



"Honor thy father and **MOTHER**: which is the first commandment with promise;"

Ephesians 6:2

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy **MOTHER**:"

Proverbs 6:20

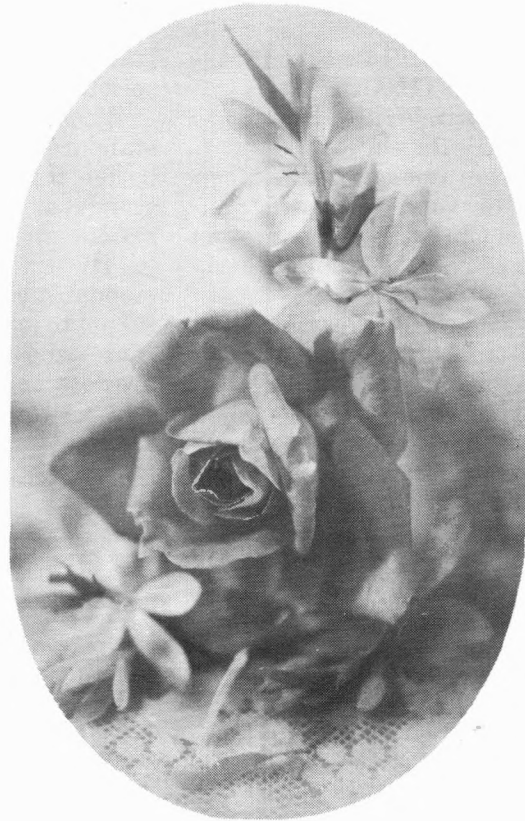
VOLUME 40

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NUMBER 5

Mother is a Word Called Love

*Mother is a word called Love,
And all the world is mindful of
The love that's given and shown to others
Is different from the love of mothers,
For mothers play the leading roles
In giving birth to little souls,
For though "small souls" are heaven-sent,
And we realize they're only lent,
It takes a mother's loving hands
And her gentle heart that understands
To mold and shape this little life
And shelter it through storm and strife.
No other love than mother love
Could do the things required of
The one to whom God gives the keeping
Of His wee lambs, awake or sleeping --
So mothers are a "special race"
God sent to earth to take His place,
And Mother is a lovely name
That even saints are proud to claim.*



Helen Steiner Rice

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

WORKS PROJECTS CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

The devastating earthquake in California October 17, 1989 damaged many homes and left many homeless. Funding for three work teams has been approved by the Work Projects Committee.

Watsonville, CA, has been targeted as the location needing the most help. There is a need for construction skills particularly, but unskilled labor can also be used.

The first work team has been scheduled for the week of April 30 through May 5. Two more work teams will be scheduled in the near future.

If you are interested in helping to put people back into their homes or repairing damaged homes, please make contact with Bro. Arnold Gerst (217-223-8424) or Elder Bro. John Klotzle (818-794-2262).

GRACE VERSUS LEGALISM, CONTINUED

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

In all of our rejoicing and exuberance over the wonderful grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us not forget obedience to New Testament teachings.

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

John wrote, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have

fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

While salvation is by grace through faith, we should remember to try to do the will of the Father and to walk in the light. Real faith is supposed to make us so humble and submissive that we try to please the Father. It should come from the Holy Spirit within us. Then it is not legalism, or the burden of keeping the law.

God desires to have a holy church and He cannot have a holy church unless you are holy.

Standards in the church are usually set up to encourage the believers to do what is understood to be the will of the Father. Ideally, they would serve as guidelines for holiness. However, the devil might use those very standards to cause ill feeling among believers.

If those who are strict about keeping standards begin to think they are better than those who don't keep standards so strictly, we have very serious problems.

Those who put less emphasis on standards begin to think they are better than those who don't keep standards so strictly, we have very serious problems.

Those who put less emphasis on standards or traditions, must be careful not to jump to the conclusion that those who favor stricter standards are less spiritual. We must reason with each other with much love and respect.

REFLECTIONS ON THE BLESSINGS OF A TRIP TO HAITI Sis. Bonnie Klopfenstein Indianapolis, IN

It was 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 27, 1989, and 14 people had gathered to board a plane bound for Port-au-Prince, Haiti. None of us had any idea how our lives would be changed by the next seven days nor how the Haitian people would touch our hearts, but we would soon find out.

It was a work project that had been thought and prayed about for over a year. Bro. Loren Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) had organized the work project, working through the Works Project. But this group was different (Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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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

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.



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).

PEACE

The condition of peace is one of inner calmness, quietness and contentment. It involves reconciliation, overcoming of sin and establishing of harmonious relationships. It is universally sought by well-intentioned human beings, but for many true peace is seldom, if ever, obtained.

The "peace that passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7) is available only through genuine faith in Christ, which opens the way for the gift of salvation: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). On the other hand, sin destroys peace. God has declared that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and no one can be at peace facing such a fate. However, the penalty was paid for us by the pure and righteous Lamb of God, who became sin for us, that we might live (Isa. 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:21).

Those who turn to the Lord Jesus in true faith and repentance will experience the miracle of conversion. A monumental change of attitude and outlook on life occurs when the reality of forgiveness and reconciliation is grasped. Like never before, the true meaning of these words of Christ are comprehended: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). The Saviour did not promise that we would be spared from the turmoil of the world around us. However, we have a very close union with the Lord in which there is an abiding peace. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Maintaining that relationship is the key. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3).

As new believers we learn very quickly that it is Satan's goal to

disturb our peace and to ultimately destroy it. It is evident in the Scriptures that peace with God and with our fellow men must be continually nurtured. If our relationship with God is neglected, our peace will begin to wane. We are also taught to "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14), and to "Depart from evil, and do good; (to) seek peace and pursue it" (Psa. 34:14). This implies a diligent effort on our part to insure that peace is maintained. Simply being more aware of the reality of God's promise of peace to His children has a very beneficial effect: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15).

Our peace is sometimes disturbed because we fail to heed the most basic instructions of the Word of God. First of all we are taught to pray . . . "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:2). It is human nature to criticize authorities rather than to pray for them. Our attitude toward those whom God has placed over us can make a great difference in our inner peace. This involves the church, the home and the nation. If we have lost our godly esteem because of seeking our own self-will, there will be turmoil in our hearts.

A vital part of the armor of God is to have our . . . "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Eph. 6:15). Without the guiding light of the Word continually illuminating our paths (Psa. 119:105), we will find ourselves wandering into dangerous enemy territory. When we have our hearts filled with the truths of the Word, we are shielded from temptation and from being easily hurt or disturbed. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). "Great peace have they that love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psa.

119:165).

Successful maintenance of peace has always required humble obedience to God: "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea" (Isa. 48:18). When a believer disobeys, a God-given turmoil must be experienced before true peace can be re-established. The conviction of the Holy Spirit is painful. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12:11). We must never allow the weights and sins which can easily beset us to take root (Heb. 12:1). Chastisement must be allowed to take its course; whatever is wrong in our lives must be acknowledged, regretted, forgiven and overcome, if our peace is to be restored.

There are outstanding blessings promised by God for those who not only possess true inner peace themselves, but are also able to foster greater peace among others. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (Jam. 3:18). "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19). Finally, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Pro. 16:7).

The greatest blessing on earth is to be able to leave this life in peace. Because King Josiah did that which was "right in the sight of God" he was promised that he would be gathered into (his) grave in peace" (2 Kings 22, 20). What a joy to feel peace overflowing our hearts "like a river" and to know at the end of life's day: "It is well, it is well with my soul." (Hymns of Zion, #55)

from other groups in the past. It was a group of five adults and nine teenagers. Our work project consisted of painting a church in a village about three hours drive in the mountains from Les Cayes. Our real purpose however, was to learn more about compassion, service, contentment and appreciation. To accomplish this purpose, each night we would have a Bible study lesson prepared by Bro. Ron dealing with one of these four

subjects. Each day, we would have a chance to experience each subject first hand. We quickly developed an appreciation and contentment for what we have here in America when we saw the poverty and living conditions of the Haitian people. Painting the church and living side by side with the pastor, his family and his congregation gave us a sense of compassion and a means to develop service. We quickly became a part of each other's

lives despite the language barrier feeling the love of our heavenly Father surround us all.

Taking a group of nine teenagers anywhere for a week usually has its own challenges, let alone taking nine teenagers to a village in the remote parts of Haiti. But this group of teenagers, ranging from the ages of 10 to 18, was exceptional. They worked hard, followed directions well, and became fast friends in the process.

Upon our arrival in Port-au-Prince around 6:00 in the evening on Wednesday, we were met at the airport by Bob Steward, our contact point in Haiti. Driving back to the Guesthouse, we were caught in a traffic jam for two hours due to the president of Haiti returning from a trip. We were all wondering what we were in for at that point. After a restful night and breakfast at the Guesthouse, we were on our way to Les Cayes where Bob and his wife, Vera, live. It was a three-hour drive to Les Cayes and we arrived in time for Vera to feed us lunch. After lunch we loaded up the van again to head for the hills where we would be painting the church. The distance to the village from Les Cayes was only about 30 miles but because of the roads and the mountainous climb, the drive took 3 hours. Along the way, however, we were stopped by a river that had flooded the road and was too dangerous to cross. So we waited for the water to subside. After two hours of waiting, we decided to try and cross. Bob said a prayer, we held our breath and crossed the river without a problem. It was one of many times the Lord's protection was evident in our week. We were scheduled to begin painting that afternoon, but because of the flooded road, it was too dark by the time we arrived at the church. After all introductions were completed, and the accommodations were surveyed, dinner was served. Most of our meals were excellent by Haitian standards and consisted of goat, rice, bananas (both fried and plain), papayas, bread and peanut butter. There were a few dishes, however, that we all agreed we could live without -- just ask any one of us about pumpkin soup. Sleeping arrangements consisted of one room about the size of most master bedrooms for all 12 boys and one room about the size of a utility room for the

--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
April 1990 --	3346	19,126

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.

girls. There was no running water for showers, washing your face, or brushing your teeth. Some of us had taken our own bottled water for such luxuries. Restrooms consisted of two out-houses. Showers, toilets and running water became our most missed items in the States.

We finished painting the church Saturday, so it was prepared for services on Sunday. Sunday services included each of us introducing ourselves and singing some songs we had prepared. After lunch on Sunday, we drove back to Les Cayes and stayed at the missionary compound. After three days of not showering even a lukewarm shower sounded good. On Monday, we spent the day at the beach and relaxed. It was such a peaceful day and the countryside was so beautiful that it was hard to remember we were in Haiti, "the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, plagued with over-population, soil erosion, illiteracy and disease,"

On Tuesday, we drove back to Port-au-Prince, and spent the afternoon in the city at the Iron Market buying souvenirs which was an education in itself.

As we boarded the plane Wednesday morning, January 3, 1990, our lives had definitely been touched by the Haitian people, their country, their lives and the love they shared as well as our own experiences we shared together as a group. It was a week in all our lives none of us will ever forget.

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1990
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 18, 1990**

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

We were blessed this past month to have two visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN). We are grateful to them for bringing us the Word of God.

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Matthew Wilson Moore, born March 27. Matthew is the third grandchild of Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris Moore (Athens, AL) and the 33rd grandchild of Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL).

We've enjoyed many visitors this past month, from Bern and Sabetha, KS, Gridley, Goodfield, Eureka, Princeville and Peoria, IL, Mansfield, OH, Bay City, MI and Nashville, TN.

Sis. Joan Meister (Peoria, IL) has felt God's direction and leading in becoming the new director of Athens Preschool. She will be arriving in August. We're so thankful to have Sis. Joan return to our Athens congregation, as she previously graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in May of 1989.

Sis. Lisa Huette (Goodfield, IL) has accepted a position as an Occupational Therapy Assistant at North Alabama Rehab. Hospital in Huntsville, AL. She will graduate from I.C.C., Peoria, IL, in May 1990 and begin her new position in June 1990. We welcome Sis. Lisa to our Athens family and pray she will feel the love we feel for her. Lisa spent three months in Athens during the summer of 1989, and we're thankful the Lord has led her to return.

As we plant the seeds in our garden this spring, let's remember to sow those Godly seeds of love and kindness in the hearts of men!

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
Phone: 309/467-3611

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"He arose, He arose, Hallelujah! Christ Arose" was never sung more beautifully than on April 8, 1990. It was our Sunday school classes and teachers in full chorus, presenting a beautiful Easter program.

Continuing in Holy Week were Good Friday services. Christ crucified, text Matthew 27.

Just like the beautiful message, "He Is Risen" (Matthew 28) dawned another sunshiny day of hope and happiness in Christ -- Easter 1990.

Words are hard to come by when you have just partaken of the Lord's Supper. Personally, one is in awe with the reverence and the extra special closeness you feel with our dear Saviour.

That special feeling comes over you -- as precious as the time you stepped out of the baptismal waters. The sincere feeling of love for each other is very heartfelt -- something everyone should retain -- but we don't -- Think tho, dear ones, what if our Lord let us "down a little" each day.

The beautiful communion service text was from Matthew 26:26. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich were thankful to serve the Lord in serving us the Lord's Supper.

We are thankful to visiting ministers Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss are happy parents of Lauren Nicole, born March 21. Richelle and Kaitlyn are giving hugs and kisses to their new sister.

We pray God's care for a lengthy list of shut-ins: among them are Sis. Margaret Bradford (confined for several years in a nursing home). Sis. Martha DeMille is also in a nursing home. Sis. Lena Vega is ill at home and was unable to attend her brother's funeral.

The special privilege of becoming a child of the Lord, our Saviour, belongs to Scott Baum and Ken Martin. Building their repentance on a firm foundation shows the happiness and contentment in their faces and manner of life. How wonderful these young men choose to follow the Lord, not the world.

Some real great reading for the summer ahead can be found in 66 Books. You don't need to go to the library -- open the Bible -- read!

Gambel's quails, with their tear-drop topknot, and Bendire's thrashers with their distinct markings have brought much pleasure in recent days.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Open House was held March 25 for our church addition. We are enjoying our new, functional space and are very thankful.

Dedications services were held April 8. Bro. Richard Schupbach, our elder, was present and held the service. Our thanks to Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb for their efforts. We all enjoyed a day of blessing as our new addition was dedicated to the service of the Lord.

Bro. Ron Macklin has moved back to Indiana to be near his family. We already miss Bro. Ron and we wish him God's richest blessings.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix). Many thanks to these brothers for their love and support.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

Our friend, David Klotzle, has found peace with God. We wish him God's grace and blessings, and look forward to his baptism in the near future.

Once again we are thankful for a steady stream of visitors here in Altadena.

I believe April 22 was known as "Earth Day." While we do not want to become too attached to our life here, we should remember to thank God for all of the things He has given us on this planet for our use and enjoyment, and not abuse them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Nella Varga

Breana Marie Wagenbach was born April 2 to happy parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian. She is now "little sister" to Brent and Brian who no doubtedly will bully, boss, protect and love her too!

Life. What a breathtaking experience.

We really enjoyed a blessed morning Easter Sunday as we shared a sunrise breakfast at Bro. Alex and Sis. Sherise Varga's house. The view from their patio overlooking the mountains and the morning mist was so overwhelming. What a glorious morning it must have been that first Easter when Christ arose.

Sharing the Word this month was Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle.

Communion was shared with the brethren as we remembered the King's death. But mostly let us remember His life and the victory He has over the grave!

"So long, we love you, come again" was our parting cries and wishes to Sis. Janette Feucht and Sis. Paulette Feucht, as their term (3 months) ended as traveling nurses. We have thoroughly enjoyed having them in our midst and hope the Lord can bring them back so we can call them our own once again. God bless you both!

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Kathie Carpenter (Bro. Don and Sis. Becky) and Ryan Foley (Oklahoma). They are engaged to be married July 20. May God be with them as they make plans for a life together.

We appreciate the visit of Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) Easter weekend. We ask God to bless him for his service.

Our Sunday school children presented the story of the crucifixion and resurrection at noon Easter Sunday. I'm sure the little ones don't realize the depth of the words they spoke but the seriousness and joy of the season could be seen in their eyes as they said their pieces.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

On March 24 - 25, we experienced a blessed weekend "near to the heart of God" when we were privileged to have five elder brethren with us; namely, Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Art Bahler (Fairbury,

IL) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN). They were instruments in God's hands as we felt His spirit in their undertaking of hearing testimonies of the faith of five dear souls, their baptisms and holy communion. Throughout these two days, I'm sure we all felt the presence and great love of God which confirmed our own conversion. Reluctantly, however, we knew these precious hours would soon pass and the beginning of the week would find us again working in His vineyard, according to His will.

Baptized March 25 were Bros. Brian Luginbuhl (Bro. Mannie and Sis. Florine), Steve Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna), Ed Garrow (Bro. Bernie and Marie) and Sisters Kim Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary) and Cherinne Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma). We wish them God's grace in separating themselves from their former activities -- even if need be "to be a peculiar people."

We appreciated and thank ministering Bros. Floyd Graves and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) for being with us.

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:43

It was with sorrow for the family, but with great joy for Bro. John Erismann, as we attended visitation March 27. As a youngster, Bro. John was brought to church and heard the Word, but in later years seemingly forgot the teachings. Just recently, however, it was revealed that Bro. John, 55, had a terminal illness and death was imminent. He turned to his God and the Lord heard his plea and all our prayers, and Bro. John found peace and was baptized in the hospital just shortly before he died March 25. He leaves his wife, Barbara; one daughter; two sons; his mother, Sis. Elizabeth; a brother, Bro. Erwin (Bay City, MI); and two sisters, Margaret Capello and Lillian Erismann.

"Nicholas Salvatore" is the name give by Tammy and Salvatore Petrolito to their firstborn April 11. Best wishes to them and grandparents, Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt.

Hospitalized during the month were Bros. Mannie Zahner, Lenny

Luginbuhl, Mark Hoffman, Sis. Florine Luginbuhl and Frankie Moser, 7, son of Chris and Sis. Sue. May the Lord grant them and, others who may be under a doctor's care, moderate health soon again.

Our hearts rejoice to hear that Melanie Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Heidi Moser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Joni) through hearing and reading God's Word are in repentance. Melanie, 16, is a junior in high school and Heidi, 19, will soon graduate from Bay Path College. We wish them God's blessings in heeding His call to "Enter ye in at the strait gate: . . . because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON**

Catherine Klopfenstein

Our ministers in the month of April were Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY). Each was accompanied by wife and some family members. We sincerely appreciate their visits.

Other visitors in April were from Rockville, CT, Morton and Gridley, IL, and Smithville, OH. Visitors are always welcome. Attendance is increasing as we approach the tourist season.

Our friend, Matthew Aeschleman was announced for baptism which, the Lord willing, will be accomplished at the Philadelphia church in the near future. Matthew is the son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA).

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month, at 10:30 a.m. EDT, at the Westpark Hotel, located on U.S. Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged to assemble with us. Washington, D.C. has millions of sight-seeing visitors each summer, and if you're among them, please call Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476 for information or any other way that we can assist you.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber

Easter -- what a blessed time of

celebration! A reminder of the death of our Saviour and His resurrection. We eagerly await His Second Coming! Our tradition here in Fort Lauderdale is to have church services on Good Friday, and a Sunday school picnic on Easter Sunday after church. It looked like rain, but stayed dry for the children's activities at the picnic.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Wendell Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We appreciate the special effort they put forth to minister to us during their vacations.

And thanks to Sarasota for inviting us to participate in a church picnic. Only a few were able to travel over, but we're glad they thought of including us just the same!

I love to look around and praise God for His beautiful handiwork. I know from experience that He has blessed different areas with different attributes. Down here (in Florida) it never fails to thrill me when I see the bright blue sky, lush green palm trees and magnificently awesome ocean. I am so glad there are fellow believers living in this city with which we can meet and fellowship.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer - Jeanette Yergler

Our congregation rejoices with Roger and Debbie Bachtold as they are blessed with a son. Happy grandparents to little Roger James (R. J.) are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Maxine Stoller (North Fort Myers).

The winter residents have left to return to their northern homes. We miss them and appreciate their winter presence and support.

How oft we can see the danger in these days and times. Let us think often on this that we need to walk more carefully. How the warning is fitting for this day and time in song #198, "Christian, Walk Carefully" in Hymns of Zion.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott

As spring blooms with fresh flowers and sunshine, a ray of sunshine

beams forth for Damian and Tina Eisenmann as they celebrate the birth of their first child, Mercedes Emerald. The proud grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sue Eisenmann and John and Joyce Minaham, all of Sarasota.

The Sunday school recently held a picnic for the Fort Myers and Fort Lauderdale churches, a day of fun and fellowship was had by all. The children always enjoy gathering with their friends from the other Florida churches.

We wish to remember those in our church that have been unable to assemble with us Sis. Marge Laukhuf, Sis. Lydia Vonja and young Dathan Eisenmann. May we keep each of these dear souls in our prayers. We especially wish to remember Dathan as he will undergo surgery May 4. May God be near to him and grant a skillful hand and mind to the doctors that will care for our dear friend.

We are always grateful for the visitors that come to Sarasota as well as the ministers. Visiting ministers are Bros. Brian Webb, Mark Barr, Ted Witzig and Ed Bahler. We also had our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach here for Easter services.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers in April were Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN). We certainly appreciate their efforts in bringing us God's Word.

Our gathering in Atlanta is quite small but the blessings have been abundant. We are meeting every Sunday with visiting ministers on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month and a singing/Bible study scheduled on alternate Sundays. We extend a warm welcome to brethren and friends to worship with us.

Services are held at 10:30 at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-254-9692) for further information.

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

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Carolyn Fischer - Marcia Bauer

We had a blessed evening of fellowship and song Sunday, March 18. The Gridley choir sang for us.

Sis. Karen (Witzig) Brummitt (David) passed away March 19. Surviving are her husband, David, and three sons, Bro. Dennis, (Towanda) David and Darrin (Austin, TX). What a beautiful witness God has called home to be with Him and has released her from all the pain she experienced. We can rejoice knowing that in Revelation 21:4, Jesus has promised, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are all passed away."

Bro. Gary and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein are blessed with a precious gift from the Lord, a baby girl, Laine Marie, born March 29. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel and Sis. Betty Klopfenstein.

We are rejoicing and praising God for the delivery of a healthy baby girl, Casey Ann Nussbaum, the daughter of Ann and Bro. Jay Nussbaum, born April 8. To welcome her home is William Dean. Grandparents are William and Mary Orth and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum.

March 31 - April 1 we were blessed with many good teachings as we hosted College Weekend. Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) were with us Sunday, April 1.

Luke 22:19-20, "And he took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." On April 4 we shared communion with each other in remembrance of our Saviour with our Elder Bros. Daniel Koch and Edwin Ringger. What a precious time to share God's love with God's family and a time for us to draw closer to His teachings and a reminder for us to live our lives for Him.

Sunday, April 8 we had our Easter Sunday school program. What a blessing to hear that wonderful story again of Christ's death and resurrection

that was shared with us from the very youngest through the very oldest Sunday school student.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringger

"Love of all gifts is the greatest . . ." Sis. Jane Nelson (Morton) and Bro. Jeff Kieser were joined in holy matrimony March 25. Parents are Bro. Loris and Sis. Mart Kieser and Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Schmidgall. We trust God will bestow His richest blessing on this union as they look to Him for guidance.

Funeral services were held for our dear friend, Howard Mueller, March 26. We extend our prayers of love and sympathy to his family.

It was a rich blessing when we could be led to the cross and partake of holy communion March 28. We thank Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka) who assisted our Elder Joe Stoller. In remembrance of Jesus we did eat and drink as directed by the Holy Word.

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

Zion's Harp #163

We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother and sister-in-faith, Harold and Imogene Tanner. We welcome them into the fold and pray God will give both of them sufficient grace for each day. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) helped our Elder Joe Stoller with the provings. We appreciated their efforts.

On Good Friday we assembled together for services. Afterwards, our Sunday school children sang songs of praise reminding us all of what our Lord Jesus had done for us.

Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Walt Herrmann (Princeville) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) visited us this past month. We certainly thank them for serving us from God's Holy Word.

Thank You

Sis. Anna Rumbold would like to thank her family, friends and relatives for their prayers, visits, cards

and gifts of love while recuperating in Florida. God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
LaRae Dill

John and Brenda Baer were blessed with a second daughter, Rebekah Lynn. Rebekah was born March 24 and is welcomed and loved by her sister, Tressa. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Baer (Tremont, IL) and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Rhodes (Morton, IL).

Our Sunday school students presented their Easter program April 8. Their four part message was one of eternal hope. They began the program at the cross with Christ as the Sacrifice. Next was Christ the Overcomer. We then heard of Christ as the Shepherd -- our Shepherd. They concluded the program by reminding us that Christ would one day return as King.

Following the program our church enjoyed a reception held for Sis. Verna Roth. She will be moving to Bluffton, IN, living near her daughter, Sis. Carol Gerber. Sis. Verna has been a part of our church family for (as she says) "20-odd years." We have many great memories of Verna -- her hospitality, wonderful cooking, wit; but most of all the stability and love she has added to our congregation over the years. She will be missed. We all look forward to her visits, and certainly wish her the Lord's blessing in her new home. Verna's new address is: Verna Roth, 320 W. Dustman Road, Valley Park Apt. 13, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Ministers visiting our congregation were Bros. Virgil Metzger, (Chicago, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

I learned about a new and expensive process just recently, A woman, presumably, with short hair can have fake hair added to hers, braided in little bit by little bit to be long. This takes some hours, but there are 27 colors to choose from and the hair can look amazingly like one's own. Obviously I am not sharing this as a sales pitch. In fact, I consider this adding of

synthetic hair to be very similar to what Satan would add to our worship and walk with God. The emphasis is on looking alike rather than being what the Lord would have us be. Much effort, much expense, much time, unless dedicated and guided by the Lord, can be wasted on religion with status instead of salvation with works. Let us be careful: all that looks like God's work -- to the eye -- may not be. We must look with spiritual caution and be thankful for our spiritual body of believers and its leadership.

Blessings from visiting ministers came from Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) gave us a topical Bible study recently on "Personal Application of the Word," which was especially important to each of us for its inspiration, suggestions and exhortation. We are so thankful for our spiritual manna, brothers. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you . . ." Philippians 1:3.

How does one speak but in hushed tones of the awe and solemnity of communion? Truly there is mystery in the remembering and breaking of bread and kinking of wine, shared together as a body of believers. The symbol and the Spirit and our renewal join together in building up our defenses against the world we must return to. We were privileged to partake of communion Friday evening, April 24, led by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and ordained deacon Bro. Lenny Meyer. May the preciousness of our salvation increase in our minds as may our sincerity in greeting with the holy kiss, by which we profess our bond and love for our brothers and sisters.

I saw a young man today. I didn't recognize him. He was dressed in a navy uniform, had a cleancut haircut and clear eyes. I started to nod and pass by him when he said, "Now there's a face I recognize. I know I had you as a teacher." All of a sudden I was floundering. Ah, there was the name tag. My mind flashed back to a rebellious young man, long hair, plenty of potential. I remember the day he spoke of his constant drug high during school. But today in front of me was a man saying, "Oh, yes, I had to

change my lifestyle, but it's made all the difference for me." I was uplifted so much to see him this way. We have all changed, too, by the grace of God. What we were we no longer are. The Lord knows us all the time (and doesn't have to look to see what our names are), but He and His angels rejoice as we do at the change in Rose (Bakos) Yahi in past months. She has sought the Lord in repentance and gained strength from His Word and closer fellowship with the brotherhood. We pray for her and her family -- with tears of joy.

Bro. Jeff Fisher (Fort Scott, KS) has joined us in the Chicago area, working and preparing for school in civil engineering. He is living in Berwyn. We also want to welcome Bro. Dale Steiner (Tremont, IL) who is living in Evanston and working on research for S & C Electric Co. in Chicago.

We are delighted the Lord has called Bro. Dale (son of Bro. Dan, Jr., and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Pam Gramm (daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie, Gridley, IL) to walk together in their love for Him. Bros. Jeff and Dale are two of the engaged brothers from six engaged couples presently in our congregation. We thank the Lord for them, hoping to be infused by their youth and Christian zeal, looking forward to their establishment of Christian homes. In turn we will try to be loving, prayerful and supportive of them all.

Sis. Becky Gudeman has replaced Sis. Jackie Leman as coordinator of our gift fund. We want to thank Sis. Jackie for her faithfulness and creativity in responding to each occasion of remembrance to our members from all of us, the church. We pledge our support to Sis. Becky and appreciate her willingness to serve.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Young want to thank all those who showered them with prayers, cards, calls, flowers, gifts and visits during Bro. Ray's most recent hospitalization. They were overwhelmed and thankful to God for each one.

Sorrow again intrudes to make us realize our mortality, remind us of our memories, and renew opportunities for us to serve those who mourn. Sis. Jeanne Plattner has lost her father, Bro. Emanuel Stezler (Morton); and Sis. Gladys Fisher, her mother,

Sis. Tillie Wittmer (Eureka). Sis. Louise Knecht has seen the passing of her sister. Yet heaven is not full. We are grateful for the hope that we can have -- and appreciative beyond measure of the peace our Lord Jesus Christ has for those at rest, the peace He renews within those who must go on with life though bereft. May our prayers be a help to our grieving loved ones.

In John 13 Jesus washed the disciples' feet. For most of us, the only person who has ever washed our feet would be our mother. Many times we did not understand what our mothers wanted for us, as the disciples did not understand Jesus' actions. Lord willing, we will all come to the time and the place where we will see our mothers' desires that we might know all things good reach fruition -- as we allow our Savior to wash us by His blood, by His Word that we may each be clean and someday wear heavenly garments.

There were too many activities is my excuse. Why else would I dash my daughter to one part of town, forgetting that the posters she has so carefully made had only gotten as far as the top of the car? When I reached her destination, I felt stricken. And I had no time. Oh, how I prayed that the posters had fallen off in the garage. She called, others helped her, and I went on to my responsibilities. Imagine my surprise when I picked her up again, to discover that, despite the rain, the posters, the most important one especially, was in perfect condition, able to be used as she had expected. Wait a minute! Did you catch that? I said, "Imagine my surprise . . ." Forgive me, Lord. Why should I assume my prayers will not be answered yes? Do I believe God answers prayer? Yes, I surely do. Why else would I pray fervently, earnestly, as often as I can? If I believe the Bible as I say I do, then I must believe His promises to us about prayer. Oh, Lord God, may thankfulness, praise and joy replace surprise about prayers answered "yes." I am rebuked.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Karol Stock - Bev Knapp

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

meet our every need." (Hymns of Zion #4). We pray those brothers and sisters who have been hospitalized have been able to feel God's help and nearness in their time of need. Bro. Ed Alt, Sis. Helen Lackey and Sis. Ellen Hofbauer are all recovering from surgery and Bro. Dale Walder was hospitalized for tests.

We are happy to share the news of two engagements. Bro. Les Kaeb and Sis. Christine Kaufmann are both from our congregation. Their parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. MaryLou Kaeb and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Kaufmann. Also Sis. Anne Rinkenberger and Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) announced their plans to be married this summer. They are the children of the late Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser. We hope the weeks ahead cannot only be a time of preparing for their weddings, but more importantly a time of preparation for their marriage, a life-long commitment.

Last weekend was a special time as we were able to partake of the Lord's Supper. We always feel honored when we are invited somewhere for a meal, but this meal was extra special because the Lord Himself prepared it and invited us! We thank our Elder Bro. Art Bahler and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Fairbury and Gridley) for serving it to us. Our topical Bible presentation this month was on the Easter story and we thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) for helping us understand more fully how Christ suffered and died for us. We also heard the Easter story from our Sunday school students on Palm Sunday. It is always uplifting to hear their young voices in verse and song as they tell of God's love for us all.

Our Bible class students have had a busy month. They had guests from Tremont, Bloomington and Champaign, IL, and Remington and Wolcott, IN, March 25. Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) spoke to them on "Attitudes." They also gathered together for a breakfast on Easter with services for them by Bro. Wayne Laubscher. It's encouraging to see our young people taking an interest in the activities and fellowship and we appreciate the efforts of all involved.

In addition to the ministers already mentioned, Bro. Bob Beebe

(South Bend, IN) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) visited us and labored in our behalf. We thank each one. Every so often on Sunday morning it strikes me that we just come to church and expect to hear a sermon. What would we do if there was no one to speak to us and teach us? We really do appreciate all our ministers who so untiringly serve us.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Steiner who passed away March 20. She is survived by two sons, Raymond and Laurence (Cissna Park); and four daughters, Helen Surber (Rankin), Velma Meyer (Paxton) and Lois Vogel (Champaign).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

A Mother is a blessing
 So gentle, kind and wise
 She's the first
 To give encouragement
 The last to criticize --
 The one you know will be there
 Whenever skies are gray,
 The first to lend a helping hand,
 The last to turn away --
 Each special thing about her
 Is so lovely to recall --
 A Mother is a blessing,
 The most precious one of all.

With grateful hearts our thoughts turn to our mothers in appreciation for all they do for us. May God grant them each a special blessing this Mother's Day.

Spring brings beginnings and blessings. Little Abby Sue was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman March 24. Also welcoming Abby home is older brother, Jacob. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman and Dayton and Wilma Springer (Eureka).

We extend appreciation and thanks to our visiting ministers. Sharing God's wonderful Word with us this month were Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

God's Spirit and blessings were present as we gathered Saturday

evening, March 24, to commemorate the suffering and death of our dear Lord and Saviour. Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Nathan and gave inspired messages. Bros. William Schlatter (Junction, OH), Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) also visited our congregation and shared the heavenly manna.

Tim and Patty Kilgus are so happy to receive their first child, Brittany Laine, born March 6. Grandparents include Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Kilgus and Ron and Merry Randals.

We are thankful for the tradition of gathering with our Sunday school children and be reminded through song and verse of our Saviour's love and resurrection. "... And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain." George Bernard (Hymns of Zion #168).

Believing God has led them to each other, Bro. Dan Moser and Sis. Anne Rinkenberger have made their engagement known. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser and Sis. Velma and the late Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL).

Also, Nancy Weiss and Eric Schieler (Fairbury, IL) are planning to be wed August 11. Parents of the couple are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jan Schieler.

A number of our loved ones, young and old, have met with injury or accident recently. Other who were hospitalized include Melody Schambach (Bill), Gail Hallead (Ron), Phyllis Kaptain, and Elvis Kellenberger (Gail). We trust God will continue to bless with health and strength.

My thanks to every one for all the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts sent to me on my 90th birthday. May God bless you. He has been very good to me all my days.

Sis. Anna Schmidgall

MOTHER
THE HEART OF HOME

What really makes a house a home?
 It's sharing and it's giving,
 It's courtesy and kindness
 Put into daily living;
 It's laughter and companionship
 And helping one another;

But mostly it's a mother's presence
For the heart of home is Mother!

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

March 25 was the wedding day of Sis. Jane Rocke and Bro. John Wiegand. Their parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka) and Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign). As Sis. Jane and Bro. John make their home in Oregon and attend the Silverton church there, we wish them God's richest blessings. We also thank Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for being with us in ministering the Word to us on this joyful day.

We wish God's blessings to Sis. Jill Eastman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma) to Bro. Doug Huetten (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn, Tremont) as their engagement was announced. May He lead and guide them as they make plans for a June wedding.

We appreciate the messages from ministering Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Gary Brown (Forrest). May He bless the words that were spoken as inspired by His Holy Spirit.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary Zimmerman welcomed Betsy Lou April 1. Adair and Malinda are Betsy's brother and sister. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman (Congerville) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman (Eureka).

Our high school graduates this year are Bro. Matt Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev), Joyce Rocke (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Beth), Amy Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) and Rodney Kupferschmid (Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth). May He be with them as they go on to higher learning or seek employment.

April 8, Sis. Anna Bittner, or "Auntie" as she was known, laid down her cross and exchanged it for a crown. Surviving are a sister, Sis. Marie Aeschliman (Eureka) and a brother, Dave Sauder (Roanoke) and many nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy also goes out to Sis. Amy Stoller in the passing of her

sister, Linda Fehr. May He comfort those who have lost their loved ones.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month were Bros. Walter Zimmerman (Mabel), Dave Schumacher (Sis. Julie) and Elton Wiegand (Sis. Loretta). Thankful that they have all returned home.

Bro. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna) still suffers upon his bed of affliction. May we continue to remember them and their dear family in our prayers.

Mother's Day is May 13, a day set aside to honor our mothers. How thankful we are that God has blessed us with mothers who are His children and that they have taught us the ways of our Lord. May we ever honor them every day, for they are indeed, precious.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

Tell mother I'll be there
In answer to her prayer
This message, blessed Saviour, to
her bear!
Tell mother I'll be there,
Heaven's joys with her to share;
Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be
there.

Charles M. Fillmore

For many, she waits on the shores of time. For others, her smiling face is still with us in life. What better gift could we give our mother than to give our life and our all to the Lord and Saviour.

We are rejoicing with our new converts, Troy Rieger (Steve and Sandy), Kevin Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna), Randall Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn), Albert and Karen Steffen, Kim Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley). Life has taken on a new meaning for them. As they surrender their will, may they find peace and joy that only God can give.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Charles Sauder, Curt Rassi (Tremont), Ralph Garber (Morton), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Ed Fritz (Washington).

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Ministering Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge) made it known to our Fairbury congregation April 15 that it is his time to retire from the ministry. May God be Bro. Merle's rich rewarder for his willingness to serve us for 32 years. As our ministers continue to preach the Word, may we ever strive to be more appreciative, supportive and obedient to our precious faith.

Laid to rest April 4 was Sis. Leah Hohulin. She is survived by one brother, Ed, and three sisters, Anna McDowell, Sis. Lena Hohulin and Sis. Lillie Luthi. We extend our sympathy to this dear family and pray that God will comfort and console in the days ahead.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Barb Meiss, Sis. Dorothy Steffen, Sis. Lucille Sohn, Bro. Anthony Fehr and Bro. Nathan Fehr. May God's healing power touch these dear ones.

Once again we were privileged to enjoy the Easter program presented by our Sunday school youth April 8.

Our Bible class hosted Princeville and Forrest March 25. These times together are important and give encouragement to our youth in our precious faith.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

"MOTHER"

A mother is a blessing . . .
So gentle, kind, and wise,
She's the first to give
encouragement,
The last to criticize . . .
The one you know will be there
Whenever skies are gray,
The first to lend a helping hand,
The last to turn away . . .
Each special thing about her
Is so lovely to recall . . .
A mother is a blessing,
The most precious one of all.

Mary Dawson Hughes

Let's all appreciate our mothers for their many caring ways.

Our congregation is rejoicing with three dear souls, Chad Kupferschmid (Bro. Alf and Sis. Wanda) and Duane and Marlene Walter, who have turned

from the world of sin and darkness and started on the path that will lead to heaven! We wish them God's nearness and grace as they go through this repentance and conversion process.

As was brought out in one of the sermons recently, we need to appreciate this fellowship we have in our faith. It is such a blessing for our children also when we can travel from our home church to another of our churches and find the same faith. May God bless Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Jim Plattner (Princeville) for travelling and bringing God's Word to us.

As the bones get older, they don't heal as quickly. Andy and Anna Metz have both experienced broken hips and we wish them God's nearness as they recuperate. We are glad that Jason Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol) is doing fine after having a ruptured appendix and Bro. Dan Schlatter (Sis. Josephine) is able to be home after having to be in the hospital for asthma.

On Good Friday it was brought to our attention again about Christ's suffering and death on the cross through a short service and then the Easter program by the Sunday school children. May we keep this in our hearts all year.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

Palm Sunday was a blessed day as we listened to our Sunday school children sing praises and recite the message of the Easter story. Then on Good Friday the brothers and sisters were privileged to take part in the Lord's Communion. We were grateful to Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for assisting with this holy evening. Many of us began Easter Sunday by attending the Sunrise Service which was held at the fellowship hall. It was a quiet and solemn way to begin the day and to reflect on the miracle of love our dear Lord so willingly took part in. Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) shared our Easter services with us and we thank them and their wives for visiting.

Brandy Krizman is delighted to have a new baby sister. Olivia Kathryn was born to Sis. Vikki and her husband, Al, March 26. We rejoice with them as they enjoy another little gift of love from above.

Jaci Musselman was wed to Kenneth Lowery April 7. We wish them many years of blessings and joy along with their parents Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman and Wayne and Cheryl Lowery (Mackinaw, IL).

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Karen Wiegand (Bro. Gary) and Bro. Ernie Diggelman.

A note of thanks: I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the money, cards, gifts and food brought in while I was in the hospital and since I returned home. Most of all I thank you for the visits and prayers. It was all greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

In love,
Mary Wiegand

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our church community was deeply saddened in April when Bruce Funk, 31, lost his life in a tragic automobile accident. As Bruce was attempting to make a left turn he was hit from behind by a car traveling at a high speed with the driver allegedly under the influence of intoxicating beverages.

Bruce, a quiet and kindly young man, is survived by his parents, Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk (Gridley); four sisters, Rhonda (Tampa, FL), Sis. Charlene Wagonbach (Sperry, IA), and Sisters Lori and Karen (Bloomington); three brothers, Randy and John (Gridley) and Jerry (Bloomington).

During the funeral service, a beautiful song was sung, asking the question: "Does Jesus Care?"

Does Jesus care when my heart is
pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

The chorus gave the obvious answer!

Oh yes, He cares; I know He cares.
His heart is touched with my grief.

When the days are weary,
The long nights dreary,
I know my Saviour cares.

The love and deep care of the entire congregation pours out for this dear family which has suffered such a great loss.

On March 21, Bro. Wayne Laubscher was our guest minister during a topical Bible presentation on the subject of "Humility." He left many Spirit-filled thoughts relative to this crucial spiritual value.

On March 25, Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and John Hartman (Fairbury) were guest ministers.

We had several hospital patients from March 20 to April 20. Sisters Coleen Ringger and Dorothy Witzig, and Bro. Elmer Schlipf; also Nickie Kiefer and Orville Rinkenberger.

Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz became the parents of little Nathan Richard, their third son, March 27. He is the new brother of Jacob, 4½, Stephanie, 3, and David, 1½. Grandparents are Harold and Bev Wells, and Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz.

On Sunday, April 25, Sis. Pam Gramm was announced to be married to Bro. Dale Steiner (Evanston). She is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosier Gramm; his parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont).

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

We remembered Christ's death and celebrated His resurrection through song at our Easter program April 1. We are also exhorted to meditate on all that Christ has done for us as we look forward to holy communion April 28.

Sis. Jane Nelson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Schmidgall) and Bro. Jeff Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha, Bradford) were united in marriage March 25. We wish them God's continued direction and blessings.

We also wish God's continued favor on Bro. Lonnie Klein (Linda and Mike) and Sis. Julie Dunbar (Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen, Peoria) as they were joined in holy matrimony March 25.

We are excited to report that we have two new mothers (and fathers)

that will be celebrating Mother's Day as parents for the first time this year. On March 22 Samantha Jaye was born to Stacy and Jay Tyler. Her grandparents are Gerald and Geneva Sullivan and Bob and Becky Tyler (Marion, IL). We pray that God will grant Stacy and Jay wisdom in rearing this precious gift.

Sis. Wendy and Bro. Todd Braker were blessed with Whitney Nichole who was born April 12. Her grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker. We pray Sis. Wendy and Bro. Todd will untiringly model and teach God's principles to Whitney as she progresses through the years.

William Weisser was called into all eternity April 5. We wish God's comfort for his relatives and friends.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) as he was with us to read the memorandum April 4. We also wish to thank Bros. Nate Stoller and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for visiting us and bringing God's Word to us this month.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Joe and Jackie Herman

MOTHER'S DAY IS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mother's Day is remembrance day
 And we pause on the path of the
 year

To pay honor and worshipful
 tribute

To the Mother our heart holds
 dear.

For, whether here or in heaven,
 Her love is our haven and guide.
 For always the memory of Mother
 Is a beacon light shining inside . . .
 Time cannot destroy her memory
 And years can never erase
 The tenderness and the beauty
 Of the love in a Mother's face . . .
 And, when we think of our Mother,
 We draw nearer to God above,
 For only God in His greatness
 Could fashion a Mother's love!

Helen Steiner Rice

Visiting ministers this month were
 Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO), Bro.
 Art Baurer (Princeville), Bro. Earl

Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington). We are thankful that the Word was expounded to us in truth and purity.

Our Sunday school children once again brought us the beautiful Easter story through song. What a joy to praise our risen Lord knowing that through the giving of His life, we can live eternally.

"Whoso eateth my flesh and
 drinketh my blood, hath eternal life,
 and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:54

On Sunday, April 8, Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka) assisted Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer as we were privileged to partake of holy communion. We were reminded of Christ's love for us and how we likewise should love one another.

Through faith in God Bro. Lonnie Klein and Sis. Julie Dunbar were united in marriage March 25. Parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Dunbar, Linda Klein and Mike and Mary Klein (Chicago). May God grant unto them many days of happiness.

On March 11, three new souls were added to the fold: Bro. Norb and Sis. Mary Jane Schneider and Bro. Art Hermann. We thank ministering Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker for sharing in this special day.

On April 4 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Christine Menold.

May God bless each one of them
 and keep them close to Him.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are very thankful for our faithful visiting ministers and their dear wives. This month we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin), Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God continue to bless them for their willingness to preach the true Word.

"Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (St. John 3:5). We rejoice with our new brother and sister-in-faith, Rod and Cathy Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty). Deacon Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford) assisted

our Bro. Joe in this important duty. May God grant them an abundance of His grace each day of their life.

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) assisted our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in serving holy communion April 4. It is a blessing when we can partake of this special remembrance of His shed blood and broken body.

We rejoice with Rusty Rumbold (Russell and Sis. Roma) as he has answered the call to repentance. May God supply his every need and may he be submissive to His will.

This Easter season, we, as children of God, have so many reasons to rejoice and thank God as we remember Christ's death and resurrection. Our Sunday school Easter program was held April 8. May God bless each student and their teachers for the efforts put forth.

Our congregation has been blessed with two precious baby girls. Michelle Marie Martin has brought joy to the hearts and home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Martin. Grandparents are Sis. Edna Martin and Bro. Ray Klumpp (Bradford). Rebekah Ann Herrmann is welcomed home by little brother, Tristan, and happy parents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann and Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette Graham. We wish both of these couples Godly wisdom to raise these precious little girls. Michelle and Rebekah both have the same birth date, April 2.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31). The engagement of Bro. Doug Stahl and Sis. Ann Sauder (Tremont) was announced April 8. They have felt God's direction in their lives and are planning a July 15 wedding. Parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joan Sauder (Tremont). Mark Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret) and Paula Stahl (Norman and Pat) are planning a July 28 wedding. Tim Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine) and Tricia Martin (Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy, Tremont) are planning an August 25 wedding. May God richly bless these dear couples as they make plans for their life together.

On April 6, we had a Bible study

"The Role of Jesus Christ for the Believer" by Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington). May God bless Bro. Ron for the time and effort he put in this Bible study.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the sick and ones that had some surgery. May God restore a measure of health to Bro. Ezra Rumbold (Sis. Lucille), Lucille's mother, Sis. Anna Roach, and Cordelia Musselman. Little Nathan Braker (age 2, Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey) had the misfortune to break his other arm in less than 3 months time.

With Mother's Day approaching, we say to all mothers, "God Bless You!" May we thank God for the precious gift of God-fearing mothers.

REMEMBER MOTHER

Despise not your mother when she
is old,
She's dearer by far than wealth
untold.
She nurtured you kindly, right
from your birth,
And watched o'er you carefully in
sorrow, in mirth.

She'll not be here to see you grow
old,
For God will have called her back
to His fold.
So show her affection and your love
re-state
By visits and by letters -- before it's
too late.

W. F. Stricker

"There is nothing so small but that we may honor God by asking His guidance of it, or insult Him by taking it into our own hands."

J. Ruskin

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

As we think of our mothers on Mother's Day, we think of the words of our Saviour when he asked, "Who is my mother?", and then answered, "For whosoever shall do the will of my father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." May we all, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, strive to be doing the will of our heavenly Father.

We were thankful this past month

to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) with us Palm Sunday as we partook of holy communion and remembered the death of our Lord and Saviour. The following Wednesday evening, our Sunday school students, along with the Eureka high school Bible class students, presented the Easter story through song, and Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka) shared the message from the Word of God with us. On Easter Sunday, we were privileged to have Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) with us.

Gary and Sis. Wanda Edwards have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nikie, to Phillip Hodel (Goodfield). Phil Sauder, son of Bro. John and Sis. Esther, and Kathy Martino, daughter of Mark and Ruth Ann, have also announced their engagement, as well as Mark Sherer, son of Sis. Ruth (Roanoke) and Bob (Delhart, TX) to Tamara Shannon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Shannon (Hopedale).

On March 24, Dan Hodel and Justine Martino were united in marriage. Their parents are Roger and Elaine Hodel and Mark and Ruth Ann Martino, all of Roanoke. Brad Byrd, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota, was also married to Barbara Patterson. May God be near each of these young couples as they begin their lives together.

We rejoiced with our new sister-in-faith, Crystal Fischer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge), as we witnessed her baptism March 25.

We extend condolences to our Sis. Jane Hodel in the sudden and tragic loss of her grandson, John Umphress. We also wish to extend sympathy to the family of John Legel (Elgin). Among his survivors are his brothers, Lewis, and Bro. Art, and Sis. Emma Legel, all of Roanoke.

This month Bro. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty) and Jan Rechkemmer (Norman) spent some time in the hospital. May God grant them healing.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

We are happy for a group of young couples who have had their engagements announced this month. Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin have announced the engagement of their daughter, Tricia, to Tim Wagenbach, son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine

Wagenbach (Princeville). An August 25 wedding is being planned.

Also made known was the engagement of Sis. Susan Frank, daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank and Bro. Dale Glueck, son of Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck (all of Tremont). They are planning a July 29 wedding.

Sis. Ann Sauder and Bro. Doug Stahl plan to be married July 15. Sis. Ann is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. JoAnn Sauder (Tremont) and Bro. Doug is the son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl (Princeville).

Also announced was the coming marriage of Bro. Dale Steiner, son of Bro. Dan Jr. and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont) and Sis. Pam Gramm, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosella Gramm (Gridley, IL). Dale and Pam are planning a July 22 wedding. We certainly wish these young couples God's rich blessings as they take this big new step in their lives.

We are so thankful that Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Bob) has improved enough to be able to return home after spending some time at Restmor. We pray God will further heal her in the days ahead.

We were saddened by the death of Bro. Herman Laidig. Bro. Herman was a staunch pillar of our church and will be greatly missed. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Helen, and his daughter, Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Bob) and their family.

We wish also to extend our sympathy to the families of Bro. Glen Dill, Bro. Kenneth Dill and Sis. Wilma Bliss on the loss of their brother, Henry Dill, Jr. A special thank you to our visiting ministers this month. We were Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago). We do appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

The family of Herman Laidig wishes to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards, visits and gifts of food during their husband's and father's illness and subsequent death.

Also, the family of Dorothy Wagenbach wishes once more to thank everyone for prayers, cards, visits and gifts offered during her illness. Our prayer is that the Lord will be the rich rewarder of each and every one of you both far and near.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Carol Schick

"Her children shall rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

As we give honor to our mothers this month let us give thanks to our God for the abundant grace He has supplied them as they nurtured us and brought us up to know and reverence Him.

We wish to thank our Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Joe Braker (Morton) for assisting Bro. Carl Wyss in the solemn occasion of communion. It is always such a beautiful evening and time of reflecting what it must have been like to be with our Lord as He tried to prepare His followers for His departure.

We also wish to thank the following visiting ministers for their part in bringing us God's Holy Word this past month; Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Joseph Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. James Plattner (Princeville). The message is always the same but we appreciate each minister that allows the Spirit to use him to bring it to us in a different light. May each one and their families be richly blessed as they serve our Lord.

Our Sunday school students once again put on a beautiful Easter program and helped each of us to remember what the holiday is all about. We thank each teacher, student and parent for their part in an inspiring evening.

We were blessed by a special evening set aside for the ordination of Bro. Carl Wyss as our deacon. We thank God for Bro. Carl and his family and we will keep them in our prayers as he carries on his duties in our congregation.

The Princeville choir and their families spent a day of worship with us with a potluck and singing, following regular church services. What a blessed day of fellowship and praise it turned out to be. We thank our visitors for their efforts and also our local brothers and sisters who had a part in making the day a success.

Our hearts are always saddened when a loved one must leave this earth and go to their reward. This month we mourned with Sis. Monica

Fritz (Bro. Mike) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Adeline Gutwein (Francisville, IN). Also with Joe Baker (Sis. Karen) with the loss of his father, Fred Baker (El Paso).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

This verse gives us much courage as we view life on a day to day basis. We need the strength these scripture verses bring us when the tide of life ebbs low. We pray that those who have been ill or suffering in any way can gain renewed courage by reading and trusting God's Word.

Hospitalized this month have been Bro. Ned Kipfer (Sis. Dixie), Bro. Joe Isch (Sis. Sylvia), Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Bro. Lee Gerber (Sis. Jennie), Bro. Olen Geisel, Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Sis. Mary Steffen, Sis. Helen Heyerly (Bro. Cliff), Sis. Connie Kaehr (Bro. Sam), Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Lucille Kaehr (Bro. Walter), Sis. Dora Aschlimer, Melissa Fiechter (infant daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly) and Trent Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa).

We also want to include young Cameron Meyer and family (Indianapolis) in our prayers as he undergoes intense chemotherapy at Riley Children's Hospital. Cameron's grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber and Bro. Dale and Sis. Glenda Meyer of our congregation.

Sis. Sylvia Gerber received her heavenly reward as she passed from this life April 19 at the age of 83. Surviving are Bro. Luther (Sis. Sharon), Bro. Russell (Sis. Susie), Sis. Maxine (Bro. Charles) Fiechter, Marilyn Prichard (Willis), Herb (Betty), Dean, (all from the Bluffton area) and Glen (Oklahoma City, OK).

We are rejoicing with three young people who have repented for their sins and are working through the conversion process. Even though this is a beautiful time in their lives, we realize that Satan can make their paths very difficult as he throws obstacles from the past right under their feet. May God grant Jon Leyse,

Nick Gerber and Scott Shady much grace and strength to carry out their commitments to Jesus Christ.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Sis. Linda Furrer (Morris, MN). Bro. Jerry was formerly from our congregation and is the son of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy Isch.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Tonner welcomed a precious bundle into their lives April 18. Tadd Charles will be a great playmate for "big" brother Travis. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber and Bro. Bill and Sis. Diana Tonner will enjoy another grandson also.

Bro. Dale Reinhard and Sis. Martha Lobsiger were united as one in the Lord April 18. We wish Dale and Martha much joy and happiness and many blessings together!

It is always exciting to see the farmers begin to work the ground that had laid dormant all winter. Soon, they will be planting seeds into the soil, anticipating a harvest of their labors in the fall. May we too, as Christians, plant seeds of goodness into our children, our friends and neighbors, so that we will be able to see a harvest of souls in future days.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Lois Drayer - Deb Aeschliman

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink ye all of it;

"For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many; for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

Our congregation gathered together March 31 to partake of holy communion. We thank the visiting elders and their wives who were with us for this blessed event, Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Once again, the communion service has left a deep impression on our hearts.

The Sunday school students brought the story of Easter to us in song Easter Sunday afternoon, April

15. We hope that these songs have been instilled in the children's hearts, so that someday they can come to know the Lord in fullness.

One more dear soul has turned her back on the world and is seeking the Lord in repentance. Our new convert is Jill Middaugh (Mark). We wish her God's grace.

April 18 was the wedding day of Bro. Dale Reinhard and Sis. Martha Lobsiger (Bluffton). We rejoice with them in their happiness and trust that the Lord will continue to bless them.

As one couple is just beginning their married life, another couple has celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Bro. Ivan and Sis. Sylvia Frauhiger. Bro. Ivan and Sis. Sylvia were married March 24, 1940. We share in their joy and warmly wish them more years together.

We pray for Bro. Alvin Honegger (Sis. Alice), Sis. Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed) and Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) who have been hospitalized this past month.

His hands healed the sick so we could
know His compassion,
Held a child so we could know His
kindness,
Touched the hurting so we could know
His concern,
Bore two spikes so we could know His
love.

Author Unknown

A mother's love is the heart of a home and we thank God for God-fearing mothers. This thought is brought closer to our hearts as we celebrate Mother's Day. Let us try to remember our mothers all year long.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

Some of us recently attended Youth Fellowship Day for the high school Bible classes of the Apostolic Christian Churches of Indiana. It was held at Purdue University and the theme for the day was, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2.

In the adults' class, we were asked where the sky begins, and it was concluded that the sky begins right where the earth ends. It was then explained that to "set our affection on

things above," isn't by thinking some remote, complicated thoughts, but simply by lifting our thoughts off of the earth and onto our Lord; Just a simple switch in our thought process that the devil tries to make us think is complicated, when it isn't!

On April 1, our dear Sis. Esther Rapp passed from this life into eternity after 95 years of life, the last 8¹/₂ of which were spent in Francesville at The Parkview Haven Retirement Home. Five years ago, Sis. Esther and her husband (the late Bro. Bill Rapp) sought the Lord in repentance and were baptized just days before Bro. Bill's death. We rejoice that they are both with the Lord, yet extend sympathy to Sis. Esther's family and friends, especially her remaining sister, Sis. Lydia Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL).

Sis. Pearl Getz is with us again after undergoing surgery. We pray that all will go well with her.

Ministering Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) was with us Easter Sunday and shared God's Word in the morning. We always appreciate Bro. Neil and Sis. Kris's visits, along with their family, and pray that God will bless them for their service to Him.

Sunday afternoon it was a blessing to hear the Sunday school children recite verses and sing songs about Christ's resurrection and the hope we can possess because of it. We pray that each of them, as well as all who listened, will take advantage of Christ's shed blood in their lives and live to glorify Him.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

It's true what they say that April showers bring May flowers! All around us God's handiwork is appearing in beauty and splendor. Farmers and gardeners are busy planting seeds for a bountiful harvest in the fall. Are we planting seeds of love and faith in the garden of our hearts and in the hearts of those around us? We are God's sowers, and if we plant a seed of His love in every heart that we meet, just think of the bountiful harvest we will have for Jesus when He comes!

In Matthew 21:21, 22, Jesus says that if we have the faith of a tiny mustard seed, we can move moun-

tains, and that whatsoever we ask in prayer, believing, we shall receive. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev Meyer for Cameron, their son, has been diagnosed as having leukemia. He has been taking treatments at Riley Hospital, and our prayers are for his quick recovery and Lord willing, in time, that he may be cured. Pray for them that this "mountain" may be removed.

On April 13, we had our Easter program. We enjoyed having friends and family come to share with us on that special evening. Then on April 21, we shared communion in remembrance of our Lord and the price that He paid for us.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bros. Marvin Stieglitz and Uriel Gehring (Leo), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) and Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso).

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

Mother's love is a precious thing
That deepens through the years,
In memory of bright sunshine days,
Of laughter, love and tears.

Mother's love is a treasured thing;
Though far from home we roam,
The cherished bonds of faith and
love
Still pull our hearts toward home.
Elisabeth Weaver Winstead

So many of God's wonderful gifts have come to us through our mothers: love, faith, hope, trust, patience, good Christian values. May we thank the Lord every day for the wonderful mothers who have molded and shaped our lives. There's a saying that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." A mother's love is one of the most important ingredients in a child's life. As a tribute to our Christian mothers, we can pass on to our children the wonderful teachings and values they have given us. May we all show our mothers appreciation this Mother's Day.

On April 11, Hillary Kathryn was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Deb Nuest. Hillary was happily welcomed home by big sister, Heidi. Proud grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest.

Bro. Ted Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Sandy Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan) exchanged their wedding vows March 25. May the Lord bless their marriage and guide them as they set up their own Christian home.

We had many visiting ministers for this occasion. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IN) who shared the day with us.

Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with Paul Heiniger and Bro. Ben Hitz who are recovering from surgery.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Recently, we've been vividly reminded of His immeasurable love and sacrifice and His glorious resurrection. We believe in a risen Lord. "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore." Revelation 1:18. In this month of May, we see so much evidence of new life springing forth, lush and beautiful, from seeds and roots which were dormant and buried in the ground through the long winter months. What a picture of resurrection. Who can doubt?

Good Friday services began with the Sunday school children presenting with verse and song the precious Easter account of the suffering and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Good Friday worship services followed the program. A large number of brothers, sisters and friends gathered on Easter Sunday, early in the morning, we shared in an Easter Sunrise Service and enjoyed the fellowship together during breakfast.

It's a privilege to be under the sound of the Gospel. Besides our local ministry, visiting ministers, Bros. James Ramseyer and William Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Samuel Schlatter

(Junction, OH) also delivered the Word.

"A partnership with God is
Motherhood;
What strength, what purity, what
self-control;
What love, what wisdom should
belong to her
Who helps God fashion in immortal
soul."

Anonymous

A spring luncheon includes honoring today's mothers and remembering precious ones who have entered those pearly gates.

The new title of mommy and daddy has been bestowed upon Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher with the birth of Jonathan Lynn. The admiring grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher (Roanoke, IL).

God plucked another rosebud from the home of Bruce and Rebecca (Gramm) Grandusky (Olean, NY). Six-year-old Sarah Jane joined her baby sister, Jenny Lynn, in heaven. May He fill the empty space in their arms and hearts with a special measure of comfort and peace. Sarah's grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene and Sis. Minerva Stoller in the death of her brother, Virgyl Guingrich (Celina, OH).

Following a long illness, Maggie Schlatter received the answer to her prayers to go Home. She is survived by her brother, Phillip Schlatter. Also surviving are ten nieces and nephews to whom she was a dear aunt.

Sis. Mary Lantz is thankful for a good recovery from eye surgery.

Bits of This and That:

Should we all swap problems? Everyone seems to know how to solve the other fellows'.

No matter how long you nurse a grudge, it won't get better.

Forgive before you're even asked, remembering how many times Jesus forgives you.

What would you do today if you knew there were no tomorrow?

Have A Blessed Day!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

We have had the privilege of sweet fellowship with many visitors from various churches throughout the month. Among them were ministering Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

Sympathy is extended to our Sis. Kate Price in the passing away of her sister, Priscilla Myers.

Some of us went to Bluffton April 8 to witness the wedding of Sis. Angie Yergler and Bro. Dean (Chip) Topp. They plan to make their home in Goshen and assemble here in Milford. We welcome them and we are thankful for another young couple.

It was truly a beautiful Easter Day. The weather wasn't really beautiful, but the resurrection story and messages of hope we heard that day were beautiful. A large number of members and friends met at the fellowship hall for a sunrise service and breakfast together. We were thankful that our retired elder, Bro. Theo Beer, at the age of 92, could still tell us of the plan of salvation. Our Easter program was that afternoon. With big smiles on their faces, our young people told of God's love in sending His Son to die for our sins.

Mary Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) had to have a tonsillectomy during school spring break. Sis. Kate (Bro. Glen) is recovering from cataract surgery.

Daniel and Janet (Beer) Chomyn welcomed their first child April 12. The happy grandparents, Bro. Phillip and Sis. Millie Beer, drove to Boulder, CO, to meet this new little blessing.

Some of the women are busy planning our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. Having lost both my mother and mother-in-law, Mother's Day is a flood of memories for me. I always think of the hymn that ends with, "Tell my darling mother I'll be there." May our goal be to meet our mothers in heaven some day.

We congratulate our high school graduates and pray that they'll ask God for further guidance in their lives. Our graduates are Mike Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha), Shannon Haines (Charlotte), Heidi Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Jenny Price

(Bro. Tom and Becky) and Bro. Brian Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda).

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini

Because Bro. Earl Kilgus was going to be our only minister at home, he invited our shepherd, Bro. Alfred Bahler, to come and share the pulpit with him March 18. It was nice having him here for an entire Sunday.

On Wednesday evening, March 28, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf conducted our topical Bible study, entitled, "Signs of the Times."

It certainly wasn't any April Fool joke having Bro. Wes Knapp from the Goodfield, IL, church visit us Sunday, April 1. We were so well fed spiritually and we welcome you to come again, Bro. Wes.

Our Easter program was held Palm Sunday. It is so interesting to observe the little girls in their new Easter finery. They are so happy to sing songs and recite poems to us about Jesus, Who loves the little children.

On Monday, April 9, Tim and Lynette Bashler welcomed Luke Alan to their family. Brothers Trent and Dave are happy to have a new baby in the home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler from here.

I recently put together an Easter story using song titles. You may use it if you care to -- but if you don't use it, it will be alright too. Place it wherever you want.

REJOICE WITH ME. There is JOY AMONG THE ANGELS, because of the WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS BURDENS ARE LIFTED AT CALVARY. RISE UP AND HASTEN and heart THE SWEET STORY OF OLD AT THE CROSS WHERE HE WAS WOUNDED FOR ME and SHED HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD.

Let us be SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS SINGING AS WE JOURNEY NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

Let us go to THE CROSS OF JESUS and KNEEL AT THE CROSS.

SAY, ARE YOU READY? GOD IS CALLING YET. JESUS IS CALLING, TENDERLY CALLING. WHOEVER WILL MAY COME. HE DIED FOR THEE.

COME SINNER COME. WHY NOT NOW? COME, COME TO JESUS, HAVE AN OLD ACCOUNT SETTLED.

TELL IT OUT, CHRIST AROSE. HALLELUJAH, HE IS RISEN ON RESURRECTION MORN.

IT IS FINISHED!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Anna Marie Stoller

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." St. Luke 22:44. Are we praying earnestly enough for strength to endure and overcome? "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame . . . Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:2, 4. Are we looking beyond the trials and temptations of life for our joy?

Remembering the dying and arising of Jesus, our congregation has taken a spiritual journey out onto Calvary's Hill. We have listened to conversations of the disciples, been given a glance into the empty tomb, and reminded of the glorious resurrection of Jesus. A spiritual touch of those nail prints in His hand was ours to feel.

Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and his family, along with many visitors, were with us Easter Sunday as we met for early services, shared breakfast together, and listened to our Sunday school students tell us in verse and song of what they have learned about Easter events. We appreciate the sincerity in eyes and voice that these dear children expressed.

The question was asked, "Do we want heaven of our free will?" "God allows us a time of testing to see if we want to love and serve Him forever." "Have you noticed that Jesus didn't break down when His tormentors tried to break His emotions?" These are a taste of morsels of spiritual meat served us Easter Sunday.

Reinforcing our Easter service was the communion service held April 18. Elder Bros. Ed Frank (LaCrosse), Dave Bertsch (Leo) and Jesse Beer (Milford) served us the symbolic blood (wine) and broken body (bread) of Jesus.

During this impressive evening we learned that we should be like the kernels of wheat which become fused together and processed to make one whole piece of bread. We must lose our identity and will to become one in the Lord.

Sis. Helen Eisenmann has been assembling again since suffering a stroke. Pray for her as she endures this affliction of the body.

Silver Lining dues are being collected during the month of April.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Greetings to all as the Easter season of renewal and hope is here again. A time to remember our Lord's suffering and victory over sin and death.

We reported in February the death of Sis. Donna Paarlberg's father and now her mother, Myra VanderWall has also gone to her reward. May our Lord comfort the saddened hearts.

We are truly grateful for the many hours shared with us this past month by Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler, Wendell Gudeman and Dale Eisenmann. They were caring and leading us as the mantle of the ministry of the Gospel was placed upon Bros. Andy Moser and Garry Bucher. We thank God that His Spirit never fails as we witnessed in these past weeks of soul-searching for the ministry. April 8 was a solemn and sacred time -- a Sunday afternoon we will long remember. A church family depends much on its ministers for spiritual direction.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them."

Psalm 34:7

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

"And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them." (Luke 21:8). Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH) conducted our Bible study entitled, "End Times" March 28. We were reminded by the many scripture references to

be watchful and prayerful lest we be deceived. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) shared God's Word with us. We thank both of these brothers for their love and time spent with us.

Our Easter program was held Good Friday, April 13. Our Sunday school children spoke their recitations and various groups sang about the wonderful Easter story. May our willingness to praise and serve the Lord reflect our appreciation for His blood that was shed for our sins.

We extend our congratulations to Michelle Minniear (Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna) and Lee Huff as they exchanged wedding vows April 14. May God bless them with love and happiness as they establish their home.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Carolyn Wulf - Deyona Massner

Bro. Fred and Sis. Cathy Eberhardt were blessed with a new baby boy, Joshua Kent. He is welcomed home by brother, Jonathon, and sisters, Kayla and Kara. The happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Oakville, IA) and Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer (Elgin, IA).

We were renewed in spirit as we remembered our Lord's suffering by partaking of communion April 13. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. Harvey Heiniger for lending themselves.

Our hearts are filled with sadness to see Sis. Rekie Anliker leave our congregation for a place in the Eureka nursing home. We will miss her smiling face but trust the Lord will continue to be her faithful shepherd as she journeys on toward her heavenly goal.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come."

Song of Solomon 2:12

Another spring finds us out in our gardens and fields planting little seeds with the faith that our heavenly Father will provide the much needed rain

and sunshine lest our efforts be in vain.

See the husbandman, his seen now
strewing
On the earthly field in hope and fear,
In God's promise still his trust re-
newing,
Till Spring sunshine makes the sprouts
appear.

Few fruits ripen from the spring time
sunshine
Not till autumn is abundance shown;
Without waiting we ne'er feel the
rapture
Of a precious, bounteous harvest
shown.

"The Time of Waiting"
Zion's Harp

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Tammy Banwart (Bro. Leo) in the death of her grandfather, Herman Schupbach and to Sis. Joy Frieden (Edwin) on the death of her sister, Verla Hegland.

As a day has been set aside this month to remember our mothers, may we do so with thankful hearts, not only for their love and guidance, but also for the many prayers offered on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Jeanette and Bro. John Schupbach, in the passing of her father, Bro. Orel Steiner (Oakville, IA). May the Lord comfort her and her family.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Moser

"... but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30b. I doubt that Solomon knew when he wrote the Proverbs that America would set aside a special day for mothers. But isn't this 31st chapter a sermon for mothers! Not just on the second Sunday of May, but for everyday of the year. I pray that the Spirit of God works within me to purge and renew me that I may be the type of woman Solomon wrote about here.

In the past few months, I have missed putting this item in. On Christmas evening, Don Clark's father passed away. He had been hospitalized for some time with cancer. Our sympathy is extended to Don, Sis. Willa and their children.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here to read the conference conclusions. How uplifting it was for us to hear the love and concern our elders have for us. Also, thank you to Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) for ministering to us. They came on two separate Sundays when Bro. Glen was visiting other churches. We thank them for giving of their time and their willingness to be here when otherwise we would not have had a minister. It warms our hearts knowing so many of you think of us and pray for us and are willing to spend tie with us. Also, that they realize that Bro. Glen and his family need to be free to visit other churches too.

On Easter Sunday, we as a church visited a nursing home in Leon, IA. It filled our hearts with joy to be able to sing songs of praise to God for the triumph of Jesus over death and the grave with these older folks. We were told that many that could go out for the holiday did, and our coming to sing to those that were left at the home, made them feel special too. Oh, how many faces were filled with joy as they sang with us! I pray that our daily lives may have that same impact on those we come in contact with -- to fill someone with joy because of Jesus.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings! We extend a special "thank you" to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). Holiday weekends are usually pretty "slim" in Iowa City, as many of us take turns going elsewhere to be with relatives. This Easter was extra special as many of our families traveled to be with us here this year.

Our friends were reminded Sunday that though repenting may seem as a mountain before them, God can remove that mountain as surely as the angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb. May we who are converted remember that this also applies to the seemingly insurmountable obstacles we face on our pathway to heaven.

God will answer when to thee
Not a possibility
Of deliverance seems near;
It is then He will appear.

God will answer when you pray;
Yea, though mountains block thy way,
At His word, a way will be
E'en through mountains, made for
thee.

God who still divides the sea,
Willingly will work for thee;
God, before whom mountains fall,
Promises to hear thy call.

M.E.B.

Springs in the Valley, April 27

IOWA, LESTER
Kathy Metzger
Mary Knobloch

The death angel has again plucked a blossom from among us. A tragic car accident took the life of Loren Knobloch, age 19. Our prayerful sympathy goes to his dear family and many other relatives and friends who mourn his passing. Those surviving are his parents, Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch; four sisters, Sis. Carolyn Knobloch, Shirley DeSmet, Donna Barber, Linda Knobloch; and one brother, Vernon. Loren's cheerful countenance, along with a loving and caring attitude, will forever remain a blessed memory in the hearts and minds of the many lives he had touched. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) offered many words of comfort and encouragement at the funeral service, as well as our ministering Bro. Gene Metzger.

God has planted a precious little bud in the home and hearts of Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger. Emma Marie was born April 10. Maternal grandparents are Lou and Tina Moser and paternal grandparents are Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger. May the Lord richly bless this dear family as they rear their baby daughter.

Hospitalized the past month were Sis. Emma Meyer and Sis. Amelia Roemen (Bro. Ed). May the healing mercies of our heavenly Father rest upon these dear ones as they recuperate from their illnesses.

Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) was recently in our midst and so ably assisted in serving holy

communion. What a blessed privilege to travel to calvary and view our dying Savior as He hung on the cross and shed His blood for us. When our earthly life here is completed and we face death, the cross is what shall set us free.

Visiting on Easter Sunday and lending himself in the service of God was Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), who reminded us of the Savior's arising from death and grave. Might our striving always be to be obedient children and one day when He comes again we might be worthy of that home in heaven.

As we observe another Mother's Day, may we always remember the great love that our mothers have for their children which God gives them to enjoy for a period of time. Might each one always look to God for direction to rear them according to His will.

**"MOTHER IS A WORD
CALLED LOVE"**

Mother is a word called love
And all the world is mindful of
The love that's given and shown to
others

Is different from the love of
Mothers . . .

For mothers play the leading roles
In giving birth to little souls,
For though "small souls" are
heaven-sent

And we realize they're only lent,
It takes a mother's loving hands
And her gentle heart that
understands

To mold and shape this little life
And shelter it through storm and
strife . . .

No other love than mother's love
Could do the things required of
The one to whom God gives the
keeping

Of His wee lambs, awake or
sleeping

So mothers are a "special race"
God sent to earth to take His place
And Mother is a lovely name
That even saints are proud to
claim.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We have a new baby girl to add to

our Oakville church. Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz welcome little Wendy Ann into their hearts and home. Bethany, Mitchel, Betsy and Janae are happy to have a new baby sister, as are Grandma and Grandpa Schulz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) and Grandma and Grandpa Mogler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia, Lester).

Our Sis. Tricia Pflum became the bride of Bro. Don Grimm (Taylor, MO) April 8. Surely God was smiling down on them as it was such a beautiful day. May they always look to Him for direction as they begin their life as one. Sis. Tricia is the daughter of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum and Bro. Don is the son of Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor, MO). We will really miss Sis. Tricia's smiling face, but we know that she will be loved and appreciated in the Taylor congregation.

Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and ministering Bros. Arnie Gerst, Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) have recently brought forth the Word in Oakville. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Bro. Orel Steiner (Sis. Rose) has been in the hospital and now is at home. We miss seeing Bro. Orel at church and trust that God will stand by his side during his trials. Let us remember to pray for our loved ones who are suffering bodily afflictions.

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Lord, strengthen me when little
hands
Reach out to me with small
demands.
Help me respond with soft replies,
And may they see love in my eyes.
Perry Tanksley

As Mother's Day approaches, may we ever strive to teach our children what is right and be thankful for our own God-fearing mothers.

We're glad to see Cory Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) with us in church again as he was hospitalized for a short time.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bernard Schaer in the death of his brother-in-law, Owen E. Mahnesmith (Peoria, IL).

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with cards on her 88th birthday.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

A special Sunday was appreciated when Bro. John Rowell (Burlington) was in our midst to bring us many teachings.

We are looking forward to the weekend of May 5 and 6 when we will be privileged to hear the testimonies of our converts, Ted Schmidt, Wendell Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn), Cameron and Tammy Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy, Lester; Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr) and Joe Fehr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Barb). We are thankful they've experienced the peace of the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers have been for God's love and blessing of health for our hospital patients the past weeks which were Jeremy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Carl Gerber (Dave and Diane), Sis. Lezlee Leman (Bro. Dale), Bro. George Sauder, Bro. Mike Tapivica (Donna), Bernard Metzger (Alice) and Eli Gerber (Pearl).

We extend sympathy to Joel and Theresa Kellenberger and family in the death of Theresa's mother, Betty Perkins.

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation, (Zion's Harp #168). May the Lord go with our young people as they graduate from high school. May they not forget the teaching from their youthful days. We extend congratulations to Jordan Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose), David Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth), Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene), Leslie Traub (Joann), Scott Banwart (Benjamin and Betty), Lana Fehr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Barb), Sherrie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy) and Joyce Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte).

Mother's Day brings to mind the following thoughts: May a mother's love and prayers be a blessing in each home, the trust and the reason; a place, a peaceful haven.

May it be the hub of going
And then the reason all return
May it encompass faith and morals
That you wish each child to learn.
May it be a source of memories,
Of moments spent in loving care.
May each house be known as home
And may God's presence fill the air.
Julie O'Brien

JAPAN, SHIODA

Renee Baurer

It is common in many places throughout the world that Christ's death and resurrection are of little or no significance to people. So it is in Japan.

Recently, a kindergarten mother asked me if I was able to attend the town festival which was being held April 15. She look surprised when I told her that April 15 was Easter, a very special and important day for Christians to remember. I briefly explained to her about Christ's death and resurrection. She looked puzzled and walked away saying, "It's too bad, just too bad that you can't go to the town festival . . ."

I felt a little stunned by her reaction. My heart hurt for her. I wanted her, too, to know the special joy that Christ's resurrection gives to those who believe. This was a reminder to me to pray for opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ.

At a nearby park early on Easter morning, it was special for us to remember Christ's resurrection together. It was also uplifting to sing together and to hear God's Word spoken to us by Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle. We were thankful to have approximately 50 Sunday school children then eat lunch with us at noon. In the afternoon, the children told us the story of Christ's death and resurrection through songs, verses and a skit. It was an added blessing to have Bros. Andy Klaus and Greg Schumacher (Washington, IL) spend the day with us.

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois recently visited China for a week. They were happy for the opportunity to take a few Chinese and English Bibles to friends who had requested them.

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

The world has passed through its darkest hour when Jesus was nailed to the cross and died. From all appearances it seemed as if the Promised One, the Messiah, had failed, leaving His followers confused and worried for their own lives. How different their response would have been if they had believed Christ's words which He had spoken a few weeks before: "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again." (Matthew 20:18, 19).

When we are going through our darkest hours, let us remember the story of the crucifixion and not give up hope. If we can only wait and believe, Christ will lead us to new heights.

God has performed a miracle in each believer's heart, taking them from darkness into the light. We who have experienced such a transformation are privileged to carry out Christ's last words to His followers on this earth: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

As Christians, we should not remain at the Cross looking at our dying Lord, nor let us remain on the mountain gazing into heaven where Christ ascended, but let us be found working on this earth for the furtherance of His Gospel.

During the spring vacation several of us traveled overseas. Sis. Marie Inoue and her son, Koichi, along with me and my son, Jonathan, went to the States to visit family. Bro. Andy Klaus traveled to China.

This past week the new school year has begun. I was sitting in my office working on lesson plans at the University I teach at when I heard a knock on the door. It was a medical student of mine who attends the Bible studies I conduct in my office and at home. I barely recognized him be-

cause he had lost weight, was very pale and had lost all of his hair. He closed the door behind him and sat down and poured out his heart. He had suddenly become very sick during spring vacation forcing him to cancel a medical study trip to a Third World country and instead spent his time in total isolation at the hospital for three weeks. Today he was transferred to a special hospital where he will receive a bone marrow transplant. This young man has a very tender heart toward the teachings of the Bible. Please remember him in your prayers; not only for his recovery, but also that he could grow in his faith in Jesus Christ.

It was a blessing to all of us to get to know Bro. Greg Schumacher (Washington, IL). His visit to Japan gave us much encouragement for the work that is going on here. We are also looking forward to the return visit of Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington, IL).

KANSAS, BERN
Kathy Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

John 3:19, 21

We rejoice in that four more souls have come to the light and found forgiveness for their sins. On Sunday, April 1, we witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey, Sis. Carol Renyer (Greg) and Bro. Dwight Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda). May they always hold fast to this "first love" they have found.

I am reminded of a mine I once toured and of a miner I met during this tour. This man had worked as a miner for a good share of his life and had come to love it. At the present time he was laid off because his particular mine had closed down. The years of working in these deep dark tunnels of the earth had taken their toll on his eyesight. His eyes could no longer stand the light of day. In order

to see at all he wore thick, dark glasses to shade his eyes at all times. Yet he made it quite clear that if the mine would open again tomorrow, he'd be the first one back to work because of his love for mining.

I felt sorry for this man when I heard what years of working in total darkness had done to his eyes. But yet when I thought of the spiritual lesson in it I felt even greater concern. How sad it is when we love darkness more than light. Jesus Christ paid His life and shed His blood to bring light into this world. And if we rejoice that light and continue in darkness we are destroying no one but ourselves.

We have appreciated the many visiting ministers who have assembled with us this past month. They are: Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS), Wes Moser, Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). May the Lord bless each one for their efforts on our behalf.

We are happy to announce the approaching marriage of Angela Plattner (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta) and Richard Robuck (Stan and Donna, Halstead, KS). The wedding date has been set for July 14.

Bro. Wilhelm Metzger (Sis. Julia) underwent surgery this past month. May the Lord heal and restore as He sees best.

We are looking forward to the wedding of Kristin Mars (Dave and Virginia, Sabetha) and Jim Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) this weekend, April 21. May they ever feel the Lord's nearness in their new life together.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young - Judy Kraft

We have been blessed and spiritually fed by the teachings of visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO).

Bro. Roy Wernli and Sis. Hannah Grimm have been ill, requiring hos-

pitalization. How thankful we are for God's mercy and love to sustain through all trials and tribulations.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
 With our dear loved ones who've
 gone before;
 In that fair homeland we'll know no
 parting,
 Beyond the sunset forever more!
 Virgil P. Brock

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Lydia Circle on the death of her youngest brother, David (Doc) Rieger (Enid, OK). Sis. Lydia is the only survivor of a family of ten children.

Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel had their 72nd wedding anniversary. Both have been residents of Life Care Nursing Home (Kiowa) for 5 years and are waiting for the Lord to take them home.

Sis. Sophia Kircher had eye surgery this month and Bro. Frank Kisling was a hospital patient. Both have made a speedy recovery. Sis. Dorothy Brown has been traveling to Houston to take treatments for her illness.

Our small fellowship had the joy of singing praises and ministering to the residents at Life Care Nursing Home this past month.

I wish to thank all the loved ones for prayers, letters, cards, flowers and telephone calls during the times I was in the hospital. May God bless you now and in the kingdom to come.

Sis. Laverne Roth

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:7

We are happy to report that Jody Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

May God grant her much grace to work out her soul's salvation.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City) was a welcome visiting minister this month. We thank him for his labor of love.

On April 4, Erinn Christine was born to Marla and Mike Gaddard of Denver, CO (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy). Erinn has a sister, Brenna, also to welcome her home.

Blessed are the mothers of the earth, for they have combined the practical and the spiritual into the workable way of human life. They have darned little stockings, mended little dresses, washed little faces, and have pointed little eyes to the stars and little souls to eternal things.

William Stidger

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

The Sabetha congregation continues to rejoice as souls are added to our church. We enjoyed the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four loved ones on the weekend of March 24 - 25. Gary and Ellen Hertzler, Kristi Schweitzer (Brian) and Wayne Wenger were welcomed into our church. Gary and Kristi are the children of Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzler (Bern, KS). It is a blessing that Gary's wife, Ellen, not being raised in this church, appreciates what she has found here, and can support what has proven to be good for the church. Wayne's parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. May God continue to bless our new brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Sam Huber with this work. Also here that weekend was Bro. Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate the sound advice given by these brothers.

Other visitors lending themselves in the ministry this past month were Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). Do we appreciate enough the loving messages our brethren share with us? We thank you for your visit.

It would be nice if we would not have to report of illness among us. The Lord knew there would be distresses, as was left for us the prayer in Psalms 71:9. "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when

my strength faileth." We realize many ailments are not a result of old age, but they are more likely to occur as the years add up. Surgical patients this month include Bro. Virgil Hartter, Sis. Faye Percy and Sis. Leona Aeschliman, who suffers from a broken hip. Those with other medical problems were Sis. Helen Strahm, Don Strahm and Bro. Joe Menold. To my knowledge, all are doing as well as can be expected at this time.

"Mother's Day" will have come and gone by the time most of us read this. We live in a time when many women to go extremes to prevent motherhood or to shirk the responsibilities of motherhood. Those of us who are trying to be good mothers, and do want the very best for our children through the perplexities of life. We are thankful we had mothers who set a good example in patience and sacrifice; mothers who we know had their priorities in the interest of their family.

Our "Fathers," too, will soon be honored on their special day. This is only a reminder of how we should honor and respect our fathers each day of the year. The cares of fatherhood are many. The responsibilities are great. Obedient children can lighten the load and be a wonderful blessing to parents today.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The weekend of March 31 - April 1 was filled with special privileges for our congregation. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Edwin Ringger shared the memorandum with us and served holy communion. It was refreshing to partake of this renewing sacrament during the pre-Easter season. Again, we are humbled by these brothers' and their spouses' willingness to sacrifice their personal life for our behalf.

Bro. Godfrey Miller underwent major surgery in March. He was able to assemble with his beloved brothers and sisters-in-faith for Easter morning services. Bro. Godfrey and I are grateful for the many prayers uttered in our behalf during this stressful time.

Special activities for Easter included Good Friday evening services and an Easter morning breakfast at

the church prior to morning service. Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) ministered to us. We enjoyed having Bro. Randy's family fellowship with us as well as Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhoffer's children, who joined their parents for Easter worship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

Easter is a time to remember the roads Jesus traveled and how it all ended in one night in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We, at Alto, did gather together Good Friday evening to listen and hear our children tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

And Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) took us there also in our hearts. Going to the Garden to pray as you have never prayed and know the path your Father has chosen for you.

Taking supper with loved ones knowing that you will be betrayed. And still knowing the night is not over.

Look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

We hope at this time of year we remember the pain and sorrow our Savior had to endure so we might go free.

We were also visited by Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) who helped out as many members of our congregation went to LaCrosse, IN, to help celebrate the marriage of Bro. Ted Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) and Sandy Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet, LaCrosse, IN).

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

Hymns of Zion #55

Andre Broquard (Bro. Duane and Sis. Caroll) has been announced for

peace and we rejoice with him. How wonderful it is to have a calm assurance that we have attained God's salvation through His Son. How beautiful to have His peace in our hearts.

We would like to thank Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for his service as a ministering brother over the Easter weekend. We thank God for Bro. Don's self sacrifice, to support our church here in Bay City.

Sis. Marlene Ramseyer had minor surgery this month and is feeling God's healing touch. We pray that she will have a full and complete recovery.

Over this beautiful Easter season, we all had the chance to renew old friendships and make new ones on the common ground of praise to God. Beautiful memories were made as we relived the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The story of our purchased redemption and God's love for us was already a beautiful story enhanced by the love of our friends. What a beautiful picture our life is with the love and salvation of Jesus as our timeless foundation on which we build these earthly relationships.

As we look around us we may overlook the very one who needs our friendship the most. Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." May we as Christians always look to those who are hurting, who need our friendship and are starving for our love. What joy can be ours if we learn to reach out to others. How lost we would have been if Jesus had overlooked our helpless state.

"Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

I John 4:7

I would like to close with these words:

FRIENDS

Packing up the dreams God has planted in the fertile soil of you. Can't believe the hopes he's granted, means a chapter in your life is through. But we'll keep you close as always, it

won't even seem you've gone, because our hearts in big and small ways will keep the love that keeps us strong.

And a friend's a friend forever, if the Lord is the Lord of them, and a friend will not say never because the welcome will not end. It's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands we know, that a lifetime is not too long -- to live as friends.

With the faith and hope God's given, springing from the hope we know. We will pray the joys you live in, is the strength that now you show. We'll keep you close as always, it won't even seem you've gone, because our hearts in big and small ways will keep the love that keeps us strong.

A friend is a friend forever, if the Lord is the Lord of them, and a friend will not say never, because the welcome will not end. It's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands we know, that a lifetime is not too long -- to live as friends.

Michael W. Smith

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild.
See the Father meets him out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary wand'ring child.
Glory! Glory! How the angels sing!
Glory! Glory! How the loud harps ring.
'Tis the ransomed army like a mighty sea,
Pealing forth the anthem of the free.

Gospel Hymns #622

Our hearts are filled with joy to know that Alisa Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) is repenting. Our friends are all special to us -- each in their own way. But we have such a concern for their souls and we're so thankful when they can heed God's call and choose to commit their lives to Him. There is nothing that can be compared to the perfect peace that fills the converted heart. Ken Martin has experienced that peace and we look forward to hearing his testimony June 2.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Loren

Stoller (Latty, OH) for spending a blessed weekend with us, sharing with our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in our communion service and bringing God's Word to us.

We also thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for coming to lead our April service at Woodhaven.

Our Easter program was Sunday, April 8. Although many could probably paraphrase the Easter story and not miss a part, we never tire of hearing it, especially from the hearts of our children.

Our congratulations to Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel on the birth of their granddaughter, Lanine Klopfenstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Candice, Bloomington, IL).

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi at the passing of his brother, Steve Szilagyi (Akron, OH) April 12 at the age of 70. We are so thankful that he was able to turn his heart to the Lord in his last days and was baptized in the sister church where he was affiliated.

Sis. Perseda Wieland wants to thank everyone for the cards and gifts she received on her 70th birthday. The love we experience from family, friends and brethren is one of God's most precious blessings.

On May 20, the Detroit choir will host a benefit dinner and program with all proceeds going to Woodhaven. Everyone is invited. The meal starts at 3:30 p.m.

We warmly welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer to our congregation from Francesville, IN.

At this time of year when we set aside a day to honor our mothers and our fathers, let us ever be thankful to God for them and the Christian heritage that we have been given.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

We have reason to rejoice with those who are rejoicing. We welcomed Bro. Dave Stewart into our congrega-

tion as he gave his testimony and was baptized. May Jesus always be his refuge and his first love.

We enjoyed all the visiting ministers who came to share with us and thank them for coming. They are Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) and Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

"A time to be born, and a time to die . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Again this month we have had these experiences in our congregation.

On April 9, a son, Craigan Roy, was born to Bro. Davis and Sis. Nancy Wulf. Ginny, Kara, Brent and Lucy are happy to have a little baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Gridley, IL).

Also on April 9, our dear Sis. Clara Miller passed away. We will miss her cheerful smile and loving kindness, but what a comfort to know she was at peace with her God. We extend our sympathy to her sisters and her nieces and nephews.

On April 8, announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Linda Furrer and ministering Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA). Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen Furrer, and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch (Bluffton, IN). We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they plan for their wedding and new life together.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Kathy Nohl, Brandon Moser (Doug and Dawn) and Sis. Nancy Wulf (Bro. Dave). We're glad they are all feeling better again.

Note of thanks:

The Lloyd Durkee family would like to thank the many friends and relatives for all your prayers, visits, gifts and phone calls during such a difficult time. Your love and deeds of

kindness were deeply appreciated. May God richly bless and reward each one of you.

Dorothy Durkee
Jane Durkee
Dan Durkee
Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf
& family
Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf
& family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ella Mae Schmidt - Georgia Messner

We were privileged to have Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) and his family with us this month. May God bless them for their efforts.

Bro. Archie Lienemann, age 78, passed away March 26, at the Winthrop Care Center where he had been a resident since July 14, 1989, due to a stroke.

Bro. Archie found grace to repent while in the care center and was baptized November 22, 1989. he was a child of God four months. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

The family wishes to thank everyone for the love and prayers. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Sis. Pearl Lienemann; 2 daughters, Sis. Carol Ann Messner and family, and Jane and Darrell Redmann and family; a brother and sister-in-law, Linus and Sis. Esther Lienemann.

Surgical patient was Bro. Kenneth Messner. We are so thankful for God's healing hand.

Bro. George Messner wishes to express his sincere thanks for all who remembered him on his 90th birthday with greetings and gifts. It meant so much to him to hear from so many.

The Easter breakfast served by the Bible class and their teachers was well attended. We want to thank you and we appreciate your efforts.

ANGELS IN DISGUISE

There is a sweet, angelic look
In every Mother's eyes
That makes us stop and wonder
If they're angels in disguise;

For they are always sanding by
When someone needs a friend
No one has as much compassion,
None are quicker to defend.

There is a little bit of God
In every Mother's heart.
He molded them of fine clay
That sets them well apart.

They are an earthly blessing
That heaven itself supplies,
And so we can't help believing
They are angels in disguise!
Regenold Holmes

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Carole Kellenberger

"The nation has no better friend than the mother who teaches her children to pray."

Unknown

Our thoughts turn to this day in May set aside to honor Mothers and we give God thanks for the many prayers offered daily by God-fearing Mothers.

Father in heaven, make me wise,
So that my gaze may never meet
A question in my children's eyes.
God keep me always kind and sweet,
And patient, too, before their need;
Let each vexation know its place,
Let gentleness be all my creed,
Let laughter live upon my face!
A mother's day is very long,
There are so many things to do!
But never let me lose my song
Before the hardest day is through.

Margaret E. Sangstere

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." James 1:5, 6. What comfort we receive as we turn to God's Word to find the answers we need to train our children.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) with us April 21 and 22. Bro. Dale assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Marti in serving holy communion. We were thankful to come together and be reminded of the great price Jesus paid for us at Calvary.

We also enjoyed a day working together cleaning out our church building and the grounds around it. Thank you to each one who gave some of their time to produce a pleasing end result!

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Janel Kellenberger
Becky Marti

It is just a pleasure to see the flowers blooming and the grass so green. God's wonderful artwork always brings comfort to us.

Jim and Sis. Mary Probert have been blessed with another son. Trevor James was born March 22 and has two older brothers, Kellen and Cassidy. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti and Marvin and Betty Probert (Golden City, MO). Maternal great-grandmother is Anna Marti.

Sis. Janice Frieden has recently been hospitalized with pneumonia. She is home now and getting better.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kathy Knapp

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL). We are thankful for their efforts of love.

We appreciate our visitors and invite all to worship with us in St. Louis. Services are held every Sunday at the Ben Franklin Motel at 10:15 a.m.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Lori Marquart
Louanne Gramm

We partook of holy communion Saturday evening, March 24. Bro. Gerald Sutter assisted our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm with the services.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) as well as Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). We thank you dear brothers for bringing your families here to visit our church in Taylor -- visitors are always welcome.

We congratulate Bro. Don Grimm and Sis. Trish Pflum on their marriage which took place April 8 in Oakville, IA. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Trish to our congregation here. We're glad to have you with us, Trish.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel are foster parents and their family has lovingly taken in a darling little baby girl, Miranda. She is so precious and we pray that God will provide

little Miranda with loving, Christian parents.

Services were held Good Friday evening. Our Sunday school students held their Easter program on Easter Sunday and it is a real joy to hear the children tell of how much God loved us that He gave His only begotten Son.

WHY SHOULD HE DIE
FOR SUCH AS I?

In everything both great and small
 We see the hand of God in all,
 And in the miracles of spring
 When everywhere in everything
 His handiwork is all around
 And every lovely sight and sound
 Proclaims the God of earth and sky
 I ask myself "Just Who Am I"
 That God should send His only Son
 That my salvation would be won
 Upon a cross by a sinless man
 To bring fulfillment to God's plan --
 For Jesus suffered, bled and died
 That sinners might be sanctified
 And to grant God's children such as I
 Eternal life in that Home on High.

Helen Steiner Rice

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
 "For length of days and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

"So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Proverbs 3:1-4

The words of this Proverb were read at the funeral service for retired ministering Bro. John Wierick April 4. Bro. John was faithful to his God for his lifetime and surely he was rewarded with length of days, long life and peace. He served his God in the ministry from January 29, 1950 until September 24, 1989. During that time he also served us as elder for several years. We want to thank God for allowing Bro. John so many years to serve Him and us as a faith-

ful minister of the Word. Our hearts are saddened at his passing from this life but we are assured that he has now met his loved ones who have passed on before and that he is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Bro. John reached his 92nd birthday September 7. Funeral services were conducted by Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), and Bros. Duane Farney and Floyd Graves. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Berdena; four sons, Boyce (Herrings), Gilbert and Robert (Lowville) and Virgil (Croghan); two daughters, Mrs. Jack (Rita) Ebersol (Penfield) and Mrs. Peter (Betty) Nortz (Lowville); three stepsons, Duane Streeter (Carthage), Ralph Streeter (Beaver Falls) and Clifton Streeter (Castorland). He also had 32 grandchildren and many step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren. Two brothers and four sisters also survive. He will be deeply missed by his family and our congregation. Our sympathy and love is extended to Sis. Berdena and their families.

Bro. Rudy Virkler and Sis. Susan Stomberg were united in marriage March 18 in Rockville. On April 7 we had a reception, covered dish meal and singing when Bro. Rudy, Sis. Susan and her family were with us for the weekend. May God bless them as they begin their lives together as a new family.

On Easter Sunday, our Sunday school children presented a short program of verse and song to remind us of the death of our Savior for each of us and then of His resurrection from the dead. May each of them carry these truths and teachings in their hearts throughout their lives. Our prayer is that many more will heed God's call while the door of grace is ajar.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools." Psalms 84:6. Baca comes from the word Bochim, meaning weepings. It is used in Judges 2:5. The people were being cursed. The angel told them why they were being oppressed. This caused weepings, and they sacrificed unto the Lord. Then

the Lord turned the situation, and every man went to possess the land. Proverbs 16:15 states: "In the light of the king's countenance is life; in his favor is a cloud and that cloud is rain." If we are in the valley of Baca, weeping, we can get into the light of our King of King's countenance, we can get the light of His Word on it, and He can bring the cloud of rain to fill our pool with promises for us to possess the land of promises.

We rejoice that Eric Spangler has turned to the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler. The Lord loves Eric and will grant grace for his needs.

Sis. Ella Deislinger (Girard) passed away at age 95. She lived in the Girard area all her life. Surviving are her sisters, Esther, Clara and Ida Whalen; and a brother, Carl. There are now two members living in the Girard area, Sis. Margaret Kincaid and Sis. Anna Enyeart.

We have two college graduates this spring: Sis. Dianna Bako has received a bachelor's degree in elementary education; and Sis. Susie Grawunder received a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Our high school graduates are Joy Bako (Eugene and Sis. Dianna); Tina Gallagher (John and Margi), who plans to attend Ohio U. at Athens; Melanie Gasser (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol), who plans to go to Ohio State U. at Columbus; David Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah); Michelle Lohr, who plans to go to Akron U.; Sis. Vicki Palitto (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell), who plans to go to Akron U.; Sis. Jennifer Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce); and Rich Weisman (Richard and Jean).

We appreciated visiting ministers Bro. Bill Schlatter, Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Glenn Riegenbach.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

We were privileged to have Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) minister God's Word to us. Also, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) for a special Friday night service. May God bless these brothers and their loved ones.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

Our dear Sis. Ella Deislinger has gone to be with her Maker. Ella was loved and respected by all who knew her. She continued as homemaker after her parents' death and we all loved to go there. She will be sadly missed by her sisters, Clara and Esther, with whom she lived, her sister, Ida Whalen, and her brother, Carl. Five brothers and sisters preceded her in death.

A friend wrote in a memorial to her, "Ella left us a legacy which we should cherish dearly. A legacy which is an example we should follow in our daily living. It is a legacy which tells us she fought the good fight, she finished the course, and above all, she kept the faith."

Our Sis. Anna Enyeart is now the lone sister in Girard. Anna's daughter is recovering from a fall. Clara Deislinger is hospitalized and recovering from a stroke. So these, along with the rest of their families, need your prayers.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Trish Rose as they welcome little Matthew Paul into their lives. Matthew has a big brother, Johnathon.

Our congregation is once again assembling in our church building. We are thankful to be able to return, but have enjoyed our opportunity to travel to many different places and churches.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller

It was a happy time for Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber when their daughter, Sue, was married to Mike Davis. We all wish to encourage Mike and Sue to seek God's wisdom and guidance as they begin their life together. We also want to welcome Mike to our congregation.

We are so glad that Andrea Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) is feeling much better after her recent stay in the hospital. Our prayers continue to be with each of you.

We are so thankful for the many dear ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us this past month.

May God richly bless you for giving of yourselves for our benefit.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest over the birth of their son, Aaron Lee. Aaron has a big sister, Andrea, who loves her little brother and is a big help to her mommy. Our prayers are with you, Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula, for God's love and wisdom to raise your children to glorify Him.

The month of May is the time of year we stop to thank God for our mothers. When we have been blessed with a mother who loves us and cares, we too often forget there are those whose mother is not like this. Take some extra time to tell your mother how much you love her. Thank her for all that she has done for you. Remember all those small labors of love that have made your life easier and made mom go out of her way. Do something special for your mom that shows her your love and appreciation. If you know of a mom whose children have treated her unkind when she has given them her best, perhaps you could see fit to make her day special by an unexpected labor of love. May God be with us all.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"The grave of Christ, the risen Lord,

Is vacant where He lay;
The Son is victor over death;
Who'er believes is saved.
Hallelujah! The Lord arose.
Our ransom now is paid.
The Son is victor over death,
Who'er believes is saved."

Hymns of Zion #257, vs. 1 & 4

The Sunday school children brought forth the message of the risen Lord in verse and song to the delight of parents and grandparents and to the praise and honor of God.

Bro. Wes and Maggie Washington embrace into their hearts and home their new daughter, Erin Elizabeth. Christopher is delighted to have a new sister to love. Prayerful support is given by grandparents, Bro. Barnie and Sis. Bev Washington.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Barnie and Sis. Bev in the death of Barnie's dad, Moody Wash-

ington. "Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; . . . O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!" (Abide with Me, vs. 2).

Esther Zody and David (Joy) Sauder have been in the hospital. We pray God's hand of love will abide with them in this time of sickness.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) was willing to minister unto us Good Friday. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain Free to all -- a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me; Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me." (Hymns of Zion #155, Vs. 1 & 3).

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

We wish to thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for visiting us and serving as ministers.

Andy Woyat and Marne Ritchey were united in marriage February 24. Parents are Ronald and Jeanette Woyat and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Ritchey.

March 25 Bro. Scott Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Charlene Rufener (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas, Smithville) began serving God together as they were married. May God bless these couples as they adjust to this new life.

Announcing their engagement are Lee Gasser and Debbie Eckenrode. Parents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Lucy Gasser and Mr. and Mrs. Don Eckenrode. We wish them God's blessings.

April 8 the engagement of Bro. Roscoe Hilty (Sis. Ruth and the late Bro. Herbert) and Sis. Wanda Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario) was announced. May God grant them His peace as they near their marriage.

We wish to remember with sympathy Dan Pope (Sis. Anita) whose brother, Thomas Pope, passed away. God's comfort is sufficient for all grief.

Those who have been in the hospital recently were Bro. Don Walder (Sis. Martha), Bro. Galen Indermuhle (Sis. Cheryl), Brian Bauman (Peggy), Sis. Martha Jane Riggerbach (Vernon), Bro. Frank Nussbaum (Marie) and Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace).

Born April 8 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller was a boy, Javan Reed. Brothers, Jordan and Jeran, welcome little Javan, as do grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn Dotterer are the parents of another son, Matthew Richard, born April 13. Jodi, Mark and Michael welcome their little brother. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann Widmer.

April 7 the Smithville congregation joined us for holy communion services. We appreciate Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for assisting Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with these duties.

Certainly we rejoice with Tanya Zierau (Bro. Heinz) and Peggy Bauman (Brian) who have begun their repentance. May we all strive to continually grow spiritually so we are prepared for the gathering at the final harvest!

OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 28

With grateful hearts our thoughts turn to our mothers in appreciation for all they do for us. How often they willingly make sacrifices for our benefit. May God grant them each a special blessing this Mother's Day. It is a special one this year for Sis. Paula and Bro. John Figel as their son, Andrew, was announced some time ago for baptism that Sunday. What a beautiful Mother's day gift any child can give their mother.

Along with spring comes graduation and with graduation comes many new horizons for those involved. Our high school graduates include Dana Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda), Trent Indermuhle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen) and Cliff Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). Our college graduate this spring is David Figel (Bro. John

and Sis. Paula). May each graduate seek God's help with decisions in higher education and employment.

Sis. Hazel Riggerbach was a patient in the Wetzel County Hospital this month. We are thankful to report she is home and doing well. Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) is layed up at home with back problems. Sis. Almeda Brake (John) is home after another surgery. She is improving slowly, but is thankful to be home. We hope to see each one back in church with us soon. When sickness befalls any of us we are assured God's grace will help us to bear the infirmities of the flesh.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Stephanie Luginbuhl Kim Stoller

I HAVE FOUND IT!

I have found the perfect treasure,
Richer than my fondest
dream;
It is mine and mine forever,
Safe from every selfish
scheme.

Wealth as vast as all of heaven!
Beauty fairer than the day!
Joy with no corrupting leaven
Shall go with me all the way!

Long I sought this wondrous
blessing,
Sought by labor under law,
Till God's grace reached down,
caressing
Touched my faith -- and then
I saw!

Will you share with me this
treasure --
Gift of God's amazing grace?
'Twill be more than all earth's
measure
Just to look upon His face.

L. M. Hearn

We rejoice with the three dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Margaret Blough (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lorene) and David and Michelle Marty (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty and Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery).

We thank God for the brethren who willingly teach and admonish us from His Word. Our visiting minis-

ters were Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL).

March 25 was the wedding day of Bro. Scott Stoller and Sis. Charlene Rufener. May the Lord bless them as they walk this life together. Their parents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener.

Once again we received a blessing from the Lord in being able to partake of communion with the Rittman congregation.

Reminder: May is the collection month for the Silver Lining.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla**

The beautiful season of spring is with us again.

AWAKENING

A little sun, a little rain,
A soft wind blowing from the
west,
And woods and fields are sweet
again,
And the warmth within the
mountain's breast.

A little love, a little trust,
A soft impulse, a sudden dream,
And life as dry as desert dust,
Is fresher than a mountain
stream.

Stopford A. Brooke

We appreciate having in our midst Bros. Ben Manz and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We thank them for bringing the message of salvation made possible by the sacrifices of Jesus. We also enjoyed the many visitors who spent Sundays with us during the past month.

We were privileged to partake of holy communion April 5. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Walter Rager conducted this special service. Jesus said, ". . . this do in remembrance of me." St. Luke 22:19.

We have been blessed by little bundles of joy. Philip and Claudia Stevens have a baby daughter, Leanne Nicole. She is welcomed home by her

brother, Andrew. Her grandparents are Robert and Dorothy Stevens.

Michael and Laurie Jackson have a little son, Trent Michael. Carrie now has a baby brother. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Fetter.

We extend our congratulations to our high school graduates, Chad Sancier (David and Sis. Connie) and Jesse Beard (Bro. David and Sis. Geryl). May God's blessings be with them as they enter a new place in their lives.

Added to the blessings of the special season of Easter, was listening once again to our Sunday school children bringing to us the story in such a nice and interesting way. When the very young speak and sing (they are so sweet and innocent) it makes us think of and understand the message given to us by our Lord and Saviour, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." St. Luke 18:16.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER

Lydia

Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher would like to express her deepest thanks to those who kept her in their thoughts and prayers during her hospital stay.

We pray the Lord will watch over her as she recovers fully.

We are very happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Wanda Fortenbacher (Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher) to Bro. Roscoe Hilty (Sis. Ruth Hilty).

We pray for God's direction and guidance as they plan for their summer wedding.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

"Our lot is found in pleasant places, A goodly heritage is ours," (Zion's Harp #145). We can believe each of us can feel this with all our heart, after hearing the talks and slide presentation given by members of the World Relief Committee. We are a very blessed land and people, and certainly will be asked, one day, how we used what God loaned to us.

We had the added blessings of

having many (for our little church) ministering and elder brothers and their wives with us a few short days. Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL) were with us Wednesday evening for services, and Bro. Jim lovingly reminded us of the joy (not duty) of giving. On Sunday we were blessed by the words of four elder brothers. They were (I will write in sequence of their exhortations, as each one brought us a special gem of Truth); Elder Bros. Wendell Gude-man (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Robert Grimm (Sis. Elna, Goodfield, IL) and Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO). Sunday evening a few were able to gather to hear Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) give a loving message. We thank each one who made the effort to come be with us and only wish you could know how you have encouraged our hearts.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We rejoice with Bro. John Wiegand (Elder Bro. David and Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL) and Sis. Jane Rocke (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline, Eureka, IL) who first chose to live for the Lord and now have been led by Him to serve the Lord together, as husband and wife. March 25 was the special day and the Apostolic Christian Church of Eureka, IL, was the beloved place where this holy covenant was bound and . . . "we find a three-fold cord" . . . "shall then endure and stand forever." An Oregon Buffet Reception was held April 7 to welcome them home. May God be ever near as they establish their Christian home together.

Since Bro. Ray Moser has been on the World Relief Committee he and Sis. Barbara have often traveled to various spots across the United States to attend the meetings necessary to keep this worthy and complex mission organized. These meetings are scheduled three times a year and some time ago Bro. Ray offered Oregon as a possible site for a meeting. The Committee accepted and we had the blessed privilege to host their most recent meeting. We hope and pray that our guests enjoyed their stay here even half as much as we en-

joyed having them. This writer will not attempt to explain the many very interesting and far-reaching activities of the World Relief and Mission Committees and the Work Projects that it was our privilege to learn, knowing that these activities are regularly written on the first several pages of the Silver Lining. But, we will say this, if you have an opportunity to view their slide presentation be assured that it is well worth the time spent. May God richly bless each one who came; each one who helped in any way to provide the food, accommodations, activities and transportation; and each one who lent their support in prayer for this whole uplifting weekend. Our thanks also for those brothers willing to lift their voices in prayer at the many meals and gatherings.

The entire congregation benefited by the willingness of the many visiting elder brothers and ministering brothers that were used to bring us the Word of the Lord on either Thursday night or Sunday. We heartily thank Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL). Also ministering Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Tom Leiman (Denver, CO).

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"Delight thyself also in the Lord;
and he shall give thee the desires of
thine heart."

Psalms 37:4

On April 8, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Jerry Isch and Sis. Linda Furrer. Parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen Furrer (Morris, MN). We wish them God's nearness as they make the necessary arrangements for their special day.

We said farewell to our dear Sis. Jackie Mogler who has moved back to West Bend, IA. Also leaving us was our dear friend Dana Trumbower who will be attending church in Leo, IN. May they walk close to our Lord in their new homes.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."
Isaiah 43:2

We miss the fellowship of Sis. Kay Lanz (Bro. John) and her young son, Christopher, who has been ill. We pray for God's healing hand on young Christopher. May Bro. John and Sis. Kay feel God's nearness through these difficult times.

We thank Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Thomas Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz**

Monday evening, March 19, Elder Bro. Edward Lantz (Oakville, IA) and our retired Elder Bro. Edward Hohulin served us holy communion. We want to thank Elder Bro. Edward Lantz and his wife, Sis. Joan, for their visit to Zapata.

Many of our winter visitors have returned to their homes up north. We were glad to hear some say, "next winter we plan to come earlier and stay longer."

April is a beautiful time with the many wild flowers in bloom along the road side, in fields and yards. I read that Texas has 5000 wild flower species. The pear cactus is full of large yellow and orange blossoms, the wild olive trees have large white blossoms, the purple sage has small purple flowers, and we have many blue bonnets, Indian blankets and Indian paint brushes. We thank the Lord that he blessed the earth and gave us these free gifts.

We welcome summer visitors.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

SILVER THREADS

HUMILITY

Our loved ones and friends are fast
passing away,
To the country that's wondrously
fair;
Our circle down here groweth
smaller each day,
But the circle grows larger up
there.

Our hearts are made sad when we
bid them goodbye
As they pass from this country of
care.
But there comes a joy as we look
t'ward the sky
For the circle grows larger up
there.

It will not be long 'till the glories
above,
With our loved ones and friends we
shall share,
United again by the Saviour's great
love,
In the unbroken circle up there.

The circle grows smaller down here
Where sorrows and heartaches
appear,
But the circle grows larger up
yonder
Where God shall erase every tear.

Poems For Mother's Day By Helen Steiner Rice



FOR ONE WHO GIVES SO MUCH TO OTHERS

It's not the things that can be
bought
That are life's richest treasure;
It's just the little "heart gifts"
That money cannot measure.
A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
A sympathetic nod
Are priceless little treasures
From the storehouse of our God.
They are the things that can't be
bought

With silver or with gold,
For thoughtfulness and kindness
And love are never sold.

They are the priceless things in life
For which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich
recompense
In giving them away.
And who on earth gives more away
And does more good for others
Than understanding, kind and wise
And selfless, loving mothers,
Who ask no more than just the joy
Of helping those they love
To find in life the happiness
That they are dreaming of.

WHERE THERE IS LOVE

Where there is love the heart is
light,
Where there is love the day is
bright,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going
wrong.
Where there is love there's quiet
peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils
cease.
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take
"wingless flight."
And mothers have a special way
Of filling homes with love each day,
And when the home is filled with
love
You'll always find God spoken of,
And when a family "prays
together,"
That family also "stays together."
And once again a mother's touch
Can mold and shaped and do so
much
To make this world a better place
For when man walks with God
again,
There shall be peace on earth for
men.

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

It takes a mother's love
To make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
No matter where we roam.
It takes a mother's patience
To bring a child up right,

And her courage and her
cheerfulness
To make a dark day bright.
It takes a mother's thoughtfulness
To mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her skill and her endurance
To mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a mother's kindness
To forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
And bow her head in prayer.
It takes a mother's wisdom
To recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
By her loving words and deeds.
It takes a mother's endless faith,
Her confidence and trust
To guide us through the pitfalls
Of selfishness and lust.
And that is why in all this world
There could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
As completely as
A mother!

FOR MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY

"No other love
Than mother love
Could do the things
Required of
The one to whom
God gives the keeping
Of His wee lambs,
Awake or sleeping."



THE SOUL OF A CHILD

The soul of a child is the loveliest
flower
That grows in the garden of God.
Its climb is from weakness to
knowledge and power,
To the sky from the clay to the
cloud.
To beauty and sweetness it grows
under care,

Neglected, 'tis ragged and wild.
'Tis a plant that is tender, but
wondrously rare,
The sweet, wistful soul of a child.

Be tender, O gardener, and give it
its share
Of moisture, of warmth and of
light,
And let it not lack for the
painstaking care
To protect it from frost and from
blight.
A glad day will come when its
bloom shall unfold,
It will seem that an angel has
smiled,
Reflecting a beauty and sweetness
untold
In the sensitive soul of a child.
Author Unknown

STAR OF MY LIFE

Even before I breathed the breath
of life,
Your prayers, like rays of heavenly
light,
Illumined safe paths for me to
tread,
To point my ways in places bright.
Through childhood days of
helplessness
And mystery, strange pain and
tears,
You led me ever from the depths
Of joyless hours, from needs or
fears:
Star of my life -- My Mother.

*New interests with added years
Have come, but none that does
imbue
With greater faith than your sure
love;
No orb that gleams more brightly
through
The clouds that float across my
view
To peace and happiness and God,
To guide, to comfort, to sustain,
As life's uneven course I plod:
Star of my life -- My Mother.*

I know 'tis not without distress
You've kept your light before my
feet;
Oft times I've followed errant bent
And brought you grief and sore
defeat.

But your true life and patient love
Have e'er kept plain the surer way.
Though I fall short, you have not
failed;

For this I honor you today:

Star of my life -- My Mother.

Author Unknown

MY MOTHER

Who fed me from her gentle breast
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses pressed?
My mother.

When sleep forsook my open eye,
Who was it sang sweet lullaby,
And rocked me that I should not cry?
My mother.

Who sat and watched my infant head,
When sleeping on my cradle bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My mother.

When pain and sickness made me
cry,
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,
And wept for fear that I should die?
My mother.

Who dressed my doll in clothes so
gay,
And taught me pretty how to play,
And minded all I had to say?
My mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My mother.

Who taught my infant lips to pray,
To love God's holy Word and day,
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?
My mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee
Who wast so very kind to me --
My mother.

Oh no, the thought I cannot bear;
And if God please my life to spare,
I hope I shall reward thy care,
My mother.

When thou art feeble, old and tray,
My healthy arm shall be thy stay,
And I will soothe thy pains away,
My mother.

And when I see thee hang thy head,
Twill be my turn to watch thy bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed --
My mother.

For God, who lives above the skies,
Would look with vengeance in His
eyes
If I should ever dare despise
My mother.

NOBODY KNOWS BUT MOTHER

They talk of a mother's toil and care,
Of the tasks that her hands must
do,
Of the furrows that creep o'er the
brow once fair,
Of the burdens and heartaches
too.
But they know not the joy stitched in
each little dress,
The pattering footsteps that
brighten and bless,
The thrill of a baby's loving caress --
Ah, nobody knows but Mother.

They talk of her narrow and humble
place,
The monotonous life she leads,
While others are learning and
growing apace,
And doing such wonderful deeds.
But they know not the mystery deep
that lies,
Hidden away in a baby's eyes,
And every day brings a fresh
surprise,
That nobody sees but Mother.

There was never a task by the Father
given,
That brought not its blessing too,
And the life that liest the nearest
Heaven,
Was given, oh Mother, to you.
The task is great, but the joy is sweet,
The hours of prayer bring a faith
complete,
And the highest wisdom our life can
meet,
Lies hid in the heart of a Mother.
The Fireside

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 touselled 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 --
For Faith in things we cannot see
Requires a child's simplicity
For, lost is life's complexities,
We drift upon
uncharted seas
And slowly Faith disintegrates
While wealth and power
accumulates --
And the more man learns, the less he
knows,
And the more involved his thinking
grows
And, in his arrogance and pride,
No long is
man satisfied
To place his confidence and love
With childlike Faith in God above --
Oh, Father, grant once more to men
A simple childlike
Faith again
And, with a small child's trusting
eyes,
May all men come to realize
That Faith alone can save man's soul
And led him to
a Higher Goal.

Author Unknown

TO MY SON

I could wish that I were wise,
To keep the innocence in your eyes,
To shield you from the truths that
pain,
To show but rainbows in the rain.

I could wish that I were strong,
To clear your path of every wrong,
Never let you shed a tear,
Or know the terror of a fear.

Would life be heaven, then, for you,
If these my wishes could come true?

I am not wise, and yet I know
That wishing doesn't make it so;
And joys are never quite so sweet
As after problems that we meet.

What pride the prize that you have
won
If there was not a race to run?
Ruth Rodier Taylor

We set aside a day each year
Which we call Mother's Day
To honor Mother, hold her close,
And cherish her in every way.

Yet wouldn't it be nice for her
If we could truly say
We set aside some time for love
To make each day our mother's day.
Minnie Klemme



JUST LIKE MINE

I want my home to be like the home
I knew when I was small --
A home where faith was all around,
Where love grew on each wall.
I want my child to know the peace
I know today because
My mother took the time to pray,
To teach me God's own laws.
I want to keep my kitchen bright,
My table set with grace,
The kind it takes to make my child
Feel welcome in this place.

I want to play, to take time out
To hear each childish word --
To talk to him, to walk with him,
To let him know he's heard.
I want to make him feel each day
This home is his home, too --
A place where we can share each joy,
Each problem old or new.
I want to be there when he calls
And yet not make him lean;
I want to watch him grow each day
Strong, and true, and clean.

I could not ask for greater wealth
Or greater gift to give
Than just a home like my home was
Where this, my child, may live.
Phyllis Michael

TO MOTHERS

When God conceived the universe
He made strange, wondrous things...
The sun, the moon, the golden stars,
A little bird that sings:
This glowing, gorgeous world of ours,
A blade of shining grass,
Broad rivers running to the sea,
Soft, perfumed winds that pass;
The earth was filled with lovely things
Yet lacked a vital part
Until God made His masterpiece . . .
A mother's love-filled heart.

Avis H. Baxter

Happy are the families where the
government of parents is the reign of
affection, and obedience of the chil-
dren the submission of love.

Author Unknown

Give a little love to a child, and
you get a great deal back

Ruskin

The happiest moments of my life
have been the few which I have passed
at home in the bosom of my family.

Thomas Jefferson

Home is a box of jewels, more
precious than diamonds or fine ru-
bies. Here in childhood dwelt your
mother's love; here, in riper years,
the love of your children and their
mother.

Albert B. Galloway

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and
rest; Home-keeping hearts are hap-
piest.

Longfellow

A house without books is like a
room without windows.

Horace Mann

A babe in the house is a wellspring
of pleasure, a messenger of peace and
love, a resting place for innocence on
earth, a link between angels and men.

Tupper

Duty makes us do things well, but
love makes us do them beautifully.
Phillips Brooks

You cannot purchase happiness,
It's something you must earn;
Give happiness to other folds,
And get joy in return.
Harold G. Hopper

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

farmer has to rely upon the Lord,
doesn't he, for the increase and for
the ability for that seed to grow?

That is no different from you and
I. I certainly cannot cause anyone to
be convicted in their heart. I do not
have that ability, nor do you. But
aren't we thankful that the Holy Spirit
has the ability to do that? But you and
I also must do our part. We must sow
the seeds. We must take time, first of
all, to sow the seeds in our children's
hearts when they are young.

Beloved, are you doing that? Are
you sowing the seeds right now today
in the hearts of your young people?
Are you sowing worldliness, or are
you sowing seeds of the Lord Jesus
Christ? Are you sowing love? Are you
sowing the spiritual things, or are
you sowing the worldly things?

Then the question has to be asked,
if you are sowing the worldly, what
good will that do to that child in years
to come? All you have to do is go and
visit those who are on the sick beds
and near death and they will tell you
what is important when they are
taking their last breath. Those who
are nearest to death, they will tell you
what is important. It is not the car. It
is not the land. It is not the bank
account. It is not the big homes. It is
not the prestige.

Beloved, it comes down to one
thing. It is Jesus Christ and them.
That is what is important. Do they
know Him, or do they not? Beloved,
we must start out and sow seeds
when children are young.

"Train up a child," It speaks in
Proverbs, doesn't it? Train up that
child. It didn't say, "Train up an adult."
It said, "Train up a child." Proverbs
22:6. Sow seeds when they are young.
Why? Because you can form a tree
when it is young. When you are plant-
ing a little tree, when it's very young,

you can put ties on to that tree and you can form and shape that tree when it is young.

But did you ever go out and try to shape a tree when it was four feet thick? It is a little difficult. We have a tremendous opportunity as parents and as a church to sow wonderful, wonderful seeds of Jesus Christ.

What are we sowing in our work place? Do we sow the Lord there, or are we more or less ashamed to sow seeds in the work place?

It says, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." Matthew 13:3. The seed, of course, is the Word of God, isn't it? It is Jesus Christ. It is His plan of salvation to sow it. What a beautiful, beautiful story! It should be sown, and it should be sown each and every day and every opportunity that we have.

Beloved, we need to pray that we do not pass up those opportunities but that God will show us those opportunities, and that He will bring them to our hearts and minds so that we can be ready with the Word . . . have it ready in our hearts and be willing to share it.

The sower and the seed. Then He talks about the soil, doesn't He? "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up." Matthew 13:4. The sower, the seed and soil. What is the soil? Are we talking about ground here? The Lord used this parable as ground because He was talking to people who would understand the ground. Most of us understand ground. Perhaps as children, we played in it. Perhaps we work in it. Now as adults, we plant our flowers in it and work with it. Perhaps some of you are in farming and work with it.

It says, "When he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up." Matthew 13:4. We might say that this is a way side here, isn't it? Some seed fell on really hard ground, almost on the hardest of earth. We might say that if you took seed and went out to plant it, rather than plant it in your garden, let's say you took seed and dropped it right onto the concrete driveway. Is it going to grow if you drop seed on to the concrete? No. Why? Because the surface is so hard . . . it is terribly hard. The seed is on the ground, but the problem is

that the seed is not in the ground. It is only on it.

So we have here the first example. We have a way side here because It says some seeds fell by the way side. They hear it but that is all the further it goes. It goes in the ears but never penetrates. It goes in . . . it is on the heart but never in it.

What happens? It says that the fowls came and devoured them up. Satan comes along . . . our adversary. He comes along and sees and snatches that Word away. He loves to do it. He is even trying to do it in our church. We see all across the face of the earth how the Bibles are changing.

I am part of our Bible Distribution Committee in Morton and many times when we go to search for Bibles, (we like the King James Version -- we prefer that), when we go to check out Bibles, we see all these different versions that there are nowadays. The versions seem to never stop. Seems like there is a new one every year and it seems like it is "watered down" every year.

What is Satan trying to do? Satan is trying to take that Word and very gradually, very gradually, very gradually "water" it down so people never hear repentance ever again. He wants to get people so far removed from the Lord that they won't see Him.

Beloved, we need to hear terms like "repentance," "yes, we are sinners," and "we have sinned." When we hear those things, (oh, we don't like to hear them), it is truth. The truth is what will set you free . . . not lies. Truth will set you free. (See John 8:32).

He goes on to say, "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched: and because they had no root, they withered away." Matthew 13:5, 6. Did you ever see a driveway that has a crack in it and see a piece of grass growing up between the concrete? Maybe a blade or two growing there? You marvel as you look at it and think, "How can a piece of grass grow there? How could a seed have found its way down through all that?" Yet, it grew up, and there is was . . . a piece of grass in your driveway. Kind of hard to believe, isn't it?

It says, "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth . . ."

Matthew 13:5. Just enough earth. In other words, as the seed went out, it fell on the ground and went in. But the problem was, there wasn't much of a root going down. It was not deeply rooted in. Because it was not rooted in, it could not take the stresses.

It says here, ". . . where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth." Matthew 13:5. In other words, there was no root system that really went down tightly. When the sun was up, what happened to that piece of grass during the hottest times? It withered, didn't it? If it is planted shallow, what happens? It withers.

So this might be someone who hears the Word and becomes all excited about the Word . . . so excited and is ready to really serve the Lord. He becomes real excited but there is no root. There is no real deep root in the Word. What happens? A temptation or a trial comes along and these trials and these tests scorch and the person passes Jesus Christ on.

I worked with a man one time who was real zealous. He came to me and said, "I'm going to turn to the Lord." I said, "I am happy for you." He went to another church, it wasn't the Apostolic Christian church but that was fine. He was turning to the Lord, and I was happy for him. He said, "Yes, I am turning my life over to Him." He was smiling and just really zealous and so happy that he was going to serve the Lord.

He said, "I am going to take my children and start going to church with them." I said, "I hope you do . . . keep going." Week after week, he came back telling how wonderful it was to go to church services and things like that. I said, "Keep it up. You are doing fine."

He came upon trial and temptation, beloved. Things set in on him because the devil came along. The old devil really fights hard, and when he sees a soul ready to turn his life over to the Lord, he fights even harder. He comes at us with those temptations and trials. He tries to beat down our faith.

What happened to that man? I noticed that he, believe it or not, had actually given up smoking. He was

a smoker, but he had given it up. But then one day I saw he was back and he was smoking again. He was back to drinking again and doing all kinds of things. I said to someone else, "What happened?" Do you know what his words were? He said, "Well, if you can't beat them, join them." In other words, when the trials and temptations came on heavy, he wasn't rooted in enough. Beloved, he was scorched and he gave up.

Beloved, it is worth the fight. When Satan comes to you and tries to tempt you, it is worth the fight. When he comes to you and tries to tell you, "Your faith is not worth it," it is worth the fight. When he comes and tries to tell you, "You didn't do it right," it is worth the fight. Or he says, "There is no heaven," it is worth the fight. Keep fighting.

Do you know why it is worth the fight? Because if the devil is there trying so hard, what does that tell you? If the devil is working that hard, the devil even knows himself what salvation means. That is why he is working so hard because he knows the worth of salvation. That is why he tempts.

This passage of Scripture teaches us, beloved, that we need to be deeply rooted. We need to be deeply rooted in the Word and into Jesus Christ . . . so deeply that when these scorches do come, we will not be as this plant. We need to be deeply rooted!

"Some" It says, "fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them." Matthew 13:7. Now here we have a seed that was planted not on the surface, but in the surface, and now we have the root going down.

Here we have someone who is really doing quite well for the Lord, but one of the things that happens now is that they are choked. The cares of this life can choke us, and we have to be careful of that as Christians. We have to be very careful that the business we run, the things that we do, and all the cares of this life do not choke our life for the Lord.

I read just the other day in the paper where they did a poll of people over sixty years of age. I can't even begin to think what it means if they would poll people under sixty. But they polled people over sixty years of age and asked them, "What is the most important thing in your life?"

They were supposed to give the top three.

Of people over sixty, the number one thing in their life is friendships. Number two is the ability to drive a car, and number three is God. I had to think and wonder, what if they would have asked people younger than that? Where is God? He takes third place.

Where is the Lord in your life? Is He up on top where He should be? Or is He shelved? Have you shelved Him? Do you put Him aside? Where is He?

The Lord wants us to have Him at the very top of our lives . . . at the top of our marriages . . . at the top of our businesses. That is where He should be! He deserves that! He deserves more than that, but He deserves that! He needs to be esteemed! He needs to be lauded! He needs to be up there!

But what do we do? I have to speak for myself. We get caught up in what we are doing here on this earth. We are so busy. We are so busy! Think about your own life, coming and going. Are we lined up shelving the Lord?

I often marvel at the older sisters in our church -- even older brothers -- but they say, "I feel so sorry that I can't do more. I move so slow." I hear so many of them say, "I move so slow." I always say to them, "You are not moving slow. The world is moving too fast. You are moving at the right speed." We need to slow down and take priorities and take stock of our lives and ask ourselves, "Okay, where do I stand before the Lord?"

We know this, that on the Judgment Day, beloved, God is not going to look at the car, or look at the bank account. He is not going to look at the prestige, the name, whether you are assistant, vice-president or president, it makes no difference.

On Judgment Day, we will stand there by ourself and we must ask, "What have I brought? What do I have?" The only thing, beloved, that you can take is salvation in Jesus Christ, but that will be enough. But if you don't have that, you have nothing. You are the poorest of the poor.

Then, It goes on to say, "But other" seed again, "fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold." Matthew 13:8. Now we have the seed that is not only on the surface but in the surface and is rooted

down and bringing forth fruit, beloved. Isn't that what you do when you want to plant?

Do you want corn plants to just come up and not put out an ear? Is that what you want? Do you want a rose bush that comes up and looks healthy and green, but does not put out a flower? Do you want a fruit tree -- an apple tree or orange tree or whatever it may be -- that is a beautiful, beautiful tree that looks healthy but there is no fruit on that tree? No. Neither does the Lord.

The Lord wants workers . . . He wants stewards . . . He wants people to bear fruit. Do you bear fruit? You might say, "Yes, but I can't bear the fruit because of my health." That is why It says here that some do bear an hundredfold, some sixtyfold and some thirty. But, beloved, it is still fruit and there is something there. True, we cannot all do the same thing.

God does not expect that, but God does expect us to give our heart to Him. He does expect us to try. What sort of fruit do you bear?

I was with a man one time who works the orchards. He had a huge, huge orchard. Every morning he would drive his truck down through that orchard and he would examine his trees. He would look at each one of his trees.

I can't help but think that the Lord does that every day. He walks through the churches of this nation, through your home and my home, and He examines the "trees" . . . you and me. What sort of fruit does He see? Does the Lord walk out and simply shake His head? Or, is He pleased with the fruit that He sees? Where is the Lord in your life?

I've heard people say this before, and people sometimes ask the question, how could a loving God place someone into hell? It is hard for people to understand. How could a loving God place someone into hell for all eternity? But the question must also be asked, how can a righteous God accept an unrepentant sinner into heaven? The answer is, He can't, and He won't.

Beloved, you have the opportunity. The doors of grace are yet open. Jesus Christ has His arms out and He says this: "Come and taste and see." (See Psalms 34:8). Come today and serve Him with all your heart.

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INING

SERMON BY BRO. TED WITZIG OF MORTON, IL

"God's Word Is Seed"

Matthew 13:1-17

We have before us a passage of Scripture that perhaps has been read many times -- the Parable of the Sower. There are three things in this chapter that all begin with the letter "S." That is the sower, seed and soil. These are three things to consider when we read this particular Scripture.

When Jesus spoke, He used what we call parables. Parables have probably been defined as an earthly story but with a spiritual meaning, or a heavenly meaning. Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, used parables or stories in order that people could understand. We might look at that and think, "Wasn't that nice for those people back then?" But you know, it is really nice for us today.

I am thankful that the Lord did teach in parables because I need those stories just as much as perhaps you do. The parables help us to understand what the Lord would really want us to know. Perhaps if He would not have used those parables, some of these stories might have been very difficult to understand.

He was talking to the people here, and It says that when Jesus was out of the house, He sat by the sea side, and the multitudes were so great around Him, that they could hardly see Him, so He went into a ship. (See Matthew 13:1, 2). He probably went out into a small boat of some sort off the shore and you can imagine the people were gathered all along the shore line. From the boat, He could see them and they could see Him because they had heard many wonderful things He had done.

We don't always know why Jesus

used some of these parables but we do know that they were good. They explained things. Perhaps as He was getting ready to talk, maybe He did look upon the side of the mountain there, and maybe he saw a person scattering some seed and He decided to use that story.

He said to them, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." Matthew 13:3. Let's consider the sower first. Who is the sower? We do know this, that Jesus was a tremendous sower. He sowed the seeds of the course of the Christian religion as we know it. He was a tremendous sower and He still sows today. So Jesus, first of all, is perhaps the greatest sower of all. Aren't we thankful for that?

I happened to see just the other day, a comparison of all the many people who worship in the world. When we compare all the religions of the world, the Christian religion embraces the most amount of people across the world.

So the Lord did good, in that He sowed a wonderful thing. There are many people who follow after Him, and they well should. But to follow anyone else, would be wrong. To follow anyone else, it would be to take the wrong path.

Jesus once said, "I am the way, the truth . . ." didn't He? He said, "I am the way." He didn't say there were other ways. He said, "I am the way." There is only one way, isn't there? "I am the way." John 14:6. In other words, He might have said, "I am the sower." He was a tremendous sower, because He sowed truth, He sowed the way. The way to what? The

way to heaven. The way to eternal life. He is a tremendous sower, Jesus Christ.

God, of course, is a sower. He sowed even from the beginning of mankind, even from the time the earth was created. God sowed. He sowed man here upon this earth . . . put him here.

Then we think of others. How about the Holy Spirit? It also sows, doesn't It? The Holy Spirit has the ability to come into people's hearts and put things there. It has the ability to prick hearts.

I cannot convict anyone, but the Holy Spirit can convict. You cannot convict anyone, but the Holy Spirit can convict. So what does that leave for you? That means that you are sowers as well.

Jesus Christ is a sower, God is a sower, the Holy Spirit is a sower, and you, as a Christian, are also a sower because you have the Holy Spirit within you! It resides within you! God is within you!

If you have opened the door of your heart and invited Him in, if you have repented of your sins and asked the Lord Jesus Christ into you, you also can sow, and you are a sower. So we have a beautiful teaching here.

"Behold, a sower went forth to sow." Matthew 13:3. What do we sow, beloved? We sow seeds, don't we? But what is the seed? What do you sow, and what do I sow? We know that farmers when they go out, they sow the seed into the ground, don't they? Can a farmer really make these seeds grow? He can put it out there, but the

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