on His altar prayers are laid,
He'll send the soul relief.

Hymns of Zion #205

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31. We rejoice with Bro. Rodney Bucher and Sis. Connie Macklin as they announce their engagement. Bro. Rod attends school here at Purdue.

We also would like to extend our thanks to Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Nelson Beer and Walter Steffen (Milford) for coming and sharing God's Word with us during our mid-week service.

**INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter**

The universe is in His hands. All is in His control. Seasons come and seasons go. Spring is here again. We knew it would come, and just as surely, He is coming again! There can be no more important question: Am I ready to meet Him? He is coming again!

"When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!"

P. B. Bliss

A delightful month of springtime is May. "April showers bring May flowers," and here they are for us to enjoy. May also brings us a special day to honor mothers. God ordained motherhood thus giving women the treasured joy and the awesome responsibility of mothering. In our U.S.A., President

Woodrow Wilson proclaimed an official day of recognition for mothers in 1914. If by God's grace you are a Christian mother, and if by His love and rich blessing you have or did have a Christian mother, Praise Him!

"Mother is a gardener, planting
precious seeds,
Sowing for the Master in loving,
tender deeds.
Planting seeds of kindness, charity and
truth,
Sowing for the harvest in days of
tender youth.
Mother is a gardener; God directs her
hands,
Waiting for the reaping, led by His
commands.
Fair flowers richly blooming, weeding
them with care.
Seeing them develop into virtues
sweet and rare.
Mother is a gardener — fruitful, year
by year,
Gaining satisfaction in that which
she holds dear.
Mother's a true gardener; her seeds
grow up to be
Fairest flowers of character
throughout eternity.

Marjorie Cooney

Adding to the joy of parents, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz, is a precious new baby girl, Natalie Rose. She is also blessed with a sister, Amanda, a brother, Jeremy, and grandparents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister (Bluffton) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz.

Sisters Julie Simon and Anna Steiner are convalescing satisfactorily following their hospital stays. They trust in His care and love for better health.

Paul Steffen (son of Bro. Tim and Monica Steffen) suffered an appendectomy, but rebounded fast to good health as young folks often do.

Bits of This and That:

Train up a child in the way he should go and go that way yourself.

Hardening of the heart ages people faster than hardening of the arteries.

Home is where the great are small and the small are great.

Only one way to compliment your wife, and that is frequently.

If you are not kind, you are the wrong kind.

The path of Christlikeness may be an uphill journey . . . but it's worth

every step!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr — Sue Schieler

Sunrise on this beautiful Easter morning found many of our congregation gathered to commemorate the resurrection of our risen Saviour.

Our congregation has again had many hospitalized, but we are happy to report that they are all home again, and we hope to see them all back in church with us soon: Jennifer McDaniels (Cris and Terry), Everett and Sis. Leona Price, Mike Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha), Bro. Oliver Haab and Sis. Helen Baumgartner.

Visiting us recently were the following ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). We appreciate the effort these brothers made to come and minister to us.

Our congregation would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr in the loss of their dear father, Bro. John Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Bro. John and Sis. Aline moved to Milford in 1968. However, when his dear wife passed away in 1978, he moved back to Peoria, and our congregation lost a very faithful brother and sister.

Our sympathy goes to our Sis. Martha Haab (Don) as she recently lost her mother, Emma Hostetler.

Our congregation rejoices with three couples who have announced their engagements: Ben Beer (Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie) and Kara Isch (Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky, Bluffton) will be married August 8. June 12 will be the marriage of Beverly Wuthrich (Bro. Al and Kathy) and Sean Murphy (son of Mr and Mrs. Robert Murphy, Warsaw). This summer will also be the wedding of Bro. Steve Price (Bro. Tom and Becky) and Sis. Tonia Tonner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diana, Bluffton). We wish them all God's blessings as they walk this life hand in hand.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Our dear Bro. Herman Beckley, 87, left this life Saturday, April 11. Born in Fairbury, IL, November 14, 1899, he moved to the Remington area as a child, and lived here most of his life. On April 3, 1927, he was married in Gridley, IL, to Sis. Emma L. Witzig. She

survives, along with four daughters, Sis. Velda and Sis. LaVina Beckley, Sis. Loretta (Bro. Ken) Schneider, all of Remington and Mrs. Wilma Baer of Lee, FL; two sons, Elmer of Remington and Leroy of Oak Grove, MO; three sisters, Sis. Anna Beckley of Francesville, Sis. Lora Zahner and Sis. Clara Zahner (both of Rockville, CT). He will be missed, but we are thankful he could go home to his Lord where his heart longed to go.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Odell Pitman who was recently hospitalized. The Lord has also given renewing strength to Bro. Kurt Bahler who had knee surgery recently.

Doug Getz graduated from Naval Training at Great Lakes, IL. He is now studying aviation construction in Tennessee. His address is:

Douglas E. Getz
311-76-3871

NAS Memphis BEQS-400
Millington, TN 38054-5054

The spring of the year brings important changes to many lives. Our graduates this year are: Robin Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon), Lee Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue), Dean Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) and Sis. Lisa Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta).

Our strength is in identifying where our true strength is . . . the Lord. May the Lord's Spirit flood our lives with His power and help us to deny ourselves and lean upon Him. Recently a friend shared this poem with me. I pray it will be a blessing to you as it has been to me.

LET IT UNFOLD

It is only a tiny rosebud
A flower of God's design
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I . . .
The flower God opens so sweetly
Would in my hands fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design
Then how can I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine.

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day
And I'll look for His guidance
Each step of this Pilgrim way.

For the pathway that lies before me
My Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jill Lehman — Annie Meyer

We were very privileged to have the Bluffton North choir come and share their special talents with us. It was truly inspiring for all.

Among those visiting our small congregation this last month were Elder Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We also want to thank them both for coming and sharing the memorandum with us recently. We all need to be reminded of the temptations of this world and what is expected of us. We are truly grateful that we have shepherds that are concerned about our welfare.

Bro. Dan Clauss has now moved to the Francesville nursing home. We will greatly miss him and pray the Lord will watch over him. There are many others in our congregation that are in nursing homes or shut-in and they also need our prayers.

May is the month in which Mother's Day falls. Let us each and every one take a minute to thank the Lord for providing us with loving mothers. We also, as mothers, need to stop and take a moment to see just how fast our children are growing.

"The training of children is a profession where we must know how to lose time in order to gain it."

Rousseau

Is this not so true, dear ones?

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Trish Bucher — Peg Huber

During this Easter season, may we be thankful for our precious heritage through Christ Jesus in that He died and on the third day rose again . . .

We extend our sympathy to the Conrad and Wayne Paarlberg families after the loss of their mother. Our church family has been granted God's traveling mercies as we were given the opportunity for our choir to visit the Washington, IL, congregation and also take a bus trip to Lexington, KY.

We were also blessed to have the Bloomington, IL, choir visit us and blend their voices together in praises to the Lord. Our sincere thanks go to

God's willing servants: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) who shared His Word with us during the past month.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

I John 2:17

The will of God will not lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

On Good Friday, we enjoyed the songs and poems that made up our Easter program. The Easter season is behind us, but the joy of it remains with us as the very basis and reason for our faith. As a remembrance of our Lord's suffering we look forward to communion April 26.

CHOICE

Our lives are songs;
God writes the words
And we set them to music at pleasure;
And the song grows glad, or sweet or sad,
As we choose to fashion the measure.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Our high school graduates are Sis. Sharon Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita) and Jeffrey Albrecht (Roger and Marilyn). Graduating from college is Bro. Rob Lehman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna). May they each make the choices God would have them make that their lives would be a sweet song that is a blessing to all and a glory to Him.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

As this is Passion Week, we think so much of Christ hanging on the cruel cross and shedding His blood. Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), along with Bro. Harvey Heiniger, served us holy communion April 12.

Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) shared God's Word with us this past month. It's always a joy to have visitors.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Betty Baker. Sis. Betty's mother-in-law, Hettie Baker, passed away after a

lengthy illness. Hettie used to come to church every Sunday with Sis. Betty until her good health was taken from her.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

As we review the past month, we see we have had many reasons to rejoice.

We are so happy and thankful to have George and Mildred Schupbach back with us after having spent the winter months in Arizona.

Our thanks go to our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Harold Messner and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (both from Winthrop, MN). We offer a special thanks to Bro. Harold for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum and the sacrament of holy communion.

On the weekend of April 12 many of us went to Lester, IA, to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Anita Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) and four other dear souls. Anita has been living in Elgin during her post-grad education at NITI at Calmar. We welcome her now as our new sister-in-faith.

On the evening of April 15, our Sunday school children shared the Easter story through songs and verses.

Before closing, we want to wish our mothers and yours a very blessed and happy Mother's Day.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Glen and Sally Funk

We enjoyed wonderful fellowship this past month when our visiting minister, Bro. Kenneth Knapp, brought brethren from his congregation and also invited Bro. Roy Ehnle and his wife (Bradford, IL) to meet them in Garden Grove. It made a very special day for us, as they also stayed for a church dinner.

We also enjoyed Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and his family, as they also made a trip here to serve our congregation.

We had a terrible tragedy in our community this month as a young father and school teacher shot and killed himself. Our children, of course, could not rest their minds and kept asking questions. My heart went out to all children who were tormented with questions in their minds. We tried to stress to our children that if you know the Lord Jesus and serve Him, you will always have Him to turn to. He will not

leave you in time of need. A tragedy such as this is so far reaching, and reminds us all to do more to help others. A smile or a handshake can mean so much. Let us remind each other to be kind and loving to all we meet. Let us raise our children, reminding them daily to be kind to everyone, especially that child others may leave out.

Sis. Verle Funk is teaching Sunday school again and replaces Sis. Eileen Funk. We welcome her back to Sunday school and praise God that she can be used.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Bonita Frank

We were reminded in a sermon of the "glory" we attain when we see Christ's suffering as being for us individually and asking for His forgiveness. How important it is to remember this precious gift of our salvation.

The efforts all our visitors put forth to be with us is enjoyed by our little congregation. We especially appreciated each visiting minister we had this past month. Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

The weekend of April 11 and 12 those of us here in Iowa City invited our parents to assemble with us. We were reminded of how our dear parents gave us the necessary loving care to bring us this far with God's help. I'm sure we will never realize how many dreams, hopes, tears and prayers they had that we never saw or heard. Thank you, each one. God blessed us with a wonderful weekend of fellowship.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:7-9. On April 5 we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Mike Schmidt (Bro. Evan and Sis. Evelyn, West Bend) and Sis. Mavis Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice). May God be the head of their home and daily guide them as they walk together through life.

Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend) were

here to attend the wedding and ministered to us that day. On March 15, Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) fed us from God's Word. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) here March 28 and 29 to assist our Elder Bro. Leo Moser in reading the memorandum. We were lovingly encouraged to uphold the faith as the warnings are sounded from the walls of Zion by our elder brethren. The same weekend God's will was revealed and the duties of ministry fell on Bro. Myron Knobloch and Bro. Wes Moser. May God ever grant them His true spirit as they preach the gospel of salvation to our blessed congregation.

This past weekend we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls: Anita and Marie Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley), Sherri Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris) and Lisa Knobloch Van't Hof and Renee Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor). Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) were here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in this very important undertaking. On Sunday Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin) and Bro. Peter Petrovich (San Diego, CA) were also here and were led by God to minister to us. Those of us who are "sheep" were reminded of our duty to be good examples to the "lambs" in our flock.

A new baby boy, Ted Allen, was born March 24 to Dan and Darcy Gerber. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber. May God continue to bless this dear family as they rear their children.

Several from among us have been ill this past month. Sis. Lydia Mogler (Bro. Phil) was a medical patient. Surgical patients were Bro. Wilhelm Nester, Fred Metzger, Sis. Leona Wulf (Bro. Bill), Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale) and Jim Moser. May God's healing powers be upon these dear ones as they recuperate, and may His unending love and comfort be with those who continue to suffer pain and discomfort.

As Mother's Day approaches, we want to remember our dear mothers. May God bless each one.

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

"Our Father in Heaven whose love divine,

Thanks for the love of a Mother like mine —
 And in Thy great mercy look down from above
 And grant this dear Mother the gift of your love —
 And all through the year, whatever betide her,
 Assure her each day that You are beside her —
 And, Father in Heaven, show me the way
 To lighten her tasks and brighten her day,
 And bless her dear heart with the insight to see
 That her love means more than the world to me."

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE

"And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." (St. Matthew 21:44). It is with such thanksgiving that we gather to reflect upon the Lord's death and suffering. Surely we could envision the terrible scene there at Calvary as Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz related to us once again the old, old story as we partook of holy communion April 5. At this time of year we examine our lives (as we should the entire year) that we may appear glorious before our Lord on Judgment Day.

We welcome David Kiefer into the fold. Bro. David gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of April 4 and 5. We know that when a sinner repents and is converted there is rejoicing among families. David's parents are Bob and Dolores Kiefer. May God ever be near David as he lays aside the worldly weights to follow the footsteps of our Saviour. We were especially thankful to have Elder Bro. Sam Huber and ministering Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) with us for church services on Sunday.

We have had three couples in Oakville recently celebrate their 40th wedding anniversaries. Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Schrock, Bro. Bob and Sis. Clara Frank, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand have been serving the Lord together as husband and wife for 40 years. To someone who is younger in age like myself, 40 years seems like quite a long time, but time certainly

does seem to fleet. How blest we can be to have the Lord on our side as we grow into the evening years of our lives. Bro. John and Sis. Lena Wegman surely can relate to this as they have been married for 70 years this past February. We are certainly thankful to have these couples to look to as examples of faith. Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS) have recently ministered in our Oakville congregation.

Note: Our heartfelt thanks to all who remembered us with cards and best wishes on our 40th anniversary. May God bless each one of you for your kind remembrances.

Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Schrock
 Bro. Bob and Sis. Clara Frank
 Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand

IOWA, PULASKI

Sarah Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

With Father's Day approaching, it should cause us to stop and reflect how appreciative we should be when we are blessed with God-fearing fathers who guide and direct us to God's plan of salvation. Not only on this day, but every day, we should thank God for the blessing of an earthly father who serves the Lord.

Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) willingly brought to us His precious Word of Life. We pray for God's blessing on him for the many teachings he, through the Holy Spirit, was able to bring forth.

On April 15, Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) were with us for the reading of the memorandum. Each year, as we hear these deliberations, we are reminded how easy it is to slide back here or there into the activities that we were so willing to give up when we first-became converted and were taken into the fold. May God grant each of us the grace to overcome these temptations.

We look forward to the testimony and baptism of our dear friend, Angie Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn). We pray that God will bless each one with a special blessing.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We are fortunate to have the privilege of sitting under the sound of the gospel whenever we come to the house of worship. We often neglect to tell our ministers and visiting ministers how much we appreciate the effort they put forth to proclaim the Word, whether bringing comfort, admonition or sowing the seed that it may bring forth fruit. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester). We heard the seriousness of the memorandum report which was read by our visiting elders along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr March 22. Sincerely, we hope and pray we are all hearers. The blessings of obedience will come when we are also doers.

Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman were blessed with little Clark David born March 12. Denise, Gwen, Pamela and Gina are enjoying their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart.

Julie Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) and Troy Olson (Garry and Janice, Aryshire) were united in marriage April 4. Bro. Mike Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Mavis Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, Lester) were united in marriage April 5. May God bless and lead these couples as they live their lives together.

Hospital patients this past month were Tyler Metzger (Jerry and Joy) and Sis. Ruth Sigsbee.

We extend our sympathy to Jerry and Joy Metzger in the loss of her father, Henry Zimmerman.

We want to remember our high school graduates as they step into a new phase in life: Michael Zaugg (Richard and Dorothy), Jerry Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella), Joe Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb), Lance Banwart (Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn), Joel Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy), Peggy Grimm (Eli, Jr. and Margaret), June Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) and Sis. Sara Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth). Our prayer for our graduates is that they have God's guidance, as He knows what they need, and that He would keep them forever safe in His care.

"We believe that the Christ, who was once Himself a child, born of a human

mother, is the one never-failing source of help for perplexed, discouraged or wearied motherhood. Since to this work, Father, Thou hast called us, help us to give to it all that Thou hast given us of insight, wisdom, strength, love, gentleness, patience and forgiveness."

Inspiration Ideals

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

Springtime is a time for change. The barren earth comes alive with color. The brown ground turns to various shades of green with occasional patches of pastels. The unclothed trees begin to model their new everchanging wardrobe.

In Japan, spring also means a time for change for those who attend school. One school year ends with the parting of students, teachers and friends, and another soon begins with new acquaintances, renewed old ones and awaiting challenges.

Our kindergarten graduation sent sixteen children into the new world of first grade. What a new world it must be, going from a daily school life centered around the life and teachings of Jesus, to being maybe the only one in their class that has heard of Jesus. We have a plaque at S.A.K. that reads: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6. It is our prayer that what our children learn will always remain in their hearts and grow as they do. So someday they will remember where to turn to concerning their soul's salvation.

Spring always brings Easter. Such a bitter sweet time. To think of the suffering our Saviour did for us that we might live with the hope of eternal life should bring us to our knees in tearful thankfulness. On Easter morning, about twenty gathered for an early morning service and breakfast. Later in the day, the Sunday school children presented a short program in honor of Christ's resurrection.

Recent visitors in Shioda have been Sisters Carol Kieser, Joni Leman (both of Bradford, IL), Peggy Schultz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Bruce Wyss (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Bruce will be in Japan for several months with his business. We hope that their time spent here created many blessed and happy memories.

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle express sincere appreciation for all the

love and hospitality shown to them by loved ones in America during their visit there from February 4 to March 3.

KANSAS, BERN
Shirley Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

"JESUS, I COME"

"Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee."

W. T. Sleeper

Oh, the beautiful picture this song paints in our minds . . . We can imagine a convert in prayer at his or her bedside, gladly surrendering to Jesus, and we can also imagine Jesus gladly welcoming that convert in. We, in the Bern congregation, are rejoicing that another soul, Darlene Meyer (Earl) has answered our Lord's welcoming call. May she feel God's boundless mercy, grace and strength.

In speaking of God's goodness may the family of Sis. Lydia Kellenberger feel his nearness in this their time of loss. Sis. Lydia Brunner Kellenberger passed from this life March 22 at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. Services were held at the Popkess Mortuary Chapel March 26 and the interment was made in the Bern Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery. Surviving her are one daughter, Priscilla Kellenberger (Sabetha); one son, Freeman Kellenberger (Dundee, IL); and two sisters, Dena Strahm (Sabetha) and Rose McClain (Kansas City, KS).

We had one visiting minister this month, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). May the Lord richly bless him for his service to our congregation.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

As we have several graduating seniors this month, we pray that each one will ask God for His direction in their lives. Graduating from high school this month are Sara Strahm (Bro. Wilfred

and Sis. Verona), Shari Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), Brad Strahm (Bro. Alphie and Sis. Mamie), Bro. Craig Plattner (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta), Bro. Todd Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) and Sis. Camille Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia).

Graduating from Kansas State University this month are Angela Plattner (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta) and Chris Strahm (Clayton and Miriam).

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young — Judy Kraft

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4. There can be comfort in mourning, knowing that Christ is in our midst. He has given us this promise: Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:20. We, as Christians, know that our life here on earth is not the end, but we look to the hope and promise of heaven.

Bro. Albert Grimm passed away April 1. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. Bro. Al was 81 years old. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Hannah; his children, Arlie Grimm, Sarah Grimm and Ilene Rogers; one granddaughter, Penny Grimm; two brothers; three sisters and other relatives.

Our hearts were saddened by the news of the unexpected death of Sis. Karen Kraft (daughter of Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft, Phoenix, AZ). Several from our congregation and community are related to her. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family and friends.

Sis. Gail Strahm was our only hospital patient. We are thankful that she is home recuperating.

Chelsie Lanae Bahr was born March 27 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice (Kiowa, KS). She has two sisters, Stephanie and Tifani. Grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Eileen Bahr and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mildred Frieden.

We were privileged Wednesday evening, April 8, to be fed from the living Word by Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa).

We would like to thank everyone who helped by way of congratulations, anniversary cards, gifts and flowers to make our 40th wedding anniversary a memorable one.

Bro. Joseph and
Sis. Edna Somerhalder

KANSAS, KIOWA**Darcy Kisling — Janice Bahr**

The Holy Spirit conveyed meaningful messages through Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We wish to give these brothers our heartfelt thanks. Bro. Lavoyd also assisted with communion. This privilege brought a time of reflection and renewing of commitments. "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:27-28.

In the hospital this month were Floyd Tanner (stroke) and Bro. Frank Kisling who had shoulder surgery. Both are recovering at home and need our prayers.

A blessing came down from heaven to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr when their third daughter, Chelsie Lanae, was born. Chelsie was welcomed home by her sisters, Stephanie and Tifani. Admiring grandparents are Bro. Joe J. and Sis. Mildred Frieden (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Eileen Bahr (Gridley, KS). Great-grandparents are Sis. Frieda Frieden (Kiowa, KS) and Celetina Schifferer (Elgin, IL).

Many church members received a blessing at the rest home as they sang and ministered to our senior citizens. We hope they also received a blessing.

KANSAS, SABETHA**Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm**

"Faith is a grasping of almighty power; The hand of man laid hold on the arm of God;

The grand and blessed hour
In which the things impossible to me
Become the possible, O Lord, through Thee."

Unknown

This past month the precious Word of Life has been shared with us by Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Lester Hartter and Bro. Darrel Stoller Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). Holy communion was served to our congregation in April with Bro. Aaron assisting our home elder. We are grateful for his willing service to us. It is our deepest prayer that God's Word will always flow purely from His throne above, giving us that inward life and strength.

Sis. Natalie Wysong (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jan) has been announced to Bro. Lee Martin (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Salina) to be joined in holy matrimony. May God's blessing be with them as a three-fold cord is established with God as their head.

We welcome Bro. Charles and Sis. Esther Terry to our congregation as they make Sabetha their home, having moved here from Kiowa.

My thoughts have turned to the day we designate as "Mother's Day". What does it mean? To a child, a mother is held in great love and affection; to her husband, she is his chosen helpmate and guide for the home; but what meaning has mother to herself? God has created a mother to be a servant to tend the tender lambs that He places within her care. A child is really God's own, and we are only caretakers and accountable for tending the garden of a tender heart, and teaching him of God's ways. To honor God is the ultimate glory for a mother as she serves and labors for Him willingly here on earth.

Congratulations are given to our high school graduates this year who are Connie Hartter, Becky Schweitzer and Erin Wysong. Also, Sis. Lanette Meyer is completing her college term. May happiness and satisfaction be found for them in each of their future plans!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Sherry Fritz — Brenda Klein**

As the winter passes and spring is evidenced here in Lexington, Bro. Lester Huber has reminded us of the responsibilities God has given to be sowers of His seed, the Word.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10, 11

We are so appreciative of the ministering brothers who bring this Word to us. Helping share these responsibilities with Bro. Lester in these past months were Bro. Wayne Banwart

(Champaign, IL), Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN). We were blessed to have a large group of visitors with us this Palm Sunday from Valparaiso.

On Saturday evening, we gathered together for a hymn sing and Sunday we enjoyed the fellowship of all from Valparaiso.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Juanita Gerst**

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers. This past month we were pleased to have ministering Bro. Bill Waibel with us to share God's Word.

"Holy love bright flame from heaven,
Only to pure hearts revealed . . ."

Zion's Harp #72

It was with surprise and joy that on April 12 we learned of the engagement of Sis. Carol Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Patricia, Alto) to Bro. Dale Weiland (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lena, Bay City, MI). It is our prayer that God will richly bless them as they join hand and heart in their life here on earth.

Our prayers are with Bro. Alex Gutwein who was transferred to Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids this past month.

We are also thankful that the Lord has watched over the hand of the physicians. Ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Eloise) both had surgery this past month.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Pam Schlatter**

We were blessed to have been visited by ministering Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Ray Schlatter (Toledo, OH). We are thankful for the clarity with which we receive encouragement and instruction from those who serve us on the pulpit.

This month we have two new births to announce. Bob and Rhonda Knochel have welcomed a baby daughter, Amanda, to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Elinor Knochel and Ron and Catherine Wackerle. Jim and Laurel Curtis have a new baby boy to liven up their home. Baby Shawn's grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Delores Munsel.

On Sunday, April 12, the engagement of Bro. Dale Wieland (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lena) and Sis. Carol Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat, Alto) was announced. We wish them God's

blessings as they plan for their upcoming marriage.

Our hospital list this month includes Sis. Anna Magyar and Marshall Ry-lance. We are pleased that they each seem to be doing somewhat better. We pray for a complete recovery for them.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Donna Hartzler

Richard Popp (son of Bro. George and Sis. Helen) has been in the hospital critically ill with ulcers and other complications. Our prayers are with him and his family. May God restore to good health again where it is His will.

Sympathy is extended to the Bro. George Fulop family (Fort Lauderdale, FL) in the sudden death of George, Jr., and especially to his aunt, Sis. Esther Orcsik (Detroit). George, Jr., 23, was killed April 2 in an automobile accident. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort." (II Corinthians 1:3)

Spring is a beautiful time of year to pay special tribute to our mothers.

"We honor mothers because they are our homemakers. This is God's wise arrangement. Mother is the heartbeat in the home; and without her, there seems to be no heart throb. She is the pulse in the home; and when she is gone, the life current is weak. She is light in the home; and when that light goes out, shadow falls over it. She is life in the home; and when she dies, the home seems dead.

"It takes more than architecture to make affection; pictures to make purity; vases to make virtue; food to make felicity; and clothes to make character. The wise mother, understanding this, sets her heart and hands to the nobler task of converting a house into a home.

"God in making woman the keeper of the home, extended to her the glory of being the pillars of our society; for the home is truly the foundation of the world. So long as our people recognize this sacred thought and hold it dear in their hearts, there is hope for us.

"Tributes are but empty phrases, if in words alone they dwell. We must live the praises due her, if we'd honor mother well."

(Taken from Flowers For Mother by Leroy Brownlow)

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is like a beacon
Burning bright with faith and prayer
And through the changing scenes of life
We can find a haven there . . .

For a Mother's love is fashioned
After God's enduring love,
It is endless and unfailing
Like the love of Him above . . .

Helen Steiner Rice

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us be sure that we are following Jesus and trusting in His love, that one day we can be with our mothers in heaven.

We will miss Melissa Fehr in our congregation as she has taken employment in Oregon and will be attending the Silverton church. We wish her God's blessings always.

We are so thankful for another soul who has opened the door of his heart. Larry Schmidgall (Bro. Ray and Sis. Millicent) is seeking the Lord in repentance and we pray that a very rich measure of grace from the Lord will be given to him. What glory it brings to God the Father when one finds his salvation and willingly takes up the cross of Christ to follow after Him.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler have been blessed with a new baby boy. Braden Kent was born April 11. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler (Lester, IA). May God be a present help as they assume the responsibility of raising their son.

Thought — The chain of a mother's prayers can link her child to God.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain.
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,

And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

The evening of April 15 we gathered together to hear the Easter story presented by our children in Sunday school. We always appreciate the beautiful songs and meditations which take us back to Calvary's Hill where we remember our Lord's pain, suffering and the shedding of His precious blood. This has made possible for us a "new life" through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who paid the price for the sins of all mankind.

Bro. Charles Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Charlene Luthi (Sis. Della) were united in holy matrimony March 22. "... 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).

Bringing words of life were visiting ministers Bros. William Gerst (Alto, MI), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). We were happy to have these brothers with us for Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene's special day.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Psalms 73:26. May these words be of comfort to Bro. Doug Koehl and Sis. Louise Mohrman recuperating from afflictions to the body.

Afflictions have a way of broadening our view to those who live in constant pain, but yet have the faith to believe our loving God truly cares.

We remember in thought and prayer the family of Edwin J. Nohl, 73, who passed from this life April 3.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt**

The summary of the brotherhood conference was read by Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) and our Elder Bro. Harold Messner April 8. We were indeed, "Comforted, encouraged and chastened." We pray that each of us can make our lights burn more brightly, reflecting the "light of the Son of God".

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assisted Bro. Harold in serving holy communion to our congregation April 12. We could feel the unity of our hearts as we sang:

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

Zion's Harp #200

We thank these dear elder brothers along with ministering Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis) for laboring in our behalf. May God's blessings be with each one.

Cheryl Messner (Sis. JoAnne and Bro. LeRoy) will be married to Gregory Johnson (Coon Rapids, MN) April 18. They plan to move to California in May. May the love of God surround them as they start a new home together.

Easter breakfast will be served by our junior and senior Bible class children. "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee." Deuteronomy 8:10.

Tho' we must endure afflictions here on this earth, our ultimate goal is salvation! We have a loving concern for our hospital patients, Doreen Schmidt (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Darlene) and Kim Moser (Todd). We were thankful to have Kim, her daughter, Heather, and her mother, Geri Messner, back home with us for a short time. We pray that the Lord will abide close to them, as Kim finishes the rest of her chemotherapy and receives her bone marrow transplant in Texas.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Linda Ziegenhorn

"Ye stand this day all of you before
the Lord your God; your captains of
your tribes, your elders and your officers,
with all the men of Israel

"Your little ones, your wives and thy

stranger that is in thy camp, from the
hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of
thy water:

"That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the Lord thy God and into his oath, which the Lord thy God maketh with thee this day:

That he may establish thee today for a people unto himself, and that he may be unto thee a God, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."

Deuteronomy 29:10-13

God made a covenant with the children of Israel making them (His) children and He their God. Do you remember the covenant you made with God when you were baptized? Take a moment to think about it and decide if you have held up your end of the bargain to the best of your ability.

We held a clean-up day at the church and enjoyed visiting together as we trimmed the shrubs, picked up branches and did various other spring clean-up tasks.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Stoller — Carol Braker

We have been enjoying the beauty of spring this month. All creation seems to rejoice in the Lord's resurrection.

Sis. Charlotte Banwart was once again a hospital patient but is now home with her family. Terry Braker was also hospitalized and is back home.

We wish you all joy and peace in your hearts.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

"Tell me the old, old story . . . for I forget so soon." Tabernacle Hymns #116. As we write this it is the Easter season. How important it is to read and hear the events of Jesus' last week on earth. Hearing of His suffering and death helps us to put our own cares and worries into perspective.

We thank Bro. Harvey Heiniger for ministering to us April 5, the only Sunday we had services in St. Louis in April. One of the thoughts he brought forth was how the late Bro. Noah Schrock used to tell of the many prophecies that were fulfilled in just one week when Christ was crucified nearly 2,000 years ago. He wondered if the prophecies concerning the end times might similarly be fulfilled in a short time.

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

St. Luke 12:40

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

EASTER

- 1 Oh, who among the sons of men, By word or song or deed or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey The meaning of this blessed day.
It gilds the holy sacred page, It brings to every clime and age,
To every people tribe and race The story of redeeming grace.
- 2 The blessed Paschal feast of old,
With mystic meaning does unfold,
For there the Paschal Lamb was slain, The Hebrew's safety to attain.
When angels saw the blood applied,
Upon the lintel doorpost wide
Then they pass'd over every home In mercy, where the blood was shown.
- 3 Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb He is the great "I was, I am"
Through Calv'ry's pain and dismal gloom, He conquered over death and tomb.
He rose His own to justify, And draws all men up to the sky,
If you have found the Christ, His way,
Then you can keep this Easter day.
Hymns of Zion #89

Our Sunday school presented us with one of the special treats of the season Palm Sunday by reciting verses, readings and singing the beautiful spiritual songs. We give thanks to the teachers, students and parents for the efforts and may we remember the real meaning of Easter; Jesus standing outside the empty tomb calling each of us by name, simply and lovingly, ready to make our world "all right".

We were disappointed to hear that Bro. Curt Heimer's bone marrow transplant had to be postponed due to a virus Curt has contacted. May Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue sense the prayers of all those who care and have . . . "Faith for each Day".

If today has brought you trials
And perhaps a bit of sorrow,
Aren't you glad in just a while
There'll be a new tomorrow?

Aren't you glad for grace that makes
Your troubles all seem lighter,
And for faith that future days
Will be happier and brighter?

"Be . . . followers of them who
through faith and patience inherit the
promises."

Hebrews 6:12

Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue would enjoy
and appreciate mail which can be sent
to: 6084 Busch Blvd., Apt. 33, Colum-
bus, OH 43229.

Visiting ministers Sunday, April 5,
were Bros. Earl Ringger and Byron
Stoller (Gridley) and April 12, Bro.
Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) was with us.
Our thanks go out to all and also the
quartet from Gridley who exercised
their talent for singing. "While I live I
will praise the Lord; I will sing praises
to my God." Psalms 146:2.

We're glad that Eugene Joos (Bro.
Ron and Sis. Chris) is home from the
hospital after receiving treatment for
blood poisoning.

"For as often as ye eat this bread and
drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's
death till He come." I Corinthians
11:26. We are looking forward to taking
part in holy communion services Good
Friday eve and welcome Elder Bro. Joe
Stoller (Princeville, IL) to assist our
Elder Bro. Roy.

"And in the morning, rising up a
great while before day, He went out,
and departed into a solitary place, and
there prayed." Mark 1:35. When we
become quiet we begin to see how
much we've wasted on details, how
much we must discard so there is time
for God, for others and for ourselves.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Heidi Haerr

We are grateful and thankful to the
following ministering brothers and
their families who have travelled many
miles to share the Word of God with
our congregation. Bro. Art Baurer
(Princeville, IL), Bro. Clarence Kachel-
muss (Forrest, IL), Elder Bro. Leroy
Huber (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Dan
Stoller, Lee Bahler, Kevin Ryan and
Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We
also wish to thank the many other
visitors who worshipped with us in the
past weeks.

After a long and rainy winter, spring
is finally arriving in our part of the
country. Many people are starting to
travel now that the weather is more

clement. We encourage visitors to drop
in and visit our little church. If you are
planning vacations or business trips to
the New York City area, please feel
welcome to fellowship with us. The
Union City church is located just inside
the New Jersey border. We are less
than two miles from the city of New
York. Due to the small size of our
congregation, we ask that if possible,
you try to let us know when you plan to
be with us. We are a small gathering
and even a few visitors make a signifi-
cant and welcome difference.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

It takes a Mother's LOVE to make a
house a home,

A place to be remembered, no matter
where we roam . . .

It takes a Mother's PATIENCE to
bring a child up right,
And her COURAGE and her CHEER-
FULLNESS to make a dark day
bright . . .

It takes a Mother's THOUGHFUL-
NESS to mend the heart's deep
"hurts",

And her SKILL and her ENDURANCE
to mend little socks and shirts . . .

It takes a Mother's KINDNESS to
forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble and bow her
head in prayer . . .

It takes a Mother's WISDOM to
recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance by her
loving words and deeds . . .

It takes a Mother's ENDLESS FAITH,
her CONFIDENCE and TRUST
To guide us through the pitfalls of
selfishness and lust . . .

And that is why in all this world there
could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose as
completely as a MOTHER!

Helen Steiner Rice

Our thoughts go to all of our Mothers
with love at this season of the year. We
are thankful that our Almighty God saw
that it was necessary for each of us to
have a loving Mother to care for us and
remember us each day in prayer.

We are happy to report that Sis.
Loretta Graves (Bro. Floyd, Sr.) is able
to assemble with us after having been
hospitalized with a minor heart prob-
lem. Sis. Polly Grau (Bro. Gerald) had

minor surgery on her wrist and Eddie
Virkler has submitted to further sur-
gery but is again at home. Our thoughts
and prayers continue to be with each of
them and the many others who suffer
afflictions in this life.

Our midweek services will soon be-
gin for the summer months. We alter-
nate with the Naumburg congregation
and meet each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Visitors traveling through upper New
York State are welcome to assemble
with us.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

We wish to extend a sincere welcome
to Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Sis.
Lucille on their return home. It surely
seems good to see them. May the Lord
be with them. We give Sis. Lucille a
special welcome to our small group at
Naumburg.

May Sis. Betty Herzig find strength
to bear her trials. We are glad she has
been able to return home from the
hospital. We also think of Bro. Arthur
for he has been a long time in poor
health.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"Can Do", - going back into English,
is a meaning of "King". David's atti-
tude was that he "can do" whatever the
Word was to him, and he became what
is considered to be the greatest king.
As a shepherd he learned psalming,
how to put the Word into every circum-
stance, and he was the Sweet Psalmist
of Israel (II Samuel 23:1). David made
Psalm 34 a Hebrew alphabet psalm. It
is a picture language and he put the
picture with each verse of what God is
or "can do" for us.

Vs. 1 - "I will bless the Lord at all
times: his praise shall continually be in
my mouth." The picture is an ox, which
meant prosperity. It depicts that pros-
perity comes by continually blessing
the Lord and to have praise continually
in our mouth, meaning, continually
occupied in God with our mouth.

Vs. 2 - "My soul shall make her
boast in the Lord . . ." The Hebrew
picture means a house, depicting God
has a good plan for our life.

Vs. 3 - "Magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together."
The Hebrew means an extensive know-
ledge of God's Word, depicting that
magnifying the Lord and exalting His
name is to have an extensive know-

ledge of the good things God "can do" for us.

Vs. 4 — "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." The Hebrew picture means a door, or God opens doors to take us out of our fears.

Vs. 5 — "They looked unto him, and were lightened . . ." The picture means a window, depicting a new perspective, as God gives new beginnings. Lightened means to be cheered, and getting into the Word cheers us.

Vs. 6 — "This poor man cried . . . and the Lord saved him out of all his troubles." The picture is a weapon. When we cry to the Lord, He uses the weapon of His Word, which is why it is important that we cry out the Word because it is the Word that effectually works for us.

The remaining verses of the psalm will be continued.

Bro. and Sis. Ernest Graf were married 50 years ago May 23 and will be having their golden wedding anniversary. Sis. Graf was the former Louise Stoller (Latty). Bro. Ernest was made a minister April 1947. They have eight children: Sis. Mary Ann (Gary) Maibach, Sis. Lou (Glenn) Riegenbach, Ernie, Steve, Sis. Rose (Marvin) Luginbuhl, Becky, Bro. David and Roger.

We congratulate our graduates. Bro. Tom Graf (Bro. and Sis. Carl Graf) graduates from Akron University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Tom has accepted a position with Price Waterhouse, an accounting firm in Cleveland.

Marvin Indermuhle graduates from Akron University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Our high school graduates are Katherine Gasser (Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser), Sandra Bako (Bro. and Sis. Zoltan Bako), who plans to go to Ohio State University, and Ted Luginbuhl (Bro. and Sis. Marvin Luginbuhl) who plans to go to Akron University.

Bro. Brian Pamer is in the hospital. We pray for his recovery.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein
Karen Laparo

"My father transmitted to me a sound heredity on his side, and he gave me a good mother."

Alice Stone Blackwell

I THANK GOD FOR MY MOTHER

It is a precious privilege to be a mother and a big responsibility to be a good one. I pray for all mothers everywhere to be granted patience, understanding, gentleness and wisdom in raising our children for God. "The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother's presence should be the greatest attraction."

Ellen G. White

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Father in heaven, make me wise,
So that my gaze may never meet
A question in my children's eyes;
God keep me always kind and sweet.

And patient, too, before their need;
Let each vexation know its place,
Let gentleness be all my creed,
Let laughter live upon my face!

A mother's day is very long,
There are so many things to do!
But never let me lose my song
Before the hardest day is through.
Margaret E. Sangster

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) for ministering to us this month. We appreciate the efforts put forth to travel to our small congregation! May God bless you all, and continue to bless us, too, with your fellowship, prayers and support.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

This is Sunday afternoon and we just came home from church. We had a group of Rittman and Smithville brethren visiting us today. They came with good voices to help with singing, with food to help with lunch and the brothers offered prayers. They came with encouragement and fellowship. This is repeated Sunday after Sunday to help us celebrate the Lord's Day. Our little congregation appreciates the efforts of the brethren of our neighboring churches.

Our special thanks is extended to Bro. Ronald Palitto (Akron) and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield) who have served our congregation in our absence since the first of the year.

Even though some have been ill this

winter we ordinarily have 100% attendance.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

In memory of our Lord's death and suffering, our Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Loren Stoller served communion. As we broke the bread and drank of the cup, we were reminded of the Lord's body which was broken for us and His blood which flowed to cover our sins.

How wonderful that His blood which was shed once is sufficient to cover the sins of the whole world for all ages. Alvin, Jr. (Bud) Manz (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty) is finding out about the power in His blood. Having been called of God to repentance, he has found grace to answer that call. We wish him God's continuing grace to complete the repentance, conversion and baptism which we believe are the necessary foundation upon which, by God's grace, he can daily build until someday receiving full redemption in heaven.

Our Sis. Henrietta Manz is engaged to Bro. Elmer Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). How complete God's love is that He provides for our lives as He promised in His Word! As they plan for their lives together, we wish them God's rich blessings.

Joseph Allen is the little bundle of love who just arrived at Bro. Roger and Lisa Manz's home. Joseph has one brother, Henry. Grandparents are Richard and Diane Larimore and Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz. With the joy of raising these precious little souls comes the responsibility of teaching them about God and His plan for man. We trust God will bless the efforts of these parents in training this precious young child.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard

Our prayers and wishes for God's blessings were offered to Kevin Weninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine) as he was wed to Della Schimmoller (Mr. and Mrs. Ronald) March 21. We also wish God's blessings upon Laura Keysor (Bro. George and Sis. Sharon) and Mark Spangler (Mr. and Mrs. Roger). They were wed April 4.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein (Bro. Alvin) at the loss of her father, Harold O. Martin. May God comfort each and every heart.

Our visiting minister this month was

Bro. Victor Bauman (Smithville). May he be richly blessed for his labors of love.

On Calvary's brow my Saviour died,
Twas their my Lord was crucified:
Twas on the cross He bled for me,
And purchased there my pardon free.

Mid rending rocks and dark'ning skies,
My Saviour bows his head and dies;
The opening veil reveals the way
To heaven's joys and endless day.

O Jesus, Lord, how can it be,
That Thou shouldst give Thy life for me,
To bear the cross and agony,
In that dread hour on Calvary?
Gospel Hymns #355

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us with cards and prayers during Lester's illness and death. Words fail us to adequately express our appreciation.

Sis. Vera Laukhuf & family

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

Our prayerful support and sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Katherine Sauder. She was lovingly cared for by her family until God called her home March 22 at the age of 97. She is survived by Bro. Charles (Sis. Marcella), Sis. Miriam (Bro. Bob) Bird, Martha Schuff, Elma (Arlie) Kiser and Wilma McCutchan (all of Mansfield); Louise Heckel (Bill, Florida) and Gene Sauder (Kathryn, Arizona). Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) conducted the services. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." Psalms 107:1. We will all miss our dear sister. When asked, "How are you" — her response was always, "With the help of the Lord, so much to be thankful for." and she always had a smile. We are truly blessed to have known Sis. Katie and her example of love and kindness will be our heritage. The family wishes to thank the many relatives and friends for their love and kindness throughout their mother's long and blessed life and during her illness.

Jacob Beer passed away March 13. His services were conducted by our brethren. He was the son of the late Bro. Simon and Sis. Katie Beer.

Calvin Dean was born April 12 to

Gary and Vicki Sauder. Blake is happy to have a new brother to play with. Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline are prayerfully supporting their new grandchild. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalms 127:3.

On Saturday, April 11, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) served holy communion. What a blessing during the Easter season. "... Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:26-28.

Needing our prayerful support in their afflictions and illnesses are Bro. Byron Rice (Sis. Sarah), Sis. Christine Dotterer (Bro. LaVern) and Bob Oesch.

On Sunday, April 12, the Sunday school presented an Easter program. Their songs and verses reminded each of us of God's gift of love on our behalf and of the Lord's suffering to complete the work of our salvation. "... But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:31.

"You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be —
I had a mother who prayed for me."
Strickland Gillilan

OHIO, RITTMAN Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

We, who in God's name are here
assembled,
Solemnly do clasp our hands;
That Christ's death and suffring be
remembered,
Faithfully for Him to stand.
Thus in unison our hearts have spoken
Lord, to show Thy favor give the token;
Speak Thy blessing ever true; "Amen,"
Peace be unto you.

Zion's Harp #11

On April 15 we, in unison, met to partake of holy communion. We thank Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier and Bro. Henry Dotterer in serving us. Recently we heard of those who hung themselves on a cross. It told how some of them fainted. We must remember, however, that the physical pain was only a small

part of the pain and suffering our Lord had to suffer. No one can ever know the full extent of His suffering for we will never know the full weight He carried to the cross in bearing the sins of the world.

We also want to thank Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH) who visited our congregation in the past month and fed us from God's holy Word.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

II Corinthians 1:3, 4

May God comfort those who suffered the loss of their beloved sister, Adele Ickes. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Frank Nussbaum (Marie), Laura Queen, Sis. Myrtle Rufener, Sis. Helen Kerstetter and Blanche Garver.

May God also comfort those who were hospitalized or faced surgery in the past month as well as those who may be facing the same in the near future. May He send His healing touch to Mike Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene), Sis. Adena Rock, Ethan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Glenn Miller (Sis. Ella), Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) and Sis. Lucille Beery (Howard).

Our church has been blest with the addition of one newborn baby, a gift from God. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner welcomed their second son into the world. Nathan will enjoy having a playmate. Isaac David's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Steiner and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach.

We are thankful our remodeling has progressed enough that we can once again assemble in our main assembly room.

Remember May is the month for our Silver Lining dues to be paid.

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:2

OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

We thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for ministering to us Good Friday. It is good to be reminded of the great love God had for us in sending His only Son. It is hard for our minds to compre-

hend what Christ went through that Friday so many years ago, and yet today we call it Good Friday. If Jesus had not gone to the cross, we would have no hope of eternal life.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Steve and Diane Burkhart, as they have been blessed with a new little boy, Chadwick Jonathan. Grandparents are Sis. Rosella Figel, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burkhart. May God grant Steve and Diane much love and wisdom in taking care of this new precious life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. We have felt God's nearness and guidance in choosing another minister, Bro. Glenn Riggensbach (Sis. Louise). May God richly bless him, and grant him the needed grace and strength as he takes on this new responsibility.

We also ask God's blessings on our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Ernest Graf and Ron Palitto (Akron).

On April 15, we were privileged to assemble with the Rittman congregation to partake of holy communion. It is a time when we can feel spiritually renewed and strengthened, a time when we can be reminded of the vows we made in the waters of baptism and rededicate our lives to serve Him more faithfully.

Three precious babies have been born this past month. Rhonda Jean has made Ron and Tammy Marty first-time parents. Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Marty are thrilled with their new granddaughter. Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy Dotterer are happy with the arrival of their first little son, Alex John. Lisa, Wendy and Shara are glad for a brother. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Forest, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer. Juliet Elizabeth is the new little daughter born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer. She has one sister, Jessica. Joe and Wilma Davis and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer are the grandparents.

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

OHIO, TOLEDO Frances Laidig Josephine Rehkla

Reflecting back to scripture passages which refer to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, it reminds us that never in so few days was there more cause for sadness (the crucifixion) yet also happiness (His resurrection).

The works of Jesus while on earth were beyond human understanding. That fact may help us to understand why it was hard for the people to believe in Jesus when they saw the works that he could do.

The cross He carried is a reminder that we, too, must carry our cross through life, whatever it may be, until the very end of our journey. Our Lord promises us peace without end for this.

We are always happy to have with us again those of our congregation who spend some of the winter months away from home. We extend a welcome to all of our visitors who come to spend time to worship with us.

We had an enjoyable evening, April 12, when our Sunday school children expressed the deep love which Jesus had for all mankind. Think! Are you taking advantage of the gift of salvation which Jesus has prepared for you?

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Recently, while looking through an old songbook this song about the various seasons of motherhood caught my attention. The slim book, "The Cyclone of Song" was printed in 1888. With all due credit to the C. E. Leslie Publishing Co. of Chicago, IL, and with loving thoughts of mothers during this month of May, herewith are the words of "Mother's Songs" #44:

1. "Mother's voice is low and sweet, As she rocks her babe to sleep; Twilight shadows creep along, while she sings her cradle song; And now we hear — Chorus: Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber; Holy angels guard thy bed.

2. Now the child is older grown, Quite a boy, he walks alone; But the loving Mother keeps watch o'er him e'en while he sleeps; And now we hear —

Chorus: (Tune: Blest Be the Tie) How gentle God's commands! How kind his precepts are! Come cast your burdens on the Lord, and trust his constant care.

3. See her boy in manhood stand, Fighting for his native land! Over all this broad domain Shall stars and stripes remain. And now we hear — Chorus: My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; Land where my Fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride. From every mountain side, Let freedom ring.

4. Peaceful glides her life along; still she sings her evening song; While her lov'd ones gather near, hark to mother's tones so dear. And now we hear — Chorus: Home, home, sweet, sweet home, Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

It is interesting to note that this old songbook was designed for a school textbook for music class. What a difference from the 1880's to the 1980's. How clever of Satan to convince the masses that Freedom of Religion meant Freedom from Religion; and that Patriotism is not only obsolete, and misplaced, but almost embarrassing.

We are happy to report that Sis. Esther Dettwyler is recovering well from her recent surgery and should soon be able to return to church and her regular activities. We all thank the Lord for His healing powers.

We extend our sympathy to ministering Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and family, Sis. Lisa, Amy, Joel, Eldon and Mary, at the recent passing of Bro. Art's mother, Sis. Persida (the late Bro. Ludwig) Metz. Sis. Persida had resided at Fairview Haven, (Fairbury, IL) for the past eight years. May God comfort the dear family she leaves behind with that blessed assurance that when we live in the Lord we die in the Lord. We have the hope that we shall meet our loved ones who have gone on before in our heavenly home where there is no pain, no sickness and no parting ever again.

We are pleased to welcome to our community and our congregation Bro. Todd Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley), formerly of Phoenix, AZ. Trusting that he has given prayerful thought to this move we pray that God will bless him in this new venture. May we all strive to work together to serve the Lord in unity and brotherly love.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**

Jerry Isch

Saturday, March 28, we had our church cleaning. The men and children did mostly outside work while the women worked inside. It was a nice time of fellowship, working together with brothers, sisters and dear friends to help make a big job go quickly.

It's a blessing too often taken for granted to be able to fellowship with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. These are times when we can share our joys and trials of life and draw near to each other and be strengthened in our faith.

We were blessed with several visitors. Among them were Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin (Detroit, MI), who lived in this area some time ago.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). May God richly bless these dear brothers and the others who serve us in the gospel.

We would like it if anyone visiting or passing through the area would stop and worship with us. We normally have Wednesday evening services the second and fourth Wednesday in the month at 8:00 p.m.

TEXAS, DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Sandy Schmidt

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

Psalms 106:1

Greetings! We have begun our summer and have hope of some visitors coming our way.

A new couple from the Chicago church has moved to Plano, TX. We welcome Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp to our area.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS).

For those planning to visit our area, you may contact me for any information you may need. Home # 214-594-1344.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

SILVER THREADS

SPRING

A touch of heaven is in the air,
New life is budding everywhere.
Guys and gals are on the swing,
Of such are the harbingers of spring.
Farmers busy in their fields,
Hoping for a better yield.
The north-bound geese are on the wing,
Of such are further signs of spring.
I look again what do I see,
Leaves appearing on every tree.
Flowers which had gone to rest,
Once again will be our guest.
Birds as busy as a bee,
Building nests in every tree.
Bees as busy as a bird,
Making what is much preferred.
A fragrance rare is in the air,
It seems to come from everywhere.
From every bush and clinging vine
The lilac and the columbine.
Oh spring! What magic wand do you
possess,
That hill and dale you do caress.
With balmy breeze and gentle rain,
And beautify the frozen plain.
The maize that grew just last year,
You must have whispered in its ear.
Just what to do when planted now,
The frugal farmer to endow.
Up comes the crocus through the sod,
They seem to know there is a God.
How else could they such beauty bring,
Except for God's most lovely spring,
Then we could do most anything.
Like mending every fear and woe,
And setting every heart aglow.
Spring, Oh Spring, how we love you!
W. L. Cordill

**THE MOTHER OF
MOTHER'S DAY**

She was never a mother herself. She was a spinster schoolteacher. She was the daughter of a Methodist minister. At one point she was an advertising executive with a Philadelphia insurance firm. And for 15 years she devoted her life to caring for her ailing mother.

After her mother's death in 1905, she yearned to find something to honor the memory of that good woman. And then she remembered the picnics that her mother had helped to organize back home in Grafton, WV. They were called Mother's Friendship Day pic-

nicns, and mothers gathered at them in an effort to heal the hatred lingering after the Civil War. Then came the idea: Why not a national day to honor all mothers?

She wrote to the U.S. Patent Office and obtained a copyright for "Mother's Day." Then tirelessly she pressed her idea on governors, state legislators, congressmen, senators, clergymen, even the White House, to get "her" day recognized. At last, in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation making Mother's Day a national observance.

For the rest of her life she campaigned to keep the holiday from becoming too commercialized. "Give your mother something useful," she once told a friend, "a pair of comfortable slippers, or shoes, new eyeglasses, an elderdown if she isn't warm at night, or fix her stairs if they need fixing."

Upon her death in 1948, a wreath of 43 carnations was placed on her grave, 43 because that many countries celebrated Mother's Day due to her efforts. And why carnations? The carnation is the flower she suggested be worn on the holiday. It was her mother's favorite flower.

And it remains an enduring reminder of Anna M. Jarvis, the woman who gave birth to Mother's Day.

Guideposts

PARENTS OF TODAY

Oh, parents; have you stopped to think
You hold a sacred place?
That child of yours; will he thank God
You told him of God's grace?
Or will the future have to be,
Where is my child today?
Because you had no thought of God,
You lived for self your way.

You did not do things very bad,
You had no time to pray.
You do have time for worldly things
But none for God today.
You lead your child the way you go,
For self at any cost;
Then find out when it is too late
Your child and you are lost.

How comforting it is to know
You taught your child to pray,
To read the blessed Word of God
And live for God each day.

By word and life to love God's house
For worship, prayer and praise,
Until you meet with all the saved
For everlasting days.

How wonderful to fellowship
With Christ the risen Lord,
With all the family saved by grace
Rejoicing in God's Word.
For Mother sang each child to sleep
With hymns of love and grace.
With joy they wait for Christ's return
To meet Him face to face.

The man who has a Christian wife
Has found a treasure rare,
A mother for his children's good
Who nurtures them with prayer.
So Mother, if you know the Lord
Live close to Him each day.
In every problem that you face
Let Jesus lead the way.

Edward L. Crane

"WRITE THEM A LETTER TONIGHT"

Don't go to the theatre, concert, or ball,
But stay in your room tonight;
Deny yourself to the friends that call,
And a good long letter write —
Write to the sad old folks at home,
Who sit when the day is done,
With folded hands and downcast eyes,
And think of the absent one.

Don't selfishly scribble "excuse my
haste,
I've scarcely the time to write,"
Lest their brooding thoughts go
wandering back
To a bygone night —
When they lost their needed sleep and
rest,
And every breath was a prayer —
That God would leave their delicate
babe
To their tender love and care.

Don't let them feel that you've no more
need
Of their love or counsel wise;
For the heart grows strongly sensitive
When age has dimmed the eyes —
It might be well to let them believe
You never forget them, quite;
That you deem it a pleasure, when far
away,
Long letters home to write.

Don't think that the young and giddy
friends,

Who make your pastime gay,
Have half the anxious thought for you
That the old folks have today.
The duty of writing do not put off;
Let sleep or pleasure wait,
Lest the letter for which they looked
and longed
Be a day or an hour too late.

For the loving, sad old folks at home,
With locks fast turning white,
Are longing to hear from the absent
one —
Write them a letter tonight.

Anonymous



Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

Yet, these disciples had a feeling of that already when they were here. It really doesn't matter, as long as we are ready. Even if the world should stand for another hundred years, how long will we be here? We have to consider our life.

Think back over the past twenty years. Infants, young men, middle-aged and the old have been taken. Their bodies lay in the cemeteries beneath the sod. There is no promise of tomorrow for you or for me. The world may end today. That really doesn't matter if we are ready. All that counts is the peace in our heart.

Peter was always a bold person, and, pride somewhat ruled his heart. He was going to be so staunch and so strong. When the Lord said that He was going to be taken, crucified and everybody would leave him, Peter said, "I'll never leave you, even if I have to die." (See John 13:37).

The Lord pointed out to him at that time and said, "The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice." John 13:38. There again, Peter didn't understand. He thought he was strong and he depended on his own strength and his own ability. He wept bitterly afterwards because he failed. He realized at that time, I believe, that his

strength was only in the Lord. The sooner we realize that, the better off we are. If we think we are strong or able, then it won't be long until it will be revealed unto us that we are nothing. We are what we are by the grace of God and that alone.

When John came to the sepulchre, he hesitated a little at the door and just looked in. Peter, being bolder, went right on in. Then he saw the linen clothes lying there, and that which was about His head laying in a different place.

This points out the difference between the resurrection of Lazarus and the Lord. When Lazarus came forth from the grave, he was all bound and wrapped up. They had to unwrap him. But when the Lord arose, the linens were laid aside. It's a true sign that God's power was with Him.

After the disciples left, Mary stood and wept at the sepulchre. No doubt her heart was crushed. All of these things had transpired at such a rapid pace, that they hardly knew how to grasp it.

First, she had to see Him persecuted, tormented and put to death. Now she came to the grave and His body was gone. She was confused and burdened.

Sometimes that is the way it is in our life, isn't it? When we become a little confused or burdened, we hardly know which way to turn. But if we pray sincerely and if our heart is right, it just seems like the Lord will eventually come. He may tarry a little bit to try us, but He does come, speaks to us and calls us by our name. It's a beautiful feeling. We can feel His nearness and His closeness. The closer we walk to Him, the more able we are going to be to hear our name.

It might be in the form of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks in a still small voice. If we are too caught up in the affairs of life and the things of this world, chances are we won't hear that voice as we should. But it is there as long as we allow it to dwell within our hearts. But, our hearts have to be pure and clean.

You can just feel the compassion that the Lord had for Mary there as He saw her weeping. He came up to her and said, "Mary." Then He said, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father . . ." John 20:16, 17. I sometimes wonder what this really meant.

Evidently, He must have ascended to His Father before He made His

appearances to His disciples, because when He came back to His disciples, He told Thomas (because he was doubting), "Put your fingers into my nail prints and into my hands and my feet. Thrust your hand into my side." (See John 20:27). That was just the opposite of what He told Mary. We know there is an order for everything, even though we do not understand all things. We know there are reasons and some day we will understand.

Then Jesus came to His disciples. The doors were shut, because they were afraid of the scribes, chief priests and elders, knowing they had just taken their Lord away and crucified Him. Naturally, there was fear in their hearts, so when they assembled, they assembled behind closed doors.

It tells us that even though the doors were closed, the Lord appeared to them and said, "Peace be unto you." John 20:19. That must have been a wonderful feeling to hear the Lord say, "Peace be unto you."

Can we remember, dear brothers and sisters, when He said that to us? Maybe we were burdened, repented and had one of those darkest days of our life. Maybe it seemed like you were never going to get through. Then He said, "Peace be unto you." What a beautiful feeling! It just goes to show that even though the door is shut, the Lord can come in.

When we were in the Holy Land, our guide told us (as we viewed the Eastern Gate and the walls of the city of Jerusalem) that back in history when the Turks came and overtook Jerusalem, they cemented shut the Eastern Gate.

They had heard that the Lord was going to come again through the Eastern Gate into the city. They thought they would take care of that and cement it shut. It is almost comical; and yet, it is sad to think that they could be so ignorant to feel that they could block the Lord out by cementing the gate shut.

Even though the people of that area do not truly believe in Jesus, and that He is God's Son, yet, between the Mount of Olives and that beautiful city of Jerusalem is the Kidron Valley. All along that valley for miles there are solid graves of the people of that area. They want to be buried there because they heard that the Lord is going to return to this area. They say, "Take us out and bury us in that area. We want to be present when He returns."

Yet they say they don't believe in Him. We wonder what they really do believe in. We wonder sometimes deep down if they don't really know. But, evidently, they are going to be given a chance. God is a just God and a fair God. I believe God in His justice will give all mankind a chance, regardless of where they are over the face of the earth, black or white, young or old.

We even read that when the Lord was in the grave, He went back and preached to those who were dead.

We know, loved ones, that everything will fall into its proper place. God will see to it that He is free when He comes again to judge the earth.

I wonder if we really appreciate His great love for us and what He has done for us. The world passes on and time goes on. When we are young, we think we have a lot of time to work out our soul's salvation. Maybe we have and maybe we haven't, loved ones.

I ran across an article in the "Silver Lining" which is supposed to be a true story.

A man was serving his second prison term for a crime that he had committed. While serving this term, he worked in the coal mines. As he was in the mine, the roof collapsed on him and everything went black. They missed this man when it was time for the meal. They searched and found him under all this rubble. They brought him out and carried him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. They brought the coffin to the hospital and asked a couple of inmates to carry the corpse and put it into the coffin.

While they were carrying it, one of the inmates slipped, stumbled and dropped this man who they thought was dead. His head hit the floor, and as it hit, he groaned and his eyes opened.

During the time that he lay under that rubble, he had a vision. In that vision, he was taken through a great door, and it was somewhat dark. He was walking along and came to the bank of a river. He heard the sound of oars and of a boat as he approached the river bank. Pretty soon a man appeared in a boat and told him to get into the boat, "I will take you over to the other side."

The man got into the boat and went to the other side. He got out and the boat vanished and he was by himself. He started to walk, and soon was met by a being with great stature, long hair, rough voice and a great spear. He was

afraid, naturally, but this being told him to follow.

He took him up to where it looked like a mountain with a door going into it. Above the door, it said, "This is hell." The door swung open automatically and he walked in with this being.

They walked down through a long tunnel and as they walked, he began to hear voices. He could hear them say, "Water! Water!" The further he went, the louder the voices became. It sounded like a million voices.

This being took him on through and out the door on the other side. He said, "This is where you are destined to go. But before you go there, I want to show you what you missed." He took him out the other side and there before him was a beautiful rolling plain, colored with flowers. He could hear the angels sing and see them going in and out of the beautiful garden.

He saw his mother beckoning to him to come, but he wasn't able to move. It was so beautiful! While he was drinking of this blissful cup, the cup was wrenched away from him and he heard, "You have to go back in now. This is what you missed."

He was taken back into the tunnel. The door was open again and he could see the flames of hell going on and on. He could hear the people crying again for water. The flames were just like a great ocean of billows, rolling in a tremendous storm, going up and down. On top of those flames were the bodies of beings. It was lifting them up and dropping them back again into that abyss.

He turned around and looked at the door where he had come in. Above the door it said, "This is your doom. Eternity never ends." Then he felt himself sinking and he felt torture. He felt a tremendous thirst and he cried out for water!

At that moment he was dropped and he awoke. He realized that is was a vision. Then he said, "There really is a heaven and there really is a hell; but I am going to die a Christian because I have seen what they are like."

It makes no difference whether this story is totally true or not. It is no different than what the Bible portrays to us. We must believe that there are two places.

Christ died and rose again so we don't have to go to a place of torment. Do we appreciate it? Will we take advantage of it? The decision is ours.

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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. JOSEPH STOLLER OF PRINCEVILLE, IL

Text: John 20
The Glory Of God

You can almost feel that you are there as we read of the resurrection, the conversation between the Lord and His disciples, His death on the cross and the anguish He went through for your sins and mine.

Isn't it fitting that Easter should come in the spring of the year? As we look about us, after a few warm days, we see things just start to blossom out. The grass gets green, the buds come out on the trees and the birds come back from the south. We can see God's great handiwork fulfilling itself all around us.

All the forces of man cannot hold back the forces of nature. When spring-time comes, it bursts forth and everything comes to life. We all enjoy spring, I believe, especially after a long winter. It is encouraging and comforting to feel the warm air and to see all God's creation come back into blossom and bloom. It lifts us up.

In a sense it is like going to church. We sometimes spend a week that is somewhat full of problems, trials and temptations. It is good to get away from that week and to come and assemble with God's children around His Word.

Even as nature brings out the best and nothing can hold it back, that's the way it was with the grave. They rolled that stone in front of the grave and thought, "Now we have it sealed and we've done away with the Lord and Saviour. Nothing is going to bring Him back to trouble and convict us again."

Really, that's why they crucified Him in the first place! It was because His work convicted them. They wanted to get rid of Him. They thought they had done it well. They put Him in the grave and rolled that stone across the front of it.

I remember when we were in Jerusalem we were at the Garden Tomb. Whether or not this was actually the

place where they had laid Jesus, I don't know. They seemed to think it was.

There was a long trough that led along the wall up to the door of the sepulchre. In this trough, evidently, they had a huge round stone they would roll in front of the door of the tomb so no one could enter.

I don't believe the disciples, Mary Magdalene and those who were close to Jesus could sleep during those nights. I believe it was a terrible ordeal for them to see their Lord and Saviour hanging on the cross, a crown of thorns on His head, His side pierced and nails through His hands and feet. They were close to Him. He was a part of them. If it happened to our son, daughter, wife, husband, mother or father, how would we feel, knowing they were righteous and yet suffering such terrible persecution?

Mary Magdalene was the one out of whom the Lord cast seven devils. The Scripture tells us, "To whom much is forgiven, she loveth much." (See Luke 7:47). Mary Magdalene loved much, and that is why she came even before daybreak to the tomb. She wanted to be close to the Lord, even though she knew He wasn't alive. She came to the tomb and the stone was already rolled away. She couldn't understand, and thought somebody had stolen the body of Jesus.

Loved ones, when we are living in sin, it is like a stone upon our heart. Sometimes it seems like our hearts are so hardened, that stone is so big, it just can't be removed. But the Lord and Saviour can roll that stone away from your heart. He is the Only One that can do it. He died to make it possible.

If you try to do it yourself, you will never make it. It is too heavy. But if you let the Lord roll it away, you will see new life and light. Then you'll begin to live. Until such a time that you allow

this, you are slowly dying. The Lord does not want you to eternally die . . . He wants you to eternally live. That's why He made that extreme Sacrifice. That's why the tomb is empty. This is where the Christian bases his hope. This is our life. If the grave was the end of it, we wouldn't have to prepare for eternity. Why go to all the effort? We know that the grave is not the end.

Job said, "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Job 14:14. If it were not for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the cross wouldn't have such a beautiful meaning.

Mary was so excited that she ran back to "Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved." John 20:2. John was a modest person. He never named himself, but nevertheless, he was extremely close to Jesus. After she told them, they ran together to the sepulchre to see if the Lord's body was there.

The Lord told them many times (and it was prophesied in the Old Testament) that these things should be. Yet, when the time actually came, it was just difficult for them to understand and to believe.

Death is like that, isn't it? Maybe we have a loved one who is afflicted with a terminal illness. We know that time is limited and short, and they are going to have to leave this earth and be taken into eternity. We know it is coming, but yet, we can't quite grasp it until all at once it is here. Then we finally understand it.

Death may be before all of us, we don't know. It just depends on how long the Lord will tarry before He comes. Maybe some of us will be alive and remain at His coming. I have a feeling that it will be soon.

(Continued on Page 34)