



"... for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

Isaiah 35:6

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river..."

Isaiah 48:18

VOLUME 41

APRIL 1991

NUMBER 4

SWEET, SWEET SPRINGTIME



"... he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Psalms 23:2

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Easter has come and gone and it's time to reminisce. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the basis for our faith. We celebrate Easter with much joy and praise, and rightly so. It is written in I Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is God's official seal on the plan of salvation, making it valid and legal. Without it there is no documentation that Christ is the Son of God, nor that He is qualified to be our Saviour. Physically, others have suffered as Christ suffered, and many are still being tortured today, in ways that make death a welcome guest. The difference is in the spiritual suffering, in the fact that our sins were laid upon Him. Just what kind of suffering that entailed, we will never know, but we believe it was the suffering of hell.

One thing we know is that without death there can be no resurrection. Be definition, the word means to be raised from the dead. Obviously, you must die in order to be resurrected. Someone has said, "Death is man's final surrender to

God." That physical death and that surrender leads to the resurrection of an eternal body for the believer. In like manner, when we repent we are taught to surrender completely, to die to self. When we are baptized, we are taught that we bury the old nature and rise to newness of life, a new creature. Here again, the death of self is necessary in order to experience the resurrection to a new life.

There is one difference between these two parallels of death and resurrection. Once we receive our eternal, resurrected bodies there will be no turning back. The devil will not be able to touch us anymore. However, concerning dying unto self and living the resurrected life of complete surrender, the devil still has access to us. In order to live daily the resurrected life in Christ, we need to remain completely surrendered, or dead unto self. The resurrection is nice but let's not forget the death part. You will be filled with the spirit and live the resurrected life in direct proportion to the extent you are dead to self. There is no other way. Are you dead to self?

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
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Bro. David Bertsch, Elder
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EUROPE - MARCH 1991 Elder Bro. Ben Maibach Mission Committee

Brethren and friends continue to show interest for the welfare of our churches in Europe, particularly in Russia, Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia; so we will try to provide some details.

As most of you are aware, at the distribution center at Bluffton, Indiana, a large container (40'x8'x8') is packed once a month for shipment to Romania. The container is shipped by truck to Detroit, transferred to a railroad car and forwarded to Montreal where it is loaded onto a ship going to Rotterdam, Holland. From there it is shipped by truck to our brethren in Romania for their local distribution.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

THE CARES OF LIFE

The cares of life come in many forms including the fears, temptations and common stresses confronted by every human being. Cares can cause emotional pain, anxious concern, distraction and uneasiness. They can pull us in different directions and, if permitted, can inhibit the overall effectiveness of a believer's spiritual life. No one can escape the cares of life. We can either allow them to pull us apart and destroy us or we can, by the grace of God, manage cares in such a way that we can benefit from them and be a more effective light in the world.

The risk of being overcome by the cares of life is great. In the parable of the Sower and the Seed, Jesus taught, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22). The promise of God to provide sufficient grace for every challenge gives us the assurance that we need not succumb. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

The Apostle Peter exhorts, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). If we allow cares to build up in our minds, we can become overcharged with anxiety. This limits our ability to distinguish reality from imagination. Peter also wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Notice that Satan is described as a roaring lion, not that he actually is a lion. This means that he makes a pretence of ferocious power. Satan works by the power of suggestion. He causes us to exaggerate the cares of life, allowing them to preoccupy our thoughts and finally tear us apart. Perhaps when

we see Satan unmasked someday we will be amazed that such a spirit was able to cause so much havoc upon the earth. Isaiah wrote of Lucifer, "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?" (Is. 14:16). We must not give in to unfounded fear. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

How we cope with our cares teaches those around us a lot about our faith. People who are carnally minded turn to alcohol, drugs, cheating, threats, abuse, divorce, and many other evil means to fight against the reverses of life. If we are spiritually minded, we will portray a peaceful attitude, even in the face of distressing circumstances (Rom. 8:6). We will equip ourselves with godly armor as instructed by the Apostle Paul: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:13). The true faith and steadfastness of believers can help attract lost souls to Christ. It will help them recognize they are lacking something essential which far exceeds any human determination or strength.

Many of the cares of life are brought upon ourselves. Living above our means creates untold stress. The Word teaches that we should be diligent in our earthly labors and give proper attention to our occupations (Prov. 27:23). We are warned that we should establish a livelihood first before spending significant amounts of money for our own comfort. "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house" (Prov. 24:27). Consumptive lifestyles and craving for wealth bring much grief. "But they that will be rich

fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Tim. 6:9).

Job held to his integrity in the face of terrible temptation and loss. At one point he cried out, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). He faced his cares in a way that brought glory to God, and he was blessed even more in the end than in the beginning of his life.

God provides many excellent spiritual remedies for coping with cares. Prayer and reading of His word provide our first line of defense. Singing of hymns and listening to soothing music create a calmness of heart which can help prepare us to meet a challenge. Before Elisha prophesied before the king, he called for a minstrel to play music; then the hand of the Lord came upon him (2 Kings 3:15). The singing of hymns just prior to a church service can have a similar effect. We are also exhorted to do this on an individual basis: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).

Fellowship with believers of like mind is very effective in helping us to handle our cares. Sharing our burdens can be enlightening, enabling us to understand the spiritual benefits of the trials of life (Rom. 5:3-5). We are to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

It is part of God's beautiful plan for the believer that the inevitable struggles with the cares of life will lead to spiritual growth and the bearing of more abundant fruit. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see (fear) when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful (worried) in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8).

The container holds approximately sixty 90-pound barrels of clothing (in February increased to 76 barrels including quilts and blankets); and 730 35-pound food cartons of items not available in Romanian stores such as soap, cooking oil, salami, coffee, and sugar. From the spiritual side we have shipped 3,500 Gospel of Matthew paperbacks donated by Iron Curtain Ministries (an Amish group from Millersburg, Ohio); 40 large-print pulpit Bibles; 1,200 Children's Bibles (similar to Hurlbut's Story of the Bible; over 2,300 New Testaments and 2,300 Bibles in the Romanian language; and 200 Zion's Harp hymnals in the German language. The Zion's Harp hymnal is no longer available in Europe, and the Swiss church has published a new song book that is not acceptable to many of the brethren in Eastern Europe.

Recently, there has been a request for Scriptures in the Hungarian language, as well as children's Bibles in the Hungarian and Ukrainian language which could be used in Russia.

In Romania the brethren had to hire private cars and trailers to distribute the items as five of their own cars were not operating due to mechanical problems. Because there is such a scarcity of many items this created serious problems. When they went into the villages people flocked around to receive whatever was available and it was difficult to control proper distribution. When we consider the abundance of things

many of us take for granted, it is hard for us to comprehend. They have now requested a closed van in an endeavor to alleviate this serious problem.

Elder Bros. Albert Szabo and Alex Virtaci recently wrote that in the early part of December they received from the Department of Cults in Bucarest a group permit to acquire some of the confiscated church buildings and property, and a special permit was granted for the urgently-needed new church building in the village of Chesa which is the largest congregation in Romania. God works in wonderful and mysterious ways. The village counsel donated a parcel of land upon which to build the church, and an architect is now preparing plans for a structure to accommodate over 200 people.

In the city of Arad, the village where Bro. Virtaci lives, the old church building is still being occupied as a child day-care center. Local officials are searching for a suitable building in that area to relocate the center, and our brothers are hoping it will not take too long.

In the village of Zerindul-mic local brethren built a small brick building with their own resources. This fellowship consists of 22 members and 10 to 12 visiting friends. Dedication was held on December 2, 1990.

In Miraslau the brothers and sisters, including some who are quite elderly, worked very hard with shovels, etc. to rapidly build a two-

story building, as there was great incentive to try to beat the fast-rising material costs and especially cold weather. By the first days of December the roof was put on. It is hoped this building will accommodate 80 persons.

In Romania the brethren have opened a special bank account at the Foreign Trade Branch of the Romanian National Bank to be used for depositing foreign currency from abroad. Two deacons have been appointed by the elders to handle the moneys which are to be used explicitly for building projects. They have been instructed to keep detailed reports of all expenditures, and copies of these reports will be sent to us on a regular basis.

Brethren who visited Romania and Russia recently reported that in the last three to four years baptisms have been in the 100s, and membership in Romania has increased some 30%. Miracles still are being performed, for the new government no longer wants them to meet in private homes because of sanitary and safety reasons.

We have been informed that because of the large number of unemployed, only Romanian citizens are allowed to work on the building projects. Further complications are caused by extreme shortages of suitable building materials. Also, materials are generally of poor quality and costs are rapidly escalating.

The Mission Committee at a

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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GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1991
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1991

meeting at Latty, Ohio in February unanimously agreed to recommend to the elder body the release of moneys collected some years ago for Romania when it appeared the Romanian government would cooperate in allowing us to assist our brethren. Also, our national brotherhood has received an anonymous gift of a home to be used as we deem best. A recommendation was made to use the funds from the sale of the home and solicitation be made to our entire brotherhood for funds to assist in the rebuilding program in both Romania and Russia if there is a need. These recommendations were presented to the entire elder body at Latty, Ohio, and receive unanimous support and approval.

It was also suggested that at the proper time two elder brothers go to Romania and Russia to make certain there is good order and accountability, as there continues to be a lot of confusion and a lack of the proper channels of authority in the formation of the new government at all levels.

In the Ukraine (Soviet Union) in the area near Kiev the situation is heartwarming and yet somewhat tragic at the same time. The membership there has nearly doubled in recent years from approximately 250 to about 550 members. In fact there was such a need for counseling that an elder with language abilities was ordained in Budapest,

Hungary, to especially assist the brethren in Russia with the new converts. Formerly these brethren never had places of worship but gathered through the years in secret under great trials, persecutions and frequent physical abuse. However, in the last two years, Ukrainian brethren were able to build at least two small buildings as places of worship. Attendance has swelled because of the large number of visitors, children and friends who previously were afraid to worship.

The buildings in both Russia and Romania are extremely simple - some simply four-walled buildings with very primitive sanitary facilities, and generally mostly standing room for the many seeking souls and worshippers. This is coupled with the recently well-publicized shortages of food and supplies.

Bro. Pete Carcea recently wrote that they have lots of young people. In the past two years over 200 souls were baptized, and there are now about nine places where they assemble regularly for worship. He further wrote that his father had died for our precious faith along with many other brothers. Holy baptisms were often performed in barns in great secrecy. Also, they were afraid to sing for fear of attracting attention, but that God has heard their and our prayers. They now have freedom of worship from the government.

The generosity of the American people in supplying Holy Scriptures has created some distribution problems in many areas, and we are awaiting response to our inquiry as to how we might assist them, particularly in channeling Bibles, Sunday school material, and other items.

Unfortunately Bro. Petre Carcea has apparently had a recurrence of serious stomach problems and is presently hospitalized. There is grave concern that some of the radiation from the Chernobyl disaster has caused a great deal of cancer to those in the area where many of our brethren live. Consequently our recent letters have been unanswered. He stated, "we want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers and material help which you have showed to us. This is a notable deed before the Lord. We have felt Christ's love which you have exhibited toward us his weak and unworthy servants. We will never forget your great love."

A young brother living in Russia reported firsthand that food stores are empty and that any other general supplies are equally unavailable. A box of matches costs three to four hours wages, and the cost of one automobile tire is equal to a person's wages for five to six months, if and when available. Only some bread and a little milk are found in the stores in the morning hours. Especially the older people and those with large families, many with ten or more children, find themselves in desperate need. So, as we are reminded in the Word of the Lord, we have a privilege and a responsibility to assist these beloved brethren and friends.

In Yugoslavia the funds we have been sending to Elder Bro. Metzger for the prisoners aid can now be discontinued. Those moneys should be added to the other accounts to assist the elderly, the sick and the needy, as our World Relief brethren have been doing on a regular basis.

One brother wrote, "The economic conditions in our country are bad and are getting worse every day. Inflation and prices of essentials are running high." The banks refuse to give dollars even to those who deposited them for later use. They

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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were informed that the dinar is strong but that no other country wants to accept it. He feared they were following the same road as Romania. The Yugoslavian government has devalued their dinars 30% since the first of the year which

adds to hardship and has severely impacted the ability of the people to purchase essential goods.

No doubt you have read in the papers of the strife between the six individual provinces that comprise the country of Yugoslavia and a

desire, particularly the Serbians, to become independent. This element we understand has a lot of communist leadership. Consequently the civil unrest adds to hardship for the general populous.

When we hear of situations such as these and know them to be true we are refreshed and uplifted by beautiful hymns like the Zion's Harp #26. "Yet one things secures us, whatever betide, this promise assures us, the Lord will provide."

Lovingly, your very least brother,
Ben Maibach

-- 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 HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" Colossians 3:17. Because of Jesus, we rejoice in daily blessings in our five homes. His name is spoken and brings joy and comfort as staff and residents share the ups and downs of life. As Sisters Marlene Esslinger and Anne Eberhard set up housekeeping together at 207 Wagler in Morton, we ask you to join them in praying for Christ to be the Head of their home. Sis. Jackie Barton's new address will be 501 N. Main after March 28 when she plans to move there from Oakwood Estate. Angie Massner will move from ACHH to Oakwood April 1. Our prayers are with Jackie and Angie as they look to Jesus to help them adjust and use them to honor Him in their new homes.

At ACHH folks are getting ready to plant patio plants in the courtyard outside the activity room, celebrating the Easter season with a party on March 23, putting away basketball uniforms and getting into shape for Summer Olympics in track and field, and getting outside for walks and bike rides. The Free Spirit swim team will compete at the district meet April 6. At monthly Bible study groups and resident council, residents often pray for their families and for the staff members who are their friends.

At Oakwood, and the community homes on Hazelwood, North Main and Wagler Streets, people are saving money for their mini-vacations. The first group, which includes Marian Funk, Gloria Heini-

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
March 1991 —	2297	21,749

*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.

ger, Anita Schuon, Teresa Kautz and Helen Schuon, plan to go to the Long Grove Village April 19 and 20. Bryan Tiezzi started a new job as table waiter in the dining room at St. Joseph's Home. The Hazelwood home hosted a Japan Day and enjoyed having friends over to study about the people of Japan and dress in kimonos and eat Japanese food. It was especially interesting to learn about the religions of Japan since one Oakwood Day Program class is studying about various religions. The name of Jesus seems more special after having seen the emptiness of false religion in pictures of idols.

In the name of Jesus, several people have volunteered time and talents. At ACHH Adele Martin and a group from Princeville, IL, host the Easter party each year. Bros. Paul Streitmatter and Dave Lehman (Washington, IL) are assisting with Special Olympics. Bro. Elmer Banwart has helped with Central Illinois Horseback Riding Therapy for several years. At Oakwood, Beth Blunier (Eureka, IL) demonstrated decorating an Easter cross cake and Sis. Marcia Kaiser (Morton, IL) balances all personal checking accounts, Bros. Mark Kaiser and Scott Wegman (Tremont, IL) lead monthly Bible studies, and Sis. Dori Blunier (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dennis Hartmann (Princeville, IL) alternate driving to Travelogues. We know God will bless these folks and their work for Him.

Birthdays at ACHH for May include: Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stichling (13), Steve Slagel (13), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19) and Marlene Moser (22). At Oakwood Estate, Herbert Stieglitz will celebrate his birthday May 11. Jackie Barton will have a birthday May 26 at her new home, 540 N. Main.

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

"Ye are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14. This is one of the verses the children are memorizing in April. They may not fully understand the meaning of this verse, as

they practice it here at school and at home with their parents, but oh, how our prayer is that as they grow and learn, this verse could be fulfilled in each of their hearts and lives. As adults, we know and need to keep being reminded of the importance of letting our lights shine forth in this dark world.

Our special themes this month are spring and plants. This truly is a beautiful time of growth and birth, and it is refreshing to see the earth start new again. It is easy to show and teach God's wonderful love when it is so evident in all creation around us.

We would again like to ask for volunteers this summer. If there would be anyone who would like to give of their time and talents, we would ask you to consider coming to Athens to help in whatever area you would feel comfortable. It is only through volunteer help that our regular staff is able to take a vacation. Lodging is available and the hours are very flexible. Please just call the Preschool at 205-233-0591 or write to Sis. Joan Meister, Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611.

**GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home**
Rhonda Stoller

"I love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people. I love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people. What a sight just to see all the happy faces, praising God in heavenly places. What a thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people."

Lanny Wolfe

Working with the staff at Gateway Woods is a blessing. The tie that binds our hearts and minds comes from God above. We love one another. We are praying daily, not only for, but with each other. We are each unique individuals in many ways, but there are at least two areas where we are all alike. We love our Lord Jesus and we love the teenagers God has placed in our care. While working at Gateway

Woods, the staff receive among itself, more encouragement than we may ever received anywhere else. But working with the staff isn't the only blessing to experience. Spending time with the youth can be fulfilling, especially when one can put aside the child's weak areas and see them through the eyes of Christ.

I have enjoyed the many times I have been able to spend an evening, a weekend or the holidays with one of the girls. Recently, Kelly, who lives in the East House, spent a weekend with me. Kelly is such a precious girl at heart. She loved going to church and, with her whole heart, sang praises to God. Her love went out to the younger children and her gentle ways help a child to feel safe and comfortable in her arms. She enjoyed snuggling at nights as we read the Bible and said our prayers.

My father farms and raises livestock. Kelly enjoyed the new adventure of riding on a tractor. Her greatest excitement came from helping my dad with the evening chores. She would pick up the small pigs and hug them. She even sang a few hymns to the pigs. She also appreciated the "Mother's Love" she freely received from my mom. I really enjoyed the weekend but I wasn't prepared for our discussion on the way back to her home.

Kelly assured me she had a good time and wanted to come again. With a serious voice and a questioning look, she asked me if I knew how hard it was to have only two houseparents instead of three since Carol left. Since I have never been in such a situation I told her no, but encouraged her to share her feelings.

"To begin with," she started, "it's nice to have special time alone with the houseparents. We don't get as much individual time as we are used to." Liz and Susan, my houseparents, are doing their best," she continued, "but I can see the extra stress this is creating for them, too."

Then she asked the question that tugged at my heart and brought a few tears. "Rhonda, do you think the reason no one has taken Carol or John and Patsy's place is because of us kids?"

Startled, I asked her why she would ask such a question. "Well,"

Kelly said, "each day when I go to school I see lots of hurting kids who need the love and care they could get here at the Home. If Tim and the board members had enough people willing to work for Gateway Woods," she continued, "I'm sure you could build and fill two or three more houses! This makes me believe the problem is with us kids."

I'll admit, I was quiet for a few moments. (It is amazing how much we learn about ourselves through the questions of a child.) Then I began to explain that coming to the Home had to be a decision that God made in an individual's life. I also explained that moving from family and friends was a big step to take. I could tell Kelly wasn't convinced by my words, and to be honest, I wasn't either. I don't have the answers as to why the Home will face dry spells when employees are needed. I encouraged Kelly to see the wait as a time to increase her faith, as well as my own, in God's love and concern for all the youth at Gateway Woods. I shared with her that if God was calling one of His children to work at the Home, and they were turning their back on His voice, there were twenty-one blessings they would never experience in their life. Kelly asked what the twenty-one blessings were, just as you may be asking. Then I named for Kelly the twenty-one children God has entrusted to us.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

"And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

"And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

"For I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

"Naked, and ye clothed me: I was

sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee ahungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

"When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

"Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:31-40

We have openings for Houseparents, Office Staff, and soon for a Counselor. See the ads in this issue. Have you taken the time to seriously search and pray how God would like to use you in this ministry for wounded and hurting youth?

The past few weeks has been a fun time for our youth. On February 23, the Wolcott Sunday school invited our children to join them for a day of winter fun at Pokagon State Park. Then on March 3, our high school students traveled to Lafayette for ACYF. The teenagers enjoyed both outings with many memories to keep in their hearts.

We are once again very thankful for the volunteers that gave of themselves in the past month. Those who were with us included Bros. Doug and Seth Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Ben Masten (Francesville, IN), Brad Martin (Peoria, IL), John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Matt Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Carol Sauder (Bloomington, IL). Thank you for your continued help and support.

We say goodbye to two of our board members this month. Both Bros. Bob Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Jack Krantz (Morton, IL) have finished their five-year term on the board. Bob and Jack each gave so much of their time and energy to help the staff and children. We love you both and appreciate all you have done for each of us. We will continue to keep you both in our prayers as we know we will be in yours. May the Lord God Almighty bless your efforts and reward you as only He can.

We want to welcome three new board members. They are Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Larry Herman (Peoria, IL) and Norman Beery (Smithville, OH). We would like to thank each of you for being willing to come and serve. We pray your term will increase your faith and be a rich experience in your lives.

On March 16, we held our annual Leo Church Appreciation Night. Since the start of Gateway Woods, the members of the Leo Church have stretched and sacrificed much time, energy and care to help provide for our needs. The evening was a fun time but it seems that words aren't enough when saying "thank you." May you know and feel how dear you are to our hearts. We leave your reward in heaven for the Lord to bless you.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"O, Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good for His mercy endureth forever." Psalms 136:1 (This Psalm is listed as an exhortation to thank God for particular mercies.)

We truly give thanks and praise to Him for the February 27 midnight end to the Gulf War.

Just 5 days before Mark Anliker had phoned his parents, Jim and Sharon Anliker. We shall uphold Mark and Russ Nagel and their parents 'till we all meet again, when they arrive home.

The weekend of February 17, we enjoyed many single member visitors. There were greetings from 12 churches and Christian love flowed freely. Our monthly church fellowship dinner and singing was one of the happy times together.

We are grateful to visiting ministers, Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH).

Some of us are so fortunate!! To some what might seem a cross to bear, our dear Saviour helps us put on the armour of faith, trust and obedience. Swathed in love we take our physical challenges and find joy in shining for Him. For sure if we have a helpmate or family, they also wear the same armour and shed light for the Lord Jesus.

Many prayers were uttered in behalf of our elder brethren as they met in Latty, OH, to consider our needs. May we always be thankful for our elder and his wife, they truly are God's servants.

We have all witnessed the power of prayer. Please join us in prayers for Sis. Margie Rebbec, Ed and Jane Kilgus and Sis. Esther Harmon. Bro. Bob Dotterer was in church after three weeks. Carol Doolittle was also present after several months of sick time. Sis. Emma and Bro. Earl Sanders have been present several times, however, Bro. Earl was hospitalized March 6.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry Beyer on the death of his brother, Amos. They went to the funeral in Kansas.

Jason Boone Ott was born February 21 to parents, Doug and Pam. Siblings, Jay and Summer, also welcome him into the family fold. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma Ott and Elmer and Mary Pelton.

We, in Arizona, are indeed grateful to our heavenly Father for much needed rain. State reservoirs went from 1% to 75% capacity. "All good things come from the Father above."

Three days of rainy weather has interrupted our many bird visitors despite our "bird" tree being full of pink blossoms.

"Delight thyself in the Lord . . ." Psalm 37. How wonderful some of our dear ones feel the need of the Lord. Melvin and Bertha Miller, Verna Peuschel, Carol Doolittle and Frances Martin have all felt the call to "Come unto Me." We are all grateful to have these dear souls seek their salvation that they might become our brothers and sisters-in-faith.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus sees when He looks at you?

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The Tucson Church experienced mixed emotions as we heard of the passing of our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman. We were terribly saddened by the realization that he will never worship with us again or speak from our pulpit, but a part of us was so

thankful his suffering was ended. He spoke of being ready to go "home" and we know what he meant. Bro. Noah died in Peoria, but so much of his life and so much of his work for the Lord took place in Tucson. This small congregation meant so much to him, he felt it was his "assignment" from the Lord. His homework was never ending and always completed on time. His final project was the completion and dedication to the Lord of our beautiful new addition. As a part of the renovation, I remember watching grandpa rebuilding the pulpit platform to blend in with the renovations. His efforts toward this little church could not all be listed for there were too many, but his purpose was always the same, as he put it -- "The saving of the souls of men."

He is survived by nine children, 37 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and three brothers. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Lorraine, three brothers, two sisters and one grandchild. May God provide comfort and peace to Bro. Noah's loved ones.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach serve communion recently. He and Sis. Barb made that familiar trip to Tucson and we appreciate it! We were also visited by deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix), Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) this month. We also appreciate their love and support.

Tucson hosted the ACYF for the California and Arizona Bible classes recently. It was a blessing and a privilege to be a part of the activities. May every effort be blessed.

Our Sis. Diane Funk was elected to serve as kitchen chairman for 1991. We wish her God's grace in carrying out her duties.

Bro. Maynard Beery was hospitalized recently. Our prayers are with Bro. Maynard and his wife, Billie. God is such a faithful companion in those times.

The family of Sis. Evelyn Knapp wishes to thank everyone for their loving concern and prayers at the time of death of our wife, mother, grandmother and dear sister-in-faith.

The Knapp family

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

We rejoice with Debbie Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae) as she has given her heart to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's blessings in her new life!

The Lord has provided us with an abundance of rain during March. The snow we see in the mountains, hopefully, indicates an increase in our water supply, and for this we can be truly thankful. This rain was no doubt an answer to many prayers.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

LaNae Meyer - Cindy Schmidt

We, at San Diego, are praising God for His mercy and healing hand that He has granted our dear friend, Dayena Varga (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne). She had the misfortune of being in a car accident and breaking her neck. We all witnessed a miracle as we saw her walking a little over a week later. We pray that she will see the love and mercy that God has shown her. May we all rejoice in each day God gives us and strive to do His will.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We thank you for visiting with us and may the Lord continue to give you and your family traveling mercies as well as keep you all encouraged.

We had a couple of visitors this winter that fellowshiped with us for several months. Many new Christian friendships were made but once again we must say farewell. Bro. Julius Kovacs (Dunavecsr, Hungary) visited his daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Joy and Bro. Deneo Fulop. We were also thankful to have Sis. Viola Vidakoics (Ensekcsanad, Hungary) with us during her first visit to the States. Many of us will miss her helping hands and quiet ways. May she feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit as she seeks for God's will in her life.

Bro. Roy Metzger has felt God leading him to ask for Sis. Eileen Hegedus. We wish them the Lord's guidance as they lean on Him in planning a wedding. And yet, as we think of two lives coming together,

we wish them a wonderful marriage in the Lord where both can seek out their salvation and draw others too, by their Christian example.

COLORADO, DENVER **Marlene Leman**

Again it's the time of the year when we see a renewal of plant life outdoors, bulbs peeking through, trees budding, grass greening, etc. and the need to rake up the debris that has collected during the winter. As we think of all these things, we take stock of our own lives and try to weed out any rubbish and realize we need to make room for some of the virtues that have perhaps been allowed to grow dormant. Helping us along those lines was the wonderful privilege of partaking holy communion. We are so thankful our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) came to serve us in this capacity. We ask a special blessing upon him for his labors in our behalf.

A reminder to all Colorado recipients of the Silver Lining: May is the month you need to pay your dues of \$7.00. Send to me at 16836 E. Harvard Place, Aurora, CO 80013-1516.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Martha Luginbuhl**

It was good to hear the encouraging message of ministering Bro. Nathan Lehman (Tucson, AZ) when he and his wife, Yvonne, visited us February 24. We are rather isolated here in Connecticut and, therefore, welcome and appreciate all who take the time and effort to visit us.

On Saturday, March 2, Raymond Hartmann, 72, died, leaving his dear wife, Sis. Caroline (Fehr); a son, Craig and Roberta; four grandchildren; and two brothers, Russell and George. Memories flood the mind of bygone years at times like this, and the family has our sympathy and prayers in the months ahead.

"If thus thou'lt overcome thy wishes, And let God's will prevail in thee, Then thou wilt find peace in

thy suffering And grace thy great reward will be."

Zion's Harp #171, vs. 10

Our hearts are uplifted and thankful to see evidence that the door of salvation is yet open to all who seek and ask. Ken Crary, with the grace of God, has made the decision to resist the world's many allurements to be among the few to go through the straight gate on the narrow way which leads to life eternal. Ken is married to Sis. Debra (Luginbuhl) and has two children. May the Spirit strengthen Ken in his conversion to submit his own will to God's direction and guidance which never fails.

Hospitalized during the month were Sisters Cherrine Luginbuhl, Lydia Luginbuhl, Jane Moser and Sue Luginbuhl. Also, Sis. Melanie Schneider had surgery for a pacemaker and is presently home again. We certainly pray for her successful recovery as well as all others who have been and are under a doctor's care, especially those in nursing homes.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

On Sunday, March 3, our visiting minister was Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) with his wife, Sis. Charlene, and three of their daughters.

March 10 was not a scheduled Sunday, but Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) was in the area on business. Several of us gathered at the home of Ed and Ginny Stoll for a service and brunch.

The weekend of March 16 and 17 we were blessed with many visitors from Rockville, CT, Smithville and Rittman, OH, Philadelphia, PA and Gridley, IL. Our minister was Bro. Elmer Witzig, accompanied by his wife, Sis. Marjorie (Gridley, IL).

On February 23, Ken and Roberta Belsley welcomed a grandson, Vincent, born to their daughter and son-in-law, Roseann and Larry Seiler. On March 16, Tim and Sue Rocke welcomed a daughter, Julia Rose. Big brother, Jeremy, welcomes her as do grandparents, Norman and Sis. Emma Rocke (Peoria, IL).

As summer approaches and vacation plans are made, we urge you to consider a visit to the Washington, D.C., area. Several in our congregation can suggest many places to visit, even if you have visited the area previously. If your visit does not come on the first or third Sunday, please contact us, we welcome all opportunities for fellowship.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tysons Westpark Hotel located on Route 7 about 1 mile west of I-495 Beltway. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are 10:30 and 12:30. For more information or assistance, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE **Terri Huber**

What a pleasure to listen to the Mortonaires March 13! They sang twelve beautiful songs for us. It was a truly unique occasion -- for obvious reasons we don't get to hear too many visiting choir groups from up north! There was a record turnout for the supper and song service. Many thanks to the brothers and their wives who traveled so far; we enjoyed it.

We have been blessed with three visiting ministers: Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Curt Heimer (Alto, MI). It is exciting to hear God's Word from our pulpit Sunday after Sunday.

This column is rather short -- there doesn't seem to be any more "news." However, that doesn't mean we aren't busy spending time with our visitors, practicing for the Easter program with the Sunday school, and each doing the Lord's work as we are led!

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

We enjoyed an evening of fellowship and song on the evening of March 16. We were privileged to have the Mortonaires (Morton, IL). The singing was so inspiring and uplifting. A dinner preceded the program.

We welcome Ron and Barbara Yergler and children, Mike and Stacy. They moved here from Knox, IN. Parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler.

We were blessed with ministers, Elder Bros. Darrel Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Doug Saba (Sarasota, FL), Caroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Berber - Suellen Ott

He bows his head and cries,
"tis finished, All is done
O God receive my soul."
Life's victory is won.

Zion's Harp #89, vs. 7

We were greatly humbled to take the trip to Calvary and share in holy communion this past month. The suffering that our Lord endured in our behalf is hard to comprehend. It behooves us to take a look at our spiritual house and make sure we are ready at all times for his return. Thankful are we for Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and David Bertsch and Bro. Doug Sabo for serving the love feast.

Haste and seek your soul's
salvation;
Heed the word of God today!

Zion's Harp #52

Again the Gospel message so willingly has been brought forth by the following ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller, Bros. Ralph Garber, Paul Gasser, Randy Gasser, Clifford Grimm, Russel Wuthrich, Carl Weiss, Dave Graff, Dave Eisenmann and Bro. Carroll Gerber. May God richly bless each of these servants for their willingness to serve.

May God's loving arms of protection envelop those who have been unable to assemble with us due to accident or illness. We wish to remember the following in our prayers, Bro. Joe Schrock, Bro. Fred Rucgsegger, Sis. Irene Schrock and Sis. Esther Getz.

We had the opportunity to witness the ministry of music in our

brotherhood when our congregation was visited by the Mortonaires. May God richly bless each of the brothers and their families for sharing their talent of song with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

We are always thankful to our visiting ministers for sharing the Word with us. Serving us this past month were Elder Bro. Daniel Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

Chip and Debbie Fehr and their three children, Derek, Misty and Danielle, have moved to the Atlanta area from Morris, MN. We extend a warm welcome to them and pray that the Lord will bless them in their new home.

Our congregation meets 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
Judy Schmeid

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

We were all uplifted and strengthened to witness the testimony and baptism of our new brother, Bernie Ferneau, March 2 and 3 as he shared how God worked in his life. We praise God for the door of grace that is still open and that He is still calling for our loved ones who have not let Him in their hearts yet.

As we welcomed a dear soul into God's fold one weekend, the following weekend we were saddened by the passing of our dear Bro. Albert Stoller, who reached the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Josephine and one daughter, Jackie Hauter (Morton). One by one God is calling His faithful shepherds home. Bro. Al's kind words, faith and love will certainly be missed but those

precious memories will always be among those who loved him. We rejoice "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:15. Our prayers go out to his family.

Visiting us this month were Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest).

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

As I read that verse, it brings many thoughts to mind that I would like to share on behalf of a group of us who were blessed with the opportunity of going to Haiti on a work team project.

We certainly are a blessed people as we were able to witness what little the Haitian people have. It brought tears of humbleness, thankfulness and joy as we shared time working and singing hymns of praise to God with them, even though the language barrier was between us. As we sang hymns of praise in English, they would sing the same hymns in Creole. It was a very touching experience to feel and know that God's love and presence was their with us even though it was a different country, denomination and race. The love, hospitality and kindness that was shared with us by the pastor, his wife and congregation at Port-a-Piment was very touching and as we parted that day to return to Port-au-Prince we were all deeply touched by the tears of sorrow they all expressed, but with that hope and promise of all meeting in heaven some day if we continue to serve and trust and walk with God. No matter what language we speak or country, race or denomination we are "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them." Psalms 145:18, 19.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringger

We are deeply grateful to Bro.

Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton), Bro. Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) for visiting and ministering to us this past month. May the Lord richly bless them for all their efforts.

Our loved ones that have been in the hospital the past month have been Bro. Steve Staley (Sis. Rose) and Bro. Don Knobloch (Sis. Jenny). We are thankful that Bro. Steve is assembling with us again, and we continue to pray for Bro. Don, that he can return home and remain well enough to have a bone marrow transplant.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Jana Kieser and Bro. Andy Klaus (Washington) was announced to our congregation March 17. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser and John and Betty Klaus from Japan. We wish this couple God's richest blessings during this time of planning.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Kim Walder

"Thus united and in concord let us walk the path of life; hand in hand, O may love bind us for each other's welfare strive." (Zion's Harp #237) We rejoice with Sis. Susan Grawunder and Bro. Michael Walder as they were united in holy matrimony Sunday, March 24 at Akron, OH. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign). We wish them God's richest blessings as they make their home in Akron.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury). We want to thank these brothers for ministering to us and for sharing in our fellowship.

The students hosted a parent/church appreciation weekend this month. Singing, food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

How many times do we do some-

thing for convenience's sake? In John 2, Christ drove the moneychangers from the temple. We think of the sacrilege of that, and we are appalled. Yet do we realize that the practice probably started as "a convenience" for those involved. Which is more convenient for us: to give Sunday, the day of rest, to church and related activities and people -- or to get in a head start for Monday morning (or finish up work from Saturday)? Which is more convenient -- to go to church on Wednesday evening or to stay home? Which is more important -- to read and meditate on the Word daily or to save it for the weekends when there is "more time?" Which is easier -- to set down the law to our children about what they can and can't do or to explain our convictions about spiritual principles? What would the Lord have us to do? "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." I Corinthians 10:23. The Lord wants us to take time and thought for the things of the Spirit; for we are also warned in John 2 that what is easier and what is more convenient may lead to desecration, if allowed to become habitual, if allowed to impinge on the importance of that which is of utmost importance, our worship and our praise, keeping His temple pure.

We are most grateful to our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) shared with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the reading and exhortation of the report of the brotherhood conference. We were privileged to be reminded again of the joys and responsibilities given to us as Christ's brothers and sisters. Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) also submitted to the service of the Lord and gave us His Word. We are truly blessed.

The Lord is most faithfully calling, and Blake Stahl, son of Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria, was listening and responded, coming to repentance. There is such hope in the church when one makes known his heart. We are joyful and reminded to pray, for Blake's solid foundation and that others may be entreated to come, too.

Sis. Minnie Lehman (Bro. Karl) has been hospitalized. She is back in their apartment at Elgin Resthaven. We continually bring this dear couple before the Lord in our prayers, that they may be granted a reasonable measure of health as He wills.

Life is full of the unexpected. Our visit to Elgin Resthaven was for a totally different purpose, but we listened to the funeral service of an elderly saint. The window framed a small evergreen and many large trees with still-bare branches. Though it was morning, the sky was gray. We could hear the wind faintly and see its violence among the trees, shaking and almost strangling them in its grip. One time the door flew open. We could feel the chill of winter and hear the rising bluster of the wind. Life here on earth we saw through that window, life with pain and persecution and struggles with temptation. Yet inside was protection and the love of the brethren, comforting even in the reminder of death. Even as we grow older, Christ Jesus provides. The death of a saint means victory and hope for us that we, too, may endure until we are called home.

This year we only have one Mother's Day gift to buy, but we are overwhelmed by having had the love of three mothers between us, and we are thankful for the example and blessing of countless other spiritual mothers as well. Some are gone; some can still be remembered this year, including my beloved mother. For how long will we have the opportunity to give a token of our appreciation? Lord, may we thank Thee daily for each of them, and may we take the time to be with them more often. If Thou wilt, grant us a portion of the patience, service to others, and unconditional love they have learned from Thee, for we would please Thee as they do. "... a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30b.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Karol Stock - Bev Knapp

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?

Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most
High?

"The Ministers of the Gospel"
Zion's Harp #113

We do appreciate our ministers of the Gospel as they labor in our behalf to bring forth the teachings of the Bible to us. And we are most grateful to our God who gives them the words to speak. Our church has benefitted from visits of our Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), and visiting Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Wayne Banwart (Urbana), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). Bro. Gene spoke to us at our topical Bible study. He compared the Israelite people and our churches today and warned us to take an example from the churches spoken of in the Revelations. We want to uphold the ministering brothers often in prayer and encourage them to speak as the Spirit directs.

As the Spirit directs our ministers in speaking, so does He speak to each of us in our own personal lives. We know Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth Rinkenberger of our congregation will often look to the Spirit for guidance as they begin their life together as husband and wife. They were united in marriage June 10 in Morris, MN. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and the late Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park).

We likewise pray that our young people will seek the Spirit's guidance in their individual lives. This was an important part of the message brought to our Sunday school students as they enjoyed hosting Sunday school classes from our Princeville and Forrest churches. The Spirit can teach us and speak to us in so many ways if we just listen and pay attention.

We also pray for the Spirit to encourage those who experience physical pain and sickness. Our Bro. Alph Eisenmann has been hospitalized this month. We are glad Linda Bauer is able to assemble with us

again since her illness.

Many of our church family are again returning after wintering in the South. We do miss the wisdom and influence of the older brothers and sisters when they are gone. It's always good to stop and realize how much they really do mean to us and to counsel with them from time to time. As someone once said, "They've been through most of the things we have to go through yet."

And when they have passed away, that opportunity to learn from them is gone. We will miss our Sis. Mabel Vogel, 91, who passed away January 20. She was preceded in death by her husband, Levi, and leaves behind her children. They are Doris Jacob (Cissna Park), Edith Schmidt (Mendota), Joyce Kmetz (Streator), Bernard Vogel (Cissna Park) and Glen Vogel (Rankin). She is also survived by a number of grandchildren and one brother, Russel Sebring (New Castle, IN).

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp at the passing of her brother, Bob Gohlson (Phoenix, AZ). We are thankful that in this, too, the Spirit can be active in our lives and bring comfort in ways that mortal humans can't.

Can we appreciate enough the "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide, ever near the Christian's side?"

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Becky Ott - Myra Steffen

"Obey them that have rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls . . ."

Hebrews 13:17

We were reminded of the need for faithfulness in our daily walk with God. Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in sharing of the memorandum from the brotherhood conference.

Other ministers serving us recently have been Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Steve Martin (Eureka), Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

Having committed their lives to

the Lord and believing it is God's direction, Bro. Doug Young (Harvey and Sis. Kate, Cissna Park) and Sis. Janet Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) have shared with us their engagement.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven to hear Katherine Zimmerman's testimony of faith and witness her baptism.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy). Just as our prayers have been with him, they continue to ascend for sis. Millie Scheiber (Bro. Carl) who has been unable to assemble with us.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come . . ."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

As we rejoice in the coming of spring, may we praise God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

We rejoice with Bro. Ben Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Juanita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) as they were united as one-in-the-Lord.

We are thankful to have had visiting Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) to minister God's Word.

Bro. Carl and I wish to extend our sincere thanks for the many, many kindnesses extended to us during the past few months I've been shut in at home. You'll never know how much it was appreciated. Most of all, thank you for your many prayers extended in my behalf. I've missed being with you and pray I may soon be back with you. May God bless all of you!

Sis. Millie Schieber

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

Many kind and loving exhortations were spoken by Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen in preparation for holy communion to be held March 9. It was our privilege to partake of this blessed sacrament made possible by Jesus' love and suffering. We thank Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Marvin

Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and their wives for their faithful service in our behalf and to the glory of God.

To break Thy bread we now have gathered,
In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be Thine.
This promise we, with heart and will;
Give grace our promise to fulfill.
Zion's Harp #25, vs. 2

Little Stephanie Michelle, born February 12, has come to bless the home of Keith and Debra Schmidt. Big brother, Brian, is eager to help care for this angel, as are grandparents, Bro. Delbert and sis. Jeanette Schmidt.

Bro. Kenneth and Mary Lindorfer are happy to receive a new granddaughter, Nicole Barbara, born March 3, to their daughter, Lynne and John Thelan (LaJolla, CA). Christopher, now 3½, completes this family circle.

Sis. Anna Scheitlin, who resides at Resthaven, wishes to thank her family and friends and everyone for the cards and gifts she received on her 95th birthday. "May God bless you all!"

We were sorry to hear of Sis. Helen Banwart's extensive surgery. At this time of writing she remains in Intensive Care and we pray God's continued mercy upon her.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Leman

"Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep, From which none ever wakes to weep! A calm and undisturbed repose, Unbroken by the last of foes." Hymn of Zion #111. Our dear Sis. Ida Wenger was able to close her eyes in death on March 13 and enter that rest awaiting her. Our sympathy goes to her husband, Bro. Clarence, and the many relatives. May God comfort them as only he can.

Sis. Cora (Bro. Henry) Frey is sorrowing the loss of her brother, Bro. Albert Stoller (Bloomington).

Also, Sis. Caroline Moser has lost her sister, Sis. Ida Alt (Gridley, IL). May we remember all those whose hearts have been visited by the death angel.

We were thankful for Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) in that they brought unto us the Word of Life. May God bless the words that were spoken and bring forth the good fruit.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

Babies are blessings from above. Our congregation rejoices with three families.

First-time parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser. Little Lee Travis was born February 21. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park).

Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn Huber welcome home Jacob Raymond. He was born February 26. Jacob has three brothers, Jason, Timothy and Isaac and two sisters, Amber and Maggie. Grandparents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber and Raymond and Bernice Ellis.

On March 8, Steve and Sis. Donna Maurer was blessed with a baby girl, Addi Marie. Jessi, Katie and Staci are happy to have another sister. Grandparents are Sam and Norma Hoffman and Betty Collins and late Donald Maurer. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Clara Maurer.

May these families feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring them up to fear the Lord and obey His commandments.

March 17 was a special day for Bro. Randall Fehr and Sis. Janis Moser. They were united in holy matrimony. Parents are Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr. May the Lord bless this union of hearts.

Along with the Forrest brethren, we thank Elder Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in reading the memorandum. We appreciate their efforts in sounding the trumpet to exhort us in more holier living for Christ.

Our cups were filled to overflowing as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed four baptisms. We welcome Sisters Kim Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley), Suzanne

Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice) and Bros. Eric Platz (Delmar and Glenda) and Chris Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) into the fold.

There have been several hospital patients this month with various afflictions. We wish God's nearness and strength to Sisters Gertie Moser, Dorothy Hoffman, Clara Maurer, Lydia Wiedman and Bro. Chris Steidinger and Danny Walter.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park), Gary Brown and Earl Gerber (Forrest). We thank the willing brothers for sharing the Word of Life to us.

"When the choir has sung its last anthem,
And the preacher has made his last prayer;
When the people have heard their last sermon
And the sound has dried out on the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the altar
And the pews are all empty of men
And each one stands facing his record --
And the great Book is opened --
What Then?"

When the great angel announced that time shall be no more -- What then?

"Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider**

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given
His own Son in love untold!

Thou, Lord, hast for me devoted
Soul and body, life and all;
So there shall be consecrated
And I have, both great and small,

All my efforts and endeavor
To Thy service and Thy call.
Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1 and 7

As we rejoice in another Easter season, may we all remember the importance of the death and suffering of our Saviour. He died for each of us and we have the precious privilege and responsibility of living each day of our lives for Him.

Many families in our congregation have had loved ones in the hospital this month. May God grant them the grace to trust in His promises. Those needing surgery were Tom Schlatter, Gail Kafer, Bro. Ben Traub, Sis. Edna Wiegand and Sis. Eldora Walter. Several were hospitalized due to illness, Jesse Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette), Lindsey Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Joe Wiegand. Our thoughts are with Dan and Mary Schmidgall as she will need to be in the hospital for some time due to complications with her pregnancy.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Laura Wenger, Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Sis. Nathalia Wenger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Edna Wiegand in the loss of their sister-in-law, Sis. Ida Wenger (Eureka).

We also want to remember Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Ruth Wiegand as her sister, Sis. Elizabeth Moore (Elgin, IA), passed away.

We had a blessed evening March 6 as we gathered with the brethren at Fairbury to hear the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. We thank Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka) for helping in this work. As we heard the many exhortations, encouragements and warnings, may we strive to walk closer to our Lord.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

The Miracle of Easter

All Nature cried that dark, drear
day
When Christ hung on the cross,
While darkness filled the heavens
above
Earth trembled at the loss.

The sad disciples' hearts were
wrung
With grief for all to see,
They saw no hope, for lo, their
Lord
Had died on Calvary.

But hope and life came with the
dawn
Of glorious Easter Day,
"The Lord is risen," were the
words
The lilies seemed to say.

All Nature thrilled and cried in
tune
"A victory is won.
Our Lord has risen from the dead
New life has now begun."
Carice Williams

How fortunate we are to be able to take advantage of the precious gift our great God has given us; and its hard to put into words the gratitude we feel toward our dear Saviour for shedding His innocent blood on our behalf. As springtime approaches, we're once again reminded of our blessed privilege and feel a renewed desire to live a life for Christ.

We were once again encouraged and uplifted as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of our Bro. Harold and Sis. Laura Carroll. May God bless them as they live their lives in His grace.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand were blessed with a precious baby girl February 16. Little Abbie Marie will no doubt be showered with lots of love from her brothers, Dana, Nathan and Tim, and her grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger (Tremont).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Miriam Wiegand as she undergoes surgery.

Thanks to Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) for assisting with the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Harold and Sis. Laura.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Along with the rest of the nation, our community rejoiced at the end of the Gulf War. The psalmist,

in referring to God, noted in Psalms 46:9, "He maketh wars to cease." In 1945, following the cessation of World War II, that text was read in a special afternoon worship service in our Gridley congregation.

May peace prevail and the healing process begin, both in individual lives and among the nations affected. Warfare is carnal and awful, and thousands have suffered from the plundering implements of warfare. May we as God's people retain the peace-loving attributes laid out for us by the Saviour in His Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5)

Sis. Ida Kaupp Alt, 74, was laid to rest Saturday, March 9, in Gridley. A resident of Las Vegas, NV, she was brought back to her childhood village for funeral and burial. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Melvin Alt; a daughter, Mary Julianna Toleno (Brattleboro, VT); and four sisters, Emma Bressler (Peoria), Sisters Marie Kaupp and Louise Finck (Peoria) and Sis. Caroline Moser (Eureka).

Sis. Ida was baptized in 1943 at age 27 and remained faithful for 48 years despite being unable to reside near a church community during many years of her married life.

Larissa Katherine Kiefer was born March 6 to Scott and Lisa Kiefer, their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer (Gridley) and Mark and Nancy Williamson (Lexington).

Our Sunday school Easter program was held Palm Sunday evening. It was well attended and a vivid reminder of the glorious and victorious meaning of Easter.

Hospital patients recently were Sis. Pat Ringger and Bros. John and Herbert Gramm and Sis. Sandy Yergler. Casey Knobloch also spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

We are rejoicing with the angels that four more souls responded to God's call to work in His vineyard. We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Cara and Bro. Bob Oertle and Sis. Elaine Sollberger. Our ministers and family of our Sis. Esther (Kaufman)

Frank were able to witness her testimony and baptism at Restmor. May the all continue to heed the Spirits direction in their lives.

Bro. John, Sis. Peg, J.R. and Trisha Sauder welcomed Paige Kristine into their hearts and home. She was born March 10. Her grandparents are Joanie Johann (Eureka, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

We wish to thank the ministering brothers and their families that visited us this month. They were Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and David Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We are thankful that they are willing to be used as God's instruments.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Jim David

As Jesus died for all our sin,
So all His own new life begin;
Through baptism we renewed
shall be,
And clothed in immortality.
Hallelujah!

Zion's Harp #8

God has blessed our congregation with the addition of four new members. On March 3 we witnessed the baptism of Becky Marx (Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett), Carla Veatch, Kim Meister (Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister) and Deanna Geyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie Geyer). We wish the Lord's blessings on these four as they begin their new life in His service. We pray that many more of our dear friends will answer God's call to repentance. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

Peoria once again had a large number of visiting ministers this month. We thank the following brothers for worshipping with us, and bringing us the Word of God: Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda,

Japan), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Joseph Stoller (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr wish to announce the engagement of their son, Nathan, to Joanie Sanford, daughter of William and Frances Sanford (Champaign, IL). The wedding date is August 10.

We continue to pray for the complete recovery of our hospital patients: Bill Aeschleman, Steve Kaisner, Bro. Toby Schneider, Sis. Emma Messer, Bro. Fred Koehl, Sis. Ellen Siebenthal and Bro. Bob Waibel.

Sis. Naomi Haefli expresses this note of thanks: "I would like to thank those who remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers and other deeds of kindness during my surgery and convalescence. May God bless you."

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Noah Herman, formerly of Peoria, and a minister for many years in the Tucson, AZ, church. We appreciated Bro. Noah's frequent visits to Peoria. Listening to him speak, it was evident that he had a great love for our Lord, and also much reverence for God's Word. Bro. Noah will certainly be missed, and we extend our prayers and sympathy to his family.

On March 15, Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn Feucht were blessed with their second daughter, Larissa Rose. Brittany can hardly wait to begin helping take care of her baby sister. Larissa's grandparents are Bro. Walter Feucht and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Erma Wieland.

On March 22, our former Elder Bro. Roy Sauder spoke on the history of the Peoria church. Bro. Roy related many interesting anecdotes from his days in Sunday school, Bible class and the ministry. Of particular interest was the menu for the noon meal: warm milk, cold milk, coffee and bread covered with butter and sugar. The bread with sugar sound delicious, although some of our little ones would make quite a mess of it!

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were richly blessed this past month to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) to help Bro. Joe with testimonies. Also a welcome surprise March 3 was having Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) minister the precious Word of God. It was truly appreciated and uplifting to our hearts. On March 10 and March 17, we were happy to have Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka) and Bros. Glenn Dill and Steve Sauder (Tremont) with us. May God richly bless our dear ones for their labor of love for us.

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." St. John 3:5. Four dear souls were taken into the fold February 24. Our new brothers and sisters are Bro. Denny Streitmatter and Sis. Carol Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane), Bro. Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Janna Gehrig (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna). May God bless them and may they always walk the narrow way of life.

May we pray for our shut-ins that aren't able to get out and we could send them a note that we think of them.

Dawn Streitmatter (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny) and Scott Schick (Sis. Dolly and the late Bro. John, Morton) have announced their engagement and wedding date for April 20. May God bless their marriage.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy Stahl are the happy parents of a precious baby boy, Kendall Stephan, born March 4. He is welcome home by a sister, Kelsy, and happy grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl. May God bless this young family that they may bring these precious children up in the ways of the Lord.

Congratulations to Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmatter on 50 years of marriage and also to our Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller on 40 years of marriage. May our dear Lord continue to bless them as they continue on life's pathway.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

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

As Mother's Day approaches, our thoughts turn to our mothers who so unconditionally gave their love and time to us. The love and concern that they have for our spiritual well-being grows more special as time goes on. Many of us were blessed with an aunt or great-aunt who, although were never mothers to children of their own, played an important role in our spiritual growth as God's children. To all of you, we ask that God will grant you a blessed Mother's Day.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that two more souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Todd Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda) and Jenny Hohulin (Bro. Him and Sis. Cathy). We wish them God's blessings and grace.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman are parents of their first daughter. Heather Sue was born February 28. Her two brothers, Ryan and Travis, welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman and Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler of the Milford, IN, congregation.

Bro. Les and Sis. Sara Fischer are grandparents for the first time. Lacey Elizabeth was born March 5 to Chuck and Angie Fischer.

Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder have been blessed this month with two new granddaughters. Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder are parents of Paige Christine born March 10. Maternal grandparents are Bob Johann (Peoria) and Joan Johann (Eureka). Bro. Steve and Sis. Margie Sauder are parents of Kelsey Leigh born March 11. Maternal grandparents are the late Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee Unsicker of the Peoria congregation.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield). We pray God will bless these brothers and all of our ministers who are so willing to serve us every Sunday.

On March 10 and 11, the Prairie Choristers invited the choirs from Milford, IN, and Washington, IL, for a weekend of praising God in song and fellowship. It was a blessing to raise our voices in praise together.

We pray for God's continued grace and blessings upon our Sis. Ellen Siebenthal and Bro. Carl Fehr who were in the hospital this month.

We rejoice in the marriage engagement of our Bro. John Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Jill Rinkenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Peg) of the Goodfield congregation. May God richly bless them.

March 17 was the wedding of our Sis. Diane Brown and Bro. Kim Steffen (Goodfield). We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they begin their life as one-in-the-Lord.

A very special thank you to all who so willingly helped at the time of the sudden death of our beloved husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa, Ben Braker. Thank you for food, flowers and gifts; also for donations made in his memory. We pray God's blessings on each of you.

Clara Braker and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God reward them and their families.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Lena Sauder, Sis. Trudy (Bro. Dean) Bolliger and Sis. Vera (Bro. Walt) Aberle. We pray that God's healing hand will be among each one.

Our dear Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Sr. has returned home and it was a real blessing to have him assemble with us again.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang, along with their family, as they laid dear Bro. Noah Herman to rest. Also our prayers are with Kelvin and Marion Knobloch and family in the passing of Sis. Elizabeth Moore (Elgin, IA). May each one feel God's comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold**

"Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who has set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because

of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Psalms 8:1-4

God has been mindful of mankind by bringing the war in the gulf to an end. This has brought a semblance of peace to the Middle East. But as Christians, we realize that lasting peace will not occur until Christ comes again.

It was good to have Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and his family here to visit and share from God's Word.

As we approach the Easter season, may each one of us, as we have been exhorted to do, prepare our hearts and focus our minds on the significance of the Lord's Supper.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me."

Psalms 77:1

What a reassuring thought to know God hears our prayers and is faithful to answer them. A special prayer goes out to Bro. Mike Barger, Taylor Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), Sis. Ida Meyer (Bro. Charlie), Bro. Dan Lantz (Sis. Gladys), Sis. Frances Kaehr, Etta Steffen (John), Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bro. Roy), Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona) and Sis. Berniece Maller (Bro. Melvin).

Our prayers and blessings also go out to the newly engaged couple. What a joy to hear of their engagement. Looking forward to their wedding April 12 are Bro. Brent Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann) and Sis. Rachele Funk (Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber, Bluffton North). May God continue to be with them as they start their new lives together.

The Bible reminds us that "Hus-

bands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:25.

We were blessed to witness the joining of hand and heart of two couples this month. Wed March 10 were Bro. Scot Shady (Bud and Gwen) and Sis. Tami Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie). We thank visiting minister, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), for sharing this exciting day with us. Also joined in marriage were Lance Roush and Vicki Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat) February 23.

We would like to show our appreciation to our visiting ministers this month. These include Bro. Ben Mantz (Junction, OH), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). You play such an important role and we're so thankful for all you do.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Lori Fiechter are proud parents of Alex James, born March 2. Alex joins two brothers, Derrick and Brandon, at home. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter and Bro. Dick and Sis. Beulah Clark. We were also excited to hear of the arrival of Chase Adam born to Linc and Catrina Rinkenberger February 28. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger are proud grandparents. On March 8, Nathanael David was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Stacey Fiechter. Brothers, Luke and Matthew, are glad to have a new little brother in the family. We rejoice with grandparents, Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter and John and Marcia Cook. Ron and Sis. Lila Gerber have been blessed with a precious little girl, Olivia Morgan, born March 9. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber. Bro. Gene and Sis. Elaine Baumgartner have been doubly blessed with two grandchildren. A granddaughter, Shelby Nicole, was born to Jeff and Dana Bluhm January 8. Then another granddaughter, Taylor Renee, was born to Jeff and Tanya Turner March 16. What a special blessing!

We have one new convert this month, Debbie Snyder. May she continue to grow in God's abundant love and grace.

Our thoughts of sympathy go to the family of Sam Schladenhauffen. Sam passed away March 11, at the age of 79. He is survived by three brothers, Bro. Everett, Bro. Harold and Warren Schladenhauffen, and two sisters, Sis. Edith Stultz and Sis. Clara Fiechter (Bro. Homer).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

It seems the weather in March is ever changing. This is especially true in the state of Indiana. One day you may be blessed with warm sunshine, only to wake up to three inches of snow on the ground the next morning. Sometimes our lives can go this way too. One day you may find it very easy to lead a happy and content Christian life. But when the storms of sickness, financial trouble, or other calamities hit, we know that we can always take shelter in God's Word and make it through. As the saying goes, "Look for the sunshine after the rain."

We were privileged to have Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso) share the Word with us this month. May God richly bless Bro. Gary and his family for making the effort to spend time with us.

We are so happy to announce that two souls, Graig Stettner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen) and Trout Moser (Bro. Gene and Sis. Edna) have turned their backs on the ways of the world and have committed their lives to Christ. We should remember to keep these converts in our prayers as they make their new beginnings.

As a parent, one of the most joyful times in life is when a child repents. Sis. Velma Faulkerson knows of this joy as her daughter, Kay Rauhe, and her husband, Warren (Detroit, MI) have now made this beginning. We wish them both God's blessings.

Bro. Dan Moser (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Dina Faye) and Sis. Tammy Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) are now busily making wedding plans as well as Bro. Brent Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Rachel Gerber (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo). May God richly bless each of them in their new lives together.

Ashley Nicole was born March

12. She now brightens the home of first-time parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Thornton. Happy grandparents in our congregation are Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger.

As we approach the time of the year when the fields are being prepared for seed, we pray that God's ever watchful eye will be on the farmers and their families and that all will make it through this busy time safely.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

HIS EASTER GIFT

His Easter gift to us is love . . .
Love triumphant, love divine.
The perfect love of God above,
Love that makes the stars to shine.

His Easter gift to us is joy . . .
Joy of sorrow that has passed,
The joy of songs of praise employ;
Joy that through all time shall last.

His Easter gift to us is peace . . .
Peace that fills the quiet heart,
The peace that makes the storms to cease,
Peace that bids all fears depart.

His Easter gift to us is life . . .
Life that makes the sinner whole.
The life outreaching mortal strife,
Love of God within the soul.

His Easter gift to us is hope . . .
Hope that looks to yonder shore,
The hope as high as mountain slope,
Hope that last forever more.

J. Harold Gwynne

On February 15, Sabrina Rose was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina Tanner. Big brother, Jacob, is real happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Denton and Ralph and Carol Tanner (Medaryville, IN).

On March 11, the Sunday school chili supper was held at the fellowship center. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and wife, Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN) were with us to talk

about the privilege and responsibility of teaching Sunday school.

We have enjoyed several brethren sharing with us in the ministry this past month. Bros. Willard Schieler (Milford, IN), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Thomas Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Donald Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). May the Lord bless their labors of love.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

He wouldn't sit still long enough
To have His portrait done.
His heart was set to move His life
At twice the speed of love.

And artists who tried to freeze

His style
On canvas or in stone,
Found that real life isn't still life
Even when the life's alone.

A traveling artist known as Paul,
Painted truth with words.
The truth that he saw was burning
love

That comforts and disturbs.
Every year he grew until he knew
The portrait couldn't wait,
And without a sound the man sat
down

And he began to paint --

Love is patient, Love is kind
Never jealous, free of pride
Love will never be confined, Love
will abide.

Love is hopeful, Love's not blind
Love is faithful every time
Love is someone, and if you'll open
your eyes you'll find
Love is alive.

Love's gonna stand the test of time
And stand when time is spent.
Just look at the portrait painted,
It's the Son the Father sent.

"Portrait of Love"
by Kenny Wood

What better way to express this love than through marriage. We rejoice with our dear Sis. Bonnie Klopfenstein (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy, Leo) as she announces her engagement to our Bro. Troy Reimschisel (son of Bro. Dick

and Sis. Elaine, Bluffton). They are planning a June wedding, and we are so thrilled that the Lord has brought them together. We wish them a wonderful, blessed life together in His love.

Sunday, March 17, we enjoyed having visitors from Roanoke, IL, come to fellowship and share with us. Thank s to all who made the day such a blessing.

We pray everyone has had a wonderful, fulfilling Easter. We began this special season with communion services March 23, Palm Sunday weekend. We're thankful for our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) who came to share with us that evening. Our Easter program followed March 29, Good Friday, with special Easter morning services on Sunday.

We want to wish our dear Sis. Becky Gudeman a fond farewell as she finishes her student teaching here in Indy and moves to Oregon in the near future. May the Lord be with her as she seeks to do His will in her life, and we hope that she will be able to come back to visit us sometime. We will miss her!

A special thanks goes to Becky's dad, Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL) for sharing the Word with us this past month. We always appreciate our visiting ministers.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

Webster's dictionary says peace is "calm; repose; freedom from war; quietness of mind."

It is reassuring to hear of the war ending in the Middle East and a measure of world peace being established. Jesus said that the peacemakers would be blessed (Matthew 5:9).

In our personal lives, we experience many battles and our inner peace can be disturbed. But we can go to the Word and be assured that God will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). He gives us His peace that the world knows nothing of (John 14:27).

At this time of year, we are vividly reminded of Jesus' purpose on this earth. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might

have peace. In this world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

We were saddened by the death of Art Luthi (Kouts, IN). Our sympathy goes to his wife, Em Luthi, and his brother-in-law, Bro. Aaron Heinold.

Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) was a visiting minister this past month. Also Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) assisted in reading the conference report. We really appreciate their willingness to serve us. We would also like to thank our local ministers who are many times taken for granted as they speak to us on Sundays when we don't have visiting ministers. We appreciate their efforts also.

We had visiting Sunday school students and teachers from Elgin, IL, Remington, IN, Wolcott, IN and Valparaiso, IN, March 17. A wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all -- another blessing we take for granted.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

A touching story is told of a house fire from which the family rushed outside, but then discovered that one of the little children was still probably in an upstairs bedroom. The father ran to the side of the house and yelled loudly to the boy who heard and came to the window. The father said, "Jump," but the smoke was already billowing, and the little fellow screamed, "I can't see you, Daddy!" The father called, "But I can see you, son. J ump!" When the dark clouds of testings, and discouragement seem to obscure our faith vision, our dear Father sees, knows and cares. Praise Him for His boundless mercy and love.

A communion service should always be most sacred and meaningful for His children. How special to observe this holy sacrament as we begin holy week! Elder Bro. William Schlatter assisted Elder Bro. David Bertsch in conducting this service.

Baby Andrew Raymond came to bless the home of Bro. Paul and Sis.

Leanne Fischer and to join his brother, Peter, and sisters, Laura and Bethany. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fischer also formerly of Roanoke but whom we recently welcome to our Leo congregation.

Messages by visiting minister, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL) blessed us on a recent Sabbath Day.

Bits of This and That:

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Through prayer, you can go on far-reaching errands for God without leaving home.

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

Charlotte Carpenter

"The Bible will not be a dry book if you know the Author."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

Many times in Scripture we have been compared to sheep. Often we are reminded of their most common characteristic -- that is, they are very timid, easily frightened and cannot be driven but must be lead by a shepherd; but sheep are also known for their ignorance and stubbornness. They will die of thirst before they drink from fast-moving waters. When lost, they will not move but will lay down and cry until they are found. Sheep also require constant care and attention and are easily hurt. Their legs are especially fragile. Even a little mud or dirt on their legs can cause some to limp. A little dirt (sin) in our lives can cripple us too if we are not cleansed. Is this beginning to sound familiar? Only the Good Shepherd could care for such a flock. How fortunate we are to have a Shepherd who lovingly cares for us.

The Lord has graciously placed His shield of protection around Todd Beer (son of Bernie and Peg) and

brought him safely home after having served much time in Saudi Arabia. Many prayers have been answered for Todd as well as for others in the service of our country.

Our congregation enjoyed a wonderful weekend of fellowship and song when the Morton choir came to visit. Accompanying them was ministering Bro. Jon Zeller. We want to thank each one for all the time and effort they put forth in making this such a special weekend for us.

March 7 became a special day for Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price, for they welcomed a little bundle from heaven, Darcy Ann, into their heart and home. Thankful for this little blessing are grandparents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Emma Knapp (Morton, IL) and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate Price.

On Saturday evening, March 16, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in serving holy communion. We thank Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily for coming and lovingly sharing this precious time with us. We also wish to express our special thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) for taking time to minister to us the Sunday following the mid-winter elder conference.

God has been so gracious in supplying divine healing to part of our church family. Little Zachary McDaniel (son of Chris) spent nearly a week at South Bend Memorial Hospital. Four days were spent in the intensive care unit. Zachary's uncle, Tim Troup (son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) was hospitalized in Hawaii with pneumonia. Sis. Emma Haab has been transferred from the hospital to Mason Nursing Home in Warsaw for further therapy following a stroke. Bro. Cap Beer (Sis. Mary Ann) and Monica Steffen (daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen) are presently recuperating at Goshen General Hospital following surgery. Surely God has given these loved ones an extra measure of strength and encouragement as they recover. Our love and prayers are with them all.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your New and Old Address
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

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

Song of Solomon 2:11

When I looked out the window and saw many robins on the lawn, I rejoiced, thinking "can spring be far away?" But, alas, in just a few days we received a very bad ice storm. Our electricity has been off over two days and we aren't given any promise of it being restored for anywhere from four to five days yet, at the very best.

Our sympathy goes out to Art Nussbaum whose brother, Jesse (Wakarusa, IN) died. Jesse and Art are brothers of the late Andrew Nussbaum of here.

The weekend of March 2 and 3 was couples weekend. We had visitors from many places that Sunday. A potluck supper was held at the fellowship hall on Sunday afternoon.

I Thessalonians 5:18 tell us, "In every thing give thanks . . ."

Don't we feel we have much reason to give thanks that the terrible war in the Persian Gulf area has ceased. So thankful there weren't more casualties. I was impressed how our President, and many, always said, "Pray." Now, I hope all remember to give thanks.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time."

Martin Luther

The grass and trees appear so brown and dead this time of year and yet we know it won't be long until life will burst forth from them. A yearly reminder to us of Christ's death and glorious resurrection.

Our life, too, must experience a death, a dying of our carnal self, if we want to experience life everlasting.

"Jesus said, . . . I am the resur-

rection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

John 11:25

Our Bible class students enjoyed attending the Indiana Youth Fellowship Weekend March 3 at Purdue University.

We welcome Bro. Mark Wettstein who moved to our area recently. Bro. Mark grew up in the Gridley, IL, area and is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Gloria. We hope he will feel right at home here.

Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bros. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We thank them for bringing the Word to us.

We are glad that both Bro. John Schuch and Sis. Mae Schumacher are able to worship with us again after being ill for a time. We miss Sis. Helen Martin who has been home-bound during the winter months.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Eisenmann upon the death of her brother-in-law, Bro. Al Stoller (Bloomington, IL).

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

This month we were once again privileged to her the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) exhorted us in such a way that the night could have gone on and on. The Spirit was truly felt by all. Then, on Sunday, we were told how to prepare ourselves for holy communion. Isn't it amazing that though all of us err along life's way, our Father in heaven will keep forgiving and forgiving. Though we often feel us unworthy and convicted, if we but confess to God and repent, we can still come out in the end encouraged and ready to fight the good fight.

We also would like to thank Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Curt Heimer (Alto, MI) and Marvin St-

ieglitz (Leo, IN) for so willingly lending themselves in God's work.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Byron and Sis. Sue Frieden as their little daughter, Kourtney, was hospitalized this month.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Camille Vogt

"Let Thy word bring light and gladness,
Strength and power to our heart;
May it be the living motive
Causing each to do his part.
Help to store in careful keeping
What this day we may receive;
Manifest Thy healing power
In all who Thy word believe."

Zion's Harp #203

We want to thank Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL) for sharing the Word with us at Purdue services. It's a blessing to have ministers who are willing to travel to share God's Word with us.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone to come and to worship with us every other Thursday evening. The remaining services for this semester are April 11 and 25. We look forward to seeing you there are our fellowship hall near I-65, off of State Road 43, and west of the State Police Post.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Carolyn Wulf Deyona Massner

Ah, now it is done! Now I live
unto Thee,
My light and my life, oh, abide
Thou with me!
To follow thee ever shall be my
sole aim,
Thro' shade or thro' sunshine,
thro' honor or shame.

Zion's Harp #209, vs. 7

We're thankful that two more souls have seen their need and turned to God in repentance. On March 3, Jana and Karla Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) were baptized and welcomed into the brotherhood as sisters-in-the-Lord.

We were grateful to have Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) give of their time and efforts. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IA) also shared the Word with us that weekend. May God richly bless and reward each one for being willing servants in His vineyard.

Our hearts were again warmed and encouraged as we gathered together at Oakville to hear the reading of the memorandum. What a beautiful way we've been shown! May we always support and uphold our precious faith, that united we may stand strong and be secure in the doctrine we've been brought into.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Ingrid Buster and her family in the passing of her dad. May they continue to feel our love and prayers.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Somewhere the day is longer,
Somewhere the task is done;
Somewhere the heart is stronger
Somewhere the guerdon won.

Somewhere the load is lifted
Close by an open gate;
Somewhere the clouds are rifted
Somewhere the angels wait.

Gospel Hymns #749, vs 2-3

Although no words can express how much we miss our loved ones who go on before us, we still rejoice when we can believe they have reached the land of the true, where we live a new the Beautiful Isle of Somewhere!

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Elizabeth Moore (Bro. Werner, who passed away in 1965) who passed away March 13 after an extended illness. Her surviving children are Melvin (Vicki, Colorado Springs, CO), Bro. Dale (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin), Marion (Kelly Knobloch, Buffalo, IL), Karla (Colorado Springs, CO), Wilmer (Peoria, IL) and Eugene (Elkader, IA). Other survivors are her mother, Sis. Marie Butikofer; brothers, Harry, Elder Bro. Paul, Bro. Bert, Bro. Al (all of Elgin), Rueben (Clermont, IA) and Bro. William (Gridley, IL). Also Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Bro. Wilbur,

Kempton, IL) and Sis. Shirley Nester (Bro. Gene, Lester, IA).

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Orville Moore (Elgin) and Bob Moore (Fredricksburg, IA) in the loss of their brother, Clarence Moore, who passed away March 2.

We are thankful George Schupbach (Mildred) is able to assemble with us again following his hospital stay where he was a surgical patient.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A special "thank you!" to all of our visitors this month. We were the beneficiaries of a family reunion which lead a number of brethren and friends to worship with us, including ministering Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We also greatly appreciated Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), his family and others who came to minister and worship with us when a group of us travelled to Alto, MI, to witness the marriage of Sis. Juanita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Ben Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria).

We welcome Dan, Ruth Ann, Aaron and Ryne Schrock back to our area and look forward to having them assemble with us again.

At our Bible study this month, we considered the book of Esther. It impressed us all how God used different people and their personality traits and orchestrated the timing of each event to accomplish His purpose. May it comfort us to know that though we often cannot understand various circumstances in our lives, God is in control and each event happens according to His Master Plan.

In a factory building there are wheels and gears,
There are cranks and pulleys,
beltings tight or slack --
Some are whirling swiftly, some are turning slowly,
Some are thrusting forward, some are pulling back;
Some are smooth and silent, some are rough and noisy,

Pounding, rattling, clanking,
moving with a jerk;

In a wild confusion in a seeming chaos,
Lifting, pushing, driving -- but they do their work.
From the mightiest lever to the tiniest pinion,
All things move together for the purpose planned;
And behind the working is a mind controlling,
And a force directing, and a guiding hand.

So all things are working for the Lord's beloved;
Some things might be hurtful if alone they stood;
Some might seem to hinder; some might draw us backward;
But they work together, and they work for good,
All the thwarted longings, all the stern denials,
All the contradictions, hard to understand.
And the force that holds them, speeds them and retards them,
Stops and starts and guides them is our Father's hand.

Annie Johnson Flint

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch
God's Holy Word has again been preached to hearts in need of spiritual food. Visiting ministers among us were Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). May God continue to bless our elders and ministers as they come before us as empty vessels and then God provides the "manna" from above.

The death angel has again visited our congregation and now Sis. Lydia Mogler is free from pain and is resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus! What a joy to see one of God's children go "home" but what an emptiness it leaves in the lives of those that loved her so much. Those mourning her passing are her husband, Bro. Phil; and daughters, Sis. Janice Nohl (Bro. DeWayne, Hancock, MN), Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro.

Biernie, Hancock, MN), Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug, Hiawatha, KS), Sis. June Schulz (Bro. Roger, Burlington, IA) and Jaleen Mogler (Morton, IL). Also surviving are 22 grandchildren, many relatives and friends; nine brothers, Ben Feucht (Lester), Bro. August Feucht (Lester), Emil Feucht (Hills, MN), Bro. Carl Feucht (Inwood), Paul Feucht (Canton, SD), Bro. Raymond Feucht (Larchwood), Bro. Alfred Feucht (Larchwood), Bro. John Feucht (Elgin, IL), Sam Feucht (Portland, OR); and three sisters, Sis. Emma Gerber (Bro. Ted, Lester), Sis. Martha Wagenbach (Bro. Les, Peoria, IL) and Sis. Pauline Schick (Washington, IL).

Our deepest sympathy and love is extended to Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch and family on the passing of Tony's mother, Clara Bosch (Hills, MN). May they feel God's nearness as they experience many moments of loneliness and sorrow and may their many memories keep their loved one close to their hearts.

We also share in the sorrow that Sis. Shirley Nester (Bro. Gene) and family feel in the loss of her sister, Sis. Elizabeth Moore (Elgin, IA). Again our prayer is that God will provide the comfort and peace to heal broken and sorrowful hearts.

Believing children are an heritage of the Lord, we rejoice that God has blessed first-time parents, Bro., Brad and Sis. Gloria Moser with a son. Tyler John was born March 5. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch and paternal grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser.

A betrothal has been recently announced to our congregation. Bro. Victor Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise, Bern, KS) and Sis. Patti Knobloch (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) have felt it God's will that they be joined as husband and wife. May God's blessings be theirs as they plan their lives together.

Surgical patients this past month were Leroy Van Wyne (Shelly), Lee Metzger (Lyle and Loris), Orvie Knobloch (Lauretta) and Bro. Bill Metzger (Sis. Charlotte). Hospitalized with medical problems was Bro. Wilhelm Nester (Sis. Elizabeth). May God's healing powers again touch these dear ones.

Note: Emily Leuthold of our congregation said her coat was mistakenly taken at the funeral of Sis. Lydia Mogler. Another was left in its place. I understand they are identical except hers had her name in it. If you have this coat, you may contact one of these correspondents (Kathy Metzger, Lester, IA 51242 or Mary Knobloch, Larchwood, IA 51241) or Mrs. Art Leuthold, 907 S. Greene, Rock Rapids, IA 51242.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

This past month we had our annual church house cleaning. As we must keep our spiritual house in order, so must we take care of the physical part of our church. It truly gives a good feeling to all who took part.

Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) shared in reading the memorandum to our congregation. There is always such encouragement and strength as well as admonishment in hearing the conference report. We pray for our dear elder brethren as they strive to uphold the doctrine and traditions of our precious faith.

Our congregation was somewhat saddened to learn that Sis. Peggy Schulz is planning to move to Oregon. She will be missed by all but we know she is following the Lord's direction for her life. May the Silverton congregation be blessed by receiving her into their congregation. Our prayers are with her as she leaves.

The Lord watch between us,
 The ever present Friend;
 No love like His so mighty,
 To keep and to defend.

Though absent from each other,
 We are not far from Him;
 Let not our courage falter,
 Let not our faith grow dim.

Though time and space may sever
 The Master's servants here,
 'Tis only for a season,
 The meeting time draws near.

The Lord Himself is watching,
 In tenderness and love;

Let praises meet and mingle
 Around the throne above.

The Lord keep watch between us,
 Keep watch in tend'rest love,
 Until our praises mingle
 Around the throne above.

Gospel Hymns #523

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein

No visiting ministers this past month, but our ministers have been busy traveling to take their turns at various other congregations. May we ever appreciate all the time and effort they put forth. And may we continue to uphold them in our prayers.

As of this writing, Bro. Richard Teubel (Sis. Wilma) is in the hospital in Des Moines recovering from surgery. We pray God will restore health and strength to him.

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert, 90) celebrated her 89th birthday. They are still in their own home. God has richly blessed them.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

Elder Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) were with us February 16 to help share the conference letter with our congregation. We appreciate their kindly encouragement and admonishment. May we display the Lord thru submission to His Word. Other brothers visiting this past month were Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Glenn Riegenbach (Smithville, OH), Ron Joos (Pulaski) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We feel a special blessing when we have visitors, especially those who are willing to serve us.

What a joy when we can report converts who have received the peace in their hearts given only by our Lord. Waiting for the opportunity to give their testimonies are Ruth Dodd, Cathy (Ruth Dodd) and Virgil Wilson and Neal Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille).

Sis. Lydia Wilson has recently moved to the nursing home following her hospitalization. May the Lord be near her always. We're

thankful that the only other hospital patient to report is Marie Fisher.

A reception for Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Maurice and Sis. Marjorie Schafer, Tremont, IL) was held here recently. We wish them God's nearness and hope they will be at home in our congregation this spring.

On February 23, many of us were present to help Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart observe their 50th wedding anniversary at the fellowship center. An evening of singing was enjoyed following the reception. May the Lord continue to bless them.

March 2 was the wedding of Mike Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Champaign, IL) and Patty Kloster (Tim and Judy, Nebraska). Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr conducted this ceremony at our fellowship center. May they feel the Lord's presence in their marriage as they establish their home in Ames where they are completing their education.

KANSAS, BERN
Diane Kaeb - Kathy Strahm

With joyful hearts we can remember the triumphant resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on that first Easter morn. Having been crucified, shedding His blood for the sins of all mankind, He rose, breaking the bonds of death. Each of us must strive, by His grace, to be ready to meet Him when He comes again to receive His own.

It is a pleasure to report the engagement of two young couples heard recently in our congregation. Shari's parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter, while Roy's parents are Fred and Alda Frey (DuBois, NE). May Shari and Roy look to God to guide them in their paths of the future. Also announced was the engagement of Bro. Victor Menold, son of Bro. James and Sis. Louise, and Sis. Patti Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary (Lester). May God bless Bro. Victor and Sis. Patti as they look forward to their June 23 wedding.

Our visiting ministers for the past month have been Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. James Ramsier (Bay City, MI) and Bro.

Roger Aberle (Sabetha). We so appreciated and enjoyed the visits of these brothers and their wives and families. Their messages were a warning and an encouragement to us for the times in which we live. May God richly reward them.

Prayers have gone up for those dear ones spending time in hospitals for tests and/or surgery. Greg Renyer (Sis. Carol), Bro. Vernon Esslinger (Sis. Lillian), Mary Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Gerty Esslinger (Bro. Dennis) are those who have since been released and have felt God's healing touch. At this time, Bro. Harvey Grimm is still in a Topeka hospital and we pray He may feel God's presence as each day unfolds.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Sympathy is extended to the family of Amos Beyer, who died February 21. He was a brother to Sis. Bertha Beyer. May God's love and strength sustain the hearts of family and friends.

The Lord again has been merciful and granted healing to sick loved ones. Those hospitalized were Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy) with a bacterial infection and Reneé Isch (Dale and Sis. Janiece) with a viral pneumonia.

March 23 is the date planned for the wedding of Rick Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean, Lamont) and Mary Jane Burdick (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft). May this union be anchored and secured by God's guidance and directing influence.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIV.

Michelle Braker

This has been a very busy semester. So our spring break from March 11 through March 15 was welcomed. We have been taught many good teachings this semester and can never extend enough thanks to the ministers who have ministered the Word. The ministers include Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Tim Zimmerman and Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS).

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

A NEW DAY

Dusk falls . . . and I close my eyes
To wake to a bright new tomorrow.
Gone are . . . the labors of life,
The futility of strife, and the
lingering trauma of sorrow.
Dawn breaks . . . and I clearly see
A new day of heavenly creation
Fresh with new hope, renewed
faith
And good cheer, the promise of
eternal salvation.

Delores Karides

How many times have we worried and fretted over things in the future only to have God take control (in His own time) and work everything out for our best. It's happened to me so many times that I now say to myself "Has God ever left you without an answer?" Just give Him time! He will work it out! And He always does! When I read the above poem, "A New Day," I had to think how futile our worrying and fretting really are! Trusting in and walking with God One Day At A Time is the only way to walk happily through this world of strife with new hope, renewed faith, good cheer, and most important, the promise of eternal salvation.

A month ago we related the passing of a dear brother-in-faith, George Diel, at the age of 94. Well, one month later, at the age of 93, his dear wife, Sis. Bea, was called home. To share so many years together in life, and be called home within a month of each other, we see how merciful God is. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and Bro. Ronald Allenbach officiated at services held here.

It was our appointed time to hold services at Life Care. Some of those dear people can't see any more, but the songs of God are in their hearts, and they sing with joy to Him.

For all our loved ones who are ill, we hold you up on wings of love and prayer. We are thankful Sis. Dorothy Brown is home again and pray she will be able to be in our midst again soon.

Have A Great Day!

KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

We were blessed with a visit from Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for a midweek service. We appreciate his willingness to come and share God's Word with us.

Our dear friends, Frieda Young and Martha Hughes, were recently hospitalized. May God bless them with renewed health and strength. Martha would like to express her sincere thanks for the many cards, prayers and kind deeds shown to her during her knee replacement and after returning home.

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

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

Another month has swiftly passed and God has again allowed changes in people's lives; thus there is once again news to report -- some joyous, some has caused heartached.

God never closes one door without opening another. When we have the simple faith to believe this, it seems that accepting the loss of a loved one becomes much easier. It is our prayer that Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm can feel God's nearness and be strong in their faith as Sis. Jeryl's mother, Sis. Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA) has recently been laid to rest. Many of us who have long known Sis. Lydia will miss her and her many visits here. As we think of Lydia and know of her true desires, the thought comes -- "Death is not distinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come." (Apples of Gold) We know that because of her sufferings, Sis. Lydia was eagerly awaiting this "new dawn."

Our prayers and concerns have been with those who have been in need of surgical attention. Sis. Jana Gruber (Todd), Bro. Doug Grimm and Bro. Phil Metzger have all been hospitalized for various reasons and we trust their recoveries will be uneventful. Where complete recovery is not possible, may we remember that Jesus knows our cares and shares our burdens. If it is His will, surely He will lighten the load.

Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City,

MI) was our only visiting minister this month. A thought-provoking message -- full of love, direction and admonition was shared with us. If only we could remember it all . . . We appreciate the visits of brothers from across the miles who come, and without knowing the needs of the congregation, can "feed the sheep."

Erma Wenger (LaVon) had expressed a need to invite Christ into her life and now live with new priorities and goals. We are so thankful God is yet calling souls and we wish Erma God's nearness as she journeys through her repentance and conversion. May we all realize that God is our dearest friend, and we can safely and without reservation tell Him all of our cares.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

With the addition of the Funk children to our Sunday school enrollment, we have been able to shift our class assignments. Bro. Glen Funk is our superintendent and our junior-senior high school class teacher.

Bro. Ernie Lambert has recuperated to the point where he is able to come to church again. Our Sunday fellowship is more complete when Bro. Ernie and Sis. Nellie are a visible part of it.

Betty Barth (Bro. Virgil) had the misfortune to fall and break a bone in her shoulder. We pray for her healing as we do for the many in our congregation who have been afflicted with various respiratory illnesses.

Elder Bros. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Ron and Sis. Shirley Nelson (Kiowa, KS) spent the weekend of March 16 - 17 with us in Wichita. We were privileged to partake of the blessed sacrament of communion. Again, we cannot be thankful enough that our elders and their families so unselfishly give of their personal time and energy in our behalf.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch
The 17th of March was a joyous

day as we witnessed the joining of Sis. Juanita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Ben Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) in holy matrimony. We pray the Lord will richly bless and guide them as they make their home in Congerville.

As we have times of rejoicing, we have times of sadness as well. Our love and heartfelt prayers go with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen as they make their new home in Pekin, IL. They will surely be missed here in Alto, but we wish them happiness as they brighten the lives of others and pray God will keep them in His loving care!

When we held our annual business meeting, these brothers and sisters were elected: Duane Schrenk as trustee in place of Jim Blough, John Schlatter as usher in place of Joe Oesch, Ron Erismann as Sunday school superintendent in place of Otto Schlatter, Sandy Steffen for World Relief in place of Julie Blough and Sandy Schutte for the dinner committee in place of Judy Gerst. May they each one be blessed for serving the Lord in their various positions because no matter what the task there is truly a special blessing if done unto the Lord!

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

I Corinthians 10:31

Cindy Blough (daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz) was in the hospital several days recently following an accident. We are very thankful that she is now back home and recovering fully. Monica Steffen (Bro. Tim) was in for surgery also and we are again thankful for God's healing touch.

YOU TELL ON YOURSELF

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
by the very manner in which you speak.
by the way you enjoy your leisure time,
by the use you make of dollars and time.
You tell what you are by the things you wear,

by the spirit in which your burdens bear,
by the kind of things at which you laugh,
by the records you play on your phonograph.
You tell what you are by the way you walk,
by the things of which you delight to talk,
by the manner in which you bear defeat,
by so simple a thing as how you eat.
By the books you choose from a well-filled shelf,
in these ways and more, you tell on yourself.
So there's really no particle of sense
in an effort to keep up false presence.
You tell on yourself.

Author Unknown

As we each strive to be true children of God, it is not without temptations that the world so innocently seems to offer and we can be easily lured to be a part of the world if we are not careful. So may our lives "tell" of our love that we have for our faith and most of all for the one, Jesus Christ, that we serve.

We are thankful for those visiting ministers who shared of God's Word: Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). May the Lord bless them.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul."
Hymns of Zion #55

Tom Knochel, along with Jim and Kay Knochel, have been announced for receiving peace. They now await baptism. We share in their joy and pray that God will continue to shower His favor on them.

There were several hospitalized

this month, Sis. Darlene Cluff, Sis. Alice Mehl and Sis. Anna Meylan. They are all recovering well and our continued prayers are with them. Isn't it beautiful to know that some day we'll have a new, and perfect body, as we walk into the arms of Jesus?

We are very sad to announce that Bro. Frank and Sis. Alma Wackerle, are leaving the Bay City area, to live in Illinois. We will miss them very much, and will remember them in our thoughts and prayers. May God be their guide and stay. For Bro. Frank and Sis. Alma, we ask for God's perfect will to be done in their lives, and in their parting we ask them to take these verses with them;

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverers; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Psalms 18:1-2

May God go with each one in this new month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

Surely the angels in heaven must be rejoicing, as we here in Detroit are, that three more precious souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. Warren Rauhe now joins his wife, Kay, in seeking the Lord. We are also thankful for two young people who have made this decision: Ted Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) and Amy Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev). We wish all of our converts much grace in their new walk of life.

We were privileged to gather together to share the reading of the memorandum. Truly we were humbled as we could see where we might have work to do in our lives, but how encouraging to have yet another reminder not only of our elder brothers' love and concern for us, but of our Lord's also.

"Blessed be God . . . who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3. We were recently recipients of these spiritual blessings as we enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with a bus load of brethren and friends from Champaign, Il. Bro. Dwayne Dill conducted a Bible study on obedience, and both he and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) brought forth God's Word to us on Sunday. These occasions are but a small glimpse of the fellowship we will have with our Lord and each other some day in heaven.

In addition to the ministers mentioned above, we wish to thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for sharing God's Word with us, as well as Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), who had our monthly service at Woodhaven.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized recently. Our prayers have been with Sis. Ruth Gudeman, who had surgery and is now able to attend church again. Sis. Helen Shaw and Sis. Lydia Meister have both returned to Woodhaven after being hospitalized for a time.

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

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Kathryn Schmidgall
Marcy Scmidgall

"He sends His word, and melts the snow;

The fields no longer morn.

He calls the warmer gales to blow,
And bids the spring return."

Hymns of Zion #283, vs. 4

With spring arriving soon, we see God's creation come to life. The birth of a new baby is one of God's "spring-time" blessings. We rejoice with Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori Rumbold as God had blessed them with a beautiful son. Tyler James was born March 14, and will be welcomed home by his sister, Katelyn. His grandparents are Bro. Ronald and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (Princeville, IL); and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock (Congerville, IL).

Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr was with us March 3, to have our communion exhortation. We look forward to his holy sacrament.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We enjoyed a beautiful day of blessings March 10 as we were privileged to witness the wedding of Sis. Beth Schmidgall and Bro. Doug Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). Parents of the couple are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and the late Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). We wish Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth God's richest blessings as they establish a Christian home.

We are thankful to the visiting ministers who shared the precious Word with us this month. They were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Beirne) and Sis. Janice Nohl (Bro. DeWayne) in the death of their mother, Sis. Lydia Mogler (Bro. Phil, Lester, IA). May the Lord comfort those who sorrow.

Many have experienced sicknesses of various kinds this winter. Those who have been in the hospital are Sis. Lillie Luthi, Sis. Doris Koehl (Bro. Edwin), Sis. Kathy Nohl, Sis. Dianne Kellenberger, Jerri Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne) and Bro. William Zeltwanger, Sr. May we remember to pray for those who must endure bodily afflictions.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscriptions are due in April. Prompt payment to your reporters is appreciated.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Lanette Meyer

Many of us had the privilege to hear the testimony of Sis. Kacie Thompson (Sis. Thirza) recently. We welcome her into the faith and continue to pray that others will find their salvation. Hearing a new child of God express their commitment and dedication to serving Him stokes the fire of that first love and helps to re-establish our eternal goals.

In times of world crisis, it's not uncommon to hear many people that we come in contact with express

their knowledge and concern about end-time prophecies. We wonder how many of these individuals will continue to ponder the second coming of Christ when great danger does not appear eminent. After all, our Master holds the power to end any life in His time.

We sympathize with those who have lost loved ones recently. The father of Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen), Bro. Ben Braker (Roanoke, IL), died suddenly while vacationing in Mexico. Bro. Noah Herman, grandfather of Sis. Jane Miller (Bro. Kent) went to his eternal rest after months of illness. Our prayer is that God will soothe the sorrow of their loss.

We're thankful that Bro. Wayne Miller could be with us and bring forth God's message. We also appreciate the many other visitors that have assembled with us recently and welcome others to visit us any time.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Janel Kellenberger

"This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

St. Luke 22:19

Our Elder Bro. Gene Marti and Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) served communion with us March 17. Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) was with us and shared God's Holy Word. We thank these brothers for their efforts this past month.

Bro. Dean Marti and Sis. Janice Stoller were both hospitalized this month. May God continue to watch over them.

Sis. Cecile Braker has moved into the Lakeview Health Care Center. May God be with her and her family.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Mark Leman

We were blessed to have the following ministers come and share God's Word with us: Bros. Kurt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeton, IL), Carl Westfal (Francisville, IN), Kevin Knapp (Bloom-

ington, IL), Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

We are pleased to announce that our church has been completed. Our first service in the new church was March 10. Directions to the church, where we will be meeting from now on are as follows:

Take I-270 West. Take I-70 West into St. Charles County. 1½ miles over the bridge between St. Louis and St. Charles, take the First Capitol Drive Exit. At the stoplight take a left onto First Capitol Drive (also known as Highway 94). The Highway 94, 3½ miles to Jungs Station Road. Take a left on Jungs Station Road (be sure to be in the far left lane or you'll miss the turn lane). Follow Jungs Station Road for 1½ miles to Upper Bottom Road. Turn left onto Upper Bottom Road. The church is ½ of a mile on the left. Come and worship with us!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

I will sing the wondrous story,
Of the Christ Who died for me.
How He left His home in glory,
For the cross of Calvary.
I was lost but Jesus found me.
Found the sheep that went astray.
Threw His loving arms around me.
Drew me back into the way.

F. H. Rowley

What a wonderful time of the year. So much to look forward to, . . . Easter and celebrating the risen Lord; the newness of life with the budding trees, plants peeking through the soil, and the birth of babies of all kinds; and with many the renewing of our lives with Christ when we take communion. It's a perfectly beautiful time of the year . . .

Except for reporting all the mishaps and illnesses . . . Bro. William Cottrell fell and broke some fingers requiring surgery. Bro. Michael Stratton required surgery in St. Louis to repair a heart problem. Both are home and doing well. Lind-

sey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudy) fell and broke her collarbone and Doug Hoerr injured his collarbone in an accident. Both are recovering nicely. Sis. Rosie Massner was hospitalized for tests. Sis. Joan Wiegand was treated for pneumonia. Bro. Rodney Heimer has been recuperating from a back injury.

A Sunday was set aside this month to each invite a couple or family and all fellowship together at a potluck dinner on Sunday evening. All who participated reported a blessed evening. Visiting ministers were Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). May God bless them for sharing the Word with us.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

We are happy to report that Bro. Leland Hirschey has been able to be in our assembly and on the pulpit again following his surgery. He is still undergoing treatment and our prayers are that he will be strengthened each day and have a complete recovery if it is the will of God.

Sis. Charlotte Virkler has been absent from our assembly while she is recovering satisfactorily from knee surgery. She is also in our prayers and we hope she can assemble with us again soon.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta Graves have reached a milestone in their lives when they celebrated their 50th anniversary. We are glad that God has granted them the many years together and the good health to enjoy their lives. We miss Bro. Floyd on the pulpit as his is still having some trouble with his hip. May God bless them with continued health and happiness together.

SPRINGTIME

I went in search of Spring one day,
I looked on hill and dale;
I found a robin redbreast's nest,
And crossed a chipmunk's trail.

I peeked into a shady glen
And found a violet;
I heard a wren sing in the tree
A song I'll not forget.

I sniffed the blossoms on the trees,
I trampled through the rain;
I saw a rainbow in the sky,
I wandered down a lane.

I found the promise of new life
Wherever I had trod.

Some folks might call it

Springtime --

But I will call it God.

Author Unknown

The warm days of springtime will soon be here. The maple syrup producers in our area have been tapping the trees and the weather is warmer and the nights have been cold, so it looks like the sap will be flowing soon. It is always a sign of springtime in our area when we can enjoy the taste of freshly made maple syrup. Truly, we can feel God's hand in nature when springtime arrives and we can see new life spring forth.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Iraq, with Baghdad the current capital, and nearby Babylon the ancient capital, is in headline news. The ancient capital, Babylon, occupies a unique position in God's Word. It is known as the "City of Man," as it represents man's attempt to usurp God's authority. Babylon had a good beginning, with the Garden of Eden by the Euphrates River. It was an important city of the world for nearly 2000 years, but they tried to build the Tower of Babel, and attack and spoil the land of promise, so their glory and prominence vanished, with Babylon in ruins. The current ruler has spent millions of dollars reconstructing Babylon, having rebuilt King Nebuchadnezzar's palace, with plans to duplicate the hanging gardens, which was one of the seven wonders of the world. However, Isaiah 13:19 states: "Babylon the glory of kingdoms . . . shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." In Palestine, guides believe that Sodom and Gomorrah are submerged beneath the southern end of the Dead Sea.

The city of contrast is Jerusalem, the "City of God" which God selected for the capital of His kingdom, and the city where God's Son died for the sins of the world.

Babylon is a city of rebellion and warfare. Jerusalem is a city of peace. Babylon is destined for devastation, but Jerusalem is destined for deliverance. Babylon is the prostitute, but Jerusalem is "The bride, the Lamb's wife." Revelation 21:9. Babylon will lose her glory, but Jerusalem will shine with the glory of God and her light is like unto a precious stone like a Jasper, clear as crystal. Revelations 22:11. Babylon will be underneath, but Jerusalem is above, coming down out of heaven from God. Revelation 21:10. We are thankful God prepared for us that we can choose to be with the new Jerusalem.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman of Philadelphia blessed us with a visit and Bro. Ed with an inspiring sermon.

Sandy Graf, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Carl Graf, is engaged to Peter Reed. May they take the Lord to direct their lives.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

On March 16, we were reminded of Christ's broken body and shed blood upon Calvary as we were served holy communion. We thank our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for being here for this special service.

Also ministering God's Word to us were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Doug Harman (Toledo, OH) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We appreciated having them and their families worship with us.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. It was a blessing to hear our children and young adults relay with song and verse the beautiful message of Christ's love and suffering at our Easter program.

We have missed Sis. Sara Adam in our assembly a few times this past month as she has had some complications with her eye. We are thankful to have her back in our midst and pray God will continue to lend a healing hand.

Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie) has been called to minister God's Word. We certainly need your prayers and

God's grace as Bro. John undertakes this new responsibility.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers at the conclusion of the Latty conference. We thank them for their services on our behalf.

Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) was recently visiting our congregation. How we appreciate these labors of love.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

As we approach the Easter season, our hearts turn to the suffering Savior as He died for our sins. Let us keep this time of year in its proper light and quench the worldly influence.

We welcome the many local brethren who have returned from the south. Thanks to our heavenly Father for His protecting care during their absence from us.

We offer our prayerful congratulations to Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Rager for their 50th wedding anniversary. God has surely blessed their lives together.

During the past month, Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy) and Aldean Price (Robert) were hospitalized. We hope they could feel the prayers of the congregation on their behalf.

God has blessed us with many visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN).

On the weekend of March 9 and 10, we assembled for the testimonies of four converts. Thanking God for His faithfulness, we added four more precious souls to the fold. They were Bro. Matt Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn), Sis. Marlise Stoller (Bro. Willis and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Cindy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) and Sis. Karen Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann).

Steve Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn) has found grace enough to answer the call of God. We pray he will remain faithful and trusting as God converts his life from the sinful world.

Our congregation has been blessed as six new children have been born into the world. We pray God will give the needed grace and wisdom to these parents to bring up these children.

Matt and Theresa Kuhn were blessed with a baby girl, Megan Marie. The grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller and Hobart and Mary Kuhn.

Marla Jane, baby daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn, has been a wonderful addition to the family. She is welcomed home by grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Older brothers, Thad and Calvin, embrace a baby sister.

Bro. Rick and Denise Plummer embrace Nathan into their home. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann Plummer. Kurt and Ashleigh welcome another playmate.

Bro. Bruce and sis. Amy Rosswurm were blessed with a darling baby girl, Mallory Sue. Happy grandparents are Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma Stoller and Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Whitman.

Ben and Cindy Schlatter, along with Lee and Bryn, welcome their new bundles of joy. Grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Schlatter and Pete Savage, also welcome Mickae Lee and Kole Reed.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to

us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 3:9

We are thankful Dave and Joy Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue) have come to repentance. "Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord." Psalms 105:3

"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations . . ."

Luke 24:46, 47

That's the whole message of Easter, isn't it? "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) therefore we can't be respecters of persons either can we? So what if they are not our relative, so what if they have a different sounding name, they too have a soul and Christ died for them.

Bro. Ron Fairchild (Sis. Sheli) had foot surgery. Stephanie Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) injured her arm in a fall.

"Have mercy on me, O Lord: for I am weak; O Lord heal me; for my bones are vexed."

Psalms 6:2

OHIO, RITTMAN Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Acts 5:42

Ministering brethren that have labored in our midst this past month were Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May they be blessed for their labor of love.

Those that have recently been hospitalized were Sis. Esther Saylor, Sis. Marge Stoller (Bro. Everett), Sis. Donna Young (Bill) and Sis. Sandy Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and

Sis. Brenda). May God grant them healing strength again.

Brooke Nicole, born March 8, was the name chosen by Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman for their first child. Loving grandparents are Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH).

Recently made known is the engagement of Bob Moore and Kristie Kerhammer. Parents are Randy and Sis. Beverly Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Derhammer.

OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

Once again it is that time of year again that we plant seeds in the soil and then wait for them to bring forth fruit. Isn't it true that we are sowing seeds every day of our life? Those seeds will surely grow, so we must constantly strive to sow seeds that will bear good fruit and not evil.

We were privileged to hear the memorandum this month. May we strive to support our elders who so earnestly watch for our souls. We thank our Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) for being with us for this occasion.

Our congratulations to Bro. Robert Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) as he has recently graduated from Devry Institute of Technology with a degree in engineering. Robert has accepted a job at Medina, OH. He is living in Rittman.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Stephanie Luginbuhl Kim Stoller

It is with joy that we report that Corbin Riggenschach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita, Rittman) and Dennis Indermuhle (Shari) have turned to the Lord in repentance. May God give them much grace to seek Him faithfully each day.

Jason Riggenschach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail) has been announced as having peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism scheduled for March 30 - 31.

We are thankful to have several visiting ministers this month. Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Art

Ingold (Rittman) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) have spoken the message to us.

We have other joyful news to report in the form of baby girls. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach welcomed Emily Jean March 2. Brad and Katie are her brother and sister and Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach (Rittman) are her grandparents. On March 8, Erin Jo joined the family of Bro. Jay, Sis. Marsha and Alissa Maibach. Her grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman) and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron). Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy Dotterer are thankful for the arrival of Jenna Kathryn. Lisa, Wendy, Shara, Alex and Wesley are happy for a sister. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Forrest, IL).

Those who were hospitalized this past month are Sis. Bonnie Nieman, Sis. Mildred Hartzler and Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine). We are thankful that they are assembling with us again.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla

Sis. Amy Berry, having graduated from the University of Toledo, will be returning to her home in Rittman for employment. She had her own special place here and we will miss her. We wish her a successful future.

It is again almost Easter and time for our Sunday school program. We look forward to it and appreciate the effort being made to have the children bring us the true message of Easter. May the beauty of the messages and songs of the season bring all of us a blessing.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"All scripture is give by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

II Timothy 3:16, 17

As a sculptor endures to perfection, so should it be in the Christian life. "Make Me More Perfect" as the author expressed himself in the Zion's Harp hymnal.

We are in sympathy with Sam Feucht on the passing of his dear sister, Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA). Her example in her Christian life reached to many that knew her.

Saddened by the news of the passing of Sis. Ida Alt (Las Vegas, NV), we extend our sympathy to her husband, Melvin, and daughter, Mary, and family. Fond memories of her will be remembered as she attended the Portland congregation some years ago.

Thanksgiving fills our hearts that God has answered prayer, bringing the war in the Persian Gulf to an end. The peace of God in our hearts that passeth understanding should be our main focus in this life.

Many blessings were ours being in the presence of our beloved brethren recently for a potluck at Bro. Clarence and Sis. Bess Dietrich's home. Making melody in our hearts singing praises to God followed the dinner.

We thank the Silverton brethren that visited us March 10. Visitors are always welcome!

We welcome the return of Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold (Phoenix, AZ) where they have spent the winter months.

FOUR BIG LITTLE WORDS

Trust in the Lord for His promise
 is true
 Delight in the Lord, it will bring
 joy to you
 Commit yourself, do His will every
 day
 Wait on the Lord, hear what He
 has to say.

Ivar Seger

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22

A prayer of the need of an elder

for our church has been answered. It was announced that Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy) will be the shepherd of our flock. We look forward in the next few weeks to Bro. Ed's ordination.

We rejoice with Rachel Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) who has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her baptism in the near future.

We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Ruth Dapper's mother, Sis. Lena Ludwig (Rockville, CT). It is sad when we lose a loved one, but so joyous to know they are in their heavenly home.

On Saturday, March 9, we had our annual church spring cleaning. Many participated and much was accomplished.

We thank Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and his wife, Sis. Irene, for spending time with us and we thank Bro. Al for allowing himself to be used to deliver God's Word to us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus, our Lord. As the Apostle Paul wrote to His beloved Timothy, may it also be with us.

We again were blessed this month when Bro. Neal Widmer, Sis. Kristine, and their boys (Wolcott, IN) came to visit us. We are always thankful when visitors come. Bro. Neal ministered to us both morning and afternoon. May the Lord richly bless him.

As our prayers and the prayers from you were answered by God, the elder brothers gave us their blessing to continue services once each month here in Nashville. The normal date for services is the second Sunday of the month, with the first service starting at 10:00 p.m. However, there were some conflicts. This is the tentative schedule for the balance of 1991: April 14, 2nd Sunday; May 19, 3rd Sunday; June 9, 2nd Sunday; July 7, 1st Sunday; August 4, 1st Sunday; September 1, 1st Sunday; October 6, 1st Sunday; November 3, 1st Sunday; December 8, 2nd Sunday and January 12, 1992, 2nd Sunday.

As a reminder, services are held in the downstairs of Faye's and my home. We have plenty of room so we invite and encourage many of you to visit us. Our address is 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215, phone 615-373-8928.

An additional contact is Don and Enid Miller, 4012 Green Road, Springfield, TN 37172, phone 615-382-1081.

TEXAS,
DALLAS-HOUSTON

Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

We want to thank Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) for serving us in Houston in February. That surely was a blessed Sunday with many visitors raising our attendance to 27 total.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest Freeway. If your summer travel plans bring you to Texas we would encourage you to plan a Sunday to worship with us in Houston or Dallas. Please contact Bro. Brad or Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216 for information.

On March 3 in Dallas, we were blessed by ministering Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Herrmann (Princeville, IL). On March 17, Bro. Ron Joos, accompanied by his wife, Sis. Christy, and their five children (Pulaski, IA) served our gathering which was again blessed by many visitors.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp, at (214) 867-4074, are the local area contact for Dallas services which 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Visiting ministers and their wives this month were our Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, KS), Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Carrol and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) and

Bro. Alphonse, Jr. and Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bern, KS). We want to thank these ministers for their visit and proclaiming the Word to us.

We had our annual day for church and cleaning and yard work this month. It was a blessing to work together. We want to let our visitors know we appreciate their help.

Our Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Elder Bro. Gene Marti served us communion March 10. It is so meaningful to have so many brothers and sisters of different states assembled together to partake of this blessing.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti showed us pictures of his trip to Europe and explained the situation of the countries that have churches of our faith. We should appreciate the opportunities we have in our country.

Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein was put in as trustee at our annual business meeting.

SILVER THREADS

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

James 1:2-4

MORE HOLINESS GIVE ME

More holiness give me,
More striving within;
More patience in suffering,
More sorrow for sin;
More faith in my Savior,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.

More gratitude give me,
More trust in the Lord;
More pride in His glory,
More hope in His word;
More tears for His sorrows,
More pain at His grief;
More meekness in trial,
More praise for relief.

More purity give me,
More strength to overcome;

More freedom from earth-stains,
More longings for home;
More fit for the kingdom,
More used would I be;
More blessed and holy,
More, Savior, like Thee.

Hymns of Zion #97

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

Take time to be holy,
Speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always,
And feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children;
Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing
His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone —
By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,
Let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him,
Whatever betide;
In joy or in sorrow,
Still follow thy Lord,
And, looking to Jesus,
Still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy,
Be calm in thy soul;
Each tho't and each motive
Beneath His control;
Thus led by His Spirit
To fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted
For service above.

Hymns of Zion #107

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

When upon life's billows you are
tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name
them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load
of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you
are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry
doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the
days go by.

When you look at others with
their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised
you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings,
money cannot buy
Your reward in Heaven, nor your
home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether
great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over
all;
Count your many blessings,
angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your
journey's end.

Chorus
Count your blessings, Name them
one by one;
Count your blessings, See what
God hath done;
Count your many blessings, Name
them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See
what God hath done.
Hymns of Zion #111

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

I need thee ev'ry hour,
Stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their pow'r
When thou art night.

I need thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.

I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son.

Chorus:
I need thee, O I need thee,
Ev'ry hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.
Hymns of Zion #89

TAKE THE BIBLE IN THE MORNING

Take the Bible in the morning,
But a moment if no more;
It is better than an hour,
When the trying day is o'er;
It is better than an hour,
When the trying day is o'er.

'Tis the gentle dew from heaven,
The manna for the day.
If you fail to gather early,
Alas, it melts away.
If you fail to gather early,
Alas, it melts away.

So in the blush of morning,
Take the offered hand of love.
And walk in heaven's pathway,
And the peacefulness thereof.
And walk in heaven's pathway,
And the peacefulness thereof.
Hymns of Zion #62

THE SHIP OF FAITH

Upon a stormy sea of life,
Thru many storms and gales,
A sturdy ship does bear us on
As t'ward our port it sails.
This ship of faith is God's own ark,
Our Captain is the Lord,
It carries to the land of rest
All passengers on board.

Of all provisions there's no lack,
We have the living bread;
And living water we can drink,
On our long course ahead.
Our anchor is our saving hope,
God's word our compass true,
Which points to us the living way
On which we must pursue.

Of any storm we have no fears,
We have a well built ark,
And at the helm we have a Man
Who guides this saving bark.

If He commands the wind and sea
The billows no more roll;
Thru all the dangers He will bring
Us safely to our goal.

Behold the land can now be seen
Tho' clouds before it lie,
But clearer it does soon become
To faith's keen single eye.
Soon we shall reach the pearly
shore
With life's sea safely crossed;
There we shall sing, "Ye great
things hath
Our God performed for us!"

Chorus:
So with Christ's singleness of mind
Let each one lend a helping hand;
Hoist up the sails and on we'll go
Unto the promised land!
Hymns of Zion #48

*"Blessed is the man that endureth
temptation: for when he is tried, he
shall receive the crown of life, which
the Lord hath promised to them that
love him."*

James 1:12

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)
thought was good. I persecuted the
church because I thought it was
right." He even said, ". . . unto death,
binding and delivering into prisons
both men and women." Acts 22:4.

There is a great zeal in the Is-
lamic nations today that is so mis-
guided and yet, they many times
believe they are doing the things
they are doing in the name of Allah
or god. We read about that, and
especially now because even the
leader of Iraq in many times and in
many of his speeches have said,
"This is a holy war." It is against
Israel and it is the friends of Israel
and it is against people who would
be believers or Christians because
they believe that they have the right
way.

We need to pray for those people.
As I go back into the Scriptures and
as I read in the Book of Isaiah, I find
something that is kind of interest-
ing. Not that I have a great mem-

ory, but if I am not mistaken . . .

If we go back into the Book of Isaiah, we would find that one day these nations that are in such turmoil today are going to again be living in peace because the Kind of peace and the King of kings and the Lord of lords is going to come back and He is going to establish that kind of a situation.

But for just a moment, and we are not deviating from the text in particularly, but just as a sense, we hear the zeal of these people. But let us see what God will do so that the right zeal and the right mind and the right attitude will ultimately triumph. Because we need not despair today. In fact, we should be rejoicing because I believe the clock is getting closer to the time when the redemption of this world by Jesus Christ is going to come.

The weapons are going to be beaten into plow shares. there will not be weapons that are made for the destruction, but there will be the instruments that will promote peace, beauty, safety and the land will bloom and the people will be together in peace.

From the Book of Isaiah, we would read in chapter nineteen, verse twenty-three, it says, "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians." Now if we were to take an old map of the Old Testament, we would find that Assyria encompasses the country of Iraq as well as some other countries today.

We would also find on that map what is believed to be the beginning of civilization -- the Garden of Eden, in the present day of Iraq. We would also find that there is the land of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians and all of their great power.

Then we would also find if we looked at a map that the present day Egypt also encompasses the land where our Lord went for the first two years of His life, and where the Jewish people were captive for those many years. Now he says there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, which would have to run through Israel.

"In that day shall Israel be the

third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed by Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance." Isaiah 19:24, 25. For a moment, let us just think what he said. He calls Egypt His people. Today that are not His people, but from the history of the past, they have in a way supported His people, Israel.

He speaks of Assyria, "the work of my hands", the place where undoubtedly the very creation may have been in the Garden of Eden, but he speaks about Israel "mine inheritance". (See Isaiah 19:25).

The Apostle Paul thought that Israel was the inheritance that he wanted to claim and he had to understand that even though God chose Israel and said that Israel would be a chosen nation and those who blessed Israel will be blessed and those who cursed Israel would be cursed. he did not understand until God spoke to his heart that the blessing of Israel came through Jesus Christ and the blessing for him and for you and me today come through the regeneration of Jesus Christ as He can wash away your sin and my sin.

Perhaps there are some today who sit in this audience who have not been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. perhaps if we would go out in to the world, we would find many scoffers who have no knowledge of Christ. In fact, who would reject Him and say, "Where is the sign of His coming? And if this gospel that we speak about is to the salvation of human beings, why is there so much violence? Why is there so much crime? Why is there so much corruption? Why is there so much immorality?"

The question could rightly be said, "If this is the God Who created heaven and earth, if this is the God Who gave us the Lord Jesus Christ, if this is the God who said 'Israel is My inheritance', where is God today? Where is the blessing of God upon the lands of the earth? Why is Assyria and why is Egypt in opposition to Israel today?"

Perhaps it could be likened unto a man who was a great soap maker. He had a great factory which manu-

factured soap. He attended the church and heard the gospel and he said to the preacher one time, "You preach this gospel, but why are there so many people who don't believe it? Why are there so many who live the opposite life? Why should I believe it; I see no good evidence?"

The preacher thought awhile and he said to that man, "I see over there some children playing in the mud and they are very dirty. why is it that they are dirty when you make all of this soap?" "Well," he said, "that is easy to answer. They have to apply the soap to wash away the dirt." It is the same thing.

If I am speaking to anyone today who is still living in sin, you have to apply the blood of Christ, the same as so many of who have realized that that was the only way to remove the sin from our lives.

So the Apostle Paul gives us his testimony. Remember your testimony of faith and liken it even unto Paul. Paul goes through the story . . . we know it. There isn't a great deal that we can say about it other than that he was on perhaps the most important journey.

As we go back with Paul, let us walk on that road that went to Damascus. He had left Jerusalem. He was in a foreign country, in Syria. They didn't travel by automobile, or airplane, or by train, or by boat. . . they generally walked. It was a long journey. It was dirty, hot and it was miserable. But when you were filled with the zeal like Paul, it didn't make him any difference how long that walk was to Damascus. It didn't make him any difference how dirty it was or how hot it was under the beating of that sun. He was going to lead the journey.

We sang in that hymn, "follow Me" and we know the hymn writer was speaking about following Jesus. Paul could have been raising that same flag and saying to the people, "Follow me because I am going to do what God wants me to do and I am going to put out these Christian believers." Oh! How they had to suffer!

He speaks again and I repeat, he persecuted them to death, to the binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. This is what Paul did. Have you ever done that?

You shake your head and say, "No." But by our actions, by the treatment of other people, by the things that we do or don't do and omit to do, can we in any way be guilty of the same thing? I trust not and I hope not. But I think sometimes when we really think about it, how much have we done for our Lord? How much?

A lot of you are up in years, and I recall there are 8760 hours in a years time. We may say that sounds like quite a few hours, but we know how quickly it goes. Eight thousand seven hundred and sixty hours in a year's time . . . what are we going to do with that?

If we broke down that time, do you know what we would do? We would sleep about a third, and I would have to work a third, but maybe some of you don't, so you have a little advantage. Then we have about a third of leisure time. What are we going with that time? How much time do we have left? How does that time compare to the time of eternity?

When the time comes when the trumpet is sounded and the dead in Christ rise first and those who are alive are caught together in the air, in all eternity that goes on forever and ever -- and we can't in any way express that because we don't understand it -- that little bit of time that we had left here upon this earth, will be so insignificant. What have we done with it?

I think that was why Paul, who was about fifty years old when he got into this effort and began his first missionary journey, I think that is why he used every hour of every day. I feel ashamed when I think of what Paul did. He sacrificed everything.

Let's go back for just a moment and I want you to listen to what the Apostle Paul experienced. five time she was beaten with forty stripes save one, and usually another thirteen stripes in their chest. Many of them could never take it because they died. Five times this man was willing to be beaten by his own people because he loved the Lord Jesus! Have we experienced anything like that?

"Thrice I was beaten with rods . . ." Oh! How painful that must have

been when the metal hit! ". . . once I was stoned." II Corinthians 11:25. Did you ever get hit by a stone? When I was small boy, I remember we were playing out in the yard, maybe about five, six or seven years old. I threw a stone at a playmate, never intending to hit him. Why I threw, I can't tell you but I can always remember it hit him right above the eye. I can remember the blood, the pain and the crying and the hurt of that little kid as he fell to the ground. Paul was stoned not with a little rock, but he was stoned with huge stones.

As he goes on here, ". . . thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep." II Corinthians 11:25. Then he goes on and tells us about how he traveled around and what it was like when he traveled. We get into our cars and they are comfortable and air-conditioned. We get in a plane and it takes off and moves us about very quickly. We leave the snow in the north and come down to the sun and warmth of the south. That is not what Paul said.

"In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own country men, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities." II Corinthians 11:26-30.

This is what Paul said! He said, "If I am going to glory, I want to glory on the things that make me suffer."

Now for just a moment, let us go back and turn the pages of the Scripture and let's go to James for just one quick moment, when James gave us an insight into temptation and suffering when he said in chapter one, verse two, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her

perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4.

I have a lot to learn because it is so hard. We live in a world today that we want things to happen quickly. We want to get our pictures developed and in one hour we can go to a photo studio and they can get it done. We want to get our laundry done so we go to a laundry or to the cleaners. In one day, they can have it done. We want to get the oil changed in our car and in ten minutes, we can zip in and out. Everything is bing, bing, bing . . . let's go as fast as we can!

But that isn't the way God works. That wasn't the way the Apostle Paul worked when he realized that he would glory in his sufferings that were continuous and for a period of time that went on and on each and every day of his life. James says that we ought to be happy when that happens.

I am not here to say today that we should all wish that we could just be afflicted with tribulation, but when it comes, and it does come and the tests of life, we ought to be thankful and happy because God is developing within you and me the qualities of Christianity that we need today. When that is being developed within us, we can't be like the present-day age that wants everything to pass quickly so we can go on to the next thing. We pop a pill so we can feel better tomorrow. I don't think that is what God has in mind for us.

A giant oak tree takes many years to grow, doesn't it? A squash grows in a couple of months. What do we want to be? Do we want to be like that oak tree that grows and develops and becomes strong and beautiful? Or do we want to have it like the squash that grows quick. I think we know the answer. If we had to choose between the two, we would want to be an oak tree. But it comes with patience.

This is the patience that Paul had as he began that journey and told story and went on and on as we have recounted. Then he said in the Book of Philippians, and I think of Paul as he pressed on towards that mark, in chapter three, verse thirteen,

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but his one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13, 14.

Paul said, "I haven't completed it, but I press forward." He said, "I leave behind the things that are behind." today we have to go forward, don't we? Yesterday is gone. What have we left behind us? We have left behind us maybe things that we know we have done wrong, and God is saying, "That is behind you if you will just come and acknowledge." Daily we have to acknowledge as believers, don't we?

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lord, forgive me for what I have done, but help me to learn not to do again the things I have done that has grieved Thy heart."

On the other hand, we need to leave behind us the things that maybe we have done that have been well for the Lord. We might call that some of the successes . . . some of the things that we know we did and they were good and that was wonderful, but that is behind us. We don't rest, you might say, on our laurels because we are pressing forward toward the high calling that is in Christ Jesus!

As we press that means we go forward inch by inch as fast and as quick, always looking ahead and never looking back. This is what Paul said.

Then we come to the Book of Revelation. Now we have another man. We have John. John is one of the apostles . . . the dearly, beloved one, whose close intimacy with Jesus is recorded. John lived and died a natural death. Of all the apostles, I believe he was the only one that died naturally perhaps in his nineties.

Whether it is fact or not, I don't know, but it certainly impressed me as I read the account that in those days when John was old and couldn't go about -- he had been a great laborer for the Lord -- it is said that he would say many times that he just wanted to be with the believers. So they would bring him in on his

bed. He couldn't walk anymore but they would bring him in on his bed and he would come into the sanctuary or the building where the services were at.

It is said that people would come up to John and they would say, "John, tell us something." He would say simply, "Love one another." That was his message. read especially the Epistle of John and it is filled with the words, "Love one another."

It is like the pump that some of you had on the farm, if you were farmers. As I remember the old pump out there, if it had been sitting and not been used, you would try to bring it up and down and you couldn't pump anything. Put some water in to try to prime that pump and it would just gush out. You know, we have to prime our pump with love.

Our hearts were cold when Christ came and loved us so much that He died for us. Then we accepted His call and we were filled with love! But each day, we have to prime the pump with love, not only for Him, but for each other because if there isn't a love in our heart and if it isn't being primed, and if it isn't pouring out, pretty soon the church will be cold.

We could have read in chapter three about the Laodicean church and it was a cold church. It was neither warm nor hot and it said the Lord would spue it out. (See Revelation 3:16). He wants us warm. He wants us hot!

John was one who loved his God, and finally it came in John's lifetime to have this great vision of the end-times. We might say the times in which you and I are experiencing. I don't profess to know the timetable or the exactness of how the Lord's return will come, but it seems to me before we bring to a conclusion our services this morning, we need to think just a little bit about what is going on in the world today.

Where is the focus? Where is the point that all eyes are focused on? It is the Middle East. We have talked about Assyria and Egypt, Iraq and Egypt, and Israel. It is that fermenting in that area among the peoples. It is the possession of wealth. If we read in chapter eighteen in the Book of Revelation when the final

destruction comes, it says the merchants will wail for the loss of their goods, their merchandise and their money.

Today, all eyes are on that place. Saddam Hussein says that if there is war, our boys will swim in blood. The Book of Revelation tells us that at some point when there is a war, the blood will flow of such a great magnitude that it will be to the height of horses bridle, or four feet high, "by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." Rev. 14:20.

Step by step, Jesus is getting closer to coming. You and I need to be ready. You and I need to be prayerful. You and I need to catch the vision as John saw. He said, "I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven," and it was then shown to him the things that would come. Revelation 4:1.

"He saw around the throne the four and twenty elders and the four beasts," (See Revelation 4:4-6), and the four beasts were not wicked beasts. Some believe they represent the four gospel writers -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I don't really know.

Around there, we find a place of adoration. We find these words and this is what I am looking forward to. This is what you and I both need to look forward to. We can hear these words and wouldn't you like to be expressing these words? "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8. God is forever! We don't relate to that, but we believe it, don't we?

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power . . ." this is what our God deserves in spite of whatever is going on today! " . . . for thou has created all things, and for they pleasure they are and were created." Rev. 4:11. We are created for the pleasure of God and let us return to God that same pleasure!

I always get the "goose bumps" and feel a certain amount of pride when they sing, "God Bless America, from the mountains, to the prairies, God bless America, my home sweet home." I ask you today, where is you home? May God bless each one of us in our heavenly home.

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SERMON BY BRO. KENNETH E. HOERR OF PEORIA, IL

**"Keep Looking For Jesus' Return"
Acts 22:1-21 and Revelation 4:1-11**

Let us go back into history for a moment this morning. Let us take a journey with the Apostle Paul. As we take this journey with the Apostle Paul, we find a man that, by description probably, would not come across as a particularly significant person.

Paul was a rather short man. He was very wiry and very energetic. History tells us that he probably had a rather sharp face with a long nose. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference, but he was a man who probably would not stand out in a crowd if you were to see him. He wasn't a towering magnificent, charismatic type of person.

But here was a man who had spent his life preparing for the Word of God. He did not live in Israel. He lived in another country. I believe we read he was born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia.

In that city, he was born of a Jewish family and was given perhaps the best education. Like any father and mother, they wanted for their son the very best and so they sent him to Jerusalem where he would study at the greatest perhaps of all the Jewish teachers, a man called Gamaliel. He learned everything that he could possibly learn.

He was disciplined. He was given to the fact that he was going to be a man of God. We believe that Saul perhaps in age was not a great deal different in age than Jesus Christ. He was a contemporary of Steven, who was also of an age close to Christ. Perhaps these men may have

indeed, if they didn't see the Lord, they at least heard about Him.

The Apostle Paul, given now to this great zeal that he would serve his God through the nation of Israel, undoubtedly believing and sincerely doing what he thought was right ended up doing exactly what was wrong. It was perhaps like some of us, who in our lives did not always awaken to the truth until perhaps maybe we had gone some years in life. I see many people here today, that if all of you could give the testimony the Apostle Paul gave, we could spend hours and hours and I believe each one of your testimonies would be equally as interesting. Yes, it may not be as dramatic as Paul who was stricken down there on the road to Damascus by a great light.

The greatest story that has ever been told is the conversion of a sinner unto the life of Jesus Christ. Look at the multitude of people here today, brothers and sisters who have had that experience in your own individual lives, you remember the time when you were converted. When we get a little older (sometimes we don't even have to be so old), we begin to get a little forgetful.

One of the greatest difficulties of being a minister and coming into a congregation, and especially here where there are so many people, is undoubtedly I will greet many and I will be told their name and when I walk away from here today, I will have to tell you that I won't remember too many names. It isn't because I don't love you . . . it is

because I don't remember so well. We have all experienced, have we not, a loss of memory sometimes? Sometimes we don't remember people we have met several weeks ago or a year ago or a month ago. Sometimes we forget dates. Sometimes we forget places. Sometimes we get lost because we can't remember. If you are like me, you do forget, don't you?

The most important thing today is to remember your salvation if you are converted. That is one thing that should never leave our memory. It should be so clear and so clean just as the Apostle Paul told this story of his conversion on the road to Damascus. He told it several times in the Book of Acts. It was his story . . . it was his experience!

You and I, who are converted, have had a similar story and a similar experience and in our minds and our memory, if we forget everything else, let us daily go back to the cross where we remember how we were stricken down on our road which was leading to destruction and how we were converted. Whatever your experience is, don't forget it. Let it be a living memory that you recount and recall every day. It will refresh and strengthen you.

I believe that Paul, because of his rejection of the Lord, when he was converted embellished in his mind a tremendous memory to recall this wonderful experience that he had.

He said, "I did a lot of things on behalf of the work of God that I
(Continued on Page 32)