



"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;"
Song of Solomon 2:12

"The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."
Song of Solomon 2:13

VOLUME 40

MARCH 1990

NUMBER 3



SIGNS OF SPRING

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;"

Song of Solomon 2:11

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

HEFT AND HUNGARIAN TAPES

Recent changes in Eastern Europe have changed the political scene completely. With borders being opened, it is much easier to send aid into these countries. Our brethren there need our continued support as the economic systems are in great disarray. The proceeds from the sales of the Heft and Hungarian cassettes still go to help our needy loved ones in these countries. Even though small, the assistance we offer must be a great source of encouragement to them.

Bro. Joseph 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.

Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48.

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.

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 \$7.00 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.

Make checks for Hungarian tapes payable to the person you order from -- Dennis Feucht, Don Schrock or Al Betz.

Heft (Long Book) Tapes and Hungarian Tapes may be ordered from:

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

or

Don and 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. 21
Mansfield, OH 44907
(419) 756-2756

MEMORIES OF A CHRISTIAN CONVERSION

submitted by a sister-in-faith

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine, For Thou has created and purchased me too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new" (Zion's Harp #209). The congregation's a capella hymn penetrated my heart as I stood behind the baptismal, dressed in a plain, heavyweight dress and the traditional black veil.

(Continued on Page 4)

SINGLE OR MARRIED SISTER NEEDED

As Transitional Living Coordinator at Gateway Woods

There is an immediate opening at Gateway Woods (Apostolic Christian Children's Home) for a sister to serve full-time as Coordinator of the Transitional Living Program. This recently developed program attempts to meet the numerous needs of young people who are moving from the Children's Home to independent living.

The Coordinator will live in an off-campus house (in Fort Wayne) with 2 - 4 young women (ages 17 - 19) and provide guidance and training with independent living skills, as well as emotional support. In addition, the Coordinator will work with youth still at the Children's Home main campus, to help prepare them for independent living.

If you have experience working with teens, please pray about applying for this position. It's an exciting and challenging opportunity to work with teens and Christian staff members.

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

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

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

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).

OUR FIRST LOVE

When a soul is rescued from the condemnation of sin and given the precious gift of salvation by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, an overwhelming love and gratitude fills the heart. This deep love creates sincere motivation to serve the Lord with all diligence and to obey His Word. The Apostle Paul asked the question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8:35). Of the many potential threats, all were eliminated in subsequent verses, with the exception of self.

The message given to the angel of the church at Ephesus included much commendation for their good works. However, the Lord also said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). What does our first love consist of? It involves the deep commitment of love to Christ which blossomed at the time of conversion. The Word teaches that this love will come forth in its purest form among the brethren. As Jesus concluded his High Priestly prayer, he pleaded, "... that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26). The Apostle Paul put it this way, "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another" (1 Thes. 4:9). Although the Ephesian church was still busily occupied with good works (Rev. 2:2-3), their efforts apparently were no longer motivated by a burning love for Christ and for each other.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35). The Apostle Paul rejoiced with the new Colossian believers by acknowledging both their faith and their love, "Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints" (Col. 1:4).

Peter linked love of the brethren with the cleansing of the soul when he wrote, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22).

It is prophesied that in the latter days there will be a diminishing of this love. Jesus warned, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12). It is also foretold that "... men shall be lovers of their own selves" (2 Tim. 3:2). There is a misconception that a believer can remain in full measure his "first love" for Christ even though he may lose his sense of commitment and submissive love toward his brethren. This self-sacrificing love for the brethren sometimes deteriorates to the point where individuals forsake the Body of believers which they once warmly embraced, and they renounce doctrinal teachings which were gladly and willingly upheld following their conversion and enlightenment by God to His eternal truth.

Few of us who are married would ever condone forsaking our mates on the basis of a diminished love for them. Yet the attitude exists in many groups that if true love is lost in a marriage, one can remain a Christian and trade in his or her spouse for another. This is another form of deception in which the significance of life-long sacrificial commitment has been lost. Personal comfort and selfishness prevail, rather than willingness to sacrifice and make intense effort to nurture love so that it will remain strong and true. The Word compares the love of Christ for the church to the love of a husband for his wife. It also says that as a man nurtures and cares for his own body, so should he do for his wife (Eph. 5:28-29). The flame of love must have fuel and it must be cared for. The proving ground for maintaining our "first love" for Christ is within the church, an organized Body of believers which provides responsibili-

ty and accountability for every member (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 5:12, 12:12-27; Rom. 14:19).

We must constantly examine our motives. The inspiration for all that we do should be our faith in Christ and our love for Him and His Body, the church (1 Thes. 1:3). If our good works are for the praise of men, we have our reward here on earth and there is no spiritual blessing (Matt. 6:2). We are to give honor to one another and prefer each other (Rom. 12:10). When we become individualistic and begin to insist on our own way, we are failing in this area. The Apostle Paul said, "Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:16). Sometimes our love becomes hindered because we have exposed ourselves to other teachings and we begin to question the simple, tried and proven ways of our own church family. This is the same corrupting pattern which occurs when a married person begins to look to any other than his/her mate and succumbs to what appears to be better than the old and the tried and true. Once again, the real test comes in honestly evaluating our motives. Are we driven by unfeigned love or selfishness?

Nearly all of us can recite John 3:16 by memory. Perhaps we need to be just as familiar with 1 John 3:16: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." How far are we willing to go for our brethren? The answer to this will reveal how far we are willing to go for Christ. In fact, this is really one of the marks of being a true believer: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death" (1 John 3:14). May God inspire all of us to re-evaluate our attitudes about how we can prove and sustain that beautiful and most precious "first love" for our dear Saviour, who died for us, that we might live.

In anticipation of the full immersion, I had removed my contacts, and the unfocused image of the congregation assembled before me, along with the sounds of people discreetly coughing and shushing fussy babies and the smells of fried chicken and green beans being prepared in the kitchen for the meal that would soon follow, was to become part of the blurred memory of my baptism.

Sitting on the benches facing me,

the women on my right and the men on my left, were my father, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and about 200 of my new brothers and sisters-in-Christ. My mother stood beside me holding the hymnal, a towel to wipe my face, and a white terry cloth robe to put around my shoulders after my baptism. Also standing nearby was the elder of my church. I saw my reflection in the warm water of the baptis-

mal and marvelled at the changes that had taken place over the past six months.

My mother had been reared in the Apostolic Christian Church, with her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents all being members. The need for repentance, conversion and baptism, as well as the value of living a separated life and keeping the precious traditions, had been taught to her since childhood. My father was baptized in a different church, but attended services with my mother while they were dating and after they were married. After my mother had her first baby, she felt the necessity of providing a Christian home for her children and answered the call. For ten years she served the Lord with the respectful assent but without the accompanying desire of my father. Then, when I was four years old, he also felt the conviction of his sin and repented.

As I stood staring into the water, memories of another baptism tugged at my mind: my father standing before a long, white tub in the church basement, people crowding around, my mother wiping away tears, confusing me by telling me she was crying because she was happy.

My father embraced this new faith with deep conviction. I watched as the tv was loaded up to be given away, listened as Mom explained other changes that were taking place in our household. As I grew older, I rebelled as my father established limits regarding extracurricular school activities, and did not allow me to do many of the things my school mates indulged in.

I attended morning Sunday school and afternoon church services every Sunday and heard my father read from the Bible every evening after supper. The Bible stories soon became familiar, then boring, then convicting. I eventually became involved in activities contrary to my parents' wishes. As I became more rebellious and irreverent, and as God became less a friend and more a judge, the knowledge that I must repent became more than a verse in the Bible, more than something I wanted to do someday, more than something I could hear on Sunday and forget the rest of the week.

"Two shall be sleeping in one bed;

--NOTICE --

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

Our work in sending Bibles, hymnals and Bible story books overseas has increased. Since 1984, we have sent over 5,000 books. At the World Relief meeting in Leo, November 1989, a plea was made that someone would start in this work in the Eastern States. We're thankful Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH) volunteered.

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers. We have far more requests for Bibles and Bible story books and Sunday school material, than hymnals.

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

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
R.R. #2, Box 95A
Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone (419) 258-2197

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
Sixth Year -- August 1988 thru July 1989 --	25,509

Bibles Distributed -- Seventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1989 --	2210	2210
September 1989 --	1627	3837
October 1989 --	2102	5939
November 1989 --	2338	8277
December 1989 --	3095	11,372
January 1990 --	1212	12,584
February 1990 --	1543	14,127

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.

one shall be taken and the other left." How many times I would wake with a start and reach out to make sure that my sister, who was converted several years earlier, was still there! Slightly reassured, I would try to shut out my feelings of guilt and fear and try to go back to sleep, all the time knowing that I was a sinner and that if the Lord came or if I died, I would go to Hell.

As the burden became heavier, I began discussing repentance with my boyfriend, a boy two years my senior whose parents were also members of my church, although from a different congregation. He was not ready to take this step and entreated me to wait until we could do it together. But the burden grew even heavier. I began to be afraid whenever I rode in an automobile, knowing that I was not ready to meet my God should I die in an accident. I prayed at night, after everyone else was asleep, that God would give me more time. And whenever I heard of another soul repenting, I cried, wishing it were me.

One weekend I travelled with the young members of my church to a congregation in another state to visit a close friend of mine with whom I regularly corresponded. She had repented about a year earlier, and I had not seen her since then. During the fourteen hour drive, I took the

curlers out of my hair, kept the conversation light, and tried to hide my desperate desire for the peace and inner joy emanating from those with whom I was travelling. A measure of relief joined my mounting anticipation and apprehension as we approached our destination.

On our arrival at a large white farmhouse, I was greeted graciously by the hostess, and due to my nonconforming appearance, was asked if I had just started repenting. I quickly shook my head and moved on to find my friend, but her question kept pricking at my conscience all evening. I stuck close to my friend's side as we filled our plates from a table loaded with barbecued chicken with all of the trimmings and meringues with fresh strawberries and whipped cream for dessert.

After supper we sat down on rows of metal folding chairs set up on the cleared cement floor of a machine shed and sang hymns for nearly an hour. Many of the songs were unfamiliar to me, but I enjoyed singing and especially liked the songs with alto solo parts, since that is what I sang in chorus at school. The "Young Group" stayed until just before 10 o'clock, at which time each visitor was assigned to stay overnight with someone from the local church. I went home with my friend. Again I kept

the conversation light, joked with her family and avoided subjects that threatened to disrupt my peaceful facade.

The next day in church, I sat in the congregation with the members rather than go to Sunday school without my friend. As the minister opened the Bible, read a chapter aloud, then powerfully delivered an unprepared sermon inspired by the Holy Spirit, my convicted soul squirmed, though I sat still on the bench. "I can't repent without him," I thought. "He probably never will if I do it without him."

In answer to my silent argument, the minister seemed to look straight at me and said, "We are all responsible for our own soul. A husband cannot wait for his wife; a wife cannot wait for her husband. It is between you and God alone. Today is the day of salvation; harden not your heart."

My last line of defense was shattered. I knew I was being called, and that if I didn't answer it then, I might never have another chance. Not wanting to make a scene in church, I held my feelings in check, planning to tell my friend after the service. However, at the end of the service the elder announced the engagement of two of the young members in the local church. Amidst the excited conversation that followed, I remained silent, not wanting to distract from the couple's attention.

That afternoon, instead of a regular church service, there happened to be a funeral service for an elderly

ATHENS PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in our Saviour's name. We wish to inform all of our congregations of a vacancy in the position of Program Coordinator at our Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, Alabama. The preschool enrolls 25 - 30 children of ages 3 - 5 years and is staffed by two teachers and a program coordinator. A minimum appointment of one year would be required.

Qualifications of a program coordinator include support of the local elder and a four-year degree in elementary education, child development or related fields. In addition to salary, health care insurance and housing are provided.

The position should be filled by midsummer so that planning can begin for enrolling children for the school year beginning September 1, 1990. This assignment provides an opportunity for a single sister to serve the Lord in a wholesome environment and to gain experience in Christian education.

Anyone interested or desiring additional information should contact either of the brothers listed below by June 15, 1990.

In the love of Christ,

Aaron Steffen, Chairman
Local Preschool Board
9833 Byron Center Avenue
Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone # (616) 878-9598

Lavoyd Moore, Administrator
R. R. 5, Box 75-A
Athens, AL 35611
Phone # (205) 232-2035

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Childrens Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1990
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 18, 1990

member of the local church. As the minister reminded the congregation of the inevitability and unpredictability of our own deaths and of the consequences of facing death unprepared, I could no longer bear the anguish of my convicted soul and walked out of the assembly, barely making it to the privacy of an empty room before the tears that had been carefully dammed up behind my eyelids burned down my cheeks. My sister and friend had followed my out, hoping and praying that this is what was happening. Their tears of joy mingled with my tears of sorrow as we embraced and I sobbed out my desire to repent. After the funeral service ended, my sister contacted the local elder, who counseled me briefly and placed a long distance phone call to my parents.

Thus began six months of soul searching, Bible reading, earnest prayer, and inspiring revelation. Slowly my speech, my thoughts, my desires, my attitudes, my conduct, everything from inside out was being converted by God from earthly and sinful to heavenly and holy. My appearance changed to conform to the sisters in the church and the teachings of the Bible regarding Godly women. Through confession of my sins in prayer to God and in confidence to the elder, through making right all wrongs I had committed, and through asking forgiveness from everyone whom I remembered having offended, my burden grew lighter each day.

Finally the day came when nothing stood between me and my God, I had no fear of dying, and the prom-

ised peace that passeth understanding flooded my heart. I was sitting on the second bench from the pulpit during a church service when the elder read, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, (Romans 8:1) but after the Spirit." "Thy faith hath saved Thee, go in peace (Luke 7:50). The warm, joyful feeling bubbled up and suffused throughout my body, I could not stop smiling, and my face glowed! When I sought out the elder to tell him after the service, he said, "You don't even have to tell me; I can see it in your face!"

After an interview with the elder and ministers, in which I told them of my experience and answered their questions regarding my understanding of repentance, conversion, baptism and the doctrines and traditions of the church, the elder announced my desire to be baptized to the congregation. Several weeks after, following a regular Sunday afternoon service, the members assembled for a closed meeting.

During my testimony before the church, I sat on the front bench facing the pulpit with my mother beside me and the rest of the congregation behind me. My voice trembled; my hands nervously clutched a Kleenex that was nearly shredded before the hour was over. As the elders kindly asked of my experience, my faith in God and Jesus Christ, my belief that Jesus shed His blood for my sins, that I was a sinner and had to repent and be baptized to go to heaven, and that I had confessed all of my sins and stood at peace with God and man, I

haltingly spoke into the microphone in front of me. The tears that had threatened to fall all day trickled, then gushed down my cheeks when the elder asked all of the members who truly believed that I had been converted and could accept me as a sister-in-Christ to stand: after which he said, "Everyone stood up. I'm sure you're very thankful." I then left the assembly with my mother to prepare for the baptism. I changed clothes and soon found myself standing behind the baptismal.

Was I ready to make a covenant with my God, in the presence of these many witnesses, to be true and faithful to Him until death? Oh, yes! I stepped into the water and felt the warm dampness penetrate my stockings. After repeating my vows, I gingerly sat down, tightly closed my eyes, and was gently immersed beneath the water. A fervent "Amen!" reached my ears as I was pulled up again, dripping wet and full of joy. And again the congregation joined in singing, "Now it is accomplished! With heart and with mind, to Thee, my dear Savior, I now am resigned! I'll ever be faithful in life and in death, Abiding in Jesus unto my last breath." (Zion's Harp #209).

"BUOYANCY"

**Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle,
Shioda, Japan**

A group of scientists did an experiment with a good sized fish, a pike. The pike was accustomed to eating minnows for food, so the scientists put a handful of minnows into a glass jar filled with water and put the tightly closed glass jar into the tank which housed the pike.

Upon seeing the minnows, the pike made a run for them only to bump his nose brutally against the glass jar, which he couldn't see. The pike made a dash for the minnows many times with the same result, a broken and battered nose. Finally, the pike gave up, went to the bottom of the tank and lay there in defeat.

The scientists then removed the glass jar with the minnows and emptied them directly into the tank. The pike remained dormant on the bottom of the tank. The minnows fairly swam into his mouth but the pike moved not a muscle. He was not

ON-GOING NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS AT GATEWAY WOODS

At Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we periodically have openings for couples to serve as houseparents for troubled children. Often when these openings occur, we maintain for extended periods understaffed as we wait and pray for couples to respond to the Spirit and to the needs of these kids. It is our hope that a list of qualified couples could be developed in order that these positions could be filled quickly with minimum disruption to children's lives.

Houseparenting is challenging, rewarding, spiritually stimulating, and reasonably compensated with salary and benefits. If you or someone you know is interested in the residential child care field, we encourage you to explore the possibilities further by contacting Bro. Tim Sauder at P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 627-2159 or 627-2606, or Elder Bro. David Bertsch (219) 627-2923.

going to be fooled again. He died of starvation with an abundance of food at the end of his nose.

Christ said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." Buoyancy is described as cheerfulness. When we have trials, our faith in Christ should keep us moderate and buoyant. After one bump into the glass jar, the pike should have moved very slowly and cautiously in the direction of the minnows. But he never learned and therefore had no strength or courage to test the availability of the minnows when the swam freely in front of his nose. Let's not be a pike, but be more than willing to deny ourselves momentary pleasure or satisfaction, in order to carefully confirm what may be the result of our action. The opposite route leads to despair such as the pike experienced.

God wants us to be buoyant and well poised, but not arrogant. Let us move forward lovingly, and with buoyancy, never 100% certain we are right but always 100% certain that God is right.

**MEDICAL TEAM TO
JUAREZ, MEXICO
October 12-19, 1989
Sis. Sharlene Kieser,
Bradford, IL**

The purpose of this work project was to provide medical care to Mexican people who generally are not financially able to obtain such services. Our doctor was Sis. Gloria Strettmatter (Chicago, IL), a second-year family practice resident. Along with two Mexican doctors, Dr. Enrique and Dr. Romelia, she examined and treated patients, with Emily Alonso acting as her interpreter. We four nurses, Sisters Lynne Fischer (Phoenix, AZ), Sally Herman (Peoria, IL), Elizabeth Goschwind (Tremont, IL), and myself took and recorded vital signs of each patient, assisted the doctors as needed with examinations, procedures and wound care, and dispensed medications as prescribed by the doctors. Chuy Alonso and Jorge Camarena acted as our interpreters. Jody Herman, Sally's 13-year-old cousin, helped out in the pharmacy, using her Spanish to give instructions to the patients regarding their prescribed medications. Bro. Doug

Kellenberger (Leo, IN) was kept busy catching on tape the activities of each day as well as conducting interviews with the AMMAR personnel. His daughters, Sis. Rachel (14 years old) and Rebecca (12 years old), were wonderful entertainers, providing coloring books and hand-drawn clowns to occupy the children.

Each of our five working days transpired basically along the same schedule. We would leave the Motel Colonial Las Fuentes at about 7:15 a.m. to arrive at Granjas around 8:00 a.m. After collecting the needed supplies and medications for the day's work, we would gather together to commit the day to our Father, whose work we wished to accomplish.

Friday and Saturday, we worked at the Granjas Clinic. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we traveled to three different poor neighborhoods, which meant we had to pack into vans all of our equipment and medications, and "build" our "clinic" when we arrived at our work site. Generally, by the time we had organized our work area, it was about 9:45 a.m. We would see patients until approximately 12:30 p.m., take about a one-hour lunch break, and resume with patient consultations until about 5:45 p.m. Our work was not completed, though, we had dismantled our "clinic" and reloaded everything back into the vans. The Mexican men and boys who acted as our "assistants" were invaluable in the assembling and dismantling processes, as well as throughout each day, always willing to help where needed. It was really quite an amazing sight to watch a quiet, tiny, cement block or cardboard building and adjacent courtyard transformed in a short time into an actively functioning clinic, humming with the activity of three doctors, four nurses, those dispensing medication, translators, assistants, and dozens of Mexican people waiting patiently to see a doctor.

We definitely felt the presence and blessing of our heavenly Father as we ministered both physically and spiritually to approximately 580 patients.

In concluding, words are inadequate in expressing the heart-felt blessings of our time spent in Juarez. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1. Except the Lord be present

first in all our endeavors, medical and otherwise, we would labor in vain. How thankful we were to feel the presence of our Lord as we contributed in a small way to our Father's work in Juarez, Mexico! As we continue to seek His direction and will for this project, we know He will continue to reveal what our part in accomplishing His work should be. "For unto whosoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Luke 12:48. May we, who have been given so much, be willing to spend and be spent on behalf of those who have seemingly been given so little.

**NEWS FROM
EASTERN EUROPE
Andy Hunyady**

"... And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Psalms 58:10-11

Greetings Beloved!

"No one can know what we went through, only God, and us." -- writes a brother from Romania -- "The nightmare which appeared never to end and culminated with the blood-bath which this man imposed upon his people, a nightmare which still lingers on and makes us to shudder and which we cannot even believe that it has ended . . . because each day was a day of suffering in which the truth was trampled under foot, insulted and the falsehood was their idol with which they hoped to conquer forever. We did not know what to believe. We knew that the Lord works in mysterious ways and for us mortals it is hard to understand. We knew that only God helped us to survive, . . . not one from those who visited us could understand the atmosphere of terror and semi-madness under which we lived . . . all the curses written down in the Holy Bible for the country that has strayed from God, we saw and we endured. We believed that they will

never end. But the Lord is the same then and now . . ."

. . . "We thank God from the depth of our soul to you all and all the other brethren from the different countries for your prayers for us . . . with regards to our needs, I pray fervently to the Lord not to wipe out this beautiful dream so that we may be permitted to congregate without fear and to receive Bibles and Zion's Harps which we badly need . . . Also, we wish to be free to receive guests without arousing any suspicion from the part of the authorities, our dear, beloved brethren from the other countries, who during all these years never caused any damage to the country, on the contrary, only gain and still they were not believed . . . If at all possible, send us Bibles, these should have large printed letters. We have many Bibles, but these have only small print which are hard to read even by the young ones, those older or with bad eyesight, not at all . . ."

" . . . I beg you dear brother to extend brotherly greetings to all, especially to those brethren and sisters who from such a distance and with so much effort and sacrifices have visited us, and have made us feel that the love of Christ for His people does not know limits and boundaries . . . the peace of the Lord be with you all."

I. B.

By the grace of God, we now are able to communicate better with the brethren in Romania. The food shipment from Holland was distributed by the local brethren with the assistance of five or six brothers from Hungary. On Saturday, January 27, a brother called from Budapest to tell us about their 3¹/₂ days of work. Many areas were covered and at least one package was left with each family. In many homes the brothers, along with their local brethren, joined in singing, offered prayers and the elder or ministering brothers read out of the Scriptures and gave a brief sermon. An overwhelming experience for all who were present. Two months earlier such visits and gatherings would have been very risky indeed, but now it is permitted. People everywhere wept for joy and prayed, thanking God for the new found liberty. In most places services are being held both, in the morning and afternoon.

On January 2, the elders drafted a petition and had it delivered to the human rights section of the Secretary of State in Bucharest. In this petition they asked that the Nazarene faith be recognized as a legitimate religious body and asked that the properties that were confiscated by the government 42 years ago, be returned to the respective congregations. Interior secretary, Mr. D. Mazilu promised to call the elders in the near future to discuss the matter with them.

We are pleased to report that according to our last contact with Yugoslavia, only one young brother was in prison. He was sentenced for a term of three to six months in prison for refusing to swear at the time of induction into the military service. One former prisoner writes: "Dear Brother, I am very grateful to you and to the World Relief Committee of the Apostolic Christian Church of America for your generous help. Now I am at home at last. I am a mechanical engineer and I speak English, but not quite perfect, I am afraid. If there is something I can do for you and the World Relief Committee of Apostolic Christian Church in my further civilian life, just let me know, please. I think it is my duty for you gave me so much. With God's help I will do my best" . . . "Dear Brother, I had an opportunity to read your article: 'News from Eastern Europe' in the Silver Lining magazine, November 1989. I find your information from Yugoslavia true, thank you for that. With best wishes and kind greetings,

Your least brother,
Z. R. L.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Liz Martin**

I NEED THE PRAYERS

I need the prayers of those I love
While traveling over life's rugged way,
That I may true and faithful be
And live for Jesus everyday

I need the prayers of those I love
To help me in each trying hour
To bear my tempted soul to Him
That He may keep me in His power

I want my friends to pray for me
To hold me up on wings of faith
That I may walk the narrow way
Kept by our Father's glorious grace

I want my friends to pray for me
To bear my tempted soul above,
And intercede with God for me
I need the prayers of those I love.

Hymns of Zion #201

This song has become very dear to me over the past year. I really know that my friends and family have been praying for me. I am very thankful for each and everyone.

Even in my wildest dreams I never thought that when I was praying for God's direction for my life, I would end up in the midwest. I am thankful to be here. It has been a time of spiritual growth. I also have learned that my strength comes from God.

It has been quite an adjustment coming across the United States. From Arizona where it is hot and desert to Indiana where it is so cold and mainly farm land.

I am thankful for my new Indiana "family". It is good to have the love, support and encouragement from people who were strangers and now are friends.

The past month at Gateway Woods has brought both excitement and relaxation for the staff and children.

The month began with two new additions to our family. Melissa D. moved into the New House with John and Patsy Stoller. Chat T. was a welcomed addition to Jeff and Brenda Thames' "family" in the West House. We are so thankful that God has brought these two teenagers into our lives. We know and trust fully that God can and will meet the needs in the lives of Melissa and Chad through our program and your many prayers.

The staff was able to enjoy a very relaxing and refreshing two days at Pokagon State Park using the money they earned at the local Pancake Breakfast last September. The staff was divided into two groups and went at separate times, in order to provide coverage for the children. The staff appreciated this time to be together and enjoy the Christian fellowship with one another. We also enjoyed hiking the beautiful trails and viewing the beauty of God's creations so

untouched by man. We would like to extend a hearty thank you to Bro. Paul and Sis. Leann Fischer for being houseparents while the staff was at Pokagon. May the Lord richly bless you Bro. Paul and Sis. Leann.

February also brought our annual State Health Inspection. We are pleased to say that we passed the inspection with no major problems. Each staff member put forth such a great effort in preparation. We also want to pay a sincere thanks to our heavenly Father for the support of prayers and financial sources from many people that allows Gateway Woods to function so successfully.

The staff was so thankful for Sis. Carol Sauder of Roanoke, IL. Sis. Carol spent a week with us helping the staff and children do their taxes. Sis. Carol's broad knowledge of tax laws and her expertise in this area helped to take the edge off a not so fun job. Sis. Carol also spent time with the children playing games. The children really loved and appreciated the time she had for them. From all of us at Gateway Woods we say "thank you" to Sis. Carol and pray she will return again.

We continue to be so thankful for the volunteers God brings to the Home. By offering their best, each volunteer brings new strength and insight to enrich us.

In January, a group from central Illinois came, Bro. Ross Myer, Bro. Larry Gramm, Sis. Denise Duckworth and Sis. Laura Siebenthal.

We were glad to have several from the Francesville young group come and spend time the first weekend in February.

Our high school youth were excited to be a part of hosting the Washington Bible Class the last weekend in January.

It is so exciting to see the work God can and does accomplish each day in the lives of children here at the Home. Please continue to pray for guidance from God for each staff member. Pray for an open mind and cooperation for the children for we know that God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of (Ephesians 3:20).

Mark your calendar: Our annual Representative Meeting is Saturday, April 21.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We have again been reminded that winter is very much alive here in Morton, IL. Trees are bending down, icy tips shining in the brilliant sunlight -- truly a beautiful reminder. However, many trees in the area have suffered damage due to the heaviness of their icy branches.

Recently, we had a problem with a computer program. The entire month of December's financial transactions were wiped out. This occurred toward the end of the work day. Since there was nothing that could be done about it that evening, a call was placed to the answering service of our computer support person. Leaving work, the problem also stayed at work. I had complete confidence in our support person. Surely, he would know how to handle the problem.

After a good night's sleep, I returned to work and received the awaited call. Sure enough, he had the answer and our problem was solved. December reappeared! Someone mentioned what faith I had to be able to forget the problem and trust it could be solved. This made me think about my Christian faith -- how I sometimes worry and fret about a problem, perhaps lose some sleep in the process. Surely, it was a reminder that our Christian support person has greater and better skills to solve problems for us. It again reminded me that surely we can trust Him. All things are possible with God. He not only knows how to help us with our concerns, He does it in the best way for us -- often "exceeding abundantly above all that which we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)

Here at the A. C. Home we have had some fun outings. The Ice Capades in Peoria offered some pleasant sights for quite a few. Our Special Olympic Basketball team has attended several tournaments -- and they have done well. The Olympic gym and swimming team are continuing to practice for their upcoming events. Indoor horseback riding continues weekly. Everyone seems to be active and happy.

Our birthday people for April, should you wish to send cards, are: At A.C.H.H.: 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). For Oakwood: Sonja Metzger (14). At A.C.H.H. those with birthdays often will go out for dessert. This is looked forward to. Not only is dessert delicious, it is a great excitement to go to a local restaurant.

We thank everyone for the support we feel, financially and prayerfully. May God bless each of you.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

We thank Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and his wife for sharing the ministry this past month. We enjoyed a singing at the fellowship hall the evening before, and services on Sunday.

January 27 was a bridal shower for Julie Bauer. We'll be saying goodbye to Julie February 24, as she moves back to Cissna Park, IL, in preparation for her marriage in March. Julie has become part of our Athens' family in the past two and a half years she has lived here and been director of the Preschool. Julie's loving ways and cheerful attitude will be missed here, however, we'll always have beautiful memories.

We've had many visitors in the past month, and just appreciate getting to know our brothers and sisters from many different areas. Some having been here for the first time, and others we've gotten to know over the years. Visitors included those from Morris, MN; Lester, Burlington and Oakville, IA; Nashville, TN; Bay City, MI; Smithville, Rittman, Toledo and Junction, OH.

Bro. Lavoyd has spent a week in Haiti, and has safely returned, which we are so thankful for. He has many interesting experiences to tell about, how much the love of God is needed in Haiti, as well as here in our own neighborhoods.

We ask your prayers for Izora (Granny) Cooley, who has spent time in the hospital and as a result is weak and recuperating. May the Lord strengthen her. Bro. Roy and Sis. Christine Barnett also have a daughter in the hospital.

We're having early spring weather here in Alabama, only the middle of

February, and the flower bulbs are up and beginning to bloom. Quite different from the ice and snow we've been hearing about farther north. We look forward to spring, with so much new and in beautiful bloom.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of . . ."

I Timothy 3:14

We have been blessed with the following ministers the past month, and we are thankful they came to assure us every concern we have can be taken care of by our heavenly Father. Visiting ministers and their wives were: Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bros. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA), Peter Petrovich (San Diego, CA), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA), Gary Tonners (Bluffton, IN) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR).

Bros. Nathan Knochel, Chris Frautschi and Scott Baum flew to Haiti to participate in a church work project, while Bro. John Kaufman and Bro. Dick Beery are doing work in Phoenix.

Congratulations to the following grandparents: Bro. Joe and Sis. La Vina Dotterer, twin girls to daughter, Sis. Carolyn, and Bro. Mark Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Little Traci Lynn and Tricia Rae are waiting for Granddad and Grandma to recover from bumps and bruises from a car accident.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch welcome Ryan James, February 6. His parents are Sis. Kelly and Bro. David Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger's first granddaughter, Maria Anne Warner, was born January 26. Sis. Suzi and Bro. Stan Warner go to the Lester, IA, church.

Thanks to our elders for spending time to search for God's direction for the lives of their flocks. There is much appreciation you dear brothers never hear expressed.

We sure appreciate our visiting

members and friends. To know Him is to love Him and each other.

ARIZONA, TUSCON
Lisa Knapp

We were happy to have visiting ministers this month. Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN/Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) and their families visited us for a day of fellowship. It was good to see them and share the Lord's Day. May God bless them for their efforts.

Heidi Haas (Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole) graduated from the school of Agriculture Economics at the University of Arizona in December. Our congregations go to Heidi along with our wishes that the Lord will bless her pathway.

The daughter-in-law of our Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr, Zana Fehre, was hospitalized this month. Sis. Marge went to be with her son's family and our prayers certainly went with her. We are hopeful the Lord's healing hand will touch Terry and Zana's home. Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa Knapp are happy to report the arrival of Matthew Steven Knapp, born February 7. Big brother, Ryan, welcomes Matthew Steven home. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp and Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer, all of Tucson.

Our building project will be completed and should be providing enjoyment of all new facilities by the publication of this column. We are so thankful for the evidence of the Lord's blessing on this project. It has been a lesson in faith to all of us to see our prayers answered so beautifully in the Lord's own time and way. We now have a new dining area, kitchen, 5 Sunday school rooms, foyer, newly remodeled restrooms, baby room (nursing, sleeping and changing rooms), and office area. We were also able to re-carpet our sanctuary, and paint most of our sanctuary to match the foyer. Our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all our brethren who supported us financially, physically and most especially prayerfully. We now enjoy a functional, orderly house of worship all to the Lord's work in the hearts of faithful brethren. May God bless our new assembly and each individual effort.

We also had a visit from minister-

ing Bro. Gary Tonner from Bluffton, IN, who was here for a work project through the Habitat program. Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) also visited us this month along with his wife, Sis. Lydiann. May the Lord's blessings be on these brethren and richly bless them.

Several brethren from our congregation traveled to Juarez, Mexico, this month to participate in a work project. Bro. Nate Lehman and his family, Bros. Brad Bauer, Steve Bauer, Ron Macklin and Sis. Lucy Knapp all joined in the work effort in Juarez. The Lord's blessing will surely be with these brethren for giving of their time and talents.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Lisa Steiner

Our small congregation enjoyed much added fellowship recently, when over 70 young people from near and far gathered with us over President's Day weekend. Despite almost continuous rain, we were still able to share in many activities, including singing and a Bible study centering around our theme "Drawing Nearer to Christ." The Bible study was conducted by Bro. Nathan Lehman (Tucson, AZ). We are thankful that ministering Bro. Noah Hermann (Tucson, AZ) could also be with us. May God bless all those who participated to make the weekend successful.

Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), David Bertsch (Leo, IN), and Joe Braker (Morton, IL), joined us in January prior to their departure with Elder Bro. John Klotzle, for India. We are thankful that God has brought them home safely.

Two of our dear friends have been hospitalized this past January and February. Little Dana Gallup (age 1) underwent two operations, and we are thankful to have her back with us, happy and healthy again. Dana is the daughter of Mark and Louisa Gallup. Marie Feuchtenberger suffered a stroke more recently and our congregation is praying for her continued recovery.

COLORADO, DENVER
Marlene Leman

We welcome Sis. Tina Wackerle (Bay City, MI) back into our midst.

She is with the Flying Nurses and has had several assignments in our area. We're always glad to have her return. We pray she can feel God's love and nearness here and on each assignment, wherever He leads.

We've been privileged to hear the tapes of the brotherhood conference this month. Hearing them not only gives us the message of loving concern and Godly wisdom, but brings back the memories of the beautiful fellowship we enjoyed while in Bluffton, and can enjoy every time we assemble with our beloved brethren. May we each have had ears to hear and willing hearts to receive and do it.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

Hazel Ludwig, 95, mother of Sis. Charlotte Trench and grandmother of Sis. Karen Schambach and Sis. Sherri LaPlante died January 21. She leaves three other daughters, Grace Partelo (St. Petersburg, FL), Hazel Johndrow (Storrs, CT) and Esther Schofield (Harlingen, TX); and three sons, Norman, Edward and Donald (all of Ellington, CT). I'm sure the family had many fond memories of their dear mother and grandmother and they have our sympathy.

"... Love has mercy and is patient; Hasty ways it does not own; Humbleness of mind is present; With true peace it has its home."

Zion's Harp 37, vs. 2

February 11 was the wedding day of Bro. Jeff Gerber (Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Carole Bahler (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Aline). May they, by the grace of God, strengthen and help each other remain true as they walk this pilgrim way together. The engagement of Bro. Rudy Virkler and Sis. Susan Stomberg was announced February 18. Parents are Sis. Charlotte Virkler (Croghan, NY) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.

Sis. Leah (Schneider) Zahner is in the hospital receiving physical therapy. Our prayers are for her full recovery as well as other dear ones who may be under a doctor's care.

Sis. Anna Tschudin wants to thank everyone for remembering her dur-

ing her illness in their prayers and by other deeds of love and kindness.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Visiting ministers in February were Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). We are thankful for ministering brothers who so willingly share God's Word with us.

Henrietta Meyer spent a few days in Illinois with her mother, Sis. Lydia Meyer (Peoria, IL) who was hospitalized for surgery. Catherine Klopfenstein spent a few days in Gridley, IL, visiting with family and friends.

Except for visiting ministers, and their wives, our only visitors was our friend, Bobby Boyd (Black Mountain, NC). However, local attendance has been very good. We need and depend on visitors, so if you're in the Washington, D.C. area, or passing through, please remember our small assembly here and favor us with your attendance.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m., eastern time, at the Westpark Hotel (Best Western), located on U.S. Highway 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. For information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476. Visitors are always welcome.

So amid the noisy pleasures
of this world, the heart oft sighs
For the nobler, higher treasures
laid up for us in the skies.

Zion's Harp #198

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. Don Wieland, who passed away in January. The funeral was held in Bay City, MI. His wife and daughter, Sis. Luann and Katie, have returned to Boca Raton to finish out the school year. We are glad to be able to fellowship with them and share Don's memory. It is sad to think we won't see him in the coming winters, but we look forward to seeing him in heaven.

Sid and Sue Troxel have a daugh-

ter to love: Andrea Christine is the newest grandchild for Bro. Ed and Sis. Vi Gerber and Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel. What a miracle to behold a new life!

Another new life has begun . . . Jonathan Sutter is repenting. That is the most exciting kind of news! Jonathan is currently living and attending school in Champaign-Urbana. We rejoice with his parents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, over a new addition to the flock.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL), Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) and Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH). We are thankful for their efforts to travel down here.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer - Jeanette Yergler

On several occasions my mother-in-law (late Sis. Ida Yergler) used to tell her sons and our children this poem. It brings back fond memories of her when we see and read it. How important it is, more so for us all in this day, with the world so full of evil.

HAVE COURAGE TO SAY NO

Have courage, my boy, to say no.
You're starting, my boy, on life's
journey,
Along the grand highway of life
You'll meet with a thousand
temptations
Each city with evil is rife
This world is a stage of excitement
There's danger wherever you go
But if you're tempted in weakness
Have courage, my boy, to say No.
In courage, my boy, lies your safety
When you the long journey begin
Your trust in a heavenly Father
Will keep you unspotted from sin.
Temptations will go on increasing
As streams from a rivulet flow
But if you'd be true to your
manhood
Have courage, my boy, to say No.
Be careful in choosing companions
Seek only the brave and the true
And stand by your friends when in
trial
Ne'er changing the old for the new;
And when by false friends you are
tempted
The taste of the wine cup to know

With firmness, with kindness and
patience

Have courage, my boy, to say No.
Author Unknown

So many times in our life we should
say No and ask our heavenly Father
for help through prayer.

Our thanks to these ministers for
visiting us and for God's love. Bros.
Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Doyle
Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ronald
Palitto (Akron, OH), Robert Meyer
(Bluffton, IN), Douglas Sabo. Elder
Bros. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL)
and Ben Maibach (Sarasota).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott

Grant me, O God, the mind to see
The blessings which my sorrows
bring;
And give me, in adversity,
The heart that still can trust and
sing.

Marion Franklin Ham

Our heartfelt prayers go out to
recent hospital patients, Bro. Rich-
ard Laukhuf, Emanuel Krstec, son of
Sis. Biserka and John, Bro. Keith
Putt, Sis. Viola Leman and Sis. Lydia
Vonia. Those under care of doctors
and unable to assemble with us are
Sis. Ann Rumbold and Dathan Eisen-
mann, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Sue.
We continue to pray for all these dear
ones and pray a speedy recovery.

As a new year dawns it again
comes time for our election of church
offices. We want to wish the newly-
elected brothers and sisters Godly
wisdom and understanding as they
assume new responsibility in His
service. New trustee, Bro. Gordon
Bryant, treasurer, Bro. Jeff Streitmat-
ter II and Sunday school teachers,
Sis. Vera Martin and Bro. Bill Roes-
cher.

We are thankful for the visiting
ministers that have recently shared
God's Word with us, Elder Bro. Bob
Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Carroll
Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ralph
Garber (Morton, IL).

We are looking forward to wit-
nessing the miracle of blending two
lives into one-in-Christ, as Sis. Gloria
Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Jeff

and Sis. Ruth and Bro. Jeff Fischer
(Fort Scott, KS).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

This past month, our gathering
was blessed by many visiting minis-
ters and brethren. On February 4,
Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO)
and Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford,
IL) brought forth God's Word. The
following Sunday, Bro. Ralph Garber
(Morton, IL) ministered to our con-
gregation. We appreciate the time they
and their families took to come and
worship with us.

On February 10, Jeff Foltz and
Claire Roberts were married in
Orlando, FL. Jeff is the son of Sis.
Nancy Foltz. We wish them much
happiness and God's blessings in their
married life.

Services are held every Sunday at
the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The
hotel is located off I-85 at the River-
dale Road exit. We encourage breth-
ren to come and worship with us.
Contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-
4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-254-
9692) for more information.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer

We enjoyed an evening of fellow-
ship and song Sunday, January 21 at
our family hymn sing. Our Bloom-
ington junior choir sang for us.

We had our annual business meet-
ing Wednesday, January 24. Bro.
Harvey Walter will replace Bro. Brent
Nussbaum as secretary. Bro. Ray Hoerr
will replace Bro. Dave Kieser as trustee.

On February 3 and 4, Retta Stef-
fen (Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia) and
Janice Homer gave their testimonies
and we witnessed their baptism. What
a blessing it is to hear about the sav-
ing grace of Jesus! Sis. Janice can be
such a witness and example to her
children and husband and Sis. Retta
can be a witness and example to her
classmates. We are so thankful that
we can welcome them into the family
of God! We thank Elder Bro. Wendell
Gudeman for assisting our Elder Bro.
Dan Koch and for ministering to us.

Ann Nussbaum (Bro. Jay) was a
hospital patient this past month. Our

prayers are with her and Bro. Jay
through this difficult time. Our dear
Sis. Karen Brummitt (Dave) is hos-
pitalized at this time. The thoughts
and prayers of our congregation are
with her as we know she has suf-
fered much. Sis. Karen has touched
so many of us with her love and
friendship, and we sorely miss her in
our congregation. We pray that the
Lord will strengthen her family and
help her to accept His will.

"The Lord is my rock and my
fortress, and my deliverer; my God,
my strength, in whom I will trust
..."

Psalms 18:2

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringger

Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser
are the happy parents of their first
child, born January 27. Seth Mar-
tin's grandparents are Bro. Loris and
Sis. Mart Kieser and Bro. Nate and
Sis. Esther Martin (Princeville). Three
days later, on January 30, Keith and
Diane Endress had a precious baby
girl. Brittany Ann was welcomed
home by a sister, Carmen, and a
brother, Brandon. Happy grandpar-
ents are Sis. Lois Endress and Earl
and Eileen Brandenburg (Princeville).

On February 3 our congregation
gathered with the Princeville breth-
ren and together we heard the memo-
randum read. May we all ever strive
to obey the Holy Word of God and our
dear elders that bring out these teach-
ings with much love.

We were again blessed with visit-
ing ministers this month. Our con-
gregation thanks Bros. John Rowell
(Burlington, IA), Larry Wenninger
(Latty, OH) and Will Schieler (Milford,
IN) for bringing God's good Word to
us.

Bro. Elwin Rumbold spent time
in the hospital as a surgical patient
this past month, but we are so thank-
ful he is getting along so well and
even is able to be back at church
again. Our dear Sis. Bertha Reed
has not been able to worship with us
for quite sometime and we do hope
before too long she will be strong
enough to worship with us again.
Also Howard Mueller has not been
able to come to church for some time.

We certainly pray for God to be by his side and every dear shut-in that cannot go in and out!

**ILLINOIS,
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
LaRae Dill**

John and Mary Tucker have been blessed with a daughter. Laura Elizabeth arrived safely January 23. Welcoming Laura is her brother, Ross, and grandparents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Greiner (Cissna Park, IL) and Florence Tucker (Palos Verdes, CA).

Our Bible class students enjoyed hosting the Cissna Park Bible class Sunday, February 18. The fellowship of these students along with their teachers was much appreciated by our church. Students from both churches attended ACYF in Bloomington that evening.

Our congregation was excited to hear of the engagement of Bro. John Wieland (Silverton, OR) to Sis. Jane Rocke (Silverton, OR). John, the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand, grew up in Urbana, IL and was part of our congregation until the past few years. Jane is the daughter of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL). We wish this special couple God's blessings.

We appreciate the visits of ministers from other congregations. Often, those who visit here were former students, or have children who are current students. Our thanks to Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for their visits.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

One day last week I traveled home on the same road I always do -- but what a difference! This time there were fewer lanes of traffic, and often one had to change lanes because there were disabled cars blocking progress in a lane one expected to be moving. The problem, of course, was the tremendous snowfall, none of which had yet been cleared from the roadway. A twenty-minute trip took me 2 hours and 15 minutes. Others had even worse tales. The strain was incredible as well. Never did one know whether the person in front would swerve, brake or otherwise require

his quick thinking; nor did a person know whether his car would get through the thick snow to home. It wasn't long until I traveled the same roadway on dry pavement. How much easier, more efficient, safer and less stressful! I thought of our progress toward heaven. The Lord does allow snowfall, but now we have the responsibility of its removal. If we slog through temptations, daily frustrations and spiritual pitfalls without clearing away the snowfall, we will be bound in an isolated car joylessly, worrying about our gas gauge level, fearful of our fellow travelers, dogged by many concerns along our journey. On the other hand, if we pray for the Lord to clear away from our bodies and minds the clogging effect of circumstances, the clouded values of society and the litter of Satan's troubles before we go forth on the roadway, we are assured of sufficient fuel in love and faith for each day's travels, of communion with other saints, of peace and joy unspeakable and full of glory. May I remember how much I need the Lord's snow removal service each day!

Because of the wedding, we were again well blessed with visitors, including Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Dennis Kaufman (Cissna Park). We appreciated their company and their spiritual service and messages from the Lord.

The Lord has given, as a part of His loving plan, the uniting of two souls in one. Bro. Phil Snare and Sis. Deonne Baurer became one in the Lord Sunday, February 18, married by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. Both are from our congregation, but many from other churches came to celebrate their union in Christ. We rejoice in their marriage and wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they walk hand in hand now and as the Lord gives them life together. Our prayers are with them and their parents as they have each gained a son or daughter. May the company in which they both work and the rest of the world realize this marriage is different -- Christ is its center.

The Lord has moved other hearts in His and each other's direction. Bro. Kent Rager, recently moved to our congregation, son of Bro. Walt

and Sis. Sharon (Toledo, OH), is engaged to Sis. Jill Bogart (Francisville, IN), daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Eleanor. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they lean on Him, planning a wedding, but thinking beyond to much more -- a marriage in the Lord where both can seek out salvation and draw others, too, by their Christian example.

Bro. Ray Young has been hospitalized with severe physical problems. Yet the Lord can raise him to new energy and work in His vineyard. We pray for the Lord's balm and indulgence that he may be renewed, physically as well as spiritually.

In one of the Sunday school classes, the children have planted seeds, which because of the sunshine, watering and nutrients, have spouted. A teacher thought perhaps that some of the sprouts were too close together and should be thinned. After all, how much room is there in that little cup for growth? I thought of some of the seeds/activities in my life. The Lord has blessed many, but there is often a squeezing-out of some because of the requirements of others. Perhaps the Lord was giving me instruction, that I may know how to "thin" out some from the many sprouts which are demands in my life. Sometimes He Himself yanks some out, but I must be prayerful that He guides the number and kinds of actions over which my time is spread, for I can be so foolish. This spring I need room most of all for spiritual growth.

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Karol Stock - Mary Knapp**

A new arrival at the home of Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb is little Julia Kaye who arrived February 12. She has a big sister, Joanna, and two brothers, Micael and Ben. Grandparents are Sis. Grace Bauer and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb, all of Cissna Park.

Congratulations to Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Greiner on the birth of a new granddaughter, Laura Elizabeth. To welcome her home are her parents, John and Mary Lou Tucker and big brother, John Ross (Champaign).

William (Bill) Reutter, age 68, of East Lynn, passed away January 29. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Anna Marie; a son, Bro. Duane (Sis. Kaye,

Tolland CT); two daughters, Cheryl Cornell (Potomac, IL); and Sis. Annette Fischer (Bro. Kevin, Roanoke, IL); 15 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one sister, Fern Kaufmann (Rankin, IL).

Fred Ift, age 87, of Fairbury, passed away January 7. He leaves 8 daughters, Sis. Mary Anne Young (Bro. Roland, Cissna Park), Sis. Lola Young (Bro. Norman), Velda Ift and Mabel Peubel (both of Fairbury), Margaret Ulm (Creve Cour), Lila Fletcher (Peoria), Dorothy Young (Cissna Park), Sis. Caroline Bollinger (Salem, OR); and also four sons, Bernard (Pontiac), and Gilbert, Arnold and Fred, Jr. (all of Fairbury).

Bro. Bill Feller, 96 years of age, passed away February 6 at Parkview Haven Home in Francesville, IN. His survivors include two daughters, Sis. Isabelle Bauer (Bro. George) of Paxton, IL, and Sis. Rosella Bucher (Bro. Wally) of Francesville, IN; also seven sons, Bro. Willis (Valparaiso, IN), Marvin (Alexandria, MN), Art and Charles (Cissna Park), Dick and Kenneth (Claytonville) and Glenn (Forrest); one brother, Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park); and half-sister, Sis. Margaret Kupferschmidt (Rankin, IL); a half-brother, Ben Feller (Folsom, PA); 31 grandchildren; 56 great-grandchildren; six step-daughters and two step-sons.

We extend our thanks to our visiting ministers this past month which included Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Bob Walder (Congerville).

Bro. Walt Kaufmann spent several days as a hospital medical patient; Jamie Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) received minor injuries in an auto accident. We wish them and all our shut-ins God's healing touch that each may feel His nearness.

John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

These are the words so clearly spoken as four dear friends gave their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of February 3 and 4; Tim Walder (son of Dave and Sue), Daren Yergler (son of Bro. Max and Sis. Donna), Karen Rinckenberger (daughter of Sis. Velma and the late Elder Bro. Steve) and Judy Eldleman. There

are many joys awaiting them as they walk the path of faith.

The Bible class will be attending Sunday services at Champaign and then travel on to Bloomington, IL, for an evening gathering for ACYF on February 18. It will be a full day for the youth and their leaders but our prayers and wishes it will be fulfilling and hold many memories for them.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder observed their 55th wedding anniversary recently. They are the parents of three children, Sis. Phylis Anderson (St. Charles), Sis. Sharon Eisenmann (Bro. Ken) and Bro. Curt (Sis. Elaine, Cissna Park); seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

On January 10, Bro. George and Sis. Gladys Winger observed their 65th wedding anniversary with their children, who are Sis. Jean Knapp (the late Francis); Sisters, Lila and Marilyn; a son, Gordon, and wife, Aldine; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. What a blessing to witness such numerous years of marriage and health together.

The last few days have been ones of an icy blast here in our part of the States. Much damage was done to electrical services with downed power lines and trees leaving many homes without heat for nearly a week. In time of need people have shown compassion as they helped others without a thought of compensation. God's love at work.

The family of Bill Beer so appreciates all the love and kindness shown for us during his passing:

"Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there,
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all,
just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts we thank you so much -- whatever the past.

The family also wishes to extend a "thank you" to all who gave memorials in his name. Also special thanks to our ministers.

As this will be my very last issue to write, I want to express my gratitude to my co-worker for the last year, Sis. Karol Stock. My replacement will be Sis. Bev Knapp (Bro.

Curt) who will serve as correspondent for a three-year-term.

And the scripture reads in II Corinthians 13:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

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

St. Matthew 19:14

We are thankful to God that He is still calling souls unto Him while there is yet day of grace. We rejoice with Beth Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) as she has chosen to seek God and His guidance for her life.

Two families have new additions to their homes. Amber Rose is welcomed by Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily Wettstein and Henry and Reuben. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Clarence Schlipf, all of Eureka. Parents for the first time, Bro. Jim and Ree Hartman, welcome Perri Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman and Bro. Robert and Sis. Marie Taufer (Morton).

On January 14, Sis. Joan Schrock (Bloomington) and Bro. John Yoder (Gridley) exchanged wedding vows. Parents of the couple are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville) and Devon and Sis. Laveille Yoder (Gridley). We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk life's path together.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Vernon Wettstein and Harold Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary). We are thankful that they are both home and doing well.

Our thanks are extended first to God and to our faithful ministers who willingly share with us the Word. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13. Our aged Bro. Samuel Graf, 84, was called January 26, in a moment of time, from this life into that heavenly rest. It was 14 years ago, at the age of 70, his heart became burdened and God was able to work His marvelous work of redemption and Bro. Sam could embrace peace and hope within. We share sympathy with his wife, Eleanor; one daughter, Marlene Cammelot (Elgin); two sons, Arnold (Nita, Franklin, NC) and Roger (Mary, Elgin). His is also survived by 8 grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, four sisters, Martha Loehner, Sis. Nina Willaert, Julia Graf and Louise Schifferer; five brothers, Frank, Edward, Robert, Wally and Bro. Ben, all of Elgin.

"We'll Never Say Good-Bye in Heaven" was the beautiful hymn sung at the final resting place of our dear brother, Samuel Graf. The Graf family wishes to express their sincere thank you and appreciation to everyone for the many deeds of kindness and the many expressions of love shown. May God richly bless every kind and thoughtful deed.

Our loved ones, Sisters Mary Jane Hirschev and Cecelia Braun, needed hospital care this past month and have returned home. We are thankful.

Our special thanks are extended to our visiting and home ministers who were willingly used as a vessel of God in bringing us the True Word. Among these were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

I wish to thank everyone for their love and deeds shown me and for remembering my 80th birthday. May God richly bless all who were so kind.

Sis. Sarah Kellenberger

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin are thankful for Rachel Christine who was born February 10. Rachel

has two sisters, Bethany and Jennifer to welcome her to the family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna Wettstein and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin, all of Eureka.

February 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Becky Knecht (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judith) and Bro. Tim Martin, Princeville (Sis. Edna and late Bro. Ray). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they are now one in Christ.

With joy we heard the wedding engagement of Sis. Jane Rocke, Silverton, OR (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline, Eureka) and Bro. John Wiegand, Silverton, OR (Bro. David and Sis. Ethel, Champaign). May God bless them as they make plans for their wedding day and life together here on earth.

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville) for being with us and breaking the Bread of Life. May God bless these brothers for giving of themselves in our behalf.

Our prayers continue to go out to Bro. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna), Bro. Dave Leman (Sis. Ann) and Kevin Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna). May God watch over each one, and their loved ones, as they suffer afflictions of the body. May He sustain them in every hour.

We are thankful that we have a number of souls who are seeking their Lord in repentance. May He grant them much grace to overcome their past lives and begin anew in Him. We pray that many more will come while the waters are being troubled and before it is forever too late.

Note of Thanks: May God richly bless everyone who visited me, who sent cards, flowers and fruit baskets while I was in the hospital, and for all the food, meals and gifts that were brought to our home since I was dismissed from the hospital. Thanks so very much.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Sarah Blunier

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Todd Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) has heeded God's

call and turned his back to the world in repentance. May he build on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Our ministering Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) is now home following a farm accident. His recovery will take time, but we are thankful that he's back home. It is our continual prayer that God will grant returning health, strength and patience during this seemingly long time.

We thank our heavenly Father that He has called Bonnie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie) and Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna) to work in His vineyard. We heard their testimonies of faith January 20 and witnessed their baptisms January 21. We welcome them as our sister and brother-in-faith. May God continue to lead, guide and direct them as they continue to walk the narrow pathway of life.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Keith Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Jodi Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila) as the Lord has drawn them together to become one in Christ Jesus February 4. May God bless them.

We extend best wishes to Betty Kelson (Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon) and Jeff Metroz (Mr. and Mrs. Dick Schoup) in their marriage February 10. May the Lord also bless them in their life together.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

I Peter 4:11

We were encouraged to go onward toward our heavenly goal by Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA). May God bless them for their labors in our behalf.

Funeral services were held here for Sis. Miriam Feldman, 89, who passed away January 19 at the Medical Care Center in Michigan.

Sis. Elsie Peter, 90, passed away January 20 at Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury. We are thankful that these two dear sisters were ready to meet their maker.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Trish Steidinger, Sis. Dorothy Steffen, Sis. Juella Sohn. We pray for God's help and guidance in their daily trials.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."

St. Matthew 27:50

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

"And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; There shall ye see him: lo, I have told you."

Matthew 28:5-7

How we can rejoice that Jesus Christ was willing to come and give His life on the cross as a ransom for our sins, and then that He arose Victor over death and grave!

Micki Zimmerman (Bro. Rod) and Harry Johnson (Sis. Matilda) can find much hope in these verses even as we can, since they brought their testimonies and were baptized this weekend of January 28. It was an uplifting weekend for all of us! We appreciate the visiting elders and ministers who came to share in this weekend, Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Jim Byrd and Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Earl Kilgus (Remington) and Merle Kaisner and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury). May God bless each one of them for letting themselves be used to the edifying of our souls.

We also want to thank our other visiting ministers, Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We can find so much benefit and food for thought as our brethren cross the land let the Holy Spirit work through them.

Our faithful home ministers, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, went into the

hospital for surgery for blocked arteries. We are happy to report that he is home and seems to be recuperating well!

Our Sisters Jill Wenger (Bro. Rich) and Luella Bachtold also spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Jill is home and doing fine again. Sis. Luella is back at Fairview Haven still recovering from a broken hip. May God be with her.

Michael and Tracey Kupferschmid are first-time parents of Chase Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid and Mr. and Mrs. David Jones (DePue).

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Virginia Hilti and her children, Phil, Marvin and Martha Carson, in the passing of her husband and their father, Henry Hilti.

Also, we extend our sympathy to Sis. Eldora Walters and Reuben Roth in the passing of their brother, Alvin Roth.

May God comfort the heart of each one.

The James Steidinger family would like to thank everyone for their deeds of love and kindness shown during Sis. Marlene's hospital stay and since returning home. The prayers, cards, money and delicious meals brought in were very much appreciated. May the Lord bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

We had our annual business meeting, and new positions were filled. The Sunday school teachers are Bros. Greg Wagner, Art Wiegand, Gale Wiegand, Wayne Wiegand and Sis. Donna Wyss. Church trustee is Bro. George Knapp. Home trustee is Bro. Bill Hart and Personal Property Aid Assistant is Bro. Andy Bauman. We pray for God's guidance as these loved ones attempt to do their duties for the Lord.

Our prayers have been in earnest for little Mitchell Hinrichsen (Bruce and Cathy) as he has to undergo extensive surgery this month. May God provide a steady hand on the part of the surgeons and a comforting love for his parents and family.

It's good to see Bro. Tony Monfre assembling with us after his extended stay in the hospital. Also Fred Rokey (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis) is doing

well after his accident. We pray for God's healing hand as Mary Ellen Wiegand (Bro. Simon) recovers from surgery.

Sis. Ruth Hohulin wishes to express her thanks for all the cards, flowers and visits during and after her surgery. Everyone's love and care was greatly appreciated.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

There are loved ones in the glory
 Whose dear forms you often miss,
 When you close your earthly story
 Will you join them in their bliss?

One by one their seats were
 emptied
 One by one they went away,
 Now the family is parted
 Will it be complete one day?

Will the circle be unbroken
 By and by, by and by?
 In a better home awaiting,
 In the sky, in the sky?

On January 27, the above words were sung at the graveside of Bro. Eli Kiefer. As the living and the deceased came to their last departure -- amid clear skies and balmy weather -- one of life's most provocative questions was beautifully asked in song, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" As one by one the living eventually reach their earthly demise, loved ones are left behind. Bro. Eli's greatest hope was that his beloved family would follow him in faith.

Bro. Eli Kiefer, 86, passed away January 24 at the Eureka Home where he had resided the past few years. He is survived by his dear wife of 63 years, Sis. Lorene. Other survivors are Bro. Larry (Gridley) and Donald (Minonk) and Kenneth (Dalton, IL); also, Michael (Santa Ana, CA); a sister, Sis. Matilda Alt (Gridley) also survives.

Bro. Eli often gave on the song from the Zion's Harp, "Repent Ye," during worship services.

On February 9, Sis. Julia Schieler, 82, passed away suddenly of a heart attack. It was a real shock to her family and to the church. Sis. Julia was very good-natured and when among the believers always displayed

a charming smile. It will be difficult to remember her without a smile.

She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Marilyn; a son, Donald (Gridley); one brother, Edward Schifferer (Marengo, IL); two sisters, Martha Zierke (Elgin, IL) and Sarah Feucht (Lester, IA). Also surviving are two dear grandchildren she helped raise, Glen Schieler (Gridley) and Charwin Schieler (Downers Grove). She demonstrated a Christ-like selflessness in helping to care for her grandchildren during their growing-up years.

Several of our loved ones were hospitalized during the period, January 20 - February 20: Bros. Daryl Hodel and Edward Witzig and Sis. Lillian Fenton. Also, Ollie Rich and Elaine Rinkenberger.

On February 18, Bro. Amos Funk was announced to be married to Sis. Loretta Kaufman (Morton).

Our visiting ministers recently were Bros. Ken Schneider and Neal Widmer from Remington and Wolcott, Indiana, respectively.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105. How blessed we are to have God's sacred Word to provide unflinching direction as we travel through this dark world. Let us keep this lamp ever ready by keeping its batteries charged and remembering to turn on the switch.

Bro. Raymond Zobrist was called to his eternal reward on January 20. Although he was physically blind, he could clearly see the path he should take, as it was illuminated by the light of the Word. May our heavenly Father comfort his brothers, Calvin, Lloyd, Willis and Noah, Jr.; and his sisters, Doris Brecher, Fern Ault, Ruth Reinken and Marilyn Donahue; and his many nieces, nephews and friends.

May all parents, especially those with growing families, use the Word to direct them in rearing their children. Fred, Elaine and Freddie Sollberger welcome home Samuel Joseph. Samuel was born January 20. His grandparents are Sis. Edith Zimmerman and Don and Twyla Schubert. Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindy Witzig also were blessed with a new baby, Larissa

Clare, born February 10. Her big sister, Abigail, is anxious to play with her. Her grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Naomi Vogel (Bloomington) and Bro. Harold Witzig and Sis. Dorothy (Morton).

God has drawn together Sis. Loretta Kauffman and Bro. Amos Funk (Gridley) to become one in Christ. Their engagement was announced February 18. We share their joy and may God richly bless them.

May God bless Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and his family for ministering God's Word to us and being with us February 18.

On February 10, the Young Group and the Bible Class hosted a pork chop sandwich supper and singing. We want to thank them for the special evening. We also want to thank the Goodfield choir for sharing the evening with us and for ministering to us in song.

Bro. Sam Staker would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards while he was hospitalized.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi wish to thank everyone for their help, support, prayers and meals both before and after the birth of their twin girls. They cannot express gratitude enough for each and every one of you for helping during this time. May the Lord watch over you and reward you with the joy of His presence.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Joe and Jackie Herman

Friendship
is a special gift --
It adds fragrance to life.
It creates love and trust.
Most of all it brings
an awareness
of what it means
to be blessed by God.

Roy Lessin

"A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:17

We had the privilege to hear the testimonies of three precious souls Saturday, December 30. On Sunday we welcomed into the fold Bro. Ryan Endress (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy), Sis. D. J. Weinstein and Sis. Kristine Guingrich (Larry and Sandy). We want to thank Bro. Bob Pflederer

(Morton) for coming to assist Bro. Chuck and also for sharing God's Word.

The Lord has blessed us with many good teachings through His Word this past month. Among our many visitors have been Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Isaac William was born January 12 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi Funk. Dustin and Ryan are happy to have a new brother. Bro. Walter Feucht and Jim and Sis. Louann Funk (Tucson, AZ) are his grandparents.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn Hoerr were blessed with two little girls, Traci Lynn and Tricia Rae, born January 29. Welcoming them home are Nicholas, Brent, Lindsay and Blake.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Connie Hoerr, Vic Stickling, Bill Aeschleman, Bro. Sol Hartman and Bro. Al Domnick. May the healing power be the will of our Father in heaven.

Bro. Keith Schieler (Bro. Harv and Sis. Janet, Fairbury) and Sis. Jodi Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi, Morris, MN) celebrated their wedding day February 4. We share their joy and may the Lord always be present in their home.

Three dear ones have gone on before us. Lena Hoerr, Ed Powers and Bro. John Klein (Sis. Brenda). We want to extend our sympathy to his family circle.

Thank You: I want to thank all who so kindly contributed the many tributes of sympathy at the loss of my husband, Oria. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.

Mrs. Vera Irions

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

February is known as the Valentine month. It is a time to share special messages or gifts that express our love. As Christians, may we share this attitude year round. When we think of love, our thoughts are directed to I Corinthians 13, the love chapter.

We were privileged, along with our Bradford brethren, to have Elder

Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and his wife, Sis. Mary, in our midst the weekend of February 3. He assisted our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller, in reading and explaining the memorandum. We were reminded to be faithful in the small and unimportant things and of the pitfalls and dangers of this life as well as our duties in the service of our Lord. May we support our dear elders and be willing to follow the advice they so kindly give us. On Sunday we gathered for an all church potluck at our fellowship hall and ended a blessed day with a hymn singing.

Bro. Jim Plattner was chosen deacon by his name being drawn from the Bible. May God bless and direct his endeavors to hold fast to this precious faith and work in unity to preserve this precious heritage.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) February 3 and on February 11, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). We thank these dear brothers for their labors of love on our behalf. May we continue to remember our ministering brethren in our prayers.

God's Word teaches us to seek His kingdom first, and then he shall add to our lives all that we need. The engagement of our Sis. Linda Stahl and Bro. Jerry Knobloch (Bern, KS) was made known to us January 28. Parents are Eldon and Irene Stahl and Orvie and Lauretta Knobloch (Lester, IA). We wish them God's richest blessings in this second most important step in their lives. We are sorry that our Sis. Linda will be leaving us, but know she will be a welcome addition to the fellowship at Bern.

On February 11, in Eureka, Bro. Tim Martin (formerly of Princeville) and Sis. Becky Knecht (Eureka, IL) were united in marriage. We ask the Lord's blessings on their marriage. Parents of this couple are Sis. Edna Martin and the late Bro. Ray and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Sandy Knecht.

Sis. Deonne Baurer and Bro. Philip D. Snare, both of Chicago, were married February 18. Parents are ministering Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer and Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Snare (Annapolis, MD). We wish them well, and may the spirit of God always be present in their lives.

Little Heidi Ann Schick was born January 21 to Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie, she has two happy brothers, Andy and Kevin, to welcome her home. Happy grandparents are Herb and Helen Schick and Bro. Pete and Sis. Mabel Weber (Peoria).

Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin as they welcome their grandchild, Seth Martin Kieser, born January 27 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise Kieser (Bradford). We pray the Lord's blessings on these families with their precious bundles from heaven. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

We are sorry that our Sis. Anna Streitmatter (Bro. Harold) had to return to the hospital. We are thankful she was able to return home and pray that better health will be granted. Her husband, Bro. Harold) also is feeling the infirmities with a stress fracture in the foot. Sis. Lucille Knobloch (Bro. Ed) has been in the hospital and is now at the Peoria Home convalescing. Sis. Caroline Joos (Bro. Walter) is a hospital patient. May we always remember our loved ones in prayer.

Congratulations to Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Knobloch on their Golden Wedding Anniversary which was January 7. They are the parents of 4 children, Bro. Eddie (Sis. Frances), Bro. Jack (Sis. Nancy, Bradford), Sis. Donna Gehrig (Bro. Kenny) and Bro. Loris (Sis. Pat, Peoria). May the Lord's blessings be with them as they continue on life's pathway.

We are thankful no serious accidents occurred January 25 when a winter storm hit and reduced visibility to zero. Many found themselves in ditches.

May we remember our dear elders as they gather for the winter conference at Bern, KS. Our prayers are with them as they strive to preserve our precious heritage. May the Lord richly bless all of our elders, as they continue to blow their trumpets and to warn us of any dangers, and may we have the grace to heed those warnings, so that we may not be found wanting on that great day when the Lord shall come to claim his own.

On December 14, little Jodi Marie Kieser was born to Sis. Cathy and Bro. Mark Kieser. Little Jodi is wel-

comed home by sisters, Janice, Bethany and Megan. Grandparents are Sis. Martha and Bro. Loris Kieser (Bradford) and Beatrice DeSpain. May God bless their family circle.

Thank You Note: My heartfelt thanks for all the cards, gifts, prayers and kindness shown during my hospital stay and since my return home. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Anna Streitmatter

Thank You Note: Sis. Lill Elsasser, who was hospitalized earlier this fall, wishes to express her heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, gifts, visits and the love from everyone during the recent three months. I pray that God will bless each of you in His own special way.

OUR WORTH TO GOD

"The lapidary does not waste his time on common pebbles, but on gems of worth: so when God chastens He considers those who are the children of celestial birth. Their fiery trials prove their worth to God. Did they not cost Him the redeemer's blood?"

Reich

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

As spring approaches and we begin to see signs of new life around us, we pray for an awakening and renewal of spiritual life in our hearts and minds in our community, nation and around the world.

The blessings of new life came to the home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie Wuthrich. Joel David was born January 16, and is a little brother to Ross, Chris and Olivia.

December 9 was the wedding of Jim Hodel and Connie Lascelles. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lascelles (Bath, IL). May God bless their new life together.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 14. They are the parents of Rachel Lambert and Marjean Largent (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Kenneth (Eureka), John (El Paso, IL), Sis. Carol Luginbuhl and Bros. Robert, Curtis and Richard (Roanoke). They have 25 grandchildren. We rejoice with them and pray for many more years together.

The Roanoke Apostolic Christian Nursing Home's annual business meeting was held January 24.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers share with us this month. They were Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). Also Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) spoke to us about "The Family" at our monthly Bible study. We appreciate the service they have done in expounding on God's Word.

We enjoyed the Goodfield choir, as well as our own four-year-olds through second graders, as they ministered to us through song at our monthly family hymn singing.

We extend sincere sympathy to our Sis. Annette Fischer (Bro. Kevin) and her family in the passing of her father, William Reutter (Cissna Park).

Our Bro. Eugene Bertschi (Sis. Dorothy) has been hospitalized in San Antonio, TX, this past month. Other recent hospital patients have been Sis. Judy Blunier (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Lena Martin, Bro. Bob Hohulin (Sis. Marie), Bro. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty) and little Freddie Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen). May God grant them strength and healing.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

Two young families in our congregation have been blessed with new babies this month. Born to Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn Beutel January 30 was a daughter, Erica Rose. Little Erica was welcomed home by her sisters and brothers, Anne, Ben, Carrie and Dale. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel (Tremont) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder (Roanoke).

February 2 was the birth date of Brienne Jo, a new little daughter born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Nancy Schweigert. Big sister, Lauren, was waiting at home for her. Maternal grandparents are John and Sis. Carolyn Schlipf and paternal grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert.

We are happy that Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Bob) was able to be moved to Restmor for further therapy and recuperation. We pray that

she will soon be home with her family.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Carrie Bolliger. Sis. Carrie passed away February 3. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Sis. Carrie leaves a son, Bro. Harlan, and two daughters, Sis. Glenna (Bro. Earl) Sauder and Sis. Janice (Bro. Elmon) Koch. A son, Bro. Jay, preceded her in death.

Note: Sis. Elizabeth Moser has lost a coat. It is a light blue full length spring coat, size 10 or 12. There is a very similar coat left hanging on the coat rack in church. It is a size 13/14. This exchange took place just before the weather turned cold last fall. So, please, if you have a light blue coat hanging in your closet at home, would you check it to see if it might be Elizabeth's? She would appreciate a call at 309-925-5786.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Carol Schick

We were blessed this past month by the following visiting ministers: Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke). We hope they and their families are richly rewarded for their sacrifices.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Sue Ruppert, Sis. Linda Fehr (Dave) and Drew Fehr. They are all at home now and we pray God's healing hand will continue to be with them.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella Steffen were blessed with a beautiful baby girl. Amanda Jo was welcomed home by her big brother, Layne, and grandparents, Sis. Iola Knoblock (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Remington, IN).

Our Bible study this month was on the topic of the "Virtues of a Believer." Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) reminded us of the importance of spending time in the Word. The evening was really a blessing for everyone who attended. We thank Bro. Everett and his wife, Sis. Beverly for spending the evening with us.

Mark and Marti Teubal have moved from our area and are now living in Iowa. We wish them well and hope they'll visit our congregation often.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below."

It is so good for a body of believers to witness the true repentance and conversion of souls, isn't it? What a blessed weekend we experienced February 10 - 11 as we welcomed five new brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. We rejoice with Bro. Ted Liechty (Elaine), Bro. Roger and Sis. Tara Steffen, Bro. Lonnie Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Joy Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria). We thank Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and their wives for being with us and for helping with this special weekend.

We rejoice also for our newest converts, Cris Stucky, Kelley Stucky, Stacey Stucky and Becky Pertel. We pray that they can feel God very near them as they begin their new lives in Him. We thank God for hearing and answering our prayers that lost souls will continue to heed His beckoning call. Let's continue to pray diligently as so many that we love continue to walk in sin.

We thank Bro. Wayne Lehman and his family and others from South Bend for being with us on a recent Sunday and for Bro. Wayne's willingness to minister to us.

A precious baby boy, Jay Gerald, was entrusted to Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter's care January 26. Kristen, Amy and Chad adore their little brother. Jay's grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter, Vincent and April, were blessed with a precious bundle from heaven named Troy Daniel, February 9. Also enjoying Troy are grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter.

Congratulations to grandparents, Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger, as they have a new granddaughter, Betsy Sue Beer. Bro. Sam and Sis. Rachel (Milford) are Betsy's parents.

So many have been hospitalized this past month and we continue to pray for all those who are ill. Prayers of healing have gone up to the Father

for Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Sis. Clarabelle Baumgartner (Bro. Milo), Sis. Sarah Schwartz, Sis. Elizabeth Bertsch, Sis. Marie Sprunger, Bro. Tim Tonner (Sis. Susie), Daniel Kaehr (son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie), Trent Earney (infant son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa) and Amber DeHoff (infant daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Lois Drayer
Deb Aeschliman

The story is told of a wealthy man who had three nephews but no sons. He wished to leave the main responsibility for his business to the boy who was most able to carry it. One day he asked all three to come to his office.

"One of you will be my successor," he said. "I shall give you each a coin. This large room must be filled with something purchased with the coin. You must fill the room as full as you can but spend no more money than this amount. Return this evening, and I shall be waiting."

After thanking him for his trust in them, the young men departed their separate ways and made their purchases.

At evening, the man was met by the boys. The first youth had bought two huge bales of straw, which filled half of the room. The second youth had bought two bags of thistle-down which when released flew everywhere but, when it had settled filled only three-fourths of the room.

The third youth stood sadly by. "And what did you purchase?" the old man asked. "I gave half of my coin to a hungry child, and most of the rest to the church where I knelt to pray," the youth answered. "Then with the few cents I had left I purchased these matches and a tall candle." With these words he lit the **CANDLE, AND THE LIGHT FILLED EVERY CORNER OF THE ROOM.**

"You alone have caused the room to be filled," said the old man approvingly. The young man fell to his knees as the old man blessed him and made him his successor.

Let us strive to be like the third youth and let our lights shine, to fill every corner of the room where God has placed us.

Our hearts are rejoicing with three

more precious souls who are seeking the Lord in repentance. They are Shawna Betz (Steve), Rochelle Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Kristi Curry (Brian).

Congratulations to paternal grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Leota Reinhard in the birth of their new granddaughter, Abby Lynn, born January 11 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard (Bluffton). We also wish to extend congratulations to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber who became grandparents of Jay Gerald January 26. Jay's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter (Bluffton) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter (Bluffton).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bill Moser (Emma) and Bro. Joe Meyer (Sis. Josephine) who spent time in the hospital.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Aeschliman in the passing of Sis. Beth's stepfather, Joe Addis (Marie) who passed away February 17, at Defiance, OH.

We will truly miss Sis. Gala Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise) as she has moved from the Bluffton area to Denver, PA, and will be assembling with the Philadelphia, PA, congregation.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

DON'T LOSE THE VISION

O have you had the vision,
 Have you heard the cry
 Of millions lost and perishing,
 O do not let them die;
 Their souls have all been purchased
 At how great a cost!
 Don't lose the vision,
 Keep your eye upon the cross.
 Don't lose the vision
 Or the cause will suffer loss;
 If you want to reach another,
 Keep in touch with Christ, my
 brother,
 Don't lose the vision,
 Keep your eye upon the cross.

We praise God that Curt Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky) has sought the Lord in repentance and has found peace with God. Our prayer is that he, as well as all of us who have tasted

the love of God, won't lose the vision, but will keep in touch with Christ so others may be reached.

Bro. Bill Feller, father of Sis. Rosella Bucher (Bro. Wally) had resided at Parkview Haven Retirement Home in Francesville and passed away Tuesday, February 6 at 96 years of age. Bro. Bill's earthly suffering is over now, but we extend sympathy to his family, knowing they miss his dear presence.

On February 11, the engagement of Sis. Jill Bogart (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor) to Bro. Kent Rager of Chicago, IL (Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) was announced. We rejoice with them!

Sis. Tami Gudeman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann) and Bro. Brian Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette) were united in marriage on February 11. Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) assisted Bro. Wendell with the wedding ceremony, and Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) also shared in services that day. We're thankful that a new Christian home has been established.

Serving us in the ministry on a recent Sunday was Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). Our thanks to him and his family for sharing time with us. It was a special day.

Jesse Robert is the newest addition to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich's family. He was born January 17. Three older sisters, Miranda, Kayla and Danielle are a big help around home! Frank and Ruth Tanner (Medaryville, IN) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich are Jesse's grandparents.

Bros. Leon Wuethrich and Keith Putt were hospitalized this past month. We're thankful they are both doing well.

Results of our annual business meeting were as follows: Sunday school teachers, Bros. Kevin Gutwein and Mike Gutwein; church trustee, Bro. Brad Wuethrich; missionary committee, Bro. Keith Getz; ushers, Bros. Brad Neihouser and Dave Westfall; fellowship center trustee, Bro. Dale Gudeman; Parkview Haven board, Bro. Ellsworth Pelsy.

To all our loved ones who remembered us during my accident in South Carolina and at the time of surgery: It was so humbling to hear from so

many who remembered us in prayer. We truly cherished your love, prayers and concern. May the Lord richly bless each of you.

Sid Leman and family

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

John 15:5

We are very happy for our Sis. Kristine Pearson, who shared with us her testimony and was baptized January 14. We rejoice with her and her family, and welcome her into our midst of the vineyard of the Lord.

We want to extend a warm welcome to the family of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Sandy Guingrich (Champaign, IL) who have joined us here in Indy. It is such a blessing to have them with us. May God be with them in their new home.

We appreciate our visiting ministers who take time out of their busy schedules to come and share the Word with us. They were Bros. Robert Meyer, Wendell Gerber and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francisville, IN) and Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Mary Lynn Massner

Oh, what a beautiful morning,
There's music in the air.
Lovely springtime has awakened
Wearing blossoms in her hair.

Robin redbreasts are returning
To treetops, joy to bring,
With song they still the yearning
For a day like this in spring.

Come, savor nature's splendor,
The flowering shrub and tree,
And bursting buds, so tender,
God's gift to you and me.

Drink in the earth's rich fragrance
And bask in sunshine warm,
And cherish the remembrance
Of a spring day and its charm.

Elsie Natalie Brady

After winter snow, ice and cold, it is a joy to welcome spring and watch as the earth renews itself. The changing of the seasons is just one more of God's many miracles.

Another of God's miracles is when two hearts are brought together through faith. We rejoiced at the engagement of our dear Sis. Sandy Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan) to Bro. Ted Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). May the Lord bless them both.

Our annual business meeting was held February 13. We want to thank all those who gave of themselves this past year fulfilling their duties. May the Lord guide all those newly elected to offices this year to carry out all those duties needed to smoothly run our church.

We'd like to extend our thanks to visiting minister, Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) who gave of himself so willingly to share God's Word with us.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

During a recent ice storm in our part of Indiana, many of us Hoosiers experienced the discomfort and inconvenience of a power outage for several hours to several days. There's one place where there is never a power outage. Our Lord is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. At any moment, at any time, we can go to the Source of Power in humble and sincere prayer, and there will not be a busy signal!

The support of prayer of the congregation was gratefully acknowledged by Elder Bro. David Bertsch for his recent trip to India and Japan to review missionary work there.

If you've been going through some testing times, (and who hasn't at one time or another) you may appreciate the following little article: It's called "Tuning Life's Strings." "A few years ago I spent a lot of time with a friend of mine who was a piano tuner. I would watch and listen carefully as

he plied the tools of his trade, restoring harmony to what had been discord. He would take an implement and tighten the loosened strings, bringing them in tune. I suppose if those strings could have voiced their opinion during the course of tuning, they would have said it was an awful experience to be put through such an ordeal. However, the finished product made for a beautiful sound.

It seems to me that being fit and put into tune to serve the Lord is a similar experience. While God, the ultimate Tuner, is stretching us, we often bemoan the experience. Like the piano strings, we complain how badly it hurts. Yet God knows that we need stretching or tightening. Without it we frequently get loose and our lives fall into discord. But, through stretching, God brings us into tune and harmony with His design so He can use us in the song of praise He is orchestrating.

Thankfully the Lord offers grace to help in time of need, and in the time of tuning. Let's make it our prayer that He 'tune our hearts to sing His praise."

(David Payne)

INDIANA, MILFORD
Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) could come be with us. He and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer read the conference conclusions and shared words of concern and encouragement.

God allowed Sis. Connie (Steve) Beer and little Simon to escape serious injury when their car was rear-ended by a truck.

Several from the congregation have had to miss church due to various illnesses, medical tests and minor surgery. Tillie Kasbaum had to be hospitalized a few days. For the most part, they have received the blessing of the healing of the body.

Lonnie Moser has received the blessing of the healing of the soul. We welcome him as a brother-in-faith. He was baptized in his home church (Bluffton), but he is employed in our area and worships with us quite regularly.

We rejoice that another child has been born. Bro. Sam, Sis. Rachael and little Brooks Beer welcomed Betsy

Sue February 10. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer and Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger (Bluffton).

Our prayers were answered when God allowed a group of nine from our congregation to go and work on a building project in Mexico for a week and come back safely. Two brothers went to Haiti and we pray for their safe return. May God richly bless those loved ones for their efforts.

This time of year, our primary Sunday school classes enjoy singing a song about the flowers peeping through the ground, the trees being dressed gowns so new, and birds coming back to sing. In due time, may these little ones not only see God bring new life to the earth in the spring, but also experience how God can bring new life to them.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I'm sure the ice storm so many of us in the Midwest experienced this past week gave us "time" to think about things we don't appreciate enough. We are so "crippled" when our current is cut off.

We are always thankful when loved ones return safely from long trips. our congregation was thankful when Lee Waibel and Bro. Greg Schneider returned from Haiti. There they worked with a work team to put a roof on a school and various other work.

January 21 the Forrest, IL, Bible class hosted our Bible class. The young people reported having a very nice time. We thank you Forrest brethren for making it a memorable day for them.

On Wednesday evening, January 31, Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) was our speaker at our topical Bible study. His theme was "Living the Golden Rule." We thank you, Bro. Rod, for an evening of inspiration.

One of my blessings I count as "special" is a good appetite and that food still tastes good. When we think of this in the Spirit, we realize if we

are "healthy" in the Spirit we will hunger for the Word and it will taste good. Such was the case on Sunday, February 4, when Bro. Karl Westfall (Francesville) spent the day with us. Among his many good teachings, he reminded us that all good things lie ahead of us and that we should aspire to that end.

Again, the next Sunday, February 11, we were privileged to have with us Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Samuel Schlatter (Junction, OH). We thank all of you brothers for your visits and extend a welcome to you to come again.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Anna Marie Stoller

"We are under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Everything will fall in place if we obey and heed God's plan." The past month has been one of warm spiritual nourishment for our congregation, as the above statement reveals. God has blest us by the power of His Spirit through the preaching of man. Have these teachings fallen on the fertile soil of our hearts?

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Bro. Robert Beebe kindly, lovingly, yet with firmness, exhorted us from the memorandum. We were encouraged, chastised and uplifted as they shared the reasons and justifications for our doctrine from the Bible. To love the unlovable, to be patient when there is no patience, to forgive the unforgivable are virtues we are accountable for. Praise be to God for lending us brothers who are willing to teach right direction for our service to God.

One Sunday afternoon our congregation gathered after church at the Bremen Health Care Center to help Bro. John Schuch celebrate his birthday. As the little children gathered around his wheelchair giving him their gifts, Bro. John began relating stories of what life was like when he was a young lad. Life's situations have changed a lot since then, but Jesus and the blessings He imparts remain the same.

Sis. Rosina Hueni is a dear sister who never gets to church, as she is confined in the Bremen Health Care Center. Her ability to speak and help herself was lost from a stroke a number

of years ago, but her eagerness to hear the Word of God read and hear the singing of hymns is inspiration to us as we visit her. Please remember her in prayer.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to all in the name of our loving Saviour Jesus Christ; in whom we have our victory over life.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike Thomas and wife, Sis. Claudia, as their son, Michael, has been baptized and is now a dear brother-in-faith with us. Praise God!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us; we will all experience many types of emotions and actions in our life's journey. It seems this article is evidence that these verses are true. We thank God for His true and unchanging Word.

We were once again reminded that physical death is certain as Sis. Donna Paarlberg's father, Rein VanderWall; Bro. Willis Feller's father, Bro. William Feller and Candy Koehl's father, Glenn Terrell have passed on. Our hearts are with these dear families and, of course, our prayers also.

We also rejoice and welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Betty Smeltzer and daughters, Wendy and Tamara, to our congregation. They have recently relocated from the Indianapolis, IN, area.

We were privileged once again to have our annual meeting this last January. We thanked those who have fulfilled their terms for their labors of love and also prayed that all presently serving terms, God would bless and keep encouraged. Organization plays such an important part in our lives and we believe it does please and magnify the Lord. Oh, Lord, let our lights shine brightly!

We were pleased to have the following brothers come to minister to us this past month: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank you brothers. May the Lord continue to give you traveling mercies and keep you all encouraged.

A dear sister once told the experience of talking to a child who was in the hospital for much testing. Getting to know one another pretty well,

the child asked the sister one day, "Have you had your vitamin "J" today?" The sister replied, "What is vitamin "J"? I've never heard of it." The child replied, "Vitamin Jesus!" What about you? Have you had your vitamin "J" today?

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Scott and Diane Mailloux became happy parents of Caitlin Nicole January 22. Lindsey and Wesley welcome their new baby sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mailloux.

On January 27, the Sunday school students and teachers and others from our congregation traveled by bus and cars to visit the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Everyone enjoyed the interesting and informative trip as well as the day of fellowship.

Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) conducted our Bible study January 31 titled, "The Golden Rule." We were reminded that when we wish the best for all those around us, including our brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord, then we are practicing the Golden Rule and God can be glorified. We thank Bro. Rob for his love and time spent with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bob and Irene Radcliffe as Bob continues to suffer afflictions of the flesh. May the Lord be near them as they make decisions concerning his health and may He grant them courage and strength.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We were blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We are thankful these brothers can feel the Holy Spirit's leading as they minister to us from the Word of Life.

Funeral services were held January 29 for Sis. Martha Perdelwitz who has been called to her eternal rest. She assembled with our congregation for several years before residing at the Apostolic Christian Home

in Eureka for the past 10 years. We pray that the family and friends may feel God's nearness in this parting of a loved one.

Thank You: We would like to thank each and every one who showed their love and kind deeds during the illness and death of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. May God bless each one.

The family of Martha Perdelwitz

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

As we begin to watch for the first signs of new life after another dormant winter, may we remember that we, too, are to walk in newness of life . . .

"... That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the Spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24

Our thoughts and prayers are with Floyd Friedens, Bro. Dan Lehman and Sis. Cheryl Moore (Bro. Dale) who are hospital patients at this time.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We thank our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL). He and his wife, Sis. Eleanor, came to visit their new grandson, Jeremiah Albert Pfloderer. Bro. Tim, Sis. Georgia and big sister, Brittany, gladly welcome this precious bundle of love from heaven. Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand (Oakville, IA) are also thankful for a new grandson.

As we welcome a new little one, we also bid farewell to Sis. Tricia Pflum. We wish her God's blessings as she follows God's direction to move to Taylor, MO, after her upcoming marriage to Bro. Don Grimm. As they establish a new Christian home, and as Bro. Tim and Sis. Georgia endeavor to bring up their children in the "fear and admonition of the Lord," may we all strive to maintain Christ-centered homes.

A CHRISTIAN HOME

O give us homes built firm upon the Savior,
Where Christ is Head and Counsellor and Guide;
Where every child is taught His love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ, the crucified:
How sweet to know that though his footsteps waver
His faithful Lord is walking by his side!

O give us homes with godly fathers, mothers,
Who always place their hope and trust in Him;
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers,
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;
A home where each finds joy in serving others,
And love still shines, tho days be dark and grim.

O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems, toil and care;
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there:
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor --
Be Thou our Guest, our hearts and homes to share.

Hymns for the Family of God #538

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

A time to be born -- Jennifer Lyn Popkes was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes January 24. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Eleanor Popkes. On January 26, Maria Anna was welcomed into the home of Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Phoenix, AZ) and paternal grandparents are Elder Bro.

Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner. In this new season of their lives, may God bless each family with the needed grace to raise their children.

And a time to die -- Our entire church and community were extremely stunned and saddened to hear of the tragic death of Jeremy Heyer, age 13. Mourning his passing are his dear parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean, brothers, Ryan and Casey, and sister, Sally; grandmother, Sis. Iola Knobloch, and many close relatives and friends. Jeremy was a special person. It was evident by the presence of so many schoolmates and friends at his funeral service that Jeremy had touched many lives. What a comfort it is to his dear family circle to know he is "Safe In The Arms of Jesus," and that there will one day be a glorious reunion on the shores of heaven."

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lolly Mogler in the recent passing of her brother, Albert Luthi (Morris, MN).

Those recently hospitalized were Sis. Leona Moser (Elder Bro. Leo), Emil Wulf, Elizabeth Wulf (Emil), Bro. Dave Teubel and Bro. Larry Leuthold. May God lend a healing hand to these dear ones as they are restored to reasonable health once again.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach**

We welcome three new brothers into our precious fold. Bros. David and Dan Eberhardt and Nathan Larson gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of February 10 and 11. Bros. David and Dan are the sons of Bro. Jody and Sis. Rudy Eberhardt and Bro. Nathan is the son of Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy Larson. We know that God will lead them in the ways of truth if they will always listen to the Spirit's leading.

We are so grateful for our visiting ministers. Our most recent visitors were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and we are always happy to have the Burlington ministers in Oakville, Bros.

Harvey Heiniger, Paul Eisenmann and John Rowell.

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Kathy Frank are the happy grandparents of their sixth child, Nathan Curtis. Nathan is welcomed home by brothers and sisters, Ryan, Christy, Lanae, Aaron, Travis and grandparents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Bernice Frank and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz. Being the oldest in the family, I remember each time my mom and dad came home from the hospital with a new baby. It was so exciting to get to help out. May God bless parents who are trying to raise children in the paths of truth and righteousness in these wicked and evil days.

IOWA, PULASKI

**Teresa Schock
Ginny Wuthrich**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Brian Simmons who passed away as the results of a car accident. Brian was the son-in-law of Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger.

Sis. Leah Schaeer spent a portion of the day with us this past weekend and we pray God will continue to lend his hand in her recovery.

March is Silver Lining collection month for Pulaski.

LEFTOVERS

Leftovers are such humble things,
We would not serve to a guest
And yet we serve them to our Lord
Who deserves the very best.
We give to Him leftover time,
Stray minutes here and there.
Leftover cash we give to Him,
Such few coins as we can spare.
We give our youth unto the world,
To hatred, lust and strife;
Then in declining years we give
To Him the remnant of our life.

Author Unknown

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) with us for a recent Thursday evening service. The evening of February 10, we had Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield,

IL) with us to help our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr bring us the memorandum. We are thankful for the many teachings and instructions brought to us to help us on our heavenly pathway.

January 16 is the birth date of Tyson Gregory born to Chuck and Trela Wirtz. Big brother, Garrett, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz also welcome him.

It seems we always have hospital patients to keep in our thoughts and prayers. They are Jim Schmidt (Sherry), Andy Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie), Sis. Anna Schmidt, Bro. Mike Tapavica (Donna) and Sis. Lilly Mogler (Bro. Nate). We are thankful that most of them are able to assemble with us again.

We have laid many loved ones to rest in our community this past month. Ervin Gerber's (80) funeral was held January 29. We extend sympathy to his dear wife, Helen, and children, Ron, Beverly Kuecker (Dick) and Robert, a number of grandchildren as well as great-grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Elizabeth and Sis. Leah Traub in the passing of their sister-in-law, Martha Traub (Joe).

Finally from the hottest smelter
Faith receives its seal and shelter
As the gold that's purified;
For the greatest joy of heaven,
Having suffered much and striven,
God's belov'd are glorified.

Zion's Harp #245

We bid final farewell to Sis. Jessie Fehr, 87, February 8. Sis. Jessie spent many hours cleaning our church in the past. She has longed to go home to her reward for some time now. We want to extend sympathy to her family, a son, Roger, and Elaine Wilderman (Arnie), five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sis. Emma Luthi and Sis. Ida Fehr and Manuel Fehr will also miss their sister-in-law. May God comfort all the families of these aged ones we have laid to rest. Let us continue to help our pillars to journey onward as suggested by this verse:

Blessed are they who understand
my faltering step and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today
most strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away when coffee spilled at the table today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice to day."

Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back memories of yester days.

Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
to find the strength to carry the Cross.

Blessed are those who ease the days on my journey Home in loving ways.

Author Unknown

JAPAN, SHIODA

Renee Baurer

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

I John 3:18

We are so thankful that four elder brothers were able to spend a few days with us on their way to India. It was a blessing to have Elder Bros. David Bertsch and John Klotzle minister to us Sunday, January 21. Elder Bros. Roy Grimm and Joe Braker, along with several brothers and sisters from our Tokyo church, later joined us for supper. After supper we were given the opportunity to ask questions about the spiritual and physical outreach that is taking place in various countries. Hearing about the needs of people encourages all of us to strive to love, not only in word and tongue, but in deed and in truth.

We were thrilled to have approximately 15 students from the Ichinomiya-cho junior high school gather together the evening of February 11. Bro. Frank Sauder spoke to them about the value of honesty and build-

ing their house upon a rock. Matthew 7:24-27. We plan to continue meeting with these students on a monthly basis. We pray that God will put a desire in each of their hearts to learn more about Him.

We appreciated very much having Bro. Frank Sauder minister to us February 18. We are thankful for Bro. Frank's willing spirit as extra duties are given to him. Our prayers are given to him. Our prayers and support are with him and Sis. Kathy as they continue to serve God here in Japan.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Time continues to pass quickly. Our family was blessed with a refreshing trip to the U.S. over the holidays. With the preparations for departure, the trip itself, and the readjustment upon our return, two months have flown by without a report from Tokyo. Much has happened in the interim . . .

A Sunday school program and Christmas dinner were enjoyed by the congregation on Christmas eve. Other Christmas activities were a gathering for young people at Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's home, and a neighborhood ladies' meeting where the message of the first Christmas was given. May the love of God that was manifested on that long ago night continue to work in the hearts of all who heard.

The annual church conference for all brethren living in Japan was held in Tokyo this year. In the morning, our elder brothers spoke on John 14, in keeping with the summer conference in the U.S. The afternoon consisted of a discussion on topics that pertain to our local churches. May God bless the words that were spoken and fill us all with inspiration, hope and zeal.

The journey of elder and ministering brothers to India always holds a blessing for the churches here, too. We're so thankful that they take the time and make the effort to stop here for a few days on their way. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) were in Tokyo for Sunday, while David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) were in Shioda. We thank the

Lord for the uplift He gave us through the memorable time they spent with us. The presence of His Spirit was so evident.

"No therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Exodus 4:12. These words are an encouragement as the duties of the ministry have been given to us recently. We are humbled and thankful for the support of our dear brethren here, and plead for all of your support in prayer.

KANSAS, BERN

Kathy Strahm

Lori Baumgartner

TO A NEW CHRISTIAN

Welcome to God's forever family. You are a new person recreated under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Christian life is a beautiful life. That doesn't mean you will be free from all burdens, but our Lord and His family will help with your load. In yielding to God's will, life will be more meaningful; life's experiences will take on new directions. God's grace and love are part of your new life; His strength will support you. Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Welcome to the new life!!!

Author Unknown

We rejoice in welcoming ten new brothers and sisters-in-Christ into our family of God. They are Sis. Heidi Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Katy Rokey); Bro. Faron Strahm (Clayton and Miriam); Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly Meyer; and Bro. Jay Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy); Sis. Diane Menold; Bro. Victor Menold; Bro. Dayton Menold; Bro. Terry Menold and Bro. Christopher Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise).

We are uplifted in spirit to witness that God is still calling souls unto Him in repentance. Two young souls, Myron Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise) and Kristin Mars (Dave and Virginia), have answered the call and surrendered to a loving and merciful Saviour. We pray that many more might come to know Him while there is still time.

We assembled with the Sabetha brethren February 9 to hear the memorandum. Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Same Huber

(Sabetha, KS) were here to assist Bro. John Lehman in reading it. May we take heed to this kindly reminder of keeping our garments clean and white -- fit for the Master's return.

Other visiting ministers here this month were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Bro. Doug Grimm and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), May the Lord bless each of them for their willingness to bring us the inspired Word of God.

The engagement of Bro. Jerry Knobloch (Orvie and Laurretta, Lester, IA) to Sis. Linda Stahl (Eldon and Irene Stahl, Princeville, IL) was recently announced. We rejoice with both of them and pray that God will direct them as they plan their lives together. We hope that Linda will feel a warm welcome here if it is God's will that Bern becomes their church.

Hospitalized this past month was Bro. Louis Meyer (Sis. Mavis). He underwent repair surgery on his shoulder. We are thankful to see him assembling with us again.

We are most certainly looking forward to a blessed week as the elder brethren from across our land will be assembling here for their mid-winter conference. It is our prayer that God will direct all of their decisions.

We are so thankful to have heard all of the testimonies from our converts in recent weeks, and we are looking forward to hearing more. It has caused us as brothers and sisters to do some early spring housecleaning in our hearts. The question was asked by one visiting elder -- if each one of us would have been asked to come up and give our testimony again in front of the church would we have been ready? Do we still have that first love in our hearts, or has it become lukewarm? Are we still scared of the world, or does it now look inviting? Do we love all of our brothers and sisters, or are we holding some grudges? May we all examine our lives and pray for the grace to retain that first love -- that love that we felt as a new babe-in-Christ.

We want to express our sympathy to Katie Grimm (Paul) on hearing of the death of her sister, Sis. Sarah Moore (Elgin, IA). May the Lord comfort as only He can.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr

"Carry your cross patiently and with perfect submission, and in the end it shall carry you." (Wings of Silver, page 48.

Recent surgery patients were Sis. Pearl L. Miller (Bro. Wayne) and Sis. Teresa Bahr. Both are recovering, thanks to the healing mercies from above.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

The Lord has relieved Bro. Joseph Somerhalder from his earthly toils and sufferings! We take comfort in the wonderful hope that lies beyond the grave, for all who have come to know and serve the Lord. Because of Christ our Saviour, we too, might live forevermore! Sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Edna and family. Bro. Joe suffered various physical afflictions during his life, but you just never heard him complain. His love for God and the church were apparent. His sights were set on a heavenly goal! His quiet, gentle presence will be missed.

We thank our local and visiting ministers for their love and faithful commitment in feeding the flock. Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita) was our only visiting minister.

Our sincere thanks to friends and relatives for the many prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, plants, food and money donations during Joe's illness and passing. May the Lord bless.

Edna Somerhalder
& family

KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIV.
Sheri Braker

We would like to thank Bros. Doug Grimm and Roger Aberle from Sabetha and Bros. Harvey Grimm and Darrel Stoller from Bern for ministering God's Word to us. We appreciate these brothers, along with their wives, for taking time out to travel the miles and worship with our small group here in Manhattan.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

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

Zion's Harp #25, vs. 2

We extend our sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) for assisting in our communion service. We also appreciate Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) who were our other visiting ministers this month. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

The annual business meeting was held to conduct all necessary church business. We thank the Lord for the many gifts he has blessed our members with. May we always work together for the perfect will of God.

Many were gathered at the rest home this month as Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson led services. Those present sang hymns and joined in the fellowship.

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

What a comfort the Word can be in times of discouragement or ill health. Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Huber Farney and Sis. Laverne Roth. Many others need our uplifting prayers. May they feel His comforting, healing presence in their lives.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is"

Jeremiah 27:7

Thus will I live and walk from day to day,
Contented, trustful, satisfied and still;
What life so shielded, or what life so free,
As that within the center of Thy will!
Jane Woodfall

Wayne and Dawn Anliker are the parents of a son, Tyler Wayne, born January 28, at Houston, TX. Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean are the proud grandparents and Bill and Carol Loechler (Overland Park, KS) are the proud maternal grandparents.

Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) was a visiting minister this month.

Sis. Jane Luthi (Bro. Jay) was a hospital patient this month, but we are happy to report she is home and doing fine.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

As we travel through life with its beginnings, ends and "rebirths", many and various emotions are stirred in our hearts. There are times we can hardly comprehend and contain all that is happening around us. We may have reason to rejoice, when at the same time a brother, sister or friend has a heavy burden to bear. May we allow ourselves to be empathetic, understanding, and or a heart and mind to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice.

Our "church family" will greatly miss Bro. Ben Aberle who passed from this life while at a Sarasota, FL, hospital. Complications after heart surgery robbed Bro. Ben of quality life, and eventually caused his death. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Bro. Anna Lou and to his children, Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle, Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice (Aberle) Wysong. We remember also Bro. Ben's sister, Sis. Alma Aberle, who has now said "farewell" to all of her brothers.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Strahm in the passing of her brother, Ervin Gerber, (West Bend, IA). Sis. Tillie Wenger has recently lost her brother, Silas Strahm (Sabetha). We trust that she and Bro. Louis can feel God's comfort at this time, also.

Lafe Bailey (Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda) has completed his college courses and is making a new beginning in the work field. We hope Lafe will always feel God's guidance in all that he does.

We have many reasons for thankfulness and have truly felt God's nearness as our church continues to grow in number. The testimonies of

Klinton and Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen), Jeanna Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Gale Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian), and Darin Grimm (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby) were shared with many January 27. It is such an encouragement to hear of the unconditional surrender these loved ones have made to God. Helping Elder Bro. Sam Huber with this were Elders Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City), Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We had many visiting ministers among us for the weekend. Those who were used in God's service on Sunday included Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS). Thank you to all who had a part in this joyous occasion.

Bro. Joe Menold has been in our thoughts so much in the recent months. Because of medical problems associated with a stroke, he has been unable to assemble with us for some time. After having corrective shoulder surgery, we hope he can enjoy a nice recovery. We look forward to having you among us again, Bro. Joe.

Sis. Selena Brownlee was also a surgical patient this month. We hope that by this printing that Sis. Selena is fully recovered and again sharing with us her optimism and cheerful countenance.

Bro. Joe Traub was a medical patient this month. We hope all is going better for Bro. Joe. We know he will gain strength and courage even from the beautiful hymns he so enjoys and shares with others.

Another dear soul, Darin Edelman, has been given the grace and courage to turn his back on the world. We rejoice with Darin and his parents Clemens and Sis. Marjorie Edelman. May Darin continue to grow in the love and favor of God.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Sis. Dora Young was a hospital patient in early February. She returned to the Sandpiper Bay Health Care Center, 5808 West 8th, Wichita, KS 67212. She enjoys hearing from her many acquaintances. Perhaps you will remember her in prayer as well

as with a card or letter.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Lester and Glendoris Huber

"To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:10, 16. These words of Jeremiah bring comfort and peace to our hearts in the church, our Christian heritage of our forefathers, built upon the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone.

As the years have come and gone, since our coming to Lexington, we have come to appreciate in truth, the Word of God which effectually worketh in us who believe. I Thessalonians 2:13. And this being true more than ever, are we not accountable to the words of our Lord Jesus who said: "I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also." Luke 4:43. And "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." John 20:21. And much more so as we see the day approaching of His return.

We are most humbled to be the least among you all for your faithful support, prayers and patient forbearance with us. And now more than ever we appreciate our home churches and let us encourage one another to not diminish in the "ordinances and commandments of God to be blameless." Luke 1:6 (Not faultless but blameless in submission as the true bride (Church) of our most worthy Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.)

And may we find grace with those of your when traveling in the Lexington area to fellowship with us and if possible share our efforts as a little flock in need of song leaders, prayer brothers, ministering brothers, etc. We have many opportunities, colleges, occupations and pray God may lay it on some, to share the call to other cities also.

We are thankful for God's overshadowing mercies in the recent surgery of Bro. Virgil Heinold (Sis. Sherri Fritz's father). We pray God's blessing of healing will be with him.

We express heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers the past two months. Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield,

IL), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL). May God bless you each one, your wives and all visitors also from the churches of Chicago, Congerville and Roanoke, IL, Taylor, MO, and Detroit, MI.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor of the Lord."
 Proverbs 18:22

We, at Alto, have been overflowing with many blessings and happiness as another brother has chose a helpmate to share his life. Congratulations to Bro. Ted Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen) who has asked Sis. Sandy Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jane Nuest, LaCrosse, IN).

Also we wish much joy and blessings on the wedding of Carl and Brenda Blough (Bro. Noah and Marguerite Blough) as the begin their new lives together.

Our annual business meeting also took place this month January with some changes: New Trustee (3 yrs.) Bro. Lloyd Blough; Executive Board of Woodhaven in Detroit - Bro. Terry Steffen; Dinner Committee - Sis. LaBeth Dunham; Usher (3 yrs.) Bro. Brad Baumgardner; World Relief Committee - Sis. Luanne Kaeb.

We also had a nice visit from Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) Nice to see a familiar face and hear the blessed Word.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Peggy Waibel

This month at Bay City has been saddened by the loss of three dear souls. We pray that in the coming weeks that God will give their families comfort and peace.

Bro. Don Wieland passed away after a continuing illness of about five years. We share in the joy of his sweet release from pain and also share in the sorrow of losing a dear brother in the Lord. Bro. Don had been blessed with a wonderful family including: Sis. LuAnne Wieland (Bragiel); his four children, Sis. Sue Heimer, Bro. Craig, Bro. Scott, and Katie Wieland. We pray that God will be near each one in the months ahead.

Bro. Robert Schlatter was also laid to rest after a short illness. His wife, Sis.

Betty and his children, Trudy (Schlatter) Schmidt, Sis. Bonnie, Bro. Jay, Peggy and Steve Schlatter, all have our sympathy and our prayers. We trust that in due time God will heal the hurt and replace it with the joy of knowing that God has a perfect plan for each one.

Elmer Lambert, (Bro. John and Sis. Helen Lambert) passed away after a fairly short illness. We grieve with his wife Arleen Lambert, and his living children, Sue and John. We pray that each one, in their time of need, will find comfort in Jesus' love. Elmer was preceded in death by his son, Randy. We loved both of them, and their precious family.

We know that each family can find comfort in the words of Jesus in Revelations where he says:

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be and more pain: for the former things are all passed away."
 Revelation 21:4

Sis. Lois Waibel is battling with cancer and she would appreciate your prayers. She is a real example and light to those around her. We pray for her healing, but pray also, that God's will may be done in her life.

Bro. George Waibel is also fighting a battle against cancer. We pray that the Lord will help us make his will, our will, in Bro. George's life. We love him very much and have committed his illness to the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month were, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). They labored with Elder Bro. Andy Virkler, in both the funeral services of our loved ones, and in church services. We are thankful for their loving support.

The month of February brings thoughts of Valentine's Day in which we think of love and those we love. But I wonder how many of us remember God's love gift to us? How many of us put God at the

head of these earthly relationships? How many truly let Him be the Heart of our very existence?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him shall have everlasting life."

John 3:16

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Sue Gasser

We rejoice with Ann Dimitrie Tacher as she has turned to the Lord in repentance, and we pray that God would grant her His grace and strength in rich measure.

Steve and Patti Belsley welcomed a new son, Jared Steven, into their family February 17. His brother and sisters are Joshua, Amanda, and Courteney. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Lois Belsley.

Our prayers are with Sis. Perseda Wieland who has not been able to assemble with us recently due to illness. We have also missed Sis. Bev Bahr, who had surgery on her finger and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein, who broke her ankle. We pray God's healing power would be manifested in all of you.

Our sympathy is extended to Bill and Trudie Schmidt in the passing of Trudie's father, Bro. Bob Schlatter, Bay City, MI, and to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland in the passing of her brother, Bro. George Waibel (Bay City, MI).

I apologize for a mistake in the February Silver Lining regarding Sis. Mary Pentek's passing.

Sis. Mary Pentek passed away at Saratoga Hospital December 26, 1989. She is survived by a son, John, and a daughter, Goldie Pentek.

A reminder to any who would like to attend the 2nd Annual Woodhaven Volunteer Luncheon Saturday, April 21, at Woodhaven at 1:30 p.m. - please let your Executive Committee Representative know if you plan to come.

Bay City, MI, will host services at Woodhaven April 3 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Croghan/Naumburg, NY, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario April 15. For directions or additional information, please call Bro. Walter Fortenbacher at (519) 699-4133.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

"And He saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Bro. Dwight Mogler gave his testimony of the Lord working his heart and was baptized in Lester, IA. We are thankful to have him with us here.

On February 3, Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Harold Messner came to share the memorandum with us this month. We look to them for some spiritual guidelines as we look to the Word for truth. We also thank Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) for visiting and ministering to us this month.

Sis. Bernadine Miller thanks all who remembered her in prayers, cards, gift, food, support and help during her recent hip surgery and recovery time. May we continue to remember her and her family as they help care for her needs.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

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

Romans 12:15

We rejoice with Bro. David and Sis. Kelly Zeltwanger in the birth of their second son, Ryan James. Nathan will enjoy his brother as a playmate when they get a little older. The happy grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch (Phoenix, AZ).

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been hospitalized. Bro. Mark Knobloch (Sis. Brenda) has had back surgery, and we pray that he may experience the Lord's help and healing in the days that lie ahead.

Bro. Frank Messner (Sis. Gladys) is in serious condition in the Phoenix, AZ, hospital, having had complications in heart surgery. We pray that Bro. Frank and his dear family may be comforted and strengthened by the Lord.

Again God has shown us the un-

certainty of life, and that He holds our life and breath in His control. Our love and sympathy goes out to Sis. Marion Moser (Bro. Chris) in the passing of her mother, Mrs. Walfred (Margaret) Sanders.

We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Albert Luthi. Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family: his wife, Myrtle; a son, Bro. Aldean (Sis. Charlotte); 3 daughters, Gloria (Dave) Nichtern, Betty Ann (Carl) Batdorf, and Virene; and the 11 grandchildren; as well as a step-mother, Sis. Lillie Luthi; the brothers and sisters, Harold (Bernice), Bro. Ray (Sis. Marilyn, Lamar, MO), Bro. Reuben (Sis. Crystal), Sis. Violet Wulf (Bro. Leonard), Sis. Wilma Kuntz (Bro. Clyde, Gridley, IL), and Sis. Lollie Mogler (Bro. Howard, Lester, IA), and a sister-in-law, Sis. Della Luthi. May God comfort those who mourn.

Notice: Silver Lining subscription renewals are due by April 1. Prompt payment to your reporters is appreciated.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner Ella Mae Schmidt

Our congregation was blessed with the birth of two baby boys. Grandsons of Sis. Dorothy and John Jacobson. Born to Jerry and Melissa Isaacson was Jacob Lloyd and welcomed by one sister. Born to Mike and Sally Heckkila was Taylor John and welcomed by a brother and sister.

We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) sharing with us the readings of the memorandum.

Also we thank Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and his wife, Leona, for spending a Sunday with us.

Because of our mild winter, our elderly are able to attend services with us. We want them to know we enjoy their presence there each time they are able to be with us.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Carole Kellenberger

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Anna Lou and her son, Mark Mattix, in the loss of her husband, Bro. Ben Aberle. Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Lou had only a little over two

short years together, yet we know they appreciated each other so much. May God also comfort his family in the Sabetha area.

Our annual business meeting was held January 21. Bro. Dennis Miller was elected trustee and Sis. Carole Kellenberger was placed on the food committee. Our thanks to Bro. Jesse Delph and Sis. Lanette Meyer for their past service. Sis. Lanette Meyer was chosen to succeed Sis. Janice Lehman as Sunday school teacher this fall. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Gene Marti for his kind admonition on keeping Godly order.

We enjoyed having Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Zimmerman and family (Gridley, KS) with us February 11. Thank you, Bro. Russell and Bro. Tim, for bringing us the Word of God.

At this time, we are mindful of our elder brethren meeting in Bern, KS. May God give them insight through His Word and Holy Spirit as they seek His guidance.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Janel Kellenberger Becky Marti

We want to thank Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We receive many blessings when we have visitors, and invite anyone traveling through a big welcome.

Bro. Calven and Sis. Jodi Luthi are happy parents of a healthy girl, Audrey Lyne, born February 4. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi. May God grant them wisdom and grace to teach her the ways of the Lord. Corey Wade was born February 13 to Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker. Nicole, Haley, and Caleb welcome their brother home. Grandparents are Sis. Cecile Braker and Robert and Leta Borghardt. May they seek God's help and guidance as they seek to raise him "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Maranda Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa Luthi) was a hospital patient. Sis. Marie Marti continues to improve and is staying with her niece and family (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker) in Kansas City, MO.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Ray Luthi and family in the sudden death of his brother, Albert Luthi (Morris, MN).

We welcome Sis. Jill Luthi (Lamont, KS) who has moved to our area.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kathy Knapp

The following ministers were with us in St. Louis the past month: Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Thomas Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We appreciate them for coming to share the Word with us.

Our prayers go with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold as they move to Tulsa, OK, due to a job transfer. We will miss them, but they plan to visit often.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Lori Marquart
LouAnne Gramm

Our little church wished Bro. William Cottrell a happy birthday with a card shower. "God's blessings on you dear Bro. William."

We started listening to the summer conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. "Come now, and let us reason together . . ." We prayerfully supported these brothers during that week and we can be thankful that they take time out of their busy schedules to keep our church together.

No matter how different each of our views may be, we have the most important thing in common -- God! God's people live all over the world and it doesn't take much to look around to see where we can lend a helping hand. Several from our church community received a blessing when they took a week off to help rebuild homes down in Charleston, SC, with the Hurricane Hugo work project. Bros." Gerald Sutter, Arnie Gerst, Louis Hoerr, Norman Haerr, Don Hoerr, Steve Kiefaber, Shon Haerr, Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser, Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr, a neighbor Warren Speckhart, and two from the Bloomington/Normal area Bro. Ron Hodel and Kevin Hodel. They reported that the amount of devastation was "unbelievable." However, the people were cheerful, humble,

God-fearing and very thankful for their protection during the storm. Many went to the church for safety. The people were very thankful that someone cared enough to lend a helping hand in their time of need.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Bro. Roy returned home safely from his trip to India. Bro. Roy - We continually prayed for your safety as you traveled into God's mission field. Welcome home.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Heidi Haerr

We are thankful for the ministers and their families who visited our congregation during past weeks to share God's Word with us. They were Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl, Ryan and Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider (Rockville, CT).

After touring Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty on Saturday, Bro. Wendell brought light and hope to our small church by the big city with a message rich in experience and insight which encouraged us to watch and pray while using God given talents in the city. Just as Nehemiah and the wall builders of Jerusalem worked with sword in one hand and stone in the other, we must not set aside the gospel during the week when our hands are needed for work but carry it like a shield, close by our hearts as solid protection against deception and evil.

We would like to remind all of you that visitors are always welcome and appreciated in our small congregation. Services are held on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. If you plan to attend services with us, please contact Sis. Heidi Haerr at 201-795-0892.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

We received many blessings from God on the weekend of February 3

and 4, when Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) traveled to be with us. On Saturday evening, Bro. Loren, our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Deacon Duane Farney read the memorandum of the conference from last August. We are thankful that we have faithful elder brothers who meet and counsel on God's Word and instructions left for our everyday living. May we take heed of their kindly warnings and advice so we can all have that hope of going to heaven when our earthly life is over.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

"Consider what I say: and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."
II Timothy 2, vs. 2 and vs. 7

The Lord has heard the prayers of our congregation and has provided us with a brother who is willing to accept the call and the great responsibility of serving God by ministering the Word. It is the responsibility of each of us to support the Brothers who preach the word with prayers and obedience to the Word. Bro. Andy Virkler has been called into this most important work and may each one show our support by remembering Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky and their children in our prayers as he begins these new duties. We are thankful that God is still providing the instruction through faithful brothers and our prayer is that many more of our loved ones will heed the call and turn to God while yet it is the day of grace. We thank Bro. Loren for his willingness to serve us.

A dear one in our congregation has turned his back to the world and accepted the Lord as his Savior. On Saturday evening, February 10, we gathered to hear the testimony of our friend Roland Geiser. On Sunday, we gathered for his baptism and also shared a meal together. May we all show forth the love and appreciation for God that we could readily see on the face of our dear Bro. Roland, having turned to the Lord at the age of 79 years, his only regret is that "he has such a short lifetime left to serve the Lord." May God grant him many days of good health to carry out His will.

Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Farney have welcomed a new grandson.

Charles and Laurie Farney are first-time parents with the birth of Adam Charles December 16. May they ever look to God as they take the important steps of becoming a father and mother.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Speak unto the rock before their eyes and it shall give forth water . . ." Numbers 20:8. This was the second time Israel came to "no water". The first time in Exodus 17:6, God told Moses: "I will stand before thee upon the rock of Horeb, and thou shalt smite the rock and there shall come water out of it." Horeb means "fresh inspiration", and Moses had gotten fresh inspiration on how to solve that problem. The Hebrew word for rock is a huge mountain. The fresh inspiration Moses got for this problem was only to speak to it, for out of God's huge abundance, they could ask and receive. We are thankful we can get "fresh inspiration" from God for each of our problems, and that our rock, Christ Jesus was smitten for us, and now we need only to speak to Him, and out of God's huge abundance, we can receive, for He says: ". . . Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full". John 16:24.

Our hearts rejoiced to have five young people give their testimony and be baptized. They were: Tom Bako, (Eugene and Sis. Dianna); Jill Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce); Heidi Graf (Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey); Mark Graf (Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet); and Vicki Palitto (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell). Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer, Andy Stoller, and Ken Sauder assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer. We appreciated visiting ministers, among whom were Bros. Duane Farney, Bill Brake, and Pete Baltic, and all our other visitors for the special occasion.

Sis. Edna VonGunten fell and broke her hip, and we pray for her comfort.

Sis. Joyce Schamback spent a lot of extra effort and extra hours on the World Relief Committee, for which we are grateful, and extend a hearty thanks. her term expired, and Sis. Joyce Gasser was voted on the committee.

A man's dark gray-black plaid London Fog coat was inadvertently

take from church the weekend of baptisms, and a brown coat was left in its place. If anyone notices they mistakingly took the wrong coat, contact Bro. John Steiner of Rittman.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
John Grimm

We are thankful that God has called faithful brothers to speak His Word. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) ministered to us this past month. Also, Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) visited us one a Wednesday night. May God bless each one of these brothers and their loved ones.

On February 3, precious Christina Rose was born to Bro. Stan and Sis. Judy Sauder. Christina is welcomed home by Katie and Joseph. May God's love continue to bless their home.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter

We thank visiting ministers Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Larry Wenninger and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for giving of their time and efforts on our behalf.

Some strive for power
But often in vain,
Some thirst for glory
So hard to attain.

Some crave possessions
That wealth alone brings
But these, alas are
Transitory things.

The wise are they
Who while on earth's sod
Seek first in their lives
The Kingdom of God

Sis. Mary Gemma Brunk

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter. Their son, Warren, has begun his earthly walk with God. We wish him God's richest blessings.

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn - Rhonda Stoller
Two couples in our congregation

are rejoicing with the arrival of their first son.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty Gerber are thankful for their arrival, Bryant David. Bryant's big sister, Laura, loves having a little brother and she has been a big help to her mommy.

Bro. Roy and Deb Klopfenstein are excited about their first child, Andrew Alvin.

We wish both of these couples God's richest gift of wisdom to raise these precious little boys.

Proclaiming God's beautiful Word to us this past month was Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford), and Bro. Don Gude-man (LaCrosse, IN). We thank these two brothers for giving of themselves for our benefit.

Both Christians and non-Christians fight spiritual battles. The Christian only has the advantage of a victorious Lord.

We rejoice over the baptism of Doug Nygaard (Annette). Welcome Bro. Doug into God's Family. We thank God for you and hope we can provide the strength and love you and Annette need from your brothers and sisters-in-faith.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard due to the death of Doug's mother. May you feel our prayers and know how much we feel for you doing this great loss.

Every experience God gives, every person He puts in our lives, is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.

Corrie Ten Boom

OHIO, RITTMAN
Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

We were thankful to have baptismal services February 11. We rejoice that six converts can realize "In all the earth there is no higher standing than this -- to follow in the Saviour's ways" (Zion's Harp #16). We welcome our brothers and sisters: Bro. Novko Atanasov, Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Ault, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy Ryan, and Sis. Linda Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri). We appreciate Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Eugene Pamer (Akron), and Andy Stoller (Smithville), for assisting Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with these duties. Also visiting us for the weekend were ministering Bros. Bill Schlatter

(Junction) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis).

Blessed with their first child, Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Dotterer welcome Kent Joseph into their home. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer and Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach (Smithville).

Eric Keiper has begun his repentance and we rejoice with his parents, Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper. We trust Eric will enjoy the blessings of serving God.

Those who have spent time in the hospital have been Bro. Frank Nussbaum (Marie), Sis. Doris Gasser, Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Howard Beery (Sis. Lucille) and Sis. Marie Winkler.

We wish to remember with sympathy Bro. Mitchel Baltic, Sis. Violet Baltic, and Walter Baltic for their brother, Mickey Baltic, passed away. May God comfort them.

Three couples have announced their engagement. Mike Gasser (Sis. Doris) is engaged to Kristen Graber.

Bryant Keiper (Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty) and Kim Martin (Mr. and Mrs. Dan Flack) are engaged to be married.

Kevin Keiper (Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty) and Carolyn Shook (Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shook) are planning for their marriage. We trust God will lead each couple as they take this important step.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

As "old man winter" begins to release his grip on the earth, we see the promise of spring and are reminded of the words of our Lord, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation

Just as our heavenly Father brings the new life of springtime, so shall He bring new life to those who call upon Him as their Lord and Master.

Our cups are full and running over as we rejoice with the many new converts in our congregation. We are thankful for each new soul who has answered our Lord's pleading call. Those recently repenting are Bridget Zollinger, (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry), Eric Keiper, (Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty, Rittman), Robert Figel, (Bro. John and Sis. Paula), and Dana Indermuhle, (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda).

May each one strive to build upon that Solid Rock. Let us always remember to pray for those dear souls who are just outside the door.

We certainly pray for Sis. Almeda Brake (John) as she returns to the hospital February 26 for major surgery. May God grant her much grace to endure.

"Though I must endure affliction, yet I feel my Lord's affection. He is my strength in life and helps me in every strife."

Zion's Harp #157, vs. 6

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Stephanie Luginbuhl

Kim Stoller

OUR BLESSED PORTION

I have happy hours; With Thee I am blest!

Finding in Thee power, When I am distressed.

I was all unworthy and a wayward child;

Now I have found mercy in Thy love so mild.

Zion's Harp #149, vs. 4

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over the two precious souls who have heeded God's call. Our new converts are Jennifer Beery (Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey) and Cyndi Blough (Ben and Sis. Janette).

We are thankful for brothers who proclaim God's Word unto us week after week. May the Lord bless Bro. Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for their words of truth, kindness, and correction.

Our congregation was blessed with two new bundles of joy. First-time parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn Maibach welcome with love Mitchell Steven into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT).

Kyle and Jason Indermuhle are happy to have another brother to play with. Brice Edwin was born to Dennis and Shari Indermuhle. Happy grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet Indermuhle. May the Lord grant wisdom to these dear parents

on how to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Loren Rufener (Sis. Chris) as he recovers from a chemical burn.

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

Proverbs 19:18

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla

THE LOOM

"Children of yesterday, heirs of tomorrow, What are you wearing? Labor and sorrow?"

Look at your loom again! Faster and faster.

Fly the great shuttles prepared by the Master!

Life's in the loom, Room for it -- Room?"

Earl L. Douglass

We are the children of yesterday, the heirs of tomorrow. God has given us a choice as to how we will plan our destiny. Each one of us is given a talent - something no one else can do. How will we use it? As this poem states that the shuttles fly faster, and faster, we can enjoy true happiness when we are at work for our Creator. The fabric in the loom may seem dark with unhappiness but with the Lord at the loom, a new design takes place - one of peace and hope.

"Look at your loom again. Faster and faster fly the great shuttles prepared by the Master."

One of our blessings for the month was the visits of Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue and family, Detroit, MI) and Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori and family, Latty, OH).

We also enjoyed the fellowship of our guests from the various churches on the 3rd and 4th of February.

Sis. Mary Harmon and Sis. Karen Breitwieser (Bro. John) have had surgery. They are both making a good recovery. Kathy Brietwieser was in an auto accident, but fortunately was not seriously injured.

David Brietwieser (Bro. John and Sis. Karen) has graduated from the University of Toledo and now is employed as a draftsman with Vampco

in Columbus, OH. Our good wishes are with David in his new work.

We had our annual business meeting in January. The newly elected were Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa) as Sunday school teacher for the Intermediate Bible class, Sis Marilyn Fetter (Bro. Eugene) as dinner coordinator and Sis. Verena Kaeppler (Bro. Rolf) as activity coordinator for the home for aging at the Apostolic Christian Woodhaven, Livonia, MI.

Bro. Kent Rager (Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon) has announced his engagement to Sis. Jill Bogart (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor) of Francesville, IN. We wish them the closeness and blessings of the Lord as they plan their future life together.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
Lydia Fortenbacher

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker.
And is free from bitterness.

Love is truthful, no deceitful.
Does here every burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful.
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

We're happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Rosanne Fortenbacher (Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher) to Bro. Daniel Graf (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Audrey Graf, Akron, OH). May the Lord's guidance be with this young couple as they prepare their walk of life together.

Bro. Bill Waibel form the Bay City congregation held services here this month. We are indeed so thankful for the ministers, their families, and others who make the effort to come.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The 1990 church calendars and the new updated church directories are finished and available. This year's calendar is topped by a beautiful picture of Proxy Falls in Central Oregon and the directory again pictures Silver Creek Falls. Many thanks to all the volunteers whose hours

have made each of these publications possible.

A farewell singing was held for Bro. Brian Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean) at the home of Bro. Paul and Sis. Esther Dettwyler in February. Bro. Brian is moving back to his home church at Forrest, IL. May God be with us until we meet again and help us to continue to pray for each other.

We rejoiced to hear the engagement announcement on the first Sunday in February of Sis. Jane Rocke (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline, Eureka, IL) and Bro. John Wiegend (Bro. David and Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL). They plan a March 25 wedding at Eureka. We wish them God's nearness and blessings in this special time.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger at the death of Sis. Carolyn's father, Fred Ifft, Sr., at Fairbury, IL. Thankfully, Sis. Carolyn was able to fly out to be with her family during this time. The love and nearness of family, friends and brethren can be such a comfort in the loss of a loved one. May each one of this big family look to the Lord for comfort and find it, now and much more in all eternity.

A piece of property for our new church building site has been selected and the complex and often lengthy process of zoning approval has begun. Many, many thanks to all who have contributed financially and prayerfully to our building project.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

We have enjoyed many blessed events and answered prayers this month.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) for reading us the memorandum Saturday, January 27. That evening was also shared in a church supper.

"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:"

Luke 12:8

Our congregation was blessed Sunday, January 28, when it was announced that our dear Bro. Jerry Isch will join Bro. Edward Aeschleman on the pulpit. We have prayed a long time for another minister and are thankful that Bro. Ed will have help. May Bro. Jerry assume his new responsibility and feel God's grace, which He promised would be sufficient.

We are saddened to report that Bro. Dimitrie Luibi was confined to the hospital with a heart attack January 22. However, God heard many prayers and Bro. Dimitrie is making a good recovery. May God also encourage his dear wife, children and grandchildren during this period of tribulation and concern. Bro. Dimitrie's address is 572 - 56th Street, West New York, New Jersey 07093.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

We have two new converts who have turned their lives over to Christ. Rachel Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) and Dana Trumbower are now walking down that straight and narrow way. May they both be faithful witnesses of Christ.

Christopher John Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) was hospitalized for a week. He is now home and we pray for God's healing upon his little body.

Sis. Gala Gerber has moved to this area from Bluffton, IN. We welcome her to our church family.

Our church has started rolling bandages twice a month for world relief. It is a joyful time in which we can fellowship and also provide a service that will benefit others.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

We have been blessed with many visitors this summer. Among them were the following ministers: Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Ray Ehnlé (Bradford, IL), Merle Kaisner (Fair-

bury, IL) and Carrol Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the blessings received.

Many prayers are with those who have been confined to the hospital recently. Sis. Leona Gerber, Sis. Margaret Tanner, Bro. Elmer Gerber and Bro. Eugene Bertschi.

Bro. John Perdelwitz's mother, Sis. Martha Perdelwitz, passed away January 25. She was living at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. She had spent some winters in Zapata. We wish to thank all those that expressed their sympathy in words and deeds.

SILVER THREADS

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway, a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store." As I got a little closer, the door came open wide. And when I came to myself, I was standing just inside.

I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, please shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in that Grocery Store. And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for.

First, I got some **PATIENCE**, **LOVE** was in the very same row. Further down was **UNDERSTANDING**, you need it wherever you go. I got a box or two of **WISDOM**, a bag or two of **FAITH**. I just couldn't miss the Holy Spirit, for He was all over the place!

I stopped to get some **STRENGTH** and **COURAGE** to help me run this race. By then my basket was getting full but . . . I remembered I needed some **GRACE**! I didn't forget **SALVATION**, for **SALVATION** that was free. So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will. As I went up the aisle I saw **PRAYER** and I just had to put that in. For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and **JOY** were plentiful; they were on the last shelf. **SONGS** and **PRAISES** were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the angel, "How much do I owe?" He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I smiled at him and said, "How much do I owe?" He smiled again and said, "My Child, **JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!**"

Submitted by Sabetha, KS

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

and we bring out the Word of God which we are told is as a sword, and I want to tell you, It really pierces. It will stop the jaws of the wicked. I have had that experience and I believe that many of you have had.

Why does God cause us to become involved in those situations? To display the power of God! Perhaps we need encouragement and need a stronger faith and God will bring us into those situations to strengthen our faith and to cause us to believe a little more firmly in Him, and to place a little more confidence in God and in His Word.

"Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand. My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch." Job 29:18, 19. The things that we do for God are going to stand, and God will not let them die. It is a wonderful thing how God does provide for us!

Then we read, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest." Romans 2:1. He is saying that we are accountable, and we are accountable for our own actions, for our own conversations, and for our own beliefs. Now you may say, "Wait a minute. What if we have difficulty in believing?"

God says, "You choose Me and you place Me first and I will add everything that you need." He says, "I will give you the grace."

He told the Apostle Paul, when he felt a desire for relief of a trial, He said, in other words, "I am not going to remove that from you. I am asking you to bear that. But," He said, "I am going to give you the grace to stand and to bear it and to carry it." (See II Corinthians 12:9). Yes, that is what

He does with you and me. He is not allowing anyone of us to ever have an excuse that we can't walk on the pathway of righteousness.

He says, though, as He warns us, "I am going to take you through a fiery trial because I want to purify your soul. In this world you will take gold and purify it with severe heat to make it pure, to make it acceptable." He says, "I am going to take you and take your soul and put it through a fiery trial because I want to purify it." (See I Peter 1:7).

But He says, "Don't get discouraged. That is for the welfare of your own soul to make it acceptable for heaven, because I want you to be there." He says, "I am going to give you the grace and I am not going to bring anything over you or ask you to carry anything that you are not able to bear. I am going to make sure of that." (See II Corinthians 10:13).

But He says that every soul is going to have to come before judgment some day. He gives us a choice, "Either you can have judgment here on earth or you can wait until eternity when your life is past, but you are going to come before the Judgment Seat sometime."

He says, "I am going to tell you if you wait until this life is past, you are going to suffer the pangs of judgment eternally. You are not going to escape it any more. You are going to come and stand and be judged, and you are going to receive the just reward of that judgment of evil."

He encourages us to come in our youth. (See Ecclesiastes 12:1). Why do you think He does that? He doesn't want us to live and be exposed in sin. He knows that the time at the end of our life will come unexpected for us. We don't know when it will come. We may wait a little too long.

He wants to use us in His service to bring in other souls to heaven.

I cannot express it enough the importance of living a life of a true Christian. I want to tell you, if you want to carry the title of a Christian honestly, you are going to have to walk according to the will of God and according to the directions of this Holy Scripture.

Otherwise, you are carrying a false title and it is not going to do you any good, but it is going to cause damnation to come upon you.

Strong words, isn't it? Do you know what? It is the Word of God!

What does God say? He says, "If you know and don't tell them, their blood is going to be upon you. But if you know and tell them, you are going to be free." (See Ezekiel 33:1-6).

I am sure every one of us want to be free. Does that say that you have to stand at the podium and preach the gospel? No. You display that in your life . . . each one of us! You are carrying a ministry of Jesus Christ every step you take in this life. I will tell you that not one of us is ever going to know until we get to heaven how far reaching our ministry has gone.

But you can feel assured that if you have carried that according to the will of God as He has asked of you, there is going to be wonderful blessings awaiting each one of us. Your treasure is building up greatly in heaven. We are causing a joy in the heart of our dear Saviour!

Did you ever stop to think how wonderful it must make the Saviour feel when He can look down and He can see that here He has an instrument that is just waiting for Him to use? Do you think He is going to let us lay? Absolutely not! He is going to use us every moment and our life is going to be filled and it is going to be filled according to the joys and happiness of Jesus Christ!

". . . for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." Romans 2:1. He is warning us. He says, "If you want to judge someone, be careful. Because the way you are judging, you are also condemning yourself."

He says, "You don't have a right to judge. The only liberty that I am giving you as far as judgment is that you will know them by their fruits." (See Matthew 7:20). That is as far as He goes. That is as far as He allows us to go.

He says, "Look into the mirror of God and look at yourself." (See James 1:25). Now He does warn us. He says, "If you see fruits from those that you know are not according to Scripture, in love go to them and talk to them; not to someone else broadcasting it." He says, "Go to that individual and talk to them in love." (See Matthew 18:15).

I wish I could find words that could explain the full depth and power of love that God has, but it is not available, really. But He says, "Love covers a multitude of sins." (See I Peter 4:8). Love doesn't cover everything. There is a limit.

He says, "There is a point when we become accountable and when we are going to have to stand and be judged according to our works, according to our doings, and our conversation." (See Matthew 16:27).

"But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things." Romans 2:1. That doesn't mean in later days, if they do something to disappoint us, we start bringing that old thing up again. Just a minute. We said, "I forgive you." That is to be cast into the Sea of Forgetfulness and to be remembered no more.

"And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" Romans 2:3. No. He said, "You are going to stand judgment. You are going to stand upon that which you performed and what you did. You are going to have to give an account for it."

"Be sure," He says, "that you use that robe that I give you . . . that you use the helmet of salvation . . . the sword of the Spirit . . . and the shield of faith. You can go out and encounter those things, so be prepared. Keep the armour on!" (See Ephesians 6:13-17).

He says, "Go out with faith, armored with prayer." Dearly beloved, it is so wonderful to be able to talk to God heart to heart. I want to tell you, if you have any problems, go to Jesus. Talk it over. He says, "Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18.

He doesn't say that He will bend to your wishes and to your desires, but He says, "Come." He wants to talk it over. I will assure you that He will give you the truth, and He will help you to mend your ways to again make peace. He is that wonderful of a Saviour!

"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds." Romans

2:5, 6. It tells us there clear and plain that there is no way to escape it, outside of surrendering to God.

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." Romans 2:7. That is what we are seeking for, isn't it?

He says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened." Matthew 7:7. Wonderful, isn't it? Don't you just love to walk with the Saviour? Don't you just love to have Him as your companion? Do you invite Him to walk with you every moment of your life?

He says, "Pray continually." (See I Thessalonians 5:17). How can the Lord separate from us or how can we separate from the Lord if we have continual conversation with Him? It is such a joy to talk with the Lord. Do you love to pray? Do you love to talk with the Lord?

If there are any that have not tried it, just try it. You will be surprised how loving the Lord is, and how He will talk to you.

I invite you, dear friends, talk with the Lord. Don't walk alone because you are going to end up on a dead end street. Invite the Lord and He will lead you and guide you to the pathway that leads to heaven, and He will go before you.

I have had great experiences in traveling to Jamaica, Haiti and South Carolina. How the Lord opens doors and prepares pathways! I can hardly help but mention it. I have often said, "It seems the Lord is just one step ahead of us." I want to tell you that if you place your faith in God, you will find it that way.

You will not find the dead end street or a gully that you can't cross. It will be there. There may be times that it will be steep so that we will have to get on our knees in prayer. As they often say, perhaps we may have to get on our hands and knees and crawl, but we will get there.

The Lord is going to go with us. He is not going to leave us stranded. He is not going to ask us to climb it alone, because if He can't climb it Himself, He is not going to ask us to do it. Be sure you place your confidence in God and trust in Him. But don't resist to follow Him.

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SERMON BY BRO. E. HARTZELL KAISNER OF DETROIT, MI

"God's Impartial Judgment" Job 29 and Romans 2

The circumcision of the heart where all evil is disposed of is the one that God looks after, and looks to, and is pleased with.

As we read here that if we are of the blessed people of God, if we have adhered to the Spirit of God, he said, "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem." Job 29:14. We have been clothed with the righteousness of God, we that have been reconciled. He has given us a white robe and He says, "Put that robe on and wear it." Display it.

How can we help when we see and especially when we go into the hospitals and see the nurses with white clothing on? It gets our attention, doesn't it? It is a cleanliness. That is what God wants us to display with the robe of righteousness that He gave us.

He gave it to us to display and not to hang in the closet and hide it. He wants it to shine. He wants it to draw attention, and if we have Christ Jesus in our hearts, it is going to draw attention to the world. Why?

Because the love of God is going to shine. The faith in Jesus Christ will radiate. We will be able to stand and not fear the threats of man.

"I was eyes to the blind . . ." Job 29:15. That is a sermon in itself. Are we eyes to the blind? Are we talking of physical blindness? No. We are talking of spiritual blindness. Are we eyes to them that are lost? Are we leading and pointing to the pathway of Jesus Christ that leads to heaven, where our prayers oftentimes are that they will go that direction? Will they

follow that path? Are we helping them to find sight of that pathway? Or are we leaving it for them in darkness so that they have to search for themselves?

God has placed a great responsibility, not only on those that stand behind the pulpit and preach the gospel, but He asks every one of you to carry the message of the Lord Jesus, and of salvation for mankind, and forgiveness of sins.

" . . . and feet was I to the lame." Job 29:15. Do we help those to be able to walk that pathway? There are souls oftentimes that seem to have difficulty in walking on the pathway of righteousness. Are we extending our hand of love? Are we helping them with the knowledge that God gives us?

God has given each one of us a gift, and He asks us to use it. He says, "Don't take it and wrap it in a napkin and bury it." He says, "It's not going to bring any results: it will only bring damnation to yourself." He gives us the explanation in the Scripture of those that were given a talent, and the one buried his. (See Matthew 25:25). What happened? He suffered the judgment of God eternally.

God says, "Come. Let us talk judgment over while we are here upon earth, while you are still able to make peace with Me." He says, "I want you with Me in heaven." But, He says, "There is a duty that you are going to have to perform in order to be there with me."

"I am offering you salvation, and I am offering you the grace and the faith that is necessary to accomplish

it." But He says, "You are going to have to open your heart and you are going to have to accept it and receive My offering that I am offering to you."

"I was a father to the poor . . ." Job 29:16. The Scripture says that if we see a soul in need and if we don't give them their needs, and just tell to go their way, what good is it? (See James 2:16). God has opened many doors for us for these opportunities. I want to tell you that He is going to hold us accountable as individuals if we don't make use of that opportunity.

You can find whatever excuse you want to, but God is not going to accept foolish excuses. He knows what He has offered you. He knows what He has offered me and what doors He has opened, and He is not going to let us use our neighbor or our children or someone else for an excuse.

He says, "I'm dealing with you individually." That is the way He does in repentance. He deals with us individually and He speaks directly to us and no one else when it is the conversion of our own soul and heart. That is the way He deals with us all through our pathway in this world.

" . . . and the cause which I knew not I searched out." Job 29:16. Do we search with God? Do we involve God when we search for righteousness? Or do we try to formulate it ourselves: That is for each one of us to ask ourself.

"I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth." Job 29:17. It is really amazing. There are times when we talk to individuals

(Continued on Page 34)