



"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in its season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
Psalms 1:3

"God has made every thing beautiful in his time:..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

VOLUME 38

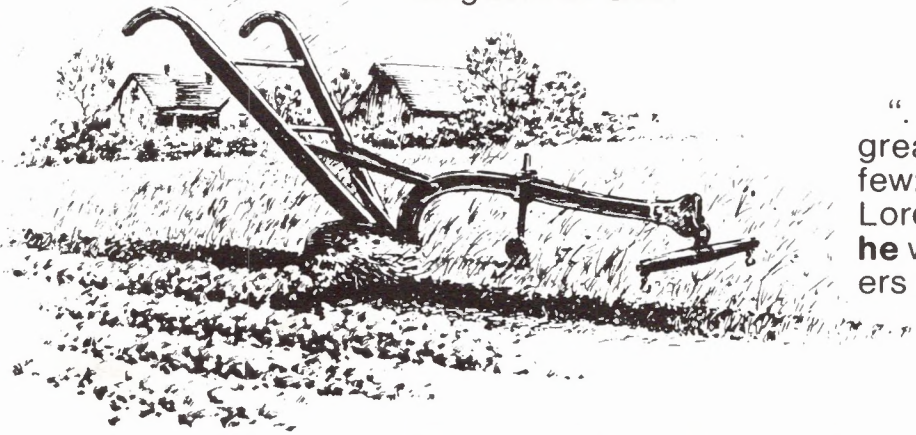
MAY 1988

NUMBER 5

Spring

"And **Jesus** said unto him, No man, having **put** his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62



"... The **harvest** truly is great, but the **laborers** are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that **he** would send forth laborers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

The Golden Harvest

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Children come the grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine;
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?

He who gathers not at harvest,
Will a beggar be at last.
Therefore rise today and labor,
Gath'ring golden sheaves with haste!

CHORUS

Hasten gladly to the labor. Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour, "Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Do you feel assured it is well with your soul, or are you troubled by doubts that you are ready to meet God? Some precious brothers and sisters-in-faith are troubled by doubts concerning their standing with God. Let's explore together some of the reasons for such doubts which result in troubled hearts.

Perhaps the most common cause is the thought, "I'm unworthy. I'm not good enough." Yet that is the very reason Christ died for us; because it is impossible for us to be good enough on our own. Romans 2:23 teaches us, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

You may respond that you realized you were a sinner in God's sight and for that reason you repented and put your faith in Christ. You may continue your response to the effect that it is in the matter of works after conversion which disqualifies you since James teaches us, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:17. You feel you have had some failures along the way and the devil hastens to tell you that you are really not ready to meet God. It may be difficult for you not to believe what Satan is telling you.

How can we solve this problem and put it to rest? First, we should understand it is God's will for us to have the assurance, based on God's Word, that we are ready to meet Him. It is Satan who would seek to rob us of that assurance and living hope. Christ said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Christ did not come to give us a life filled with doubt about being ready to meet God. The life He intends for us is to be more positive, tranquil, and well-poised, knowing our Redeemer liveth. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." He had the assurance in his heart that to leave the body was to be with Christ. We must ask ourselves the question, "What was Paul's assurance based upon?" When we know the answer to that, we can try the same method for assurance of salvation for ourselves.

Surely we can easily realize that the Apostle Paul was not perfect. He wrote

in Romans 7:19, "For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." He evidently had quite a struggle trying to be perfect, and wasn't always successful. How then did he still have the assurance of salvation? It is through the doctrine of imputed righteousness, which means that God sees us as having Christ's righteousness, if we are abiding in Christ. Philippians 3:9, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." The requirement is that we abide in Christ which is what James calls "works". "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

The Apostle Paul, therefore, reassured himself and conquered doubts by thinking of the righteousness of Christ being imputed, or counted as his very own, by the mercy of God on the basis of the atonement Christ made for us on the cross. We need to abide in Christ and be spiritually minded, as much as possible, by daily prayer and Bible reading, and hopefully, by engaging in wholesome and edifying discussions with others about the Bible and the spiritual life. This is called "walking in the light." I John 1:7 tells us, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

There is a difference between having the assurance of salvation and embracing the doctrine "once saved, always saved." The former requires the condition of walking in the light, or abiding in Christ, while the latter does not make that requirement, as far as I can understand it, or at least they do not emphasize abiding in Christ as much as we do.

If specific things have taken place in our lives which make us feel guilty, we should not forget the benefits of repentance and confession. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

Also, in dispensing or getting rid of doubts and guilt, let's not forget the present, intercessory office of the Lord Jesus Christ, our high priest. He not

only died for us but ever liveth to make intercession for us. Hebrews 7:24, 25, "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Our responsibility is to be humble, repentant and to walk in the light.

If Satan hits you in another way by telling you that your faith is too weak, you may respond by telling him that there is no clear measurement of faith mentioned in the Bible, which places a person in the "assurance of salvation" category. A very small amount of faith, even as a grain of mustard seed, was very much appreciated by Christ. Luke 17:5, 6, "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." The

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130).

Family worship time is a God-given opportunity to unite the family and help resist the many subtle forces which are attempting to undermine the Christian home. Ambition to obtain more than modest means often leads to excessively long hours of employment and, in some instances, causes both parents to work outside the home while children are still quite young. Children are expected to excel in school and mature rapidly so they can shoulder their responsibilities in society. Perhaps because of fear of failure, greater emphasis is sometimes placed on developing a career for life than preparing a soul for eternity. The Word gives a different perspective: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

If children are to be fully convinced that spiritual things should have first place, it will have to be proven to them by the priorities established in the home. To achieve this objective there must be concerted effort to communicate on a spiritual level and to set aside regular family worship time. For many it is the evening meal that best lends itself to a time of family communication. The family assembles around the table to give thanks to God for all good gifts including the blessing of being together. Following is a time when children should be seen and heard. Each should be given opportunity to speak freely of the experiences of the day to that little group of people who are to him or her the most understanding and supportive fellow human beings on this earth. Home should be a place of respite from the pressures of society. Close fellowship among those we deeply love affords a foretaste of heaven (Eph. 2:6). Family ties are strengthened by these experiences. If parents do not apply consistent determination to set aside such times in their busy lives, how often will true family communion occur on a spontaneous basis?

Innumerable after-school activities, the lure of many forms of entertainment, multiple jobs, fast food outlets and a host of other factors have made a quiet evening meal at

FAMILY WORSHIP TIME

home with the entire family virtually unknown to many households in America. If we are not on guard, this will become an accepted pattern in our homes. This is but one small example of the success which the unrelenting enemy of our souls has had in seeking to undermine the Christian home. He is trying to corrupt the simplicity of our lives in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

Many of us have precious memories of our fathers praying aloud at the table and reading from the Holy Scriptures. Older converts often testify that they were moved to repentance as the Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance the prayers and faithful teachings of their parents. Our sincere hope is that such memories may help awaken many others. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Are we doing our best to preserve these sacred experiences for our children? Are we relenting to the peer pressure of neighboring children who grab a bite to eat on an individual basis and in a few minutes are back at the door to play again? Or have we established godly patterns which are respected by all, and are based on deep concerns for the eternal welfare of souls. Joshua said "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is temperance which is defined as habitual self-control or self-discipline. We can pray spontaneously at any time without depending upon a structured schedule. However, if we acknowledge our human frailty, we will agree that much grace is needed to help us lead balanced or temperate lives which include adequate time for prayer and worship on a regular basis. The Psalmist wrote "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Psalms 92:1-2). Numerous scriptural teachings refer to *daily* communication with God and regular meditation upon His

Word. Parents are instructed to teach their children the ways of the Lord continuously. Abraham was commended by God, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord . . ." (Gen. 18:19).

Unquestioned loyalty to regular attendance at church services should be the norm of every believing home. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25). Reinforcement of what was learned at church and Sunday School is a special blessing of family communication on a spiritual level. Children should be asked about their lessons for the day. They will profit from the example of hearing their parents speak appreciatively of thoughts brought out in the sermons. Combined efforts to memorize Scripture and frequent reference to its application in our daily lives can be of great benefit. Parents should always be on the lookout for "teachable moments" when a scriptural lesson can be applied to everyday life. This can be accomplished without being overbearing, if it is motivated by the love of Christ.

How can we find the time for all of these things when we already feel overwhelmed with meeting the many routine pressures of life? The Word says, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). We will find time for the things we cherish the most. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). We must put forth the time, energy, dedication and self-denial to meet our family responsibilities. By faithful obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, there will be generated in our own minds deep personal convictions based upon the Word of God regarding these responsibilities as Christian parents. As this occurs, the reallocation of our time becomes of itself a simple act. The resultant blessings will rest with our children and our children's children—should the Lord tarry.

power is in whom you believe, not in the person believing or in the amount of faith.

One's overall conclusion as to how much faith is enough, is that we must believe enough to obey. Therefore, let's get together and try to do a better job of obeying the teachings of the New Testament. One of those teachings is to forgive others, as well as yourself. Try not to be bitter. Feel sorry for those who may have harmed you. They probably suffer, too.

If the devil tells you you didn't repent right, reply that the elder and the church decided that your conversion was alright.

God wants you to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. Walk in the light and say an emphatic "no" to invitations to sin. Peace and the assurance of salvation is the result.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Nathan and Leann Gerber

Spring is coming, along with new life. Here, at the Home, we try to show kids a new way of life, too. Many who come here have had a completely different background than we have had. We expose them to a different lifestyle — one of love, peace and God's presence.

Our daily routine is, in many ways, pretty typical of a normal household with daily chores and responsibilities,

along with school and church activities. As houseparents, our day consists of numerous decisions. We start our day with a 6:30 a.m. breakfast. After devotions and dishes, the children head out the door to catch the bus. All of our kids attend the local schools in Leo or New Haven.

While the kids are gone, we catch up on chores, maintenance, errands, shopping and lots of paperwork. The State regulations require us to keep detailed files on each child. In addition, many hours are spent on learning more effective ways of parenting.

Around 3:00 p.m., we begin seeing faces pop through the door. Usually they have hungry mouths ready for a snack and arms loaded with books. The Assistant Houseparents, Colleen Reardon and Maxine Sauder, and a local tutor assist anyone who has studying to do in a structured library/study area. At the present time, we have an opening for the position of Educational Coordinator, who serves as a liaison between the Home and the schools and provides direction to our on-grounds educational program.

Our evening meal finds ten of us around our table. It is a time of sharing our day, our feelings, concerns and joys, and sharing God's Word. Mealtime is about the only time we are all together, as each child has an individual schedule. Four of our children are

employed part-time: John W. at Super Valu, Penny G. at Burger King, and Marie H. at McDonalds. Kara H. also has a regular babysitting job.

Many of the kids are involved in extra-curricular activities at school. Jon E. and Jon B. are in wrestling, and Mike E. and John W. are planning to be in the Leo High School play. Outside activities also include piano, horseback riding, 4-H, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

We like to expose our kids to others so they can learn how to interact with people. We are presently planning a visit from the Indianapolis Sunday school, and at the end of April, we have been invited for a weekend visit in Latty, OH.

Recently we hosted our Annual Appreciation Dinner for the Leo congregation. Area brothers and sisters help us out so faithfully throughout the year. We appreciate their encouragement.

As the existence of new life is springing up around us, may we challenge ourselves by asking, "Who is there close to us who could benefit from a new life in God?" Let's be an example and light.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

It never ceases to amaze me how nature responds as God directs the seasonal changes. Several residents watched a mother duck as she looked for a good spot to hide her nest. She decided the perfect place was under a sprawling evergreen in our courtyard. How interesting for the residents to observe mother duck as she takes a walk and then settles down to the serious business of hatching her eggs. Other signs of spring reported by residents out for a walk were . . . seeing several robins, and some tulips poking their heads through the soft earth.

March held some unique activities for us. Randy Mogler and Evie Blunier, who both spent several years in Japan, helped the vocabulary class present an enjoyable program. The evening began with a delicious Japanese meal served by our faithful kitchen staff. Some of us were brave enough to try the chopsticks passed around. After dinner, all were invited to the multi-purpose room where Japanese music filled the air. The class, clad in beautiful kimonos, informed us of the facts they had learned about the country of Japan. At the end of the program, we were all

EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR

AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is an opening at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home for a brother or sister with a degree in education or a related field to serve full-time as the coordinator of the Home's educational and vocational programs.

Responsibilities include individual tutoring, liason work with the public schools and development of summer educational and work programs. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a teacher to work with teenagers and Christian staff members. In the future, we can see this position expanding as we focus on vocational programs for our teens and as we increase our total capacity by 50% when our new house is completed.

If you have the educational qualifications, please pray about applying for this position.

Compensation includes salary and living expenses, plus fringe benefits. For more information, call or write one of the brothers listed below.

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

Bro. Tim Sauder
P. O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
219/627-2606, home

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
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served tea, rice cakes and goodies shipped all the way from Japan. We all agreed the evening was informative and fun.

Other activities the residents are participating in are the Travelog, Ice Capades at the Civic Center and an Easter Egg Party. We are so thankful for the volunteers who make these events possible.

A little friend appeared at our door during a bad snow storm. The nurse brought her in, bathed and fed her, and she soon had a nice warm place to sleep. You may have guessed by now she is a little white puppy named Muffin. We all love her and everyone takes turns feeding and caring for her.

Those celebrating birthdays in May are: Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Herbert Stieglitz (11), Anna Stichling (13), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser (22), and Jackie Barton (26).

At a recent meeting of our Board of Directors, our Annual Benefit Day was discussed. Since we have had a benefit each year since 1971, we felt it would be good to review this. Since this is going to be a very busy year, it was decided not to have a Benefit Day this year. A letter has gone out to all churches regarding this change. We are grateful to everyone for the excellent support we have had for our Benefit Days over the past years, and if anyone would have a desire to hold a local "fund raiser" for the benefit of the Home, they should feel free to do so. If you have any comments, pro or con, about this decision, please let your church representative know how you feel or write us here at the Home so that we may consider your feelings when we decide what to do in future years.

Real progress is being made on our group home, Oakwood Estate, and we hope to move in sometime this summer.

In closing, we would like to share this writing by Mary Lou Carney.

It's almost spring, Lord.
Smudged snowdrifts cower
beside thawing highways.
An adventurous crocus pokes
through ground still cold
from February frost.

It's almost Easter.
And I think of you, Lord.
In your innocence, humiliation,
sacrifice.

It is time — for the eternal paradox
For blossoming and greening
of stark brown branches,
for the renewing of life long
dormant.

I think of the divine paradox —
of my life, through your death.

And, I am humbled, saddened,
Thankful for springtime —
a crocus — and You.

COME HELP US GROW

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS and widows IN THEIR AFFLICTION and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

Here, at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we sense a real urgency about the work that James described. Since our Home opened in 1975, the Lord has given us opportunity to provide a Christian family for nearly 70 troubled young people, temporarily or permanently "fatherless". The demand for our family, like placement alternative, has increased so that we are operating at capacity AND MUST TURN AWAY MANY CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP.

The Lord has burdened our hearts to respond to this growing need. As you may know, construction is now underway for a third family residence, similar to the present houses, with capacity for eight youths. As a result, we will soon have several new openings for staff positions:

- A married couple to serve as Houseparents
- Single people to serve as Assistants or Houseparents

— We also have an **immediate** opening for a married couple to serve as Alternate Houseparents.

These are challenging and rewarding opportunities for mature and committed couples and single people to work as a team with a dedicated and unified staff of brothers and sisters, striving to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of young people.

Compensation includes a cash salary and living expenses, plus fringe benefits. For more information, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

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

Bro. Tim Sauder
P. O. Box 151
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

The parents have sold donuts for us and we made a profit of over \$600.00. We hope to buy some new playground equipment in the near future.

We are learning about Transportation and Spring this month. Our Bible stories are about Easter and the events that led up to the crucifixion. It always touches the children's hearts and they are sad when they hear about Jesus being crucified, but it makes them happy and relieved to know that Christ arose from the dead and ascended to heaven. They talk about going to heaven to be with Jesus some day. One child wondered what heaven looks like and all of their faces just light up when we discuss what heaven will be like. They have such a desire to be with Jesus and such sincere trust and faith. We, as adults, can certainly learn from them.

We are looking forward to Parent/Teacher conferences this month. These always give us a chance to discuss each child's performance with the parent and help us to get some insight to the child's life at home. Consistency between home and school is so important. Please pray that we can always be lights and examples to the parents and

children and take every opportunity to share our faith with them.

If you are interested in volunteering time here this Summer, please contact Sis. Marilyn Walder at 205-233-0591 or Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611. We will need volunteers to help while the staff takes vacations. We thank all for their willingness.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN). We thank them for their willingness to serve us.

Bro. Dave was here to help serve communion March 6. This is always a special service and a time to remember and think about what Jesus did for us. It is a time for each Christian to evaluate their walk with God and see where we can do better. We are not worthy of Christ's sacrifice "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," but we are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24. We have so much to be thankful for and we should remember daily Christ's sacrifice and not take it for granted.

Other visitors were from Eureka, Congerville, Goodfield, Cissna Park, Washington, Princeville, IL, Toledo, OH, Sabetha and Bern, KS, Atlanta,

GA, and Leo, IN. We enjoyed the weekend of March 5-6 when a small group of visitors from Cissna Park were here. We enjoy all our visitors and the Christian fellowship we have.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Fill my cup Lord." What a joy to go to church and get spiritually refreshed, though to share scriptures with someone who needs encouragement is happiness, too. We recently heard "God knows our potential. We all have different levels." Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. James Leman (Roanoke, IL), Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

Genesis 2:18, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him." Thus we heard the engagement of Sis. Stephanie Baum (Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum) and Bro. Randy Wuethrich (Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola Wuethrich, Francesville, IN). May the Lord direct them as they make plans for their future.

We pray the Lord's daily care on Rick Freed (Bro. Allen and Sis. Edith) since he has taken employment in California. May the Lord abide with Rick and, if it be His will, we await his visits.

Our monthly church supper and singing is such a fine time for fellowship and very much enjoyed.

Our prayer list for those not feeling well includes Sisters Emma Sanders, Dorothy Kraft and Ora Schrenk. Hospital patients were Bros. Dan Kokanovich and Ellsworth Niemeyer.

World Relief work goes on in Mexico. The group that went this past month included Bros. Dick Beery, Todd Feller, John Kaufman, Sisters Marie Beery and Karen Feller and four high school youths, Jim Zollinger, Bob Dotterer, Doug Feller and Chris Fraut-schi. This was Chris's third trip.

Bro. David (Sis. Kelley) Zeltwanger and Nathan Knochel went to Haiti to do World Relief work. We ask our dear Lord to be with our dear ones wherever they go.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Harvey Smith

We wish to thank all of the winter visitors who have assembled with us at Prescott. It is certainly an incentive to strive more earnestly for the mark, when one can enjoy the fellowship with the like-minded from various parts of the nation. And to think that those who gather on yonder shore will be from all the universe.

We also appreciate the ministers, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), who have fed us spiritually with the Word.

"For the Christian, death is the last shadow before heaven's dawn." We offer condolences to the family of Bro. Noah Herman on the passing of his wife, Sis. Lorraine. We will miss her pleasant smile and words of encouragement.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at 2060 Thumb Butte Road.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers with us this month. Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) were in Tucson and shared the Word with us. We want to thank those brothers for their efforts and we know the Lord will bless them.

Our very dear sister, and my beloved grandma, Sis. Lorraine Herman, passed away March 10. Words seem to fail at the moment. "Grandma Herman," as she was known to many who weren't even her relation, was a very unique and precious lady to all who knew her. She will be inexpressibly

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
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048

Bibles Distributed — Fifth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1987 —	2358	2358
September 1987 —	1023	3561
October 1987 —	1605	5166
November 1987 —	2264	7430
December 1987 —	1029	8459
January 1988 —	6611	15070
February 1988 —	1864	16934
March 1988 —	2027	18961

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.

missed in our little congregation, and even more so by her many family members. However, our dear grandpa, Bro. Noah, will miss her most. We pray his Lord will see him through the lonely days ahead. We have such precious memories of "Grandma". She lived a very full life and the Lord chose this time for Grandma. We wouldn't want to change that, but for us who are left behind we will need the prayers of loved ones. She is survived by nine children, Doris Wenniger (Jim, Tucson), Bro. Howard Herman (Sis. Nancy, Peoria, IL), Sis. Phyllis Lang (Bro. George, Tremont, IL), Sis. LouAnn Funk (James, Tucson), Ron Herman (MaryAnn, Peoria, IL), Sis. Gloria Bauer (Bro. Don, Tucson), Sis. Mary Ginzle (Bro. Dave, Peoria, IL), Bro. Allen Herman (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) and Laurie Jo MacLachlan (Washington State); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our Sis. Carole Haas has experienced a great loss also. Her mother, Sis. Helen Joos, passed away. Sis. Helen's husband, Carl, is in the hospital and we are praying for him, as we are for Sis. Carole and Bro. Bob and their family. May the Lord be their constant companion over the future months and dwell in their hearts and homes.

Along with our other sad news, we must say goodbye to Sis. Dorothy Gandell. Her husband, Bro. Paul, left several months ago for Illinois and Sis. Dorothy will now be residing in an apartment close to the Eureka Home where Bro. Paul resides. We will miss Sis. Dorothy and her words of encouragement, but we know that Eureka has

gained a new sister-in-the-faith and they will grow to love her as we have.

We have much happier news regarding our Sis. Stefanie Baum (Bro. Robert and Sis. Chris, Phoenix). She is engaged to marry Bro. Randy Weutrich (Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola, Francesville, IN). They are planning a July wedding. Our congratulations go to Sis. Stefanie and Bro. Randy as they begin this special journey in their lives.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Elaine Graf

We have had several visiting ministers recently. They are Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Portland, OR), Bro. Todd Feller (Phoenix, AZ and LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix). We're so thankful to God for a country in which we can travel so freely and have fellowship with brethren who live at great distances from us.

Sis. Lois Klotzle has returned from a long absence during which she spent time in India with her husband, Elder Bro. John, and the others who were with the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission, and in Japan before and after the birth of her grandson, Jonathan Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy).

Hospitalized this month have been Bro. Bill Witzig, Sis. Martha Slenker, Bro. Ben Ruehle, Bro. Ed Ruehle and Allan Crockett (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy).

May God's love and comfort be with Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae Aberle and family, and Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle and family, as Bro. Richard's and Doug's father, Bro. Joe Aberle (Sis. Mary, Sabetha, KS), has passed away.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Nella Varga

"... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Lord God, we thank Thee for all that Thou hast given us. Most of all, Thy Son, Jesus Christ. For where would we be, or where would we be going, if it weren't for Him? God, our Father, we thank Thee for sending Thy Son to live among us. He willingly died and sacrificed His life so that we may have salvation and a hope of eternally

living with Thee in the heaven which Thou hast prepared for us. Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for obeying our Father and pray that Thou can help us be obedient also. For Thou art our example and we want to be like Thee. Lord, we rejoice that Thou not only lived and was crucified for our sake, but most of all, that Thou arose from the grave. We look forward to the day we also will rise to meet Thee in the air, and forever commune with Thee!

Jesus, we thank Thee for Godly men who minister Thy Word to us. We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Bless them and their families we pray.

To have visitors at our small church always gladdens our hearts. We appreciate those who come into our area and spend a Sunday worshipping Thee with us. Bless them richly, Lord. We pray for Thy nearness and guidance. Fill us with Thy Holy Spirit: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen."

Note: We welcome all those who plan on being in the San Diego area to visit our church. Lord willing, we'll be moved into our new location: 410 West Felicita, Suite H, Escondido, CA 92025. For directions, please call: Bro. Doug Wagenbach at (619) 679-8353 or Bro. Pete Petrovich at (619) 789-1504.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

The time of year has come again when we've been blessed by hearing the memorandum. The thought which stayed with this reporter is the exhortation to put the Lord first in "time, talents and tithes". We do not often hear people speak of tithes, but we must remember that to further the Lord's work, there must be money forthcoming. "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" James 2:14-16. Let us all consider this and put the Lord first in our financial planning.

After reading the memorandum, our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen told of his

WORKS PROJECTS NEEDS FOR HAITI

Items For the Hospitals

If you have:

Wheelchairs, crutches, canes or walkers.

Needed are large serving spoons, blank cassette tapes, 35mm film - black & white - Plus X - Panzo - Kodacolor II - slide film, either 24 or 36 exposure.

Fans - floor or ceiling.

Please take to Material Aid Centers at Wing, Bluffton or Leo.

recent trip to India. He told us how the Hindus and other idol worshippers must go in and wake their gods by ringing a bell or clapping their hands. How thankful we can be that our God never sleeps!

Dues for the Silver Lining are to be collected during the month of May for our Denver congregation.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

What a joy it is to see the evidence of spring all around us as the trees bud forth, the grass begins to green, birds return and flowers break into bloom. Let us never forget Who is the great Creator of these miracles of life.

It is also with joy that Craig and Sis. Dawn Winans welcomed Kaitlyn Louise into their hearts and home February 28. Scott and Travis are Kaitlyn's brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy and the Jim Winans'.

Roy and Sis. Jody Spielman also brought a dear little girl into this world. Christie Lynn was born March 8. Grandparents, Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt and Roy and Marge Spielman, along with big brother, Jonathan, all helped to welcome little Christie into the family.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Wagenbach are the parents of Benjamin Curtis, born March 13. Philip and Beth are anxious to help care for him. Benjamin's grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach and Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zeurcher (all of Tremont, IL).

Kenny and Karen Hunt were blessed with the birth of Ashley Moise March 19. Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt are Ashley's paternal grandparents, and Sheena is her big sister. As God has added responsibility to each of these dear young families, may He also supply the necessary grace and guidance to raise these innocent children to someday know and serve Him.

Our thoughts and prayers arise to God in behalf of those who are hospitalized or are recuperating at home. Bros. John Bahler, Edwin Aberle, Charles Lanz, and Sisters Glenna Moser, Sharon Kloter, Emma Marti, Julie Bourque and Delvene (Lanz) Starks are among those who have been confined. We pray that God will continue to grant renewed strength to each one.

Our dear friend, Gerald Farney, passed from this life March 8. He was

born in New York state, but had lived here with his wife, Bertha (Kupferschmidt), for many years. We extend our sympathy to his entire family.

Sis. Emily (Gerber) Schneider was at last able to lay down her earthly armor and take up the crown. She was called from this life March 18 at the age of 94. Sis. Emily was a resident in a nursing home for many years, and many prayers were offered in her behalf that God would gently take her home. Her children, Bro. Wilbur, Sis. Lavina (Bro. Norman) Ballasy, Sis. Helen (Bro. Roy) Luginbuhl and Norman will all miss their dear mother, but rejoice that a victory has been won.

Our thanks go to God that Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy Knecht (Silverton, OR) were able to spend several days in our midst. Bro. Ed expounded the simple message of salvation. May it have fallen on hearts that were willing to hear.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

**Catherine Klopfenstein
Rebecca Germann**

On February 21, we were thankful to have Bro. Wally Ramsier here to minister unto us, along with his wife. Then on March 6, Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank were here to serve us. May God bless those who support us with fellowship and prayer. We continue to ask for your prayers for our small congregation.

Spring has already made an appearance here in March. The crocuses and daffodils are blooming. Soon we will have many visitors who come to this area during spring, and school breaks, etc. One of the most popular attractions here are the cherry blossoms, which peak approximately the first week of April. They are lovely, just as the entire spring season is. The landscape is lush and full of color.

We appreciate our visitors so much. Please note we have changed our schedule and now have services here the first and third Sunday of every month with an occasional exception. So please feel welcome to call for further information to Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476 or Bro. Doug Germann at 703-481-5163. We continue to meet at the Best Western Tyson's Westpark Hotel in McLean, VA, right off Route 7, one mile west of the 495 Beltway.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

We were blessed this month to have Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider (Rockville, CT) among our visitors. Bro. Al was faithful in bringing God's Word to our congregation.

The topic that the Bible study is now exploring is "Witnessing." It is interesting to review all of the little ways we witness each and every day, and yet it is so important to realize that very often we need to take it one step further. Certainly our actions and manner of living are important, but the spoken word must be utilized as a tool of witnessing to relay the Gospel.

'Tis the season' . . . for beach picnics, that is! The winter visits of family and friends offer us an excuse to plan surf-side potluck meals. And the weather is idealistic as March marches on. If you think I'm trying to entice you to come and see, you're right!

Our dear Sis. Florence Sutter has been recently hospitalized. We pray that her health may be restored.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Kay Eisenmann

This coming Sunday we are to have a church picnic at the park. We always look forward to the fellowship. It won't be long now, and our winter brethren will be returning north.

In this Easter season, we should be so thankful for the love Jesus showed all men to give His life for us. If we only know Him as a babe and not the Lord, we have no hope. Everything in this life has a beginning and an end. Let us keep this thought daily in our hearts. It will help us realize we need to spend more time in the work and joy of the Lord. No matter how we work here, there is nothing we can take with us.

Dathan is still going to school half days. He will have his twelfth birthday the 25th of March. It is answered prayer! He is also wearing glasses.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

At this writing, Bro. John Marioncu is in the hospital. He is 88 years old and has had a small stroke. On March 18 he was flown back to Canada where a

tumor on his lung was discovered. Bro. John and Sis. Sylvia need our prayers at this trying time. Sis. Sylvia wants to thank each and every one from the bottom of her heart who helped them in this trying time. At a time like this, they really feel the love of our precious faith.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Suellen Ott

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

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

With sadness we bid farewell to our dear Bro. Fred and Sis. Elizabeth Knapp as they leave our Sarasota congregation to make their home in Eureka, IL. They will be missed, but we must remember our loss shall be another's gain as these dear souls make their new home in Illinois.

Our congregation has been richly blessed with many winter residents as well as visiting brothers and sisters from across our great land. We have been especially blest to have the following visiting ministers and their dear wives in the past month: Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Bro. Gene Leman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH). We wish to thank each of our visiting ministers for so willingly giving of their time and talent in the Lord's service.

We also want to thank our dear shepherds, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer for the encouraging words brought forth in the reading of the memorandum of the brotherhood conference held at Rockville, CT, last August.

We were richly reminded that there is but one door to the sheepfold, and we must enter therein.

Hospital patients were Sis. Esther Kupferschmid and Bro. Joe Schrock. Also, young David Arthur Eisenmann fractured his hand while helping a friend repair his bicycle. We are so glad that each of these dear ones have felt God's healing touch and are able to assemble with us.

A note of thanks to the Sunshine Club for the flowers, and all the prayers, cards and visits to me in the hospital. All was appreciated and cherished.

Bro. Joe Schrock

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Karen Brummitt — De Anderson

Can we our imperfections see
Without a humble sigh?

Should we neglect God's precious
Word,

And lightly pass it by?

"Obedience to the Word,"

Zion's Harp #142

With grateful hearts we wish to thank Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) for sharing the memorandum with us February 24.

We are also thankful to Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) who was with us March 2 to discuss "Fear" as a topical Bible study. The following Sunday, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), was our visiting minister. Truly, we appreciate the encouragement brought to us through each willing servant.

We rejoice with Sis. Diane Steiner and Bro. Alex Paton whose engagement was announced February 28. Diane is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont) and Alex is the son of Donna Martin (Morton) and Don Paton (Peoria). May God bless their forthcoming marriage and lives they will share together.

That evening was also very special for us as the Roanoke choir gathered with us for our monthly hymn sing. We are thankful for fellowship with one another through the blessed gift of song.

A reminder . . . Silver Lining collection will be April 24.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Carol Kieser

God is still with us! We thank our Lord for the beautiful works of faith we have seen in the lives of believers.

"For without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

The weekend of February 27 and 28,

Weston Stahl and Matt Kieser each shared his testimony of faith and was baptized. Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser are their parents. May God continue to add to their faith and help us all to be diligent! Sharing this weekend with us were Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Joe Stoller (our home elder).

The marriage of Bro. Wes Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie) and Sis. Lena Hangartner (Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma) took place in Eureka March 13. May the Lord be their guide as they walk life's pathway together.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today!" Sis. Audrey Ehnle's mother, Bertha Reed, and Sis. Charlotte Stahl's daughter, Deanne, have opened the door of their hearts to let the Saviour in! "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalms 34:18. May God's grace and peace enrich their lives as they continue to seek Him!

At our annual business meeting, Sis. Eileen Klumpp and Bro. Jack Knobloch were elected as Sunday school teachers, Bro. Dennis Pyles as usher, Bro. Richard Frank as trustee, and Bro. Ray Klumpp as treasurer. We thank the brothers and sisters who served faithfully in the past and wish God's grace for those who have taken on new responsibilities.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Dave Kieser (Princeville), Glen Rigenbach (Smithville, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate their love and willingness to serve us and pray God will bless them and their families.

Our congregation is happy to welcome Kevin and Laurie Edelman and their children, Bradley and Tiffany. They have settled in the Mineral area.

MOTHER'S PRAYER

Dear God,

This prayer is very old.

You hear it every day

From lips of mothers everywhere

In all the tongues that pray.

Behold these children round my knee
Whose steps do falter still,
Unhurt by fears or sorrows yet,
Untouched by hatred's chill.

How well you know what's in my mind,
And what I'm going to ask.
It's just that You will guide my hand
In my momentous task.

I feel so very awed within
At what I have to do
To help them be the kind of folk
Who, too, will turn to You.

Margaret Rorke

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

Proverbs 31:26

To all mothers we say, "God bless you!"

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN LaRae Dill

March 5 was a special day for Brent Hanson and Keiko Sasamori as they were united in marriage. Parents of the couple, Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson (Urbana) and Takashi and Kazuko Sasamori (Urbana) are thankful to have their children establish their home in Champaign. We extend our best wishes to this couple and their families.

Prayers and words of sympathy are extended to Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer on the loss of Dorothy's sister, Verna Jayne (Perrysburg, OH). Bro. Bob Zimmerman and Sis. Tammy Zimmerman have also felt the need for God's added strength and peace due to the death of their brother, Scott Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Bob and Sis. Tammy are students here and we extend sincere sympathy to them.

We appreciated the visits of these ministers: Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Merle Kaiser (Fairbury, IL).

It is uplifting to see the college students diligently working and carefully planning the Spring 1988 College Weekend. This event will be held in Champaign April 16 - 17.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Mary Knapp — Elaine Sauder

The death angel has visited several families in our church this past month. Sympathy and compassion is felt for each one including close and distant relatives.

Arthur Scharlach, 90, passed away

February 19. He was married to the former Elizabeth Meyer who survives and is living at the Swiss Village Retirement Home in Berne, IN. Sisters Cora and Nettie Scharlach, Sis. Mary Anderson and Bro. John and Sis. Cyndee Anderson from here grieve his passing.

Funeral services were held for Louis Hofbauer at Christian Bible Church (Cissna Park), Sunday, February 21. Along with his wife, Bernice, and his family, he leaves five brothers and three sisters. We express our love and concern to Bro. Joel Hofbauer, Sis. Mary and Sis. Caroline Gudeman and Bro. George from our congregation.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder received word of the passing of his sister, Sis. Emma Sauder, February 24. She lived at Restmor Home (Morton) for many years. The family feels real thankfulness to God that she has been relieved of her earthly burdens and has been called to her heavenly home.

The Greiner family has again experienced a loss in their family as their dear sister, Sis. Helen Joos (Bro. Carl, Morris, MN) died March 7. She was only 67, but had been ill for the past year so we're thankful there's a better place of joy and relief for her. She leaves Sis. Tillie Rudin, Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Greiner and Bro. Robert and Sis. Eileen Greiner from here to mourn her passing.

The entire church grieves the loss of our dear Sis. Kate Walder, 94, who passed on to her heavenly home. She leaves her daughter, Sis. Harriett, and many nieces, nephews and loving friends who deeply cared for her. At her service the ministers spoke on the virtuous woman, her gardening techniques and how she shared them, her beautiful attitude and how she cared for others, and her abiding support for her husband during his years in the ministry. Her seat in the pew is empty now but the memories will linger. We pray for Sis. Harriett as she faces lonely hours but may she always feel God's presence and realize she's never really alone.

Our Bible class traveled by bus to ACYF at Tremont. On the way, they enjoyed eating together at Shakey's Pizza in Bloomington.

Two of our loved ones had surgery this past month. We wish Sis. Bev Knapp (Bro. Curt) and Mary Ann Young (Roland) the Lord's healing and grace as they recuperate.

Bro. Bill Feller has moved to Parkview Haven (Francesville, IN). How thankful we are for our church sponsored homes where we know our loved ones are well cared for. We miss Bro. Bill as he has been a pillar in our church for many years.

We thank Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley) for coming and sharing in the reading of the memorandum. Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) also spent a Sunday back home in Cissna Park. We love and appreciate our home ministers so very much but they, too, appreciate a lightened load and enjoy sitting back to listen and learn for a Sunday. May God bless each one.

Sis. Esther Newkomm, who resides at Fairview Haven Nursing Home, wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, visits and words of comfort during the loss of her sister, Sis. Ruth Frintz (Morton).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sandy Knapp — Susan Zobrist

"Who made the mountain, who made
the tree,
Who made the river flow to the sea,
And who hung the moon in the starry
sky?
Somebody bigger than you and I.

Who makes the flowers bloom in the
spring,
Who writes the song for the robin to
sing,
And who sends the rain when the earth
is dry?
Somebody bigger than you and I.

He lights the way when the road is long,
Keeps you company; With love to
guide you,
He walks beside you, Just like He
walks with me.
When I am weary; filled with despair,
Who gives me courage to go on from
there,
And who gives me faith that will never
die?
Somebody bigger than you and I."

"Somebody Bigger Than You and I"
Country Western Gospel Hymnal #75

Just as we rejoice at the coming of
springtime, we rejoice over the coming
of a new soul to Christ. Devon Schrock
(Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock) has
answered the Lord's loving call and
now rejoices in the hope of heaven.

Submitting to God's perfect will, Sis. Julie Knapp (Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp) and Bro. Dave Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher, Eureka) plan to join heart and hand in our Lord, to walk together this pathway of life. May our Lord be with them and bless them each step of the way.

Trusting that the Lord will lead them in their walk of life together, Lori Schrock (Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock) and Myron Rumbold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold, Bradford) joined heart and hand March 5. We pray that the Lord will be their guide and bless them every step of their pathway together.

May we never take for granted that the Lord provides His strength and spirit for His humble servants. We pray that the Lord will bless our visiting ministers now and much more in eternity; Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

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

Yet Thy suffering has defeated
 Satan's power, yea, death and hell;
 Through Thy death Thou hast
 completed
 Thy dear heav'nly Father's will . . ."
 Zion's Harp #226

Recent visiting ministers include Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury). These brothers each had such encouraging and timely messages for us; we could feel God's presence in our midst. May God bless them and all who serve in sharing the Word.

Both young and old have spent time in the hospital recently. These include Sis. Esther Wewetzer, Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and little Britany Moser (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn).

We share sympathy with Sis. Rose

Eurich and Lydia Osmun, who mourn the loss of their loved one, Sis. Helen Joos (Morris, MN). "Precious memories, how they linger, How they ever flood my soul, . . ." J.B.F. Wright.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

We were blessed with many ministering brethren this past month who were willing to lend themselves in His service. May God bless Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Dave Kieser (Princeville), Nate Stoller and Marvin Leman (both of Bradford).

Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and children, Jacki, Boni and Jodi, have moved to the Pulaski, IA, area. May God bless them as they make their new home and assemble with the brethren there.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body." Ephesians 5:24. February 28 we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Kathy Lou Rocke (Sis. Bena Mae and the late Bro. Leroy) and Bro. Mike Leman (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma). May God bless them as they walk this earthly pathway together.

We heard the wedding engagement of Sis. Julie Knapp (Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice) and Bro. David Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene). May they continue to seek His guidance during this time as they plan a May wedding.

On February 28, Sis. Jacki Zobrist and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) made their engagement known. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrol Zobrist and Ben Stickling (Peoria). We wish them God's blessings.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Zimmerman (Bro. Lawrence) in the passing of her sister, Helen Wiegand (Mrs. Clarence, Decatur). May God comfort her.

Bob and LeAnn Schmidgall were blessed with Jarod Robert March 9. Grandparents are Eugene and Geraldine Zoss and Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall.

Sis. Lena Hangartner and Bro. Wesley Kieser exchanged wedding vows March 13. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner and Bro. Verle and Sis. LaVonne Kieser (Bradford). May God bless their union.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

I AM HE THAT LIVETH

He dies! He dies! the lowly Man of
 sorrow,
 On whom were laid our many griefs and
 woes,
 Our sins He bore, beneath God's awful
 billows,
 And He hath triumph'd over all our
 foes.

He lives! He lives! what glorious
 consolation!
 Exalted at His Father's own right hand,
 He pleads for us, and by His
 intercession,
 Enables all His saints by grace to stand.

He comes! He comes! O blest
 anticipation!
 In keeping with His true and faithful
 word;
 To call us to our heav'nly
 consummation —
 Caught up, to be "forever with the
 Lord."

Chorus:
 I am He that liveth, that liveth and was
 dead,
 I am He that liveth, that liveth and was
 dead;
 And behold, I am alive . . . forevermore,
 Behold, . . . I am alive . . . forevermore;
 I am He that liveth, that liveth and was
 dead,
 And behold, . . . I am alive forevermore.

J. H. Burke
 Gospel Hymns #350

What beautiful words the author penned. We can rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus everyday.

It was a delight to see the children's faces as they sang of Jesus' awful crucifixion and His glorious resurrection. Our Easter program was March 27.

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand and their children, Nicole and Justin. We hope they feel the warmth of our fellowship.

Bro. Amos Meyer was hospitalized this month. We pray for God's healing power.

We were blessed by three visiting ministers: Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont) and Gary Brown (Forrest). We are thankful

that the truth is still spoken in this wicked generation. May God be their rich rewarder.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Patsy Stoller — Sherri Kelson

As the Easter season once again approaches, may we retrace the steps of our Lord and Saviour and be reminded of the tremendous price that was paid in our stead. We look forward to hearing the Old Story as the children sing songs and recite at our Easter program.

Our hearts were touched and we extend our sympathy to Brad and Teresa Caron in the loss of their little son, Christopher Thomas, who died at birth. He is survived by his grandparents, Tom and Sis. Earlene Hamilton. Surely he is a little bud in the Master's bouquet.

Funeral services were held March 9 for Bro. Alpha Geyer, who passed away at the age of 97. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to his daughters, Lorene Boner (Forrest) and Velda Schlipf (Wheat Ridge, CO).

We thank Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign-Urbana) for so willingly bringing us God's precious Word.

Our friends, Dennis Edelman and James and Marlene Steidinger, have answered the Lord's call as they felt the need for salvation. We wish them God's grace to become firmly grounded.

James Schmidgall and Lisa Stevenson are announcing their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Forrest) and Mr. and Mrs. Birch Stevenson (Streator).

Sis. Louise Anliker (Bro. Emil) and Bro. Sam Honegger (Sis. Leah) have spent time in the hospital this month. May the Lord provide their every need.

Sis. Leona Ricketts wishes to express deep appreciation and a humble thanks to all who remembered her with cards, gifts, telephone calls, and especially the prayers during her long hospitalization. May God bless each one for their thoughtfulness.

Sis. Clara Honegger enjoyed the many cards and gifts from friends and relatives for her 80th birthday and wishes to express her thanks.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

On Wednesday evening, March 16, our congregation was blessed by Elder

Bro. Steve Rinkenberger's presentation on the topic of "Humanism". His comments were both instructive and beneficial as they drew us to a better understanding of this insidious secular force which is impacting against us as individuals, as families, and as a church.

Bro. Steve reminded us that our nation's centers of influence which consist mostly of publishing, broadcasting and education are in large part built on the humanistic foundation of man-centeredness, and God's message is either dismissed or accorded diminished credibility. Consequently, religious values, eternal absolutes based on the Bible, and traditional modes of authority are replaced with values based on human experience such as relativism, situation ethics and individualism. Man is exalted above God and, sadly, ethical codes are not rooted in absolute truth. Each individual is his own authority and he or she largely ignores the authority of God, or of institutional leaders. The result is a society with much moral turmoil and family breakdown.

The evening invigorated a deeper sense of appreciation for our beliefs and for our spiritual heritage. Amid the moral turmoil and ungodliness wrought by the humanistic attitudes that prevail in our nation, it was comforting to reflect on the Lord Jesus, the Rock of our salvation, and to know that we are anchored in His eternal truth. If we rest in Him, and abide in Him, we need not fear the immorality that is around us.

On March 2, our congregate living facility, Sunrise Manor, began a Meals on Wheels program for the Gridley community. Meals are served each noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. During the beginning phases an average of ten meals were delivered each day.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Eli Kiefer, Sis. Leah Ringger and Sis. Dorothy Witzig.

Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) preached at Gridley March 13.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

We were so lovingly reminded of our duties as a child of God by hearing the reading of the memorandum February 20. We pray that our heavenly Father will help each one strive to have a closer walk with Him. May our elder brothers continue to feel our prayers and support.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Farney welcome into their hearts and home Brian Earl. Brian was born February 22. His happy grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne Kaiser and Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene Farney (all of Morton).

Esther Seidel was called into eternity. Her funeral was February 22. We extend our sympathy to her brother, Bro. Joe; her sister, Sis. Margaret Seidel, and her many other family members and friends.

We were saddened to hear that Lisa (Grimm) Alexander, 23, had been killed in a car accident in Tennessee after moving there seven weeks earlier. Her funeral was March 1. We pray that God will provide comfort for her husband, Jody; her son, Joshua; her parents, Bro. Milton and Sis. Shirley Grimm; her sister, Linda Miller; her brother, Samuel; her grandmother, Sis. Mary Grimm; and her grandfather, Eli Wuthrich; her relatives and friends.

We are thankful to welcome three more dear souls into the family of God. We heard their testimonies of faith March 12 and with joy witnessed their baptisms March 13. They are Jim and Valerie Steffen and Jim Ritthaler. We trust the Lord will continue to lead, guide and direct them as they walk life's narrow pathway.

Our Easter program was held March 20. Through song and verse we were led through our Savior's triumphal entry, His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension into the heavenly realm. We thank young and old for making this a blessed evening.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Darrel (Bud) Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

Bro. Henry Binkele wishes to thank all for the kindness and love extended to him while in the hospital and since returning home.

Elmer Aberle also wishes to extend his thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards and visits while in the hospital and since returning home.

Sis. Hilda Roth thanks everyone for helping make her 85th birthday a memorable one. God bless all who were so kind to remember her with cards, gifts, flowers and prayers.

We want to thank each and every one who sent food, cards and gifts, and most of all, for the prayers during our convalescing and also on our 45th

wedding anniversary. All was greatly appreciated. May God richly bless one and all.

Our love,
Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Belsley

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kathy Huthmann

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

Tim and Toni Hoerr (Champaign) are rejoicing with their new daughter, Audra Denaë, who was born February 18. Alysa also welcomes her little sister home. Audra's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr.

God has richly blessed Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr in their 40-year marriage. Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia celebrated their anniversary March 13 at Jumer's Restaurant with their family.

We rejoice with Bro. Craig Stickling (Ben and Sharon) and Sis. Jacki Zobrist (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Carol, Eureka) who have announced their engagement. May God continue to guide and bless them.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces . . ."

Isaiah 25:8

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to all families and friends that were affected by four recent deaths. Sis. Lorraine Herman (Tucson, AZ) passed away March 10. Funeral services were held here in Peoria. Bro. Conrad Baer, who was a resident of our Home, was recently called from this life. Funeral services were held in Princeville for Sis. Pauline Little who passed away March 13. Sis. Susie Zeller, also a resident of our Home, recently passed from this life into eternity. "For the Lord will not cast off forever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies." Lamentations 3:31, 32. May God comfort and be near those who have recently lost their loved ones.

We would like to thank the Chicago choir for being with us the weekend of March 5 and 6. The fellowship and the beautiful praises were very uplifting for all of us.

We have been especially blessed this

past month with visiting ministers. We express our appreciation to Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) for preaching God's Word to us. May we continue to keep all of our ministering brothers in our prayers and let us not take for granted the precious faith and heritage we have.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

Visiting ministers recently were Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago). May God bless them for serving us.

On March 5, Myron Rumbold (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie Rumbold) and Lori Schrock (Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock, Congerville) were united in holy matrimony.

On March 3, Brandon Lee Baer was born to Sis. Deann and Bro. Ron Baer. Brandon is welcomed into the family by big brother, Marvin, and big sister, Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer and Bro. Ray Klumpp (Bradford).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Patsy Kaeb — Judy Luginbuhl

"When you lay in bed unable to sleep, instead of counting sheep, talk to the Shepherd." This thought was recently expressed over the pulpit. It is so timely in this fast-paced world we live in. It truly has a calming effect when we can tell our heavenly Father our fears and concerns, commit them unto His care and trust that His will be done.

We rejoice with Doris Fischer who has sought the Lord in repentance. She is the daughter of Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Fischer.

Heidi Steffen and Kevin Weber have announced their engagement and are planning a spring wedding. Heidi is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Steffen and Kevin is the son of Clyde and Lucille Weber (Trevor, WI).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda's son, Mitch Steffen, is also engaged to Annmarie Millnamow (Elgin). They plan a summer wedding. Annmarie is the daughter of John and Pat Millnamow (Elgin). We extend our sincere congratulations to these two couples and pray God will richly bless their lives together.

Our monthly hymn sing was held February 28. We enjoyed having the

Princeville choir and a group of our Sunday school children with us. We thank them for sharing with us.

March 7 was our annual church housecleaning. Many loved ones came to help with the cleaning that seemed to get done in record time.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand and their two children have moved to Fairbury. We miss having them assemble with us, but sincerely wish them God's richest blessings in their new home. Their address is R.R.1, Fairbury, IL 61739.

The Lord has granted Bro. Orville and Sis. Priscilla (Eisenmann) Martin 50 years together as husband and wife. They have four children: Bro. Kaywin (Detroit, MD), Sis. Sandy Hohulin (Sam, Lexington, IL), Dale (Winston-Salem, NC) and Glen (Benson, IL).

Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) was here March 11 to conduct our Bible study. We thank Bro. Bob for serving us so well.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Ida Fischer and Bro. Ray Rechkemmer, whose sister, Sis. LaVina Ott (Goodfield) died February 19.

Our congregation was very saddened by the death of Scott Zimmerman, the 17-year-old son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Madlyn (Widmer) Zimmerman. Scott had one sister, Sis. Tammy, and two brothers, Bro. Robert and Bro. Stanley. His paternal grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Fanny Zimmerman. Our hearts go out to this dear family and we extend our deepest sympathy.

Those loved ones who were in the hospital this past month were Sis. Marjorie Luginbuhl, Sis. Pat Sauder, Bro. Les Fischer, Sis. Fanny Zimmerman, Sis. Emma Blunier and Kathryn Kempf. It is our prayer that each one will be healed and restored according to His will.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker became grandparents February 14 when Nathan Michael was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker (Dunlap).

Travis Wayne is the new son born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman March 10. Ryan is happy to have a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachel Leman and Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler (Milford, IN).

Kaleb Andrew was born March 11 to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr (Morton). He has an older sister, Rebekah. Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Hangartner and Bro. Rich and Sis. Madlyn Fehr

(all of Roanoke) are Kaleb's grand-parents.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Carolyn Bolliger — Marsha Koch

"We welcome now the Hero, Who lay in calm repose, For over death He triumphed and from the grave He rose."

"Christ the Resurrected"
 Zion's Harp #121

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Leroy Huber (Eureka) for bringing God's Word to us. May God bless these brothers for their labors.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Alex Paton (Morton) to Sis. Diane Steiner. Their parents are Don Paton (Peoria) and Donna Martin (Morton) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner. We wish them God's guidance and blessings.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Phyllis (George) Lang on the passing of her mother, Sis. Lorraine Herman (Tucson, AZ). Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Ed Sauder and Bro. Willis Sauder at the death of their sister, Sis. Emma Sauder (Restmor Nursing Home). May God's Holy Spirit comfort them and their families.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan Huette are new parents of Gaylen Jay born February 27. His brother, Bradley, welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette and Sis. Alma Bolliger (the late Bro. Jay). We wish them God's guidance in rearing their children.

Sis. Marcella (Joe) Steiner had surgery and we are thankful that all went well and she is home again.

Bro. Reuben Schweigert is at Restmor Nursing Home for a time. We wish him God's blessings.

Tremont hosted ACYF two Sundays in February. We thank the Bible classes and leaders for the blessed evenings.

Sis. Emma Springer wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with cards, gifts, visits and prayers. We hope she is soon well enough to come home.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Carol Schick

This past month the Washington congregation has had many opportunities to come together for fellowship

and to praise and thank our heavenly Father.

February 21 the Mortonaires and their families joined us for a hymn sing and fellowship.

March 5 many parents that currently home-school their children and any other interested parties met to organize their activities into a more structured unit. Then, on Sunday, March 6, these parents and their children joined us for services and a church potluck.

On March 9, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) gave a precommunion service. We always count it a joy to have Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma visit our congregation.

On March 11, Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) held a Bible study on loneliness. His talk was very beneficial to all in attendance. We hope he and his wife enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed having them.

March 11 was a special day for Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr as they became proud parents of a baby boy. Kaleb Andrew was welcomed home by his sister, Rebekah. The grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn Hangartner (Roanoke) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Madlyn Fehr (Roanoke).

On March 13, we enjoyed visiting minister, Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), as he allowed himself to be used as a humble servant of God both in the morning and afternoon services. It was truly a blessing to have him and his wife, Sis. Mary, with us for the day.

March 18 begins the Mennonite Relief Sale in Peoria and Washington church is responsible for serving tables for the evening meal. May God bless each volunteer and may He help each of us to always think of ourselves as His servants, nothing more.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Martha Fritz. Her brother, Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was recently called home to receive his reward. May God comfort Sis. Martha and her family at this time.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jean Moser — Becky Isch

We prayed to God for the addition of a brother to assist in the ministry and He blessed us with two. We are thankful for Bro. Gerald (Sis. Diann) Tonner and Bro. Ron (Sis. Linda) Kipfer as they, through the Holy Spirit, minister the Word of God. May we always remember these brothers in our prayers as they labor for the Lord.

Three precious souls have sought the way of salvation, given their testimonies, and were added to the fold Sunday, February 28. We welcome Bro. Nick Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Kristi Heyerly (Bro. Von and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Amy Cook (John and Marcia) into our loving family of God. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for being with us on this special day. Let us pray that many more would heed His loving call.

Mike and Lisa Mann welcomed their first daughter, Erika Lauren, into their home. They also have two sons, Tyson and Seth. The happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister.

On February 19, a daughter, Regan Leigh, was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel. She will join a sister, Rachelle, and two brothers, Jeremy and Rodney. The grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel and Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia Steffen became first-time parents February 20 with the birth of Amber Nicole. Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen and Mr. and Mrs. George Dunwiddie are her grandparents.

Other first-time parents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Janice Ringger, gave birth to a son, Anthony Ray, born February 23. Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger and Sis. Irene Steffen are the happy grandparents.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger on the birth of another grandchild, Brooks Alan Beer, born February 24 to Bro. Sam and Sis. Rachel Beer (Milford).

A son, Chase Mathew, was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. June Fiechter March 4. His two brothers, Jason and Nick, welcome him along with his grandparents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine Fiechter and Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber.

A second daughter, Savanah Lee, was born March 16 to Ron and Lila Gerber. She joins a sister, Sarah, and grandparents, Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber and Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger.

As new little ones are born, so also the time comes when we must say goodbye to this world. A resident of Swiss Village, Arthur Scharlach, 90, passed away February 19. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Elizabeth (Meyer), and his family and friends.

After returning from a trip to Florida, Bro. William Steffen passed away suddenly March 7. We extend our sympathy and love to his wife, Sis. Sarah, and his children, Marjorie (Warren) Schladenhauffen, Sis. Leota (Glen) Reinhard and Bro. Russell (Alice) Steffen, and grandchildren.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Ella Yergler (Bro. John), Sis. Bertaline Reinhard (Bro. Richard), Sis. Esther Geisel (Bro. Olen), Bro. Ramon Stoller (Sis. Flossie), Lloyd Fiechter (Pauline), Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall), Sis. Beulah Clark (Bro. Richard) and Regan Leigh Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori).

On March 6, Bro. Dean Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann) and Sis. Julia Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane) were united in holy matrimony at Bluffton North. May God bless them in the days and years ahead.

This month's topical Bible discussion was on "The Life of David and How It Applies To Our Lives Today". We want to thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) for being with us. We were blessed by his message.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23-24

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Lois Drayer — Debbie Aeschliman

With the coming of Spring, we can see the flowers coming up, the trees budding, and hear birds singing. In this world with our hectic schedules, we should:

Slow down and smell the roses on your busy, active day.

Slow down and breathe their fragrance, where they grow along life's way.

Take a minute of your lifetime to enjoy a pretty bloom,

Pick a rose from nature's garden. It will brighten up your room.

Be not haste in all your doings as you hurry through the day.

But enjoy what God gives freely; Smell the Roses while you may.

Bill Carr

As we look at the beauty of the world, let us not forget that God gave His only Son to die for us upon the cross.

We are grateful for visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford), and

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) who have shared God's Word with us this past month. We give our heartfelt thanks to the brothers and their families and hope they will soon return.

May many blessings go with Bro. Dean Tonner (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Diann Tonner, Bluffton) and Sis. Julie Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger) as they exchanged wedding vows March 6. "There is beauty all around when there's love at home."

Nicholas and Bryan are happy for their new little sister, Javon Nichole, born February 18 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Steffen. Grandparents are Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber and Bro. Sherm and Sis. Lucille Steffen. Won't it be nice that Javon will have two big brothers to look up to as she grows up?

Our sympathies go to Bro. Glen and Sis. Leota Reinhard in the loss of her father, Bro. William Steffen (Sis. Sarah, Bluffton). To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2.

Loved ones who have spent time in the hospital are Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa). May the Lord watch over and comfort them.

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

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

Zion's Harp #89

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

It is always a joy to hear of new babies. Edwin and Mary B. Gutwein are happy grandparents as their son, Loren, and his wife, Sandy, gave birth to a girl named Ashley Renee, born February 12. Ashley has one brother, Brandon, to welcome her home. Loren and Sandy live in St. Marys, OH.

Our congregation is happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Randal Wuethrich and Sis. Stephanie Baum. Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola Wuethrich are their parents. Sis. Stephanie and Bro. Randal plan to be united in marriage July 17. We wish

them God's divine direction and wonderful blessings.

A dear couple was united in marriage March 4. Tammie Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer) is the wife of Samuel Nava. Samuel's parents are Jose and Yolanda Nava (Cuernavaca, Mexico). May our heavenly Father bless Tammie and Samuel and keep them always in His care.

On February 20, our dear Bro. Lee and Sis. Velda Overmyer were honored by their children and grandchildren for their golden wedding anniversary at the Parkview Haven Retirement Home.

We've had four hospital patients this month. Sis. Minerva Wuethrich underwent major surgery but is home now feeling well. Sis. Verna Stedman and Sis. Esther Rapp (both from Parkview Haven) were hospitalized. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein's daughter, Sandra, had ear surgery but is recovering well.

We want to thank this month's visiting ministers, Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH).

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who remembered us with cards and gifts of love for our golden wedding anniversary. We especially want to thank all those who lovingly put stitches in our beautiful friendship quilt. May God bless each of you for your kind remembrance.

Lee and Velda Overmyer

In all humbleness, I wish again to offer my heartfelt and sincere thanks, first to our loving and kind Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ; to my dear family of sisters and brothers; to my dear nephews and nieces; a special thanks to Dr. and Mrs. George and Mrs. Lynn Winslow, who helped to care for me in the hospital; also to Bro. Ken Wuethrich who took time out to visit me there; and last, but not least, for my beloved church family for their love, prayers and kindness shown to me through calls, cards, flowers, etc. received during my recent illness. Many, many thanks to all, and God bless all of you.

Humbly,

Sis. Minerva B. Wuethrich

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

We appreciated the efforts of visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ed Frank (La-Crosse, Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North) and Ron Heininger (Bloomington-Normal).

We enjoyed several opportunities for fellowship this month. Thirteen families visited Francesville for a recent weekend. Some of us travelled to Leo to help in construction of a new children's home unit. Young singers from Francesville came to be with us Palm Sunday. Our Sunday school presented their Easter program Good Friday. We shared breakfast Easter Sunday after an early church service.

Some of us did not have the benefit of believing parents, nor did we have the additional blessing of growing up within this precious fellowship. Therefore, in this and future columns, I want to express appreciation for some of the Apostolic Christian Church traditions which encourage and assist our Christian walk.

Separated seating at worship, though now uncommon in contemporary society, has been practiced in our denomination for over 140 years. Although there is no specific Biblical teaching regarding seating arrangements, the Bible teaches reverence, order and fellowship in the household of faith.

During worship, we should leave the cares and concerns of daily life aside. Separate seating allows us to focus on spiritual matters and reduces the natural distractions we might have sitting next to a spouse or romantic interest.

In addition, sitting next to brethren we may not know well, brings us closer together, with a resulting deeper fellowship. We can reach out across the age gaps and our tendencies of shyness to comfort, console, share and enjoy.

Especially merciful is the opportunity for those of us "alone" in life (widow, widower, unmarried) to come to church and not be reminded of our "aloneness". Because of separate seating, we can blend into one fellowship and develop closer bonds among the congregation.

Separate seating also enhances the beauty of harmonious singing. A cappella singing requires personal concentration, cooperation and encourages unity of the spirit.

The custom of men and women separately seated has proven to be a wise and compassionate practice. It contributes to order in worship. It creates a wider, deeper fellowship. It expresses compassion towards widows, singles and those alone in life. It enhances reverent singing. It is a mark of distinction in our church!

(More insights into the custom of

separate seating can be found in the pamphlet entitled "Separated Seating" published by the Apostolic Christian Church.)

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Sandy Heinold

Although we do not know what the future holds for any of us, we're thankful that God holds the future. Our thoughts and prayers are with Donald Ailes (John and Carol) and her family at this time as they recently learned that she has Hodgkin's disease. May they feel God's nearness and love as they face whatever lies ahead. Since no one has a promise of tomorrow, let's ask God's help to make the most of today.

Spring is the time for new beginnings. We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Owen Gudeman (Bro. Donald and Sis. Mary) and Ron Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet) have felt a need to make a new beginning in their spiritual lives. May God supply their every need as they turn their backs on the world and seek His will through repentance.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

It surely is a blessing to hear our children tell us of the Easter story in verse and song. We can never thank God enough for what He has done for us, but we can show our appreciation by living for Him.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Gina Huber

Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) were with us to share God's Word this month. It was so good to be reminded of how we need to care for one another's needs and pray for each other. The Lord really does have a purpose for each of His children and will give the needed grace to fulfill that purpose.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

Another Easter Day will have come and gone before this goes to print. May its beauty and glorious promise go on blessing you!

"O wondrous thought—the resurrected Christ still lives;

He lives all glorious in the realms above!

He sheds abroad His spirit into hearts of men.

'Tis He who lives, and reigns, and intercedes and loves."

(Taken from 'His Last Week' by the late Bro. Henry Beer)

Sis. Carla Fritz (Bro. Jeff) is enjoying better health again after a period of hospitalization.

Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) ministered to our congregation recently. The latter has been supervising the building project at the A.C.C.H.

With the arrival of spring, thoughts and hoe turn down the garden path. Following are some gardening hints:

Plant three rows of squash —

Squash gossip.

Squash criticism.

Squash indifference.

Plant three rows of peas —

Purity.

Patience.

Perseverance.

Plant six rows of lettuce —

Let us be unselfish and loyal.

Let us be faithful to duty.

Let us search the Scriptures.

Let us not be weary in well doing.

Let us be obedient in all things.

Let us love one another.

The garden is incomplete without turnips —

Turn up for church and Bible study.

Turn up with a smile even when things are difficult.

Turn up with determination to do your best for God's cause.

(Copied)

Bits of This and That:

"I asked, 'Why doesn't somebody do something?' Then I realized I was somebody."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sue Schieler — Marguerite Hoerr

As we look forward to the holy Easter season, we are reminded of the words in the hymn, written by Uncle Henry Beer, "'Tis not the babe, but Christ the Man, who walked in Galilee. 'Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

Some of our congregation spent heal-

ing time in hospitals this past month. They were Sis. Tina Lehman and little Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie).

Lorene (Martin) Stookey, daughter of Sis. Tina, fell and broke her shoulder and is spending needed time at home to recuperate.

Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler welcomed another addition to their family. Little Travis Wayne was born to their daughter, Sis. Julie, and son-in-law, Bro. Wayne Lehman (Roanoke). He is their second son.

Welcoming their first child, a little son named Brooks Alan, were Sis. Rachel and Bro. Sam Beer. Brooks was born February 24. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger (Bluffton). Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer are the paternal grandparents. May God bless little Brooks and his parents.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Eleanor Beer were honored with warm wishes from family and friends upon the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary at a reception February 28. They asked that the following expression of thanks be shared: "We sincerely want to thank each one who helped make our 50th anniversary special. The love shown, beautiful cards, gifts and good wishes will be cherished always. May God richly bless you for it."

In Christian love,

Howard and Eleanor Beer

Bro. Bob Hoerr was privileged to take part in a work project, sponsored by World Relief, in Juarez, Mexico. Heading the work team were brothers from Bluffton. Also helping were brothers from Remington and Bay City, MI.

Bro. Bill Loncor spent eight days on a similar project in Haiti. Accompanying him was a cousin from Mansfield, OH.

My family was saddened to lose a special aunt March 6. Irene Best, sister of my mother, Naoma Beer, was dearly loved by us all and we'll miss her friendly presence at our family gatherings. Surviving are her husband, Bill; daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Herb Simon (Indianapolis) and three grandchildren.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with

a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tension of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations . . . of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise that I may know that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well. Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Author Unknown

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). We sincerely thank them for their words of wisdom.

Our dear Sis. Emma Bahler recently suffered a slight stroke. She was in the hospital for about a week, but is now recovering at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. We miss her kind smile and gentle ways but are thankful the Lord is providing for her.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

"For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation."

II Corinthians 7:10

We are thankful that the Lord is still calling souls unto Him and that Dean Lehman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley) has answered that call. May he always feel that "The Lord, He is my shepherd true, who leadeth me securely; On pleasant pastures to and fro with joys and blessings surely." Zion's Harp #116.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. El and Sis. Mae Schumacher and to Sis. Pauline Laidig upon the deaths of their brother and brother-in-law, John Laidig, February 18, and their sister and sister-in-law, Minnie Zeltwanger, March 11.

Our sympathy also goes out to Sis.

Helen Martin whose brother, John Englehart, was called from this life February 24. May God fill the voids in their lives as only He can do.

As we experience both sunshine and rain in our lives, so joy is interspersed with sorrow.

Bringing joy to the home of Bro. Pat and Sis. Annie Meyer and little Amanda is their sweet eight-week-old foster baby, Jennifer. May God grant them much love, wisdom and patience in caring for His little ones.

Mother's Day is fast approaching. An author wrote —

There's a kind of love that listens,
That understands and cares.
A kind that helps and teaches,
And gladly gives and shares.
There's a kind of love that comforts
And cheers you like no other;
It's the special kind of love
Of a praying Christian mother.

Author Unknown

May we as mothers and fathers earnestly seek the Lord's help and guidance in raising our children, for "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

Psalms 127:3

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Beth Heinold — Trish Bucher

With spring approaching, we tend to become busier, and seem to have less time for the things that really matter. May we keep in perspective . . .

"THE WORLD WOULD BE A NICER PLACE IF WE TRAVELED AT A SLOWER PACE"

Amid stresses and strains
Much too many to mention
And pressure-packed days
Filled with turmoil and tension,
We seldom have time
To be "Friendly of Kind"
For we're harassed and hurried
And always behind
And while we've more "gadgets"
And "buttons to press"
Making leisure hours greater
And laboring hours less,
And our standards of living
They claim have improved
And "repressed inhibitions"
Have been freed and removed,
It seems all this progress
And growth are for naught,
For daily we see a world more
distraught.

So what does it matter

If a man reaches his goal
 "And gains the whole world but loses
 his soul"

For what have we won
 If in gaining this end
 We've been much too busy
 To be kind to a friend,
 And what is there left to make the heart
 sing
 When life is a cold and mechanical
 thing
 And we are but puppets
 Of controlled automation
 Instead of "joint heirs"
 To God's gift of creation."

Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) were our visiting ministers this month. May God richly bless them for their efforts of love.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp — Lynell Blume

On February 28, we heard the engagement announcement of our Sis. Melinda Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) to Bro. Lee Rufener (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas, Smithville, OH). We will surely miss Sis. Melinda, but rejoice with them, believing it is God's perfect will. May they experience the fullness of God's love and blessings as they take this step in faith.

On February 28, we were also blessed with two visiting ministers. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) both gave of themselves that we might be edified by the Word of God. We thank these brothers and believe God will richly bless them for their labors of love.

On March 17, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller were blessed with their first child, a precious baby girl. Natasha Lee is thankfully welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer (Wolcott) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller (LaCrosse). May God grant each of us grace and wisdom to train up our children in the way they should go.

Note: Wolcott's Silver Lining dues are to be paid in April. They are \$7.00.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES Rhonda Reker

This past month we were privileged to have Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) bring the Word to us here at Ames.

It was such a beautiful day to gather

together from far and near thanking God for His many blessings we enjoy in this life.

We hear a lot about quality every day so how good it is to spend quality time with those of like minds and faith. Our heavenly calling should never be taken lightly else we would become careless and or complacent.

April 10 and May 1 will be the next two dates for our service before summer break. We always welcome anyone who would be traveling through this area.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner — Karen Schulz

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers in our midst this past month. Because of the elder conference in Oakville, we had several elders with us for Friday evening and Sunday services. They were Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH). It certainly was a blessed week to have so many elder brethren in our midst. We really enjoyed the fellowship we had working together to provide for their physical needs during the conference. Often, we don't consider the magnitude of their labors in the service of the Lord. May we ever strive to make their labors easier by our obedience and prayerful support.

Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) were also with us on a Wednesday night recently.

Our dear Sis. Tillie Frank will be moving to live with her daughter in Central City (near Iowa City church). We will miss her ready smile and spiritual conversation. May the Lord continue to bless her in her new home.

We are thankful the Lord watched over Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leola Heininger on their winter trek to Zapata, TX, and led them safely back into our midst.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

"For lo, the winter is past . . . , The flowers appear on the earth; The time of the singing of birds is come . . ."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

What a blessing, to again witness this miracle of the rebirth of nature.

The thought recently came to me, how wonderful it would be if we could say as Jesus was able to say, "I do always those things which please Him" (John 8:29). But instead, don't we find ourselves saying, as the Apostle Paul, "For the good that I would I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:19). But let us strive unto perfection as we remember also these words of our Lord, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. (II Corinthians 12:9).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Glen and Sally Funk

Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), his wife and son visited us in March. Along with ministering to us, Bro. Walter brought a carload from Princeville, IL, providing us with a full day of fellowship.

A brother recently was relating to me how he was having ear problems and didn't go to church on a cold Wednesday evening. The following week his ears were still bothering him, and he felt like staying home again. As he got up from the supper table, a songbook nearby dropped to the floor and fell open to "Faithfulness in Small Things." He felt an overwhelming conviction that the Lord was speaking to him.

I haven't been able to get this story off my mind. There are so many small things that we neglect because of other priorities or demands. We feel it's just a small thing that no one will notice. But those small things soon become big problems if we are not faithful! They may not seem like something spiritual, but they will eventually affect our spiritual life if we are not doing our duty faithfully in small things.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

We are enjoying the signs of God's power to again awaken the earth with spring. How encouraging it is to be reminded that He is indeed in control of all things.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Scott Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL), a brother to our Bro. Stan Zimmerman. We pray for God's nearness to his family members.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). We thank them for serving us in the way the Spirit directs.

IOWA, LESTER**Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch**

This past weekend, March 12, our congregation hosted the annual western World Relief meeting. We were so lovingly and informatively reminded of the various areas of need that are prevalent, not only in our communities but in poverty-stricken countries as well. Directives in God's Word remind us of our duties in these areas, and we pray that God will direct our hearts to give willingly of ourselves to those that are not as blest as we are.

We appreciated so much the many visitors that traveled long distances to be with us. New friendships were formed and old acquaintances renewed. God fulfilled our spiritual needs by directing seven ministering brothers to attend the meeting on Saturday, and then bring God's Word to us on Sunday. With us were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Vernon Le-man (Eureka, IL), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. William Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Arthur Bauer (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). May God richly bless each one as they follow God's will and are directed by His Spirit.

Bro. Nathan Knobloch, Sis. Shirlee DeHaan (John and Sis. Ione), Sis. Emma Feucht (Bro. Carl) and Sis. Marlys Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn) have submitted to surgery this past month. Medical patients were Sis. Barbara Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna), Sis. Dawn Knobloch (Bro. Stan) and Todd Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce).

God has answered many prayers in behalf of these loved ones and we are thankful to report His healing powers have been with each one. May we prayerfully and patiently wait upon the Lord as His plans for each life are perfectly fulfilled.

Easter is approaching and once again our inner and spiritual thoughts travel to Calvary's Hill where so many years ago our precious Savior gave His life for each one of us. That supreme sacrifice is as real today as it was then and His blood continues to cleanse and purify hearts that are filled with sin. Thanks be to God for the grace that is sufficient to bring us to our knees and take us to the foot of the cross of Calvary.

What better time or more beautiful season,

What greater occasion or more wonderful reason

To kneel down in prayer and thank God above

For eternal life, the gift of His Love —
For in sending His Son to be crucified
He granted man life because His Son died —

So at this glad season when there's joy everywhere

Let us meet our Redeemer at the altar of prayer.

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Debbie Wagenbach**

We were privileged to have the Burlington brethren gather with us the evening of February 27 for the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed in these duties.

Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) have recently brought forth the Word of Life in our assembly. Also, Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) visited our congregation and lent themselves in the Lord's service.

The Easter season will soon be upon us and by the time this is published it will once again be over. It's such a sad situation to look out into the world and see the pagan beliefs so accentuated at this time of year. A true believer must look beyond the worldly "Easter Bunny" to the resurrection of our Savior, for in Him we shall glory eternally. One of our visiting elders recently laid this thought to our hearts. "Hope is like looking at the sun . . . the shadows are behind you." Let us look to the Son of God for then it is not nearly so difficult to put the shadows of this world behind!

IOWA, PULASKI**Sarah Teubel — Teresa Schock**

Who saved us from eternal loss?

What did he do?

Where is he now?

Hymns of Zion #187

May this Easter season help us once again to grasp more fully the answer to these questions.

During the past month we were blessed with Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) who ministered God's Word unto us. A Saturday evening singing was held for Bro. Lavoyd as he left for home Sunday noon. He told of how he was exposed to our faith by a brother who was originally from our Pulaski congregation.

We extend a welcome to Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and their three daughters, Jacki, Boni and Jodi, who have moved into our area and will now be a part of our congregation. May the Lord continue to direct their pathway.

IOWA, WEST BEND**Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart**

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest,
Which the Spirit doth bestow."

Zion's Harp #37

This was the theme of the memorandum which was shared with us February 20. We are thankful for the many kind and meaningful teachings to help us on this path of life. Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN), Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS). The same weekend God's will was revealed and the duties of ministry fell on Bro. Wayne Grimm and Bro. Pat Zaugg. May they always preach the gospel of salvation through His true Spirit. Our congregation sincerely feels appreciation and gives thanks to Bro. Earl Banwart and Bro. Noah Gerber who have patiently and kindly ministered the Word of God to us for many years. May God bless them now and much more in eternity.

Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) was with us this past month. We appreciate those who take time to come and bring us God's teachings.

We have several loved ones who have suffered illnesses, accident and have needed surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ernie Schmidt (Sis. Ida), Joe Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb), Bro. Jerry Schmidt (Sis. Judy), Bro. Silas Banwart, Mike Tapivica (Donna), and Wendal Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy). All of the afflicted of the past several months are appreciative of the thoughts, prayers and mail they received when not able to worship with us.

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

Psalms 34:19

Jerry Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) has entered the naval service and is stationed in San Diego, CA. We wish him God's blessings as he meets life's many challenges.

May we all experience a "spring-time" in our lives as we anticipate hearing the blessed story of the cross and then the glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Upward soar, my soul and spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross so bare and cold!
His compassion brought salvation
While He died in love untold.
That your Saviour loves you dearly
He upon the cross has proved,
Where in torments most severely
He from God was far removed.
In His anguish He must languish
For the sinful men He loved.

Hymns of Zion #236

JAPAN, SHIODA Kathy Kieser

As I walked home from kindergarten this afternoon, I was greeted cheerfully by several neighbors along the way. Isn't God good to provide communication for us? Many hearts are warmed and uplifted by a simple word of greeting and many deeper, inner conflicts are resolved through more involved discussions.

Through communication, we can also spread the joyful news of our Lord's resurrection after the cross and the grave. Our Sunday school children are practicing for the annual Easter program when they will proclaim the Easter story through singing.

April is the beginning of the school year here in Japan, so the end of March is a time to say goodbye to our graduates at kindergarten. Then on April 1, we plan to welcome new little students into our two-year program.

The Lord blessed Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle with a safe trip to and from the States this past February. We're thankful to have them back with us again.

May God bless Elder Bro. Akito Inoue for his efforts to travel from Tokyo to Shioda to preach the Word to us.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife, Sis. Lois, were with us for the first Sunday in March. We thank him for sharing the Word with us.

This was the beginning of a new plan for our ministers, Elder Bro. Akito Inoue, and Shioda's minister, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, to change churches once every other month. This gives both churches an opportunity to communicate with them that teach us in all good things (Galatians 6:6) and to know them which labor among us, and are over us in the Lord. May we always "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." (I Thessalonians 5:12-13).

When Bro. Willis was with us, he asked us what the resurrection means to us personally. One sister replied that it means "the grave has lost its meaning." Another sister responded, "Hope." As we pass this Easter season, may we each ponder on what Christ's death and resurrection mean to us individually.

Here, in Japan, our students are beginning a new school year in April. May God go with them as a protector of their hearts, souls and minds, helping them to remember what they've learned of Him.

KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb welcome Darcie Ione, born February 27. Jody and Derek are happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL).

On the evening of March 5 we gathered to hear Bro. Perry Klopfenstein tell of the history of our faith in America. We should be ever more thankful to God that He provided brethren of faith with such tireless zeal to found and establish churches across our country. We must certainly avail ourselves of this opportunity to share in the faith of our fathers.

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers! living still

In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Frederick W. Faber

The family of Bro. Alpha Strahm, Sr. wishes to extend their thanks to all who remembered them with expressions of sympathy and kindness, cards, letters and gifts of food at the time of Bro. Alpha's death.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Karen Sinn

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Little Anna Marie was born February 23 to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr. Because she was premature, she was taken to K. U. Medical Center in Kansas City. We hope she can soon come home. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr and Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Schrader (Lamont).

Logan Wesley was born March 8 to Bob and Jeanette Tice (Iola). He is welcomed home by big brother, Cody. Grandparents are Don and Shirley Tice and Steve and Sis. Gayle Robb.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr — Darcy Kisling

My Lord an offering do I bring
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

O now, my Savior, do Thou take
My heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,
Within Thy fold divine.

Zion's Harp #163

We had our cup of joy filled to overflowing recently as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our precious new sister-in-faith, Lydia Circle. We are so very thankful that our merciful Father is still holding the door of grace open, and deeply, fervently pray that many might yet enter before the door is closed, and their only hope of eternal life is thus lost forever.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,

There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

May the family of our dear Bro. Joe Aberle, who fell asleep in the arms of the Lord he loved so dearly, find comfort in the knowledge that Bro. Joe is where he most wanted to be, forever with His Lord.

With Easter just a few weeks off, let's remember to keep Christ in Easter as we try to keep Christ in Christmas. Let's put aside the worldly commercialism, and walk the way of the cross to calvary, where the only "reason for this season," Jesus Christ, bled and died to save a sinsick world. Then, when all hope seemed gone, He conquered death and arose, as those who are His own, will arise to eternal life in Christ. Oh, how blessed we are, and how thankful we should be for such undeserved love.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

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

John 3:16

We enjoyed having Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) minister unto us this month. May God bless him and Sis. Viola for their visit and labor of love.

Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy Schrader were two-time grandparents this month. Their twin daughters, Sis. Maria and Marla, gave birth to daughters six days apart. Mike and Marla Gaddard became parents of Brenna Nichole February 17 and Sis. Maria and Bro. Jerry Bahr became parents of Anna Marie February 23. Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr (Fort Scott) are the paternal grandparents.

Melvin Young was admitted to an Emporia hospital with a heart problem and was moved to Wichita for more extensive tests. We wish him God's nearness and grace and a speedy recovery.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

I Peter 4:7 & 8

As we see our enemy feverishly working in this last time to destroy the church, let us disrupt and crush his designs with a firm, unfeigned love of one another. With God's grace, may we quench the gossip, the desire for pre-eminence, the unforgiving spirit, the heady self-will, and the imaginations which spring up and drive wedges.

"Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification."

Romans 15:2

We have had many things to be thankful for this past month. Several visiting ministers were with us. They were Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY) and Bros. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS).

We are grateful to Bro. Perry Klopfenstein and his wife and family for making the effort to visit our community. We gathered at Bern to hear of the faith and perseverance of many who preserved this faith we love.

Todd and Jana Gruber were blessed with Megan Jo January 18. Their first child brings joy to her grandparents, Clemens and Sis. Marjorie and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gruber (Morrill, KS).

Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sis. Jeanette) and Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald) were hospitalized for tests and surgery, respectively, and are now at home. Sis. Lydia Wenger continues to be hospitalized at this writing and Sis. Hulda Bieri was released from hospital care to take up new residency at the Fountain Villa Nursing Home. May God, who provides for the smallest sparrow, abundantly care for them.

Our retired ministering Bro. Joseph Aberle left this earthly care March 10 to brighter things above. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Mary, and his children, Esther Novy (Simi Valley, CA), Bro. Richard (Altadena, CA), Douglas (Simi Valley, CA), Sis. Judy (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Stephen.

The family of Bro. Joseph Aberle wishes to thank each one who remembered them with cards, flowers, prayers

and telephone calls. Everyone was so kind and considerate. It truly was comforting to them in their sorrow.

THE PARSON'S PRAYER

I do not ask
That crowds may throng the temple,
That standing room be priced,
I only ask that as I voice the message,
They may see Christ!

I do not ask
For churchly pomp or pageant,
Or music such as wealth alone can buy.
I only ask that as I voice the message,
He may be nigh!

I do not ask
That men may sound my praises
Or headlines spread my name abroad,
I only pray that as I voice the message,
Hearts may find God!

I do not ask
For earthly place or laurel,
Or of this world's distinctions any part,
I only ask when I have voiced the
message,
My Saviour's heart!

Ralph S. Cushman

Note: April is collection month for Sabetha.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Ministering Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and family members visited the Wichita congregation March 13. We thank them for remembering us here at Wichita.

Bro. Milton Bowers entered the hospital again this week for further tests. May the Lord bless him according to His will.

Our Bible study lessons are on the Life and Times of Abraham. Our present lesson explored God's promise to Abram as He said, "Do not be afraid, Abraham. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Genesis 15:1. We just need to remember that it is God who protects and rewards us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Juanita Gerst

Once again another month has passed on this earth. Each day seems to try to get a little warmer and each night the stars seem a little brighter. God's creation is so beautiful.

It is always a pleasure to have visit-

ing elders help our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen with church duties here. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) was willing to journey here to help in the sharing of the memorandum. The memorandum in ways is an admonition, but yet it is a letter through which we see the love of our elder brothers. It is their love for the churches, our precious faith and traditions that shines through this letter. May that love never change in our precious faith.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Pam Schlatter

We are thankful that souls among us have allowed the Spirit to search their hearts. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 139:23, 24. That search and willingness to allow God to lead them in an everlasting way has resulted in peace for Greg and Lynette Munsil (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Delores Munsel and Bro. Gary and Sis. Shirley Wright) and Nathan Wieland (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy).

Our congregation welcomes Marshall Rylance as a brother-in-faith. We rejoice with him in his new love of Christ and the brotherhood, and wish him many joys in his service for the King.

Sis. Tracy Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie) has moved from our congregation to Phoenix, AZ. May she be assured by the words of the hymn, "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go . . ." as she sets up her new residence and establishes new friendships.

Nickolas Hans was born February 27 to Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola Schlatter. May the miracle of birth strengthen our faith that God has the ability to make all things new. Grandparents are Bro. Waldimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Schlatter.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Donna Hartzler

Sis. Hilda Bauer wishes to thank all those across the land who remembered her with cards, visits, gifts, meals, telephone calls and prayers while she was in the hospital and at home recuperating from a broken hip. Your love and concern are a great comfort. She is now home making a satisfactory recovery.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis.

Judy Aberle and her family in the death of Sis. Judy's father, Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We have pleasant memories of Bro. Joe's visits to our congregation and his service in ministering the true Word of God.

The weekend of March 19 and 20 was a special one. Bro. Floyd Wieland has retired from the ministry, and many of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda's relatives and loved ones were with us Saturday evening for singing and fellowship, and Sunday for a blessed day of worship and a church supper. We thank visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Joe Waibel and Bro. Bill Waibel for being with us. We offer a special thanks to Bro. Floyd for his many years of faithful service in ministering God's Holy Word.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Carol Strassheim

We are still experiencing the cold and snow of winter and look forward to the warmer spring. Spring reminds us of the way God can work in our lives and restore and refresh us. The miracle of the seasons, and the beauty that they bring — the matchless grace, the wondrous love, of my Master and my Friend.

We felt the love of God as Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris) brought us the Gospel message on his visit here. We sincerely thank him for his love.

On March 13, our dear Bro. Richard Miller, 79, passed away after an extended illness. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Beatrice, and to his family. He has a brother, Bro. Noah, of our congregation, and three sisters, Sis. Carrie Messner, Sis. Florence Messner and Sis. Pearl Linneman (all of Winthrop). He was loved by all of us as he served the Lord so willingly.

The strife is over . . . "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain . . . Behold, I make all things new."

Revelation 21:3-5

In remembrance of our loving mothers for Mother's Day.

WHY GOD MADE MOTHERS

God knew that everybody needs

Someone to show the way,
 He knew that babies need someone
 To care for them each day . . .
 He knew they needed someone sweet
 To soothe their baby cries,
 To teach them how to walk and talk,
 And sing them lullabies . . .
That's why God made mothers.

He knew small children need someone
 To lend a guiding hand,
 To answer all their questions
 And to smile and understand,
 Someone to read them storybooks,
 To teach them wrong from right,
 To show them wonderful new games,
 And hear their prayers at night . . .
That's why God made mothers.

And then throughout their childhood
 years,
 God knew that children need
 Someone to smile at them with pride,
 Encourage each new deed.
 As they grow up and all their lives,
 God knew that everywhere
 All children need a mother's heart
 To understand and care,
And that's why God made mothers.

"Children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalms 127:3. Welcomed into the home of Darcy and Rachael Kent is Brooke Rachael. New grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt.

Medical patients this past month were Gene Schmidt and Sis. Carrie Messner. Gene is at home again and on the road to recovery. Sis. Carrie is now residing at the Winthrop Care Center, 506 High Street, Winthrop, MN 55396. She has spent many years with her daughter, Florence, and Sidney Gutknecht. May God be with each of them as they adjust to changes in their lives.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

God called our dear Sis. Helen Joos (Bro. Carl) home after an extended illness. Our heartfelt sympathy and compassion goes out to Bro. Carl and his daughters, Sis. Carole (Bro. Bob) Haas, Judy (Roger) Hemming, both of Willcox, AZ, Rhonda (Mick) Asmus of Morris, and their families. Also to her five brothers, Bro. Ben, Emil and Otto of Hancock, Bro. Robert and Bro. Howard of Cissna Park, IL, and her three sisters, Sis. Rose Eurich, Lydia Asmun of Elgin, IL, and Sis. Tillie Rudin of Cissna Park, IL. How fortu-

nate a people we are to have a Lord that has promised to comfort. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (St. Matthew 5:4). May this comfort continue to give peace to the heart.

Hospital patients this month have been, Bro. Carl Joos, Gwen Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Walter Griener and Sis. Madonna Moser. We petition the Lord's nearness for our beloved ones who have been ill.

Visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), who was here for Sis. Helen's funeral. May God richly bless him for his labor of love.

Bro. Leroy Wulf has moved to Oakville, IA. We will miss him here in our congregation, but we wish him God's blessing in his new home.

At Eastertime, we are reminded of what our loving Saviour did for us when He was nailed upon the cruel cross and shed His precious blood for one and all. His crucifixion demonstrated God's love for all of us and His resurrection made victory over death possible. Our faith would be in vain without a risen Christ, and we should thank God for the wonderful plan each and every day.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due in April.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Linda Ziegenhorn

In February, the Tremont young group spent the weekend with us. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. When they left, the snow was flying, and there was an accident. One of the sisters from Kansas City drove past the accident and recognized the cars but was unable to stop. When she got home, she made a few phone calls, and soon the prayers were flying as fast as the snow. God heard our prayers. Bro. Mike Stickling (Tremont, IL) was injured and taken to the hospital, but released the next day and was able to continue on home. We've heard that he is doing fine. What a comfort it is to know there is One we can call on in times like these who hears and answers prayers.

Sis. Diane Smith is recovering from surgery on her wrist. She's found out how much easier it is to take care of two lively boys with two hands instead of one!

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe Farny, who is now recovering from a heart attack which put him in the hospital.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti — Carol Braker

What a joy it is for our congregation to greet five precious souls as brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. We were privileged to hear the testimonies of Sis. Karen Taylor (Joplin, MO), Sis. Jodi Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary), Bro. Calvin Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn). We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new life living for Christ.

We were blest with several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) were our willing servants. May God reward them for their efforts on our behalf.

February 27 was the wedding day of Martin Hohulin, Jr. (Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith) and Marilyn Leonard (Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Leonard, Fort Scott, KS). We wish them blessings in their marriage.

Walt Cordill is a hospital patient. We hope he'll soon be feeling better.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol Braker welcome a new baby boy, Evan Joseph, into their home. Mindy and Darin are enjoying a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker (Lamar) and Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka, IL). May God give all of us as parents the wisdom we need to bring our children up in the fear of the Lord.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers to St. Louis were Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS). We thank them and their families for coming to serve us.

The size of our group varies greatly from Sunday to Sunday, depending on the number of people accompanying the minister. As summer approaches, we anticipate larger groups again as more people are here on vacation. Please feel free to call us if you are planning to be in the area and could use help in arranging lodging. (314) 878-9251.

A group from Bluffton, IN, came March 13 to visit the Gudemans, so

services were held even though we don't usually meet the second Sunday. The brothers had been together at Purdue University a few years back, so they enjoyed a reunion weekend.

We are thankful for a convert in our little church. Liz Schleiter, originally from the Chicago, IL, area, and a recent U. of I. graduate, started attending our services here several months ago. She had become acquainted with our church through several students who are members in Champaign-Urbana. This reminds us impressively of how important it is to let our light shine for all of those with whom we come into contact in our daily lives. The angels in heaven are rejoicing.

One of our ministers mentioned the word "appreciate" many times. It is good to be reminded to really appreciate every day what we have, to think of what God has done for us.

Another ministering brother related the story of how a dear older sister told him nearly every time she met him that she remembered him in her prayers, and what an encouragement it was for him. As the infirmities of age prevent our aging members from performing the many good works that they did faithfully for years, they have more time to pray. Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"SPRINGTIME GLORY"

"Flowers buried beneath the snow
Awakening again to live and grow —
Leaves that fell to the earth to die
Enriching the soil in which they lie —
Lifeless-looking, stark, stripped trees
Bursting with buds in the springtime
breeze

Are just a few examples of
The greatness of God's power and love,
And in this blaze of springtime glory
Just who could doubt the Easter story!"

Helen Steiner Rice

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 27:1. Renee Grimm (Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona) and Roger and Dianne Sutter (Sis. Charlene) have opened their heart's door and invited the Lord and Saviour to come in. May God bless them in this

most important step and we wish others, too, would "Haste and seek their soul's salvation" while the invitation is still going out.

Benji Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) was a hospital (medical) patient but is back in school doing very well. Little Darren Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) met with an accident while visiting in the Gridley area, resulting in a broken leg. He is now at home recovering well after surgery in a Bloomington, IL, hospital. May God extend His healing powers to all those who are experiencing accidents and illnesses.

We're happy to report that little "Phillip" who has been loved and cared for the first few months of his life by Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp has been blessed with adoptive parents. May God continue to bless all these dear people who give of themselves to provide for His little ones.

Congratulations and our best wishes go out to Cathy Massner and Craig Fritz who were married March 9 in Quincy. Cathy is originally from Detroit, MI, and is a niece of Sisters Emma Dee and Ruthie Hoerr.

Holy communion is planned for Saturday evening, March 19. We were reminded of the seriousness of partaking unworthily and exhorted to examine ourselves that we might be ready to partake of this holy sacrament. I Corinthians 11:27-29.

How would today change — if I knew there were no tomorrow?

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Sis. Minnie Farney was called from this life at the age of 98 years. Until about a year ago, Sis. Minnie was able to live in her own home, but for the last year she has been a resident of the Extended Care Facility in Lowville. We are thankful for the many years of her life in the Lord's service. Her husband, Bro. Julius, was taken from this life in 1955. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her son, Richard, and his family. She also leaves a daughter-in-law and family in California. Services were held March 3 by Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. Duane Farney. These comforting words were sung:

After the toil and trouble,
There cometh a day of rest;
After the weary conflict,

Peace on the Saviour's breast;
After the care and sorrow,
The glory of light and love;
After the wilderness journey,
The Father's bright home above.

We are thankful that Sis. Minnie did not suffer days of severe illness in this life. She is now safe in the Father's home above.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Pernal Virkler and Sis. Polly Grau and their families. Their brother, Gerald Farney, was taken from this life at his home in Ellington, CT. Services were held in Rockville, CT. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Bertha, and their family.

Bro. Seth Schulz was a hospital patient this month and we are glad he has been able to return home at this writing.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Mother's Day will soon be here, and we rejoice to remember mothers in a special way. Mothers in the Bible were remembered in a special way. The three major titles of the Son of God were first revealed to women. God told Eve that her seed would bruise the head of the serpent. When her son was born, Eve said, in Genesis 4:1, "I have gotten a man from the Lord", which in Hebrew says, a man child, even Jehovah. He was not the Jehovah Lord, but God had given her faith of the Jehovah Lord. The first mention of the "Anointed", or in Hebrew, the Messiah, was to the mother, Hannah, as she was giving a prophetic prayer. The first one to know the name of Jesus was the virgin Mary, as the angel told her: "... thou hast found favour with God... and shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:30, 31.

We appreciate Sis. Carol Gasser's diligence on the World Relief Sewing Committee. Her term is up and Sis. Lynell Palitto is the new helper for the committee.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) share God's Word with us. May God bless them for their efforts.

On February 26, precious Stacie Michelle was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Karen Laparo. Stacie is welcomed

home by Mike, Christy and Craig. May God's love continue to bless their home.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Revelation 4:11

We welcome everyone to come and worship our Creator with us. We meet at the Griswold Christian Academy, 860 Griswold Street, Worthington, OH. Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted Bro. Loren Stoller in the ordination services for our new deacon, Bro. Bill Schlatter. As the mantle of responsibility is placed on our brother, we wish him and Sis. Emily a special portion of God's Holy Spirit. Bro. Bill's parents are Sis. Juliet and the late Bro. Richard.

Serving us this month from the pulpit, in addition to our home brothers, were Bros. Gene Fetter (Toledo), Vic Bauman and Glen Riggensbach (Smithville) and Bill Brake (Sardis). What a privilege that these traveling brothers are willing to serve us, and bring us the Word from the same Spirit that works through our own servants.

Sis. Mary Manz has finished her course of faith and has gone on we believe to her reward. Having lived a life of service to others in Mansfield, Latty and here in Junction, what a blessing, what an answer to her loved ones' prayers that at 73 she was able to give her heart to God in repentance and to faithfully serve Him for nearly 16 years. Her family includes Sis. Anna Manz and Bro. Emmanuel Manz (both from Junction). In her funeral service we were told a story of how she would sit and talk seemingly to herself. When heard carefully she was repeating a short German prayer, "Come, Lord, Come" when translated to English. What a testimony that she was looking for a better home in heaven. It reminds us that we, too, are merely passing through this land and we all will take our last breath someday — maybe sooner than we think. Wouldn't it be nice if we were all ready and praying as she did, "Come, Lord, Come"?

Sis. Mary's family wishes to thank all who assisted and showed kindness

during her illness and death.

OHIO, LATTY
Rhonda Stoller
Marlene Reinhard

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

We are rejoicing with the news that four of our converts have found peace with God and man. They are Rick Plummer (Denise), Mark Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Kevin and Della Wenninger. We are looking forward to the weekend when we can come together and hear each dear soul's testimony of faith.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. III John 2.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Bobby Stoller (Brent and Jodi), Sis. Dolly Laukhuf (Bro. Merrill) and Sis. Clara Stoller.

"Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

We were sorry to hear of the death of Sis. Clara Sinn's sister-in-law, Sis. Minnie Zeltwanger (Bremen). Our prayers are with the Sinn family.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Proverbs 30:5

OHIO, RITTMAN
Diane Gasser — Stephanie Baltic

WHAT SHALL I DO TO BE SAVED?

O! What shall I do to be saved
 From the sorrows that burden my soul?
 Like the waves in the storm
 When the winds are at war.
 Chilling floods of distress o'er me roll.
 What shall I do?
 What shall I do?
 O! What shall I do to be saved?

J. W. Holman

Knowing what she must do to be saved, Julie Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl) answered the Lord's call to repentance. We wish Julie much grace and strength as she begins to walk the path that is strait and narrow. We are also thankful for those who can call upon the Lord in their later years of

life. Olga Soloninka, the sister of Bro. Mitchell Baltic, feels that she has peace with God and man.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller are the happy, first-time parents of a beautiful, little girl, Whitney Laine. Her proud grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

Those who were hospitalized this past month are Sis. Dorothy Stavenik (Bro. Ben), Bro. Neil Gasser (Sis. Donna), Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) and Audrey and Emil Baltic (children of Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty). May the Lord add His healing touch where it would be His will.

February 27 was the funeral of Sis. Louise Rake. She is survived by a son, Eugene; daughters, Bertha Bunt, Gilda Brumfield, Martha Barath and Shirley Webb; sister, Martha Mirman; 21 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

The infant twins of Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller died shortly after birth March 7. Surviving in addition to the parents are a brother, Jordan; grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle; several great-grandparents and a great-great-grandmother.

Bro. Fred Widmer went to his eternal rest March 12 at the age of 99. His sister, Sis. Elizabeth Widmer, and several nieces and nephews survive.

We extend our sympathy to the families who lost one of these loved ones. May the Lord comfort each one.

OHIO, SARDIS
Linda Indermuhle

The absence of older brethren in church is felt by all of us. At this time Sisters Willetta Indermuhle and Pearl Gehring and Bro. Paul and Gail Berger are not able to attend. We are comforted to know that God knows their needs and that they are well cared for in their homes.

Visiting us and bringing God's Word were Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kenneth Sauder (Manfield, OH) and Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). We were thankful to have the memorandum read and explained to us by Elder Bros. Eugene and Kenneth. "... Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you." II Corinthians 13:11.

Our community was saddened by the death of our neighbor and dear friend, Philip Geokler. He is survived by two sisters, Martha Lacava and Clara Stalder. Services were held March 9 at Rush Funeral Home by the ministering brothers of Sardis.

God is our refuge and our strength,
 A very present help indeed;
 He in the time of trouble sends
 His grace to meet our every need.

Hymns of Zion #4

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

Just as the nighttime shadows
 Were gently giving way
 To early morning sunrise
 At breaking of the day,

My God walked through the garden
 Through grasses cool and green;
 And everywhere I wandered,
 His gentle touch was seen.

He swept the earth with dewdrops;
 He woke the sleeping flowers.
 One word brought forth the sunshine
 To brighten morning hours.

He nodded to the bird life
 And they began to sing;
 The garden came alive with
 The breath of early spring.

Gone are the nighttime shadows,
 The gloom was cast away
 As God walked through the garden
 At the breaking of the day.

Georgia B. Adams

As God awakens the earth, to bring forth new life, may we be renewed in our spiritual lives and strive to serve Him evermore sincerely each and every day.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener have been blessed with a precious bundle from heaven. All are happy to welcome Deborah Renee, especially her sisters, Rebecca, Sarah, and Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener and Bro. Robert and Sis. Pauline Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT).

Little Jessica Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna) was hospitalized this month. We are thankful she is feeling better and able to be with us once again.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla

Our Sunday school classes are preparing to give their Easter program on Palm Sunday. They will bring to us an account of the resurrection of Jesus the Lord and Saviour of mankind. We look forward to hearing their poems, songs and Bible readings.

The weather of March is so unpredictable. We have a beautiful, sunny spring day and the next day may be windy and cold or even snowy. We would like to say "spring is here" and have it nice everyday, but it is not always that way. Our lives, like March, are much the same. We have good days when we feel everything is going well, and then, suddenly, problems, heartaches, tragedies, sadness and many other things may enter our lives. We really cannot depend on all fair weather in March or all fair weather in our lives which bring us to the realization that all that we can consistently depend on is God, if we stay close to Him in prayer.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus in sincerity."
Ephesians 6:24

OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Rocke — Brenda Knobloch

Christian love and greetings are sent to each of you! It is truly a very special privilege to share such sincere friendships with other brethren across the nation. There is a bond between believers like no other. As I think of each special person in many various congregations far and wide, some friends, some relatives, some who have lived in Oregon before, my heart warms and sometimes tears well up. It is love that unites our hearts close to one another and makes the many miles between us seem insignificant.

We enjoyed a very special weekend, March 6, with ministering Bro. Doug Schock and his wife, Sis. Clara, and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich (all of Pulaski, IA). These two couples flew out for a long weekend and were entertained at the coast by activities planned by the Silverton Sunday school children. Bro. Doug shared some special insights on "friendships" with the older Sunday school children and the single young members Saturday evening and then on Sunday, a potluck and singing was enjoyed by all.

This coming weekend, March 20, we

are anticipating a blessed time of meeting those who helped build our church cabin by the sea, called "Restless Surf". A reunion is planned for these couples from various congregations who put forth effort to make a dream come true. We appreciate their efforts so much, as the Oregonians truly enjoy Restless Surf, and are thankful to have a cabin close to God's mighty ocean. This cabin is also provided for any families, single members or vacation groups of our faith, who would like to visit the Oregon coast. It has 3 floors, 2 kitchens, 4 bathrooms and 5 bedrooms. Anyone interested in reserving it for several days or a week, please contact Sis. Pearl Miller, 7236 SE Mill Street, Portland, OR 97215, (503) 771-7834.

Thought For Today: An atheist cannot find God for the same reason a thief cannot find a policeman.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA

Jerry Isch

With spring upon us, we again have many things to look forward to, including pretty flowers, blooming trees, the fragrance of fresh cut grass and all the other things our Creator has given us to enjoy. Also, we look forward to our first baptism in our church. There is also the hope of new growth as another family looks forward to moving into our area.

We encourage anyone visiting our area to plan your trips so you can worship with us on Sunday or on Wednesday evening. We are now having church services every Wednesday evening at 8:00. Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m.

We wish God's comfort and healing on Franz Soni as he recovers from a recent surgery.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE
CHANGE FOR
WEST VIRGINIA
MEMORIAL SERVICE
June 19, 1988

Services will be held June 18, 1988, at the Sardis, OH, church at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 19, 1988, at the New Martinsville, WV, church at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call Delbert Indermuhle, 614-483-1520.

SILVER THREADS

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill.
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't quit.
Life is difficult with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about.
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.
It's when things seem worst that you **MUST NOT QUIT.**

"For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

Sermon . . .

(Continued on Page 27)

filled with envy." Acts 13:45. Why were they filled with envy? Because they took stock and pride in the fact that they were the chosen people. They were the first chosen of God and they became jealous when the message was to be spoken to the Gentiles. They became stiff-necked, hard of heart, and wouldn't listen.

"Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God." Acts 13:43. They had heard the message, weren't really included, but wanted to hear more. It pricked their ears and they loved to hear that message of the salvation of God through Christ. They persuaded Paul and Barnabas to come back the next Sunday and speak to them some more of the grace of God.

When it was spoken unto the Gentiles,

the Jews became envious and even contradicted and blasphemed the Word of God and Paul. They would lie about Paul and Barnabas. Their rejection was our justification, because it was through their denying that we were allowed to receive.

What a blessing that is today, for us to sit here and know that we are allowed to be a part of that plan of salvation.

Could it ever have been stopped? Wasn't it always meant for everyone from the beginning of time? Christ died upon the cross for everyone. But it was to the Jew first, then to the Gentiles. It was forecast that He would be rejected by His own. His own people who should have loved Him and followed Him no matter what, rejected Him. It is just as the Word says, "A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house." Mark 6:4.

When they saw Jesus walking upon the face of the earth, they said, "Is not this Joseph's son, the carpenter? Why should He be able to perform a miracle, give life, heal, or set free from sin? We saw Him as a babe in His mother's arms. He was our neighbor." So honor could not be cast upon Him because He was in His own country.

Yet, His rejection didn't cancel out the fact that He was the Son of God, even though He was born in their own neighborhood.

So it is that we find the Gentiles and many of the religious proselytes were persuaded to believe in Christ. Proselytes are people who have changed from one faith or belief to another. It is beautiful as we put the whole story together.

"... they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness." Acts 13:17, 18. Now why is that written that way, "suffered he their manners?" Let's go back and think about the "manners" of his own people that He set free.

He brought them out and set them free. They had been complaining and praying for about four hundred years to be set free from bondage from Egypt. When He set them free, they were only a day or two out in the wilderness and they started complaining again and wanted to go back.

They were living on manna which was given to them freely every morning. They got tired of eating the same

food day in and out.

Do we fit in that category? Do we complain because we get tired of this One Book? Maybe we get tired of hearing about salvation and Christ dying on the cross for our sins.

If we don't start at the beginning, we can't have an end in the Lord.

We should show thankfulness and thanksgiving and be able to apply it to our lives. We should be able to stand more fully and more faithfully. Can we just understand the basics of all these things and what we can miss if we reject it? That's how beautiful and how precious it is! How comforting it is in the day of need. Do we realize what we will miss if we just let it pass over us and let it escape?

"And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he divided their land to them by lot." Acts 13:19. Again we see God's hand in everything that took place. Now today we seem to think differently. We think that man is in control.

But one day, there will be a sound in the sky and we'll be drawn unto Him. We will forever be with Him in the clouds. We will join Him in the clouds and be forever with Him through all eternity.

But, what if we are left here and would see our wife or our children leave us? What if we would wake up one morning and they would be gone? When we realized what happened, then it would be too late.

A twinkling of an eye is far too quick to make a confession. I would dare anyone of you to try to make a confession of your sins and ask forgiveness of God in the twinkling of an eye. You cannot. It takes time to do that. If we wait until the eleventh hour, that might be too long.

Young people, you may say, "Well, we've heard this ever since we've been coming here and our fathers before us." But, as we have already heard, we are in a time now when we can hear the footsteps of Christ coming again. You may not have until you are twenty-one or thirty. Life can be terminated so quickly.

Christ can come again and call those who are His to be with Him, "Come now."

It's like the virgins who woke up and went out to get oil for their lamps. It didn't take long to go to the store and buy this oil. He had not come yet when they left, but when they got back, he

had already come and was gone. It was too late. They knocked on the door, but he wouldn't hear them because they were not of his. They had not the oil in their lamps. They didn't have the blood of Christ on their beam.

Think about the things that are written to us here. Think of how men condemned Him to death just because He came to set us free. He came and walked upon the earth. "And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain." Acts 13:28. Because He was truth and because of the plan of God, He came and walked upon the earth and pointed out their faults.

The Word of God or Christ Himself makes us feel guilty. It makes us feel condemned. But rather than yield as Peter, they became like Judas, ran and were not able to yield their life and make confession.

They wanted to take His life and they accomplished that. They took His life for a short time and placed Him in the bosom of the earth. But God, the Father, raised Him from the dead. (See Acts 13:30).

"And He was seen many days of them which came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses . . ." Acts 13:31. As we stand before you today, it is not just myth or folly. It is truth, because it was witnessed and seen of people who walked upon the face of the earth, people just like yourself.

They saw Him. They touched Him. They heard His Word. They saw the holes in His hands and His side because of His love for you and me.

Today we have opportunity. One more time we are assembled, believers and unbelievers alike that we might be drawn closer, one to another because of Him and because of the cross. We can have our lamps filled with oil. We can let this love flow from one heart to another, that unbelievers might be able to desire and want the fullness of the message.

We can pray for them that they would yield their lives today while it is the day of grace. Then if He should come today, every one in this room will spend eternity together with Him.

This is the plan of salvation. This is what Paul is rehearsing. May we die from all worldly thoughts and things and become as little children, so that we might enter into the presence of God for all eternity.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
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SERMON BY BRO. KARL WESTFALL OF FRANCESVILLE, IN

God's Love To Us Acts 13:16-52

Sometimes we have to "boil down" the Acts of the apostles, to see where you or I might apply them to our life in a helpful way.

We realize more fully what God has done for us, as we see one or more times the rehearsing of Christ's plan of salvation in giving His life so that each one of us might be saved. It is hard to stand before you and get away from that, because that is the essence of Christianity, of Spiritual life and of life itself.

Try to remember how I felt--how you felt--when we were yet walking in the ways of the world. Look at repentance and our new life in the Lord. The first and only place we knew to turn would be to fall down upon our knees in prayer, wherever we might be, to our great God. He is the Creator of heaven, earth, everything we see, everything that can happen to us, all that we are, and will be, and where we hope to go. Where did we get our strength from? I can hardly remember.

It is hard for me to remember what we took strength in before that time. How could we find the strength to believe that we could handle anything by ourself? Did we think that our own righteousness and strength might be sufficient to see us through?

Now there has to be those among us — if you have not been to the cross of Calvary, — who are still clinging to this thought. But let me assure you that if you are clinging to self-strength and righteousness, it just won't hold you up in the time of trouble. You will come face to face with the Lord and realize that your life is on the line.

That might be a little blunt and offend some of you, but that is just the way it is. You can't say it any other way. To lead you to believe that there is power in your own strength or that you could find your own salvation, would be

to deny the cross . . . and to deny the death of Christ. The fact is, "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. We have to tell you like it is.

I don't want any of you to be deceived by Satan into thinking that there is any other way except through the cross and through Christ, the Door.

So as we are seated here today, we should be thinking, "What is the plan of salvation all about, and why should I apply it to my life?"

We find Paul speaking to those who fear God. He said, "Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it." Acts 13:16, 17. In other words, He controlled their life, their actions, and the events that happened.

We only have to go back to the beginning of this Book, and we find the beginning of life. We turn to the end of it, and we see the end of life. He controls everything in between.

Then we have the audacity to sit and think that we can control part of it! It may just be a small part that has to do with this frame right here. We think we can control that but have to yield to the fact that we can't. To me, the hardest part was to admit that I was a sinner, I was lost and I couldn't handle something all by myself.

You can't handle it by yourself! There comes a time when there is no place else to turn. That will either be in this life when you find God's Word convicting you or after death. You will repent! You can mark my word. Every-one of us will repent one time or another.

After death, it is kind of late, because the door of grace will have closed. The accessibility of heaven is gone. The blood of Christ would no longer reach

out and cover sin in your life.

You will repent. You will be sorry at one time or another. If we haven't already repented and given our life to the Lord, we will have to deal with it some day.

What is beautiful is that today we can sit here, take it to heart and think about it. Prove me wrong. I'll be glad to apologize if you can find another way for your salvation. I am concerned that not one be lost and that everyone find access into the presence of God.

We know that this comes through repentance. There has to be a Godly sorrow for sin, just as He is the beginning of life.

We find them rehearsing here of how He led them out of the land of sin . . . the land of Egypt.

We can go back into the Old Testament and find that He said, "I will do this. I will put plagues on Pharaoh and upon this land and will release these people. The glory will come to Me because I have done the whole thing." (See Exodus 3:12-20). It is just the same in our lives.

Each of you have found yourself at a time when you could not forgive your own sin. It was so heavy like a burden and a cross that bore you down, even to the grave and hell if you couldn't find relief. It was only Christ that set you free.

Finally you understood what it meant for someone to pick up that cross and bear it on His shoulders. He allowed Himself to be nailed upon it, become your sin and die in your stead. You can remember the moment when you were set free! It was like a burden lifted. The condemnation of sin is that the penalty has to be paid.

Yet we even find that the chosen people were hard-hearted. ". . . when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were

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