



"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

John 11:25

"And whosoever lieveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

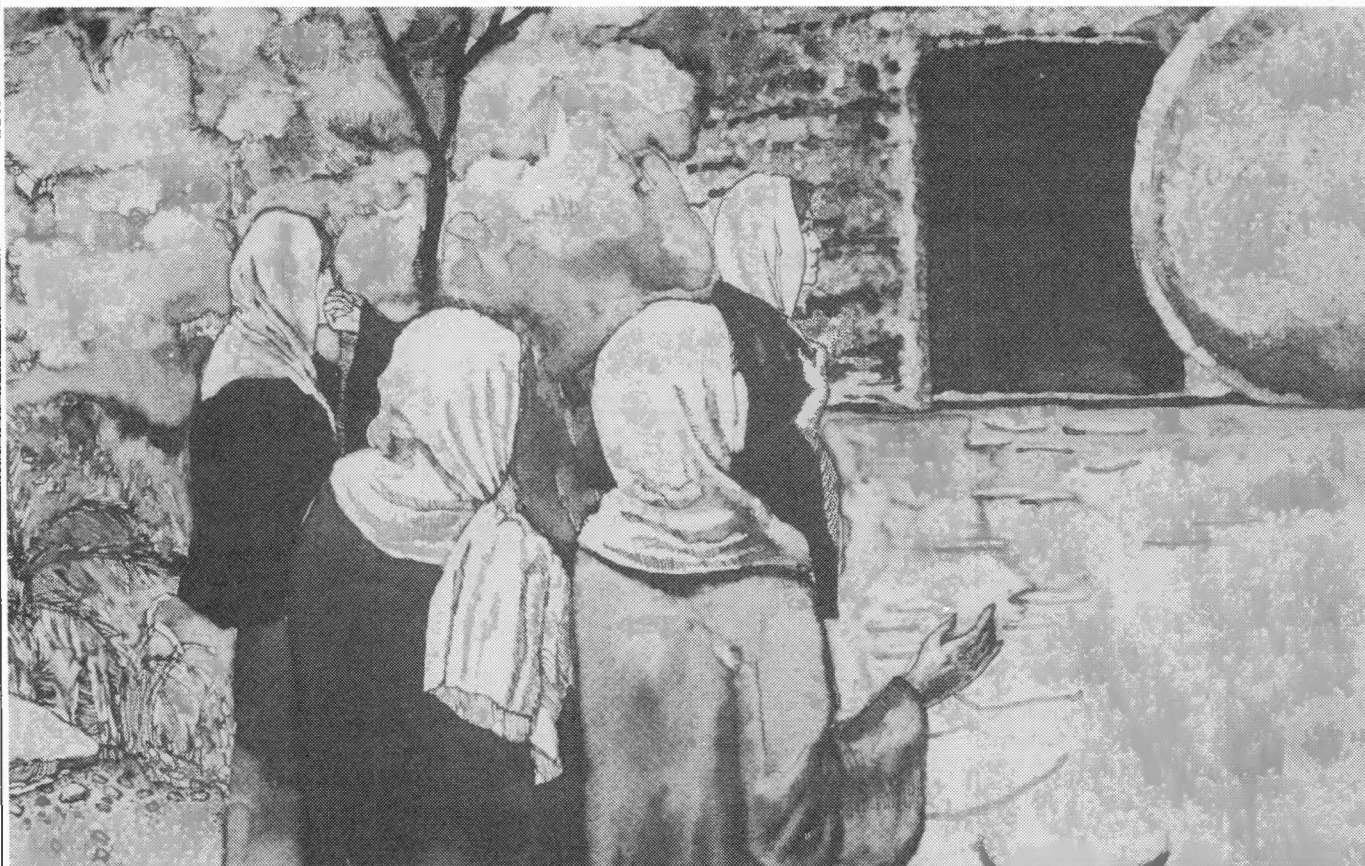
John 11:26

VOLUME 41

MARCH 1991

NUMBER 3

THE EMPTY TOMB



"He is not here: for he is risen as he said . . ." Matthew 28:6

DEATH HAS BEEN CONQUERED

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

I MADE A MISTAKE

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle - Shioda, Japan

Is it difficult for you to say, "I made a mistake. Please forgive me?" If so, you might try practicing saying it. The pronunciation isn't so difficult but for some reason, some of us have trouble saying it, even when we know we have made a mistake.

Why should it be difficult for some of us to say, "I made a mistake. Please forgive me?" We don't have any trouble saying, "I really did well and had good success." It must be a part of our self-preservation instinct. We feel insecure with failure of any kind. This is especially true if we are accustomed to success. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to lose ourselves, to die to self, and to deny ourselves. We may have some work to do in order to recover from this tendency to protect our own position and to avoid losing face.

In James 5:16 we read, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." It doesn't say anything about telling one another how successful you are. In fact, in Proverbs we can read, "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth," chapter 27, verse 2. We really should confess any mistake immediately, if we

are aware of it, although it may take some practice.

In my opinion, if we find it difficult to confess our own mistakes, we are insecure. We hesitate to face reality for fear we may not survive so far as our own self-worth is concerned. We like to cling to camouflage.

For myself, I like to practice saying, "I made a mistake. I'm sorry. I repent. I'll try not to make the same mistake again." I've been saying it so often that it is not difficult to say anymore and I do believe I can say it sincerely and from the heart. Yet I will let others be the judge for I must not praise myself. "I made a mistake. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I repent. I'll try not to make the same mistake again."

ADDRESSES OF OUR MEN SERVING IN THE SERVICES

Please send addresses to
the Silver Lining.

Todd Beer — Saudi Arabia

NOTICE! For anyone, brothers, sisters or friends, who are in the

military service or who are going to be going, we would like to add your name, or the name of your loved one, to our mailing list to receive a church publication of a printed sermon and scriptural material every month without charge.

If anyone else would be interested in receiving this publication, they are welcome to receive it without charge. It can also be requested for a loved one. God's Word is so important in these last days.

Please send names and complete addresses to:

Homer and Virginia Blunier
101 West North Street
Route 1, Box 49
Forrest, IL 61741
Telephone: (815) 657-8131

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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.

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

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

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11520 Grabill Road
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Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

PLEASE PRAY ABOUT THIS SINGLE SISTER AND HOUSEPARENT COUPLE NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

Houseparents are the very core of our program for the troubled children. Without these committed workers we really have no program and our children have no one to be their mother and father figures. A single sister is needed for the team in our All-Girls East House while an opening for a married couple is in the New House. We are trusting that mature individuals will respond to our urgent need and to the Lord's leading to be parents to teens who need Godly love and guidance. The work is challenging, rewarding and inspiring.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below to learn more about qualifications, training, competitive salaries and excellent benefits.

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

Bro. David Bertsch, Elder
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
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).

MUSIC

Music is the art of blending sounds in a deliberate and organized way for a specific purpose. It is a gift of God and has been used since ancient biblical times as a part of worship. Chenaniah was skillful in music and provided instruction about singing during the time of David (1 Chronicles 15:22).

All types of music have one basic quality in common. They are a form of communication. We are exhorted to communicate our praise to God in Psalms 98 and 100:1-2. In effect, a partnership is formed between the composer and/or the performer to communicate a message and create a mood and an attitude in the one who listens. Saul's servants sought out David, who was known to be an excellent harpist, to play for Saul in order to help him feel better when he was troubled by the evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:15-23).

Lyrics also communicate a message into our minds. Words communicate more effectively, in fact, when they are presented with a melody and are often placed in our memory without any effort on our part to consciously think about the message or remember it. The ability of music to communicate is powerful and it may change our mood, develop our attitude, or put a message into our minds. The effect can be momentary or long-lasting but in either situation it may have a potent influence.

We develop a taste or preference for different types of music through exposure. We generally learn to like something by hearing it repeatedly. Our preference can develop accidentally or with purposeful direction. Young people today experience a significant amount of pressure to listen to the more popular types of music including the various kinds of rock music.

Rock music originated in the mid 1950's and has been the greatest commercial success in the history of music as judged by the amount of money composers and performers have made presenting it. It is

characterized by loud noise, costumes, colorful and flashing lights, and other visual effects such as smoke. Composers and performers have openly acknowledged that their intent is to communicate a message to young people of our society in an effort to change values and affect life styles. Careful examination of the rock music culture reveals that the music promotes drug abuse, sex abuse, obscenity, and ungodliness. Rock music is addictive and capable of producing passion, rebellion to authority, and instability. The objectives of most rock music today are sexual immorality, alcohol and drug abuse, and the occult, including satanic messages. The effect on the listener is the creation of impure thoughts and changed values. The message frequently promotes rejection of the authority of parents, government, and church and consequently creates a rebellious attitude.

How can we as believers select music that will affect our mood and attitude in a positive way that would be pleasing to God? There are several basic types of music including classical, folk, spiritual and popular. The Word of God exhorts us to enjoy the benefits of spiritual music: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19). The Psalmist wrote, "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing" (Psa. 101:1). It is prophesied that the heavenly hosts will sing a new song in Zion before the Lamb of God some day (Rev. 14:3).

Singing is an integral part of our worship. Effort should be made to learn the basics of music and to participate in this wonderful blessing. We are fortunate that many brethren have recorded beautiful hymns which can be enjoyed at any time. Listening to inspiring thoughts set to soothing melodies brings a special form of edification to the believer in times of joy as well as times of sorrow.

There may be times we wish to

listen to music other than hymns. At such times we should consider the beat, the rhythm, the loudness, and the words to make sure that the sound and the message have a blend that will affect our mood and our attitude in a way that produces peace, joy and harmony with the Word of God. We should consider scriptural warnings such as: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15-16); and "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me" (Psa. 101:2-3).

Some contemporary "Christian" tapes and records appeal more to the flesh than the Spirit. The music of so-called "Christian rock" borders on ungodly patterns and the lyrics are often found to be shallow and inconsistent with a devout, humble lifestyle. We benefit greatly by concentrating upon hymns with melodies and lyrics long known to provide manna for the spiritual mind.

Music has many different effects. It may relax, soothe, stimulate or motivate. Music definitely has the power to reach the very depths of our heart and, when used properly, can have a good effect. However, music should not consume nor control all of our time. We need time to think and to pray. With all the technology of our day including walkmans, car radios, tape players and stereophonic sound in our homes, we need to strive for the proper balance of how we spend our time. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:15-17).

THE MIND OF CHRIST

Bro. Robert Miller
Portland, OR

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ!" I Corinthians 2:16, or do we?

The apostle, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote two lengthy letters to the new believers at Corinth -- whom he addresses as carnal, (at least some of them) in his first letter. I Corinthians 3:3.

"Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind." I Corinthians 1:10.

They had contentions among them, verse 11, being divided in four factions. Evidently the apostle was very concerned for their spiritual prosperity. He admonished them concerning confusion in Chapter 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

In James 3:16, we read "where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." The psalmist being aware of the danger of confusion prayed, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion." Psalm 71:1.

True believers exhorted in Philippians 2:3, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (pride); but in lowliness of mind (like Christ's) let each esteem other better than

themselves." "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions," — the apostle declared to the Corinthians.

Carnality vs. spirituality: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6. "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5. "The carnal mind is enmity against God — so then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:7-8.

The question is how can every born again believer retain the spiritual mind (the mind of Christ) which he received when filled with the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion? Romans 12:1, 2 seems to be the answer. Notice verse 2, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Again in Ephesians 4:23, believers are told to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind." It begins with our thoughts. The believers at Corinth were told in that marvelous chapter on charity (13) that "charity thinketh no evil" verse 5. This tells us that if a believer's thoughts are charitable (divine love) he will not think evil. But we may ask, how about evil thoughts when they unexpectedly pop into our minds? Immediately, confess it to God through Jesus Christ, our Intercessor, Who alone

searches the hearts of man! The apostle James exhorts that believers "confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:13.

Another exceeding great and precious promise from God's Word is found in II Peter 1:4. Here we are promised the divine nature (the mind of Christ), if we embrace the promises of God. Evil thoughts will have no room to occupy our minds if they are stayed on Christ. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isaiah 26:3. In Philippians 4:8 we are even told what our minds should think upon (think upon things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report, virtue and praise.) By the grace of God through prayer and yielding fully to the Holy Spirit we can be Christ minded!

The apostle assures the believers in II Corinthians 10:4, 5, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (physical) but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations (evil surmisings), I Timothy 6:4, Zechariah 7:10) and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ! This tells us we can conquer every evil thought through the mighty Spirit of God at work in every true believer's heart!

"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!" I Corinthians 2:14.

ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANT OPENING AT GATEWAY WOODS

There is an immediate opening for an Administrative Technical Assistant at Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

This position offers the opportunity to work in a Christian environment with responsibility including financial management, employee benefits, and insurance. Financial, analytical, organizational and communication skills are necessary. There is also the opportunity to serve on a part-time basis as an Alternate Assistant Houseparent.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

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219/627-2606 home

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

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1991
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1991

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus — who made Himself of no reputation — He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8. If we give heed and obey these scriptural directives, "we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Romans 8:37.

By obedience to His mighty Word (the source of our faith) hid in every believer's heart, we "resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7. By the living Word of God, Jesus, our Predecessor, overcome Satan." Luke 4:3-13.

"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15, but "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7. Our whole life is governed by our thoughts. Christ declared "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:34b-37.

Our God has thoughts of peace toward His people, and not of evil, to give them an unexpected end! Jeremiah 29:11.

Let us all pray the psalmist's prayer daily, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23, 24; Psalm 19:14; I John 3:20, 21; Hebrews 10:35 36 and Luke 21:19.

SALE OF LONG BOOK TAPES Aid Romanian Brethren

After seeing slides of the plight of our brethren in Romania, we'd like to renew our efforts in promoting the sales of the Heft (Long Book) tapes recorded in Austria.

We visited the church in Hallein, Austria, this past summer and were privileged to be there the Sunday they showed slides from two separate relief trips into Romania. (See the article "Charity" by my brother, Bro. Garth Steffen, in the September '90 Silver Lining). The brethren in Austria have since made at least one more trip.

The Austrian churches, along with some of the brethren from Germany, sponsored these trips. They took along a couple from Germany who had formerly lived in Romania to be their guides into lesser known areas where our Romanian brethren live. The four small churches in Austria took collections among themselves and from their colleagues, friends and neighbors;

purchasing food and supplies. Medicine and good used clothing were also donated.

Thirteen tightly packed vans made the trips, starting out in the early morning hours. A large red cross and banners with the words HILFE-ROMANIA identified the lead and last van. Bro. Phillip Mueller, the elder from Hallein, near Salzburg, sent them off with a prayer and the reading of Psalm 100 at the warehouse from which they departed.

In addition to taking relief supplies to our brethren, they visited several orphanages, passing out 400 cloth bags which they had filled with personal items, pencils, etc. Some of the teenage boys jumped for joy at receiving these "treasures," which they had never dreamed of possessing for their very own.

Money which we have sent to Bro. Josef Farkasch in Hallein from the sales of the "Heft" tapes was also used in purchasing supplies distributed on these trips. Josef and his wife, Sis. Christl, recorded the beloved songs from the old "Long Book." Josef plays the classical guitar and other instruments and the two of them join in singing a few songs together.

The profits from the sales of these beautiful tapes goes for this relief work among our brethren from Eastern Europe. As Josef related to us, the Romanians are a "poor, poor people. They don't know how to do anything and have nothing to do anything with." For so many years they have been told exactly what to do or not to do, that they do not know what to do with this new era of freedom. We are thankful to be a part of this worthwhile project and pray that the doors will continue to remain open so that this relief work can continue.

In Christian love,
Don and Lorna Schrock

FEMALE COUNSELOR NEEDED SOON AT GATEWAY WOODS

Over the next few months we hope to hire a sister to provide counseling to children and families and consultation to staff at Gateway Woods. Our present counselor, Judy Stoller, will be focusing her energies on our expanded Foster Care Program beginning this summer.

Qualifications include a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, Psychology or Counseling (experience or Master Degree preferred). We offer competitive salaries, benefits, and excellent training and continuing education opportunities. For further information and job description please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Please pray about being a part of a unified team treatment approach with fellow believers working to help troubled teens in a residential setting.

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Bro. David Bertsch, Elder
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The Heft (Long Book) tapes include 3 volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add 75¢ extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only 30¢ extra for each tape.

Make checks for Long Book Tape Fund.

The Hungarian tapes include hymns from the Zion's Harp, Long Book and other hymns played and sung by the combined Hungarian orchestra and choir. The profit from these tapes is also sent overseas for

distribution to our brethren in need.

The two tapes, "Holy Love," a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be The Tie," which as both orchestra and singing are available at \$7.00 for each tape. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add 75¢ extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or

more, add only 30¢ extra for each tape. Make checks for Hungarian tapes to the person you order from.

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

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

or

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

Hungarian tapes ONLY may be ordered from:

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

-- 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, 307 West First St.
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
Seventh Year -- August 1989 thru July 1990 -- 25,501

Bibles Distributed -- Eighth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1990 —	3024	3024
September 1990 —	1270	4294
October 1990 —	2847	7141*
November 1990 —	3155	10,296*
December 1990 —	3319	13,615*
January 1991 —	3751	17,366*
February 1991 —	2086	19,452

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and testaments, 3rd shipment

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

With spring around the corner, we live with the expectation that the warmth of the sun will once again allow God's creation to come alive. We all live in constant hope of better and brighter tomorrows, of an eternity above. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

During the winter months, we all get a little anxious from being indoors. To beat the cabin fever, a couple groups went on overnight outings to the Holidome in Peoria. The winter weather has also caused a change for those that enjoy horseback riding on Thursday nights. It was moved inside. Special Olympics basketball has ended for our men's team. They received silver medals at the district tournament. The women's team continues to practice for their state tournament in March. The swim, bowling and gymnastics teams also are practicing each week for upcoming meets. On Valentine's Day, most of the residents enjoyed a party which included a special treat, a visit by the Heartland Therapy Dogs. Several canine friends and their masters spent part of the evening with us. There were various varieties and sizes ranging from a Pomerania

nian to just about everyone's favorite, A Newfoundlander, named Odie.

The folks at Oakwood Estate have also been busy. They hosted a singing for Washington as well as those who live at North Main and Hazelwood. Some also traveled to Greece via a travelogue and a group went to the Ice Capades. On Valentine's Day, Oakwood had a banquet at a nearby restaurant.

Birthdays at ACHH for April include: Jane Kohler (1), Velma Hoffman (4), Jason Gingrich (7), Mark Gundy (17), Jaleen Mogler (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27) and Zita Palko (27). At Oakwood Estate, Sonja Metzger will be celebrating her birthday on the 14th.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL
Joan Meister**

Rain, rain and more rain in February has helped us be very thankful to be able to get outside more now. The children enjoy running, swinging, playing and laughing, and their energy can sometimes seem endless. The joy that these children feel and express so clearly is wonderful to see.

Our themes for the month of March are health/safety, care of the body and nutrition. These are all important topics for young children, and our daily lessons will have these topics in mind. Throughout the year the children have been learning Old Testament stories. In March we will finish these up and start on the New Testament stories leading up to Easter. We will then finish up the year with New Testament stories.

It is not too early for us to think about summer, and we would like to include anyone, who would like to help, in our plans. During the summer months the preschool is open and we also take some school-age children as well. If anyone would be interested in coming down for a while to help, it would sure be appreciated. Lodging will be provided and any amount of time you could give, would be great. Just call the pre-school at 205-233-0591, or write to Joan Meister, Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611.

**GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Sue Grusy**

THE CALL

There once was a man
Born of high circumstance
Heir to advantage
He had every chance
To succeed
But light from the cross
Made his dreams appear small
And to their amazement
He followed the call;
For the love of his Savior
For one priceless jewel
They could not understand
So they called him a fool . . .

He is no fool
If he would choose
To give the thing he cannot keep
To buy what he can never lose
To see the treasure in one soul
That far outshines the brightest
gold
He is no fool
He is no fool.

T. Paris

There is always a price for following the Lord's call on our lives. For each of us here at Gateway Woods, a part of the cost has been our geographical separation from our families. But our commitment to serve has out-weighted the convenience and comfort of home. It's not always easy, and all of us have our days of feeling "homesick," but God faithfully provides for our needs. Please pray for us to keep our eyes on the One who called us.

"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 10:39

We look forward to welcoming the dear ones who will come forward to serve in the positions that are currently open. We need a married couple and a single sister to serve as houseparents. There is also the need for someone to serve in the office on a part-time basis as an Administrative Technical Assistant. We are beginning to search now for a female counselor who will

be needed beginning this summer as Sis. Judy Stoller takes on more foster care responsibilities. (See notices in this issue.) We trust that God is calling and convicting those whom He would choose to have serving in this work.

On February 9, we said farewell to Sis. Carol Kieser who has blessed our staff, our children and our church with her love, enthusiasm, leadership and talent. We miss her and trust that God will bless her for her service and sacrifice.

Other special events at our Home this month have included a bridal shower for Sis. Carol, Valentine parties and a fun-filled day at Pokagon State Park with the Wolcott Sunday school and Bible class. Our children really appreciate special activities, and the staff are especially thankful when groups, such as Wolcott, volunteer to organize an activity for our children. The fellowship is good for all of us!

As spring arrives and plans are made for the coming summer, we trust that God will move the hearts of our brethren to volunteer their time, energy and talents to serve our children. We welcome volunteers all year long, and particularly during our busy summer months. There are many dear ones from around the country who spend their summer "vacation" time serving here as volunteers. We look forward to their return, and invite others who are interested to contact our office for applications and more details. Here's an opportunity to lose your life for Christ's sake . . . and find it! Remember that you don't have to travel to another country to find a mission field.

A reminder: our annual representatives' meeting will be held Saturday, April 13, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pamela Moore**

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN), his wife, and Bro. Bill Klopfenstein with us January 27, bringing to us the Word of God and sharing their fellowship with us. We always look forward to their visits.

We've also enjoyed the company

of those traveling to and from Florida for the winter. We thank those who take the extra time to stop at Athens and share a short time of fellowship.

It was such a joy to see David and Pela Naffin walk in to our Athens congregation again! While temporarily working at Athens Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, David and Pela began attending our church. They returned to their home in Philadelphia, PA, almost a year ago, and began attending our Philadelphia Church. David and Pela are now temporarily living and working in Chattanooga, and make the effort to drive three hours to share in fellowship with us on Sunday. We are so thankful to God, for letting them, once again, be a part of us.

The war now taking place in Kuwait and Iraq raises so many questions. Questions that we are unable to answer, that only God really knows the answers to. Let's remember those who are defending our country, every day, those who give their lives for the goal of peace in the end. We must also examine our hearts and minds, are we spiritually ready for whatever the future may hold, are we at peace with our God and Saviour, or are we fighting a spiritual battle within ourselves?

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

Bro. Dan Kokanovich arrived in his heavenly home February 3. Though we miss our dear brother, we are thankful Bro. Dan is no longer suffering his numerous earthly miseries.

Always one to cheer others, it was very evident Bro. Dan was ready to go with our heavenly Father and get relief and rest.

His beloved wife, Sis. Doris, son, Bro. Jon, and wife, Sis. Nancy and children: Mark, Heidi, Holly and Timothy and other relatives in our congregation have our heartfelt sympathy. Funeral services by Elder Bro. Ron Nelson were at the church Thursday morning, February 7. Interment was in Rest Haven Cemetery - A. C. Section.

May you find comfort with the Lord. He is truly loving and caring

at all times -- especially in our hours of need.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Loren Knapp and family on the sudden death of wife, mother and grandmother, Sis. Evelyn, January 22.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn had just been here just two days before with Bro. Fred and Sis. Marge, when the Knapp brothers were guest ministers.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy, John, B. J. and Rebecca Woodruff surely have our sympathy. May you feel God's love and our prayers when you have a lonesome moment.

When Bro. Walter and Sis. Freda Rehklau came from Toledo to visit their family, Bro. Chuck, Sis. Marie, LaNae, Ann, and Dwight Kieser, our dear Lord gave them little time to acquaint the family's new locale.

On January 24, Bro. Walter passed away in the hospital. His dear wife, daughter and family flew back to Ohio with his body for funeral services. May God's love and ours help ease the pain of death. How fortunate Bro. Chuck's parents, Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser (Princeville, IL) were here before and after Bro. Walter's death.

Bro. Al Frautschi and Sis. Connie (Ed) Frautschi flew to Indiana for his sister's funeral services. We surely extend our sympathy and God's blessings to the Frautschi family.

A big thank you to our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Ken Lawson and Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS).

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank were honored by their children at a reception for their golden wedding anniversary January 27. We surely ask God's blessing on them as they continue on life's journey. Many relatives came from Ohio to share in the joy of 50 years of memories.

We are looking forward to Ella Harmon's testimony and baptism. What a joy to see our dear friend

beaming with God's love. Like so many of us, she also wonders, "why not earlier?," but ever so grateful the Lord has patience.

We appreciate your prayers for loved ones who have been hospitalized. Three returned home and two entered their heavenly home. Sis. Marge (Bob) Rebbec, Sis. Esther Harmon and Bro. Floyd Banwart are thankful to be home. Bro. Dan Kokanovich and Bro. Walter Reklau's families are grateful there will be no more pain for their loved ones, and in due time, God will soften the great loss. Oh, how much we need the Lord and each other!

Week after week, for years, our dear sisters-in-faith prepare and serve lunch and church suppers. A hearty thank you and the Lord's blessings to each of you. Your labours surely make our church even more special.

Bro. Bob Farney had the misfortune of breaking his arm in three places when he fell while coming down from the roof. We pray for a successful recovery.

Our annual church yard maintenance work was done on a recent Saturday. Brothers, your help was appreciated.

Thirty-five single members came to visit and worship with us February 17. We did enjoy your visit. Our monthly church supper and singing was enjoyed by a full house. Thanks and praises to the Lord.

Thank you, Tucson, for Christian fellowship. Our Bible class enjoyed the weekend of February 16 - 18. A lovely burst of warm weather after a cold snap brought our numerous bird friends. Quite a treat, birds singing along with reading Psalms 23 and 37.

Just as news deadline arrives (for Arizona) we add Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and Sis. Lois had just arrived in the U.S.A. two days when he was our guest minister, February 13. We always enjoy his sermons and their fellowship. The Lord's presence is our common bond.

Dear Lord Jesus, we pray for Jane Kilgus and ask Thy will be done in her serious illness. Also be with Ed since his recent surgery.

Have A Blessed Easter!

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

Our dear Sis. Evelyn Knapp (Bro. Loren) has passed from this life. She was taken peacefully. Such a good description of Sis. Evelyn as I remember her working at so many different jobs, from doing dishes at church, to caring for her many grandchildren. Our little church will surely miss her in so many ways. She was a tireless servant for the Lord, a welcoming smile at the church door, a beautiful voice in the Lord's choir, a pair of willing hands in the kitchen and a loving sister to us all.

Her children have lost a loving mother and mother-in-law as I know first-hand, her grandchildren a devoted grandma and Bro. Loren a wonderful help-mate. She is survived by Bro. Loren; sons, Dale Knapp and wife, Margaret, and Bro. Jay Knapp and wife, Sis. Lisa; daughters, Sis. Kathy Woodruff and husband, Bro. Bill (Phoenix), Cindy McAndrews and husband, Joe, and Sis. Lucy Knapp; father, Bro. John Kyburz and wife, Sis. Nettie (Fairbury, IL); sisters, Sis. Marjorie Friedman (Fairbury, IL) and husband, Hank, and Marilyn Scott and husband, Harold (New Jersey); and eight grandchildren. May God grant each and every one His comforting presence in the coming months.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman was hospitalized recently but is home now. She assembled with us last Sunday. It was so good to see her!

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville, IL). We thank them all!

COLORADO, DENVER**Marlene Leman**

We welcome John Elder to our assembly. He moved here from Illinois and is living with the Braun family.

Sis. Kathe Hasty had the misfortune of a fall while visiting daughters in Texas. We hope and pray her knee will heal quickly.

In our Wednesday evening Bible study, we have, over the past weeks,

been talking about marriage. It is good to realize that God provided the earthly marriage as a physical example and preparation for the spiritual marriage, when we all hope to be a part of the Bride of Christ.

Naomi Braun was named senior-girl-of-the-month this month. In a class of about 450 students, that is quite an honor. We are thankful to see our children growing up with scholastic and social values worthy of notice.

Influenza has hit hard in our little church and community. Quite a number of us have had a bout with it, but we are thankful to be recovering fine.

Anyone thinking of relocating, especially to one of our smaller churches, please think and pray about coming to Denver. Things are picking up out here, so job opportunities are becoming more plentiful.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Martha Luginbuhl**

A new baby, Rachel Elizabeth, came to live with Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan Virkler January 18. May they experience God's blessings with the birth of their first child. Delighted grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Virkler (Croghan, NY) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg.

January 27 was a blessed day for Bro. Phillip Bahler (Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine) and Sis. Michelle Behling (Richard and Lorraine) as they became husband and wife. As they had previously put the Lord first in their lives, may they now have the grace to help each other to continue to do so.

"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"

Isaiah 53:1

We had the testimonies February 2 of three souls to whom we are confident the Lord revealed His arm of love as we heard the proof of their sincere repentance and conversion. Ben Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne), Kevin Kloter (Ernie and Doris) and Eric Moster (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) were baptized February 3 and we wish them God's con-

tinued guidance and grace as they are now our brothers-in-Christ. We appreciated and thank Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) for so kindly being with us to help Bro. Kevin.

Winter always brings its share of sickness -- especially colds and influenza (which in some cases has turned into pneumonia) and not many of us have escaped the debilitating fatigue which usually accompanies both. Those hospitalized were Sisters Lydia Luginbuhl, Rose Zahner, Bro. John Ruch and Margie (Lanz) Spielman. Sis. Elizabeth Erisman, who lives at Rockville Nursing Home, recently fell and, unfortunately, fractured her hip. Also, hospitalized is our 89-year-old new convert, Martha (Bossart) dePosch. We are grateful that Bro. Mannie Luginbuhl is attending church again as well as singings. Sis. Bert Treub is now able to receive some very limited therapy in the hospital. May all of these loved ones know that our thoughts are with them and many prayers offered for patience and endurance during this trying time in their lives.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:19

On February 15, the faith of our dear Sis. Lena (Hoffman) Ludwig, 99, became a reality when she died at a local nursing home. We are sure that her two children, Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ruth Dapper, have many fond memories of their mother and may they take comfort to know she is now a partaker of that glory promised to all the faithful! She leaves three grandchildren and two sisters, Sisters Frieda and Liz Hoffman.

Our best wishes to Bro. Mark Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Kathy Stomberg (Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy) as they announced their engagement February 17.

In neglected to mention in the last issue that Bro. Brian Luginbuhl was appointed as an usher to succeed his father, Bro. Mannie, who so diligently fulfilled his responsibilities in recent times.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

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

Hymns of Zion #156

With these words we said farewell to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein Sunday, February 3. On Saturday evening, many of us gathered at Tim and Sue Rocke's for a potluck to tell our "dad and mom" how much we have appreciated the love and support they have given us in so many ways during the four and one-half years they were here. We pray the Lord will bless them as they return to their family in Illinois.

Visiting ministers in February were Bro. Ed Aeschleman with his wife, Sis. Nancy (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Al Langhofer with his wife, Sis. Judy (Wichita, KS). Other visitors were from Bern, KS, Rockville, CT, and Philadelphia, PA. Our small congregation is very thankful for all who include us in their travel plans.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tyson's West Park Hotel located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30. For information or assistance, please call Bro. Matt Aeschleman at (301) 863-9624 or Ed and Ginny Stoll at (703) 730-0248. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to come and worship with us. If you are in the area during the week for business, we welcome the opportunity for additional fellowship.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri K. Huber**

A special thank you to our visiting ministers in February: Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN).

Our benches have been filled with visitors. It is impossible to spend as much time fellowshiping with old friends and new acquaintances as

we would like, but we sure are glad for the opportunity to try! How beautiful the singing sounds when there are a few more to help. We have been meeting at 7:30 on Sunday evenings to have a singing at the fellowship hall.

At Bible study, we are discussing the book of Philippians, and how Paul loved his brothers and sisters at the church at Phillipi in a special way, perhaps because of certain experiences that they shared. Aren't our friendships formed in the same fashion? We love all of our brothers and sister-in-the-Lord, but there is a closeness and special relationship among those with whom we share certain interests and circumstances.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer
Jeanette Yergler**

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach for all their time and love given to our congregation January 27. Bro. Ben turned his eldership responsibilities over to Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale). We appreciate his willingness to share of his time and efforts in serving us. We thank Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie. May God's blessings be with you in serving us.

We appreciate the visits of ministering brothers who were willing to come and share the Word of life with us. May God bless Elder Bros. Ben Maibach, Bud Klopfenstein, Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bros. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL), John Zellars (Morton, IL), Robert Myers (Bluffton North, IN), Doug Sabo (Sarasota), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Al Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Ralph Troxel and family in the sudden loss of Sis. Elsie. We have felt the same loss as those in Bluffton feel.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Gerber**

We sing a song that says "When

a Christian dies, precious is the prize." Each time we hear of a loved one that has passed away, it makes us take a moment to ponder on how important it is to be ready when God calls us home, and how thankful we are that Sis. Lydia Voina took this opportunity to make peace with God and allowed Him to use her in His battlefield. We want to express our sympathy to her husband, Moses, and her family, and trust that God's Comforter will be very near. Sis. Lydia has had a hard struggle these past few years and we are thankful to know she now rests in peace, having her battle fought and her crown won. I Corinthians 15:55-57. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

"The Sunday School is our delight. We love it more and more; 'tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more. We hear the truth, so pure and clear, of Jesus' love so sweet and dear; There we are taught to lift our eyes to Him who lives on high."

Hymns of Zion #73

We want to express our appreciation to Bro. Mike Siladie and Sis. Beth Roscher for their time and service in Sunday school. Bro. Ron Koehl and Sis. Judy Schlatter have been voted in as their replacements. As we all realize, children are such a precious investment. Let us earnestly pray for the teachers and children that God's love and salvation plan will still come forth in its truth and simplicity! We are also thankful for Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III who is replacing Bro. Dave Eisenmann as one of our trustees. We appreciate all of Bro. Dave's efforts!

It is a real joy to have Sis. Paulette Feucht with us for a term with her employment as a traveling nurse. She is a real blessing to our congregation.

We are thankful for all of those who so willingly supported us in our Sunday school chili dinner and bake sale. Truly God blessed everyone's efforts.

Once again we have many winter visitors and among them have

been visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Bros. Carl Wyss, Tom Hoffman and Russell Wuthrich. We are always grateful for their willingness to serve and pray for God's richest blessings to go with them!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

We are always thankful to the brothers who minister God's Word unto us. Visiting us this past month were Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL).

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jae Geist and their son, Kyle, as they have moved from Goodfield, IL, to the Atlanta area. We pray that the Lord will be with them as they make the south their new home.

Services are held every Sunday 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 (404-378-5918) for further information.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carolyn Fischer - Tudy Schmied
As I write this, a group of 12 from our Bloomington congregation are in Haiti. They are there to construct a roof on a school. Bro. Ron Farney has been in Haiti since the beginning of January. We are sure he is glad to be joined by others and by his wife, Sis. Ellen. We give our love and support to this work being done in the name of the Lord.

On February 6 and 13 we had a topical Bible study on "The Persian Gulf and End Times." We were reminded that we are not to set dates, but we are to recognize the signs of prophecy being fulfilled. As Christians, we can rejoice and know we are going home to see our Lord. If we are not saved, we will tremble at the thought of being left behind. As God's children, we need to pray fervently for our loved ones.

We had a chili supper for the adopted students on Friday, February 8. This gives us the opportunity to get to know the I.S.U. students

and for them to know we are here for them. It was a blessed evening with a good turnout.

We are praying for Bro. Al Stoller (Sis. Josephine) as he is hospitalized at this time.

Also, we send our love and sympathy to Bro. Carl Frautschi (Sis. Ann) in the death of his sister, Sis. Elsie Troxel (Bluffton, IN).

We continue to pray for Tom Anderson, son of Sis. Dee, as he is in Saudi Arabia. In his letters and phone calls he says how the troops are praying and how he's trusting God to keep him safe. May God put his loving arms around Tom and protect him and all of our troops.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

"... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:13

Our congregation is very thankful that God has touched more dear souls and have called them unto repentance. We now have 10 souls seeking the Lord's help so that they can make their heart a fit dwelling place for Him to dwell. Our new converts are, Donn, and his dear wife, Tracy (Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle), David Duckworth (Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth), Perry Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser) and Gregg Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold). May God bless every convert with the needed grace to dig deep and establish a firm foundation.

On January 22, Bro. Les and Sis. Barb Fehr became first-time parents. Little Calvin's happy grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Believing through faith that God has brought their lives together, Sis. Rachel Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Barry Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) became one in Christ February 10. We certainly welcome Sis. Rachel to our congregation, and wish both of them much happiness in the Lord.

Our many prayers and support are certainly extended to Bro. Gary

Endress and his wife, Sis. Evelyn, as the duty of ministry has been laid on Bro. Gary. May Bro. Gary ever feel God's nearness as he begins to preach the Holy Word.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Elder Bro. Bob Walter and Bro. Frederick Knapp (both from Congerville). We thank them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Kim Walder

This month we have enjoyed having several visiting brothers minister to us at Wednesday evening Bible study. We want to thank Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury), Bro. Edward Alt (Cissna Park) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) for coming and sharing with us.

As we press on each day to our heavenly home, I have found this poem by Helen Steiner Rice to be an encouragement. May it be to you also.

Happiness is something we create
in our mind,
It's not something you search for
and so seldom find --
It's just waking up and beginning
the day
By counting our blessings and
kneeling to pray --
It's giving up thoughts that breed
discontent
And accepting what comes as a "gift
heaven-sent" --
It's giving up wishing for things we
have not
And making the best of whatever
we've got --
It's knowing that life is determined
for us,
And pursuing our tasks without fret
or fuss --
For it's by completing what God
gives us to do
That we find real contentment and
happiness, too.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

We recently watched two fire prevention videos at a 4-H meeting. The fireman who introduced them mentioned that they were designed to inform people, not to scare them. But, he said, a fire can happen to any one of us. We saw that even a small smoldering fire could grow at a staggering speed. Most people, however, who die as a result of fires, are killed by the smoke and gases (e.g., carbon monoxide). Nevertheless, the heat generated is astronomical. That's why escape needs to be paramount. Each person must concentrate on immediate escape, and there is no thing valuable enough to risk one's life. For prevention, smoke detectors need to be installed and maintained in good working condition on every floor of one's house. Escape routes need to be planned. At least two are needed because the first choice may be blocked. Shutting the door to a room helps but is only a temporary solution. Sprinklers are not common in residences but are extremely helping in holding down the damage a fire can do. There are so many comparisons with the work sin can do in one's life (house). "For wickedness burneth as the fire . . ." Isaiah 9"18. First of all, each of us is affected by sin. Sin can also start as a result of smoldering (jealousy, resentment). It can spread very quickly to other parts of our lives. So much evil can be generated that one can be suffocated spiritually. Escape from sin is more important than anything else. Being able to prove the spirits is so necessary to all parts of our life. We need to stay close to the Word and worship for battery-charging. We must know how to escape, how to prevent the onset of sin, through confession and prayer, staying away from the site or the topic or . . . We need to seek out one another. And the Lord's living water is uncommon but always available. Let us never minimize the power of sin's fire.

We are grateful for brothers willing to take up the mantle of Elijah to speak the words of the Lord. Our thanksgiving and prayers extend to Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and

Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We were overwhelmed by the blessing of having Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan); all together for a weekend where we were given such an abundance of the Spirit.

Our hearts overflow just remembering February 16 and 17. Rose Yahi and Lance Pfeifer are our new sister and brother-in-faith, baptized then. The family of Christ is growing! Surely Sis. Rose and Bro. Lance know their native languages but more importantly, we know from their Spirit-filled testimonies, they have learned to speak "the truth in love . . ." Ephesians 4:15. We pray they may hold high their banners of love in and through Christ Jesus -- as we all need to. We look forward to walking with them on the path of faith. We are grateful for the joy and support they have given and will give to us, and we pledge to them our love and prayers, our hearts and shoulders.

We must say farewell to Dan and Polly Leman, who are returning to Roanoke. "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." Genesis 31:49. We thank them for worshipping with us and commend them to God, that they may walk with Him.

We need the information and appreciate the order of our church business meeting, held the last Sunday in January. We always find out more about those who deserve our thanks for their behind-the-scenes work for the Lord and about others who are accepting new responsibilities. Bro. Dave Kiefer has taken over as usher from Bro. Jeff Leman. Sis. Becky Gudeman replaces Sis. Melinda Knapp on the kitchen committee. Sis. Judy Snyder is now the chairperson of that committee. Bro. Clark Baurer is a new member of the church growth study committee. Bros. Ron Knapp and Luis Gomez are also working with the sound system and sermon-taping. We are so appreciative of those who have given so much and those who will, in the strength of the Lord. Bro. John Schrenk is no longer connected with our sound system, as of this meeting, yet we owe him a

few more words. Many of us have been uplifted often by sermon tapes. For years Bro. John was our way of getting tapes. He paid for equipment and tapes, he was ever-so-faithful in making them available, and he encouraged the church to make improvements in that area. Though many brothers have been faithful in working with the sound system, we, in Chicago, owe Bro. John (and Sis. Pauline for her patience and sacrifice) special appreciation for the legacy he has left us. May the Lord especially bless them in knowing they have given much of themselves for the benefit of His church.

Someone talked of being prepared to leave well before it was time to go. One of us said ruefully, "We aren't always ready before it's time." That was an admission about life at the Schlatters. Either we don't set aside enough time in the first place, we don't start getting ready in enough time, or we (as usual) have too many things going on. There seems to be spiritual applications. While in life we have many "getting ready" times and many specific appointments, for the end of life there is only one chance. We don't know when the appointment is for, not for ourselves nor for one another. Some see death coming, but we are only promised that it will come to each one. We are reminded that we must make preparation, that being ready is the most important purpose for each person's life here. Nevertheless, some of us have said we were too busy, some of us have refused to set aside such time, some didn't start getting ready in time. We can change our minds -- if the Lord grants us grace and time. Being ready to die is more important than our daily tasks. Still, staying ready to die is part of all our tasks. Not only do we have to make preparation for the event whereby we will be victorious with Christ or eternally doomed, but we also must "occupy." Luke 19:13. How will we spend our time awaiting His coming? We are cautioned not to get our garments dirty -- as children who are ready early are prone to. We are reminded to spend our time in thoughts and deed that edify -- that build up our fellow man and ourselves spiritually. We certainly are

asked to do something during our waiting, not hiding our single talent, not just sitting there. May the Lord grant us the wisdom to prepare ourselves for dying and the courage to keep ourselves always in readiness for His coming. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only beloved Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul and their children, Jeannie, John, Sarah and Heidi, as they welcomed another girl, Maria Beth, into their family. Maria was born January 29. Grandparents are Orville and Mildred Deck and Norman and Elizabeth Maul (all of Cissna Park).

On February 10, the engagement of Bro. Doug Young and Sis. Janet Walder (Congerville) was announced. His parents are Harvey Young and Sis. Kate Young and her parents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville). We extend to them our congratulations and best wishes.

The evening of February 10, our Bible class students and teachers traveled to Fairbury for ACYF. We are always glad for these opportunities for our young people to meet and fellowship together.

The evening of January 16, we gathered together in the fellowship hall for our January topical Bible presentation. Bro. Kenny Eisenmann spoke to us on the topic of end times.

Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) were with us January 29 for the reading of the memorandum. We certainly thank them for coming and sharing these words of exhortation with us.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Dan Koch (Tremont) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago). We thank each one for their time spent with us and for their words of encouragement.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month are

Barry Koehl and Sis. Tillie Rudin, both for surgery. Sis. Kathy Stock has also been confined to her home due to injuries following a fall on the ice. May God grant renewed health to each one as they recuperate.

He lives, triumphant from the grave;
 He lives, eternally to save;
 And while He lives I'll sing:
 He lives, my ever faithful Friend;
 He lives, and loves me to the end,
 My Prophet, Priest, and King!

Hymns of Zion #200

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

February 10 was the wedding day of Sis. Rachel Kellenberger and Bro. Barry Dietz. With faith in God, they have spoken their marriage vows and we wish them many blessings throughout life's pathway. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger.

Visiting brethren sharing in the joy of this occasion were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Ken Dietz, Roy Ehnle and Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Others who taught us of the heavenly way were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

Together, we want to share sympathy with Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker (Princeville) in the recent passing of his father. We have fond memories of precious fellowship when Bro. Glen assembled with our congregation.

Our hearts were saddened when we learned that Leah (Schmidgall) Kuschmirz, and Wallace (Bud) and Lillian Bohlin recently met with serious accident. Also Aaron Steffen, son of Mark and Barb, received head injury on his way home from school, and required hospital care. May God continue to restore health according to His divine will and power.

Thank You Note: I wish to express my sincere thanks for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and gifts while I was in the hospital and since I've returned home. May

God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Bro. Art and Sis. Alma Schmidt

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

"Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go, to hear the words He speaks, to see Him in His woe." Zion's Harp #89. We are in the season where we will commemorate the death and dying of our dear Lord. What a price has been paid for our sins that we could be made free from sin and condemnation! May we often take that journey to Calvary and see Him suffering and bleeding in our stead and may we "tell the old, old story over and over again" for it does become more precious as the days and years go by.

We were thankful to gather together February 3 to hear the testimonies of Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene), Stan Wiegand (Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta), Brad Rocke (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Beth) and Dean Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth). What a joy to hear how they have given their lives unto Him, and on the following day they became our brethren in the Lord. We thank Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield) for being with us for this important work. We pray that many more would come and taste and see of His goodness while the door of grace is yet open.

February 9 we were privileged to hear the reading of the memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) for assisting our Elder Bro. Walter Anliker. May we strive more diligently to follow the admonitions that our beloved elders have so prayerfully brought unto us.

Other ministering brothers visiting us this past month were Bros. Willis Wiegand and Bruce Hohulin (both Goodfield) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke). As the Word has been spoken in truth, may it bring forth the proper fruit.

We have loved ones who were in the hospital this past month. Our prayers go out to Sis. Clara Zimmerman (late Bro. Lawrence), Sis. Viola Leman (Bro. Vernon), Sis. Gail Getz (Bro. Gary), Bro. Sam Blunier

(Sis. Elizabeth) and Keith Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina). We are thankful to report that they all have returned to their homes. May God bless them with renewed health and strength as is according to His will.

On February 7, little Stacy Lynn Martin was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri Martin. Stacy spent a few extra days in the hospital, but is now home with her brothers, Bradley and Brett, and sister, Stephanie. Grandparents are Bill and Sharon Grubb (El Paso, IL) and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin (Eureka).

We want to extend our congratulations to Marjorie Blunier (Henry and Sis. Wilma, Libertyville) and Adam Parmenter (Libertyville). They are planning a June 23 wedding.

We wish to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, food, volunteer labor and especially their prayers since Larry's accident. May God bless each of you for your love and kindness.

Bro. Larry and
Sis. Marilyn Leman

The family of Sis. Wilma Stoller wishes to express their deep appreciation for the many prayers and deeds of kindness shown to all of them during her recent illness and death. They would also like to express their heartfelt thanks for everyone who has remembered Bro. Willis during his recent illness. May God richly bless each one.

Bro. Willis Stoller
and family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

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

St. Mark 16:6

As Easter is upon us, we are grateful that we can commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. May we always be grateful to God for this precious gift of Salvation.

God's love has drawn 5 souls to

answer the call of their Maker. They are Kara Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane), Beth Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne), Barb Stork (John and Eunice), Bryan Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy) and Don Welborn (Sis. Phyllis). As they seek peace in true repentance, may God's love and mercy be their portion.

We rejoice with our new couple in Fairbury. Bro. Charles Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Kathy Schneider (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita, Forrest) were united in holy matrimony February 3. Our prayers are with them as they set up a Christian home. May they feel God's presence in their new life together.

We rejoice with our Bro. Randall Fehr (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn) and Sis. Janis Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Myrna) as their engagement has been announced. May they listen and follow as God directs their footsteps into holy matrimony. Their wedding date has been set for March 17.

On January 31, a baby boy, Tyson Glenn, brightened the lives of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr. Shannon, Traci and Ryan are happy to have a new baby at their home. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman (Forrest) and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen Kilgus have been blest with their first child, Justin Paul, born February 11. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Anna Holmes and Adam Metroz (Jeff and Betty). May God's healing power be upon them.

Sis. Barb Mashburn (Billy) replaced Sis. Donna Banwart (Bro. Dale) for 2nd grade Sunday school teacher. We pray that Sis. Barb will feel the Lord's guidance as she takes on a new responsibility.

Fairbury hosted the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship on February 10 and 17. What a comfort it is to hear the youth sing and to know they are being trained in the way they should go.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thy ev'ry care;
Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
Do not fear to trust Him,
Tell Him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden,
He will bring relief.

Trust the heart of Jesus,
Thou art precious there;
Surely He would shield thee,
From the tempter's snare;
Safely He would lead thee
By His own sweet way,
Out into the glory
Of a brighter day.

Jesus knows thy conflict,
Hears thy burdened sigh;
When thy heart is wounded,
Hears thy plaintive cry;
He thy soul will strengthen,

Overcome thy fears;
He will send thee comfort,
Wipe away thy tears.

Hymns of Zion #74

January 31 was the funeral of Bro. Paul Schrof. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Marie Schrof, who loved and cared for him so faithfully throughout his days of affliction. Our sympathy goes out to their children, Ed, Glen, Vernon, Harriet Farney and Carol Knapp (all of Forrest).

We also sympathize with Bro. John and Sis. Nettie Kyburz and Sis. Marge Friedman in the sudden passing of their daughter and sister, Sis. Evelyn Knapp (Tucson, AZ).

We pray God will comfort the hearts of both these families in the loss of their loved ones.

Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Leona Wallace and Bro. Sam Honegger (Sis. Leah) have felt the afflictions of the body. May God give them grace sufficient for each day.

February 3 was a joyous occasion as Bro. Charles Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma, Fairbury) and Sis. Kathy Schneider (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita) were united in holy matrimony. We wish them

God's blessings as they journey through life as one. We appreciate the visiting ministers, Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury), who were with us to share in this special day.

We also were blessed with visits by ministering Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Gary Anliker (Elgin). Let's remember to always support our ministers in prayer as they stand to preach God's Word.

Wayne and Sis. Bernice Cox have reached a milestone in their lives as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless their lives together.

There was much rejoicing in the church as we heard another soul was turning his back on the world and turning to the Lord in repentance. May Ray Steffen (Sis. Doris) find much grace to lay a firm foundation, one that will stand all storms and tests of life.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

Sunday school teachers, as well as ministers and all servants of God, often labor under the cloud of uncertainty if their message is reaching anyone. We should all take heart in a message of kindness from a high school convert to her former Gridley Sunday school teachers! "I just wanted to thank you for teaching me about God. I am sure at times you get discouraged at the students, but a lot of them do listen. I always loved Sunday school. I finally now understand what you were talking about when you remarked, 'how wonderful' it is to live for the Lord. I always believed you, but you do have to come and taste to see."

In mid-January, our dear ministering Bro. Byron Stoller, was acquitted in a public trial of the charges against him by the state. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Such was the case as his fellow believers stood behind him in fervent prayer and support. On the last day of the trial, the group of believers present gathered twice in an adjacent confer-

ence room for prayer. With bowed heads and tears, prayer was poured out beseeching divine intervention in the jury room. The prayers of the saints were heard and it was with rejoicing that the verdict of innocence on all four counts was heard.

Bro. Byron, Sis. Carol and family issued the following comments for inclusion into the Silver Lining:

"We wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all our brethren and friends across the land who have so faithfully and overwhelmingly supported us in prayer, cards, letters, etc. in the past 16 months and especially during the recent trial. Truly we have felt the mercy and love of God through His people. We give Him all thanks and praise for His deliverance. May the Lord richly reward you for your fervent charity displayed to our family. We ask that you continue to pray for us. Thank you."

On February 15, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) made a special presentation on Satan worship and the dangers associated with such influences. His warning was quite direct -- that parents today must be awake and alert regarding the subtle influences that can potentially affect their children.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp became the parents of their fourth child, Daniel Joseph, February 15. His fellow siblings are Lindsey, 8, Elsie, 6 and L. J., 5. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Isabel Bauer of the Cissna Park congregation, and Sis. Wava Kaup (Gridley) and the late Bro. Harold.

On February 17, Karin Kiefer and Paul Gramm were baptized and obtained the precious status of a sister and brother-in-faith. We wish them much grace and joy in their new walk with Christ. Sis. Karin is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer; Bro. Paul's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosemary Gramm. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm was here for the weekend. Other ministers present were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria) and Curt Rassi (Tremont).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney - Cheryl Wuthrich
Grace to you and peace from God

our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. During this Easter season let us dwell on the grace of God. Man in his natural state must first come to the realization of his need for grace. Then during repentance, God so abundantly supplies His grace and makes it possible for man's heart to receive His grace. Need for grace continues as we walk our daily lives and draw constantly on His unlimited grace. Let us praise Him for His grace. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15.

Thanks be unto God for all the blessings he bestows. He supplied us with visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI).

Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky Braker and Stephanie are thanking God for the addition of Chad Lee to their family. Chad was born January 16. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber (all of Morton).

God's abundant grace was apparent in the last months of our Bro. Henry Zeller's life. He died February 21 after a lengthy illness. We pray for the comfort of his family; his wife, Sis. Norma; his sons, Eric (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Jon (Morton), Bro. David (Gridley) and William (Morton); his grandchildren; and his many other relatives and friends.

The Fred Hermann family wishes to thank everyone for the many cards, flowers, food and memorial donations. We especially appreciated the many prayers during Ruth's illness and at her death. May God bless you all for your love and kindness shown.

The Fred Hermann Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

Scripture tells us that, "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:7) Imagine the rejoicing, then, over four souls who have repented! We have three new sisters and one new brother-in-faith: Amy Hodel, Jeni Schmidgall, Tania

Schock, and Beto Ortega. May the Lord richly bless these dear ones as they begin their walk with Him. We thank God He continues to lovingly touch the hearts of the unconverted.

Due to baptisms, Peoria has had a large number of visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the visits of Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Steve Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

Bro. Lester Bittner recently celebrated his 80th birthday. In appreciation, Bro. Les says, "I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all brethren and friends for their thoughtfulness, and for the cards and best wishes sent to me on my 80th birthday."

February 2 was the wedding day for Ruth Meister and Ference Davidovics. Ruth is the daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister, and Ference is a native of Hungary. Ference and Ruth will reside in Neunkirchen, Austria. We wish the Lord's blessings upon their marriage, and we pray that their love for each other, as well as their love for God, will continue to grow.

Bro. Bob Waibel remains hospitalized after sustaining injuries in a fall on the ice. We extend our prayers to Bro. Bob and his family. He has undergone a long recovery period, and we pray that God, the author of all healing powers, will hasten his complete recovery. We also pray for our other hospital patients: Bill Aeschleman, Sis. Karen Dunbar, Ted Hoerr, Todd Schafer and Mary Lou Wieland.

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26) We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of Sis. Sara Baer, Sis. Corda Leman, and Herb Perrine, who passed away within this last month.

EASTER MORNING

Most glorious Lord of life, that on
this day
Didst make thy triumph over death
and sin,
And, having harrowed hell, didst
bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win;
This joyous day, dear Lord, with
joy begin,
And grant that we, for whom thou
didst die,
Being with thy dear blood clean
washed from sin,
May live forever in felicity:
And that thy love we weighing
worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same
again:
And for thy sake, that all like dear
didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we
ought;
Love is the lesson which the Lord
us taught.

Edmund Spenser

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) who came to minister to us this month. May God bless him for his efforts.

Four souls have turned their back to this world and have found peace. Denny and Carol Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane), Janna Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna) and Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) are looking forward to give their testimony of faith and baptism February 23.

Kevin Scholl (Bro. Robert and Sis. Arlene) and Joyce Johnson have announced their engagement. May God bless them as they plan for this important step in life.

On January 29, Drew Alan came to join the family circle of Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice Martin, Shane and Lance. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann. Another little boy, Steven Ray, came to join the family of Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker February 11. He also has two broth-

ers to welcome him home, Nathan and Matthew. His grandmothers are Sis. Edna Martin and Sis. Clara Braker (Roanoke). Both of Steven's grandfathers are deceased. Bro. Glen just lost his father February 5. Happy grandparents of Ryan Dale Eisenmann are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann. Ryan's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy (Houston, TX). May God bless these families and grant them the grace to raise their children to His honor and glory.

The evening of February 15, Bro. Jim Plattner talked to the young members. The Bible topic was on "Attitude." We trust they will benefit from these Bible topics.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey) of the sudden passing of his father while on tour in Mexico. May they feel God's comforting spirit in their time of sorrow.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our loved ones who have been in the hospital, Sis. Lillian Elsasser (Bro. John), surgery; Annette Streitmatter (Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla) and Sis. Margaret Feucht (Bro. Earl) injuries from being involved in a car accident February 14 when visibility was so bad. We are thankful their 10-year-old daughter was spared any serious injuries. May God bless them with His healing powers.

May we continue to pray for our men and women serving our nation in the Persian Gulf "Desert Storm" and if it can be God's will that we can again have peace.

At this Easter season, may we pause to consider the great price that was paid for our salvation when our Lord gave His life on the cross so we might live eternally. May we always be thankful for this most precious gift of salvation.

Thank You Note: We want to express our deep thanks and appreciation to everyone for their cards, phone calls, visits, food, gifts, prayers and encouragement during our loved one's hospitalization and passing.

Sis. Helen Schick,
Lois Schick,
Phil & Hilda Carper,
Bro. Stan & Sis. Margie Schick

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman**

The longer we live in Christ, the more we come to understand the verse, "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." II Corinthians 6:10.

This Easter season we remember Jesus nailed to the cross, shedding His blood as He bears our own sins. We sorrow in this, and yet we rejoice, knowing that His death was swallowed up in victory as He rose again in three days. The following excerpt from "Streams in the Desert," by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, poetically portrays the experience of sorrow mingled with joy.

Sorrow was beautiful, but her beauty was the beauty of the moonlight shining through the leafy branches of the trees in the wood, and making little pools of silver here and there on the soft, green moss below.

When Sorrow sang, her notes were like the low, sweet call of the nightingale, and in her eyes was the unexpected gaze of one who has ceased to look for coming gladness. She could weep in tender sympathy with those who weep, but to rejoice with those who rejoice was unknown to her.

Joy was beautiful, too, but his was the radiant beauty of the summer morning. His eyes still held the glad laughter of childhood, and his hair had the glint of the sunshine's kiss. When Joy sang his voice soared upward as the lark's, and his step was the step of a conqueror who has never known defeat. He could rejoice with all who rejoice, but to weep with those who weep was unknown to him.

"But we can never be united," said Sorrow wistfully.

"No, never." And Joy's eyes shadowed as he spoke. "My path lies through the sunlit meadows, the sweetest roses bloom for my gathering, and the blackbirds and thrushes await my coming to pour forth their most joyous lays."

"My path," said Sorrow, turning slowly away, "leads through the darkening woods, with moon-flowers only shall my hands be filled. Yet the sweetest of all earth-songs - the love song of the night - shall be mine; farewell, Joy, farewell."

Even as she spoke, they became conscious of a form standing beside them; dimly seen, but of a Kingly Presence, and a great and holy awe stole over them as they sank on their knees before Him.

"I see Him as the King of Joy," whispered Sorrow, "for on His Head are many crowns, and the nailprints in His hands and feet are the scars of a great victory. Before Him all sorrow is melting away into deathless love and gladness, and I give myself to Him forever."

"Nay, Sorrow," said Joy softly, "but I see Him as the King of Sorrow, and the crown on His head is a crown of thorns and the nailprints in His hands and feet are the scars of great agony. I, too, give myself to Him forever, for sorrow with Him must be sweeter than any joy that I have known."

"Then we are one in Him," they cried in gladness, "for none but He could unite Joy and Sorrow."

Hand in hand they passed out into the world to follow Him through storm and sunshine, in the bleakness of winter cold and the warmth of summer gladness, "as sorrowful yet always rejoicing."

Our friend and brother-in-faith, Ben Braker, passed away February 15 in El Fuerte, Mexico, while on vacation with his wife, Sis. Clara. Though he will be sorely missed, his family is thankful that God took him quickly with minimal suffering and pain, an answer to his own prayers. Among his survivors are sons, Don (Kansas City, MO), Marvin, Harland and Jim (Roanoke), Glen (Princeville) and Morris (St. Louis, MO); and daughters, Lois Phipps (Lamar, MO), Betty Vaughan (Remington, IN) and Jane Hilton (Roanoke).

We rejoice with Phil and Kathy Sauder as they have answered God's call and have turned to Him in repentance.

On February 9 and 10, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four young converts, Kathy Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary), Brad Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris), Kim Braker (Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha) and Bart Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine).

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Mary Lou

Martin celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a reception January 20. They are the parents of Randy, Len and Kris, and have four grandsons. We wish them many more years of happiness together.

Neil Robert was born to Ron and Jean Hinrichsen January 13. His parents and sisters, Heidi and Haley, and grandparents, Sis. Ruth Scherer (Roanoke), Robert Scherer (Dalhart, TX), and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield) and great-grandparents, Bro. Lee and Sis. Emma Scherer (Roanoke) all welcome him.

We have other grandparents in our congregations with new ones in the family. Bro. Dick and Sis. Mardell Bowald welcome Tyler Douglas, son of Doug and Bev Miller (Morton), born November 28. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp also welcome Jennifer Jane, born December 7 to Mark and Marjean Largent (Phoenix, AZ). Steven Ray was born February 11 to Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker (Princeville). His grandparents are Sis. Clara and the late Bro. Ben.

Our family hymn sing was held February 3 with our own kindergarten through 2nd graders singing for us.

May God bless our visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Bros. Earl Ringger and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Charles Marti and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) was also here for our monthly Bible study.

We pray for a quick recovery for Bro. Bill Hodel and Matt Byrd, both having suffered accidental injuries this past month.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Carolyn Bolliger**

We are happy for Bro. Mike Oswald and Sis. Michelle Holmes who were married January 27. Mike is the son of Don and Marcelle Oswald and Michelle's parents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes.

Keith Michel and Stacey Vore were also married January 25.

Parents of the couple are Mrs. Gene Smith (Tara, Morton) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel (Tremont).

We wish both these young couples God's rich blessings as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Sr. spent some time in the hospital this month and is now recuperating at Restmor. We hope he will soon be able to be home again.

Aaron Gschwind (Iris) has also been admitted to Restmor so that he may receive therapy following his recent stroke. We pray for God's healing power for Aaron.

Bro. Fred Beutel and Bro. Leslie Pulfer (Sis. Wilma) were also hospital patients and are now on the road to recovery.

We miss Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Bob) who had a fall and has been unable to come to church for some weeks now and pray that she may soon be well again.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) who assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Koch in the reading of the recent conference memorandum. We do appreciate the love and concern these brothers have for their flocks.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel in the recent loss of his Uncle Ben Joos (Morton).

Sis. Esther Schmid has chosen to now make her home in Restmor. We wish Sis. Esther God's rich blessings as she meets this new adjustment in her life.

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger rejoice over the birth of a new granddaughter, little Abbie Marie, born February 16, to their daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Jan and Bro. Roy Wiegand (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Carol Schick

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olives plants around about thy table."

Psalms 128:3

Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford have been blessed with a beautiful, healthy, little girl which they have named Cali Michelle. Cali was wel-

comed home by Rustin, Shea, Jobie, Ebony and Bo, along with her grandparents, Bob and Barb Ulbright (Francesville) and Margaret and the late Bob Ledford (Winamac, IN).

Our hospital and surgery patients this past month were: Sisters Sue Ruppert, Martha McGough, Martha Simon, Denise Romersberger and Bro. Rich Dreste. We trust that the Lord's healing hand will be upon them and they will be feeling much improved by the time this is printed.

The Adult Bible Class has been meeting once a month for the past several years and it has now been decided to meet on the first and third Sunday mornings in the future. We are thankful that so many are interested in learning more about God's Word and we pray that God will grant each one the grace and wisdom it takes to understand the plan of salvation and how easy it is to take advantage of His offer of peace and the hope of eternal rest with Him when our labor is over.

We wish to express our sincere heartfelt thanks to the following visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke). We always appreciate the time and effort each minister takes to help us worship and gain a little deeper understanding of God's Holy Word. May each brother and his family be richly rewarded for the sacrifices they make each day that they serve our Father above.

Our congregation spent the evening giving praise to God through our monthly hymn sing January 20. We thank the group called the sacred sound from Gridley for leading us in song. Then again, on February 17, our Sunday school children sang a few songs before the congregation for the February hymn sing. It is always a blessing to raise our voices in song and it is especially touching to see our youth join in.

The Easter season is always such a beautiful, yet sobering, time for a Christian as we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Saviour. The hope of every Christian lies in this beautiful season. May we each take the time to reflect on what this season really is all about and praise God for His Son that gave us all an

opportunity to some day live with Him in heaven and be free of our earthly burdens and trials. Have a blessed Easter season!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that He saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

Hebrews 8:12-13

It was a blessing to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Natalie Kipfer, Sis. Cybill Lantz, Sis. Janel Frank, Sis. Marci Gilliom and Sis. Myra Isch. We appreciate Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), who helped in the weekend events. We were also privileged to see God working in the lives of Bro. Lonnie Grube, Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon Barger and Sis. Kara Heyerly as they were baptized February 17. We again thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in helping with baptisms.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We also rejoice for Kirt Sundling who has made the decision to live his life for Christ. We wish Kirt God's grace in making this change.

We welcome little Jayla Rae, born to Bro. Hal and Sis. Janean Kipfer January 24. Jayla joins brothers, Benjamin and Andrew, and sister, Jennifer, at home. Proud grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyne Isch, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer.

We also want to thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) for visiting with us this month.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Sis. Lula Moser (Bro. Ervin), Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bro. Melvin), Sis. Nova Kipfer and Sis. Minnie Esch (Bro. Elmer).

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."

Psalms 145:18

**INDIANA,
BLUFFTON NORTH**

Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

We would like to thank Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly bless them for the effort they put forth to travel the many miles to be with us. We appreciate them so much.

It was our pleasure to hear the testimonies of three dear souls. Sis. Ginny Stoller, Bro. Frank Ifer and his wife, Sis. Ruth Ifer. They gave their testimonies February 9 and were baptized February 10. We certainly want to give them a hearty welcome into our "family" and wish them God's richest blessings.

We rejoiced with Bro. Herman (Sis. Mary) Baumgartner as their son, Bro. Greg Baumgartner, was baptized this month in Indianapolis, IN.

Bro. Doyle (Sis. Jane) Frauhiger are the happy grandparents of Jacob Elias, who was born January 17, to first-time parents Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne Gudeman (Detroit, MI).

On January 24, Quinn Bradley came to join the family circle of Bro. John and Sis. Tammy Baumgartner. Quinn was welcomed home by his "big" brother, Chase. Grandparents are Bro. Truman and Sis. Marjorie Baumgartner and Bro. Jerry and sis. Pauline Gerber.

A little girl has arrived into the hearts and home of Bro. Tony and Sis. Angie Chaney. Haley Lynn was born February 12. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Chaney and Bro. Steve and Sis. Sue Baller.

Our hearts were saddened when we heard of the sudden death of our dear Sis. Elsie Troxel. She died February 1 while in Florida. Husband, Bro. Ralph, and her children, Bro. Bob (Sis. Mary Jo) Troxel, Bro. Dick (Sis. Patti) Troxel, Sis. Mary Jo (Bro. Sam) Gerber, Dave Kris Troxel, Sis. Connie (Bro. Paul) Vidrine, will surely miss her as we all will.

On January 27, more food was packaged at the Bluffton packaging building. This food was headed for Romania where it is surely needed. We feel a sadness when we think of the hardships that the people are facing there, but rejoice when we think that we will someday leave the cares of this world for an eternal home in heaven, where there will be no hunger or suffering.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber**

Because Christ not only died for our sins, but also rose again, we can have peace and joy in our hearts here on earth and also have hope for living eternally in heaven. We rejoice with several dear ones who are seeking the Lord in repentance, and pray that many more will come to know Christ's love in fullness.

On Sunday evening, February 10, we gathered together to hear the conference letter read. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman. We're thankful for church leaders who care enough for our souls to encourage us, warn us of danger, and to lovingly correct us.

Bro. Sid Leman was hospitalized while spending time in Florida, but is now getting along well, for which we're thankful.

Our annual church business meeting was held Wednesday, January 28. The following offices were prayerfully filled: Sunday school superintendent - Bro. Phil Gutwein; Sunday school teachers - Bros. Gene Huber Jr. and Chris Wuethrich Jr.; church trustee - Bro. Earl Anliker; ushers - Bros. Larry Leman and Mike Putt; missionary committee - Bro. Todd Gudeman; fellowship center trustee - Bro. Glen Gutwein; Parkview Haven board - Bro. Roger Ward.

"We wish to express our sincere thanks to each one who remembered us while Morrie was recuperating from his back injury. Your cards, visits and telephone calls were very much appreciated. Thank you for your love and prayers. May God bless each and every one."

Morrie and Helen Eshleman

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman**

GOD'S OWN LAMB

I know whom I've believed and
His name is Jesus Christ.
He's the savior of my soul and the
Lord of my life.
He died to satisfy His justice and
His righteousness,
And to give me life eternal in His
everlasting rest.

Oh, the fullness of the Father was
found in Jesus Christ.
The creator of all things, to whom
we owe our life.
He gave up heaven's glories and
became a lowly man,
And He took our place upon the
cross as God's own perfect lamb.

God's own lamb provided for the
world.
God's own lamb like a rare and
precious pearl.
I thank God for a heart to love and
eyes to see,
And a mind that understands,
That I'm saved and made alive in
Him,
In God's own perfect lamb.
Buddy Greene

As Easter draws nigh, we here in Indy have much to be thankful for. We have a new convert in our midst. Stephanie Pearson (daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky) has given her life to the Lord. We are so happy that she's made this commitment and pray that God will give her strength and grace as she finds her peace.

On February 6, we had our annual business meeting and appreciated those that attended.

Our dear Bro. Greg Baumgartner (son of Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary, Bluffton North) was announced to have found peace and was baptized February 17. It was such a blessed weekend of fellowship with family and friends. May God grant grace and wisdom to Greg as he continues on in his Christian walk of life.

We enjoyed another weekend of fun and fellowship with our college students February 23 and 24. We want to thank all those who came

and made it such a success. We missed those of you who weren't able to join us, but we hope you will be able to do so, Lord willing, next time around.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. John Bollier (Leo). May God richly bless you for your devotion to His work.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Barb Troxel

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:9-10

With all that is happening in the Middle East, these verses from God's Word are a real comfort. We know that He is in control of all that is happening around us.

Bro. Ben Hitz has returned home after several weeks of hospitalization. His wife, Sis. Lena, is also home after recuperating from a fall.

Our annual business meeting was held January 18. We want to thank all those who served in an office and encourage all those who have new offices.

We would also like to thank the following ministers who visited us this month: Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lucille Heiniger on the death of her sister, Florence Swing (Kouts, IN).

INDIANA, LEO

Doug Kellenberger

"Arise, shine," God commands us; and not just at Easter time. Isaiah 60:1. If iniquity is not separating us from God, 59:2, we can arise in the strength of His Spirit,

promised to us forevermore in the preceding verses, 59:19-21.

Let the Master take control and make something beautiful out of the mess we're in. I guess that's one thing that being dead with Christ means - giving up control. What He resurrects after we give it up will be a lot better than what we were trying to hold on to.

We are glad that our Sis. Thelma Schlatter is recovering so well after her time in the hospital. Her presence and bi-monthly little "bits and pieces" are appreciated by many.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner is home as well. These older sisters shine a brilliant example of just how possible it is to faithfully hold on to the Lord all your life. The people who visit them get as much out of it as they do.

Sis. Mary Lantz is at the River-view Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

The first week in February, Bro. Nelson Beer kindly consented to be with and minister to us.

A new baby daughter, Grace, was born to the dear family of Lowell and Cindy Schlatter.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

We just had a taste of winter weather where God showed us that He is truly in charge. Many of our own plans had to be changed. One cancellation was a farewell singing for Bro. Dean and Sis. Angie Topp. We surely miss their friendly smiles and willingness to be helpful. His work has taken him to the Huntington area so they will make their home in Bluffton which is Angie's home. We wish them God's blessings in their new home.

Several of our loved ones, of all ages, needed to spend time in the hospital recently. God has granted healing and good health again to Sis. Pat (Bro. Fred) and their daughter, Holly. Sis. Pat had an appendectomy and soon after that Holly became very ill. Sis. Leona (Everett) Price had several tests and will, no doubt, need more medical help soon. Sis. Helen (Bro. Ted) Baumgartner had to be taken from the nursing home to the hospital for some surgery. She is now back at

Lakeland Loving Care in a weakened condition. Sis. Aldine Reimschisel was taken from her daughter's home to the hospital when she became quite ill. She is now at home in Greenscroft Nursing Home, but still not feeling too well. These sisters need our prayers. May they ever remember that God has promised to not let more come over us than we can bear.

We were privileged Saturday evening, February 9, to have Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) speak to us on the responsibilities of marriage and parenting. It was such a timely subject as it has been said that "As the family goes so goes the country." Husbands and wives were encouraged to kneel in prayer side by side daily.

Two Wednesday evenings brought Bro. Wayne Lehman and some South Bend brethren to our congregation. We appreciated Bro. Wayne helping our brothers on the pulpit.

Sis. Naomi Beer (Bro. Theo) celebrated her 90th birthday February 16 with a family dinner. We are so thankful God continues to give good health to this couple.

It has been announced that we will soon sit at the communion table. Our Elder, Bro. Jesse Beer, spoke to us about preparing ourselves. If we would daily go "Out onto Calvary's hill," (not just at Easter) it seems we would keep our hearts pure and always be ready to partake of the Last Supper.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

Tuesday evening, January 29, Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) was here for our topical Bible study. His theme was "Preparation for the Fulfillment of Prophecy." The weather was very bad that night and many of us were unable to attend. We were able to get a tape and hear it the next day, as I'm sure many did. It was a very timely topic and ably handled. When I listened to it I was taken back to the 30's when I spent time working in the Chicago area and attending the church there. Many sisters, some brothers and friends from various

churches did the same. At that time, Bro. Arnold Pfau attended the Chicago church. At times he would arise after services and talk on some of the same things Bro. Ken did. I think he would be very excited to be living in these prophecy-filling days.

On February 3, Bro. Kurt Frank (LaCrosse church) was with us. When he referred to John 3:16, he said it is a blessing just to know Jesus spoke these words.

On Sunday, February 10, Bro. Marshall Heinold helped occupy our pulpit. Since we were not here I can't quote him, but I've been told his message was heart stirring.

We thank all three of you brothers for coming and bringing God's Word to us.

Our church was deeply saddened when the word came of the sudden death of Bro. Ben Braker (Roanoke, IL). The family moved here to Remington in 1966. They lived here for almost 20 years. During this time, several of their children married. Also Harland and Martha, Marvin and Michalene, Glenn and their sister, Jayne, were all baptized here. One daughter, Betty Vaughan, still lives here and attends our church. She and her husband, Joe, have two daughters, Heidi and Gretchen, who also mourn Grandpa's death. We feel a great part in this dear family. Our sympathy reaches out to them. We especially pray God be very near Sis. Clara and heal her heart as only He can.

Art Nussbaum has been experiencing problems due to his heart. He has been in and out of the hospital three times in that many weeks. Art is 89 years old and has still been very active. He enjoys livestock, having once been a dairy farmer, he like to keep a few calves. As recent as sometime in January, he went to a sale intending to buy a few calves, but came home without any. He has been faithful in coming to church. We pray the best for him.

I am reminded of what Bro. Kurt Frank said when he was here. He said when we are getting ready for church on Sunday morning, we need to get the spiritual man ready for church too. We can apply that to our live to get the spiritual man ready for that Great Morning in the skies!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Walt Stephan (Milford) and Bro. Wil Schieler (Milford). Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) read the memorandum at our Wednesday evening service. We appreciate the support of the brethren from the Milford church and enjoy the blessed fellowship we share with them.

Bro. Bob Beebe returned safely from his travels to Haiti with many experiences to share with the congregation.

Recovering from a recent fall is Sis. Emma Lou Gerber. We are thankful that the Lord is restoring her health.

Sis. Renee and Mike Mangold mourn the loss of her uncle, yet they have a comfort in knowing that he repented a week before his passing.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:55-57

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold THE THIEF UPON THE CROSS

Two thieves were hanging very near
Our Lord the day He died.
Each one could see the cruel spear
Pierce through Christ's
bleeding side.

Each heard the prayer He
whispered low

As darkness dimmed the view:
"Forgive them, Father, for they
know
Not what they really do."

Amid the clang of shield and sword
And boisterous cheers that day,
One thief looked upon the Lord
And men could hear him say,
"If thou were He, God's only Son,
The angels would be near;
But You are helpless, there are
none
To take You down from here."

But when the other thief did see
The Lord upon the cross,
He breathed the words, remembered
yet

"Dear Lord, remember me.
Remember me when you shall come
Into your Kingdom fair."
"My blood," said Christ, "has
Cleansed your sin,
Today shall you be there."

Great was the faith that thief
displayed
Upon the cross that day.
He saw no marks on Christ that
said

He was the Life -- the Way.
And yet, that thief, in faith believed,
And in his dying hour
He showed for all eternity that
faith,

Not works, has saving power.

D. L. Walker

As the Easter season approaches, may we be thankful for our precious heritage through Christ Jesus in that He died and on the third day rose again.

We held our annual business meeting January 30. We thank our brothers and sisters who were willing to take part in our church business. May those who receive new duties be diligent in doing all to the glory of God.

We were privileged to have Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) with us this past month. Their messages were wonderful, stirring our hearts for a greater communion with our Lord. We pray God's richest blessings on those brothers who are called to serve as vessels for God in our behalf.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Camille Vogt

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

Hebrews 11:6

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
Romans 10:17

We would like to express our appreciation to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso) for sharing the Word of God with us at our Purdue services. We are so thankful that God helps us grow in faith when we sit under the sound of His Word.

Future dates for our services are March 14, 28, April 11 and 25. We extend a warm welcome to all who are able to worship with us. The location of the fellowship hall is near I-65, off of State Road 43, and west of the State Police Post.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Our Bible study on "Preparation for the Fulfillment of Prophecy" was conducted by Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) January 29. The evening was certainly a blessing for everyone who attended. We realize how important it is as believers to stay close to the Lord in these latter times lest we be deceived. We sincerely thank Bro. Ken for his love and his time spent with us.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer were blessed with a precious baby girl, Amber Nicole, February 16. Briana, Mark, Heather and Luke are anxious to help with their new baby sister. Amber's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pflederer (Francesville) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Edna Kyburz as she received a broken shoulder in a fall. May she feel the Lord's healing power as she recovers.

We trust the Holy Spirit will be in the midst of our dear elders as they assemble in Latty, OH, this week for the mid-winter conference. May they be richly blessed for their love and efforts.

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards, visits, food and gifts while I was in the hospital and since returning home. All were greatly appreciated. God bless each one of you.

In Christian love,
Sis. Marilyn Schieler

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We were thankful to have Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and his family spend the day with us recently. We appreciate his willingness to minister to our flock in Burlington.

We are thankful for the many who have recently turned their lives to the Lord in our churches across the land. We trust and pray they may build upon the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

It is such a comfort and blessing to be able to trust in an all-knowing Father in heaven, that He will keep us in the hollow of His hand. The events in our land can be so disturbing, but let us take faith in God's Word that holds many peaceful promises for the believer in Christ.

I KNOW WHO HOLDS TOMORROW

(Verse 1)

I don't know about tomorrow,
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine,
For its skies may turn to grey.
I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said,
And today I'll walk beside him,
For he knows what is ahead.

(Chorus)

Many things about tomorrow.
I don't seem to understand:
But I know who holds the future,
And I know who holds my hand.

Melodies of Praise #112

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Hallelujah! the Lord arose.
Our ransom now is paid;
The Son is Victor over death,
Who'er believes is saved.

Hymns of Zion #257

What a victory! What an example
of faithfulness and obedience!

May we also remain faithful.
Some day our crosses will also be
but a thing of the past. The stone
will be rolled away and we, too, can
be forever with the Lord.

With thankful, happy hearts, we
welcome our new sister-in-the-Lord,

Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne). May God grant her the needed grace to endure each trial and test; overcome each temptation, stand firm in her faith and be submissive to thy will all her days.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) for serving us and assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum and the testimony and baptism of Sis. Betty.

THE DAY BEFORE

Some time some ordinary day will
come,
A busy day, like this, filled to the
brim
With ordinary tasks -- perhaps so
full
That we have little care or thought
for Him.

And there will be no hint from
silent skies,
No sign, no clash of cymbals, roll
of drums --
And yet that ordinary day will be
The very day before our Lord
returns!

The day before we lay our burdens
down,
And learn instead the strange feel
of a crown!
The day before all grieving will be
past,
And all our tears be wiped away
at last!

O Child of God, awake and work
and pray!
That ordinary day might be --
today!
Make ready all thine house --
tomorrow's sun
May dawn upon the Kingdom of
God's Son.

Author Unknown

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

On February 16 and 17, we had a full house at church thanks to the Tremont, IL and Pulaski, IA young groups. It was a pleasure meeting new people and fellowshiping with them. How thankful we are for the bonds of faith we share.

We are truly thankful for the

rotation of churches we are on to provide a minister for us. We want to extend our gratefulness to each of them for their willingness to travel and share God's Word with us. They are Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS). We also want to thank those that travel with them for their support of their minister and our congregation.

Again our prayers and love are extended to David and Ly-Lee Funk because of the death of her mother.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We express our heartfelt appreciation to those who travelled to share in our worship services this month.

How we appreciate the warm days that hint of the beautiful spring-time ahead! Even though we know there will be some cold, dreary days before spring arrives, God has given us a "taste of spring" to renew our courage and lift our spirits. So also He gives us "tastes of heaven." Just as the warm days help us realize that winter won't last forever, but spring is just around the corner, the "foretastes of heaven" help us look with joy for the day when we will enter heaven's portals to spend eternity with God. May the news of another soul seeking the Lord, the sound of God's children praising Him in song, and the warmth of the fellowship of Christ's brothers and sisters renew our hope and joyous anticipation of Jesus' return.

How shall it be when we at last
returning
From weary wand'rings and from
toil and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our
heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of earth
has vanished,
The last sweat from our brow is
wiped away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's
care has banished

And gave to us new courage on our
way.

How shall it be when trembling we
listen
To angels bands who greet us with
their song,
With harps of gold which in their
radiance glisten,
They praise the Lamb, which saved
the blood-washed throng?
When far and near the holy place
resoundeth
With "Hallelujahs" with the
ransomed sing,
The holy incense of their prayer
aboundeth,
Rolls upward to the throne of God,
the King.

How shall it be when now the soul,
unfettered,
Goes soaring upward in unhindered
flight,
Drawn on by love to Him whose
light has scattered
The darkness which hid heaven from
our sight?
When from the eye of faith the veil
of dullness,
As mist before the morning sun
doth fall,
And we the Son of God in all His
fullness
Behold upon His throne, the Lord of
all?

How shall it be when we shall hear
Him calling:
"Come new, ye blessed of My
Father's grace!"
And worshipping, upon His
footstool falling,
We look into that kind and smiling
face?
The eyes which shed those bitter
tears, well knowing
Man's wretchedness and hardness
of his heart;
The wounds, with that pure,
precious blood o'erflowing
Which saved us from death's dread
and poisoned dart!

How shall it be, when we in close
relation
With holy saints the streets of heaven
tread;
Where trees of life, fresh as in first
creation,
By waters from the stream of life
are fed?

Where fountains of eternal youth
shall flourish,
The hand of time no more shall
work decay,
No eyes shall close in death, no
more souls perish;
Pain, sorrow and distress have
passed away!

How shall it be? Oh, what this mortal
vision
Can neither see, nor hear, nor
understand,
Of happiness and glory shall be given
To those who pass into that
promised land!
Then onward, brethren! Let us
hasten thither,
'Tis worth the hardship and the
pain we bear
To climb this path, for there shall
never wither
The blest inheritance which we shall
share!

"How Shall It Be?"
Zion's Harp #146

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

Our entire congregation continues to rejoice as souls are finding a need to repent of their sins. Those in repentance are Dean and Linda Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Amy Feucht (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Sandra), Denis and Jill Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Dan and Jeanne Knobloch (Sis. Iola Knobloch, Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger), Bob and Shirley DeSmet (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch), Jerome Metzger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores) and Becky (Tim) Ver Beek (Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger). May this prayerful and humbling cleansing make their souls a fit habitation for the Holy Spirit to dwell in.

On February 3, a daughter, Shelly Rae, was born to Jerry and Martha Kracht. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold. Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori Moser welcomed a daughter, Caley Rose, on February 5. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ray and sis. Marilyn Luthi (Lamar, MO), and paternal grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser. May God continue to

bless these families with much love, wisdom and guidance as they rear their children.

We warmly welcome to our congregation Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill Steiner (formerly of Tremont, IL). We beseech God's blessings upon them as they take up residence here.

Surgical patients this month were Bro. Ted Gerber (Sis. Emma) and Kari Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail). We are thankful they are recuperating and we continue to pray for their full recovery.

As we approach the season in which we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus on the Cross of Calvary and His arising from the grave, may we ever pray that we might, through His abounding grace, be obedient and faithful to His Holy Word, that one day when we stand before our God, we may receive that great reward for which we are all striving.

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Before the dawn of Easter
There came Gethsemane . . .
Before the Resurrection
There were hours of agony . . .
For there can be no crown of stars
Without a cross to bear,
And there is no salvation
Without Faith and Love and Prayer.
And when we take our needs to God,
Let us pray as did His Son
That dark night in Gethsemane --
"Thy will, not mine, be done."

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE Melody Steiner Debbie Wagenbach

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:15-16. "Jesus loves the little children, all the children in the world . . ." Children are so precious and can certainly cheer the fainting heart. It makes me so sad to think of the little ones whose fathers and mothers are off to war. May God ever be near the families of all who

are affected by the war in the Mid-East.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy Wiegand welcome little Calista Fawn into their growing family circle. Calista was born January 24 and is now filling her place, along with Natalie, Ashley, Natasha and Colt in the Wiegand household. Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand and Lewis Albrecht (LaBelle, FL) and Carol Albrecht (Lafayette, IN) are once again "Grandpa and Grandma."

The engagement of Bro. Mark Musselman and Sis. Dana Massner was made known February 3. Bro. Mark is originally from Pulaski and is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman. Sis. Dana is the daughter of Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee Massner. Bro. Mark and Sis. Dana are in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare themselves for the second most important step in their lives. May they always seek God's will and yield to his wise direction. "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." Ephesians 5:30.

"Be still my soul: thy God doth undertake . . . to guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; . . . all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know . . . His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below."

Hymns of Zion #191

In the uncertain times that we live in, the words to this age old hymn are such a comfort; for surely if we put our complete trust in God Almighty, He will sustain us and keep us in His grace. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2.

As our dear shepherds gather together this week for the mid-winter elder conference, our prayers and support are with them. May God's grace be with us all, now and forever.

IOWA, PULASKI

Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein
December 30, in Oakville, was the wedding of Bro. Matt Mussel-

man and Sis. Lynne Massner (Oakville). Parents of the couple are Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy (Pulaski) and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma (Oakville). We wish them God's blessings as they make their home in Champaign, IL, while Matt finishes his schooling.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeton, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL). We appreciated the brothers as they were with us Saturday evening to read the memorandum. May God bless these loved ones along with their wives as they put forth the effort to be with us.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Dana Massner (Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha, Oakville) as their engagement was announced February 3. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Deb Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn).

ALIVE AGAIN

Mary beheld Him, and "Master" cried,
After He came from the tomb;
Suddenly Jesus stood in their midst,
Entered the tight-shut room.
Peter beheld Him there on the shore,
Ate with Him there by the sea;
Jesus was saying, with lips once dead,
"Peter, dost thou love Me?"
Thomas beheld Him there in the room,
Called Him his Master and Lord,
Put forth his fingers into the holes,
Made by the nails and sword.
He who was dead is alive again!
He who was dead is alive again!
Broken the stout, icy clutches of death --
He who was dead is alive again!
Tabernacle Hymns #250

It is so comforting to know that Jesus is truly "alive" in our hearts today. May we remember this not only as we commemorate his death at Easter, but all throughout the year.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscriptions renewals are due in March.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We often feel as Abraham Lincoln, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day."

We were blessed to have Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) with us to share God's Word. We always appreciate those who come to visit us.

We wish the Lord's blessings for Dawn Fehr (David and Marilyn Fehr, John and Pam Kragt) and Frank Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn) as they have announced their engagement. They plan a March 23 wedding.

Hospital patients recently have been Reuben Anliker (Louisa) and Bro. Arnold Metzger (Sis. Alice). We are thankful to report both are assembling with us again. Sis. Lucille Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine) is recovering at home from surgery.

We rejoice with Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch as they welcome their first child, a daughter, Amanda Jo, born January 20. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester). We wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Lena Grimm is now residing at the West Bend Care Center. May God be near her wherever she makes her home.

As we approach the Easter season, the following words help to remind us of our indebtedness to our dear Lord and Saviour.

"HE IS NOT HERE"

"He is not here," the angel said,
For He has risen from the dead.
Tell those who hold him dear,
The heavy stone is rolled away
On this, the world's first Easter
Day.
Tell them, "He is not here!"

Let us today with faith renewed
Be Easter-minded and imbued
With great and wondrous cheer.
The risen Lord - the empty grave -
Should cause the ones He came to
save
To shout, "He is not here!"

Margaret Rorke

JAPAN, SHIODA

Renee Baurer

Recently we were reviewing numbers in a second grade English class. "One - two - three boys are here, and one - two girls are here." It was a unanimous decision that so far five children had come. Suddenly one girl said, "there's not five of us, there are six here." We all looked at her wondering if she had forgotten her English numbers. "Yes, there are six," she confidently said. "Jesus is here, too!"

This girl is not being raised in a Christian home, yet, through Sunday school she has learned that Jesus is with us wherever we are. It is a reminder to all of us to remember Christ's presence in our daily lives.

We appreciate Bro. Akito ministering to us February 3. It's always a blessing to have the Inoue family worship with us.

We are thankful for Bro. Frank Sauder ministering to us while Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle are in the United States for the elder conference. We miss them while they are gone and pray for God's protection as they return.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Today, I went to the hospital to visit a young man. He is a student of mine and used to frequently attend the Bible studies conducted at our home. About one year ago he was diagnosed with leukemia. At that time, he renewed his interest in Christianity. When I would go to visit him, he would often ask me to say a prayer. But, today was different. He looked at me and said: "I can't believe in a God. If there was a God, this would not happen. I haven't been bad . . . why me?" How sad it is to see that Satan is not only attacking his body, but is now totally destroying any faith he had in

God. At this time, his prognosis is poor. It seems that his body is rejecting the bone marrow transplant and the medication is no longer helping. This young man has experienced the first part of Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." We pray he will experience the latter part of the verse in his life both spiritually and physically. ". . . but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."

This past January, we journeyed out to the country church for our annual brotherhood conference. In the morning we listened to Elder Bros. Akito Inoue and Willis Ehnle speak on several main points from the conference in the United States, and then in the afternoon we had a discussion on situations confronting our churches in Japan.

We want to say a special thank you to Sis. Terri Gramm and Sis. Renee Baurer for planning and supervising a Tokyo Sunday school outing. Another outing is being planned for the spring as a part of our new program to encourage Sunday school attendance.

A group of neighborhood ladies and sisters are busy working on a quilt for Eastern Europe. We pray that this will be more than just a good work, but a time of encouraging the friends in their faith.

We are thankful to God that Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki is once again able to worship with us after his fall last December. We pray that he will continue to improve.

KANSAS, BERN

Kathy Strahm - Diane Kaeb

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim Baumgartner as they become first-time parents January 31. Little Miranda Loree will add much joy and excitement to their home. Loving grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer. Little Miranda's arrival makes Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet first-time grandparents. May this family feel God's presence as they are entrusted with this precious new baby.

Much sympathy is extended to Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey, Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb, Bro. Earl

and Sis. Donna Edelman, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and their families at the loss of their grandfather, Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). May God be their comforter as they bid farewell to their loved one.

Sis. Ella Hartter (retired Elder Bro. Lester) had the misfortune of falling and fracturing her elbow. We pray God's healing strength will be with her as she takes therapy.

We are so thankful to have Sis. Anna Ulmer back worshipping with us again. May God strengthen all loved ones who must endure bodily affliction.

May we remember all those involved in the Persian Gulf conflict.

Decision:

O Lord, let me not grieve too much over what the world has come to -- so that I lose the joy of what has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ.

C. Carpenter

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Why did Jesus endure the cross, its shame and humiliation? Well, we can be thankful that God loved each of us with an everlasting love and was willing to come to earth as flesh, to be that sacrificial lamb for the sins of all mankind. We know He endured a horrible death, that we might be set free from the bondage of sin. We read in Hebrews 12:2, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." He had His eyes set on His reward! He was willing and able to endure, to obtain His rightful place at the Father's right hand. He won the ultimate victory for all mankind. He defeated Satan as a man, being victorious over death thereby giving assurance to a believer that we too can be victorious and reap the reward of resurrection, to live forever with the Lord. Let us therefore, be like Jesus and fix our sight on the glory and the hope before us, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

I once read that if you have been saved, you could consider that Christ remembered you in His "will." He left something that could not be destroyed or taken away by others. A portion of scripture was then quoted from John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." How marvelous it is that a believer in Christ is bestowed with this peace and Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct him during his journey here earth. We're so thankful we still live under grace and that God still moves in the hearts of men, convincing them of their great need to be spiritually born again, in order to inherit the gift of life. Colin Young (son of Andrew and Sis. Wilma) has taken that first step in acknowledging his lost state and a need for a Saviour.

Life seems to be a mixture of the pleasant and the unpleasant, of joy as well as sorrow. Bro. Eldon Metzger required minor surgery to facilitate passage of a renal stone.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Edna Somerhalder and family. Bro. Ben Braker (Sis. Edna's brother) died unexpectedly while vacationing in Old Mexico. Funeral services were held in Roanoke, IL.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

Our dear Sis. Lydia Circle has passed on to her eternal home where she will be rewarded for her faithfulness. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her family.

We indeed received a blessing from our Lord through visiting minister Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller and family (Lamar, MO). May the Lord bless and keep them for their willingness to serve Him.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Philippians 2:2

We want to thank visiting minister Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for lending himself in God's service. May the Lord bless him and be His rich rewarder.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Jill Isch (daughter of Ron and Jane) has heeded God's call and is seeking her salvation. May God grant her the necessary grace to seek His will through repentance.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

We enjoyed another special weekend January 19 and 20. Two more dear souls, Connie and Carla Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene), gave their testimonies of how God converted their hearts and changed their desires. They made their vows to be true and faithful as long as they are given life. Elder Bro. John Lehman was with us and also ministering Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Bill Emch (Lamont). We thank them for their labors of love.

Elder Bro. Sam Huber conducted our annual business meeting. We appreciate and are thankful for willing brothers and sisters who carry out these extra duties and they in turn appreciate the support of the church. May God bless us all and direct us in doing His will.

We trust God wanted a little bud in His heavenly bouquet as He picked little Libby LaVon, the infant daughter of Marc and Sis. Julie Wenger. May their saddened hearts be comforted as they continue on and strive to raise their other two little girls in His ways. Our ministers held funeral services for the family.

The family of Todd and Sis. Jana Gruber rejoice with the birth of a little boy, Luke Robert, February 9. His little sister, Megan, is happy along with grandparents, Clem and Sis. Marge Edelman. May God bless their family.

Several have been hospitalized

for medical problems. Ben Rokey is home again. Sis. Matilda Kellenberger (Ernest) and Sis. Helen Strahm are recovering and hope to be home soon. We are thankful for His healing and restoring powers.

The Apostolic Christian Home has now become "home" for Sis. Louise Meyer and Bro. Ernest Kellenberger. We pray they can make this adjustment in their lives and will appreciate the loving care.

April is the month for our Silver Lining collection.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) brought us the message February 3. We were blessed by his and Sis. Helen's visit.

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer's family circle was increased by the birth of a granddaughter, Andrea Irene Giltner, January 18. Andrea's parents are Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Ernie Lambert underwent major surgery in late January. He is recuperating at home following an encouraging medical report. We look forward to seeing him in church soon, and we praise God for His tender mercy to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Nellie.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester & Glendoris Huber

"... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow..."
Isaiah 1:18

The only first and real problem man has ever had is sin. Apart from this, man is a replica of God Himself. Nothing on earth can compare to a man or woman that has been to Calvary in true faith and repentance for cleansing, for holiness, for whiteness and purity. The highest ecstasy and peak experience humanly possible for man to reach, is to worship God in daily experience or cleansing "White as Snow." This is the work of God ("that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent," John 6:29), that we believe in "The Cleansing Power of the Innocent Blood of

the Lamb of God" and exercise a daily, cleansed walk before a compassionate God who impersonated His love to man in His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We express our thanks and appreciation again to our ministering brethren, their wives and families who came in the past few weeks to share God's living Word with us. They were Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Donald Mantz (Junction, OH). May God bless them for their faithfulness. Also we do appreciate all the visitors that make the effort to come and worship with us. There is always a rich blessing in Christian fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch

AN EASTER PRAYER FOR PEACE

Our Father, up in heaven,
hear this Easter prayer:
May the people of all nations
be united in Thy care,
For earth's peace and man's
salvation
can come only by Thy grace
And not through bombs and
missiles
and our quest for outer
space . . .

For until all men recognize
that "the battle is the Lord's"
And peace on earth cannot be won
with strategy and swords,
We will go on vainly fighting,
as we have in ages past,
Finding only empty victories
and a peace that cannot
last . . .

But we've grown so rich and mighty
and so arrogantly strong,
We no longer ask in humbleness --
"God, show us where we're
wrong" . . .

We have come to trust completely
in the power of man-made things,
Unmindful of God's mighty power
and that He is "King of
kings" . . .

We have turned our eyes from Him
to go our selfish way,
And money, power and pleasure
are the gods we serve today . . .

And the good, green earth God
gave us
to peacefully enjoy,
Through greed and fear and hatred
we are seeking to destroy . . .
Oh, Father, up in heaven,
stir and wake our sleeping souls,
Renew our faith and lift us up
and give us higher goals,
And grant us heavenly guidance
as Easter comes again --
For more than guided missiles,
all the world needs guided men.
Helen Steiner Rice

At this time of trouble and turmoil in the world, Easter seems far away. We pray daily for our leaders of this land and the people who serve our country. For it seems this war involves many lives.

Peace and hope to everyone this Easter. We know God creates many miracles if we only bow and humble ourselves before our Almighty God.

We at Alto have exciting news. Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst announce the engagement of their daughter, Juanita, who has been living in Iowa City, IA, to Bro. Benjamin Walder, son of Elder Bro. Robert and Sis. Gloria (Congerville, IL).

Our thanks go out to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter who traveled from Junction, OH, to give us uplifting on a cold, winter Sunday.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

Amidst all the hustle and bustle of life we often forget to notice the little things that God puts in our path. A small flower, a beautiful sunset, or the tear-filled eyes of someone who is hurting. Jesus calls us to be watchers in Revelation, chapter 3, verse 2, where he says, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die for I have not found thy works perfect before God." So let's make a point to be watchful, not only in our own lives, but in nature, and in the lives of our friends. Often the greatest sermon is given in nature as it raises its head and praises its Maker.

Bro. Norm Knochel spent some time in the hospital this month as he withstood bypass surgery. We are thankful that Bro. Norm is

being given back his health and we praise God for His healing power. Kathryn Wackerle also had surgery this month and we are pleased that she is also doing well. Remember Bro. Norm and Kathryn in your prayers.

Bro. Hartzell Kaisner visited us this month and blessed us with his insight as he received it from God. His sermons were powerful messages of love and forgiveness to the sinner. We thank Bro. Hartzell for his time and generosity, but most of all, for allowing God to use him. As Bro. Hartzell pleaded with the sinner to accept Christ, so we give the same invitation, for Scripture says, "I tell you nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. With His encouragement to repent, God also promises that . . . "For everyone that asketh receiveth; And he that seeketh findeth; And to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:10. The calling is clear, but so is God's grace as He says in II Corinthians 13:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton
Marlene Reinhard

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 14:21

We were kindly reminded of our Christian responsibilities and traveled back to the time we took our vows in the baptismal waters when Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and his family visited us. We wish to thank Bro. Earl for encouraging us towards a more peaceful walk of life with God and extend a welcome to visit us here in Detroit again sometime soon.

" . . . the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik and family as their daughter, Brenda, has found the need to repent. Also, Kay Rauhe (Warren) has sought the Lord in repentance. We thank God for granting the grace and strength to these dear souls to hear the call that was sent forth, so it was not returned unanswered. May they start building a firm foundation upon the Lord Jesus Christ that they may stand strong and unwavering amidst the trials and temptations of this world that will come their way.

Our Home for the Aged, Woodhaven of Livonia, is hosting the Apostolic Christian Long Term Care Facilities conference April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information has already been sent to the 18 existing church facilities. We welcome representatives from any other church community that might be considering such a project. Please call Bro. Randy Gasser (313) 261-9000 (day) or (313) 427-2686 (evening) to request an information packet.

There was no crown for Him of silver or of gold.

There was no diadem for Him to hold.

But blood adorned His brow and proud its stain He bore,
And sinners agave to Him the crown He wore.

He did not reign upon a throne of ivory,

But died upon the cross of calvary.
For sinners there He counted all He owned but loss,

And He surveyed His kingdom from a cross.

No purple robe He wore His bleeding wounds to hide,
But stripes upon His back He wore with pride.

And from the wounds there flowed a crimson, cleansing stream,
That was a cover for the soul unclean.

(Chorus)

A rugged cross, became His throne.
His kingdom was in hearts alone,
He wrote His love in crimson red,
And wore the thorns upon His head.

Melodies of Praise #13

May each and every one have a very blessed Easter and may we ever be reminded that Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe . . .

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May God bless them richly for sharing of their time and lending themselves for service in the Lord.

April 9 is the date for Bay City to host our monthly service at Woodhaven, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to worship with the residents.

Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

Ephesians 6:24

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Kathryn Schmidgall
Marcy Schmidgall

(Verse 1) Our Master has taken His journey, to a country that's far away; And has left us the care of the vineyard, to work for Him day by day.

(Verse 2) In this "little while" doth it matter, as we work, and watch, and wait; If we're filling the place He assigns us, be its service small or great.

(Verse 3) There's only one thing should concern us, to find just the task that is ours; And then, having found it, to do it, With all our God given pow'rs.

(Chorus) There's a work for me and a work for you, Something for each of us now to do.

We welcome Sis. Nancy Messner (Winthrop) back to our area after being gone for two years. God bless her as she begins her new job. We certainly appreciate her in our small congregation.

Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop) was here February 10 to assist Bro. Kent Mogler. May God bless his willingness to come and preach the Word so Bro. Kent did not have to labor alone.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Christa Sauder
It was a joy and blessing to hear

the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our five dear friends and to welcome them as our new sisters-in-faith on the weekend of January 26 - 27. They are Lois Schmidgall (Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine), Donna Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), Rebecca and Michelle Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer) and Shelly Nohl (Bro. David and Sis. Eileen). We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) with us that weekend.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Doris Koehl and Sis. Helen Schaefer. We are thankful for the healing hand of God.

We are so thankful to have four new converts. They are Craig Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Michael Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Jerry Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie) and Jim Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma). Let us remember to pray for our converts that God will provide them with sufficient grace to make a sincere beginning in their repentance.

February 9 - 10 was a blessed weekend as we received Janell Schaefer as our new sister-in-the-Lord. Her parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here that weekend to assist in the baptism.

Also that weekend our shepherds read the memorandum. Let us all try a little more fervently to be obedient to the Word and to follow the wise instructions our elder brothers have so kindly given us.

It is always a pleasure to have visiting ministers with us. In addition to our elder brothers, Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) recently proclaimed God's inspiring message to us. We welcome them, their wives and families back any time.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Twyla Wulf have welcomed a little bundle of love into their home. Travis Richard was born February 9 and will be a little playmate for big brother, Justin. Grandparents are Bro. Vern-

erd and Sis. Betty Woertz (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf.

February 9 was the wedding day of Bruce Schmidgall and Penny Becker. Parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall. May God bless Bruce and Penny as they establish a new home.

Notice: Morris Silver Lining dues are due April 1. Please pay your reporters promptly.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

First-time parents are John and Kathy Merkens as they are blessed with a precious baby boy, Matthew Sean. Grandparents are Bro. Connie and Sis. Delores Messerli.

We would like to express our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Jan Messner in the passing of Jan's mother. May we not forget to turn to God in our time of need.

Sis. Nancy Messner has taken employment in the Twin Cities area. We wish her God's blessings in her undertaking and we will miss having her around. Surgical patients this month were Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia), Sis. Gerry Messner (Elder Bro. Harold) and Kim Moser (Bro. Todd). We pray for God's healing hand for these dear souls.

HE'S THERE

The storms of life will gather
and the bitter winds assail,
Yet beyond the depths of anguish
is a love that cannot fail.
It's a love that's always with us
though at times it seems obscure,
But there never is desertion
in a love so true and pure.
When at times you feel deserted
and you seem to walk alone,
Try to picture God in glory
seated on the mercy throne.
Try to picture Christ at Calvary
at He hung upon the tree,
And how lonely, when He cried
out --
"Why has Thou forsaken Me?"
Yes, our Lord once had the feeling
that He, too, was all alone,
Yet, God proved that He was
present
sitting on the mercy throne.

Satan often tries to trick us
into thinking God's not there,
But if Calvary's our example,
He is closest in despair.

Betty Purser Patten

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Don Wales

The start of 1991 continues to hold many blessings from above for our Kansas City congregation. Three of our friends have made a beginning by turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Greg and Kara Snyder (Marti) and Louis Wreath (Meyer). We rejoice that these three have answered God's call and offer our prayerful support while they travel the straight and narrow way.

We all know and believe that our ministers speak from inspiration and not by plan or even by prearranged topics. We sometimes forget this aspect of our faith and just take it for granted. We were recently reminded just how closely God inspires our ministers as our minister in the afternoon service who was not present in the morning was led to readings in the Word that did not duplicate but perfectly complemented the teachings of the earlier service. This reminds us that God is ever present and it is He who knows what each heart and each congregation needs and it is he that provides. The choice of different readings with similar teachings certainly demonstrates God's consistency throughout His Holy Word. This also demonstrates God's love for each of us as he repeatedly inspires our ministers to share His will with each of us.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Martin Hohulin Janel Kellenburger

It is with the spirit of humility that I take up the duties of a Silver Lining reporter of the Lamar congregation.

For as long as anyone can remember, faithful sisters reported the happenings of the Lamar church. While this is a departure from our normal custom, I hope and pray that I might fulfill the duties that are expected of me.

Sis. Edna Frieden, who resides

in our local nursing home and who is confined to a wheelchair, is able to assemble with the congregation on most Sundays.

Hazel Kibler, who was seriously ill, has regained enough strength to attend services once again. Likewise, Maxine Schlupp is present for services. We appreciate the faithfulness and the cheerful spirit that these dear ones show forth.

At this writing Sis. Evelyn Marti was released from the Lamar hospital.

It is with a note of sadness that we received the news of Bro. Ben Braker's passing. He was a native of the Lamar church community. We extend our sympathy and our prayers to those of his family that reside in our area: Sis. Bernice Frieden, Sis. Alice Marti, Bro. Raymond and Bro. Leonard Braker, Oscar Braker and daughter, Lois Phipps.

The young couples have an annual custom of inviting young couples from other congregations. We were blessed with the following ministers and their wives: Bros. Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Ruthie Hoerr

Many are the prayers and thoughts for our brave men and women fighting and standing up for our freedom. How we do appreciate them and pray the war will soon be over so they can return to their families and loved ones. We know God is in control, but He wants to know that we are praying for our leaders and even our enemies; and that His will be done.

Our church had a carry-in dinner to brighten the dreary month of January. It was fun to sit down with home folks to fellowship. Some from our church spent a couple of days at St. Louis with those from other churches, to paper and paint the new church there. What a blessing to fellowship while working. Bro. Donald Hoerr went with a group to Haiti to work on buildings. We wish them all a safe journey and blessings on their efforts.

A dear friend, Myron Barkley, lost his trailer and all his possessions in a fire this month. He was on vacation so there were no injuries. Several from the congregation helped with clean-up.

Our Sunday school held their soup supper this month. It was really special to see all the willing helpers and the effort put forth by Sunday school teachers and students alike, all for the love of God.

Bro. Michael Stratton was hospitalized at St. Louis for medical problems. We pray he has a speedy recovery. Edward Butikofer, son of Sis. Marie, severed a portion of his thumb in an accident. May God lend His healing power.

We are looking forward to the approaching marriage of Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) to Marci Musolino (daughter of Randy and Bird Musolino, Quincy, IL) April 6.

Included in this month's letter are a few words from the oldest member of our church, Sis. Marie Butikofer, who will be 92, April 11. It is interesting, especially since we are at war. A new viewpoint for our younger readers:

"My parents, Ed and Anna (Burki) Grimm were married in the spring of 1898 in Elgin, IA. I was born the next spring -- April 11, 1899. To go to the first time I remember -- No one had electric lights then. At church, we had hanging oil lights and common oil lamps on the table or wall at home. It was the girls' job to clean and fill them before eating. The first church group I remember (about age 3), were about 20, baptized in the Turkey River near church at Elgin, IA. I hung onto my mother's skirt, afraid they would take her next. Later on they used a stock tank near church for baptisms. My folks were the first young couple to be married at the church. I repented in the spring of 1916. It was Sunday morning (my Dad taught Bible class even after he was minister) and the forenoon lesson was about Christ being crucified. All at once I saw Him hanging on the cross, and something said "all for me." That was enough. Will Butikofer, who was to become my husband, had started repenting earlier in the week, but I did not

know it til later. There was about ten that repented at that time. We were proved and baptized later that fall in a stock tank at a home near the church, by a dear Bro. Gotlieb Maibach (Bay City, MI). I never forgot how kindly he admonished us. There are only two of that group still living, Esther Braker (Elgin, IA) and myself. I really enjoyed my young Christian life. After our group was baptized, Dad took us to West Bend, IA. While there, several of my close friends started repenting. It ended up there were twenty, of which Elizabeth Wuthrich was the youngest.

"Will and I were engaged in the fall of 1917, but we put off getting married because of World War I. At that time, wives could not go with their husbands. We were married July 18, 1918, on a Wednesday evening. There were so few elders at that time. Bro. Plattner (Sabetha, KS) was at West Bend, IA, to baptize a group there. He called and said Will and I should be ready to be married on Wednesday. It was a hurry to get ready; not a lot of fanfare. I can't remember if there were attendants. Someone told the draft board we got married to keep from going into the service. By the weekend, Will already had his notice to report for duty. Will went to Camp Gordon (Atlanta, GA), where so many soldiers died from the Asian Flu. They carried out about 100 soldiers from the hospital that had died, on many days. Will was the only conscientious objector in a company of 3,000 and in those days CO's were not treated very well. About twenty miles from there was Camp Wheeler where several of our boys were stationed. Many were very mistreated. Our elders went down to see what they could do for them and wanted to have services. They got locked up in jail over night. After explaining to the authorities that our men would do anything but bear arms, they were treated much better. When the war broke out, our ministers preached in German. Many churches had to select young ministers who could preach in English. May Dad could preach in English, but most of the older members could not understand English. My Dad went to the county

seat and requested to have at least one sermon in German, each Sunday. The church was not without its problems. I have seen many changes come to the church that had to be dealt with such as ties, moustaches, autos, radios, veils, and etc., but my Dad said you had to show more love during these times." (Good advice for today also.)

Marie had many interesting things to tell about the early years without water and electricity, going through the depression and other hard times, losing children and other close ones, but through it all, the Lord was there to help carry the load. Later, Marie's family moved to Taylor, but that is another article.

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

THE MEANING OF EASTER

The meaning of Easter is hidden,
it seems,
As we look all about in a world full
of schemes,
Of folk who love worldly and
beautiful things,
Losing Easter's true meaning in
what money brings.

The meaning of Easter is never a
loss
To those who believe Jesus died
on the cross,
That He offered His life upon
Calvary's tree,
The price of redemption for you
and for me.

The meaning of Easter forever
will be
The love of the Savior in dying for
me,
Forsaken by all and suffering alone,
But for all of our sins He did there
atone.

E. Gano Karns

How thankful we are to have the true Word of God to look into each day and to be reminded of the true meaning of Easter. God sent His only Son to earth so many years ago to be the atonement for the sins of each one of us even though we are so

undeserving of this great sacrifice. May we live each day of our lives following the wonderful example of Jesus as He lived His life and gave it so willingly for everyone who avails themselves of His love.

Bro. Roland Geiser is a hospital patient at this writing and Bro. Leland Hirschey is in the hospital following major surgery. Our prayer for each of them is that God will give them strength and encouragement in the convalescence. Also, if it is God's will, that Bro. Leland can fulfill his duties and minister the Word again soon.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

Current headline news is of a mighty dictator setting out to kill and to conquer.

The first record in the Bible of a mighty dictator setting out to kill and conquer came from that area. Nimrod was a mighty hunter, in Hebrew meaning hunting for humans.

The current dictator is trying to make himself a name setting out to claim countries and rebuild Babylon, claiming he is the new Nebucadnezzar.

Nimrod wanted to make himself a name setting out to build the Tower of Babel which meant the "Gate of God," wanting to build it so high that he could go on into heaven.

Nimrod and those that follow his style are of the first Adam, who had curses put upon him, but Jesus, the Second Adam, came taking all the curses.

Adam had the curse of sorrow, but Jesus carried our griefs and sorrows, so we would not have to.

Adam had the curse of thorns and thistles, but Jesus took the crown of thorns to take the thorns out of our life.

Adam was to work in the sweat of his face, and Jesus sweat as it were great drops of blood in our stead.

Adam was driven out of Paradise, but on the cross Jesus said, Today shall thou be with me in Paradise.

A flaming sword was placed at the Garden to keep Adam out, but

Jesus had a sword pierce His side that we could get into heaven.

Adam was to return to dust, but Jesus went down in the dust, and was resurrected, so we could be raised from the dust.

Nimrod had the curse at Babel that everyone quit understanding the language, but at Pentecost Jesus gave the Holy Spirit so everyone understood in their own language the wonderful works of God.

We're thankful for the Second Adam, Jesus and His wonderful works taking the curses to make the provisions to set us free of them.

With praise to the Lord, Michelle Lohr gave her testimony of her conversion and peace with God, and was baptized. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer assisted Elder Bro. Gene Pamer.

Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle were blessed with a new baby, Rachael Lyn. Their new little girl has a brother, Christopher Lee. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Eugene Pamer and Bro. and Sis. Lloyd Indermuhle.

A thanks to Bro. Steve Pamer and Sis. Sarah Henico whose Sunday school terms are up, and Bro. Eric Graf and Sis. Cheryl Collins will be the new teachers. May God help them in helping our children.

Sis. Lynell Palitto deserves a thank you for working on the world relief committee and her term is up, and Sis. Carolyn Miller was voted to be on the committee.

We enjoyed having Bro. Marvin Stieglitz and Bro. Glenn Riggenschach minister to us recently.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm**

The visiting ministers proclaiming God's inspiring and living Word to us were Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). We wish to thank them and the many visitors who worshipped with us this past month. We greatly appreciate their support and Christian fellowship.

Brothers and Sisters receiving new duties at our annual business meeting are: Mike Zimmerman, trustee and usher; Larry Banks, brotherhood assistance; Becky

Sauder, Lynne Steiner and Julie Grimm, kitchen committee.

"I came to Jesus as I was --
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad."

Our hearts rejoice with Jenny Banks and her parents (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) as she has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God grant her the joy and peace that can only be found in Christ Jesus.

OHIO, JUNCTION

We rejoice with Carlton Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Schlatter) as he begins a new life of following the Lord. Carlton is currently residing in the Smithville, OH, area.

Ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter is recovering from further surgery on a leg injury. We wish him a continual and full recovery.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Rhonda Stoller

GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good.
God is so good.
God is so good.
He's so good to me.
God answers prayer.
God answers prayer.
God answers prayer.
He's so good to me.

The words of this song continue to flow from my lips this morning. "God is so good." "God answers prayer." What a promise! What hope! What encouragement! Our God, the God we serve, is a God of promise, hope, love and strength! He is our friend, helper and companion.

His love for us is great and without condition. There isn't anything we could strive to achieve that will make God love us more than He already does. On the other hand, there isn't anything we could do that would make God love us less. For the human mind, this can sometimes be hard to understand and accept.

We know that God hates sin. God hates evil. God hates dishonesty. All of these are works that can trap an individual. We do know that if our life produces this type of fruit, God will not honor our works; but, He will never stop loving us! I pray that these thoughts, though simple, will bring as much peace to you as they have to me.

This past month has brought many special blessings to our members and friends.

The mid-winter elder's conference was held at Latty in late February. It took team work as a congregation to be able to get all the preparations ready. What an example our sisters showed our converts and friends as they planned and prepared the food and overnight accommodations. There was also much love and beauty as families opened their homes to keep the many visitors. We thank God that He chose our congregation to be able to serve Him and His children. We also want to thank the many elders for their commitment and love for God and His church.

Our lives were touched and our cups were filled when Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and his wife shared the weekend with us. We enjoyed having the both of them spend time in Latty.

It was good to have Sis. Susie Beery (Rittman) home for a Sunday service. We are thankful that her husband, Bro. Earl, was so willing to give of himself to meet our needs. God used Bro. Earl to proclaim His Word and to pray for His people. Thank you.

To Bro. Jim and To Bro. Earl, and their families, please know that our door is always open for you to visit. May our Lord be near you as you serve Him.

The evening of February 16 was a time of spiritual growth and awakening for our church. Our Bro. Merrill Laukhuf did a presentation on the "New Age Movement." Satan's lies are his eternal doom were clearly revealed. We must be at the post watching. We cannot afford to be found asleep. We need to pray for our church and Satan's attacks. Bro. Merrill we want to thank you for your hard work and commitment in bringing this information to your

flock. We have grown. May our dear Lord richly bless your efforts as only He can.

After this presentation, I came across the following words of inspiration. The words were listed in the book "Silver Boxes." The author was not given. May it touch your heart and open your eyes as it has mine. The Lord's blessing to each of you.

Whenever a parent teaches a child
the wonderful Gospel news,
Whenever a parent makes a
commitment, and Christ is the
one she will choose,

Whenever a parent makes
Christian decisions in the face of
many temptations,
That parent prepares in the heart of
that child Jesus Christ's
incarnation.

Whenever a businessman stands
for what's right and defies all
the idols of gold,

Whenever he does what his
conscience commands him, the
message of Jesus is told.

Whenever a doctor works long in
the night to heal a pain-ridden
soul,

Whenever she gives of herself to
restore him, she acts in our
Christ's healing role.

Whenever a teenager stares down
temptation and follows the tough,
narrow way,

Whenever he chooses the morals of
God, he has brought that much
closer Christ's day.

Whenever a lawyer cares more for
what's right than for what he
might possibly gain,

Whenever he risks his credentials
for justice, our Lord is repaid for
His pain.

Whenever a teacher brooks the
frustration of insolent kids and
their folks.

To reach for the one child who is
longing to know, she removes
the mind's crippling yokes.

Whenever each one of us knows of
another who needs to know that
we care:

How we love one another, rejoice in
His Word, are really a people
who share

And reach out to that brother, lift
up that sister in Jesus Christ's
sacred name,

We wash from their souls, remove from their minds the hurt and the guilt and the shame. Whenever we, as the Church of our Master, respond (for our blessings are many) To those who around us, without our compassion, would hardly be found with any. Whenever we do this, as one or a body, in the Name of the Babe in the manger, We help clear the way on the highway of God for the hurt and the poor and the stranger.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) assisted our Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in the reading of the memorandum. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

Our prayers support Bro. Clair (Sis. Bev) Keever in his recent surgery. Their son, Jared, was also injured in a recent accident. They are both able to assemble with us again. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 136:1)

We rejoice with the families of Bro. Chuck Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Tammy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lois, Smithville). They were united in marriage February 17. What a beautiful thing that Christ's first miracle was at a wedding; Christ's first miracle encouraged the faith of His followers. May Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy Beer walk life's path together encouraged in Christ's miracle of love.

Joannie Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) is aware of a need for change in her life and is looking to God's grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith." Ephesians 2:8.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Lois Maibach
Charlene Winkler

God has richly blessed our congregation with seven new converts. Those that have begun their new life in Christ are Deb Steiner (Mark),

daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger (Smithville, OH); Mark Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie); Dennis (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian) and Kris Hartzler, Marvin Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane), Steve Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) and Clifford Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH). May our heavenly Father grant each one sufficient grace each day.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Shelly Pertee have been blessed with a darling little girl, Morgan Lynn. Zachary is her big brother. Patiently awaiting her arrival were grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Everett Pertee and Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Lucille Beery (Howard) in the passing of her brother, John Malcuit.

What a wonderful privilege we have to listen to God's precious Word brought forth through His servants. Visiting us this past month was Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

We are always saddened when we hear of loved ones that have been hospitalized. Nathan Bauman (Daryl and Ivy), Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn), Bro. Dave Rufener (Sis. LeAnn) and Sis. Martha Walder (Bro. Don) have endured afflictions of the body. We are always thankful when each one can assemble with us again. Let us also remember to keep Sis. Donna Young (Bill) in our prayers.

OHIO, SARDIS
Paula Figel

As Easter draws near, I am reminded of a song. The song, "Ten Thousand Angels" tells what all Christ endured. The chorus tells us of what Christ could have done, if He hadn't loved us so very, very much.

They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden where He prayed; They led Him through the streets in shame. They spat upon the Saviour so pure and free from sin; They said, "Crucify Him; He's to blame." Upon His precious head, they placed a crown of thorns; They laughed and said, "Behold the King." They struck Him and they cursed Him and mocked His holy name. All alone He suffered everything. When they

nailed Him to the cross, His mother stood nearby; He said, "Woman, behold thy Son!" He cried, "I thirst for water," but they gave Him none to drink. Then the sinful work of man was done. To the howling mob He yielded; He did for mercy cry. The cross of shame He took alone. And when He cried, "It's finished," He gave Himself to die, Salvation's wondrous plan was done.

He could have called ten thousand angels, To destroy the world and set Him free. He could have called ten thousand angels, But, He died alone, for you and me.

We rejoice with another dear soul who has recognized the need for a personal Saviour and has turned his life over to the Lord in repentance. We need to remember to pray for Clifford Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) as he begins his new walk of life for the Lord. It encourages us as believers to see that God is still calling souls, offering His abundant grace.

On February 5, a baby boy was born to Allen and Janet Indermuhle. He was named Kurt Richard. He has two sisters, Amanda and Stephanie. The grandparents are Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha Indermuhle and Richard and Roberta Martin (Claysville, PA).

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

We rejoice with two dear souls who have decided to follow the Lord. May God give Debbie Steiner (Mark) and Carlton Schlatter grace unto repentance.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sue Saurer (Bro. Roger) who lost her father, Bro. Walter Rehklau.

Sis. Kay Nieman (Bro. Denny) was hospitalized recently. We thank God for His healing hand.

We always appreciate the ministering brothers who faithfully pro-

claim God's Word unto us. We were privileged to have Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bros. Wallace Ramsier, Pete Baltic, Fred Domka and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

On February 1, Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller became first-time parents as Doyle Scott was brought into this world. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener. Great-grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Rigenbach and Sis. Elda Indermuhle.

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade nor wax away;
Bind us till life we finish
And in the grave we lay.

Zion's Harp #137, vs. 1

Two dear couples were united in holy matrimony during the month of February. Sis. Darlene Indermuhle became the wife of Bro. Myron Weber. Parents are Bro. Darrell and Sis. Janet Indermuhle and Sis. Marge Weber.

Bro. Chuck Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH) and Sis. Tammy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) became one-in-the-Lord. We will miss Sis. Tammy as she makes her home in Mansfield. May the Lord bless these couples as they live on this earth together.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehklau

We were privileged to have as our guest minister for January, Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH). May God bless him for his visit and words of comfort.

We were saddened by the loss of our Bro. Walter Rehklau (Sis. Freda) who was a faithful shepherd of our church for many years. Even though in ill health, he made an effort to come to church whenever possible. We were always pleased to see him there and will miss his presence.

The family has our sympathy: his wife, Freda; son, Howard (Sylvania, OH); daughters, Mrs. Marie

Kieser (Tempe, AZ), Mrs. Janet Kipfer (Toledo), Mrs. Sue Saurer (Smithville) and Joyce Rehklau (Toledo); brother, David Rehklau (Toledo); and twelve grandchildren. May God comfort each and every one.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller and Bro. Walter Rager so kindly rendered their services at this time of sadness.

Our wish for comfort from the Lord goes to Sis. Emma Klopfenstein (who is now 103 years old) in the death of her son, Harold, who always remembered to call or visit her. Harold lived in Toledo for many years before moving to Delphos, OH.

At our annual business meeting, we elected two new trustees, Bros. Wes Stoller for five years and Bro. Howard Harmon for two years to fill Bro. Matt Fetter's term, and as ushers, Bro. Paul Rywalski was reelected for two years and Bro. Glen Whittaker for one year to fill Bro. Matt Fetter's term. We will miss Bro. Matt's faithful service. He will be living at 5631 Derby Court #220, Alexandria, Virginia 22311.

Sis. Marilyn Fetter (Bro. Eugene) will continue to be our dinner coordinator for one year, Sis. Josephine Rehklau our Silver Lining reporter for two years and Sis. Verena Kaeppler (Bro. Rolf) our volunteer coordinator for Apostolic Christian Woodhaven. Sis. Teresa Rywalski (Bro. Paul) is our new Sunday school teacher for the primary class.

Our representatives for the various church organizations are Bro. Eugene Fetter, World Relief; Bro. Walter Rager, Apostolic Christian Home for the Handi-capped; and Bro. Al Weigele, Gateway Woods and board member for the Apostolic Christian Woodhaven.

We express our sincere appreciation for the devoted services of those whose terms have expired. Let us give our full support to those who were elected in whatever way we can and pray for His guidance.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath

suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

I Peter 4:1, 2

Job was a good example that he fully leaned upon God regardless what he had to endure, as we were reminded recently, of all the trials and sufferings he encountered. Going through the valleys in life purifies us, His children. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us." II Timothy 2:12.

THY WILL BE DONE

The eventide falls gently now,
by Kedron's side, o'er Olive's brow.
And thro' the gloom me-thinks I
see,
a lonely form in pray'r for me.
The gentle tone, thro' stately trees,
is borne upon the murm'ring breeze,
He bowed His head -- God's only
Son --
And meekly said, "Thy will be done."

I fervent pray'r for you and me,
He wrestled there in agony;
With drops of sweat, or crimson
hue,
His brow was wet, as with the dew.
In tears He knelt, with troubled
soul,
while there He felt death's sorrows
roll:
Our sins He bore -- the Holy One --
And said once more, "Thy will be
done."

And then before His vision came,
the crown of thorns, the cruel
shame,
The scorn of those He sought to
save,
the reeking cross, the silent grave.
"This bitter cut, O Lord, I pray,
before I sup, take thou away" --
Yet answered still, as there He
knelt,
"Not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

Gethsemane! O sacred place!
Once more I see my Savior's face;
It shines anew with glory now,
and angels smooth His palid brow.

Oh, let me e'er this scene behold!
Oh, let me hear the story told
Of Him Who there the vict'ry won,
Who said in pray'r, "Thy will be
done!"

Select Hymns

Visitors with us this past month were Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Kevin (their son, Silverton, OR), Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter, and Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Silverton, OR). We thank them for coming and Bro. Art ministering the precious Word to us.

God displays His handiwork, as the flowers are showing their colorful dress. This is a beautiful time of year in the Northwest!

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

February 2 was the wedding day for Allen Knecht and Jennifer Loomis. Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht and Jim and Janet Loomis are parents of the young couple. Allen and Jennifer's first home as Mr. and Mrs. Knecht is in Molalla, OR. May they looked to the Lord for guidance and blessings as only He can.

The Silverton Church's annual business meeting was held in February and several brothers and one sister were chosen for new duties to the church. Many thanks to each one who has completed their various terms of office. Bro. Richard Kraft has finished his three-year term as trustee and his wife, Sis. Marianne also served during that time on the kitchen committee. Bro. Todd Kuenzi was chosen as our new trustee and likewise, his wife, Sis. Melissa, was welcomed to the kitchen committee. Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Sis. Brenda Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA) were selected to serve in the Sunday school. Bro. Nick Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) and Sis. Lisa Leman (Bro. Mike) have each completed their terms of service in the Sunday school. Bro. Barry Butler was elected to a three-year term as usher replacing Bro. Ray Moser who has completed his term. Bro. Bob Kuenzi (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Troy Kuenzi (Bro.

Bob and Sis. Linda) were chosen for two-year and four-year terms, respectively, for the handling of the audio equipment and maintaining the tape library. They replace Bro. Richard Kraft who has taken that responsibility for several years. Many hands are called to do service to the Lord through their service to His bride, the church. May each be rewarded according to their deeds by our Lord Himself, who is our rich Rewarder and our ever present help in need.

Our World Relief sewing group held an organizational meeting recently and selected two sisters to office. Sis. Carol Kaufman (Bro. Keith) was chosen to serve as our group's director for a four-year term. Sis. Esther Dettwyler, who has been our director for many years, will serve as assistant director for two years, at which time we will select another to serve a four-year term so as to start a rotating system. Sis. Esther has put in much effort in the past eight years and has regularly opened her home to our work sessions and many thanks are extended. It has been decided to hold all future meetings and work sessions in the church Sunday school room. The first and third Mondays of each month have been chosen as our regular meeting times. The church will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each work day. All are welcome to participate.

Sis. Tresa Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) was chosen as secretary/treasurer of the World Relief sewing group. Her term was established as a five term.

February 13 marked the last day of service for 95-year-old Harvey Mathys Kuenzi. He had answered His Lord's call in 1933 and was baptized and served Him faithfully until His death. He was preceded in death by his wife, Emma Clara Kaser Kuenzi, who died in 1975. Together they raised ten children and by 1991 there were 78 grandchildren and 139 great-grandchildren, plus numerous nieces and nephews. His funeral services was conducted by the ministers of the Christian Apostolic Church of Hazel Green, Salem, OR, where Harvey had served as minister and elder for a quarter

of a century, until his retirement from those duties over ten years ago. He will be missed and remembered by many as a stalwart soldier of the cross. He is survived by his ten children and their spouses: Bro. Lewis and Sis. Gloria, Lee and Janet, Al and Helen Dettwyler, Otto and Marian Sinn; Glen and Shirley; Ralph and Jean; Jim and Barbara; Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosa Lee; Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda, and Lynn and Marlyn. The family wishes to express their thanks for the many cards, telephone calls and deeds of kindness.

March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. Please give any address changes and your \$7.00 subscription to your correspondent sometime during the month of March.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Don Sauder

The hymn writer in the Zion's Harp writes, "Little flock, now cease to weep, Jesus will His promise keep, Jesus will His promise keep." Jesus promised us in Matthew 18, verse 20, "For when two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. As our scheduled monthly services were held, we could feel His Holy Spirit in our midst. We, at Nashville, can only say thank you to Elder Bro. Ken Sauder and his family from Mansfield and their granddaughters from Columbus for their visit. We realize it is a hardship on someone to drive this far and to hold two services, but again we say thank you. We know God will richly reward you. Please come again.

Don Miller's brother, Everett, is out of the hospital and home after his second open heart surgery. We wish him God's healing power.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month in the downstairs of Tave's and my home. We have plenty of room so we invite you to load up a van or two and worship with us. Services start at 10:00 a.m. Nashville is a nice city to visit. Our phone number is 615-373-8928; 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215 is our address. If unable to reach us by phone please drop us a

line or call one of our elder brothers, Lavoyd Moore 205-232-2035 or Ken Sauder 419-892-3677.

TEXAS, DALLAS/HOUSTON
Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

We, in Houston, were especially blessed when several couples from Francesville, IN, accompanied Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein at our January service. We rejoiced to make new acquaintances and to renew old ones.

Support has been given to extend the Houston services for an additional year for which we are thankful. The new schedule is for services to be held on the following dates: March 24, April 28, June 30, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29, January 26, 1992, and February 23, 1992, Lord willing. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn - Southwest Freeway which is at U.S. 59 and Beltway 8 southwest and downtown Houston. Do not hesitate to contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216 for information regarding services in Houston.

Our February 3, Dallas service was blessed with three ministering brothers and their wives: Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Plattner (Zapata, TX). Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS) served us in Dallas February 17. Our thanks and the Lord's blessings upon each of these humble servants.

Dallas services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn - Desoto, TX. Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp are the local area contact for Dallas at (214) 867-4074.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

We were thankful for the visit of the following ministers and their wives this month: Bro. Jim Hoerr (Sis. Virginia, Peoria, IL), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL), Bro. William Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Ever-

ett Gerber (Sis. Phyllis, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Carrol Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). It was a blessing to hear the Word proclaimed by the visiting ministers.

Bro. Ben Braker and his wife, Sis. Clara (Roanoke, IL) spent several weeks visiting our area and joined a group from the Apostolic Christian Church to tour the Copper Canyons in Mexico. We started our tour February 1, February 5 while traveling on the train and sitting beside his wife, Sis. Clara, he was called home by the Lord. We all felt the great loss and extend heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Sis. Clara, and family.

SILVER THREADS

**HEARTS FOUND
IN THE BIBLE**

BROKEN HEART

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Psalm 34:18

CLEAN HEART

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

Psalm 51:10

PURE HEART

"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord."

Psalm 24:4, 5

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

WHOLE HEART

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works."

Psalm 9:1

"Blessed are they that keep his

testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."

Psalm 119:2

PERFECT HEART

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

II Chronicles 16:9

"Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments."

I Kings 8:61

TENDER HEART

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32

WILLING HEART

"Whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold and silver, and brass."

Exodus 35:5

GLAD HEART

"Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased."

Psalm 4:7

MERRY HEART

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

Proverbs 15:13

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Proverbs 17:22

SOUND HEART

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."

Proverbs 14:30

UPRIGHT HEART

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice,

ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

Psalm 32:11

WISE HEART

"In the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee."

Exodus 31:6

THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS TO GOD

He carried the cross to Calvary,
Carried its burden for you and me,
There on the cross He was crucified
And, because He suffered and

bled and died,

We know that whatever "Our
Cross" may be,

It leads to God and Eternity . . .
For who can hope for a "crown of
stars"

Unless it is earned with suffering
and scars,

For how could we face the living
Lord

And rightfully claim His promised
reward

If we have not carried our cross of
care

And tasted the cup of bitter
dispair . . .

Let those who yearn for the
pleasures of life,

And long to escape all suffering
and strife,

Rush recklessly on to an "empty
goal"

With never a thought of the spirit
and soul . . .

But if you are searching to find
the way

To life everlasting and eternal day—
With Faith in your heart take the
path He trod,

For the Way of the Cross is the
Way to God.

Helen Steiner Rice

"I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH"

They asked me how I know it's
true

That the Saviour lived and
died . . .

And if I believe the story
That the Lord was crucified?

And I have so many answers
To prove His Holy Being,

Answers that are everywhere
Within the realm of seeing . . .

The leaves that fell at autumn
And were buried in the sod

Now budding on the tree boughs
To lift their arms to God . . .

The flowers that were covered
And entombed beneath the snow

Pushing through the "darkness"
To bid the Spring "hello" . . .

On every side Great Nature
Retells the Easter Story —

So who am I to question
"The Resurrection Glory."

Helen Steiner Rice

PALM SUNDAY

From Hurlbut's
Story of the Bible



Matthew 21:1-11; 26:6-16;

Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-11;

Luke 19:29-41, 22:3-6;

John 12:1-19

From Jericho, Jesus and his disciples went up the mountain and came to Bethany, where his friends Martha and Mary lived, and where he had raised Lazarus to life. Many people in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was there; and they went out of the city to see him, for Bethany was only two miles from Jerusalem. Some came also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead; but the rulers of the Jews said to each other:

"We must not only kill Jesus but Lazarus also, because on his account so many of the people are going after Jesus and are believing on him."

The friends of Jesus in Bethany made a supper for Jesus at the home of a man named Simon. He was called "Simon the Leper"; and perhaps he was one whom Jesus had cured of leprosy. Jesus and his dis-

ciples, with Lazarus, leaned upon the couches around the table, as the guests; and Martha was one of those who waited upon them. While they were at the supper, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came into the room, carrying a sealed jar of very precious perfume. She opened the jar and poured some of the perfume upon the head of Jesus and some upon his feet, and she wiped his feet with her long hair. And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of the disciples of Jesus, Judas Iscariot, was not pleased at this. He said, "Why was such a waste of the perfume made? This might have been sold for more than forty-five dollars, and the money given to the poor!"

This he said, but not because he cared for the poor. Judas was the one who kept the bag of money for Jesus and the twelve, and he was a thief and took away for his own use all the money that he could steal.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you find fault with the woman? She has done a good work upon me. You have the poor always with you, and whenever you wish, you can give to them. But you will have me with you only a little while. She has done what she could; for she has come to perfume my body for its burial. And truly I say to you, that wherever the gospel shall be preached throughout all the world, what this woman has done shall be told in memory of her." Perhaps Mary knew what others did not believe, that Jesus was soon to die; and she showed her love for him and her sorrow for his coming death, by this rich gift.

But Judas, the disciple who carried the bag, was very angry at Jesus; and from that time he was looking for a chance to betray Jesus or to give him up to his enemies. He went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I will put Jesus into your hands?"

They said, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver."

And for thirty pieces of silver Judas promised to help them take Jesus and make him their prisoner.

On the morning after the supper at Bethany, Jesus called two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into

the next village and at a place where two roads cross, you will find an ass tied and a colt with it. Loose them and bring them to me. And if anyone says to you, 'Why do you do this?' say 'The Lord has need of them,' and they will let them go."

They went to the place and found the ass and the colt, and they were loosing them when the owner said, "What are you doing, untying the ass?"

And they said, as Jesus had told them to say, "The Lord has need of it!"

Then the owner gave them the ass and the colt for the use of Jesus. They brought them to Jesus, on the Mount of Olives, and they laid some of their own clothes on the colt for a cushion, and set Jesus upon it. Then all the disciples and a very great multitude threw their garments upon the ground for Jesus to ride upon. Others cut down branches from the trees and laid them on the ground.

And as Jesus rode over the mountain toward Jerusalem, many walked before him waving branches of palm trees. And they all cried together:

"Blessed be the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord! May the highest of God's blessings be upon the King!"

These things they said because they believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed King, and they hoped that he would now set up his throne in Jerusalem. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd, who did not believe in Jesus, said to him, "Master, stop your disciples!"

But Jesus said, "I tell you, that if these should be still, the very stones would cry out!"

And when he came into Jerusalem with all this multitude, all the city was filled with wonder. They said, "Who is this?"

And the multitude answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth in Galilee!"

And Jesus went into the Temple and looked around it; but he did not stay, because the hour was late. He went again to Bethany and there stayed at night with his friends.

These things took place on Sunday, the first day of the week; and that Sunday in the year is called Palm Sunday, because of the palm branches which the people carried before Jesus.

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His
foes;
He arose a victor from the dark
domain,
And He lives forever with His saints
to reign:
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!
Gospel Hymns #323, chorus

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)
comfortable spot for the winter, but I guess in his thoughts, maybe that would have been.

So he got disturbed and then he was scared and ran away. As he ran, he got into a worse spot than he was before . . . a spot that if I would not have helped him, he would have died there.

Is that the way it is, dear friends, sometimes? We run away from Jesus Christ and say, "I'll come to church and I will listen, but don't get too close." Then we flee the very presence of Jesus Christ. As the years go by, we struggle a little bit and we get a little deeper and a little deeper until maybe we just can't hardly wiggle anymore.

But He loves us and He cares for us and He is there with that stick, and He is ready to lift us out of that miry pit, and set us on that Solid Rock. That is the message today . . . the message of hope! The Gospel of Saint John. What is the gospel? The gospel is the Good News. We don't come to you with a message of despair and fright but it is the Good News of Jesus Christ!

"Whom seek ye? John 18:7. Do you seek Jesus Christ? I trust that you do. I pray that you do. I hope you have the fear in your heart and the conviction that you will seek Him. "I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way." John 18:8.

Where do we find Jesus Christ today? The Spirit is among us. The Spirit is in this church.

Sometimes I run into people who say, "Well, I don't need the church. I can just walk out, live my life, I can pray and I can have Jesus in my heart." Maybe that is so, but it says in this Good Word that the church and Jesus Christ are One. Jesus Christ is going to come again and He is going to come as a Bridegroom of a soul. The very church is the bride of Christ. The bridegroom and the bride are one, so I take from that that we need the church.

Think about the parable of the Good Samaritan. That man was on the road and robbers attacked him. Those that really should have helped him -- the priest and the Levite -- what did they do? They went by on the other side. They were too busy. They really, really didn't care.

But the Samaritan, who was of mixed lineage, who was despised by so many, he came along, and what did he do? He took him to the inn. Jesus Christ was that Good Samaritan. He was of mixed lineage . . . He had a Jewish mother but He was conceived of the Holy Ghost.

He took this soul to the inn. He paid the price. Do you remember that he paid the price there at the inn? He said, "Take care of him until I come again." That inn is the church. (See Luke 10:30-37). We need the church. Brothers and sisters, we know that.

Dear friends, I hope someday that you can realize that. Because as we look around us, we really are afraid that the time is very short.

The other day, my wife and I were visiting a little bit. We said, "You know, for our whole family, our children are all young. It would be nice if He would come today." But then we thought about those who are just outside the door. Those that live such a good life and do outstanding things in the community, but it is not quite good enough, is it? It is not quite good enough because He has this plan.

Then Simon Peter . . . he had kind of a forward nature, didn't he? He was always ready to go ahead. He said that they weren't going to take Jesus Christ from him and he got his sword out and cut off the ear of Malchus. It doesn't tell us here, but in another gospel (Luke 22:51), it says that Jesus Christ picked up

that ear and put it back on that man's head, and He took the cup, didn't He? (See John 18:11).

We know that He could have called those angels and He wouldn't have had to go through any of this, but He did it for you and He did it for me. It just about makes us want to cry when we think about the love of God.

Then Simon Peter was so bold and so willing to talk about it. Sometimes you run into somebody who is so anxious to tell you about what a faith they have, and we are afraid sometimes that the fruit just isn't there.

Simon Peter said, "Lord, I will go with You wherever You go. I'll be there," but he didn't have that grace of God, did he?

"Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple . . ." John 18:15. Who was that other disciple? That was John. Many places in the rest of the gospel talk about John. It says, "The one that Jesus loved." It was John that leaned upon Jesus' breast and said, "Who is going to deny Thee?" (See John 21:20). But here John can't hardly write it that way so he says, "Another disciple."

John knew the high priest, so he went in the door. Then he came out to get Peter, and Peter went in the door. The damsel said, "Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not." John 18:17. Brothers and sisters, this is for us, too. We have come through the Door . . . that Door which is Jesus Christ, the Only Door into the Sheepfold.

We got His Spirit and we got His nearness and His love. But we have to be careful, don't we? We carry that banner. Are we always ready to give an answer? Are we always ready to walk uprightly? Do we always show that true love and true concern for our fellow man so that they can see that here is a group of people that love the Lord; that are truly His servants? We must be careful that we don't deny Him, too.

The high priest asked Jesus, and Jesus said, "It wasn't done in a corner." He said, "I spake openly to the world. I taught in the synagogue, in the temple and you Jews, you were always there. I didn't do anything in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those that have heard Me. Take a

look at it. See the results. Behold, they know what I said." (See John 18:19-21).

It takes a little grain of faith, doesn't it? Because none of us have seen Jesus Christ in the flesh. None of us have seen Peter, James or John in the flesh. None of us have seen Moses or Aaron or Daniel or Shadrach or Meshach or any of those patriots. We have never seen them in the flesh, but we believe it.

Does it really take faith to believe that Jesus Christ ever was? I believe you can look back in the history books and you will find Jesus Christ. Now you would have to look at some pretty detailed ones. You wouldn't find it in school, of course.

Every coin in your pocket says, "In God we trust." Every time you write out a check, you write the date, like today would be January 20, 1991, the year of our Lord. I don't think it takes much faith to believe that there was a Man that walked this earth, Who was called Jesus Christ.

But where the faith really comes in is, "Do I really believe that He can help me? Is He really strong enough to help me?" That is kind of like a little fish in the ocean wondering whether there is going to be enough water to swim around in. The grace is there . . . the power is there . . . and the love is there!

He loves us so. He cares for us, and He asks really so very little of us. He says, "Just come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." (See Matthew 11:28). He says, "Be sorry for what you have done. Repent because we all have come short of the glory of God. Confess your sins." You say, "Where does it say, 'Confess your sins?'" They came unto John the Baptist confessing their sins.

He says, "Make restitution." You say, "Where do you find that in the Word?" Remember that wee little man? Zaccheus was a wee little man . . . a wee little man was he, and he went before the Lord and climbed up into a tree. He put himself in a position so he could see Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ got there, He looked up and said, "Today I must abide in thy house." Remember how he said, "If I have taken anything

from any man by false accusation, I will restore him fourfold." That is restitution. (See Luke 19:1-8).

Then it is conversion. Do we do that? Do we do the converting? No. What really is conversion? I have used this little illustration at Fairbury that comes to mind now. We have a little tape player at home and it will either work on batteries or you can plug it into the regular outlet. There is a little black dial on the end of that, and it is called the converter. It changes that household current into direct current so it will work right.

Now it is not set up that way, but what do you suppose would happen if you would cut off that converter and strip those wires back and stick those little wires into the outlet? It would fry that tape player. It just couldn't take it, could it? So that current has to be changed so it will be acceptable to work. So that current is acceptable to that little tape player.

Dear friends, if we are not changed, if we don't become acceptable to God and to Jesus Christ, we are going to fry, too. I like to talk about heaven. I really don't like to talk about hell, but it is true. It is there and it is real. But you know, between the little player and the converter, there is a little cord that connects the two. I guess I think about that like Jesus Christ. The power is God and we can't go directly to God. We have to go through Jesus Christ and become converted to be acceptable to Him.

Pilate. You almost feel sorry for Pilate, don't you? He was a Roman and he didn't have much of a backbone, and he said, "What is truth?" John 18:38. Do we ever say, "What is truth?" Out in this world, so often it seems like wrong is right, and right is wrong.

This world changes so fast. You can buy a computer and in two years it is nearly obsolete. The weapons that we hear about that they are using in Iraq, it is just unbelievable . . . the technology . . . the fast changing things. Everything is changing so fast.

What is the only thing that we can hang on to? The only thing that doesn't change is this Word and Jesus Christ!

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SERMON BY BRO. DENNIS RASSI OF FAIRBURY, IL

"Hope Is The Anchor Of Our Soul" John 18

Dear brothers and sisters, as we would look at this chapter and think about it, this is Jesus Christ. This is the One Who paid the price that loved us more than anyone loves us. This chapter is not quite as descriptive as some chapters, but they mocked Him, scourged Him, and they spat upon Him. Did He deserve that? No. Who deserved all that? We did . . . everyone of us.

He was the sinless Son of God, the Perfect Lamb, that Prince of Peace. What about us? We were the ones who were the sinners . . . poor, wretched and blind.

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden." John 18:1. We can take a little clue from here that Jesus went apart. He went to find a place that was quiet and it says that He often went there. Do we find a closet? Do we set ourselves apart in the quietness so we can commune with Him and we can hear Him and we can feel His nearness? That is what Jesus did.

"And Judas also . . ." John 18:2. Can we understand that about Judas Iscariot? Here is one of them. He was one of the twelve . . . one of Jesus' disciples . . . one that was called and drawn unto Him and he walked with Jesus Christ. He saw those miracles. He saw the blind receive their sight and he saw the lame walk. He saw all those miracles . . . the water turned to wine, and the five thousand fed.

We would think that someone

like that who has seen it all and knew the power of Jesus Christ, would He really sell His soul for those thirty pieces of silver at that time was worth about \$17.00. We can't quite comprehend that, can we?

We think, "Oh, if I could just walk with Jesus in the flesh and see Him and know Him and see those miracles, oh, it would be so easy to believe!" Dear friends, have you ever said that? "It is all so vague. It is all so remote. How can I really comprehend it?"

Here is one that walked with Jesus Christ and he sold his soul for thirty pieces of silver. We don't quite understand that, do we? Brothers and sisters, we can't quite comprehend that, but it happens. He received a band of men and officers. (It is a little hard to speak of even). They came with swords and staves, and even Jesus seemed a little surprised.

He said, "Whom seek ye?" John 18:4. Does that echo in your ears sometimes? When you are out in the fields of sin, would Jesus say, "Whom seek ye? What are you looking for? What do you really need?" It is Jesus Christ!

"They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he." John 18:5, and they fell backward. They were frightened. Sometimes when we are so near to Jesus Christ and He is right there, do we fall backward? But we don't want to get quite that close.

It has been a number of weeks

ago when I had a little experience and it was kind of different and I think it makes a little point. I was at a job site loading some junk onto my truck and most of this junk was old pieces of pipe. This one piece of pipe was like a double elbow about six-inch cast iron pipe. I went to pick it up and it was pretty heavy. I carried it over to the truck and dropped it in the back, and out jumped a rabbit!

This rabbit took one leap and jumped and landed right between the cab and the box. There is a little (I guess you'd call it) rabbit-size trap there, about two or two and one-half inches wide. This rabbit fell right in there . . . in one leap!

He struggled and went a little deeper. He struggled some more and he went a little deeper. He struggled some more and pretty soon he was about halfway down until he couldn't even wiggle.

This was a little different . . . it doesn't happen very often. I ended up by taking a stick and went around to the side of the truck and stuck that stick in there and pushed underneath him. I pushed and pushed until finally he got out . . . and then he took off!

I had to think here is a rabbit and winter is coming on. He had found a spot he thought would be comfortable. It was a hard shell and he crawled in there and thought, "Not too bad a spot!" Now as I think about it with the cold weather we have had with snow and ice, I don't think that would have been a very

(Continued on Page 38)