



"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills."

Psalms 104:10

"Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven."

Psalms 85:11

VOLUME 39

APRIL 1989

NUMBER 4

## *Beautiful Spring Has Arrived*

From the valley where the river flows  
I look across fertile fields and find  
A marvelous presence -- that of God,  
And my soul is at ease -- Peace is mine.



**MAN PLANTETH -- GOD GIVETH THE INCREASE  
HE SUPPLIETH OUR EVERY NEED**

**HEFT (LONG BOOK) TAPES**

All three volumes of the Long Book Tapes are now available. Bro. Josef Farkasch, of Salzburg, Austria, has made tapes from the old "Long Book" beginning at number one and going straight through the book. He plays the classical guitar and other instruments. There is also singing on a few songs. All proceeds go to our needy brethren living behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe.

Vol. I includes songs 1-11, 13-18

Vol. II includes songs 12, 19-31

Vol. III includes songs 33-48

For the complete story about these tapes, refer to the May 1987 and the September 1988 Silver Lining issues.

Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add .75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only .30 extra for each tape. Make checks for LONG

BOOK TAPES payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

**HUNGARIAN TAPES**

Two cassette tapes are now available of the singing and playing of the Hungarian churches. The music, performed by choir and orchestra, is from the Zion's Harp and the Heft and other church books used in our church in Hungary. This music is played beautifully and reverently.

The two tapes, "Holy Love," a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be The Tie," which has both orchestra and singing, are available at \$6.75 for each tape. For shipping cost on orders of 1-5 tapes, add .75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only .30 extra for each tape. All proceeds from these tapes are being donated to the distressed church members in the poor country of Romania.

Make checks for HUNGARIAN TAPES payable to the person you order from -- Dennis Feucht or Don Schrock or Al Betz.

HEFT (LONG BOOK) TAPES and HUNGARIAN tapes may now be ordered from:

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

or

Don & Lorna Schrock  
100 Forest View Road  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-6810

HUNGARIAN tapes only may still be ordered from:

Al Betz  
455 Logan Road, Apt. A-2  
Mansfield, OH 44907  
(419) 756-2756

## THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

The elder body has approved the formation of The Endowment Fund of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. This fund has been created for better stewardship of assets given to the church for the Lord's work.

In addition to outright gifts, the Endowment Fund would receive gifts from donors who want their gifts used over a period of years rather than immediately. The donor may designate how the gift should be used, or the use can be left to the discretion of the Endowment Fund management committee.

The Endowment Fund can also accept non-cash gifts and can provide advice on compliance with tax laws to provide more funds for the Lord's work than would be possible without following the tax guidelines. An example is a gift of real estate, securities or other properties on which the donor can receive all or part of the income during the donor's lifetime.

The Endowment Fund would use its assets in the following ways:

1. To assist existing church funds such as local and national charity, World Relief, Mission and Bible funds.
2. To provide a source of funds for ongoing projects, unusual or unexpected needs as deemed fit and proper by the Elder-supervised Endowment Fund Committee.
3. To provide emergency loans and grants for other funds or projects within the church.

Questions about the Endowment Fund or contributions to the fund can be directed to any brother on the committee (listed here with their home church) or by contacting the secretary at the address or phone numbers listed below:

James J. Stoller, Chairman -- Eureka, IL  
Jerry Banwart, Secretary-Treasurer -- Congerville, IL  
Ben Maibach -- Detroit, MI  
Bob Walder -- Congerville, IL  
Bob Grimm -- Goodfield, IL  
Roy Grimm -- Taylor, MO  
Jim Hoerr -- Peoria, IL

Jerry Banwart, 2400 N. Main, East Peoria, IL 61611  
Office: (309) 694-4251 Home: (309) 448-2416

**THE SILVER LINING**

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

David Bertsch  
Uriel Gehring  
Lester Stoller

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

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

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

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

The Silver Lining  
c/o David Bertsch  
11520 Grabill Road  
Grabill, IN 46741

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

**IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:**

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER



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).*

## Abiding in the Vine

The infinite wisdom of the Almighty is clearly manifested in the Scriptures and is portrayed in the examples chosen by the Saviour to reach mankind with His message. He used simple illustrations from everyday living to enable humans to relate to the divine. When He was with farmers, He spoke of sowing fields, to the housewives He spoke of baking bread and cleaning houses. To fishermen, His message was about catching fish, and to the husbandman the parallel was about tending and pruning vines. Through it all, He delivered the timeless message that the relationship between God and man was intended to be intimate, personal, and enduring, surviving beyond life on earth, to be continued in the presence of God eternally.

The Spirit of God inspired the Psalmist to write, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Psa. 1:1-2). The exemplary life and ministry of Jesus carry out the same theme—remaining close to God, the supreme power of the universe.

In his 15th chapter, the Apostle John records the words of our Lord as He spoke using the illustration of a grapevine. Jesus makes it perfectly clear that He is that vine, and faithful believers are the fruitful branches. The vine is the main part of the plant, and usually quite long-lived. The branches produce large quantities of fruit if tended with care. God is timeless. He spans countless generations, and His truth endures forever (Psa. 117:2). As the vine is the source of all nourishment for the plant, feeding successive generations of branches that bear the fruit, so is the relationship between God and His children.

The plan of God is clear from the

first recorded words of the Bible. Man was put on earth in the image of God, to dress the earth, care for its creatures, and produce an increase (Gen. 2:15). In the same way the generations of man, each in their own time, are intended to bring the fruit of increase to their Creator in its season. Everything believers need for fruit bearing is contained in our Lord, the true vine, and in what He has done for us (Col. 1:19-20). Nothing has been overlooked or omitted that is necessary for that result.

The vine is the source of all spiritual truth and strength. The branches must be carefully pruned and shaped so that they can bear much spiritual fruit (John 15:2-3; 7-8). They must also remain firmly attached to the vine, their lifeline to nutrients vital for growth. Through the vine, into the branches flows the sap, which is the lifeblood of all plants. These nutrients feed the clusters of fruit right up to the time of ripening, when they are harvested. At that time the husbandman rejoices over a work well done, carefully reflecting on the wonderful plan that made this miraculous process possible.

The plan is simple, yet beyond our full comprehension. We may learn ever so much on earth, yet we will not approach knowing the mind of the Almighty (1 Cor. 2:16). Enough understanding is given, however, so that we can each fulfill our part in the marvelous work of fruit bearing. It is clear that it can be done in one way only, and that is by abiding in the vine. When humans follow the way of the cross unto salvation, they then become intimately attached to their Lord, the true vine. Like the branches, they cannot bear fruit of themselves; only if they remain connected to the vine will they find the nourishment vital to growth and bringing forth fruit to perfection.

Our Heavenly Father is the husbandman of the vineyard. However, just as He directed man to labor in the natural course of life, He likewise intends for us to labor in His vineyard in the spirit (1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:10; Heb. 6:10). Jesus ordained the establishment of the church, and He prepared the entire way so that those who came after Him could fulfill this, even though they were fragile men. Jesus Christ, the vine, is *"the same yesterday, and today, and forever"* (Heb. 13:8). One generation of fallible humans follows another, each in its time tending the vineyard. The fruit, however, should not vary from one season to another. Jesus told us we do not garner grapes from thorns nor figs from thistles (Matt. 7:16). The responsibility of all who are intimately bound to the vine is to produce much good fruit. This is what God, the great husbandman, expects of His children.

The plan of God for life on earth and also for the eternal salvation of man is complete. Jesus kindly exhorted the people of His day, *"Abide in me, and I in you"* (John 15:4). The same eternal message is relevant today! Times have changed, and the course of history has resulted in a culture which is much different from that of Jesus' time. Yet vines still bear grapes in exactly the same way, and although methods in vineyard-keeping are somewhat different, the vine still endures, and the same good fruit is borne on the branches.

A tremendous comfort can be derived from the immortal message that Jesus spoke in His parable of the vineyard, exhorting all to abide in Him. After nearly twenty centuries the heart of man can leap for joy when hearing the eternal truth: *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love"* (John 15:9-10).

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

From time to time we get calls wondering what we carry at Apostolic Christian Publications, and also questions about ordering materials from the store. We hope the following information will be of help to all that are interested.

Any church or individual can purchase materials from us at 524 Valley Court, Eureka, IL; or if you would prefer to call us with your order you may do so at 309-467-3611 and we will be glad to get it ready for pickup. Our hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. If these hours are not convenient for pickup, other arrangements can be made, or we'll be glad to mail the materials to you. If you would like an order blank showing all materials and prices, we will send one to you at your request. All the items make nice gifts for special occasions. Following is a brief summary of available materials:

### **BIBLES - King James Version**

Reference Bible - 86RL, black genuine leather, 7 3/4 x 5 1/4 x 1 1/4, red letter edition; New Testament & Psalms, black limp leathertex cover, 5 3/8 x 7 1/4 x 5/8, red letter edition in large print; Hard Cover Bible, 5 1/2 x 8 x 1 1/4, suitable for use in pews; Pocket New Testament, Psalms & Proverbs, imitation leather; Reference Bible - 956C, black genuine leather, 6 1/2 x 9 1/4 x 1 1/4, red letter edition with concordance; Thompson Chain Reference Bible - 410RL, red letter edition; Thompson Chain Reference Bible - red letter edition, thumb indexed; Thompson Large Edition Chain Reference Bible - 414RL, red letter edition; Thompson Chain Reference Bible - 414RL, red letter edition, thumb indexed; Giant Print Bible, red letter edition, 7 x 9 1/4 page size, excellent for homes for the aged.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL**

Workbooks and teacher's guides available for ages 4-year-old thru 4th grade.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Workbooks and teacher's guides available for ages Nursery (3-year-old) thru 8th grade.

### **BIBLE STORY BOOKS**

Marian's Big Book of Bible Stories; Marian's Favorite Bible Stories (63 stories); Egermier's Stories of the Bible; Egermier's Favorite Bible Stories (30 stories); Hurlbut's Stories of the Bible; Apostolic Christian Commentary on Old Testament stories of Hurlbut's; Apostolic Christian Commentary on New Testament stories of Hurlbut's.

### **SONG BOOKS**

Zion's Harp (white edge); Zion's Harp (gold edge); Zion's Harp (large print); Hymns of Zion; Hymnal insert - "How Great Thou Art"; Gospel Hymns; Christmas Carol booklets; Tabernacle Hymns.

### **FROEHLICH LIBRARY (can be purchased individually or as a set)**

Hebrews; Ephesians; Baptismal Truth; Two Mysteries - Matrimony; Philipians - Revelations; Evidence - the Truth of the Word of God; Epistle of John Volume 1, 2, 3 or 4.

### **CASSETTE TAPES OF FROEHLICH WORKS**

Meditations on Psalms; Life - Conversation - Secession from state church; :Baptism of faith and answers to London Continental Society; Isaiah; Gospel of St. Matthew Volume 1 or 2; Hebrews; Revelation; Genesis.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

Apostolic Christian Church History book; Marching to Zion; A Treasure of Praise (history of the Zion's Harp hymnal); Fundamentals of Faith and Fellowship.

### **MATERIALS AT NO CHARGE**

Statement of Faith (pocket size and large print); Spiritual Heart of Man; Ye Must Be Born Again; Winds of Doctrine; Daily Bible Reading Guide.

## WORKS PROJECTS

### **Wycliff Associates Building Project**

The Work Projects Committee has approved a new domestic work project that has a two-fold purpose of giving opportunity to those who would want to volunteer their labor and talents on a construction project and to promote fellowship with our brethren and friends who live in the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, area.

The project is with Wycliffe Associates, the construction arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators, a non-denominational organization whose objective is the use of the science of linguistics to give to those people who do not yet have their own language in writing, the Word of God in that language. Wycliffe Associates is a lay group charged with the responsibility of construction and maintenance of buildings throughout the world. Currently they are building apartments for elderly members who are returning from the mission field and who will be sharing their knowledge and experience with those students who are learning the translation techniques.

Skills are needed for all types of building construction and there are work assignments available at the center for women who would like to participate. Volunteers are asked to bring their own small hand and power tools. Large machinery and equipment will be on the site.

Living accommodations are provided. They have 10 spaces for RV's or trailers -- complete with sewage and electrical hook-ups at a cost of \$4.00 per day. There are showers and a coin laundry nearby. Others can stay in a room in one of the duplexes built several years ago. The rates for these rooms are: single (\$25/week) or one couple (\$45/week). If children are included contact us for the additional cost. The construction center dining room is open for three meals a day at a cost of \$6.50 per day. Reservations have to be made ahead of time for living arrangements.

The Wycliffe building projects can use volunteers at any time and for any length of time -- whether it be one day or two weeks. The third Sunday of each month is being set as a target date for volunteers to either begin or



conclude their volunteer work period. This third Sunday conforms to our regular worship service, which is held at the Holiday Inn in Desoto. This is nine miles from the work site. Services are normally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month.

It is anticipated that there is a minimum of four years of work at this site; however, it is the desire of the

committee that those who have a heart for this service consider putting this work effort into their plans as quickly as possible. You may contact either Bro. Arnold Gerst (217-223-8424) or Bro. Hoard or Sis. Dolores Rapp (214-867-4074), who reside in the Dallas area, for additional information.

---

## OPENING FOR HOUSEPARENT COUPLE AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We are very thankful for the many generous ways that our faithful brothers and sisters throughout the land support the Children's Home. Here is yet another opportunity that goes to the very heart of our work.

There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for a married couple to serve as Houseparents for troubled children, ages 11 - 18 years old. We encourage mature couples with a heart for young people to seriously and prayerfully consider this calling to serve the Lord, the church and children. There are children waiting who desperately need and desire the stability, security and love of a Christian home.

For more information on responsibilities, salary and benefits, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

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

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
11502 Souder Road  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219/627-2923

We solicit your support in praying that a couple will respond to the Lord's call to fill this important position.

---

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED IN JAPAN

Our church in Japan has a kindergarten where Sis. Kathy Jo Kieser and Sis. Renee Baurer are now teaching. Sis. Kathy Jo will be leaving the kindergarten next July and a brother or a sister who is qualified to teach kindergarten is needed to replace her. Anyone who has the faith and conviction to apply for this position should speak to his or her elder and if he approves, apply to the missionary committee for consideration.

All expenses involved in the two-year stay in Japan are paid by the church. The brother or sister is asked to give two or more years of his or her life in Japan at some sacrifice of compensation, although we do pay, in addition to expenses, a small monthly salary.

Bible stories are taught every day in the kindergarten. English is the language of instruction, but incoming teachers are encouraged to begin studying the Japanese language before coming to Japan. This is helpful in communicating with the Japanese people and in singing the hymns in Japanese.

The teachers are presently living in a new, modern apartment about a 10-minute walk from the church.

Anyone having any questions may inquire of any of the teachers who have been to Japan, may contact Bro. Ben Maibach, 34050 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI (phone 313/478-3771); or Bro. Willis Ehnle, 692-2 Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan 409-14.

## WORKS PROJECTS Our Trip to Haiti "Group 6"

Our trip to Pu-Sal-Le, Haiti, began from our comfortable homes and our supportive church community where we have abundance, to one of the poorest countries in the world, where people work for as little as \$3.00 a week or 50 cents a day.

Eight brethren from five different states all met at Miami Airport for the first time. We boarded a 757 to Port-A-Prince, a trip of about 2 hours. We had to go through customs which took about 45 minutes. When we arrived at the guest house, we met four brothers from Oakville, IA. They were on their way home. We spent about six hours together singing and reading the Word. They shared their experiences in this very needy country.

After a good night's sleep, we traveled 110 miles to the job site, a trip that took 6 hours! We traveled in an open pickup and some in a trooper jeep. We didn't have much traffic; saw two trucks, no cars, some donkeys and oxen, as these roads can only be traveled by 4-wheel drive. When we crossed the streams there were no bridges.

When we arrived at the site, we found no electricity, only a generator to run the saws and the lights for the evening services. There were no phones, newspapers, radio or plumbing, so we all took salt water showers that came from an open tank on the roof. "Burr!!!"

After a night's rest, we had our worship service. Evening services were about 2 hours long. These Haitians really love the Lord and they show it.

Now for the work project, we were to put an addition on each end of the school. They had most of the block wall up for us and we finished the rest of the wall. We then made trusses and put on the metal roof. We were so thankful we could finish the work they had for our group to do.

We made doors and frames for all the classrooms and put up shelves and screen doors in the guest house. Two of the brothers did the electric wiring in the school and guest house. For night classes they used the gas generator or solar storage batteries, they also used gas lanterns. Right now the school we worked on has 350 students and 14 teachers and aides.

We did all this work while school was going on. It didn't seem to bother anyone, for these children really want to learn and better their way of life!

After our work was finished, we went to visit Willis Miller. He takes care of the water for life well drilling. He is surely doing a very good deed.

We all enjoyed working together for such a worthy cause and even talking about a return trip if the Lord so opens up the way!

We want to thank all for your support and help that made it possible for us to go. May God bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely, Bros. Dave Eisenmann, Norm Schock, Dean and Kendell Messner, Verle Schmidt, Bill Gerber, Tim Reinhard and John Hartzler.

## --NOTICE --

### Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

In 1984 we read in the Guideposts concerning the unfilled need for 10,000 Bibles. We wrote to the organization and started sending some repaired and some new Bibles. Since that time, we have sent over 500 Bibles, much Sunday school materials and song books.

During this past year, Sisters Becky Knapp (Dave) and Jane Huetter (Curtis) from Goodfield, IL, have been helping in this work.

If our churches or individual members have Bibles, Bible story books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymns that are worn and in need of repair, please let us know or send them to us. We tape and repair the books and obtain names and addresses of people in foreign countries who want and need them, package and mail them in large canvas mailing bags. It costs 55¢ a pound to send books or \$1.10 for printed material of less than 30 pages. On a recent shipment to Africa, the cost to send a Bible was 72¢.

If you have any questions or wish to send material for repair, please call or write:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 132  
Congerville, IL 61729  
Phone (309) 448-2416

### 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  
Fifth Year -- August 1987 thru July 1988 -- 25,969

#### Bibles Distributed -- Sixth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1988 --	3486	3486
September 1988 --	1365	4851
October 1988 --	1762	6613
November 1988 --	2655	9268
December 1988 --	1637	10,905
January 1989 --	2070	12,975
February 1989 --	2562	15,537
March 1989 --	2017	17,554

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

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Maxine Sauder

"Joyful anticipation" . . . isn't that a spirit-lifting phrase! God used changes in His creation recently to arouse a "joyful anticipation" of springtime within me. The warm freshness of the air, the odor rising from the damp soil, and the excited chirping of the birds, brought a smile to my face and caused my feet to walk with increased enthusiasm. Most Christians would likely label Christ's promised return as the longed for event that activates the ultimate "joyful anticipation." But I confess that too often I allow the cares and concerns of this life to stifle the joy God intended me to have and share. Paul reminded the Romans of this anticipation in Chapter 8:17-19. ". . . if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." In spite of our struggles in this life, may we exhibit a "joyful anticipation" of Christ's return.

Within the last month, J.D. has left the East House to rejoin his family. Because his home is so close by, we hope to see him often. We pray that he may have gained bits of knowledge and experience that will help him toward a more fulfilled life.

Tweety and Twyla have moved in, and won the hearts of everyone in the New House. They are two very verbal finches.

Also new to our campus are Music Therapy Sessions directed by Sis. Elaine Steffen. We appreciate her willingness to share the training and talents God has given her.

Green, green, green was the theme of a progressive dinner on St. Patrick's Day. Different courses were served as we moved from house to house. All of the food was green -- and delicious.

At the March Board of Directors

meeting, new officers were elected. They are Bros. Bob Indermuhle, president; Jack Krantz, vice president; Bill Baumgartner, secretary; and Eldon Waibel, treasurer. Also, three new board members were seated. Bro. Wally Gerst (Alto, MI) replaced Bro. Tom Schrenk who moved to Athens, AL; Edison Gutwein (Francisville, IN) replaced Bro. Phil Gutwein; and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) replaced Bro. Brace Wieland. May God bless the outgoing brothers for their dedicated service and bless the new board members with wisdom and vision.

With the coming of spring, we here at A.C.C.H. are anticipating several annual events. April 22 is the date set for our representatives' meeting. Within each of our Apostolic churches, there is a representative who will receive an invitation to share the day with us. The varying dimensions of the Home will be discussed.

We are encouraging the local people to search through their attics, basements and garages for items to sell at our Annual Garage Sale, May 19 and 20. On the 20th, we also offer a car washing service located on the church parking lot. All proceeds go towards our "families" summer vacations (another anticipated event!).

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

At Oakwood Estate, residents have begun meeting twice a month to read and discuss the Bible. They are using the Hurlbut's Bible Story books and study guides and are currently studying the Old Testament stories. Those people who choose to participate are enjoying the time of sharing and growing together in the love of God.

The April birthday at Oakwood Estate is Sonja Metzger (April 14).

"Lord, help the people who are sick" was the simple faith-filled request of the resident who led the A.C.H.H. Resident Council in prayer recently. Sis. Barb Hostetler and Nancy Wernli are recovering from recent surgeries. Other residents and staff members are recuperating from colds and flu.

Bob Tiffan, who lived here for 16 years, died February 28, his 59th birthday. "For ye shall go out with joy

and be led forth with peace." Isaiah 55:10. Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) shared the Word at a memorial service for Bob here at the Home Friday, March 3.

Anita Schuon, daughter of Bro. Karl and Sis. Elsa Schuon (Morton, IL) moved into the Home in January. We welcome her and wish her happiness as she forms new friendships and experiences daily life at A.C.H.H.

April birthdays at the home for the Handicapped are Jane Kohler (1), Velma Hoffman (4), Jason Gingrich (7), Mark Gundy (17), Jaleen Mogler (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27) and Zita Palko (27).

To My Able-Bodied Friends,

I have needs as you do, for love, companionship, caring, to be listened to, and to be called by name and not by my disability label.

Though I may be "unlovely" in some ways, I am included in the body of Christ; please accept me as He does.

I am alive for a purpose and I have talents and gifts that are unique to me. Please help me find my reason for living, my gifts and my talents so that I may use them to help promote the body of Christ.

Allow your young children to come to me with their open, inquisitive questions about my situation so that I can be an educator.

I have pride in who I am with my abilities and it can be difficult to keep asking you for help. I'd like to get to know you so that it will become more natural for us to help each other.

I am often forced to expose my strengths and weaknesses which can be humiliating. Join with me in being human and address your strengths and weaknesses as well.

Personal worth is often equated with achievement which I am unable to accomplish in the same way that you do. This, for me, is not so sad, but it is sad not to have a welcome and accepted place in the church.

All these changes will help me be more comfortable and welcome in "your world" and then it won't be so frightening to venture out more often to get to know you.

I am a person with abilities; please treat me this way!

by M. A. Grasse

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

During March we learned about plants, spring and Easter. We learned a little more about how wonderfully everything is made. God has everything planned so perfectly. It makes me wonder how anyone can believe there isn't any God. There is enough evidence in nature itself.

We have been learning about the life and ministry of Jesus and now have concluded that with His death and resurrection. The children are always fascinated with all that happened to Jesus. They don't like to hear all the horrible things that Jesus endured for us. It makes them sad to see pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross but they always smile when we tell them that Jesus didn't stay dead but is alive and in heaven. We should rejoice too because our Saviour lives!

If you are interested in volunteering some time for the Lord this summer, we can use you here at the Preschool. We need help while our teachers take vacation. Accommodations are available. You can contact me or Sis. Julie Bauer at 205-233-0591 or write Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611.

#### ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We have been blessed with many elders and ministers during the past month. Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) and Jack Bollier (Leo, IN), and Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) were all with us. We thank each one for the message and hope that you have felt God's blessings. We had other visitors from Cissna Park, Peoria, Washington, Princeville, Goodfield and Champaign, IL, Alto, MI, Sabetha, KS, Rittman, OH, and Bluffton, IN. We had a total of seventeen churches represented here this month.

We rejoice with Randy and Lisa Moore at the birth of their first child, Christopher Blake, who was born March 1. The proud grandparents are Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris Moore.

We have had several groups of brothers who have come and given of their time and talent to help in the construction of a house that is being built for Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk. We appreciate their willingness to help and pray that God will bless them.

-----

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron and Ev Hoerr

Rejoice in the Lord alway (Philippians 4:4). Our Lord Jesus blessed us with beautiful spring-like weather early. The desert is abloom with every color on an artist's palette. The many birds are singing joyfully, while the lizards are dashing around.

We are enjoying many visitors, as well as visiting ministers. Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) shared God's Word with us the past month. We are grateful to them.

Your prayers are appreciated for the touch of God's healing hand for our hospital and home loved ones. Sis. Marjorie (Bob) Rebbec, Sis. Martha DeMille, Ed Harmon, Manuel and Annabelle Stetzler, Sis. Emma Sanders, Sis. Esther Harmon and Rachel Roth.

We give special thanks to see Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Bro. Dan Kokanovich, Bro. Harry Roth and Herb Mohrman back for Sunday morning services.

May we all take heed to Philippians 4:11 and learn to be content in whatever state we are in.

-----

### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

#### Harvey Smith

We wish to thank the ministers from Phoenix and the following visiting brothers who have gathered with us at Prescott: Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ). It is a true joy to assemble and fellowship around the Word of God.

It is still our endeavor to assemble on the first and third Sunday of each month. All visitors are welcome. Inquiries may be directed to Harvey and Ethel Smith, 602-445-2164.

### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

Visiting ministers recently have been Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA). We appreciate the time and effort these brothers have spent doing the Lord's work.

We are saddened to report the loss of a loved one in the passing of Alice Enz, wife of Loyal Enz. "Greek," as we know Him, and Alice have lived in Tucson, and more recently in Green Valley, for many years and have worshipped frequently with us. It's always sad for those who are left behind when someone passes away. We are praying for Greek and his sons during this time of adjustment.

Our Sunday school recently went to Altadena, CA, for a weekend of activities with the Phoenix, San Diego and Altadena students. Our many thanks go to the Altadena church for their hospitality and love!

Summer arrived in March this year. We are having 90 degree weather during these first few weeks of March.

-----

### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Marlene Leman

We were blessed this past weekend by a visit from our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen. At that time, we enjoyed the privilege of partaking of holy communion. To feel the renewing of our spirits and the tightening of that tie of love that binds us gives us new courage to go on and "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14 We ask God's blessings upon Bro. Nate for his many labors and travels in our behalf.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Bill Geyer and Sis. Kathy Leman, both were surgical. We are thankful they have both felt God's healing touch and are on their way to recovery.

A dear sister gave me the following as a tribute to her mother. What a blessing a loving, God-fearing mother is. May He bless each one as "Mother's Day" is again celebrated throughout our land.

#### TO MOTHER

How thankful I am that God has

given me a mother such as you. You have nurtured me in you love and enabled me to mature as a person. Because of your love I have come to know God's love. Through your concern for my spiritual growth, I have found the joys that come in knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. It is my prayer that God will shower His richest blessings upon you, not out of a spirit of selfish concern on my part, but because you have blessed my life in so many ways.

-----

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

#### Martha Hany

As I glanced out the window this morning, what a delight to see two perky robins heralding spring -- despite a light snowfall several hours later! Surely the start of a new season to be refreshed and strengthened after a hard winter of sickness and flu experienced by many of us. We are thankful that Bro. John Ruch is able to be home again in Longview Village after spending several days in the hospital.

"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). On February 17, Bro. Alfred and Sis. Barbara (Metzger) Reutter were united in holy matrimony in Lester, IA. We extend a loving and warm welcome to Sis. Barb as she moves many miles from her home and loved ones to take up residence here. On March 5, we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ellen (Foote) Galat. May the Lord's blessings be upon these dear couples as they are now united to help one another reach that heavenly and everlasting home!

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling for you and for me;  
See on the portals He's waiting and  
watching,

Watching for you and for me."

Tabernacle Hymns #128

It is encouraging that two more seeking souls are in repentance, Ben Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne) and Kathy Heisler. As lambs in His fold, may the Lord continue to guide, direct and supply them with spiritual drink and nourishment as they grow and mature in their conversion.



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

### Catherine Klopfenstein

We were very sorry to learn that Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca German and family will be leaving our area. Bro. Doug has accepted employment in Wayne County, Ohio, and they will be locating near and attending the Smithville, OH, church. They will be sorely missed by our small congregation here in Washington. They were always very hospitable to our visitors, very active in all church affairs and ready and willing to assume the leadership role when the situation required. They have our sincere prayers and best wishes for God's blessings in their new home.

At the same time, we welcome a new couple to our community, Bro. Philip and Sis. Gail Strahm and two small children from Gridley, KS, who have moved to Louisa, VA, where Bro. Phil is employed at a power generating plant. They have nearly a two-hour drive to the D. C. church, but have been very faithful in attending and in participating in the services. We appreciate their fellowship and pray that God will bless them in their new endeavors.

Our recent ministers have been Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We sincerely appreciate their efforts in travelling long distances to minister to us. Recent visitors have been from Rockville, CT, Croghan, NY and Fort Myers, FL.

Tim Rocke is on a three-week trip "around the world," in connection with his work in the Foreign Agriculture Service of the Department of Agriculture. During his absence, a baby shower was held for his wife, Sue, at the Klopfenstein home, in anticipation of a May arrival of a new Rocke family member. This will be their first child, the Lord willing. At the same time, several gifts were given to the Strahms new baby boy, four-week-old Javan.

Inasmuch as our schedule does not include services on Easter Sunday, this year, several from our congregation are planning to attend the church at Philadelphia, PA.

There is a strong demand for "nannies" in the Washington, D.C. area, that is, girls who provide in-home care. A recent Washington Post

article stated that there are from 20 to 40 openings available for every trained available nanny. A northern Virginia college that has a nanny training program reported 350 openings for its 7 graduating students. The pay and the fringe benefits are good, in most cases, including room and board, weekends off, car furnished, etc. Midwestern girls with a strong work ethic and moral background are preferred. There are girls, employed as nannies, attending both the Washington and Philadelphia churches. If any readers are interested, you may call the Klopfenstein number listed below and we can refer you to other experienced nannies, or to an appropriate agency.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, on Route 7, one mile west of I-495. For information, please call Ralph Klopfenstein, 703-979-3476. Visitors are always welcome.

## FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Kay Eisenmann

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). We were so blessed with minister's and elder's visits after their mid-year conference in Sarasota. We are ever thankful, for it seems to give inspiration to our little church! We also were able to enjoy the most inspiring service when Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota) was ordained deacon for Sarasota and North Fort Myers. May we not over-burden him and be a help by being an obedient church, then we will all be blessed. Our prayers are for him and his wife and family, as he is given this extra duty.

Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer are blessed with their 13th grandchild. The new parents are Debbie and Rod Nemity. His name is Caleb Rex.

At last report, Bro. Ezra Kaehr is progressing after his surgery.

Dathan will be 13 on the 25th of

March, which is a blessed miracle, the power of prayer answered!

We do rejoice with another answered prayer, our granddaughter, Rachel Massner, is repenting. It once again reminds us God's time is the right time! If only there could be more who would know this joy, peace of mind and soul just makes us pray more fervently for the many unhappy souls in need of a Saviour.

## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

### Suellen Ott - Kristine Price

Our congregation has truly experienced the power of prayer in the past month. We felt the awe of holiness during the meeting of our elders at the mid-winter conference here in Sarasota. Our church experienced peace as our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach sought out an ordained deacon from the Fort Myers and Sarasota, FL, churches. Hands were laid on Bro. Doug Sabo Sunday evening, March 5. We joined together in support of this dear brother and his wife, Sis. Linda. Our prayers are also for their family. Bro. Doug is the son of the late Raymond and Betty Sabo (Mansfield, OH).

Bro. Elmer Anliker, Bro. Bill Cottrell and Sis. Suellen Ott were among those hospitalized this month. We witnessed God's blessings as we sought Him in their behalf.

The memorandum was brought to us by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ).

The last World Relief meeting of the season was held March 16, followed by a potluck dinner hosted by Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger.

This month our Sunday school visited Fort Lauderdale. We always enjoy the in-state travels.

Through all the conflicts of life God still sends the assurance of new life in Him. Gordon Bryant has made this important commitment and we rejoice with him, and his wife, Sis. Marilyn.

We wish to thank all the elders and ministers that labored here in Sarasota this month, and extend a warm invitation to any traveling that they spend some time with us as we encourage one another on this path

that leads us all to eternal joy and rest.

We want to thank everyone for the love, concern and prayers during Marie's surgery and since returning home. We would appreciate your continued prayers throughout the coming weeks and months of her treatments. We could truly feel the prayers of those we love, for the fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.

May God bless you for the outpouring of love, prayers and many kindnesses shown toward us. It has been deeply appreciated. May God richly bless each one of you.

Because of His love,  
Bro. Richard & Sis. Marie  
Seidel and family

I wish to thank each one for their love, prayers and deeds of kindness at the time of my surgery. God bless each one.

In His love,  
Sis. Suellen Ott

-----

**ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
Marcia Bauer - De Anderson

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb  
He is the great "I was, I Am"  
Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,  
He conquered over death and tomb.  
He rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky.  
If you have found the Christ, His way,  
Then you can keep this Easter day.  
Henry Beer

We are so thankful for each soul who answers God's call. February 18 we gathered together to hear the testimonies of Tami Koehl (Bro. Jerry) and Shelley Hari (Steve). Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) were with us that evening. Baptismal services were held the following day with Bro. Dan returning.

Upon their confession of faith, Randy and Ann Anderson were baptized Sunday, March 4. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) shared in the weekend, along with Elder Bro. Dan

Koch (Tremont). We joyfully greet each dear one as our brother and sisters-in-faith.

February 25 was the wedding date chosen by Patti Vogel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Nate) and Steve Young (Jack and Phyllis). We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they establish their home.

We appreciate the evening of fellowship enhanced by the voices of the men's group, "Brothers in Faith." Our thanks to them for joining us at our monthly hymn sing.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) with us, Sunday, March 12. He lovingly brought to our attention the importance of "consistent obedience."

Reminder: April is collection month for Silver Lining.

-----

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
Karen Ringger

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
St. John 3:16

A blessed weekend was shared by many, March 11 and 12, when we witnessed the love and power of God to convert a soul that repents. Leann and Lavonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) shared their testimonies, and were baptized and now are our sisters-in-faith. We welcome them into our brotherhood and wish them God's blessings and grace as they walk the narrow road. We appreciate Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) assisting our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in this labor. Visiting ministers on that day were Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), John Hartman (Fairbury), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). In the evening we assembled for the ordination of our dear Bro. Nate Stoller as deacon. After much prayer, our brotherhood felt moved in the direction of having an ordained deacon in our congregation. May we all give Bro. Nate and his helpmate, Sis. Martha, our love and support and may God lead, guide and direct His servants, as they, by His grace, carry out their duties according to God's will. Elder

Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Bob Grimm assisted Joe Stoller. Others ministering to our needs this past month were Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington) and Charles Sauder (Tremont). May God bless each and every one that served us this past month.

Two of our loved ones, Sis. Bertha Reed and Howard Mueller, has spent time in the hospital. May they each feel God's healing power.

On February 19 our church said farewell to Kevin and Sis. Laurie Edelman as they moved from our area to Fairbury. May God be with them and their family and we do hope they come back and visit us in Bradford.

Easter is a most precious time for the believer, as there on the cross Christ shed His blood and rose victorious over death and grave. On Good Friday we are looking forward to our Sunday school giving a short program, after services, on Jesus' death and resurrection.

-----

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**  
LaRae Dill

"Christ is risen!" This message was brought to us by our Sunday school students as they presented their Easter program March 19. We were asked, "Did you know . . . that your burden was rolled away at the cross? that Christ the Lord is risen today? that He lives?" We appreciated the narrations and scripture readings by the older students telling of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and Christ's promise of His return. The younger students inspired us through song and verse to "let our lights shine, be fishers of men, and be assured that Jesus is living in heaven.

Thanks to our students and teachers for this Easter message.

Inspiring messages were delivered to our congregation through these ministers: Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

Our congregation is blessed to have a large number of college students as part of our church family. Along with the fellowship of these students, we often enjoy visits from their families and friends. It's heart-warming to

see our church filled with loving families and visitors.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

I passed a route sign, posted upside down, coming back from our orthodontics appointment. We commented that it had been that way for some time. Surely those in charge had had enough time to turn it right side up, we said. Really, it's such a small thing. Then I thought of the many areas in my house which need attention, a great many small things -- and we have lived here for a year and a half. Finally, I realized that the Lord brings to mind "small things" in my life which need His time and my willingness to come to attention. Why do I let those faults and errors, sins, come in from time to time? Others may see that priorities, for example, may be "upside-down" in my life. More importantly, the Lord is patiently pleading that I may allow realigning so that His work and His glory may be more clearly reflected in my life. We may be the only "road to heaven" others are willing to check out. May we, I first of all, ask the Lord for His help to make sure our signposts read correctly.

Do we know what a privileged people we are? Elder Bro. Joe Stoller was with us Saturday evening, March 4, and again Sunday, the 5th. He gave deeply from the wisdom the Lord has taught him. Saturday evening he and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann read and commented on the August '88 brotherhood conference in Rittman, OH. "... to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6. Wednesday evening, March 15, we had the joy of worshipping with other visiting ministers. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) were both in the area for a meeting and lent themselves to the Lord in our evening service. We pray that the Lord will replenish them all in His might and power. We were so blessed by their time with us.

Matthew Raymond Neu was born November 18, 1988, in Korea. This month he has come home to parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy Neu, who have been praying for him even before he was born. His sister, Leah,

grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Nadine Ringger (Gridley) and Don and Pat Herrick (Geneva) welcome him, as do we, his church family. We wish the Lord's guidance and all joy for this dear Christian family and its Neu member.

I now need to add additions and corrections from last month. First of all, I neglected to mention our church business meeting the end of January. We appreciate hearing an update about our church. We also want to thank Sis. Lois Metzger for the time, patience and expertise she has given us in her four years service on the kitchen committee. We welcome Sis. Jeanne Plattner in her place, praying the Lord's continued blessing on the teamwork this committee depends on. Sis. Marlene Lau now heads the committee.

We also have new grandparents in our church family. Rebecca Lynn Blackwell was born February 9 to Mark and Beth (Metzger) Blackwell in St. Louis, MO. Mark's parents are Aubrey and Ginny Blackwell (Darrien, CT), and Beth's are our own Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger. We are so happy for parents and grandparents and wish the Lord's love and blessings on Rebecca and her whole family.

Last, but not least, Bro. Ross Meyer is home to attend the University of Illinois, Chicago, for a Masters in social work.

Though Sis. Margaret Fisher's funeral was not in Chicago, we want to extend our love and prayers and sympathy to her family and friends. Her love and concern for so many who have called Chicago home throughout the years has made our church family a closer and more heavenly place. We missed her when she moved to the Peoria home, and we miss her now. But we rejoice in her victory in Christ!

From the events of the last month, an unexpected funeral, work with teens in becoming better friends, and evening school continued, I have been doing some thinking about being a friend. For so many, the song "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" is an old-time favorite. When family hard times hit, we see so many cousins, aunts and uncles -- who are also such supportive friends. I think of my own teenage years, and I am so thank-

ful for all the good friends I had. Not one tried to lead me astray, and I pray the same for all my students and young friends. In fact, I have come to believe that Christ's mission for us as Christians is to be better friends. We have His love, His power, and, through prayer, communication with Him, to guide us in what we do, what we say, what we think, and how we love and interact. I have shared this poster with several and try to read it myself each morning:

### A Friend

Gives, when it's clearly someone else's turn;  
 Concedes, when no one will ever find out who really could have won;  
 Smiles, when a comeback is more than justified;  
 Overlooks, when there are no guarantees that it won't happen again;  
 Loves, and in the loving, points the way to the Greatest Friend of all.  
 (Morning Star, 1984)

May we turn the other cheek, go the second mile, and give the cloak also. Christ gave us His all.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Mary Knapp - Karol Stock

We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Kathryn Rudin and her family in the recent loss of her mother, Sis. Mary Weiss (Elgin). Funeral services were held February 18.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for being with us March 8 to read the conference letter. We heard much about the importance of being spiritually minded and the value of maintaining a humble and submissive attitude. We were reminded of Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee . . ." Surely it is perfect peace we are striving for. Bro. Perry also shared with us an exhortation on communion, which we plan to partake of Good Friday evening. We are so thankful for the love and concern of our elder brothers and pray they also feel the love and support of the church.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . ." Ecclesiastes

12:1. The weekend of March 11 and 12 was a happy one as we could hear the testimonies on Saturday of five dear souls who have turned their hearts to the Lord in the days of their youth. On Sunday we witnessed their baptisms and joyfully received our new brothers and sisters-in-faith, Doug and Anne Rinkenberger (Sis. Velma and the late Bro. Steve), Christine Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean), Les Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou) and Joe Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy). We wish them all God's richest blessings. Many visitors were here with us for the weekend along with Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). Other visiting ministers included Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Dennis Kaufmann and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We are thankful for each and every one who came and shared this special weekend with us. Our special thanks to the elder and ministering brothers for their labors of love and willingness to be used on our behalf.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) was also with us on a Wednesday evening for our March topical Bible study. He spoke to us on "giving" and the blessings pronounced throughout the Bible to those who give, not only money, but time and talents as well. We certainly thank Bro. Gene and his family for coming.

Congratulations to Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Greiner on the birth of their new granddaughter, Elizabeth Katherine Mackey. Along with her parents, Scott and Elaine, she also has a brother, Jacob, to welcome her home. She was born March 12.

Surgical patients this month were Sis. Denise Kaeb (Bro. Hartzell), Bro. Harry Walder (Sis. Leona) and Bro. Ed Alt (Sis. Marge). Also Bro. Joel Hofbauer (Sis. Mary) had the misfortune of breaking his ankle. May the Lord be near and bless each one during their recovery.

During the Easter Season I just had to marvel all over again at the love Jesus has for us. I was reminded of the hymn, "He bore It All" from the Heavenly Highways Hymns, "I stood condemned to die but Jesus took my place, He bore it all that I might live."

May we each pause to consider the great price that was paid for our salvation.

-----  
**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich**

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

Revelation 22:1

As the springtime brings forth the beauty of nature on this earth, we must realize that it is incomparable to the wondrous beauty that awaits us in heaven. May this renew our zeal and desire to remain pure, so that someday God can share with us His home.

Let us always be thankful to our faithful ministers who so willingly labor to help us reach our goal. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Kurt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO).

We welcome back Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp (Taylor, MO) to our congregation. May they feel God's love in their worshipping with us.

Our prayers are with three couples who have announced to us their engagements. They are Rachel Wettstein (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy) to Tony Nohl (Steve Nohl and Elaine Hartter), Jenni Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) to Mike Merritt (Frank and Reba) and Deb Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn) to Daryl Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne). May God's Spirit be present in their lives and homes.

-----  
**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Elizabeth Schambach**  
**Betty Bachtold**

"Can we Gethsemane forget?  
 Or there Thy conflict see,  
 Thine agony and bloody sweat,  
 And not remember Thee?  
 When to the cross we turn our eyes,  
 And rest on Calvary,  
 Oh Lamb of God our sacrifice,  
 We must remember Thee."

James Montgomery

May the Spirit of our risen Lord be among us as we gather for our annual

Easter program. Oh, that He might find a little "new growth" in all our hearts!

We are thankful that God continues to inspire faithful ones, both home and visiting brothers, to speak His Word. Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) visited our congregation. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11.

As a congregation, we wish God's continued blessings upon our loved ones who have left our vicinity. Sis. Eunice Knobloch, who worshipped with us and was employed here a number of years, will be at home in West Bend, IA; Bro. Freeman and Sis. Lucille Kellenberger have chosen to reside in Sabetha, KS.

We share sympathy with Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen in the death of her sister, Astrid Carlson, who passed away March 4 in Apostolic Christian Resthaven.

Those who needed hospital care and our prayers this month were Bro. Charles Schambach (Sis. Leola) and Sisters Madeline Tobler and Martha Zierke. How gracious is our heavenly Father who is able to restore body and soul.

-----  
**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Kathy Leman**

We want to thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Lenard Meyer (Chicago) for visiting us this past month and breaking the bread of life with us.

Sis. Wendy Blunier (Bro. Roger) was a hospital patient this past month. We also want to remember those confined to their homes, Bros. Aaron Moser and Bob Wettstein. May we remember them in our prayers.

Company business has taken Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp to Brazil for a time. May God's Spirit and grace ever abide with them.

Sis. Emma Knecht (Bro. Fred) was quickly taken from this life into eternity. May God comfort her dear husband who resides at the Home; two daughters, Sis. Helen (Eureka) and Thelma Hofmann, Jr. (Humeston, IA); five sons, Bro. Edward (Silver-



ton, OR), Bro. Ernie and Richard (both of Eureka), Walter (Roanoke) and Bro. Ervin (Lamar, MO).

The family of Sis. Emma Knecht would like to convey their sincere thanks to all who sent cards, gifts, prayers and other kind deeds during the passing of our mother and grandmother. May God bless each one who helped during this time.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

We welcomed three dear souls into our fellowship March 5. Bro. Kevin Edelman (Sis. Laurie), Bro. Phillip Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Julie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) are now our brothers and sister-in-the-Lord after giving their testimony and being baptized as the Word of God instructs.

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Nelson Zehr and Sis. Amy Waibel (Forrest) have chosen June 11 as their wedding date to be united as one. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel (Forrest). We rejoice with them and are looking forward to a new Christian home in our precious faith.

We appreciate those who proclaim the Word and are used by God to fill our cups to overflowing. Visiting us this month were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberg (Goodfield), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Marvin Leman, Kenneth Dietz and Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Elder Bros Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest).

Our Fairbury congregation wishes to give a warm welcome to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie Edelman and their family who are making their home here after living in Bradford. We know they will be a real joy to our congregation as we all share God's love with each other.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Ernestine Stoller and her family in the death of her brother, Carl Rapp.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Dorothy Steffen, Jason Huber, Brent Mowery, Timmy Kieser and Sis. Pat Hartman. May we remember them in our daily prayers.

Our annual Sunday school Easter

program was held Sunday evening, March 19. As the youth sang and expressed the true meaning of Easter, it should make us "Sit and pause awhile, my spirit; This great miracle behold . . ." Zion's Harp #226.

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your heart;  
Give Him first place in your service,  
Consecrate every part.  
Give, and to you shall be given;  
God His beloved Son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,  
Give Him the best that you have.

Author Unknown

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

We thank Bros. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) for bringing to us the Word of Life that the Lord may teach us of His ways.

Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish him God's grace to become firmly grounded.

The engagement of Sis. Amy Waibel (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Nelson Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores, Fairbury) was made known. May God bless and guide them as they make plans for the second most important step in their lives.

We truly miss our shut-ins and pray the Lord will bless them with a continued recovery. Sis. Marie Hohulin, Guy Gee, Sis. Doris Steffen (Ray), Christ Osborne (Tim and Sandi), Laura Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene), Scott Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Betsy Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Sis. Jane Bounds (Tom), and Sis. Leah Honegger (Bro. Sam) have all spent time in the hospital, but are able to be home again. Sis. Louise Anliker (Bro. Emil) and Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline) are still hospitalized. Stella Paplomatas, ten-year-old granddaughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth, has undergone her second brain surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with these dear ones.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman welcomed David Lee into their family March 17. His big brothers and Benjamin, Stephen and Jon-

athon. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Helen Huette (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman are grandparents.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31. We rejoice with Bro. Kent Zimmerman as he was united in marriage to Sis. Paulette Schmidt at Winthrop, MN, March 19. Their parents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Good Friday evening the Sunday school children reminded us of the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful, for by His great sacrifice, we have been redeemed.

May I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who in so many ways expressed your love during my stay at Carle Hospital and since returning home. God bless each one.

Sis. Doris Steffen

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Trish Gerber

Our congregation was blessed once again with the testimonies of our new Bro. Randy and Sis. Elli Berardi and their baptism the following day. May God ever be by their side as they live their lives together in Him.

Much appreciation is felt for our visiting ministers who so willingly share God's Word with us. Those who were with us this month are Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Fritz Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA).

We would like to welcome Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger and their children, Emily and Nathan, to our Goodfield church. We feel fortunate that God directed their lives to our area and we're enjoying their presence here.

Prayers are sent heavenward for our hospital patients. May God comfort and heal, if it could be His will, Sis. Margaret Newlin, George Knapp, Sr., Lena (Babe) Knapp and Anita Kieser (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie).

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY****Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Our church rejoiced during the testimony and baptism of Barb Harris (daughter of Bro. Harold Schmidgall) March 18 - 19. She expressed her experience of receiving the peace of God only when she entered into a state of unconditional submission. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), the minister who conducted the wedding ceremony of Ron and Barb Harris several years ago, was here for the occasion.

During the afternoon service March 19, Bro. Joe told of a young girl of about 15 who expressed many times her desire to repent for her sins, but felt she had so many things she wanted to do first. Eventually, however, she did repent, and then expressed her desire to see Jesus. She repeated this desire often. Within a few months she met with a fatal airplane accident, and her wish was granted. This story underscored the point that it is a high risk situation to delay turning to the Lord. Truly, in all our churches, many prayers ascend to the Father asking that all who are accountable before His holiness would not delay taking this step, but would humbly turn to Jesus in repentance.

On Sunday evening, March 19, our Sunday school children presented a singing program for the Easter season. Many were in attendance, including many grandparents. The beautiful singing about the Lord served to reiterate the words of Job, who said, "I know that my redeemer liveth" Job 19:25.

Sis. Julia Schieler was a hospital patient this month, but she has recovered and is getting along nicely. Sis. Lillian Yergler was also hospitalized this month.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield).

Last month, the reporter inadvertently failed to include the following thank you:

The family of Albert Grusy wishes to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy shown to them, the cards, calls, food, memorial contributions and many visits to Dad during his illness and passing away at the Eureka Home. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

**ILLINOIS,  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIV.****Brenda Huber**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to thy God to order and provide;

In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend

Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake

To guide the future as He has the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on

When we shall be forever with the Lord,

When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restores.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

**Katharina Von Schlegel**

Praise God that, while we live in this ever changing world, some things never change:

"For I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6)

"The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." (Psalms 33:11)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever." (I Peter 1:25)

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." (I John 2:17)

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalms 23:6)

Our God has, does and always will reign!

**ILLINOIS, MORTON****Phyllis Farney****Cheryl Wuthrich**

We are excited to report that the remodeling of our fire damaged church is nearly complete. An open house is planned for Palm Sunday, with the first service to be held Good Friday evening. We are thankful to have had our fellowship hall for services for the past 10 months. We would also like to express our gratitude to those at the Home for the Handicapped for letting us hold our Sunday school classes there.

Etta Lee Patten was called into all eternity and her funeral was held February 28. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Walter; her son, William; her daughter, Judith Williams; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren; her sister, Roberta Schweigert; and her many nieces, nephews and friends.

Our Easter program was held March 12. It was wonderful to hear the Easter story in hymns and in verse. May God bless all who participated and all who supported it by coming to listen.

Bro. Fred Huette would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards while he was in the hospital and since he is at home. May God bless each one for their love and concern.

Until we are the recipients of encouragement from our brothers and sisters, it is hard to fully appreciate how much it helps. Let us remember to pray, send cards and notes, and help in whatever way we can those who are bearing special burdens.

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA  
Joe and Jackie Herman****SING GOD'S PRAISES**

When I look at God's flowers  
Or feel His cool breeze,

Or taste the sweet gifts  
From His fruit-bearing trees . . .

My heart sings!  
When I study the start  
That light up the sky,  
Or watch a young fledgling  
Just learning to fly . . .

My heart sings!  
When I marvel at nature,  
Each miracle of  
God's awesome creation  
He fashioned with love . . .

My heart sings!  
And, when my heart's singing,  
I offer a prayer  
Of thanks for His bountiful gifts  
Which I share,  
And as I am praying,  
I feel His great care . . .

And my heart sings!

Alice Joyce Davidson

We have been abundantly blessed this month with visiting ministers and wish to thank each one. They were Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO).

Our prayers are always with those who have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Emma Leman, Bro. Ernie Klaus, Sis. Peggy Hoerr, Karl Pfaffman and Margaret Fisher.

Note of Thanks: Bro. Alvin and Sis. Veva Domnick and their family thank all who remembered Alvin with cards, gifts and prayers during his hospitalization. He is recovering nicely at home since his surgery.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"Heavenward the Lord would have  
Thee to set Thy aim;  
Be not anxious; do not crave  
earthly wealth or fame.  
From such abstain!  
Only what with hand and heart for  
the Lord is set apart  
Will bring you gain.  
Heavenward His hand doth guide  
through the desert waste;  
Draws thee closer to His side,  
makes thy spirit chaste.  
He will destroy every earthly  
vanity, and will lead thee finally  
Into His joy."

The Heavenly Mind

Our special thanks to Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for bringing the Word of Truth to us at the leading of the Holy Spirit. May God bless him for his willing service.

On February 23, little Jerid Michael Elsasser was born to Karen and Kenny Elsasser. Welcoming Jerid home is big brother, Jason. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Betty and Bro. Ray Wagenbach and Sis. Doreen and Bro. Duane Elsasser. May God bless their family circle.

Note of Thanks: We want to thank everyone for the love, concern and prayers during Marie's surgery and since returning home. It has been deeply appreciated. May God bless each one of you for your outpouring of love, prayers and every kindness shown toward us.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie  
Seidel and family

"The effectual fervent prayer of a  
righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

##### Patsy Kaeb - Sandy Leman

It's such a blessing to enjoy the warm weather again as spring returns to central Illinois. All around us are signs of renewal of life.

We welcome Bro. Sam and Sis. Jane Martin into the church. They were baptized March 12. Bro. Sam is the son of Sis. Dorothy Martin (Roanoke) and John Martin (Bloomington).

Our visiting ministers last month were Bro. Steve Gutwein and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) conducted a Bible study on events of the last 41 years as they relate to prophecy. We thank these brothers for serving us and pray for God's blessings for them and their families.

Alan and Sue Haas have a new son, Jason Robert. He was born December 9, 1988. Karen is Jason's older sister. His grandparents are Sis. Sally and Bro. Harlow Blunier and Robert and Doris Haas.

We enjoyed hearing from the youngest group of our Sunday school children, those from 4 years old to the second grade, at our February Family Sing. It's always a pleasure to hear our young people singing.

Hospital patients last month were Bro. D. B. "Happy" Hodel (Sis. Jane), Sis. Judy Blunier (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Kathy Hoffman (Bro. Tom) and Terri Carr (Joe). We wish them all a speedy recovery.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

"This is my body which is given  
for you: this do in remembrance of me  
. . . This cup is the new testament in  
my blood, which is shed for you."

St. Luke 22:19 & 20

We once again are thankful to have partaken of communion March 18. We want to thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler for helping and giving of himself on our behalf.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bob Pflederer (Morton) and Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Art Bahler (Fairbury). May God richly bless each one for their endless labors of love.

We were blessed with testimonies and baptisms March 10 and 11. We welcome into our blessed brotherhood Sis. Trudy Sauder (Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy), Bro. Dean Bolliger (Ben and Rose), Sis. Linda Koch (Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence) and Sis. Rachel Koch (Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy). Our prayer is that each one will keep their first love and grow in the Lord.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister welcomed Abigail Rose March 8. Abigail has one brother and two sisters who also welcomed her home. We wish them God's guidance.

Bro. Roger Schweigert had back surgery this month. We are thankful he is at home recuperating.

The engagement of Ken Smiciklas (Mr. and Mrs. Don, Burbank, IL) to Ruth Sinn (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen) has been announced. Also engaged are Ted Pflederer (Bro. James and Sis. Lee) to Janette Evers (Mr. and Mrs. James, East Peoria). We wish these friends much happiness in the future.

On February 25, Si Wagenbach III (Si and Sis. LaVonne) and Dana Egli (Hopedale) were married. Ed Litwiller (Mr. and Mrs. Elmer, Hopedale) and Rosie Endress (Fred and



Ruth) were united in marriage March 11. Bro. Cleo Koch and Sis. Nancy Koch were joined in marriage March 19. We wish each of these couples many happy and blessed years together.

We once again were taken back to Calvary as the Sunday school sang in the Easter program. We wish to thank each one for making it such a beautiful evening.

-----

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Carol Schick**

Washington congregation was blessed with the fellowship of all of our young people for college weekend. It was encouraging to hear so many youthful voices singing praises to God. May our heavenly Father grant each one the grace to be truly submissive to His will as they face the decisions of life ahead of them.

The abundant blessings we have received through the work of our ministers this past month have been overwhelming. We thank each and every one of the following ministers and families: Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Vernon Leman (Eureka), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), and Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

March 4 and 5 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall. May they feel God's guiding hand in their new walk with Him.

March 18 is the date set aside for communion at Washington this year, Lord willing. May each of God's servants take time from their busy schedules to really search their hearts and ask God's forgiveness and guidance where necessary.

March 19 is the date set for our Easter program presented by the Sunday school students. Their efforts help us to keep in mind the true reason to be joyous on Easter.

Bible study this month was led by Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). The topic was "The Church's Outreach." We thank him for the thought-provoking talk. Each one of us has a duty to share the gospel to all those in need around us. Many people feel we were not all gifted in that way, that we're

not all gifted to speak or minister. However, I think we need to daily read Matthew 4:19 when Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." God has the power to work wonders through each one of us if we but let Him. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. May God grant us all the grace needed to be useful for His Holy Spirit.

-----

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter**

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

We heard recently from one of our ministering brothers that the words "fear not" are mentioned 365 times in the Bible. That's one for every day of the year. We hope and pray that these "fear nots" that God placed in His Holy Word can bring great comfort to all of us who have placed our trust in Him.

We pray especially at this time for Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and family. Their lovely "Christian home" was destroyed by fire while they were away on vacation. So many special things were lost in the fire, but we are thankful that they can still cling to the most important things in their lives. Situations in life such as this one are difficult to understand, but we can take courage as God emphatically reminds us to "fear not."

As we remember our hospital patients this past month, we realize that to "fear not" can bring them great strength also. Bro. Sylvan Frauhiger (Sis. Doris) is still hospitalized but is improving and Sis. Martha Kipfer has now been moved from the hospital to Meadowvale Care Center. Also hospitalized have been Sis. Joyce Gehring (Bro. Claren), Sis. Dorothy Fiechter, Andy Yergler (son of Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue) and Mark Maller (infant son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim).

Our sympathy goes out to Roger and Sis. Linda Eisenmann in the loss of Roger's father, Bro. Bill Eisen-

mann (Latty, OH). We also express our sympathy to Bro. Bill's four grandchildren in the Bluffton area.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen welcomed a precious baby girl, Sadie LouAnn, into their lives March 3. Sadie's grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber and Bob and Betty Steffen (Bluffton North). Justin C. Grube was born March 8 and has made Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda's family very happy. Justin's grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Reinhard (Latty, OH) and Paul and Jane Grube. Congratulations to these families!

As the farmers in our community prepare to plant seeds into the ground, it reminds us of the opportunity that we have as believers to always be sowing the "good seed" around us. Just as the farmer anticipates a harvest in the fall, we, too, can look forward to a harvest of precious souls.

Thank you for the miracles  
That springtime brings to earth,  
For life that's everlasting,  
And for my soul's rebirth!

Alice Joyce Davidson

-----

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Lois Drayer**  
**Debbie Aeschliman**

The Lord again has spoken to us through our ministers as we heard one Sunday morning about faith. As the minister was speaking, it brought to my mind about the time when I was a little girl and had a necklace that had a clear round ball with a little mustard seed in the middle. Every time I think of that tiny mustard seed, it reminds me of the verse in the Bible:

"... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Matthew 17:20

On the Sunday morning the minister spoke about faith, he told us a true story about a community out west. This community was going through a drought and had been praying for rain but nothing seemed to be happening. Several people from the community talked to the minister



and they decided to have one big prayer meeting at the church. As the whole community gathered for prayer, the ministers asked, "How many of you really believe it will rain?" They all believed it would rain if they prayed hard enough. He then asked them the same question two more times and got the same response. At that time he reached down from under the pulpit and held up an object. As he looked out over the congregation, he asked, "How many of you brought this object with you tonight, an umbrella?" Would you have brought an umbrella to the prayer meeting?

Sixty years ago, Bro. Joel and Sis. Josephine Meyer were united in marriage. The congregation helped celebrate their special day by singing a song with them. May God continue to bless them.

"There is beauty all around,  
When there's love at home;  
There is joy in every sound,  
When there's love at home.  
Peace and plenty here abide,  
Smiling sweet on every side,  
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,  
When there's love at home."

Hymns of Zion #64

On Sunday, March 15, the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship Day was held at Purdue University, West Lafayette. The youth of our church are a most precious blessing and the goal of ACYF was to instill in their hearts a greater love for fellowship within the church and most importantly to help them find their salvation. The day was a blessing for all those who attended.

Two more souls have turned their backs on the world and have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Rob Honegger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary) and Jason Craighead (Bro. Mike and Kay).

Congratulations to Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger on the birth of their new little granddaughter, Sara Kaye, born February 23 to Tim and Teresa Habegger. Congratulations to paternal grandparents, Bob and Betty Steffen, on the birth of their granddaughter, Sadie LouAnn, born February 24 to Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen (Bluffton). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber (Bluffton). Bro. Jerry

and Sis. Kathy Rauch welcome their fourth child, Hana Joy, born March 12. Rachel, Jadon and Micah are at home waiting to help care for her. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Bonnie Gerber and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia Rauch. May God bless and watch over these precious new babies and their families.

Bro. Jay Rauch (Sis. Mabel) was a hospital patient this past month. May the Lord grant him much strength in his time of illness.

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

Our annual church business meeting was held and new officers were prayerfully chosen. They are Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Gene Huber; church trustee, Bro. Perry Neihouser; ushers, Bro. Wendell Anliker, Bro. Jan Gutwein; Parkview Haven board, Bro. Bob Clauss; missionary committee, Bro. Eugene Huber; Sunday school teachers, Bro. Bob Cook, Bro. Jerry Gutwein, Bro. Dave Metzger, Bro. Roger Pelsy; fellowship center trustee, Bro. David E. Wuethrich.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Marti Gutwein have been blessed with a baby girl. Heike Elizabeth was born March 2. Heike's happy grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Marian Gutwein (Francesville).

Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich are grandparents again as their son, Tim Wuethrich, and his wife, Sally, were blessed with a little girl. Grace Elizabeth was born March 7 and has another set of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Les Pfladderer (Francesville). May God bless these couples with wisdom from above in guiding these children.

Our congregation extends a thank you to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse), Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) all lent themselves unto God's service here this past month.

The Gospel Choir of Francesville has cassettes of "Open Your Heart" for \$8.00 each plus postage. If interested please contact: Joan Streitmatter, 979 Swartzell Drive, Rensselaer, IN 47978.

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford - Kathy Freed Miriam Gudeman

We were visited by the following ministering brothers recently: Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), David Bertsch (Leo) and Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Walt Rager (Toledo), Karl Westfall (Francesville) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). We appreciate their support, love and willingness to be with us. We are bound together across the nation and the world by brethren of like minds. What a comfort in this inconsistent world!

Our church doctrine, soundly based on the Word of God, binds us together. Our church traditions and customs also unite us, encourage us in our walk of life, and remind us that we are a separate people.

One example of an Apostolic Christian Church tradition is the greeting and the holy kiss when we meet one another. When we greet as a brother or sister-in-Christ, we acknowledge our belief and our membership in God's family and confirm to one another that we share a love for our brethren founded in Jesus' love for us. When we think about the blessings these friendships have given us, our hearts leap with joy!

When we greet with a holy kiss, we are following God's Biblical commandment (Romans 16:16). This kiss is not the kiss of social custom, but an affirmation of spiritual union and holy fellowship. Sometimes referred to as a "kiss of peace," it reflects the love and attitude of forgiveness and humility among family members of the household of faith. It is difficult to retain feelings of ill will after such a greeting!

When we understand the Biblical foundation and historical background of our church traditions, we can appreciate them, and can support them wholeheartedly.

Spring is in the air. The sun appears to be brighter and the days are getting warmer. The birds have started their serenading, and there is just a hint of green in the grass. Yes, the earth is "spring"-ing to life, again!

When I reflect upon springtime, I think of spring cleaning. God's creation is doing a bit of spring cleaning as it wipes away the dull and dor-

mant covers of winter and redresses itself with fresh bright colors. Through nature, God reveals to us the need for renewal. Spring is a season of refreshing and encouraging renewal; new hope, new attitudes, new feelings and a new direction.

Not only is spring a time to set the house in order, cleaning out old junk we've accumulated, and setting things to rights again, but it can also be a time for spiritual "spring cleaning."

As people, we often let our hearts accumulate dust balls of jealousy, greed, anger, hate and cobwebs of just general dissatisfaction. We can wipe this dirt and grime right out of our hearts by getting busy thinking good thoughts, and doing kind deeds for others. So let's get busy with our "pledge" of prayer and devotion, and His loving -- fresh "joy," and scrub out the ugliness from our hearts. Others will notice the sparkle and shine. And so will God!

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalms 51:10

Our thanks to Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford for inviting us into their lovely home for a wonderful time of praise and fellowship this past month. I have the added privilege of serving with Sis. Gail in forming our church youth group called "Bible Buddies," which meets twice a month during our regular Wednesday night services. We really have enjoyed this special group, and prayerfully hope that it will continue to grow with God's blessings.

We were sorry to hear about the passing away of Sis. Kathy Neuenchwander's dad, Bud Hargraves. Our sympathy is extended to his family and loved ones.

We sincerely appreciate the blessings we have received from our visiting ministers Bro. Karl Westfall (Francisville), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), who filled in ministering for our Bro. Ken Wuethrich while he was present at the ACYF gathering at Purdue, Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott).

We want to express our appreciation to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) for sharing communion with

us, March 18, Palm Sunday weekend. It is such a blessing to come together in remembrance of Jesus' last supper with His disciples before He was taken from them to do the will of His Father who sent Him. Although, not physically present, He is ever-present spiritually in our hearts, communing with us as we rededicate our lives to Him.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

So barren and bleak through the winter,  
The victims of freezing and storm;  
Frail branches reach prayerfully upward  
And wait for new buds to take form.

Each tenuous shoot pushes boldly,  
Destroying the walls of its tomb;  
New life shall explode from its prison  
And suddenly burst into bloom.

The born-again blossoms in spring time --  
Wild seeds sprouting up through the sod  
Will display through magnificent beauty  
The splendid creation of God.

Kay Long

As the springtime converts the deadness of winter, so does the blood of Jesus convert our dead heart. The Lord has worked His miracle once again, and on March 5, welcomed a new sister-in-faith, Becky Gudeman, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Mary. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) shared this blessed weekend with us and we thank them for their service.

On March 3, we had a church singing at Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel's for Sis. Eva Szabo, who was visiting us from Hungary. We truly enjoyed hearing Sis. Eva sing some hymns in Hungarian and play beautifully on the violin. "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. For the

Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." Psalms 95:1-3.

### INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"A lady was once spending her summer in Switzerland, and in her mountain walks, she came upon a sheepfold. One day she stood and watched with great interest, for there was one poor sheep lying there looking sick. She saw that its leg was broken, and, full of pity, asked how it happened. "I broke it myself," said the shepherd sadly. Now she pitied the sheep even more for she thought there had been a tragic accident. "No," said the shepherd, "It was done on purpose; it was the only way. That sheep will follow me after I nurse it back to health and strength. Before it was always wandering off into dangerous places and it wouldn't let me take care of it along with the rest and would not come when I called. It would certainly have been killed had I not taken this drastic step."

The scriptures frequently use the picture of the sheep with the shepherd to illustrate the Christian and his relationship with the Lord. Sometimes He must get our attention so that we learn to follow wherever He would lead us.

(Taken in part from The Log)

We welcome back Elder Bro. David Bertsch and his wife, Sis. Marie, from Florida where he attended the conference and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz from volunteer work in Ecuador, also Brad Gehring from a work project in Haiti.

A good program with the theme, "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone," called deep and serious thought to the supreme sacrifice of love on Calvary's Hill. Easter sunrise service reminds us of the promise of that glorious resurrection. That early Sunday morning service is followed by a fellowship breakfast.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy Gehring and their family in the home-going of his mother, Sis. Bertha Mary Gehring (Iowa).

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) was a visiting minister recently. He and those who accompanied him are thanked for coming.

A precious new baby boy blessed the home of Bro. Phil and Sis. Stephanie Bollier. Travis Michael joins two brothers, Tony and Jonathan. Pleased grandparents are Janice Sylvester and Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier.

#### Bits of This and That:

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God.

A Christian does good deeds, but just doing good deeds does not make a man a Christian.

It is one thing to know there is a God; it's another thing to know the God that is.

Heaven and hell are in opposite directions, and no man can go both ways at the same time.

Don't sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.

Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change; and when we are right, make us easy to live with.

If your troubles are deep seated and of long-standing, try kneeling.

#### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Sue Schieler**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Bro. John Lehman, Sr., is recovering in a Fort Wayne hospital from bypass heart surgery. Satisfactory progress is reported by his family and our church family is so thankful.

Sis. Christina "Tina" Lehman left her earthly family to be with the Lord March 3. Her husband, Bro. George, preceded her in death in 1977. Our loving sympathy is expressed to her family: her daughters, Helen (Ralph) Roberts, Lorene (Martin) Stookey, Sis. Edna, with whom Tina made her home; and two sons, George and Howard. Two brothers, Chris and Albert, live in nearby Leesburg; and a sister, Anna Logan, in Mishawaka.

Tina was a gentle, quiet, member of our church and was loved and respected by everyone. Along with her family, we will miss her very much.

Sis. Martha Haab submitted to surgery and we're happy to report, is fully recovered.

The sisters of the Silver Thimble Club held their local charity auction March 11. Generous hearts made it possible to raise needed funds for reaching out to those who are less fortunate.

We were blessed to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) enrich us with his ministry this past month.

Our friend Marlene Price has found the enrichment of making a decision to have the Lord in her life. We rejoice with her.

We look forward, within the next month, to hear testimonies of four young people, who likewise made this decision. They are Rita Beer, Jenny Beer, Brent Beer and Trisha Wuthrich.

Our sincere congratulations are extended to Bro. Dean Lehman and Sis. Mary Steffen, whose engagement was announced recently. Dean's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman (South Bend). Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elizabeth Steffen are Mary's parents. They plan to be married July 2 and we wish them God's richest blessings, now and in all their future plans.

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler**

On February 20, little Jesse Alan came into the family of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller. Amanda, Lea and Evan will all be big helpers, along with grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Edie Stoller (Latty, OH).

Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) visited our congregation and shared the Gospel message with us.

Bro. Harold Schieler experienced surgery recently and is recuperating, for which we are always thankful for.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy Clauss relocated due to his job promotion. We pray that the Lord can watch between us as they make their home at 229 S. Bayer Drive, Evansville, IN 47712, (812) 985-2418.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Sue Beebe**

We rejoice with Bro. Dean Lehman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Mary Steffen (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elizabeth) of Bluffton North, upon the announcement of their engagement. They have chosen July 2 as their wedding day. May the Lord continue to be their "precious corner-

stone, and a sure foundation" Isaiah 28:16, upon which they build their marriage.

On February 25, we met together with some of the brethren from the Milford congregation to view slides of Haiti, which were shown to us by Bros. Harold Witzig (Morton, IL), Robert Sutter (Bluffton) and Robert Beebe (South Bend). It was a reminder of how blessed and fortunate we are to live in our wonderful country. But we should never forget that there are many who are not nearly so fortunate. There is always much work we can do.

To live for self and get ahead  
Brings limited reward,  
But if we look on others needs,  
We're honored by the Lord.

D. J. D.

Much spiritual food was laid on the table before us February 26 as Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) ministered unto us. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

On March 12, some of us sang for Sis. Rosena Hueni at the Bremen Healthcare Center.

Bro. John Schuch has been ill and was recently hospitalized. Sis. Helen Martin has been confined to her home because of illness. Sis. Mildred Meister and Sis. Mae Schumacher continue to heal from their automobile accident. Our hope and prayer is that it won't be long before each one can feel the blessing of restored health, and can assemble with us once again.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Anjie Heinold - Beth Heinold**

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

I Corinthians 15:58

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bro. Carl Westfall (Francesville, IN). May the Lord richly bless them for their labor in His service.



**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

**Lynn Martin**

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalms 100:1-2. Isn't it wonderful that we can worship and praise our Lord and Savior freely? Let's pray for our brothers and sisters who are in lands where they cannot openly worship our precious Lord.

We also want to thank those who came and shared the Gospel with us at our Thursday evening services. They include Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). The invitation to come and worship and praise our God is extended to anyone who wants to come. The dates for the rest of the semester are April 13 and 27. We meet at the Nazarene Church on Soldiers Home Road at 7:30 E.S.T. Praise the Lord!

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**

**Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume**

We are thankful to have our Elder Bro. Alfred home from the mid-winter conference in Sarasota, FL, and trust God's blessing and guidance was felt in the deliberations that our precious church might be edified and strengthened in these perilous times.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Edna Kyburz who required hospitalization and is now convalescing at home.

On March 1, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Furrer welcomed their first child, little Katie Ann, into their hearts and home. May God grant them wisdom as they strive to bring her up in the way that she should go.

Notice: April is the month for Wolcott to pay their Silver Lining dues.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Deyona Massner - Karen Schulz**

We were again privileged to have visiting ministering brothers in our midst this past month. They were Bros. Dale Frank and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). May

the Lord bless them for their labors on our behalf.

March 4 was the wedding day of Sis. Mayme Gerst and Bro. Les Gerst (Oakville). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life as one in the Lord.

On March 12 we gathered together to hear the conference conclusions. We are thankful Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) was willing to assist our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in bringing us these important safeguards to our spiritual life. May we ever heed the admonitions of those who are accountable to the Lord for warning us of spiritual dangers.

**IOWA, ELGIN  
Gloria Frieden**

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

Matthew 5:4

Sometimes the death angel lingers awhile at a door before knocking and at other times seems to knock most unexpectedly. May we be found ready and waiting when our name is called.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the families of Leonard Moore and Sis. Bertha Gehring in the loss of their loved ones.

When we get home from our sorrow and care

And we stand with the angels of light,  
Oh what a meeting in heaven there'll be,

In that land without shadow or night;  
Sorrow and care, tribulation and pain  
We'll leave, when we pass thro' the tomb

Clouds of despair, storms of trial and care

We shall leave for that beautiful home.  
Gospel Hymns

Little Kami Sue Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) is happy to announce the birth of her new baby brother, Caleb James. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend) and Gib and Sis. Vicky Knobloch (Lester).

God has also blessed the home of Mark and Ruth Zupke with their third child, Timothy Mark. Matthew

and Miriam are Timothy's big brother and sister.

Our thanks to Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend) for sharing with us from God's Word. How thankful we are for brothers who are submissive to their calling into the ministry and will speak God's Words as the Spirit directs them.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**

**Dawn Moser**

We were uplifted and encouraged as we gathered together this past month to hear the conference tapes. Also giving us encouragement were the many visitors we have had. Each one adds a great deal to our gathering. We especially thank our visiting ministers for giving of themselves in God's service. They are Bros. Dale Frank and John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO).

We have grown quite a bit this past year and are thankful that there are more of us to fill the positions in our congregation. We thank Bro. Brad Funk for his service as trustee and Bro. Tony Funk and Sis. Verle Funk for their many years of service in Sunday school. Our new trustee is Bro. Tom Moser and our new teachers are Sis. Janice Webber, Willa Clark and Bro. Tom Moser. We are also thankful for the expansion of our Sunday school from 4 to 5 classes. Truly we have been blessed.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY**

**Bonita Frank**

A visiting minister reminded us recently that we need to stop often and remember our goal is to get to heaven, and try not to just live "from one crisis to another," as it is so easy to do. We spent some time at our monthly Bible study, too, considering our priorities in life, led by Bro. Joe Gerst. Hopefully, these reminders can keep us on a more direct track to our goal.

The Roanoke single group blessed our congregation by being with us the weekend of February 25 and 26. We enjoyed the singing, fellowship and worship we shared together.

We are thankful to have had visiting ministers here to serve us this past month. They were Bros. Bob



Pflederer (Morton, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Thank you each one for travelling to be with us.

-----

### IOWA, LESTER

**Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch**

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:14-15. God sent Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and we have heard the glad tidings of Jesus Christ through the preaching of these brethren.

"What therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." St. Mark 10:9. February 19 was the day Sis. Barbara Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Alfred Reutter (Rockville, CT) exchanged their vows one with another. May God richly bless them as they establish their home and walk together toward heaven.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3. God has blest Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger with a baby daughter. Maggie Jo was born February 21. Maternal grandparents are Lou and Tina Moser and paternal grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pay over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14. Anna Leuthold (Otto) recently had surgery and hospitalized for medical reasons were Bro. Bob Leuthold and Roger Myrlie. May God grant each one His healing powers.

May God's Holy Word continue to provide comfort to each of us as we experience joy and sorrows on our earthly journey.

As trials and cares of life oft beset us, may we find strength and comfort in the following lines:

It's easy to grow downhearted when  
nothing goes your way,  
It's easy to be discouraged when you  
have a troublesome day,  
But trouble is only a challenge to  
spur you on to achieve  
The Best that God has to offer if you  
have the Faith to Believe!

Helen Steiner Rice

-----

### IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Debbie Wagenbach**

Sis. Mayme Gerst (Burlington, IA) became the bride of Bro. Les Gerst March 4. We are so thankful that God has provided for them to be a help to each other throughout the remainder of their lives.

Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) has been a visiting ministers in our Oakville congregation. We thank him and his family for being with us and for letting himself be used in the Lord's service.

"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." (I John 2:25) Sis. Bertha Gehring was called home to live forever with the Lord. Even though we are thankful that God has relieved her of the bodily afflictions at the age of 95, we know that to the dear ones who stand this side of the grave, parting is never easy. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Phyllis Knobloch and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) in the loss of their mother. We know that in the days ahead they will many times reflect on the days of their youth and the precious memories they have of their mother. May God comfort the hearts of all who have felt the pangs of earthly separation with the reassuring thought that their loved one is in the beautiful land on high.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) could be with us to assist our Elder Bro. Ed in the reading and reviewing of the conference report. Many good thoughts were laid to our hearts by our shepherds. We must remember that if they just sink into our ears and we don't follow through with the proper actions, all is in vain. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16)

### IOWA, PULASKI

**Teresa Schock  
Ginny Wuthrich**

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

Proverbs 31:30

What more can we ask for, than that one of these women would be our mother. May God especially bless all mothers this Mother's Day.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bernard Schaer in the passing away of his brother, Ted Schaer (Peoria, IL).

Sis. SueAnn Schaer, Bro. Ben Metzger and Bro. Dale Schock were all hospital patients during the last month. All have returned home.

Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) once again has ministered to us and we thank him and pray the Lord's kind blessing.

-----

### IOWA, WEST BEND

**Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

One by one our brothers and sisters are returning from the south. This is a sign that the cold winter days will soon be behind us. Other signs of spring will soon be here; the birds returning, the trees budding and the planting of seeds.

### SEEDS

A seed is but a seed  
Until God lends a hand  
And makes a plant spring forth  
To feed created man.  
How this can always be  
Is not for us to know,  
But when we eat our food  
We know it must be so.  
A seed will never grow  
Without help from above,  
So also man would fail  
Without our Lord's true love.

Lois Deck Oakes

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the families of Bros. Fred, Edwin and Verner Wirtz in the loss of their brother, Alfred (West Bend).

Sis. Teresa (Bro. Larry) Bruellman's grandmother passed away recently, so we share our sympathy to their family also.

Joni Schneider (Louis) is again

able to assemble with us after submitting to surgery.

We also want to welcome Sis. Eunice Knobloch who has moved to our community from Elgin, IL. We hope she will feel at home in our congregation.

-----  
**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Lori Baumgartner**  
**Kathy Strahm**

On Saturday evening, March 4, our congregation gathered with the Sabetha congregation to hear the memorandum of the brotherhood conference. Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), along with our Elder Bro. John Leman, assisted Elder Bro. Sam Huber in this work. It is well that we are reminded, as Peter said, "I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:" II Peter 3:1.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), whom we appreciated having among us to bring us the Word.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Dan Sinn and Bro. Ephraim Strahm. May the God of all comfort comfort them in their affliction and tribulation, even hearing the groaning of the Spirit; for at times we know not how to pray as we ought.

As the Earth is beginning to show signs of spring and new life after the winter, we once again marvel at God's great creation, the beauty and wonder of it all. We have His promise of seedtime and harvest, and because Christ died on the cross for our sins, shed His innocent blood, and rose triumphant from the grave, we have a hope of new life in heaven.

Sunday evening song services will be held every other Sunday, alternately with Sabetha, beginning at Easter. Wednesday evening services are then discontinued until Thanksgiving.

-----  
**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Karen Sinn**

God has again blessed the home of Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart. Thayer Patrick was born March 17. Taira, Trista, Trenton, Tyler and Timothy welcome him home. Grandparents are Sis. Mabel Springer and Elder Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart.

We were drawn in spirit to Calvary as we listened to the children tell the true story of Easter in verse and song. It is our prayer that they remember what Christ did for them, and as they reach the age of accountability, they seek him as their Saviour.

-----  
**KANSAS, GRIDLEY**  
**Vola Young - Judy Kraft**

Our surroundings are beginning to come alive with the musical sounds and beautiful sights of spring. We welcome the coming of spring with renewed confidence that there will be new growth and life in our environment. Our spiritual lives also need this renewing of strength and growth made possible by active participation in our church, reading of scripture and involvement through prayer with our Lord. We stand in awe, hardly able to comprehend the love that our Saviour had for you and I, that He was willing to pay the price at Calvary. We know that He could not be contained in the grave, but did arise -- alive, victorious over death and grave! Miraculous! Wondrous! Praise be to God who has given all things, that we might have life unending, eternal!

February 19 was the wedding day for Bro. Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen, Gridley) and Sis. Sandy Lanz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn, Philadelphia, PA). Congratulations and best wishes are extended to this newlywed couple in the establishment of strong, sound new beginnings and adjustments that might be required by married life.

Due to numerous ones attending Shawn's wedding, church for the Gridley - Lamont congregation was held at Lamont. Visiting ministers that Sunday were Bro. Charles Marti and Bro. Lawrence Luthi, both of Lamar, MO.

Bro. Ephraim Young was a surgical patient. We're thankful that he is again at home, recuperating.

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

Your blessing, God, is like a gift  
 Of silver and of gold  
 And sometimes it is almost more  
 Than I have strength to hold.

Sometimes you shower so much joy  
 And happiness on me  
 That life is like a paradise  
 Of perfect ecstasy.  
 And that is why I do not mind  
 The lightning and the rain  
 Or any hail or thunderbolt  
 That shakes my window pane.  
 I have my disappointments and  
 My share of earthly grief  
 But always I remember, God,  
 That there is some relief.  
 Because when I have said my  
 prayer  
 I hear Your soft reply  
 And when I lift my eyes I see  
 A rainbow in the sky.

James J. Metcalfe

Besides all of the daily blessings mentioned in this lovely poem, God filled our cup to overflowing one weekend this month when Elder Bro. John Lehman and his dear wife, Sis. Connie (Bern) joined us for a blessed weekend of communion and Christian fellowship. First we enjoyed a potluck supper, and later Bro. Ronald Nelson and Bro. John Lehman brought to our remembrance the suffering and love of our Lord Jesus the day He died on the cross for the sins of a dying world. Then we partook of communion, and felt the joy that God cared enough to send us this hope of eternal life with Him. Bro. John then lent himself to teach us two messages from God's Word Sunday, and as I said before, God truly overflowed our cup of love and joy and peace! Thank you God, for our church, our ministering and elder brethren, our brothers and sisters-in-faith, and most of all, for always, always being there for us.

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

**PRAYERS ARE THE  
 STAIRS TO GOD**

Prayers are the stairs  
 We must climb every day  
 If we would reach God  
 There is no other way.  
 For we learn to know God  
 When we meet Him in prayer  
 And ask Him to lighten  
 Our burden of care.  
 So start in the morning

And, though the way's steep  
Climb ever upward  
"Til your eyes close in sleep.  
For prayers are the stairs  
That lead to the Lord  
And to meet Him in prayer  
Is the climber's reward.

Helen Steiner Rice

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month, Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN). We sincerely appreciate their service to the Lord.

The Sabetha and Bern congregations enjoyed the reading of the conference report March 4. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Sam Huber.

Hospitalized this month were Elder Bro. Sam Huber for surgery, Bro. George Bahr, Sis. Marian Kellenberger, Don Strahm, Bro. Virgil Hartter and Bro. Dan Sinn. We pray for the Lord's healing hand upon each of them.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm were given a new bundle of joy when Jodi Sue was born March 8. Ryan and Renee welcome her home. Grandparents are Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princetonville, IL) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (St. Mark 10:9) We congratulate Bro. John and Sis. Marie Plattner who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 26.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Our spring Bible study series of lessons is on Daniel. Thus far we have seen God portrayed as He is in the entire scriptures, sovereign, righteous, just, omnipotent, omniscient, loving and merciful as He directs, works and intervenes in our lives.

We invite all of you who may be planning your summer vacations to make Wichita your weekend stop. We would welcome the opportunity to share worship with you.

#### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glendoris Huber

"Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24

As our Lord and Saviour approached Calvary when His time was at hand to be offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, He likened Himself as a grain of wheat being planted to bring forth much fruit through the lives of those of us who have received His Word as seed into our hearts. The Bible tells us about the two kinds of seed from which man is born. "Bring born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Peter 1:23. The incorruptible seed is the Word of God which produces an everlasting life.

#### To The Master Gardener

I am like a garden, Lord, a garden filled with weeds.  
Gently with your loving hands,  
plant in me the seeds  
Of love, joy and kindness, of faith,  
hope and trust.  
Pull out the choking weeds of self,  
and those of pride and lust,  
With your spirit water me till I  
have life anew  
And all who see this well-worked  
ground will know it's kept by  
Thee.

Janet Garibaldi

We do miss having Claudette Morgan in our congregation. We wish her God's love and protection. She has moved to the Pittsburgh, PA, area to be with her daughter for an indefinite stay.

May God bless our visiting ministers, Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and for all those who came with them and from the churches of Gridley and Forrest, IL, Oakville, IA, and Croghan, NY. We always appreciate each one and the blessing of Christian fellowship.

Give Your Address Changes  
To Your Reporter

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

This verse is so uplifting! It feels so good to know that the Lord will carry us when we are weary in body and spirit.

We, here in Alto, were also uplifted by the Lord's Word shared by visiting Bro. Gene Fretter (Toledo, OH).

Also, our prayers and thoughts went with our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen as he traveled to the elder brother meeting in Sarasota, FL, this month.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Pam Schlatter

We, in Bay City, rejoice with a large number of souls turning to the Lord. We are pleased to report that one of them, Brent Steffen, has been announced as having peace with God and man. We wish Brent God's continued guidance in his life. Brent's parents are Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue Steffen.

We thank Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) for sharing the Word of Life with us this past month. May the Spirit richly endow our ministers with the ability to enlighten their hearers.

Little Mackenzie Wieland (Kirk and Ceil) was hospitalized this past month. Others in our congregation have met with accident. Jim and Brenda Wrzesinski (daughter of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marian Knochel) and Sandi Knochel (daughter of Bro. Bob Knochel) were involved in car accidents. We pray for God's healing powers to work in all those who have experienced physical problems.

February 23 was a happy day for Rick and Joan Long as Jacob Daniel arrived to brighten their home and be Caitlin's playmate. Bro. Erwin and Sis. Della Erismann are Jacob's maternal grandparents.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

Just recently I learned an impor-



tant lesson that I'd like to share with you. I had been warned by several people that someone involved with me in a certain function would treat me with disregard and lack of respect. After hearing this same report several times, I began to form a rather negative opinion of this person in my mind. When the meeting occurred, I was treated with overwhelming respect and courteousness. I was almost shocked, and then I was ashamed. I had to wonder how many other times I had formed opinions about people because of negative comments I had heard from others. Let's remember to pass along those positive things that will build up our brother and our neighbor.

We welcome Sis. Tina Wackerle to our congregation. She is working with a traveling nurse organization and is in Detroit at this time. We are thankful to be recipients of her love and fellowship. We also want to welcome Sis. Minnie Freidinger back from Florida, and as she is experiencing a crushed vertebrae and pneumonia at this time, we pray that God would grant her healing.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Wendell Gerber and their wives were with us February 12 when we shared the memorandum together. It is always good to be reminded to evaluate our hearts and lifestyles, and strive to live as a glory to God. We thank both of our visiting ministers for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Our prayers are with Michael Peterson who is hospitalized at this time, and with his mother and sister, Diane and Annette. We also remember Bro. Leonard Hitz who has hospitalized, but is home again, and Millie Wieland who is hospitalized at this time.

We are thankful that Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi and Sis. Perseda Wieland could again assemble with us.

Croghan, NY, hosted services in Kitchener, Ontario, April 16.

The Easter season always reminds me more acutely of the extent of the sacrifice Christ made for all of us. I am awed by the perfection of God's plan and I'm so thankful it includes all mankind, even me.

We had our Easter program March 19. The old, old story seems even

closer to our hearts when we hear it from the lips of our children.

Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH) and his family spent a weekend here in Detroit. We appreciated his willingness to bring us a message from God's Word.

We want to thank the Toledo Sunday school and those who accompanied them for spending a Sunday with us. Their purpose in coming was to sing for the residents at Woodhaven and to give each resident a flower. I'm confident that God looks down and smiles on such expressions of love.

We enjoyed Sis. Eva Szabo from Hungary who was in our area for several days. She told us of her visit to our brethren in Russia and said that she saw homes with dirt floors and no running water. Yet, the people were very happy, generous, and contented. Knowing that, I find it hard to voice a complaint. What an abundant life God has given us!

Our congratulations go to Sis. Dorine Kurkowski on her recent graduation from Michigan State University. We're all thankful when God allows us to reach milestones in our lives. God bless you!

We're thankful to have Michael Peterson coming to church with us again. Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Ruth Gudeman as she is undergoing chemotherapy. We need the prayers of those we love,

As we look ahead toward Mother's Day, let's remember to voice our appreciation for the love they have given us and the sacrifices they have made for us. We have a rich heritage in mothers and grandmothers who love the Lord.

Rittman, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, May 14.

Reminder: April is collection month for Silver Lining dues for Detroit.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

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

I Peter 5:7

We can feel the power of prayer, knowing that is why the Lord went so often up to the mountain to be alone. He was praying. We also realize that Jesus, the Son of God, felt a need of

prayer. How much more you and I need to pray often in quietness as we need His help. The power is in prayer.

As we look back over this past month, we find ourselves thankful for several visiting ministers. They were Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) and Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris).

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

##### Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was with us and proclaimed God's precious Word and teachings to us. May he be blessed for visiting us.

Among the hospital patients this month were Kathy Nohl (Bro. Art and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Orville Nohl, Annette Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Eileen Nohl (Bro. David) and Bro. Don Esterling. May the Lord restore good health to each one, according to His will.

Four families have had the blessings of having new babies added to their families. We rejoice with them, trusting they will also rely upon the guidance of the Lord for rearing these dear little children.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf have received Mary Kay into their family. She was born February 22, and was welcomed home by Mindy, Molly, Marcy, Myra and Byron. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi and Lloyd and Dorothy Durhee.

Kevin and Roy Ann Schmidgall welcome a new little daughter born March 7. They named her Taylor Nicole. She is welcomed home by Melissa and Derec. Sis. Mabel Schmidgall is the grandmother.

Ray and Tracy Nohl are pleased to have Jessica Rae join their family. She was born March 4. Grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley and Sig and Arlene Loge.

Brenton Joe received a warm welcome into the Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Feuchtenberger family. Jonathan welcomes his new little brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane and Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Lester, IA).

We wish to extend sympathy to Sis. Mabel Schmidgall upon the passing of her mother, Sis. Carrie Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God comfort her and her family.



If, instead of a gem  
or even a flower,  
We could cast the gift  
of a lovely thought  
Into the heart of a friend,  
that he would be giving  
as angels give.

George MacDonald

-----  
**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Ella Mae Schmidt**  
**Georgia Messner**

Sis. Carrie Messner, 88, was called to her heavenly home February 22. She had yearned for this for some time. We extend our sympathy to her family, daughters, Sis. Mabel (Frances) Schmidtgall, Florence (Sid) Gutknecht; sons, Earl and Clarence; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters, Sis. Florence (Walter) Messner and Sis. Pearl (Archie) Liene-mann; and a brother, Bro. Noah Miller.

We enjoyed a blessed Sunday, March 19, when Sis. Paulette Schmidt (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel) was united in marriage to Bro. Kent Zimmerman (Bro. Allan and Sis. Carolyn, Forrest, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they start their life together. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Don Miller (Minneapolis).

After a very snowy March, we are looking forward to spring and the renewal of trees, plants and grass. As our winter travelers return, we also know spring is close behind. Welcome home travelers.

The family of Sis. Carrie Messner wishes to extend a sincere thank you to each and every one who remembered them in sympathy, with a prayer, a card, a thought, a flower or a gift since the death of their dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. May God richly bless each one for their love and kindness.

Bro. George Messner is again a hospital patient. May the Lord be ever near him.

-----  
**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Becky Marti - Carol Braker**

We enjoyed a blessed weekend with several visiting couples and their families. Bro. Everett Hari (Bloom-

ington, IL) was with us and brought us God's Word. We certainly appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller and their children have welcomed a precious baby girl, Rachel Lynn, into their home. May God give them the wisdom and grace to teach her the ways of the Lord. Grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Mabel Springer (Fort Scott, KS).

Although many of us have been enjoying the blessing of good health, Hazel Kibler has been a hospital patient. She has our prayers and love.

May we each find joy in our hearts during this wonderful season of spring-time.

-----  
**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**

**Jerry and Doreen Leuthold**

Our recent visiting ministers have been Bros. Glen Dill (Tremont, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

We thank each one for supporting our small congregation and sharing God's Word with us.

We thank all those who have visited us and helped make our group larger.

We continue to meet at the Ben Franklin Hotel.

-----  
**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart**

"The love of God surrounds us  
Like the air we breathe around us--  
As near as a heart beat,  
As close as a prayer,  
And when ever we need Him  
He'll always be there."

Helen Steiner Rice

We miss Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp who have moved to Eureka, IL. We have enjoyed the few years that they were part of our "Church on the Levee" and have many happy memories. We wish them God's blessings in their new environment and a special invitation to visit us often.

"Lord, teach me how to pray,  
Unselfish my requests, And help me

then to know, Thou sendest what is best." Anonymous. Bro. Gerald Sutter (Sis. Marge) spent several days in the hospital for tests and x-rays and we are thankful he is again enjoying reasonable health. Bro. William Cottrell (Sarasota, FL) who we consider a part of our church family, has been very ill and spent time in the hospital there. William has "Parkinson's Disease" and now is suffering from complications. Our love, prayers and concerns are with him and Sis. Ruth who patiently stands by and extends T.L.C. and we ask God to give them a special measure of grace and strength to meet each day. Sis. Ruth's mother, Sis. Marie Butikofer is spending the winter months with them in Florida and will be celebrating her 90th birthday April 11. "When God allows extraordinary trials, He also prepares for His people extraordinary comfort."

Dan, Sis. Tina, Jenae and Wesley Sutter welcome a new baby boy, Nathan Gerald, born March 6. Happy grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter and Allen and Gail Beard. "Begin to train them early/To fear and love the Lord/To carry on life's pathway/God's lamp, His Holy Word! (Fennema).

Some of us were privileged to share in the annual World Relief meeting in Fairbury March 11, which was very well presented and gave us much food for thought. Thank you all who had a part in this day, including the delicious meals and hospitable bed and breakfasts.

Thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr who was our guest minister March 12.

A beautiful Sunday evening, March 12, was the setting for an impressive communion service at our Taylor church. We appreciate the willingness of our Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Roy Grimm to serve the holy sacraments and trust it was a blessing to all. It was with mixed emotions when we were reminded that, Lord willing, this will be our last communion service held in what we call "The Little White Church on the Levee." The evening service was ended by singing that familiar song, "The Little White Church on the Levee" followed by our Christian greeting one to another as we will move onward marking a new "ebenezer" in our

lives. "Hitherto has the Lord helped us." I Samuel 7:12.

"Our joyful praise we sing to Thee  
O, Lord of glorious majesty!  
Through Jesus Christ to Thee we  
pray,  
And bring our thanks to Thee today  
Before Thy throne!"  
Zion's Harp #200, vs. 8

**NEW YORK, CROGHAN**  
**Alice Virkler**

As we approach the Easter season of the year, we are reminded of Christ's suffering, sacrifice and love for each of us. We are so thankful that He did not remain in the grave but that He arose to give us a hope of life eternal with Him in heaven. We are reminded of rebirth as spring is now beginning and we look forward to warmth and reviving of all that has been dormant in the past season. Our maple producers have begun the process of tapping the trees to gather the sap for production of maple syrup.

Larry Purvines (Sis. Louise) has made a new beginning in his life, having given his heart to the Lord in repentance and is awaiting baptism. We are happy that souls are still being called from sin and darkness into the light of His life.

We are also happy to report that Sis. Celia Virkler (Bro. Lowell) was able to assemble with us again and is much improved since her fall. Sis. Mabel Ebersol was a surgical patient. Our thoughts and prayers are ever with those who are in sickness or unable to assemble from week to week. May they ever feel God's nearness and love for them.

Chris and Susan Virkler have welcomed their first child, Emma Lauren, who was born March 7. May God ever be near them as they begin the important responsibility which has been given them in the care and loving of this new blessing. Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler and John and Kathleen Van-Nest.

Our thoughts are of our mother's love as we approach the day set aside for special remembrance of them. May God richly bless all mothers for their loving care and kindness shown throughout our lifetime.

A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away . . .  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking

. . .  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
like the mysteries of creation . . .  
A many splendored miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Joyce Gasser**

" . . . Forsake not the law of thy mothers." Proverbs 1:8. Our Godly mothers have been teaching the law of the Lord, and are worthy of Mother's Day being set apart to bestow adoration to them. Rahab is a mother who taught about the Lord and her lineage was blessed by her teachings. Rahab was a Canaanite, a descendant of Canaan, the grandson of Noah, and they had not turned to God. Rahab is an example of stepping out for the Lord to teach the ways of the Lord to change the lives of many.

The Israelites destroyed Jericho, but Rahab and her family entered in with the blessed. Rahab had changed people to also inherit a blessing, and in her lineage four generations later was Israel's good king, David. God further blessed her and put her name in Matthew 1 in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Our adoration goes to mothers like Rahab teaching the law of the Lord.

We rejoice that Todd and Dan Graf have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are sons of Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf.

Sis. Margaret Gruenig had surgery and we wish for her a speedy recovery.

Bro. Glenn Riggerbach and Bro. Art Ingold ministered to us recently.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**John Grimm**

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May God bless them for ministering God's Word.

We are thankful that Bro. Andy Hunyady has been able to assemble with us again. May God continue to restore Bro. Andy's health.

**OHIO, GIRARD**  
**Kathryn B. Emch**

I feel sure that many of you have been aware that the Girard church building has been for sale. Some of you know that we had our final service Wednesday evening, October 12, 1988, when we had the Snowbirds and many Akron, Rittman, Smithville and Mansfield brethren as our guests. Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron) and Gary Maibach and Andrew Stoller (Smithville) occupied the pulpit area, and as God spoke through them, we were instructed. The evening was a time of mixed emotions, having fellowship and receiving blessings.

The sale that was pending at that time did not materialize, even though the organization had a total of four services there. So, we were back to finding another buyer.

We started having services in our home and this continued until Thanksgiving, when our friend Edward Deislinger entered the hospital. Three weeks later he passed away. Since that time, Harold and I have been picking up our Sis. Anna Enyeart, and we have had our services at the Deislinger's home in Girard.

In December, Sis. Mina Emch fell and broke her hip and shoulder. She spent time in the hospital off-and-on until March 9, when the Lord mercifully called her home. She was 95 years old, and just 15 days short of another birthday.

March 11 we received the payment for our church building from Unity Church. We are sorry to be without a building, but since the Church is People, we still have a group comprised of four members and

a few friends. Of those who are here, our Sisters Ella Deislinger and Anna Enyeart have both been having some difficult days.

We love our friends and sisters dearly, and continue to ask God's blessings on each one.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

We thank visiting Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield) as he ministered unto our congregation and assisted our brethren in the task of holy communion.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

Psalms 48:14

Sis. Della Manz (late Bro. Herman) passed away march 15 at the age of 94 years. She is survived by a son, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Betty); two daughters, Sis. Annabelle Spangler (Bro. Oliver) and Sis. Caroline Spangler (Bro. Jim); six grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Sis. Della was raised in the home of Bro. Joel and Sis. Mary Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). Also surviving are Bro. Martin (Sis. Marquerite) and Bro. Carl Kipfer (Sis. Nova); and Sisters Frances, Freida and Esther Kipfer (all of Bluffton, IN).

### OHIO, LATTY Rhonda Stoller Marlene Reinhard

### AFTER THE WINTER . . . GOD SENDS THE SPRING

Springtime is a season  
of Hope and Joy and Cheer,  
There's beauty all around us  
To see and touch and hear . . .  
So, no matter how downhearted  
And discouraged we may be,  
New hope is born when we behold  
Leaves budding on a tree . . .  
Or when we see a timid flower  
Push through the frozen sod  
And open wise in glad surprise  
It's petaled eyes to God . . .  
For this is just God saying --  
"Lift up your eyes to Me,  
And the bleakness of your spirit,  
Like the budding springtime  
tree,

Will lose its wintry darkness  
And your heavy heart will  
sing --  
For God never sends the Winter  
Without the Joy of Spring.  
Helen Steiner Rice

Joy has once again brightened the home of Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody Dunham and Joel, when little Tyler William was born. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura Dunham and Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Melvin). May they see the rainbow in the sky when the rain is gone and the sun begins to shine.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Helen Huff in the passing away of her mother, Sis. Emma Stoller. May God comfort her heart and may she feel the prayers of those that love her.

As Mother's Day approaches, let us each one remember how important a mother's role is in a household and in the family. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30

### OHIO, RITTMAN Stephanie Baltic Diane Gasser

We enjoyed a blessed weekend March 4 and 5 when three dear souls gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized. Our new sister and brothers-in-faith are Peg Camp (Chris), Darrell Rufener (Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma) and Scott Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge). May they ever feel the loving Saviour near them and be granted His grace throughout their lives. We are thankful to Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier. May God bless them for their labors of love.

Pam Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann) has begun the narrow walk of life with our Lord and Saviour. Our loving prayers are with her. May she feel our heavenly Father's guidance and love and experience His grace each step of the way.

Brian and Peg Bauman are the happy parents of a little daughter,

Samantha Michelle. Zachary is her big brother. Pleased grandparents are Richard and Gladys Bauman and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH).

Blessed with a new baby boy are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller. Clay Steven's sister, Whitney, will be happy to have a playmate. Thankful for a new grandson are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

Welcoming a new daughter, Jennifer, are Eugene and Debby Winkler. Peggy and Matthew will be happy for a little sister. Grandparents are Sis. Betty Winkler and Joe Reed.

Bro. Jim Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Sara Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) have faith to believe it is God's will for their lives to be joined as one in marriage. We wish them God's blessings during this time of engagement and as they prepare for their wedding day.

Loved ones have experienced pain and suffering and have required hospitalization this past month. They are Sis. Betty Winkler, Sis. Karen Beery (Bro. Stan), Sis. Velma Rufener (Bro. Elton), Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber, Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha), Jeran Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie), Cheryl Hartzler and Bro. Dan Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie). Our hearts go out to these dear ones and their families. May our heavenly Father grant strength and courage for each day and may He restore health according to His will.

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

### OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

"He hath made everything beautiful in His time . . ."  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

We are reminded of the beauty and the power in God's creation. Our long awaited winter wonderland has finally arrived. We are reminded that spring was not yet here as we received freezing rain and snow the last few days of winter. What a lovely sight to see the trees, grass, fences and all covered with ice, but what damage can be caused also!



As we witnessed the changing of seasons, we are reminded of God's miracles and how thankful and appreciative we are of Christ dying on the cross so that we might live. Through our trials and daily afflictions we find one thing that always remains the same; our love for Jesus Christ and His love for us who believe in Him. Our God is a jealous God, Exodus 20:5; His mercy and love endureth forever.

Just a thought in closing, perhaps one function of flowers and trees is to remind us of the restorative powers possible. We have all seen trees damaged by storms, the grip of winter. Then spring comes and with the healing touch of God, leaves come, hiding the hurt and damage.

-----

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;  
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,  
For Thou hast created and pur chased me too,  
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new."

Zion's Harp #209

We rejoice with those who gave their testimonies February 18 and were baptized February 19. We welcome Bro. Bob Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Bro. Lyle Rufener (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas), and Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Rigenbach into the fold of our precious Saviour.

We thank those ministers who came to visit and proclaim God's Word to us. February 19 Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) were with us and March 5 Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis) visited us.

Reminder: May is the month that Smithville's Silver Lining payment is due.

-----

### OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehlau  
Frances Laidig

### CHRIST IS RISEN

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!  
Blessed morn of life and light;

Lo, the grave is rent asunder,  
Death is conquered thro' His might.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!  
He hath risen as He said;  
He is now the King of glory,  
And our great exalted Head.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!  
Gladness fills the world today;  
From the tomb that could not hold Him,

See, the stone is rolled away.

Gospel Hymns #527, vs. 1 & 3

Our Sunday school had a blessed Sunday as guests of the Detroit church. It was also very interesting and pleasant for them to visit the Apostolic Christian Woodhaven, a home for the aged. The children enjoyed being with and visiting the elderly. We thank them for all the kindness shown us.

Note: Correction to engagement announcement in the March issue, Barbara Stevens (Robert and Dorothy) has announced her engagement to Dr. John Kihm. We wish them God's blessings in planning their wedding and life together.

-----

### OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Rocke - Brenda Knobloch

It's so wonderful to see spring arriving, it lifts the spirits and makes our everyday lives so much brighter. The faithfulness of the trees to bud, and the flowers to push up from the damp soil, remind us continually that God's grace is abundant for all seasons.

One very joyous thing spring brings to our Portland congregation is the return to Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold from their winter home in Sun City, AZ. We miss them so very much during the winter months, as that's when our flock is the smallest. We are looking forward to the summer season, which in Oregon means . . . visitors! We'll welcome anyone who vacations to the northwest!

A few weeks ago we rotated in a new trustee, Bro. Dennis Martin, who fulfills a spot vacated by Bro. Ray Cooper. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Ray for always attending to his duties, and our support extended to Bro. Dennis as he begins his term.

Our appreciation to Bro. Ed Knecht

(Silverton) who was our visiting minister this month.

Thought for the Day: It seems incredible . . . 35,000,000 laws on our books and not one single improvement on the Ten Commandments.

-----

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

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

Zion's Harp #237

On February 19, Bro. Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene, Gridley, KS) and Sis. Sandra Lanz (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn) were united in holy matrimony. May God's blessings be upon their union.

We give thanks to our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY) and his wife. We wish them God's blessings.

-----

### TEXAS, DALLAS

Sara Getz

The month of February brought an unusual ice and snowstorm, with equally unusual icy temperatures; so regretfully our first service of the month was cancelled here in Dallas. We were sorry to send home Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA), who essentially visited Dallas "for nothing." We pray the Lord's blessings for his efforts. The following service we were encouraged by the ministry of Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), and by the fellowship of him, his wife, and a few visitors. We extend our thanks to all.

"If you don't spend time daily in the Word, you're just an accident waiting to happen."

Dr. Robert A. Cook

We southerners are still in a state of shock from our second ice storm in four weeks! Once again weather forced us to cancel services March 5. However, the temperatures bounced back to normal and on March 19, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL) and his wife, Laura, were able to gather with us, ministering God's Holy Word. Again we had additional

guests; we appreciate anyone willing to stop in Dallas to join us!

"Do you know why I often ask Christians, "What's the biggest thing you've asked God for this week?" I remind them that they are going to God, the Father, the Maker of the Universe. The One who holds the world in His hands. What did you ask for? Did you ask for peanuts, toys, trinkets, or did you ask for contents? I want to tell you, young people, it's tragic! The little itzy-bitsy thing we ask of our Almighty God. Sure, nothing is too small -- but also nothing is too big. Let's learn to ask of our big God some of those big things He talks about in Jeremiah 33:3: "Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not."

Dawson Trotman

-----  
SILVER THREADS  
CREATION

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

The purple headed mountain  
The river flowing by,  
The sunset and the morning  
Which brighten up the sky.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well.  
From Hymns of Zion

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)  
us the way back and He is going to ask us, "Where is your brother?" Then we want to be interested in each other.

"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke 10:25. What did He say? Jesus in essence said, "What do you think?" He said, "What is written? How do you read that? How do you understand it?" (See Luke 10:26.) Don't we find that often?

I have found so often in my life, when I have a question and I really know the answer, but I'll ask somebody. Maybe we want reassurance or maybe we don't like the answer we know and we are looking for something else.

How should we treat each other when somebody comes to us that way? Have we thought about that? The human response is that if somebody comes and asks us a real important question about life, the human response is just to kind of go along with whatever their thinking is. But we really shouldn't do that. We should really put it just the way it is.

That is what Jesus said here, "What is written?" What does the Bible say about it?" (See Luke 10:26). That is how we should approach it. We shouldn't play any politics or favorites or seek to win any favors of man. We simply should say very kindly and very openly, "What does the Bible say?" You probably know the answer already, and we really do.

So He says, "What do you think?" The man knew what it said, but he was looking for a loophole. Do you know what a loophole is? One of our elder brothers defined that once. A loophole may be defined as a violation of intent. We talk about loopholes in the laws of our land and all we are trying to do is find a violation of intent. That is sad, but how much more tragic it is to try to find loopholes in the Word of God . . . a violation of the intent of the Word of God.

That is what this lawyer was trying to do here, willing to justify himself and that is why we look for it. He said, "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29.

Now a neighbor may be defined as a nearby dweller. It is the person right next door, right over the back fence, or right down the road. That's our neighbor.

But how about if you took a trip and you were one thousand miles from home and you sat down in a restaurant beside somebody in the next booth? Then they are your nearby dwellers . . . that's my neighbor. Isn't that what Jesus went on to teach here, "Who is my neighbor?" It is whoever is nearby to us at the time.

He illustrated this so beautifully. A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he met with misfortune. He was laying there half dead, stripped, wounded and by chance, there came down a certain priest. (See Luke 10:30, 31.)

We said a few Sundays ago, that a priest was an officer of God specially charged with the responsibility of worship. Here was a man who more than anybody else should have helped. a priest is one that stands between man and God in Old Testament times. This certain priest should have known more than anyone else, here is a man that needs help. He came that way, "and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side." Luke 10:31.

He must have thought, "What has this to do with the work of God?" Maybe he was busy. I think if we read the history of these times, we find out that the priests lived a little bit away from Jerusalem. They took this road and came to Jerusalem when it was their turn to do duty in the temple. So they travelled this road often in the course of business.

That's what we do so often, just in the course of our everyday business. We go to work or school every day and we meet some of the same people every day, and they are our neighbors. What if they are in trouble, like this man was? Maybe we are the one God has appointed to be a priest. If we are in the fold of God, we are.

There is a priesthood of believers . . . everyone of God's children is a priest and charged with the responsibility to represent God to man, to his fellowman. We are God's representatives and ambassadors upon the earth charged with the worship of God, the reverence of God.

Maybe somebody is in trouble and we are so busy that we just don't have

time and we take a look and pass by on the other side because it might damage our career, or it might be a little bit humiliating to stop and help somebody, especially somebody that might be of a little lower class. Isn't that a shame? But we have to speak honestly. These things happen.

Likewise, the Levite. We said also a few Sundays ago, the Levites were especially given the responsibility by God to be of service to God . . . to do the work of God. Here was the work of God. It should have been done. He was at the place where he came and looked on him, he came a little nearer, he assessed the situation, but he passed by on the other side. (See Luke 10:32.)

Now comes a certain Samaritan. He didn't really have a special charge. He was looked down upon because he was of mixed people. He wasn't held in high esteem, but this one came and as he journeyed, he came where this man was and he had compassion on him.

Again, I'd like to go back to a definition one of our elders brought out once. He heard a speaker to a graduating class and the speaker dwelt on the word "compassion". He spoke this way because the graduating class was one that was going into the medical profession. The class was going to be those people who really had studied and were dedicated to helping other people. This speaker told the class, "You are going to have people come to you that are hurting. If you have real compassion, you are going to feel in your heart some of their pain."

So this Samaritan felt in his heart some of the pain of this poor traveler. Now once we really do that, all of a sudden our work isn't so important, our studies aren't so important.

The most important thing is helping . . . helping where it is needed . . . helping our neighbor, the one that is nearby us, and it might be a long way from home.

Here they were out in the middle, you might say, of nowhere. True compassion provides works. He poured in oil and wine. He went to him, bound him up, set him on his beast and brought him to an inn and made provision, stayed there with him that night and then left the provision so that he would be cared for further until his restoration. (See Luke 10:34, 35.)

Now Jesus turned it right back and asked a question. We are back to questions again. The lawyer had asked the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29. After Jesus told him this most lovely of the parables, He said now, "Who do you think was a neighbor?" (See Luke 10:36.)

The lawyer had to admit it, it was so plain and so clear. Then Jesus said the answer to the question, "You go, and do likewise." (See Luke 10:37.) Now as we read through this and briefly consider it, we see the primary teaching and the most obvious teaching of, "Who is my neighbor?", and what constitutes a true spirit of neighborliness.

But there is a deeper teaching here. We find this in all the parables. In most of the parables, Jesus didn't give the answer. He interrupted the parable of the sower and the seed. He said, "By this, you will know all parables." He said, "I speak in parables in order that those who are spiritually blind will continue in their blindness and that those who are spiritually awake will be able to see."

So now let's take a look because we believe in humility that we are spiritually minded this morning. Isn't that why we have gathered here with a desire and it's because we want to be spiritually minded.

So now let's take a look and may God give us the understanding of the deeper message . . . the real story of neighborliness that goes far beyond the little we will be able to do. But after we briefly go through this, may we all be inspired to be imitators of Christ and we say that in a good sense.

We can never be just like Christ and we don't hold ourselves on any such plane, but we should always try to be imitators of Christ and do what He did when He was upon the earth in those few short years.

We go back to the beginning now and take a deeper look in the meaning of this parable. It just says, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho . . ." Luke 10:30. When it says a certain man, there is no one spelled out, but the word is singular so it speaks to individuals.

The journey is from Jerusalem to Jericho . . . from a holy city to a city that is under the sentence of doom and destruction. Go back to Joshua's

time and Jericho is known as a city of destruction. Jerusalem is known as the eternal city . . . the city of peace and a city of blessing. So we see here the journey of every man that is born upon the face of the earth that he starts in the city of blessing. He starts in innocence and he travels the road down to destruction . . . everyone of us. We don't have to make any apologies for speaking this way because it is for everyone of us.

On that journey somewhere (it doesn't say exactly where it happened because for everyone of us, it is a little different, but somewhere) we are intercepted by Satan. That is who the robber was. What does he do to us? He makes us aware of our mortality that we have no continuing city here . . . that we face a certain death, naturally and physically. We become aware as we become a little older to the age of reason that someday we have to depart from this life.

All of a sudden, life starts taking on a little different dimension and things become just a little more important. Maybe we begin to entertain this question of eternal life and eternal death, and is there such a thing? If there is, how do I go about finding out and how do I go about acquiring eternal life? That is really the question we started with here.

When Satan meets us and intercepts us there on that road, for all practical purposes, in a spiritual sense, we are dead. In Ephesians 2, it says, "You hath He quickened," or made alive, "who were dead in trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1. Trespass means to cross over the line and sin means to miss the mark. So the Bible is very clear in all its teachings.

It says as we go down this road, everyone of us, somewhere sooner or later we cross over the line and we miss the mark and that results in spiritual death. Then Satan has met us and he has robbed us of our innocence, of our hope, our joy, our peace and has left us with nothing.

Then we find priests and Levites, officers of the old law. All we find, simply stated -- we could spend hours on this -- but simply stated what we really find in the Bible what the law did was make us aware of our sin. There wasn't compassion in the law. There wasn't mercy. "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth



came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17.

So we find these two officers of the law with no compassion and that is all the law tells us today. When we come to the age of accountability, we are convicted of our sins, we recognize that we are spiritually dead and in need of life, and when we take a look at the law of God, what do we see? All we see is how short we have come by the law; not the New Testament. We just see how short we have come. We see the commandments of God . . . we haven't kept them and all it was it really just adds further to our condemnation.

Then along comes this good Samaritan who is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ . . . God in human flesh and the man of supreme compassion. Remember we said that to feel in our heart some of the hurt and now we see Jesus hanging on the cross and in His own self bearing our sins, feeling our hurts. Here is compassion! Here is the good Samaritan!

We said the Samaritans were people who were looked down upon. We realize the life of Jesus Christ, born in a manger of poor parents, just a carpenter, no fancy home, no place to lay His head, and He was looked down upon. He was reviled and cast out. So we have a Samaritan and he journeyed.

It says before the foundation of the world, this was all laid out by God. So Jesus Christ began His journey long before the world was formed. It was known by God from eternity that Jesus Christ would pay the price.

As he journeyed, he came where he was. Where was he? He was laying on the dusty road between Jerusalem and Jericho on the face of the earth. Everyone of us who are God's children were found exactly in that place. Jesus Christ came to us . . . we didn't go to Him. We could not. We were dead and we didn't have any hope and that is grace. In one word, that is "grace"! He came where we were. Mind you, the humility and the condescension! He came and met us right there all naked and bloody and in the dirt.

What did He do? He had compassion and bound up his wounds and pouring in oil and wine. Oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. Wine is the symbol of the new life in Christ.

Binding up the wounds has such

teachings. It teaches us that the salvation of Christ is real. It is not a "band-aid" treatment, but when Jesus Christ meets us, in this position in our life were He finds us, that we are lost and without hope and He finds us laying there, He makes us spiritually well again.

He pours in the Holy Spirit and new life, and sets us on His own beast. He provides the conveyance. He doesn't turn us loose and say, "Now I fixed you up. You go find a good Bible-preaching, Bible-believing church where you are comfortable, and you worship there." He did not say that or do that here. He provided the conveyance. I am not inclined of any particular place now that he is going to bring. Understand that. But when the experience is real, that we meet Jesus Christ and He does the work that He did here, He will bring us to the right church.

What is the right church? Church is extremely important. It is the bride of Christ instituted by Christ. From the end of the Gospels on, the Bible has to do with the church.

What is the church? We find it very simply here. It is a place where Christ takes us and puts us under the care of the host and provides through the host those things that are needful and necessary for the complete restoration of this soul and provision from there on. Even to the point that He says, "When I come again . . ." So He doesn't leave us to wander. he found us when we were lost and He doesn't leave us to wander around. But He provides so wonderfully for us.

"Go, and do thou likewise." Luke 10:37. When we think of that, in no way can we save anyone? We are not implying that at all. Salvation is the work of the Lord. Salvation is OF the Lord. It is not found in any man and there is no name under heaven given whereby men must be saved except Christ. (See Acts 4:12.)

But when He says to us, "Go and do likewise," first of all, as we said, He means in the little things. We are to be true neighbors and to help those that just happened to be nearby us when they are in need.

But there is the deeper meaning that goes beyond that. What is the help that everybody needs? That is the help of salvation. As we said, we can't give that, but we can be workers

together with Him. That is the essential need of humanity today.

Just take a look and read through Scripture as we close, you will find several lists in the Scripture of things . . . very serious things . . . that simply say that when men do those things they shall not have eternal life. So much effort is spent today in just trying to convince people not to do certain things.

I think for a simple illustration that we can all understand, there is quite an uproar about certain movies, for example, that we find on the scene today. Certain philosophies of men and of life, the abortion issue I am thinking of. These things are foremost in many minds today. All kinds of energy is expended on how not to be involved in some of these things, what to do and what not to do, and that is all good.

But the real problem, as we read in the Bible, behind this is the problem of the heart of man. That's what the law did. It just said, "You really shouldn't do that . . . you really ought to do this." But when the good Samaritan came, he healed the man so that he wanted to do the right thing and he wanted to stay away from the wrong thing, and he gave him the ability and the strength to do just that.

That is the way we want to be helpful to others. We can be secondarily helpful in other issues . . . I am not saying that. But the few people . . . because it says, "Few there be that be on the narrow way." (See Matthew 7:14.) The few true Christians . . . the few true children of God that are on the earth today, we really ought to spend our time in the true Gospel, in being a true neighbor and that is to expound and exhort how that a person can be changed to be successful in these things. Not just remind each other what we should or should not do because when a person is truly converted, he just wants to do the right thing.

Why? Because he has the mind of Christ. He is a child of God and a brother to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is twice born. He is born again so he is a different person. That is the message we have to say and it is the most wonderful message that ever hit the earth. That is how to be a neighbor one to another.

FEB 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. WAYNE ANLIKER OF FORREST, IL

### Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

There are so many teachings and so many ways to approach this. May we pause for just a moment and let the Spirit direct us.

The first verse we read was a question. It comes to my mind that in the Bible, questions are quite an interesting study. I've never really sat down and studied this, but just a few of them flash through my mind as I think of this. That's why I said that.

We notice a certain lawyer asked a question and he did it to tempt the Lord. So we may ask questions. The question he asked is good. That is really how we learn. It is perfectly alright to ask questions, and really we should. It denotes a certain amount of humility. Don't you agree? If we ask questions, we are admitting that we don't know and that we need to be taught. To ask questions is good, but we can have the wrong motive when we ask questions. Like we see here with this young lawyer.

Now going back more to the beginning, thinking of the questions of the Bible, here is a man's question, and the question really is of primary importance. For the motive, we will just let it up to everyone this morning to judge in our own heart. What is our motive if and when we ask this question? I would hope that it would be sincere.

The questions is of utmost importance: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke 10:25. This presupposes there is such a thing as eternal life . . . and there is! So if we ask that question not tempting, but sincerely, that means we recognize there is such a thing as eternal life . . . everlasting life!

If that is true, it must be true there is a counterpart . . . eternal death . . . everlasting death. That is the most important question that the human race has to resolve, and how thankful we ought to be that we have the answer in the Bible.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: and he that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." (See John 14:6 and John 6:37). There is the source of life and the promise that anyone who seeks sincerely will not be cast away, but will be able to find it, if his motive is right.

God asks some questions in the Bible. We go back to the beginning in the Book of Genesis, which means "beginnings," and we have there the seed for every doctrine in the Bible that further develops as we read the whole Bible. So very early, we find God is asking a question, and He is asking it to the man that He created, and He asked it after the man had sinned. What was the question? He said, "Adam, where art thou?" Genesis 3:9. Why did He ask that question? God knew where Adam was.

When God asks questions, it is not for His information, but it is to help us for our information. He asked Adam where he was, not that God could know where he was because He already knew, but to enable Adam to see where he was. Adam had fallen and he was hiding because he was ashamed because he had sinned. He had been disobedient.

So God said, "Where are you?" That has to do with eternal life because God said He told them before it happened that in the day they eat of that tree, they will die . . . they will

surely die.

So we have there a question of eternal life and eternal death.

It wasn't long after that, that another question was asked. God asked it again. This time he asked it to a man that had become a murderer. It didn't take very long after sin entered the world until things got real bad . . . real, real bad because that is the power of darkness and power of sin. You don't just hold a status quo when you are in the service of Satan. We might be able to do that for awhile and maintain a fairly moral life and be a good citizen and so forth, but really, if we look at it in the light of Scripture, it is a steady decline to sin.

Jesus said one time, "He that is not with me is against me." Matthew 12:30. The decision has to be made.

Back to the question, God asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" (See Genesis 4:9). Now those two questions were very early in the Bible and they are very important. First, "Where are you?" and second, "Where is your brother?" God asked both questions and that is very important to us yet today.

I think God is still asking those questions of everyone. He asks us first, "Where are you?" Because we can't be interested in our brother until we are found of Him. First we have to see that we are lost. So He asks us where we are.

Once that question is resolved, we find where we are and when we find that out, we are going to find we are separated from God. That's what Adam found and that is what we will find, and have found. Then God will show

(Continued on Page 29)