



"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"
1 Corinthians 15:55

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

VOLUME 40

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THE WOMEN AT THE EMPTY TOMB ON RESURRECTION MORNING



"... Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: ..."
Luke 24:5-6

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The Lord reigneth."
1 Chronicles 16:31

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

EUROPE

**Elder Bro. Ben Maibach
Detroit, MI**

Recognizing that our brotherhood is extremely interested in conditions in Europe among our brethren, especially as it relates to Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia, a committee (The European Board) has been formed consisting of Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Chairman of the World Relief Committee; Andy Hunyady; Leon Graf; Gary Ifft; and myself as Chairman of the Mission Committee. The purpose of this Board will be to coordinate World Relief and Mission activities in Eastern Europe including dispensing supplies, funds, literature and information to avoid duplication of effort and provide up-to-date factual information.

Governments in many of the Eastern European countries are in a state of flux. In Romania elections are expected to take place shortly, but unfortunately many of the candidates for office are relatively unknown. The result is some degree of confusion and a great deal of uncertainty. Hungary is in the process of establishing a new government. In Yugoslavia there is also a lot of political unrest and division and a struggle among the various ethnical factors for su-

premacy.

In Budapest, Hungary, process is being made in the church building, with dedication contemplated for Sunday, May 27. Invitations have been extended to brethren in the States who have played a vital role in making this edifice possible. According to our information the new structure has a capacity of just under 600, and replaces the old building that would accommodate approximately 220.

There is no question that without the support, including contributions of over \$500,000, from our fellowship in the United States, this structure could not have been completed. After the start of construction there was a problem with high inflation. Also, a piece of property upon which the church is constructed was supposedly donated by the government, but when they realized that American dollars were supporting the project the Budapest church was assessed approximately \$40,000 for the land, which was quite a disappointment.

The Hungarian brethren openly acknowledge their appreciation for the encouragement, prayers and financial support they have received. Those of you who have visited there, have seen the need, and have felt the love can attest to this.

In Romania, two new elders were ordained in October. For the first time in over 40 years they are allowed to have both morning and afternoon worship services. Previously they had been limited to one short service on a Sunday and then often under very strict observation.

Many years ago the Communist government confiscated all of the church properties. Many were used for warehouses and several were destroyed. In light of current circumstances, our brethren made application to the Romanian government to be recognized as a religious body. They have also asked for the return of the church buildings that are still standing, and reimbursement for those that are no longer available. It is our understanding that they have met

(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
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THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
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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.

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

WOMAN'S HEADCOVERING

The doctrine of woman's headcovering has been firmly embraced in our brotherhood since its inception. As written in our Statement of Faith, "Sisters wear a veil or headcovering during prayer and worship as a symbol of their submission according to God's order of Creation." Observance of this scriptural teaching (1 Cor. 11:4-5) often provokes questions, because even though it was quite common in Christianity until recent years, it is relatively rare today. We must be able to give a correct and positive answer to such inquiries, making use of the opportunity to emphasize the importance of obedience to the entire counsel of God's Word (Ecc. 12:13-14). As part of Jesus' last commission to spread the Gospel, He said, "... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20).

The Apostle Paul began his teaching regarding the headcovering with a clear explanation of the basic principles which are honored by this practice. God is a God of order and he has ordained distinctiveness between male and female: "... he which made them at the beginning made them male and female" (Matt. 19:4). He has also instituted a specific order for the welfare of the human family. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). This spiritual order in relationships does not imply inequality between men and women; rather, it establishes a constructive level of dependence and mutual respect (1 Cor. 11:11-12; Gal. 3:27-28).

There are other scriptural examples in which spiritual honor, power and responsibility are symbolized in a formal manner involving the head. In the Old Testament there was special significance to anointing the head with oil. "And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him" (Lev. 8:12). "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit

of the Lord came upon David from that day forward" (1 Sam. 16:13). In the New Testament, laying on of hands signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the newly converted and, in a special measure for those called into leadership service (Acts 8:17; 13:3; 2 Tim. 1:6; Heb. 6:2).

Likewise, when the Apostle Paul introduced the ordinance of the headcovering, the church was given a sacred symbol of God's plan for order, distinctiveness, and spiritual honor to one's authority. It is grave error to assume that this instruction was intended only as a local custom for the Corinthian believers. Paul introduces his letter by addressing it to "all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:2) and toward the end he says "... the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:37). It was said many centuries ago, "When we accept the parts of the Gospel we like and reject the parts we do not like, it is not the Gospel we are believing but ourselves."

The head (authority figure) of a married woman is her husband (Eph. 5:23). It follows that the head of an unmarried woman is the church, and ultimately Christ is the head over all (Col. 1:18). The woman is instructed to cover her own head when praying or prophesying. She dishonors her authority figures (husband, church, Christ and God) when she fails to do this (1 Cor. 11:5) and likewise the man dishonors his authority figures (Christ and God) when he prays with his head covered. Praying and prophesying are specific spiritual activities. Prophesying is defined in the Word as speaking in a form of "edification, exhortation, and comfort" (1 Cor. 14:3). It is obvious that obedience to this simple commandment requires a designated act, just like anointing and laying on of hands. Wearing the headcovering continuously is not required, and this is left to individual discretion. This practice certainly does not violate the intent of the scriptural teaching. However, to neglect the headcovering during prayer, worship or

spiritual conversation, or to misinterpret the Word and assume that hair is a sufficient covering is a violation of the Word of God and brings dishonor. This is compared to a woman being shaved (1 Cor. 11:5) which has been viewed as a disgrace through the ages of time. The erroneous view that hair is a prayer covering is based on misunderstanding of verse 15: "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." If hair were a prayer covering, men would have to remove their hair in order to comply with verse 4. However, the word "covering" as used in verse 15 originates from a different root word and refers to a natural covering of hair, given as a glory. Obviously, no conditions are attached in verse 15 as to when long hair should be worn. Without doubt, the long hair should always be present as it radiates a special, God-given, feminine glory. The prayer veil covers both head and hair and expresses a sacred symbolism deserving our sincere respect. Indeed a special measure of spiritual power (strength) is promised to the godly woman who observes this ordinance (v. 10).

As we worship and fellowship together, faithfully veiled sisters reflect submission to God's plan of Creation and bring a special honor to the Body of Christ. This attitude of reverence is deeply felt, as evidenced by their hesitancy to extend the hand in holy greeting without first putting on a veil. Likewise, our beloved Lord Jesus is honored whenever veiled sisters privately or publicly turn to Him in formal prayer, Scripture reading and worship. Brothers give the same special honor by respectfully uncovering their heads at such times.

The Lord has entrusted His children with the great responsibility of portraying to the world the pure, unadulterated Gospel message. Numerous individuals, when exposed to our church, have been helped spiritually by observation of concerted efforts to obey the literal truths of the entire Bible, including the teachings regarding headcovering.

twice with the Romanian government. Simultaneously has come a plea for us to, at the proper time, meet with the State Department in Washington, probably with the assistance of Illinois Congressman Robert Michel, who has been helpful in previous instances, to further expedite the transfer of properties to the Romanian brethren.

Twelve hundred food parcels were purchased by World Relief from Hol-

land and transferred by truck to Hungary. From there the Budapest brethren accompanied the shipment into Romania for distribution to our brethren and friends who live there. For the first time in many years we were not required to pay a tax at the border of approximately \$14 per parcel as had previously been required when parcels were forwarded either through our brotherhood at Bluffton or from the various agencies where food items

were procured. These packages contain coffee, sugar, cooking oil, salami, soaps and other items not available in Romania. Requests have been for food and medical assistance rather than cash because many of these items are not available in the store in Romania.

It is hoped that in the not-too-distant future our brotherhood, through our facilities at Bluffton and perhaps elsewhere, will again be able to ship vitally needed supplies directly on a regular basis. These dear souls need our encouragement and prayers. We stress the importance of working through channels so our efforts are not in vain.

The need in Romania was so great that the Hungarian government placed some restriction at the borders because of fear of a depletion of available foodstuffs to feed their own people. It is hard for us to conceive that with a land flowing with plenty these conditions still exist, but they are a reality.

In Yugoslavia for the first time in over 40 years or more, according to our last reports, none of our brethren are in prison. Our young men of military age are finally allowed an alternate service of approximately two years in government-approved work stations. But we understand they are still very definitely restricted, as their convictions are an offense to the government. As stated previously, they become second-class citizens when they fail to take a pledge to support the Communist government or bear arms, and in many instances, they are not able to hold responsible positions in society or to further their education. Consequently, at this time our brethren are still forwarding funds to assist these young men in support of their families. We also provide some assistance to some of the aged folks who are on pensions as it is our understanding that last year inflation in Yugoslavia was approximately 3,000%.

Unfortunately, many of the churches in Yugoslavia are closed, and practically all of the existing congregations have very few young people. To the best of my knowledge, no Sunday schools are provided, and in most instances small children are a rarity. Many of their young people who were old enough and had fami-

--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
March 1990 --	1653	15,780

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.

lies or friends in Canada or the United States fled the country to avoid military conscription. Consequently, there is a tremendous void of youth in their fellowship.

Whoever would have thought that our prayers could be answered so quickly and as dramatically as they have been for these struggling persecuted souls. But the battle is not over. We are very grateful for the support and concern of our brethren. Those of us who have made personal contacts in those countries will do everything reasonable to keep you informed and endeavor to give every consideration to their needs as much as is reasonable and possible. This would include the forwarding of Scriptures to Russia and to Romania. There has been a special request for large-print Bibles. Good prescription glasses are either not available or too expensive for the

average person with the result that with the dim lights and lack of electrical power magnifying glasses generally have to be used for the few Scriptures that are available. There has also been a request for Zion's Harp hymnals to be forwarded to Romania. We are happy to report that the Zion's Harp hymnals published for the first time in the Ukrainian language have been delivered to our brethren in Russia.

Russian Elder Bro. Petro Karcsa reports that for the first time in the history of the Russian church, there were 34 converts baptized one week-end, followed a short time later with 14 additional souls, and then another five souls were added to the flock. These were mostly young people, so God is dealing very graciously with the dear brethren.

Let us never forget that with God all things are possible. May He bless you for your interest and support.

Your needy servant,
Elder Bro. Ben Maibach
(Mission Committee)

GRACE VERSUS LEGALISM

Elder Bro. Willis R. Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

A few years ago in America, the charismatic movement was the big push and now it is liberty in Christ. Liberty in Christ involves emphasis on grace which delivers us from bondage and legalism.

From my youth I heard that grace is God's unmerited favor. This saying emphasizes that it is a gift, something undeserved, but what that favor or gift is, is not clear. To clarify the meaning of grace I would add that it

is God's unmerited favor of forgiveness and power. After conversion and becoming a child of God, it is by grace that we are able to live holy lives.

The word legalism is not used in the King James version of the Bible and it probably is not used in any of the different versions which attempt to give an accurate translation of the original language. However, the word legalism is widely used today to be in bondage to church rules or standards. The term emphasizes compulsory compliance with rules, or the details of rules, rather than compliance with the spirit of rules. Therefore, legalism has a negative connotation.

The word bondage is used extensively in the New Testament, especially in the book of Galatians, which is probably the main scriptural basis for concern about legalism. In Galatians 6:1 Paul wrote, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

In the verse which follows the above quotation, Paul states, "... If ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing." It is clear that he was very much against making circumcision a condition of salvation although for Old Testament times at least, it was a commandment given by God to Abraham. Genesis 17:10, "Every man child among you shall be circumcised." The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write that this is bondage or "legalism" for those under the grace of Christ.

Paul mentioned one other issue which he felt was bringing them back into bondage. In Galatians 4:10 he writes, "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years." Verse 11. "I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

We conclude that legalism in the book of Galatians concerns circumcision and the observance of certain days, months, times and years as

NOTE: NEW ADDRESS

The Apostolic Christian Publications is now located in their new building. The new address is:

Apostolic Christian Publications
805 W. Cruger Street - Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
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GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1990
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 18, 1990

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.

having special spiritual importance. The observance of certain rituals at certain times, as well as circumcision, was a part of the Jewish law. Any legalism we may have in our church must be a different kind of legalism than that which was a problem in the Galatian church.

Another place in the Bible where legalism is addressed is where Christ encountered the scribes and the Pharisees. In Matthew 23:23 Christ says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

It is clear that Christ took exception to the heart condition of the scribes and Pharisees. He didn't say, "You shouldn't be doing these legalistic things such as requiring the people to pay tithe." Rather He told them that they had omitted faith and mercy which have to do with the condition of the heart. In referring to judgment, He was no doubt saying that they have bad judgment as to what is the most important. The Apostle John followed Christ's lead in emphasizing the condition of the heart when he wrote in I John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

It is very important that we deeply love and respect every brother and sister regardless of his or her convictions on grace or legalism. In the final analysis we human beings are all wrong and God alone is right. In future articles, I hope we can explore further as to what God says on this issue.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Shay Nelson

Recently, after meeting someone for the first time, I was asked, "So what do you actually do as an Assistant Houseparent at the Home?" It's a normal enough question, but this time it stopped me in my tracks. My regular response of cooking, laundry, helping with schoolwork, playing with the kids just didn't seem to cover it.

Instead, I responded with tears in my eyes, "Well, I love the kids."

You see, in doing the cooking, laundry, running them here and there, even giving consequences for the wrong behaviors, provides the safe, secure atmosphere where for many of our kids love can be seen and felt for the first time. I'm referring to God's love because my own stops far too short and has many conditions attached to it as well.

Just like this song I heard, when God's love is felt, many wonderful things can happen because:

"Where there is love, the bruised can find a refuge to be held close until their tears are gone.

Where there is love, the weary can revive their hope until they're strong.

Where there is love, the shadows all are friendly and evil finds no place to hide a fear.

Where there is love, the warmth of caring melts away despair -- it disappears.

Where there is love, God's will is being honored -- for those who love He calls His very own.

Where there is love, the world can feel the kindness of His heart and He is known, and He is known!

Our campus had a pretty calm month this past March. One of the only changes is in the West House as Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames welcomed Jeff J., age 11, into their family. May God bless you, Jeff, as you become a part of us.

Our board of directors did go through some changes this March. We'd like to welcome: Bros. Bill Bradford (Indianapolis, IN) and Ted Pfister (Bluffton, IN) as our new board members. They replace Bros. Kurt Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bill Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN). We are sorry to see them leave, and we trust that God will bless them for all of their efforts over the past five years.

The officers of the board for the coming year are: Bob Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), re-elected president; Jack Krantz (Morton, IL), re-elected vice president; Bob Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), newly elected secretary; and Eldon Waibel (Forrest, IL), re-elected treasurer.

We wish our board members all of God's grace and blessings in their

roles of leadership. We really look forward to the year ahead with you.

Everyone here at Gateway Woods would also like to offer our warmest invitation to all our church representatives. The Annual Representative meeting will be held Saturday, April 21, and we would love to see as many as possible come.

With summer vacation right around the corner, we'd also like to encourage anyone interested in volunteering for a week or more to please contact us. We really appreciate the extra support and hands to help during the summer months.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR
THE HANDICAPPED

"I am with thee and will keep thee in all places wither thou goest," Genesis 28:15a. God's promise to Jacob so long ago still comforts us today as we go through changes in life. Several of our residents are moving this month to new homes. A major change like this involves many decisions and brings mixed emotions.

Four ladies from Oakwood Estate (our 15-person group home) are going to be housemates at 540 N. Main in Morton, IL. Sisters Anna Eberhard, Marleen Esslinger, Rhonda Gerst and Gloria Heiniger will share life in this large white house with a front porch and back deck, purchased by the Apostolic Christian Home and beautifully redecorated. These ladies will be assisted by staff as necessary with shopping, budgeting, planning and preparing meals, caring for the house and yard, and transportation.

Since four bedrooms are available at Oakwood, Sister Jackie Barton, Becky Huber, Sis. Maretta Rokey and Anita Schuon are excited to move from the Apostolic Christian Home to Oakwood Estate the first week of Aril. At a recent Bible study, Bro. Ken Clauss led the group in praying for God's blessings on these ladies. He said, "Please help them do as many things for themselves as they can."

These eight women would like to thank everyone who helped make these new homes a reality. Church volunteers and staff members have given money and time to make it possible for these women to use inde-

pendent skills and learn new ones in a smaller home. May God bless each one. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1.

Our May birthdays here at the Home, should you wish to send cards, are: Judy McRoy (2); Sam Grimm (2); Melinda Crouch (3); Terry Stoller (6); Anna Stichling (13); Steve Slagel (13); Ray Virkler (17); Ruth Klopfenstein (19); Marlene Moser (22); and Jackie Barton (26). At Oakwood Estate, Herbert Stieglitz will be celebrating his birthday May 11.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pamela Moore

As I look outside at the raindrops, my first thought is, what a dreary day! But then I'm reminded that it's important to be positive, so I begin to think of the many good things that rain brings. Without the rain, the flowers wouldn't be so beautiful, the grass not as green, and the rivers and lakes dried up. Spiritually, we can see only the trials and temptations we have, or we can look at how these present trials bring such beautiful fruits.

On February 25, we appreciated visitors from Atlanta, GA, who spent the day with us. We've also had visitors from Fairbury and Tremont, IL, this past month.

We've begun Tuesday night visiting here in Athens. Whoever is able meets and spends the evening visiting with many we know, who perhaps haven't been to church in a while, or who are unable to attend for various health reason. It's encouraging when we can see them once again sitting in church on Sundays. Can you think of someone you know who may just need one encouraging visit from someone who cares?

The weekend of March 11, approximately 30 from Athens traveled to Cissna Park, IL, to attend the wedding of Sis. Julie Bauer and Bro. Doug Walder. Weekends are always so special when we can spend them with those we love in Christ, sharing and fellowshiping together.

We are thankful that Izora (Granny) Cooley has returned home from the hospital. She was hospitalized with a light stroke, however was able to return home again. She con-

tinues to need our prayers, to restore her strength and health.

We are thankful for three Princeville, IL, sisters, and one Bradford, IL, sister, who spent a week in March volunteering at the Preschool. With Sis. Julie gone, the extra help is very much appreciated by the regular teachers. If any of you have free time over the spring, summer or fall months and would be willing to volunteer at the preschool, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore 205-232-2035 or by letter, at RR 5, Box 75A, Athens, AL 35611. We greatly appreciate the help at the Preschool and also the fellowship it brings to all of us at Athens.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

Sis. Stephanie Frautschi and Bro. John Schlatter exchanged wedding vows on a beautiful March 4. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was assisted by Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), the bridegroom's uncle. Our prayers are with them as they set up housekeeping honoring the Lord Jesus Christ. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI). Grandpa Frautschi, Bro. Al, will be awaiting the couple's visits from Michigan.

When Jesus knocks on your heart's door, we all go through a time of preparation getting our lives worthy of Him dwelling in us. Wendy Klopfenstein has reached this goal and awaits baptism. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lu Ann are her parents.

The engagement of Sis. Dianne Massner to Bro. Jim Gerst (Princeville, IL) was announced March 4. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyliss Knobloch, Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst (all of Oakville). May they include God in their future life plans.

The wedding of Janet Getz and Steve Fischer will be solemnized March 31. May God touch their hearts as they walk life's pathway. Parents of the couple are Bro. John and Sis. Anna May Getz (Morton, IL) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Fort Scott, KS).

We have surely enjoyed many visitors over the winter. Several Sundays we heard greeting from 19 churches. Be assured, we did miss

you dear brethren who were not among us again.

Thank you and God bless our visiting ministers: Bros. Arthur Metz (Silverton, OR), Loren Knapp (Tucson), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), David Graf (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

Bro. Randy and Sis. La Nae Meyer and children have moved to San Diego, CA. We know they will enjoy the love and fellowship though we miss them.

We need the prayers of those we love, and what comfort they are!

Sis. La Vina Dotterer had knee surgery after a car accident. Sis. Doris Kokanovich is home now recovering from a broken hip. Others not out and around are Bro. Dan Kokanovich, Bro. Manny Steztler, Frank Massner, Ed and Ella Harmon, Sis. Esther Harmon, Sis. Martha De Mill, Carol Doolittle and Sis. Marjorie Rebbec (just returned from the hospital), Sis. Carol Kaufman has a severely sprained shoulder and wrist.

Our gift of birds singing daily is God's blessing to all.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our Bro. Andy Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. YaVonne). May the Lord bless Bro. Andy as richly as he blessed each one who took part in these holy sacraments.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Edwin Ringer (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and ministering brethren, Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). We thank them all for their love and service.

Our Sunday school traveled to Phoenix for the weekend recently to join the Phoenix and California Sunday schools for a fellowship weekend. They were granted a safe trip and many blessings over the weekend. Our thanks to the Phoenix church for their hospitality.

We are looking forward to a March 25 open house and April 8 dedication

for our new addition to the church,
Lord willing.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Nella Varga

Friendship

Is more than a collection of
moments;
It transcends time and distances.

Friendship anticipates needs;

It shares without hesitation.

It says, "I accept you for what you
are."

And understands your failings.

Friendship supports and nurtures,
Without any need for recognition.

It belongs both to quiet moments

And to troubled times.

Friendship is love for all seasons.

Jessica Jordan

As seasons change, so we do also.
We continuously grow. Hopefully we
are growing up -- up towards our
Lord who does not change. Thank
God He does not, for how could we
ever reach Him if He, too, was moving
up. No, He stays the same, right
where He is waiting for us. One day
we will meet Him though, physically/
spiritually -- we'll meet Him face to
face!

How happy we are to meet visitors
here in San Diego. We appreciate
every one of you brothers, sisters and
friends. We are, also, always grateful
for the ministering brothers. Those
we were blessed with were: Elder
Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT),
Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington,
IL), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North,
IN), Bro. Jonos Sarok (Budapest,
Hungary) and we're always happy to
see our dear Elder Bro. John Klotzle
(Altadena, CA).

Joyful news! Judy Palesy has
decided to serve God and follow the
Christian life, Jesus had set prece-
dent for us. We wish her much grace,
patience and send her lots of love to
help her live the holy life God expects
of us. We rejoice with her mother,
Lydia Palesy, and her grandparents,
Steve and Joanne Varga.

Also, our friend, Rory Straum,
has announced his peace with God
and man, and hopes for the day when

all can witness his testimony in front
of the baptismal waters. We all wish
you God's grace and blessings, Rory!

Believing God has a will, time and
purpose for us all, we are greatly
thankful to him for bringing a family
to San Diego. Bro. Randy and Sis.
Lanae Meyer had felt the direction to
move west. Here with their small
children, Kendall, Kevin and Kala,
they moved from Phoenix, AZ. Thank
you, Jesus.

Breaking into spring, April brings
us showers and sunshine, wind and
warmth, raindrops and rainbows.
Have you ever considered how ironic
it is to begin the month with a "Fool's
Day" and then two short weeks later,
we celebrate the most important day
of the year, Easter. Christ's reason
for coming to earth -- to save us. It is
a fool who does not believe in the
resurrection of Jesus Christ, a fool
who rejects the calling to become a
saint and warrior -- to fight for the
almightiest army there ever was, is,
and is to come.

"... But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, long suffering, gen-
tleness, goodness, faith, meekness,
temperance ..."

Galatians 5:22, 23

Meekness: Showing patience and
humility; long suffering.

Temperance: The condition or
quality of being temperate; modera-
tion or self-restraint.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

As we see the familiar signs of
spring coming forth... a few crocuses
here, a pussy willow there, etc... our
spirits revive after the long drab and
harsh winter. How much more do we
look forward to that springtime in
Glory where we can rest from our
labors, trials and disappointments of
this life. Oh, that we can be found fit
to enter!

Kent Braun has left us. He moved
back to the Elgin, IL, area to be with
some of his family there. We pray
that God will be with him and direct
his life.

Bro. Bill Geyer has again had
surgery on his legs - remaining prob-
lems from a car accident over two

years ago. Again we ask God's heal-
ing hand to touch him.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Martha Hany

Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl
are happy to welcome another grand-
daughter, Lauren Lynn, born March
9 to daughter, Sherri, and Everett
Skinner. Siblings at home eager to
share their love with a little sister are
Everett Jr., Christopher and War-
ren.

"Blessed is he whose transgres-
sion is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man unto whom the
Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in
whose spirit there is no guile."

Psalms 32:1, 2

We rejoice to hear that several
dear ones who have heard and be-
lieved the Word are in repentance.
May the grace of God be with Step-
hanie Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol),
Jason Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis.
Mary) and Eric Moser (Bro. Jim and
Sis. Jane) as they leave their former
life to come out of the world and be a
separate people in accordance with
the Word. Stephanie is presently
attending the University of Illinois in
Champaign, Illinois.

March 18 was the wedding day for
Bro. Rudy Virkler and Sis. Susan
Stomberg. May the Lord bless their
faith and marriage. Parents are Sis.
Charlotte Virkler (Croghan, NY) and
Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.
Among the visitors from Croghan, we
especially want to thank Bros. Duane
Farney and Andy Virkler for minis-
tering to us.

Those that spent some time in the
hospital were Sisters Lydia Luginbuhl,
Luella Hoffman and Bro. John Bahler
and we wish them a good recovery.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON

Catherine Klopfenstein

We are delighted to welcome a
new family in our midst, Bro. David
and Sis. Debbie Huber and their three
small boys, Jaron 7, Eric 4, and Dustin
2. Bro. David is employed by IBM and
was transferred from Bloomington,
IL, to Gaithersburg, MD, for a five
month period of time. Among other
talents, Bro. David is a song leader

which was much need and now appreciated here in our small assembly. God provides!

Visiting ministers in March were Bro. Al Schneider with his wife, Gladys (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler with his wife, Maxine (Bay City, MI). Their ministries and fellowship are much appreciated.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Westpark Hotel on Route 7, one mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30 a.m. eastern time. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged to join us. For more information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein, 703-979-3476.

See, our Saviour leads the way,
Triumph marks his every footstep,
Follow Him in glad array,
Bravely with courageous effort,
Though He leads through blood and death,
Heros never lose their faith.

Zion's Harp #100

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

This past month we enjoyed beautiful, though generally dry, weather. Just today we did get some much-needed rain. We had a beach picnic for the whole church last month, and many of our visitors were able to join us.

Ministers who served the congregation included Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Al Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Several of the brethren went on a work trip to South Carolina. They expressed to me how the damage from last year's hurricane was astounding to see, and how it was a blessing to be able to do a small part by helping to rebuild the homes of those affected.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer - Jeanette Yergler

We are thankful for the ministers that served us so willingly of themselves: Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Ben Maibach (Sarasota, FL), Bros. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Glen Price (Sarasota, FL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Robert Myer, Carroll Gerber and Nile Bucher

(Bluffton North, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL).

We again were privileged to partake of communion service. Administered by Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Ben Maibach and deacon Bro. Doug Sabo.

Sis. Goldie Kipfer and Bro. Ezra Kaehr wishes to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards and the sunshine box each were given. Also on our sick list in serious condition is Bro. Al Honegger. May we remember him in our prayers.

We had a large group attend the church picnic. All enjoyed the afternoon at the Lakes Park in Fort Myers. It was a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon after being filled with food for the soul and then for the body. Weather was perfect too.

Through the pathway of life be simple and true to our Lord that He may find grace for us His children.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott

As the Easter season approaches, we are reminded of our Lord's suffering on the cross. Our congregation recently took that trip to Calvary as we shared holy communion served to us by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Doug Sabo.

As seasons change from winter to spring, so does the course of our lives. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Nate Gutwein of Francesville, IN, in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Adeline. What a victory for Sis. Adeline as her days of suffering are over.

As we sing in that beautiful hymn . . . if on earth we meet no more, may we meet at God's right hand.

Bro. Elmer Gerber passed from this life into eternity. May Sis. Henrietta and all the Gerber family feel God's gentle wing of comfort.

The spring season brings many college students and families with school age children to our church and we are grateful for each visitor.

We are especially grateful for the visiting ministers who so willingly share God's holy teachings with us. They are Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Dale Eisenmann and Bros. Bill Hodel, Carroll Gerber and Mark Barr.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

Ministering brothers visiting Atlanta this past month were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris, MN) and Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We sincerely thank these brothers for sharing the Word of God with us.

Our congregation gathers every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance which is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road exit. For more information call Bro. Linn Stoller (440-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-254-9692).

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."
Psalm 150:6

This was the verse used on February 18 and 25 as we hosted ACYF. The singing was beautiful as each group got up and presented their songs to us. We thank Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont) and Jon Zeller (Morton) for the inspirational messages.

Aaron, Andrew, Rachel and Rebecca were happy to welcome a new baby girl into their family. Little Sarah Jean was born to Bro. John and Sis. Emily Mauser. Happy grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer (Bloomington) and Louie and Jean Kieser (Garden Grove, IA).

We thank Elder Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka) for helping our Elder Bro. Dan Koch in reading the memorandum to us. We were exhorted to live more Christ-like and to be an example to others.

Our Bloomington church was sad to say farewell to Bro. Mike, Sis. Sandy Zimmerman and their children as they have moved to Columbus, OH. We will miss them, but we are certain that the Lord has a purpose for them in Ohio. Saturday, March 3, we had a farewell potluck dinner and a singing for them.

We thank the Gridley choir for singing to us at our monthly hymn sing March 18. We know a lot of practice and time goes into a choir and we ask God to bless them.

We continue to pray for our dear Sis. Karen Brummitt and her family. We have to keep trusting that the Lord knows best when we are faced with difficult and painful times. We all love her and miss her in our assembly.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

We rejoice with Sis. Sharlene Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Greg Moser (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barbara Moser, Roanoke) whose engagement was recently announced. May the Lord bless them as they seek to enter into the sacred bond of matrimony.

Our congregation was blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Those who shared God's precious Word with us were Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Jim Vierling (Eureka). We always enjoy and appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers and pray God will bless them and their families.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

LaRae Dill

Many of us learned to know Jorge Briceno shortly after he moved from Peru, South America, to Urbana and was living in the home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder (now of Leo, IN). Jorge was tragically killed February 24, 1990. A small visitation was held March 3, giving us an opportunity to extend our sympathy and love to Tim, Jenny and the Briceno family.

On Sunday evening, March 11, our church was filled as many gathered to witness the ordination of Bro. Dave Wiegand as the elder for our Champaign church. We fell blessed to have Bro. Dave available to provide spiritual guidance and leadership for our congregation and for the students who gather with us. We are confident God's blessings will be with Bro. Dave, Sis. Ethel and their family for their service to our church. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) has served as our elder since September 1984. We thank Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna for their many trips to Champaign to serve us.

These elders were present for the

ordination service: Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bob Grimm, (Goodfield, IL), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Other ministers who visited our congregation during the past month were Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to Jerry and Lois Vogel and their daughters, Sarah and Julie. Lois' mother, Mary Steiner (Cissna Park, IL) passed away March 20.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Traveling can be a great blessing, even when we don't feel we have the time for it. I passed a Sportsman's Club along Interstate 74, and the Lord led my thoughts to several brothers-in-law who enjoy hunting. Through Him, I pondered the hunter. With excitement, he anticipates what he will discover on his expedition. He prepares carefully, with well-chosen equipment. He enjoys what God has provided during his hunt, and he is patient in seeking his quarry. If he is not totally successful, he looks forward to another day of hunting -- still with interest, not with discouragement. And I believe he takes the time out for hunting, despite many other demands on his time. For me, there was a parallel with my reading and studying God's Word. Truly, if I come to the Lord with eagerness and patience, prayerfully ready, He will reward me with His best; if not today, tomorrow I will understand more. But I must make the space in my life for "hunting." ". . . seek, and ye shall find . . . he that seeketh findeth . . ." Matthew 7:7-8.

We have been so blessed in this month. Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin), Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Jack Bollier (Leo, IN) lent us their labors through the Lord's pulpit. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) also assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the reading of the brotherhood conference report. May we take its wisdom in the Lord, being chastised and exhorted, and grow in

His will, each individually, all as a part of one body.

We can count other blessings! The Lord is preparing the hearts of each member of two couples for the delight, growth, and adjustments of marriage in Him. Our Sis. Raelynn Stahl (daughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) is engaged to Bro. Craig Plattner (son of Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta, Bern, KS). Sis. Becky Cargill is engaged to Bro. David Kiefer; both of them are from Chicago. Her parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay (Elgin, IL) and his parents are Bob and Delores (Oakville, IA). We pray for these engaged couples, that they may feel their bonds in Christ and take more time to discuss their upcoming marriage than those wedding details. (It always seems harder to look at the long term than that which seems of immediate -- though of significantly less importance.) May the Lord grant them much grace.

We have been blessed by willing brothers and sisters, laborers for the church. Bro. Glen Pfeifer is finishing the trustee vacancy left by Bro. Dean Beutel's move to Tremont. Bro. Mike Kaiser replaces Bro. Jim Lang as trustee. Bros. Paul Sauder and Tom Waldbeser take over as ushers for Bros. Larry Stevig and Tom Nev. Bro. Tom Waldbeser has also taken Bro. Brent Stoller's place as our Bible distribution liaison. Bro. Mark Butikofer has replaced Bro. Dean Beutel in coordinating our song leaders. Sis. Jean O'Shea is the new member of our kitchen committee, and Sis. Marlene Lau has completed her term. We pray that those who are in new offices will feel our love and support. We say a warm thank you to those who have completed terms and gone elsewhere, praying that the Lord will fill them with His rewards, as we have been blessed by their faithfulness in His work.

We have been blessed because of our fellowship with Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Stevig, Erin and Bonnie; Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann and Greg; and Bro. Chad Wettstein. We are grateful for all they have given us in the Lord -- so it's hard to let them go. The Stevigs will be living in Morton for Larry's new job is in Bloomington. The Eisenmanns, we trust, are only gone for a short time, as Brad gets experience in Houston,

TX, in an Amoco refinery. Chad is going into mechanics at Illinois Central College, East Peoria, and will be living back in Gridley. To us sometimes, each going and coming, besides hurting from the needles of parting, looks like a crazy quilt. Yet we know the Lord has His hand on all of them and will complete the perfection of His design. We are thankful they have been part of us. Our prayers go with them, they don't leave our hearts, and the welcome mat is always out.

How can I say death is a blessing? Faithful Christian parents of two of our sisters have died after much physical pain and struggle. They are victorious, and the memories which linger after them are sweet. Sis. Charlene and Bro. Phil Feldman, Calista and Kemmons, mourn the death of their mother, her mother, their grandmother, Sis. Adeline Gutwein (Francesville, IN). And Sis. Judy Snyder has lost her father, Bro. Gene Bertschi (Zapata, TX/Roanoke, IL). Bro. Gene spoke at the dedication of our present church building in September, 1972, speaking of the light we receive from above via our skylights as a symbol of Christ's Light from above. He also helped in our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann's ordination. Thus, we rejoice in the lives of Christian example of this sister and brother, given to their families and to us in the church, but we grieve with our sisters and pray for Christ's balm to cover both the dull and shooting pains of sorrow they feel now and as time passes.

Along the same journey I spoke of earlier, I saw two white crosses on the embankment. No, there didn't seem to be a cemetery. There was nothing to connect the crosses to anything -- except the cross is always a symbol. In a cemetery, it often symbolizes death, but always, because of Christ, there is the hope of resurrection. Nevertheless, because there were only two crosses on this spot, I thought of so many in the world to whom we need to reach out. At Calvary, the two men on the two crosses on either side had an opportunity to hope. One grasped that hope; the other did not. But to have hope, each one must know of the Third cross, the one in the middle, the one that was missing on the roadside, the one

missing from so many people's lives. Christ, the Savior of all mankind,, died and shed His blood, for each one, for those who know of Him and have been taught about Him and for those who don't; He was resurrected on the third day for each of us. Let us be renewed at Easter and in the spring-time to tell more of our joy and hope and peace of salvation in Him. Let us not be complacent but more loving and SHARE!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

March 11 was a happy day as Bro. Doug Walder and Sis. Julie Bauer were united in marriage. His parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy Walder (Hoopeston) and her parents are Sis. Joyce Bauer (Cissna Park) and the late Bro. Jon Bauer. We certainly welcome Julie back to Cissna. We were blessed with many visitors (Athens, AL), and many other who came to share this special weekend. We thank each one for coming especially Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), ministering Bros. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Art Baurer (Princeville), and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington).

On March 11, we also had an engagement announced, Sis. Laurie Young and Bro. Darwin Steidinger (Fairbury). Her parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ann Marie (Cissna Park). His parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice (Fairbury). We extend to them our congratulations and best wishes.

The evening of February 28, we gathered together in the fellowship hall for our February topical Bible presentation. Bro. Wayne Laubscher spoke to us on the topic of humility. We also gathered on the evening of March 14 for our March topical Bible presentation given by Bro. Ken Weerts on the subject of holiness. We always appreciate the time our ministers spend in studying these various topics and the teachings we glean from them.

Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler recently welcomed a new granddaughter, Emalee Claire, who was born on February 13 to Dave and Karen Yergler (Oregon, WI).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Betty Oberfel also welcomed a new granddaughter, Tanya Marie, who was born Febru-

ary 15 to Mark and Jan Swenson (Metamora, IL).

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and our Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). We thank both of these brothers for coming and sharing the Word of Life with us.

Sis. Nettie Oberfel (John), Bro. George Winger (Sis. Gladys), Bro. Aaron Bauer (Sis. Marguerite), and Bro. Dale Walder (Sis. Dorothy) have all been hospital medical patients this last month. Bro. Ed Alt (Sis. Marjorie) also was a surgical patient.

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kindness and support at the time of my husband's passing into eternity. We appreciate each of you. Sis. Anna Marie Reutter.

Again, in this Easter season may we each pause to consider the great price that was paid for our salvation when Jesus gave His life on the cross so that we, being unworthy of such great love, might live. "Hallelujah! The Lord arose. Our ransom now is paid. The Son is victor over death, who e'er believes is saved." Hymns of Zion #257

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

"And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

St. Mark 16:6

As Easter approaches, we are thankful that we can commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. May we always be grateful to God for this most precious gift of salvation.

Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig are the happy parents of Brian Michael. Welcoming Brian home are Joan, Ben and Kate. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield), and Jim and Elda Mae Craig.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Emil Stahl (Sis. Della) and Jay Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou). We are thankful that they are both home recovering.

We wish God's blessings on the

faithful visiting brothers who ministered God's Holy Word to us. With us this month were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15. Our dear Sis. Alma Haas gathered with the congregation to worship and praise God on the beautiful morn of February 18 and in the midnight hours that followed, she was gently called to her heavenly home to be forever with the Lord. We shall always remember her loving, submissive example. May God comfort her dear husband, Bro. Herman, to whom she was married to for 60 years. She is also survived by one son, Ronald (Peggy) Haas; and one daughter, Barbara Franquelli (Robert) Winter; five grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

The family of Alma Haas wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, love and compassion. The loss of our beloved wife and mother cannot be expressed in words, but knowing so many others loved her and will miss her, brings a smile through our tears. God bless all of you.

Likewise we extend sympathy to the Schifferer family in the passing of their loved one, Sis. Julia Schieler (Gridley, IL).

May God be gracious to our dear Ed Schifferer (Sis. Dorothy) who spent time in the hospital this past month.

Our best wishes to Amy Kellenberger (Bro. Lloyd and Carol) and Tim Grzywa who plan a June wedding. He is the son of Ted and Mary Grzywa (Burlington, IL).

Sis. Becky Cargill and Bro. David Kiefer (Chicago) have also announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill, and Robert and Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Lyle and Sis. DeLores Kellenberger and Olga Datisman rejoice in the birth of a new grandson, Brian Andrew, born March 10, to Daryle and Sonia Kellenberger. May they,

and all parents, seek God's help and guidance.

As always, we are thankful to God for His life-giving Word. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), John Zeller (Morton, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God bless you, as well as our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen who gave kind exhortation in preparation of the forth-coming communion services. "Thy words were found, as I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; 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 2:11-12. We have had a variety of weather this last month - snow, ice storms, floods, but now the sun is out and the birds are singing - the storm is past. How like in our own lives when the storms do come it seems the Son is hid from us, but then the storms pass and God permits His Son to again shine brightly in our lives.

Saturday evening, February 17, we gathered together to hear the reading of the memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) for being with us and assisting our Elder Bro. Walter in the gentle admonitions and encouragements that will help us stay on the straight and narrow path towards heaven's gate. May God bless each one that was present to strive more diligently towards that goal.

We appreciate Bros. Bill Hodel, Jim Byrd and Tom Hoffman for being with us one Sunday when the weather did not permit them to gather at the "country church." We thank them for their timely messages and we invite them back.

February 20, Kate Rebecca blessed the home of Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke. Kate's two brothers, Benjamin and Jacob, are glad for their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman, and Bro.

Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke (all of Eureka).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Knecht are thankful for Carly Michael who arrived March 9. Landon is Carly's brother. Her grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman and Richard and Janet Knecht (all of Eureka). May God's blessings be upon each of these families as they strive to rear their children in the ways of the Lord.

Our sympathy goes to Sisters Millie Prather (Bro. Jack) and Sonia Banwart (Bro. Joel) in the recent passing of their brother, John Klein. May God comfort them as only He can.

Those in the hospital this past month were Sis. Corine Hartter and Bro. Fred Knecht. Also, our prayers continue to go out to Bros. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna) and Dave Leman (Sis. Ann) and their families. May God provide for each one as they endure the afflictions of their mortal bodies.

Thank You: We would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, food and many prayers during my recent illness. Everything was appreciated so much. May God bless you. Kevin Kupferschmid and family.

IS PRAYER YOUR STEERING WHEEL OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

**'TIS MIDNIGHT; AND
 ON OLIVES' BROW**

'Tis midnight; and on Olives' brow
 The star is dimmed that lately shone:
 'Tis midnight; in the garden now
 The suffering Saviour prays alone.

'Tis midnight; and for others' guilt
 The Man of Sorrows weeps in blood;
 Yet He that hath in anguish knelt
 Is not forsaken by His God.

William B. Tappan

Easter is the special time of the year when we reflect on what our precious Savior did for mankind. His precious blood was shed that we could all go free. Let's be thankful every day.

Our congregation rejoices with Bro. Darwin Steidinger and Sis. Laurie Young (Cissna Park) when their engagement was announced March 11.

Their parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Steidinger and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anna Marie Young. We wish them God's blessings as they make their plans for their future together. A June wedding is being planned.

Laurie and Keith Schweigert (Bourbonnais, IL) welcome their first child, a little baby boy, Bradley Wayne, born February 3. Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Wayne and Alma Schweigert (Kankakee).

Hospital patients this month were George Walter, Larissa Fehr, Jason Kilgus, Sisters Dorothy Steffen and Kathryn Honegger. May the Lord comfort them and continually be by their side.

Thelma Worrell, daughter of Sis. Perseda Moser, passed away February 20. We extend sympathy to her sisters, Sisters Colleen Walter and Sharon Kelson, and her two brothers, Keith Moser and Bro. Lloyd Moser.

Also we extend sympathy to Sis. Sally Schieler and her family in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Julia Schieler (Gridley). May the families be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

We appreciate Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) for sharing the "Bread of Life" with us. May the Lord bless him for his willingness to minister the Word.

Thank you notes:

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

We would like to thank each one of you personally, if we could, for the prayers, gifts of love, cards, special visits, and all deeds of kindness offered on behalf of Duane, myself and our family. It has been overwhelming and we have been unable to acknowledge all of them personally.

Many of you from all our congregations have shown a special interest in some way. We truly wonder what we would have done without our precious faith. God has kept us by His side and we pray we will be able to hold fast as Duane is improving but it will be a lengthy recovery.

Please accept this special thank you and may God continue to bless and hold all of us in His hand that we someday may meet in heaven.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus
and Jason,
Jeff and Lisa Kilgus,
Kent and Teri Kilgus

Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda Stoller,
Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus
Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr
Paul and Carmen Kilgus

My deepest thanks to each one of you for the cards, gifts, and flowers shared with me on my 80th birthday. A special thank you to my dear children for all their efforts to make my birthday such a blessed event. Every expression of love is a precious memory to me. May God bless and reward each of you.

Humbly,
Sis. Lydia Eisenmann

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson

Sandra Schneider

Spring helps us to remember the power and glory of God and that all things are possible with Him who is the creator of all.

We want to thank all who visited us this past month, especially our visiting ministers, Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka), Charlie Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH). What a blessing it is to sit in God's house, undisturbed by the rest of the world, and listen to His Holy Word.

Hospital patients this month were Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Kathryn Honegger, Sis. Shawna Adams (Sis. Sharon) and Harriet Farney (Dale). May God, who knows the needs of all, restore health as He wills.

Bill Kemp passed away March 12. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Judy and their children, Bob Kemp, Joyce Yonkers and Betty Kemp. May the Lord comfort this dear family.

Sis. Sharon Adams has a new responsibility as a Sunday school teacher. We wish her God's grace and wisdom and pray He will bless Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman who has completed this service.

Visit your local post office on the eve of April 15, and you will witness an incredible crush of humanity standing in line to beat the taxman's deadline.

And what is at stake? A few dollars in taxes and penalties. By contrast, consider what is at stake when God's deadline for responding to the gospel finally arrives. That's one "Final

Notice" you can't afford to receive.

Like the payment of taxes, death is an inevitable consequence of simply being alive. But, curiously, more people worry about their taxes than worry about their eternity. Perhaps if salvation were only available until April 15, more people would take it seriously. But no one is guaranteed even that long to decide, for only God knows when your "Final Notice" has been given.

From Timeless Insights

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

GETHSEMANE

All those who journey, soon or late,
Must pass within the garden gate;
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.
God pity those who cannot say;
"Not mine but thine:" who only pray:
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

At this springtime season of the year our thoughts go once again to our precious Savior suffering mentally and physically beyond our human comprehension. But His victory over that cruel death is an inspiration for us all to "hold fast to our faith" till the Lord comes again.

We look forward to hearing our children and young adults share with us the blessed Easter story.

Samuel Rokey welcomes home his new baby brother, Jacob Daniel. Jacob was born March 17 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelly Rokey. His happy grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Ray and Joanne Hostetler (Goodfield, IL).

Jeanne Zimmerman was married to Gary Doerr December 29. We wish Jeanne and Gary many blessed and happy years together as they continue their lives as one. Their parents are Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Celine and the late Erwin Doerr.

The family of Howard Hartman wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for the prayers, cards and deeds of kindness. May God bless each one of you. Helen Hartman, Mike and Pam Schmidt, Raymond

and Sis. Viola Wagner, Harold and Mary Hartman, Bob and Sis. Loretta Hess, Richard and Allegra Hartman, and Harold and Sis. Shirley DeBolt.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Recently a minister from one of our central Illinois churches was working in a judge's chambers at a county court house. He noticed a plaque on the wall that read: "The greatest legacy we can leave our children are roots and wings." This is really true and especially in today's culture which is growing more and more rootless.

It is important that our youth become well grounded in the values of the Bible, and in the historical legacy left by our faithful forefathers. As our youth, and all of us, become more acquainted with the struggles and victories of our European and American forefathers, it will endear us one and all toward those many spiritual values that characterize our precious faith.

Too, "wings of faith" will allow our young people to repent and become converted and thence find a oneness with Christ our Lord. In doing so they will be able to soar over the fleshly ways that dwell among us, and want to dominate our society. Roots and wings will allow posterity to learn and follow the will of God. "One life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

On March 11, Sis. Cassandra Ringger was married to Bro. Curtis Meiss. She is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley). He is the son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss (also of Gridley). We wish them well in life's second-most-important step.

Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) ministered to our congregation Wednesday evening, February 28.

Sis. Elaine Stoller was hospitalized during the past month.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

As we observe the earth's regeneration at springtime, we cannot help but sing the Creator's praise and marvel at His miraculous domain.

CREATION

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

Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The rich man in the castle
The poor man at the gate,
God made them high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

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

He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well.
Hymns of Zion #207

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for preaching God's Holy Word to us this month. We always enjoy Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla when they come "home" to visit us.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Joe and Jackie Herman

THE GLORY OF THE EASTER STORY

In the glorious Easter Story
A troubled world can find
Blessed reassurance
And enduring peace of mind . . .
For though we grow discouraged
In this world we're living in,
There is comfort just in knowing
God has triumphed over sin . . .
For our Saviour's resurrection
Was God's way of telling men
That in Christ we are eternal
And in Him we live again . . .
And to know life is unending
And God's love is unending, too,
Makes our daily tasks and burdens
So much easier to do . . .
For the blessed Easter Story
Of Christ the living Lord,
Makes our earthly sorrow nothing
When compared with this reward.

Helen Steiner Rice

A precious little girl was born to Sis. Angie and Bro. Geof Ginzler. Samantha Jean was born February 27. The happy grandparents are Sis. Eva Jean and Bro. Herman Schaefer (Morris, MN) and Sis. Mary and Bro. Dave Ginzler.

Our thanks go to our visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) for bringing the precious Word to us.

A special prayer is in our hearts for Bro. Al Domnick and his wife, Sis. Vera. Bro. Al has suffered an illness in the past months and has spent much time in the hospital. We pray that they feel our love, prayers and God's presence at all times.

Birds don't complain when
snowstorms come
And cover food and lawn;
Instead of grumbling when it snows,
They sing when it is gone.
Thelma Ireland

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are thankful for the brothers who are willing to stand and speak God's Word. Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Willis Ehnle (Japan), Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God be their rich rewarder.

We will hear the testimonies of our dear friends, Rod and Cathy Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty), March 31 who have experienced conversion and found peace with God and man.

"Thus united, and in concord, Let us walk, the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us, For each other's welfare strive". Zion's Harp #237. On March 11, we were privileged to witness the marriage of Sis. Deanna Herrmann and Bro. Matthew Steffen (Alto, MI). Parents of this couple are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen (Alto, MI).

On March 4, Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH, formerly of Princeville) and Sis. Julie Sauder were united in marriage in Mansfield, OH. Parents of this couple are Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm and Elder Bro.

Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder. May God bless these two dear couples as they walk life's pathway together.

The engagement of Bro. Jim Gerst (Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Diane Massner (Phoenix, AZ) daughter of Sis. Phyllis Massner Knobloch and the late Bro. Bill Massner (Oakville, IA) was announced March 4. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans for an April wedding.

We extend our sympathy to Kate Streitmatter in the passing of her sister, Louise Metzger.

Mary Beth Wagenbach spent some time in the hospital and Sis. Caroline Joos is still on the sick list. May the Lord be with them and grant them reasonable health and strength.

"Remember, you can't expect to feel God's presence if you are too busy to commune with Him" (Our Daily Bread)

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

As the Easter season approaches, we are aware once again of our Lord's love for us, that He willingly suffered and gave His own blood as the ransom price for our souls. How He must have loved us, to die in our place! We pray that all who have not availed themselves of His gift of salvation will be moved to do so before it is forever too late.

We are thankful that Rob Leman has answered the Lord's call to follow Him and has turned to the Lord in repentance. Rob is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman.

We appreciate the ministry of Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington). Bro. Kevin conducted a Bible study on the lives of the Apostles. May God richly bless both these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

We were blessed to hear the Washington choir at our last monthly hymn sing. Our third through sixth grade Sunday school students sang for us, too. Thanks to all for the time and effort they gave to share with us their musical talents.

A baby boy, Brian Daniel, was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Schwind March 16. Brian's older sister is Meagan. Grandparents are Bro.

Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister.

Bro. Greg Moser (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barbara) announced his engagement to Sis. Sharlene Keiser (Bradford). We wish them the Lord's rich blessings.

The Roanoke congregation strongly feels the loss of our former Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi. We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Dorothy and her children, Sis. Judy Snyder, Bro. Robert (Morton), Joan Burton, Richard, and Bro. Roger. Bro. Gene left words of comfort and advice to his family and his congregation. May God use our sorrow in this temporary separation to bring us closer to Him and to each other so that our joy will be even stronger when we are reunited in eternity.

Hospital patients this month were Jerry Hodel (Betty), Freddie Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen), Sis. Mary Leman, and Sis. Ethel Rassi.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger - Marsha Koch

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Richard Plattner (Peoria), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). May God reward each one and their families for all they do for us.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Bill Schmid, Sis. Merna (Bro. Vernon) Koch, Bro. Merle Getz, Bro. Mahlon Frank and Sis. Emma (Bro. John) Greiner. We are thankful all are recuperating and hope each one will be assembling with us soon.

Marla Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn) and Jeff Rose (Al and Christy, Edwards) want their engagement made known. A September 15 wedding is being planned. Also engaged are Anita Prather (Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn) and Jeff Wagenbach (Si, Jr. and Sis. LaVonne). They are planning a June 23 wedding. Bro. Doug Huetter (Bro. William and Sis. Marilyn) is engaged to Sis. Jill Eastman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Nelma, Eureka). June 10 is their wedding date. We wish each one God's blessings and guidance.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Emma (Bro. Al) Aberle, Sis.

Wilma (Bro. Emil) Aberle, Sis. Mary Baurer, Bro. Fred Beutel and Kathryn Beutelin the passing of their sister, Sis. Anna Beutel.

God has given Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger a girl March 20. Rebecca Kay was welcomed home by Joshua, Sarah and Deborah. May God give them guidance and wisdom as they rear their family.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Carol Schick

Our entire congregation rejoiced with the angels this past month as we witness the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Heidi Florey (Kirk) and Sis. Cathy Engst (Don). It is always encouraging to hear how God has worked in lives to bring souls from all walks of life and lead them to become one of His children. May they both continue to grow in His knowledge and love.

Gratitude is extended to the following visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Bro. Glen Dill (Tremont). Our prayer is that God will lift them up and give them the necessary grace to continue His work even when Satan tries to discourage them. May we keep not only these brothers in our prayers but all of the Apostolic Christian ministers as they prayerfully face each day as His servants. Satan seems to be getting bolder with each passing day. We read of many accounts of his followers and as the number of his occult members grow, the more pressure is put on Christians. May we all heed the warning signs and strengthen ourselves spiritually through prayer and staying closer to our shepherds.

Signs of spring are in the air as our thoughts turn to that first Easter morning so long ago. How wonderful it would have been to have witnessed the resurrected Christ. It is amazing to think that there were people that still did not believe He was God's Son after seeing all the miracles He performed. It took faith to follow Him 2000 years ago and it takes faith today. May each one of us pray for a stronger faith, grace to be more submissive and the boldness to share our faith with our neighbors who do not fully understand the true beauty of Easter and the promise it holds for each and every soul.

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

Psalm 127:3

A baby boy was sent straight from heaven to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke. Galen Bryant was welcomed home by an older sister, Erin, and grandparents, Harold and Loretta Wettstein (Eureka), and Bro. Norman and Sis. Doris Rocke (Eureka).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

A CHILD'S FAITH

"Jesus loves me this I know,
 For the Bible tells me so."
 Little children ask no more,
 For love is all they're looking for.
 And in a small child's shining eyes,
 The faith of all the ages lies.
 And tiny hands and tousled heads,
 That kneel in prayer by little beds,
 Are closer to the dear Lord's heart,
 And of His kingdom more a part,
 Than we who search and never find,
 The answers to our questioning
 mind . . .

Helen Steiner Rice

This month we've been blessed with many little bundles of joy. Among those are Shannon Marie, born February 23, to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter. Shannon joins her brother, Kyle, age 2. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter and Bro. Ray and Sis. Lorena Steffen.

Bro. Keith and Sis. LouAnn Kaehr are rejoicing with their baby boy, Andrew Lee, born March 2. Older brother, Lyndon, age 1½, welcomes him. Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman and Bro. Walter and Sis. Lucille Kaehr are proud grandparents.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Andrea Sipe were blessed with the coming of Nicole Rene, born March 3. Nicole joins two older sisters, Janelle, age 12, and Mindy, age 10, and a big brother, Christopher, age 9. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Doris Neuenchwander and William Sipe and Shirley Stoehr.

Cassy Jo was brought into this world March 13 to Bro. Randy and Sis. Lisa Ringger. Sara is very fortunate to have two older sisters, Jami,

age 2½, and Brittney, age 4½. Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger and Paul and Crystal Bailey are proud grandparents.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly Reinhard rejoice with their first child, Sara Lynn. Sara was born March 7. We rejoice with grandparents Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Steve and Betty Rhodes.

Bro. John and Sis. Irene Neuenchwander have been blessed with a granddaughter, Emily Sue. Proud parents are Mike and Candy Neuenchwander.

And the last of the arrivals, Sarah Elizabeth, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi Towle (Bluffton North). Sarah joins older brother, Brandon, age six. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch.

In addition to all our newborns, we've also shared the love and excitement of two engagements. We rejoice with Bro. John Eisenmann (Roger and Sis. Linda Eisenmann and Arlan and Jeannie Gerber) and Sis. Trudi Steffen (Bro. Ray and Sis. Lorena Steffen), as they begin their lives together. Secondly, Bro. Dale Reinhard and Sis. Martha Lobsiger (Bro. Henry and Sis. Ada Gerber), trust God has led them to each other. We pray that their love would continue to grow.

There are two new converts, Tony Gerber and Tonya Lehman. It is evident to see that God is still working within the lives who surrender their hearts to him.

We had one visiting minister, Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North). We appreciate his special effort to come and share with us in fellowship and praise.

Along with blessings often come times of hardship and pain. However, many times situations like these draw us closer to the Lord. Hospitalized this month were Sis. Joyce Yergler (Bro. Rick), Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr, Sis. Mary Steffen, Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), Bro. Russel Steffen (Sis. Alice), Bro. Ray Baumgartner, Bro. Sylvan Frauhiger (Sis. Doris), Susie Frauhiger (Pete), Sis. Agnes Schaefer (Bro. Oscar) and Bro. Herman Drayer Jr. (Sis. Julie). Let us remember them in our prayers and know that "... The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Lois Drayer - Deb Aeschliman

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb.

He is the great "I was, I am."
 Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,

He conquered over death and tomb.
 He rose His own to justify,
 And draws all men up to the sky.
 If you have found the Christ -- His way,

Then you can keep this Easter Day.
 Bro. Henry Beer

Let us be thankful this Easter season and remember what Christ has done for us.

We thank Bro. Ben Manz and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for lending themselves to minister the Word of Life to us March 18. Many of their congregation also came to spend the day with us as their church is being remodeled. We enjoyed their fellowship.

We rejoice with Jeremy Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) and Kirk Fiechter (Terri) who have turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish them an abundance of grace.

Bro. Matt Markley (Mr. and Mrs. Dick Kolkman) and Lisa Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) were united in marriage March 11. May the Lord continue to bless their lives.

With joyful hearts, we heard the wedding engagement of Bro. Dale Reinhard and Sis. Martha Lobsiger (Bluffton).

Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn Gerber welcome the birth of their new little daughter, Taryn Kahley, born March 12. Taryn joins a sister, Taye, and grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Edna Moser and Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber. Jeff and Sis. Jodi Towle also welcome a new little daughter born March 12, Sarah Elizabeth. Sarah joins big brother, Brandon, and grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch (Bluffton) and Don and Beverly Towle. We pray God's blessings on these families.

Sis. Helen Smekens, age 81, passed away March 4. Our sympathy is extended to her children and her sister, Sis. Mabel Rauch (Bro. Jay) and her brother, Bro. Floyd Groh (Sis. Virginia) and her 18 grandchildren and

18 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Elmer Gerber (Sis. Henrietta) passed away at the age of 84 March 5, while they were wintering in Zapata, TX. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Henrietta and his family; sons Bro. Don (Sis. Mary), Bro. Earl (Sis. Pat), Bro. Lester (Sis. Rosemary), Bro. Paul (Sis. Mary Jo), all from Bluffton, and Bro. Carrol (Sis. Louise), Bro. Dale (Sis. Carol), and daughters Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry, Bluffton), Sis. Lois Gerber (Bro. Harry), Sis. Carolyn Roberts (Bro. David) and Sis. Kathy Clough (Bro. John, PA). Bro. Elmer is survived by three brothers, Bro. Obed (Sis. Leona), Bro. Ray (Sis. Ida), Bro. David (Sis. Ada, Bluffton); one sister, Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bro. Roy, Bluffton) and 40 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren.

The family of Elmer Gerber wishes to express their thanks and appreciation for the love, sympathy and deeds of kindness shown to them during the time of his illness and death. May God richly bless you all.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Alice Honegger (Bro. Alvin) and Sis. Esther Isch on the loss of their brother, Edward Isch, who passed away March 13 at the age of 78.

Our thoughts and prayers are with many loved ones who have been hospitalized patients. Bro. John Meyer (Sis. Carolyn) was involved in a serious car accident during an ice storm. We are thankful that he is at home and recuperating. Ron Meyer (Kathy) was injured while at work. Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) remains at Lutheran Hospital with a serious heart condition. Other hospitalized loved ones include Sis. Mary Moser, Bro. Amos Reinhard (Sis. Martha), Sis. Josephine Meyer (Bro. Joe), Sis. Mabel Rauch (Bro. Jay) and Sis. Agnes Schaefer (Bro. Oscar). May the Lord continue to watch over them.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

Our dear Sis. Adeline Gutwein (Bro. Nate) is going to be deeply missed as she passed away March 10, following a three year illness. We will always remember her loving way and faithful example. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Nate and all her

children and grandchildren. Surviving along with her husband are three daughters: Sis. Charlene Feldman (Bro. Phil, Chicago, IL), Sis. Monica Fritz (Bro. Mike, Washington, IL) and Corinne Dornhecker (Mike, Rossville). Also surviving is one son, Bro. Jeff Gutwein (Sis. Wendy, Francerville). We also want to remember Bro. Art Novotny (Sis. Maxine, Francerville), Sis. Adeline's dear brother. We trust in our heavenly Father that He will lift up this family and be near them all ways.

We all rejoice with Curt Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki) since he testifies he is at peace with God and is looking forward to his baptism. We that are converted, know that Curt will never regret his decision to serve our Father in heaven.

We couldn't rejoice more with Scott and Kathy Leman as they welcomed home their daughter, Audra Meredith. Audra was born February 25. Happy grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice R. Haney (Akron, IN) and Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern Leman (Francerville).

Another baby girl was welcomed into our congregation. Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein were blessed with Tess Ann February 27. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam Metz and Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein, both of Francerville. Congratulations to both of these couples.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Anne Ward are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela, to Mike Downey (Highland, IN). Mike's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Downey, also of Highland. Angela and Mike are planning an October 13 wedding. We wish this couple God's blessings.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Madeleine Gutwein's daughter, Suzanne, was united in marriage to Phillip Lowery March 10. Phillip's parents are Robert Lowery (Plainfield) and Nancy Lancaster (Tucson, AZ). Suzanne and Phillip are making their home in Schauberg, IL. May God bless this dear couple.

Our friend Samuel Gutwein, son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol, was hospitalized this month after an automobile accident. Samuel is home now from the hospital and recovering well.

Our congregation was blessed to have Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton) come on a special Wednesday eve-

ning. Bro. Kent spoke on discipleship and we thank him for coming.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

Tomb thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right;
Faith and Hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

Phillips Brooks

Hallelujah, Christ arose! Can we comprehend what a truly great day that was? Because of Jesus Christ's victory over death, we can win the battle with sin and Satan. May Christ reign in all of our hearts this blessed Easter season and always.

Bro. Ernie Pfeifer is home and improving daily, even driving, and his family would like to thank everyone for their cards, visits and prayers during his long road to recovery.

We have recently been informed that Paul Heiniger is fighting a battle with cancer. Our prayers are with Paul and his family. May the Lord be their guide and comfort during this difficult time.

Our congregation would like to thank ministering Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) for lending himself to us this past month. We always appreciate visiting ministers.

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

Our newly baptized sister, Kara Hersey, summed up the spirit of a person committed to walk by faith. She said, "I'm going to do what He says for the rest of my life whether I feel like it or not." We're pleased to have her with us.

Our Children's Home administrator was asked to comment on Kara's testimony on Saturday evening. Bro. Tim reflected for a second and then recalled his first meeting with her a number of years ago at the foster home where she was staying with her sisters. His comment was brief but carried that deep realization that only the redeemed of the Lord understand. He said, "I'm happy to have Kara as my sister and it's only by the grace of God that she is here. Her parents,

Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier, were fighting back those beautiful tears of gratitude for what the wonderful Lord had done.

Elder Bro. Ed Ringger assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch with the testimony and baptismal service. Bro. Sam Schlatter also ministered to us Sunday.

The Lord's Word was with the power of His Spirit. We read in Peter that God has given us all things that we need for life and godliness. We were taught that when we fix our trust on the blood of Christ and give ourself to be completely overtaken by His Spirit, nothing adverse can touch us. It's all a matter of our choice and faith. Thank the Lord for giving us the victory!

"Time is one of our most valuable possessions", we were taught. The elder explained what helps him as he gets up in the morning. When he remembers, he looks up at the clock and says, "Lord there are 1440 minutes in this day. What are we going to do with them, together?"

Our dear friend Brad Gehring was given more time. The Lord spared him from electrocution. "Thank you, Father for being so kind and merciful to us all."

We have been thankful and blessed with a number of brothers and sisters visiting from the Junction, OH, congregation, while their church building is going through the remodeling process.

Time is short for the whole world. Let us ask God to increase our eternal perspective.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

We were richly blessed with the visits of Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend) and John Reinhard (Bluffton) as they so willingly came to share more of Jesus' love with us.

A number of our high school students enjoyed spending a Sunday at Purdue for Indiana's Youth Fellowship Day. Bro. Nelson Beer accompanied the Bible class students and their teachers to Lafayette to share this day with several other Indiana ministers.

Spending some time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Noah Clauss and Russ Mikel. Both experi-

enced the healing touch of the Father.

Our love and sympathy reaches out to Bro. John and Sis. Mayedene Lehman. Sis. Mayedene's brother, William Main (Middlebury), passed away this month. We pray God will comfort them during their time of sorrow.

March 15 marks a special day for Jill and Brian Brannock as a little girl, Kayla Rainier, was entrusted into their care. Thankful for this little blessing are grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Brannock (Syracuse) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab.

Dottie Rambo attempted to express the great love our Saviour has for us when she penned the words to "If That Isn't Love":

He left the splendor of Heaven,
knowing His destiny;
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha,
there to lay down His life for me.
Even in death He remembered,
the thief hanging by His side;
He spoke with love and compassion,
then He took him to Paradise.
If that isn't love, the ocean is dry;
There're no stars in the sky,
and the sparrow can't fly!
If that isn't love, then Heaven's a
myth;
There's no feeling like this, if that
isn't love!

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

This month I have jotted down a few phrases quoted by our ministers. I hope they will be "a thought for your day".

Bro. Edwin Bahler - "We prove our faith by our works and integrity." "We need to live simply so others can simply live."

Bro. Earl Kilgus - "Things have changed. Many things have become obsolete, but conversion is the same today as it was in the Apostle Paul's time."

Bro. Ken Schneider - "Is time running out? Sure it is. We're an hour closer to death than we were when we walked in the door this morning."

Bro. Dan Stoller - "We should have the desire to live in the will of God. Nothing can make us happier than to be following God's will."

"Christian is not a generic term. It means to be Christ-like."

Disappointments - Bro. Walter Bahler and Bro. Stan Virkler and his son, Paul, were disappointed when the word came they should not proceed with plans to go to Haiti March 9 as they planned.

Our congregation was disappointed when we learned the two ministering brothers and others from Mansfield, OH, who planned to spend Sunday, March 11 were unable to carry out their plans.

When we have disappointments we have to remind ourselves "all things work together for good to them that love God . . ." Romans 8:28.

We are thankful that Bro. Earl Kilgus and son, Bro. Dan, sustained minor injuries when they were hit head-on in the blinding snow storm we had Saturday, February 24. We have to feel God protected them, considering the pickup was totaled.

Thankful, too, that Bro. Ken Schneider was spared serious injury when he fell 20 feet from a ladder when on an electrical job.

Again, thankful that Sis. Mary Jo Schieler, after five days in the hospital with an infection, is home and recovering and was able to be in church Sunday forenoon.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Anna Marie Stoller

"He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?"

Psalm 147:17-18

Two consecutive weekends our congregation could not hold services due to ice and snow. Although we miss assembling with our home brethren at times like this, we rejoice that God provides His blessings wherever we are. The snow and ice days were reminders that we don't worship God only in the church building on Sunday, but everywhere, every moment of our lives.

Sisters Ernestine and Mildred Meister mourn the death of their brother, Ezra, who resided in Texas. Mildred and Ernestine left by plane the day of the snow storm to attend his funeral, and we thank God for their safe journey. Our congregation

weeps with our dear sisters and their families.

God blessed us with the ministering of Bro. Bill Schlatter, his family, and a number of Junction, OH, families. Exhortation was given to keep our spiritual bodies clean, healthy, and to exercise those members which seem less important as well as the more comely members of our bodies . . . Each one in the household of faith is necessary. The Word of God gently admonished that we should not offend our brother, but we should not be easily offended, either. Instructions how to handle offense was edifying to all.

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2. Sunday, March 4, our Bible class students and teacher were privileged to attend Youth Fellowship Day at Purdue University. All the Indiana Sunday school students who attended were taught of their responsibility to make right decisions in life, to take advantage of the birth right handed them. During the afternoon classes, the teachers were served the meat of the Word, exhorting them to know their Bibles. It was impressed that our priorities should be to read the Bible and be led by God's Spirit if we desire to be effective in the lives of others. Knowing our Bibles, communicating with God, obeying the exhortations of the church were given as advise to reduce stress in our daily lives. Ending this profitable day was singing by the Sunday school classes represented. The South Bend youth joined in song with the Milford youth, and we praise God for voices to send Him honor and worship.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Beth Heinold - Anjie Heinold

On March 4, our congregation had the joy of experiencing our first wedding since moving into our present building. Bro. Rob Baum (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Jodie Baum, Morton, IL) and Sis. Angie Heinold (Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl Heinold) began their walk in life together. We pray God will bless their lives as they walk together in the Lord.

Also on this day, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL),

Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Brothers, may God continue to bless you as you minister the Word of God. Thank you for your love.

A friend who does not come to the Apostolic Christian Church, but attended the wedding stated a few days later, "It is really something how your church members select a mate and how this is carried out. The marriages that I have know about all seem so successful and there is such a harmony about it."

Dear ones, once again we are reminded of just how precious our faith is. Thank You, dear Lord!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We are thankful that God has once again answered our prayers in blessing our elder brothers with wisdom and bringing them safely home again from the mid-winter conference. We know that God will surely reward them in eternity for their many labors, but may we make their efforts as rewarding in this life as we can by being more appreciative, supportive and obedient.

Denny Stoller and Sharon Blanton were married March 9. Denny's parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller. On March 10, Chris and Sis. Teresa Gahler, Renae and Eric were blessed with a precious baby boy, Shane Alfred. Shane's thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Lank.

As we approach the Easter season, may our hearts overflow with thankfulness and humility for the great price that Jesus willingly paid for our sins, and overflow with joy that the grave could not hold Him but that He arose again, giving us a hope of eternal life through Him. May we grasp hold of that hope with a tenacity that will allow nothing else to distract us from our eternal goal.

April is collection month for Wolcott Silver Lining dues.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We were thankful Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was able to be

with us to help Elder Bro. Ed Lanz read the memorandum this past month. We found it an encouragement and also a reminder to look into our own lives and to lay off those weights and worldly influences that so easily and deceitfully beset God's children.

February 3, we enjoyed the Tremont Bible Class and teachers who spent the day with our Burlington - Oakville Bible Classes. Often these friendships can be very special and lasting ones. We were thankful to have Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) spend the day with us also and be willing to labor and minister on our behalf.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

"LET US GO ON"

Some of us stay at the cross,
Some of us wait at the tomb,
Quickened and raised together with
Christ,
Yet lingering still in its gloom.
Some of us bide at the passover feast
With Pentecost all unknown --
The triumphs of grace in the
heavenly place
That our Lord has made our own.

If the Christ who died had stopped at
the cross
His work had been incomplete,
If the Christ who was buried had
stayed in the tomb
He had only know defeat;
But the Way of the Cross never stops
at the Cross,
And the Way of the Tomb leads on
To victorious grace in the heavenly
place
Where the risen Lord has gone.

So, let us go on with our Lord
To the fullness of God He has brought,
Unsearchable riches of Glory and good
Exceeding our uttermost thought;
Let us grow up into Christ,
Claiming His life and its powers, --
The triumphs of grace in the
heavenly place
That our conquering Lord has made
ours.

Annie Johnson Flint

May we pick up our cross daily

and follow Him - for the way of the cross leads Home!

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Dan Lehman and Sis. Carolyn Butikofer (Bro. Lawrence).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser

Spring is here! The migrating birds have returned to their summer homes and the grass is turning green. We were privileged to have a flock of snow geese land in our corn field by the house one day this past week. What a comfort it is to our winter-weary minds and bodies to know that spring is here. How appropriate it is that we celebrate Easter in the spring. For the resurrection of Christ is the eternal spring - the newness of life to the believer.

On Sunday afternoon, February 11, we had our annual business meeting. Our new trustee is Bro. Gene Smith. We thank Bro. Tony Funk for his many years of service as a trustee.

One night this past month, we gathered for a clothing drive. We collected all the clothes that we no longer wear and packed them to go to the Wing School or the Salvation Army. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of material items and we pray that our small contribution might also make someone else thankful to our Lord.

The first two Sunday evenings of March we gathered to listen to the conference tapes of 1989. We thank the elder brothers for their love and concern for our spiritual well-being. Our prayers continue to be with them as they guide our church according to God's will.

We want to thank the many visiting ministers and their families and friends that have gathered with us these past two months. Special thanks to Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless you for your willingness to travel to share God's Word with us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We thank all of our visitors this month. We are thank-

ful for the "times of refreshing" on the weekends and mid-week when we can halt our hectic lives and fellowship together, consider God's Word, sing praises to God, and visit those in nursing homes.

Miss Mary Butterfield addresses the potential effects of our hectic lives in "Streams in the Desert," March 9.

One day when walking down the street,
 On business bent, while thinking hard
 About the 'hundred cares' which
 seemed

Like thunder clouds about to break
 In torrents, Self-pity said to me:
 "You poor, poor thing, you have too
 much

To do. Your life is far too hard.
 This heavy load will crush you soon."
 A swift response of sympathy
 Welled up within. The burning sun
 Seemed more intense. The dust and
 noise

Of puffing motors flying past
 With rasping blast of blowing horn
 Incensed still more the whining nerves,
 The fabled last back-breaking straw
 To weary, troubled, fretting mind.

"Ah, yes, 'twill break and crush my
 life;

I cannot bear this constant strain
 Of endless, aggravating cares;
 They are too great for such as I."
 So thus my heart consoled itself,
 "Enjoying misery," when lo!
 A "still small voice" distinctly said,
 "Twas sent to lift you -- not to crush."

I saw at once my great mistake.
 My place was not beneath the load
 But on the top! God meant it not
 that I should carry it. He sent
 It here to carry me. Full well
 He knew my incapacity
 Before the plan was made. He saw
 A child of His in need of grace
 And power to serve; a puny twig
 Requiring sun and rain to grow;
 An undeveloped chrysalis;
 A weak soul lacking faith in God.
 He could not help but see all this
 And more. And then, with tender
 thought

He placed it where it had to grow --
 Or die. To lie and cringe beneath
 One's load means death, but life and
 power

Await all those who dare to rise above.
 Our burdens are our wings: on them
 We soar to higher realms of grace;

Without them we must roam for aye
 On planes of undeveloped faith,
 (For faith grows but by exercise
 In circumstance impossible).

Oh, paradox of Heaven, The load
 We think will crush was sent to lift us
 Up to God! Then, soul of mine,
 Climb up! for naught can e'er be
 crushed

Save what is underneath the weight.
 How may we climb! By what ascent
 Shall we surmount the carping cares
 Of life! Within His word is found
 The key which opens His secret stairs;
 Alone with Christ, secluded there,
 We mount our loads, and rest in Him.

IOWA,
IOWA STATE UNIV.
Angela Metzger

Our first gathering for the spring semester of 1990 was served by ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). On February 11, Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) brought forth God's Word.

Belated best wishes are extended to Brent and Tammy Metzger on the birth of their new baby daughter, Ashley Elizabeth, born November 1, 1989. Brent and Tammy are both students at Iowa State University.

On February 17 and 18, our Ames group was extremely blessed to have 45 young brothers and sisters from central Illinois spend the weekend with us. Those visiting included college student from Illinois Central College, Illinois State University and the University of Illinois. Ministering Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger and wife, Sis. Peggy (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock accompanied the group. Bro. Jaye gave an inspiring spiritual presentation on the lives of Daniel and Joseph Saturday evening. Bro. Jaye emphasized that both Daniel and Joseph overcame temptation even though they were persecuted for their beliefs. On Sunday, Bro. Jaye's sermon stressed the importance of forgiving others when they have wronged us. At the end of the weekend, each of us felt a deep spiritual uplifting, and we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the wonderful opportunity that we had to assemble together. We especially appreciate Bro. Jaye's efforts in bringing forth God's message to us.

The Pulaski church supported our

gathering the final Sunday in February. Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) were our visiting ministers.

IOWA, LESTER
Kathy Metzger
Mary Knobloch

The Lord again has given His counsel and guidance through the efforts of ministering brothers. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) were recently among us. May God continue to bless those who unselfishly give of themselves in the service of our Lord.

A blessing from heaven has joined the family of Bro. Tim and Lois DeHaan. A son, Nicholas James, was born March 6. Paternal grandparents are John and Sis. Ione DeHaan. May His love always surround this dear family and bless their home.

We continue to remember those who are ill and suffer bodily afflictions. Hospitalized were Nettie Roemen (Bro. Ed and Sis. Amelia), John DeHaan (Sis. Ione) and Karen Glammeier (Ray). God has promised He will never leave nor forsake His own. We pray our loved ones can feel His presence as they deal with the many adversities of this life.

This Easter season may we remember the Lord as He, in love, gave His life that we might live.

IN THE GARDEN
OF GETHSEMANE

Before the dawn of Easter
 There came Gethsemane . . .
 Before the Resurrection
 There were hours of agony . . .
 For there can be no crown of start
 Without a cross to bear,
 And there is no salvation
 Without Faith and Love and
 Prayer,
 And when we take our needs to
 God
 Let us pray as did His Son
 That dark night in Gethsemane --
 "Thy Will, Not Mine, Be Done."
 Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our visiting ministers this month

have been Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We are always thankful for visiting ministers who so willingly lend unto us food for the soul.

It always seems such a precious miracle when we can see the birth of a baby. Bro. David and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach are surely rejoicing with their new little daughter, Rachel Lisa. She is welcomed home by big sisters, Diana and Candace. Her grandparents are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach and Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk (Gridley, IL).

On March 3 we heard of the engagement of two couples. The engagement of Bro. David Kiefer to Sis. Becky Cargill (Elgin, IL) was announced. Their parents are Bob and Dolores Kiefer and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill. Also announced the same day was Sis. Diane Massner and Bro. Jim Gerst's (Princeville, IL) engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch and the late Bill Masser; also Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst. We wish the Lord's richest blessings in these next few months of engagement and throughout the years to come.

As we begin to think upon this Easter season may we never forget to ponder on the suffering of our precious Lord and Savior.

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."

I John 4:14

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

On February 28, our congregation held its annual business meeting. New brethren were chosen to fill the many necessary and important duties that make our church a house of order. We trust all will do them as "unto the Lord." It was nice having Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) with us that evening.

On March 10, Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Walter Anliker (Eureka) along with Bro. Russell, brought forth to us the conference memorandum. Basically, the warnings and exhortations are nothing new; yet

they are so good to hear again and again, for Satan seems to add some new angles of attack day by day.

We are thankful for all those who came and helped with our spring church cleaning. It is a joy when we can all work together.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock were blessed with a baby boy, Steven Michael, March 11. Nathan, Barbara and Loren are excited about their new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois Schock (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester).

IOWA, WEST BEND
Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

Thankful for the arrival of Paula Elizabeth February 21 are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler, Isaac, Joel, Betsy and grandparents, Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler (West Bend) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman (Forrest, IL).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Nima Fehr, Sis. Edna Banwart and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider in the loss of three members of their family circle, their brother, Francis Schneider (Phoenix, AZ); brother-in-law, Wilber Lehman (Missouri) and sister-in-law, Florence Schneider (Mallard).

Our sympathy also goes to Mike and Marilyn Banwart in the passing of her grandmother.

A farewell potluck was held at the fellowship center February 17 for Marvin and Jeana Anliker who have been assembling with us while living in Storm Lake. They have moved to Garden City, KS, and we pray that God's blessings will follow them.

We want to extend best wishes to Jeff Zaugg (Richard and Dorothy) and Penny Probasco (Max and Joyce, Chariton, IA) on their engagement. They are planning a June wedding.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Sis. Louisa Zaugg as she moves from the hospital to the nursing home. We hope she can experience a full healing of her hip so she can be in her own home in the future.

As we approach another Easter season, may our hearts and minds be centered on the importance of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

THIRTY PIECES

Oh, what did thirty pieces buy?
 They bought the cry of "Crucify"
 The profit from a kiss
 They bought a trial that mocked its
 name.
 They bought each false and fear
 filled claim
 And Pilate's cowardice.

Those bits of silver bought the
 nails,
 The cross, the crown, the human
 wails,
 The vinegar and gall.
 They bought release for one who
 killed
 So blood untainted might be
 spilled . . .
 They bought it all.

These little coins bought death for
 two,
 Our Lord and him who was untrue.
 They were a princely price.
 They bought for a repenting thief
 Whose dying gasp was of belief,
 A life in paradise.

They bought the veil that darkened
 day.
 They bought the empty tomb's
 dismay
 And Christianity.
 Oh, what are thirty pieces worth?
 The shame and glory of the earth
 For all eternity.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

The warm rays of the sun have broken the winter chill bringing forth the early spring flowers. In the middle of March the plum blossoms were in full bloom, followed by the cherry blossoms. Our monthly ladies' meeting group plans to visit our country church in Shioda April 12 to see the beautiful peach blossoms.

In Japan, the school year ends in March, so this past Sunday, a special lunch was held in honor of the junior high and high school graduates: Sachiko and Takeshi Urushino, Kunihiro and Akira Onoda, and Koichi Inoue. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they begin a new phase in life.

The annual combined Sunday school trip is being planned for Sh-

ioda and Tokyo. This year, all the students will gather at the Tokyo church, and then visit the tallest building in Tokyo which houses a big aquarium. This is a good opportunity for the children to get to know each other better.

The Sunday school is also preparing for the Easter program centered around the last week of Jesus Christ's life. They have been busy in Sunday school studying the Easter story and drawing pictures representing each day of that significant week.

Just as the warm sun transforms a cold earth into a new creations, we pray that lives can be changed by the knowledge of God's love for man in sending His Son.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Kathy Strahm

It was with great anticipation that we, at Bern, looked forward to hosting the mid-winter elder conference in February. Now we can sincerely say that it was a most blessed time for our church to have the elder brethren in our midst. Services were held Tuesday evening, February 20, by which time many of the brothers and their dear wives had arrived. Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) brought us the Word that evening. Friday evening we assembled at Sabetha where Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) lent themselves in our behalf. We thank these brothers, as well as each of our elders, for their labors that week; indeed, for their efforts put forth for the welfare of the brotherhood and the church continually; that they are willing to let God work with His Spirit through them that there will be faith when Christ returns.

Availing themselves of some of this faith have been Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Stahl as they believe it is God's will that their engagement has been announced. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner and Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL). We wish Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn God's blessings and guidance as they make their plans.

Our new brothers and sister, Bro. Michael Strahm, Bro. Bradley Strahm,

Bro. Steve Meyer and Sis. Kay Meyer, believed that God is faithful who called them, as we read in I Thessalonians 5:24, and that the Lord is faithful and will stablish them and keep them from evil, as we read in II Thessalonians 3:3. What a spiritual uplifting it has been to welcome these souls into our household of faith. We were thankful to have with us Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) to assist Bro. John in this work. Also among us were Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Don Braker (Kansas City). We always appreciate these visiting brothers who allow God's Word to speak to us through them.

As God's Word continues to go forth, we are thankful there are yet souls who answer the call. DeAnn Edelman (Nathan and Marlene, Sabetha, KS) has made the choice to no longer allow Satan to blow her about as the tumbleweed Bro. Don Braker spoke to us about. But she, through her repentance, is beginning to put roots into the rock, even as Bro. Don mentioned the pinon pine tree will do, anchor itself into rock. May God give DeAnn the much-needed grace to surrender all as she begins to walk in His way.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young - Judy Kraft

What a difference there at the cross. We have hate at its worst and love at its best. Man so full of hate, that they felt justified in crucifying Christ and a Savior who's love knew no bounds! He was willing to endure the suffering and agony there on the cross. He truly paid the debt of sin and became the world's Redeemer. Let us rejoice in the risen Lord, our hope for salvation!

Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) was our only visiting minister this past month.

In memory:

OUR DEAR FRIEND JOE

In the smallest things he took
 pleasure.
 He didn't need gold or richest of
 earth, to obtain life's greatest
 treasure.

Many things he found hard to do,
and often with much pain.
But joyously he served the Lord; for
him it was not in vain.
Of his lot. I never heard him
grumble or moan.
Even though words seemed difficult
for him, for the Lord he had a
happy tone.
The things life dealt to him may
have seemed unfair.
Many blessings the Lord to him did
share.
Family and friends he had to the
end.
Just to see he was always ready to
serve the Lord happily.
Many hearts he touched
unknowingly.
Life's trials surely made him a
better person than me.
For it seemed the Lord he always
could clearly see.
In all his agony and woe, to Jesus
he was ready to go.
Many more warm thoughts we
could share you know;
Of this our dear brother and friend,
we knew as Joe.

Written in memory of
Bro. Joseph Jacob Somerhalder
8/17/16 - 1/30/90

**KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIV.
Sheri Braker**

We have been blessed once again
with visiting ministers! A special thank
you is extended to Bros. Lloyd Kraft
and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, IL),
Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Don
Braker (Kansas City, MO) for preach-
ing the Word. Our small group at K-
State appreciates these laborers, their
wives, and all the other visitors who
have shared the Wednesday evening
worship services here with us.

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

TRUST HIM

There is One, Who, if we trust Him,
Guides our like O'er swelling tide:
He came down on earth to save us,
On the cross for us He died.

Trust Him now! Accept thy Saviour,
For but He can sin atone:

Trust Him, and when twilight
cometh,
He will not leave thee alone.

Trust Him while thy life remaineth,
He will gladden all thy days.
Trust Him! And for mercies given,
Ceaseless sing His glorious praise.
Elwyn C. West

As Easter approaches, and we
remember all the love God had for a
dying world to be willing to send His
only begotten Son to a cruel cross so
that our sins could be washed clean in
Christ's blood, isn't it time for us to
trust Him!!!! If He is able to provide
a way for us to have eternal life, then
I think the small mundane problems
we face each day, the things we think
are too large for us to bear, are as
nothing, if we will only entrust them
to Him. As the song says: Take your
burdens to the cross and leave them
there! That's real trust! Let's all try
it, okay?

Our hospital patients this month
included Bro. Huber Farney and Sis.
Laverne Roth who both underwent
surgery, and Brandon Domnick, son
of Vanda and Junior Domnick. Our
prayers are needed so often by so
many, that we should always remem-
ber to lift our loved ones up in prayer,
so our merciful God will be ever pres-
ent in their trials, whether it be ill-
ness or earthly cares, or decisions we
make as we walk each path in life.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

Our annual business meeting was
held with several brothers re-elected
to their duties. New brothers elected
were: Bro. John Aberle as trustee and
Bros. James Hartter and Don Plattner
as ushers. Our heartfelt thank you to
those who have willingly given of
themselves and we wish God's guid-
ance in the year ahead for each to
fulfill their duty.

We gathered for services in Sabe-
tha on Friday evening following the
elder brother conference in Bern.
Serving us on the pulpit were Bros.
Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), William Sch-
latter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bros.
Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and
Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). Our
evening was a blessing and thank
you brothers.

Then the weekend of March 3 and
4, we were privileged to hear the
testimonies of four precious souls and
witness their baptisms. We welcome
our new brother-in-faith, Brian Platt-
ner (Don and Ada) and new sisters,
Julie Wenger (Marc), Marilyn Metz-
ger (Bro. Douglas and Sis. Betty) and
Shari Eisenbise (David). We appreci-
ate Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman
(Forrest, IL), Gene Marti (Kansas
City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern,
KS) assisting our Elder Bro. Sam.
Other ministering brothers with us
were Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend,
IA) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA).
We were reminded how we must give
our whole heart to God without reser-
vation and pray we can each be a
humble, faithful example.

Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City,
MO) also ministered to us one Sun-
day. We thank each visiting minister
for your labor of love.

Our hearts rejoice to hear another
dear soul has turned her back on the
world and desires to walk with God.
We wish Connie Hartter (Bro. Roger
and Sis. Ilene) God's grace and guid-
ance to do His will.

Hospital patients have been Sis.
Evelyn Wysong, Bro. Gale Kellen-
berger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian)
and Sis. Fay Pearcy. Becky Schweitzer
had the misfortune of a broken collar
bone. Other medical patients were
Bro. Lou and Sis. Tillie Wenger. May
each one feel our prayers on their
behalf.

The Lord has blest Bro. Ernest
and Sis. Tillie Kellenberger with 65
years together as husband and wife.
They had a joyous weekend when
their family came for the special occa-
sion. May God continue to provide
and bless them.

A reminder to our Sabetha read-
ers: April is collection month for the
Silver Lining.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

We were so happy to have Bro.
Kent and Sis. Darcie Kisling and
their three children worship with us
March 11. We appreciate Bro. Kent's
efforts as he ministered in our behalf.

Bro. Godfrey Miller and I are
grandparents again. Devin Lee was
born March 1 in Liberal, KS, to our

son and his wife, Chris and Deena Miller.

On this beautiful St. Patrick's Day in El Dorado, I can observe the evidence of spring on every hand. Japonica and Forsythia buds are opening, the elm and silver maples are showing green and the Bradford pear trees are blooming. Green clumps of rhubarb form a line through the garden. Winter is giving way to spring and the Easter season to which we look forward with anticipation.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Lester and Glendoris Huber

"The fruit of the Spirit is love . . ."
Galatians 5:22

Today all about us we see and observe signs and times of fruit -- fruit from trees, fruit from plants, fruit from animals and fruit from people's lives. The Bible tells of a fruit of the Holy Spirit or we might further define it as a result of. The result of trees, plants, animals or people are reproductions of the original. Likewise, the result or fruit of the Spirit duplicates itself. God is love and he that dwelleth in God dwelleth in love and the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us. The love of Christ constraineth us, that we which are alive should not live unto ourselves but unto Him who died for us and rose again. The result or fruit is a duplication of the original in ourselves. How essential and important this is in our day and time. Jesus said, "Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another, and this is my commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you." Is the result of your and my life manifested by love, is our live life-winning souls into eternity for Jesus Christ? Love is radiant and warms the cold-chilled hearts of our day. The final warning of the last days is -- "the love of many shall wax cold." When everything else fails -- love will find a way.

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

Love is not a sin partaker, And is free from bitterness

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

We were blessed to have in our midst the following ministers, Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We are grateful to God and them, their wives and family and all who have come. We always appreciate the Christian fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

Wherever you go I shall go
Wherever you live, so shall I live.
Your people shall be my people and
Your God will be my God too.

Well a man shall leave his mother
and a woman leave her home,
They shall travel on to where the
two shall be as one.
As it was in the beginning
is now until the end,
Woman draws her life from man
and gives it back again
There is love, there is love.

Well then what's to be the reason
for becoming man and wife?
Is it love that brings you here,
or love that brings you life?
For if loving is the answer, then
who's the giving for?
Do you believe in something
that you've never seen before?
There's love, there's love.

The marriage of your spirits here
has caused Him to remain,
For whenever two or more of you
are gathered in His name.
There is love, there is love.

The Wedding Song
Author Unknown

Bro. John Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Stephanie Frautschi (Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie, Phoenix, AZ) were joined in marriage March 4 in Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Matthew Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Deanna Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn, Princeville, IL) were joined as one the following Sunday, March 11, in Princeville, IL.

We rejoice with them and it is our heartfelt prayer that as they make

their homes here near Alto, they will feel the love and support of our little flock. We know as they begin their lives together it is not without some sadness at parting with families and friends. May the Lord's guidance and blessings be with each of them as they make this very special adjustment in their lives.

Ministering brethren who traveled to Alto this past month were Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). We are thankful for their service in bringing the Word to us and pray a special blessing for them and their families.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
and weep with them that weep."
Romans 12:15

Our prayers are with Bro. Kurt and Sis. Sue Heimer at the death of Sis. Sue's father, Bro. Don Wieland (Sis. LouAnn). May the Lord grant them comfort in their sorrow as only He can.

As we look forward to the warmer temperatures of springtime and the newness of life springing forth from the earth, may we feel a new awakening in our hearts to the many blessings the Lord has given us and strive daily to live a life that is worthy of Him.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Peggy Waibel

March has been a very good month for Bay City. God has richly blessed us and we are learning a little more each day about God's perfect grace. As I was sitting in our Bible study, conducted by our ministers, a dear sister gave me this definition for grace. I found it beautiful and I want to share it with you. Grace is:

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

We have been blessed with the decision that Heidi Broquard has made to make our church her church and our brothers and sisters, her brothers and sisters. We pray that God will fill her heart with joy and love and that she will be richly blessed with God's grace and perfect will.

The only dark time in the month

of March for Bay City was the death of Bro. George Waibel. His death was sudden and unexpected. We realize that he is in the arms of Jesus, but we still grieve with his wife, Sis. Marie, and their children, Eugene Waibel, Joy Hannegan, Jill Weiss, Mark Waibel and Ned Waibel. May God be with each one in the months to come, and may He give them strength from His Word.

"Fear thou not; For I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."
Isaiah 41:10

Visiting us this month was Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We thank God for his willingness to give of himself and pray that his sacrifice will be richly blessed.

In one of Bro. Bill's sermons, he shared this little poem with us, and I want to conclude with it as food for thought.

"Watch your thoughts for they become words.
Watch your words for they become actions.
Watch your actions for they become habits.
Watch your habits for they become your character.
Watch your character for it becomes your destiny."
Author Unknown

May God be with you through the new month and ever be close to your heart.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

Have you ever heard that "the longest journey starts with a single step"? (Unknown). If you view the Christian life as a hard one, you only need to take the first step of surrender, and you will find His grace sufficient for every step and every day thereafter. When we have days or moments when we're really weak, God shows us how strong He is; He always sees us through. He stands by His promise that "My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:30).

We want to thank Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for coming to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller welcomed Austin Robert March 14. Natasha is glad for a baby brother.

March 9 was the wedding day for Ken Belsley (Sis. Arlene) and Susan Roop. They will be residing in the Valrico, FL, area. Along with our congratulations, we wish them God's blessings in their lives and in their home.

Alto, MI, will host services at Woodhaven May 1 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Rittman, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, May 20.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

We are thankful for those who have visited us this month and for the ministers who have shared God's Word with us. On March 3 we held a singing for all at the church as Bro. Jim Knoblock (Elgin, IA) came to visit. Then on March 10 and 11 the singles from our congregation invited all the singles from Morris and Winthrop, MN, Lester, Elgin and West Bend, IA, for a pancake dinner Saturday evening and then a singing for all in the evening. We were all recipients of the blessing of Christian fellowship. Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) were here to minister the same weekend. We are all counting our blessings and thankful for the efforts made of so many.

Bro. Dick Metzger and Sis. Gail Schmidgall were united in marriage February 25 in Morris. We wish God's blessings on their home as they are establishing a place here in the cities.

We warmly "welcome" Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Lexington, KY) and family to our area. Bro. Harold has been working here for several months and the family plants to join him later. We pray that God will be near them when they are absent from one another.

It is time to say "goodbye" to Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg, Billy and Kerry, as they are moving this week to Spokane, WA. If you feel moved to write or visit them their new address is: E. 9811 9th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99206. We have been blessed and

loved by their family and will miss them greatly. We trust God is caring for them in every way as they adjust to this move.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

We give special thanks to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We appreciate their efforts and ask God to bless them for their services.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Bro. Dick Metzger and Sis. Gail Schmidgall upon their marriage February 25. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together. Parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall.

Jennifer Marie is the new daughter born March 1 to Dale and Betty Noordmans. She has two sisters and a brother to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley Nohl.

Nolan and Kathy Kloehn are the parents of a boy, Travis John, born March 8. He has a sister, Natosha. Grandparents are Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith Joos.

Kathy Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) is in the hospital at this writing. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Lloyd Durkee. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his wife, Dorothy; daughters, Jane, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf, Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf; and son, Daniel; and their families. May God comfort and strengthen you in your time of sorrow.

As Easter is approaching, may we be thankful to God for sending His Son to die upon the cross and shed His blood for our sins that we might live. Jesus gave His life for us, may we ever live our lives for Him!!

April is the month the Silver Lining collection for the Morris congregation. Please pay your correspondents. Thanks.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Ella Mae Schmidt
Georgia Messner**

We are thankful to have Sis. Florence Messner assemble with us again after a short stay in the hospital.

On March 20, Bro. George Messner was 90 years old. A large group relatives and friends gathered in the Gaylord Home activity room, to share birthday cake with him and wish him God's blessings.

As spring shows us signs of life anew we know that Easter is near and we are reminded of the hymn "He Lives." In The Melodies of Praise No. 86

"I serve a risen Savior,
He's in the world today
I know that He is living
Whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy
I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives
He lives within my heart.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Carole Kellenberger

We are "rejoicing with the angels" over two sinners who have come to know the Lord, Jesus Christ. On February 24 we gathered to hear the testimony of Lu Ann (Richardson) Gramm (Brad). Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and Robert Beyer (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) assisted Elder Bro. Gene Marti. Following LuAnn's testimony, the brothers shared with us the conclusions from the brotherhood conference. Also with us for the weekend were ministering Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). We are thankful for the many teachings brought forth from God's Word. It was so nice to have many from Brad's and Lu Ann's families assemble with us and we hope that they will return soon.

On March 17 we heard the testi-

mony of Michelle Braker (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen). She is a student at Kansas State University but we enjoy her presence when she is home on weekends. We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) here, along with Bro. Gene Marti. Also here were Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). As a small congregation, we constantly pray for growth, and we are moved to give God thanks for having two baptisms in one month's time. Our thanks, too, to Bro. Joe for sharing some highlights from his recent trip to India.

We were doubly blessed March 11 with visiting ministers. Bro. Charles Sinn and family (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari (Bloomington, IL). Thank you to all of you who visit us for special occasions or when in our area. You bring us much encouragement and we welcome each one.

We regret that Mamie (Baumgartner) Abshier had surgery. She has returned home but needs our fervent prayers. Ed Wreath was also hospitalized but is again assembling with us and back to his job of vacuuming the dining room.

We heard an interesting comparison. Our school tuition could be paid by someone, but no one would benefit unless we actually went to school. Likewise, our salvation has been purchased, but to no avail if we each one personally do not claim Christ's shed blood for our own sins. "Jesus now is calling you, calling you to come."

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Janel Kellenberger
Becky Marti**

We rejoice with Bubs and Marilyn Hohulin as they have been blessed with a son, William Scott, born February 18. Happy grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohulin and Hubert and Mildred Leonard. May they look to the Lord for wisdom to raise him.

Our prayers for healing have been with Maxine Schlupp and Isaac Marti (Kurt and Mary Jo) as they were hospitalized this past month.

We have enjoyed many visitors recently. We especially appreciate Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) for being willing to serve us in ministering God's Word to us. As we sing in our Zion's Harp, hymn #188, vs. 6, "Grant to Thy servants grace and might, And wisdom, working virtues bright, That in this time good seeds they sow, From which eternal fruits may grow."

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kathy Knapp

We are thankful for all the visitors we have had over the past month, especially our ministering brothers, Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). May God bless them for sharing the Word with us.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Stephanie Hunziker in the birth of their twin daughters, Kelly Chanel and Crystal Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Merna Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria Hunziker (Peoria, IL). We pray God will bestow a double blessing upon these two new souls and their parents.

Services in St. Louis are held every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. at the Ben Franklin Motel. All are welcome.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Lori Marquart
Louanne Gramm**

Congratulations go out to Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn Yackley as God has blessed them with a precious baby boy, Austin Wade. Siblings, Carson and Rita, were anxiously awaiting his arrival and are very pleased to have him home with them.

On March 2, the Sunday school held its first annual pancake and sausage supper. Kids -- you did a super job and it was very delicious! It was exciting to watch the children bustling about doing their assigned duties. And to finish it off we were privileged to hear the children's choir sing praises to our Lord. It's a true blessing to hear the younger ones sing so enthusiastically that you can tell they really love the Lord.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfen-

stein (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) were our guests March 10. We had the opportunity to hear Bro. Perry talk on the history of our church. We take our Apostolic faith so much for granted after we hear of what afflictions our forefathers endured to found such a religion. It will be joyful when we reach heaven and personally thank them for this precious church we still have today. Thank you, Bro. Perry, for sharing with us.

Robert Heimer, son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi (Heimer) Moser, has been hospitalized due to a back problem. We pray that Bob can have a quick recovery.

There was a lot of participation on March 12 and 13 as we "spring cleaned" our fellowship center. The following Wednesday evening we had admonition for communion. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm brought it to our attention that just as we keep our buildings clean, we should give as much or more attention to keeping our hearts clean and pure.

Bro. Kent Heimer touched on an interesting, and yet sad, statistic that Bro. Perry mentioned during his talk on the church history. Statistic: 40% of the children that are raised in our church stay with us, 60% leave. Hopefully, those 60% have God in their lives also, but why do they leave? Bro. Kent asked us as a congregation if we, as brothers and sisters-in-Christ, are showing our children and friends that God is #1 in our lives with the church coming in a very close second? Do we shown them that it is exciting to live a life pleasing to God? Do we go to church every opportunity we have? Do we live every day as though God were coming right now? If we did, don't you think we would see that 40% increase? I do. Let's put God first in all things -- it might surprise us what might happen!

**NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler**

God's Word was brought to us Sunday, February 25, by Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We gathered on Saturday evening for a covered dish meal and song service as we had several other families with us for the weekend. We thank Bro. Fred for

remembering us in his travels to New York state and being used in the service of God.

Bro. John Widrick has returned to his home after several weeks of hospitalization following a fall where he received a compressed vertebra. Sis. Hazel Schneider remains a hospital patient. Our prayers are for each of those who are confined to their homes and hospitals that God will provide for their daily needs.

Betty Richie has been in our midst again following surgery on her foot. At this writing, Sis. Lena Virkler is residing at the East Road Adult Home.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

"Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10. We have seen the end of Job, as Job 42 tells us the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: he had health again, the ten children, double possessions, and double years of life to enjoy it all. Job 1 states that Job was a perfect man, and Satan said with the hedge about him, he could not attack him. The hedge may have gotten broken because, "He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (I John 4:18) and Job said the thing he feared came upon him. So, Satan attacked three things: his health, children and possessions. Ezekiel 22:30 states God seeks for a man to make up the hedge, and so three men came, but they failed to make up the hedge for the three things Job lost. Job more and more speaks about God. Job 9:33 talks about a daysman, a Redeemer who would touch God and himself. Job 31 talks about God hearing him, and writing down His charge against him and he would make a confession. The name Job uses is Almighty, or in Hebrew El Shaddai, who is the God that is more than enough. Job's confession of El Shaddai, who is the God that is more than enough. Job's confession of El Shaddai brought him to the manifestation of it, and when Job prayed for his friends, El Shaddai turned his captivity and gave him twice as much. The name Job means a desert, but Job knew the "Living Water," and lived 140 more years

enjoying the double blessings and tender mercies of El Shaddai.

Bro. Mark and Debbie Palitto were blessed with a baby they named Mark Anthony. The little boy was welcomed also by sisters: Christina, Angela and Carla. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Martha Palitto.

Bro. Tibor and Sis. Esther Zsoldos were blessed with a baby boy they named David, and he has a brother, Jonathan. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

Bro. Irvin Walker had repair work done for a torn retina, and we are thankful there was help for it.

We were blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Rassi and Bro. Randy Gasser.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
John Grimm**

We were privileged to have Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) minister God's Word to us. May God bless Bro. Walter and his family.

The Columbus church welcomes Bro. Mike and Sis. Sandy Zimmerman and their three children, Andy, Heidi and Brandon. Bro. Mike and Sis. Sandy are from the Bloomington congregation. May God's love bless their new home.

On March 4, in Mansfield, Sis. Julie Sauder and Bro. John Grimm were united in marriage. Parents are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder (Mansfield) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm (Princeville, IL).

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter**

We rejoice that 5-year-old Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) is on her way to recovery following a farm tractor accident. May she continue to improve with the many prayers on her behalf.

Our Junction church has been closed for much of the month of March as we continue with our remodeling and construction project. We thank each brother, sister and friend who has helped us during this time. Our congregation looks forward to reassembling in our new facilities.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

OHIO, LATTY**Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn**

In the past month, we were thankful to have heard the testimony of Doug Nygaard (Annette). We witnessed his baptism March 25.

"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.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Dick Gerber and Edith Gerber Lieberenz. May God comfort them in their sorrow.

We express appreciation to Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for ministering the Word of God to us during the past month. May the Lord bless them now and much more in eternity.

We welcome the many visitors from the Junction congregation due to the construction on their church building.

Bro. Bruce Rosswurm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Witman) was recently engaged to Sis. Amy Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma). May God guide their future plans as He has their past.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."
Romans 12:15

On February 3, Bro. Stanley and Sis. Judy Sauder rejoiced in the birth of their daughter, Christina Rose. She is welcomed home by Katie and Joseph. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella Sauder. On February 5, Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty Dotterer rejoiced in the birth of their daughter, Lydia Marie. Her brothers are Grant, Gale, Matthew, Christopher and Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Irene Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Laverene and Sis. Christine Dotterer. On March 7, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin Beer rejoiced in the birth of their

daughter, Julie Ann. Stacey is happy to have a sister. Grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn Beer and Bro. Bernie and Sis. Bev Washington. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

On February 26, many gathered to rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara (Sabo) Zimmer to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. "Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us For each other's welfare strive."

On March 4, Sis. Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder) and Bro. John Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou, Princeville, IL) were united in marriage. "This God-made union then Shall never more be broken, Where faith and love have been The holy covenant's token." Many gathered to rejoice with them including ministering brothers, Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Don Manz (Junction) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman).

Sis. Francelia Beer passed away quietly; the last word from her lips was "Jesus." There is a sacred name, a blessed hallowed name, It is the wondrous name of Jesus; To those in deepest night it brings a golden light, That wonder-working name of Jesus." (Haldor Lillenas) Have you called on that wonder-working name lately? His line is never busy and he is always home to take your call. Our prayers go out to her family; especially to her sister, Sis. Hermine with whom she made her home. Also surviving are her brothers: Bro. Robert, Bro. Ben and Bro. Ed. The family wishes to thank everyone who supported them with prayers and for the many cards of love and support received during Francelia's illness and death.

Timmy Rufener, son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay, was in the hospital with pneumonia. We rejoice that he is again able to come to church.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

We are always so thankful to have ministering brothers visit us. We appreciate the efforts of Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Fred Domka (Mans-

field, OH). May God bless them for bringing us such inspiring messages.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph), Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Cheri), Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace) and Sis. Lillian Maibach (Bro. Andy). Our thoughts and prayers are with those who suffer. We trust God will grant them their every need and restore each to health and strength as He sees best.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara Steiner are first-time parents with the birth of their new little son, Nathan James. Happy grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner and Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler.

We wish Chris Gasser (Bro. Albert and Sis. Lucy) the best as he has recently graduated from Ohio State University College of Pharmacy.

Dale Steiner (Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty) and Beth Bickel have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings and direction as they make plans to be joined in marriage.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Joan Hartzler (Bro. John) and her family in the death of her brother-in-law, Samuel Sagedencky.

Our hearts go out in love and sympathy to the family of Ralph Rupp, who passed from this life February 25. He is survived by his wife, Arlene; sons, Bro. Jim, Ron, John, Earl, Tom, Bill, Jeff; and daughter, Sue. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren; two brothers, Kenneth and Earl; and three sisters, Elizabeth Christian, Gladys Cahoon and Dorothy Pifer.

We remember Sis. Adena Rock in sympathy in the passing away of her brother, Wilford Blatter.

We also sympathize with the family of Bro. Lester Riegenbach. Bro. Lester left this world of cares to go on to his heavenly home March 16. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Lorena; and five children, Laura, Ivan, Darwyn, Willis and Glen. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Sis. Erma Marty and Sis. Pearl Gehring (Sardis, OH).

May our heavenly Father bring comfort to those whose hearts are grieving.

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Velma Hartzler wish to thank all who remembered them in any way as Bro. Reuben celebrated his 90th birthday. The many expressions of love were

deeply appreciated. They are especially thankful to our almighty Father for blessing and providing for them so faithfully over the many years.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

Once again the season is here where we are reminded of the cruel death of our precious Savior, a death which is able to take away the burden of the sins that laid upon each of us. But more than His death we are reminded of His glorious resurrection; that He did not remain in the grave, but was victorious over death, arose from the tomb, and later ascended up to the Father, where He ever intercedes for us. How thankful we should be that we need not remain in our sins, but can apply His shed blood to our hearts and arise in the Spirit to a new walk of life, ever looking forward to the day that we, too, can ascend up to be with our heavenly Father and His beloved Son who have done so much for us. As we see new life budding and springing forth around us, may it cause us to serve our God with new zeal and daily renew our covenant with Him.

Sis. Almeda Brake (John) was hospitalized for surgery. We are ever grateful for God's healing power and His divine nearness in time of affliction. May He continue to grant her much grace and patience in her time of recovery.

We were privileged to hear the memorandum of the brotherhood conference Saturday evening, March 3. We are thankful for our Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) who stand as watchmen on the walls of Zion warning us of danger about.

We rejoice with our convert, Andrew Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) who has turned his life over to God and professes peace with God and man. He is now looking forward to baptisms and being a brother-in-the-Lord. If the Lord permits, we look forward to hearing his testimony and witness his baptism May 12 and 13.

We wish to thank the many brethren and friends for their gifts of love, prayers and much help given during the time of my surgery.

Sis. Almeda and John Brake

Have A Blessed Easter!

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller**

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

Psalms 127:3

Ron and Tammy Marty welcomed Christina Marie into their hearts and home February 24. Big sister, Rhonda, and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou, also welcome her.

We rejoice to have another convert in our church. We wish Melody Beery (Dean) much grace to seek out the Lord fervently.

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for being with us as a minister of God's Word. May God bless him for his labors.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

It really looks as if spring has arrived. The flowering trees are blooming, also many flowers are beginning to bloom.

Sis. Margaret Banwart had the misfortune of falling in her home, and broke her left arm. We wish her the Lord's richest blessings and a fast recovery.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Anne Rumbold have safely returned from Sun City, AZ (Phoenix, AZ) and we are certainly happy to have them with us again.

So much commercialism is forwarded with the coming of Easter, but perhaps we could echo the Apostle Paul when he said, "I am crucified with Christ." (Galatians 2:20) and again he wrote, ". . . I die daily" (I Corinthians 15:31), so if we remember we are His and look for His return we will "walk in Him" and always look up, and celebrate Easter every day.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;"

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Kathy, Clough's father, Bro. Elmer Gerber (Bluffton, IN). It is our prayer that God will comfort his dear wife, Sis. Henrietta, and family.

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

Sunday, March 4, Sis. Loretta Kauffman (Normal, IL) and Amos Funk (Zapata) were united in marriage in the Zapata church. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) performed the ceremony. We wish Amos and Loretta the Lord's richest blessings. We appreciate Bro. Andy and his wife, Sis. Maxine's visit here in Zapata.

March 2 our ministering Bro. Eugene Bertschi passed away at the Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, TX. He spent about six months every winter with us in Zapata. We always enjoyed his sincere message. His funeral was at the Roanoke, IL, church. Our sincere sympathy to Sis. Dorothy and family.

On March 5, Bro. Elmer Gerber died at his time here in Zapata. His funeral was at the Bluffton North, IN, church. He will be missed by his many friends. His wife, Sis. Henrietta, and family have our sympathy.

Sermon . . .

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many other people were there waiting? The Word doesn't give a record that Christ healed them. Why did Christ choose this individual? The Word really doesn't answer that question in our life.

Yet, when we read further, we find that this man believed and confessed that Jesus was the Christ . . . that his Man who healed him was Jesus! He believed not because Jesus told him that, but because Jesus referred to the fact that his life was not only healed physically, but also spiritually. Christ directed him to go and sin no more. Upon that, this man believed that this was Jesus, the Christ.

I have thought already, as I have

looked at this account and read it, I felt myself looking at my own life and wondering at times, how do we in our life relate to one another, and interact with one another in our everyday associations?

As we look at life, we can perhaps look at this individual and say that here was a man who had a great need in his life in a physical sense.

He was a man whom the Lord healed because the man did what Christ asked him to do. He believed when Christ told him to pick up his bed (whatever that consisted of) and walk. We don't find in the Word that the man questioned what Christ told him to do. But he did it!

As we look at that, I have wondered in my own mind already what kind of discussion these people had among themselves as they were sitting there waiting for that angel to come. I have wondered already surely there must have been interaction among these people.

It is just human that when we get together and begin to talk with one another, there are times in the course of our conversation that things may come up of experiences that we have gone through, maybe hardships or difficulties, that we never knew the other person had faced. So no doubt these people were no different.

They probably talked about their difficulties. Some of them maybe had families back home to care for and wasn't able to care for them. The Word doesn't tell us that, but we can think about some of these things.

I have often wondered, what would have happened (and this is something that takes a power or a Spirit beyond what we humans possess) if these people would have discussed among themselves who it was that had the greatest need? Then when that angel would come and trouble the water, they would all help that individual with the greatest need to step into the water because that individual has the greatest need to be healed in his life.

So often, we, as humans, don't look at it that way and the Word doesn't really give us any reason to believe that this man was any different. But he had a yearning that he could step into the pool himself and be healed of his problem. Isn't that the way we look at life so often? We

would like to be healed of our problem, our affliction, our distress, or whatever it is that we would like to have go away.

How often in life do we really take the time and ask the Lord, "Lord, help me in the situation I find myself in so I can truly glorify God." We need help in our condition, whatever it may be, so that we can manifest and reveal the grace of God in His work in our lives. I don't mean that to be judging this man. I don't feel that I can place any judgment at all upon his life.

We find that Christ apparently saw in his heart a flicker of hope. Christ could talk to this man and tell him what to do that he might receive healing in his life.

As we think of this, I have to think of the account of David and Saul and find that Saul was pursuing David. He wanted to take David's life because the blessing of God was taken from Saul. Saul apparently felt in his heart, or maybe he knew in his heart, that God had chosen David to succeed him on the throne. But I believe Saul, at that point, was a very jealous man and he could not accept that fact that David would be his successor.

When we look at what happened in their lives, we have the account of the sin that Saul committed. We have an account in the Word of God of the sin that David had committed. In our own minds, we might say, who had the greater sin? Saul had offered an offering before God instead of waiting upon the Prophet Samuel. Saul really didn't do as he was commanded when he was to go out and destroy the enemy.

The Word tells us that first of all Saul was told to destroy everything. When Samuel met Saul, he asked him if he had done as he was commanded and Saul said, "Yes, I have done as commanded." Samuel said, "What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" I Samuel 15:14. Saul told him that he brought them to offer as an offering before God. God wasn't satisfied with that.

We might think that was, to some extent, a noble thought on the part of Saul, if Saul really meant that in his heart. Yet, he didn't do what he was asked to do. So that type of offering did not satisfy the heart of God.

Samuel told Saul, "When thou wast little in thine own eyes," then God

could use him. (See I Samuel 15:17). It seems that Samuel was implying that there was a time in Saul's life when Saul did not think highly of himself. Even though the Word tells us that Saul was a man of great stature and stood head and shoulders above the other men, yet he was a humble man at that time when God chose him to be king of Israel. (See I Samuel 9:2).

But Saul, because of the things that seemed to go his way in life as the king of Israel, apparently became exalted in himself and God could not use him in that condition.

We read the account of when David sinned and the prophet came unto David and told him of the account of a man who had a visitor come unto him. The man had a neighbor who had one little lamb. He went and took that little lamb and slew that lamb to provide for his visitor when he had a flock of his own. (See II Samuel 12:2-4).

The Word tells us that David's anger was kindled and he said that man shall surely die that has done this thing to his neighbor's lamb. The prophet told David, "You are the man." (See II Samuel 12:7). David at that point humbled himself. He knew what he had done and his eyes were opened to the fact that he had sinned and he pleaded before God for the mercy of God. God did have a merciful attitude toward David, and yet, there were some consequences that David had to face because of his sin.

In this account, we find the attitude of David was the attitude that touched and impressed the heart of God. It is something that we need to think about in our own lives.

David was already promised that he would succeed Saul and would have kingship over Israel. Saul had taken upon himself to pursue David and try to destroy this man's life.

As we look at our life today, do we really realize that there is nothing that we can actually do that is going to hinder God's plan? There are things we might do for our own lives that will hinder God's plan in our own life. We really aren't going to change the plan of God.

We can plead for mercy. Maybe that is the way we ought to look at it from that standpoint... that we can

plead for the mercy of God upon His creation. We can plead with God that He may extend the day of grace that souls will yet be garnered in. When we do that, we need to again consider our own heart and own life. Why would we ask such a petition of God? Would we ask God to extend the day of grace because we want to live longer here upon the earth ourselves because we love this earth and we love the things of this earth? Or would we ask that of God because we really are concerned for our neighbors, fellow men, and for our loved ones who are yet unconverted?

We find the example that David had an opportunity to take the life of Saul. Even those who were with him, his associates, encouraged him when they went to this cave where he would sleep. David approached him and could have taken the life of Saul because he was right there at his side. His associates encouraged him, "God has delivered this man into your hands," but David's thought was he would not raise his hand against the Lord's anointed.

It wasn't in David's hands or his choice to do anything to harm Saul. Saul, at that point, was touched. When he awoken the next day, David called after him and David showed him the piece of garment that he had taken . . . the piece of cloth that he had taken from Saul's garment. (See I Samuel 24:11).

Saul realized that David had spared his life. Saul realized that either David or some of his men had to be close enough to cut that cloth from his garments and Saul didn't know it had happened. He could just as well have been a dead man. The Word tells us that Saul raised his voice and wept and told David, "You are more righteous than I am." (See I Samuel 24:16, 17). I believe Saul realized more than ever before, that this kingdom was not going to be his. But he made a request of David and asked him if he would promise in so many words to be kind and considerate to his descendants and to his family. (See I Samuel 24:21.)

I don't believe this was an easy thing for David, to feel that the man Saul was pursuing his life and to know that Saul really meant it. Yet, I think, David knew in his heart that God had promised to him the king-

dom. But I believe David struggled as we humans struggle today because he knew that his life could have been in the hands of Saul if it weren't for the goodness of the hand of God that was preventing Saul from taking his life.

David was able to really trust his life to God, at that point in his life. David's life didn't always manifest that trust, that conviction, or that willingness to seek God's direction. Yet, David, when it was pointed out to him his failing, he could turn, change and he could humble himself. (See II Samuel 12:13).

Is that our frame of mind today? As we look at life today and think of the needs, cares and concerns that are upon the face of the earth, are we overwhelmed by our own concerns and our own needs? Or do we find ourselves thinking of others? Do we find ourselves realizing that we have a place in the plan of God? And realizing that that place is to encourage and to help others in their lives?

I believe that is what Christ manifested as He walked here upon the earth. We heard this morning of living unselfishly.

There is no better example than to look at the life of Jesus Christ and how unselfishly He lived. How willingly He gave Himself and entered to go to Calvary to take our sin upon Himself!

The Word tells us that He became sin for us, even though He knew no sin. (See II Corinthians 5:21). I believe Christ died with the conviction of sin upon His heart and upon His life. I believe that is why Christ cried out, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" Mark 15:34. Because He really felt forsaken of God. that is the price of sin.

Those who die in unbelief and those who die without availing themselves of the shed blood of Jesus Christ at that point in their life are going to be forsaken of God. Even though we serve a God of love, and God has given His all that we might live, if we don't avail ourselves to the plan of God, we will feel forsaken of God in eternity.

That is what Christ felt, that we today might have the opportunity to live. Can we believe that? Do we have the willingness in our hearts today to do even as this man did when Christ

asked him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."? John 5:8. Do we do what God asked us to do? Do we really seek God's direction for our lives?

There are times in our lives that we need to really stop and look at ourselves because we may think at times that we know that God is asking us to do. Is it really the Spirit of God? Or is it ourselves?

In the case of this man, we find that when Christ asked him to rise and take up his bed and walk, he did what Christ asked him to do, and the blessings of Christ followed his life!

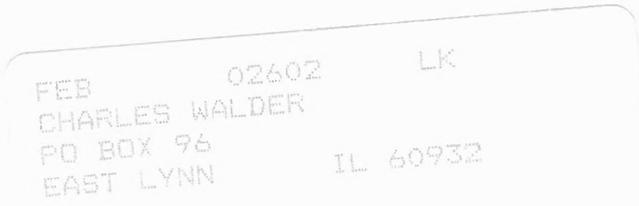
If we feel in our lives that we want to do God's will, there may be times that we really feel prompted to do something. But we need to look at our life. Do we really feel the blessings of God following? Do we really feel God's blessings in what we are doing? If we do not, we had better stop and take a look at what we are doing and again plead for Christ's direction.

Christ went on to tell the people here (after this man had told the people around him that this was the Christ), and the people became very angry because this was the Sabbath Day when Christ performed this miracle in this man's life.

It seems so often when the people's attention was focused against Christ and, you might say, in a very upset manner, that Christ took the opportunity to very sincerely tell them of His mission to come and bring salvation . . . to come and do the Father's will . . . to come and reveal the power of God through His life.

It is very evident that what Christ had done was something that no one else had ever done, when this man received healing and strength in his life. This man received healing just as those who had received healing who had stepped into that troubled water. Yet, the people were very upset with Him. Sometimes I think this is again a portrayal of human nature.

Sometimes it is really easy for us in life to become disturbed when we see someone else face good fortune and we don't seem to have it come that way for ourselves. The more we grow in the Spirit, the more we find ourselves rejoicing in God's goodness in other's lives. When we can truly do that, it seems it makes our heart a vessel where God can also work His goodness in our lives.



SERMON BY BRO. SAMUEL SCHLATTER OF JUNCTION, OH

“Do As Christ Says And Live” I Samuel 24 and John 5:1-30

As we look at our lives, and look at the congregation that is before us, we have a cross-section, we might say, of an age of people. There are young, middle-aged and older people among us. I believe, as we look at life, we face different challenges, different responsibilities and different concerns throughout our life.

It is so very easy in our life for our attention to be focused upon the situation that we are facing in the present time and the present condition that we find ourselves in. That is not unusual. It is not something that is out of place, except there are times in life that we need to realize that in order for us to really glorify God, what isn't so important in life is so much how we deal with the situation we are in, or how we think we ought to deal with it, but how God would have us to deal with that situation.

I have to think of this in the Scriptures that we have read, both the Old and New Testaments this afternoon. We have an account here of a man who was impotent, meaning that he had some infirmity or some incapability in his life. He was not able to help himself in this case. He was a man who apparently did very little work or very little for himself because of his physical condition.

It seemed that his attention was so focused upon his own problem -- his own concern -- that his greatest desire, at least according to the Word that we have read together, seemed to be that he could find healing or strength or help for his life.

But there was something about this man's life that prompted him to live with a hope in his heart. That is,

because the Word tells us, that where he was by the pool called Bethesda, there was an angel who came at certain seasons to trouble that water and whoever stepped into that water after it was troubled, was healed of whatever problem it was that they had. (See John 5:4).

This man was sitting there at that place for a period of time. The Word tells us that perhaps he was in that condition for thirty-eight years. He had that infirmity, and it must have grown, we might say, more severe in his life because as the Lord came to him and addressed him, He asked him whether he had a desire to be made whole. (See John 5:5, 6).

The man told the Lord that when the pool was troubled, he had nobody . . . “Nobody to help me into that water.” There was always someone who reached it ahead of him and stepped into the water. (See John 5:7). Yet, the man lived in hope. The man stayed there.

As we look at our life today, there is something about life itself that we need to remember . . . that we need to trust Him if we are going to find courage each day of our life. That is, that I believe in each of our hearts, there is a capacity to live in hope, to live in faith, and to live in trust. There is also the capacity to despair, to feel rejection, or to feel discouragement.

As we look into our life, we need to realize what is in our life that predominates our thinking. What is in our life that will cause us to feel vitality or life and that will prompt us to go on in life believing that there is a purpose in living, and that there is

a reason that God has placed us here?

No doubt we have to dwell upon those things that will give us hope . . . that will cause us to trust . . . that will give us faith that there is a purpose for being here if we are going to feel renewed strength, courage and vitality in our lives.

This man who lived in this condition for thirty-eight years had not given up hope. Yet, I believe, there were times when he was probably very, very discouraged because as the Lord talked to him, he told the Lord, “There is nobody to help me in that pool when the water is troubled.”

He had seen the results, no doubt, of what happened when somebody would step into the pool, and would be made whole and be healed of whatever it was that bothered or troubled them or whatever infirmity it was that afflicted them in their lives.

I don't think this man knew that this was Jesus Christ who was talking to him. As we look at our life today, do we always recognize the voice of God, the presence of God, and the presence of the Spirit in our lives? I really question that we do. I don't mean that in a negative sense because a lot of times in the experiences that we face in life, it is difficult to see how something good could come out of the experiences that we may at times go through.

Yet, God definitely manifested Himself through the life of this man and revealed His power. We can look at that and wonder, how many other people were there at that pool? How

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