



"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: . . ." Ecclesiastes 3:11

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

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# CREATION

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

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

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

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

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

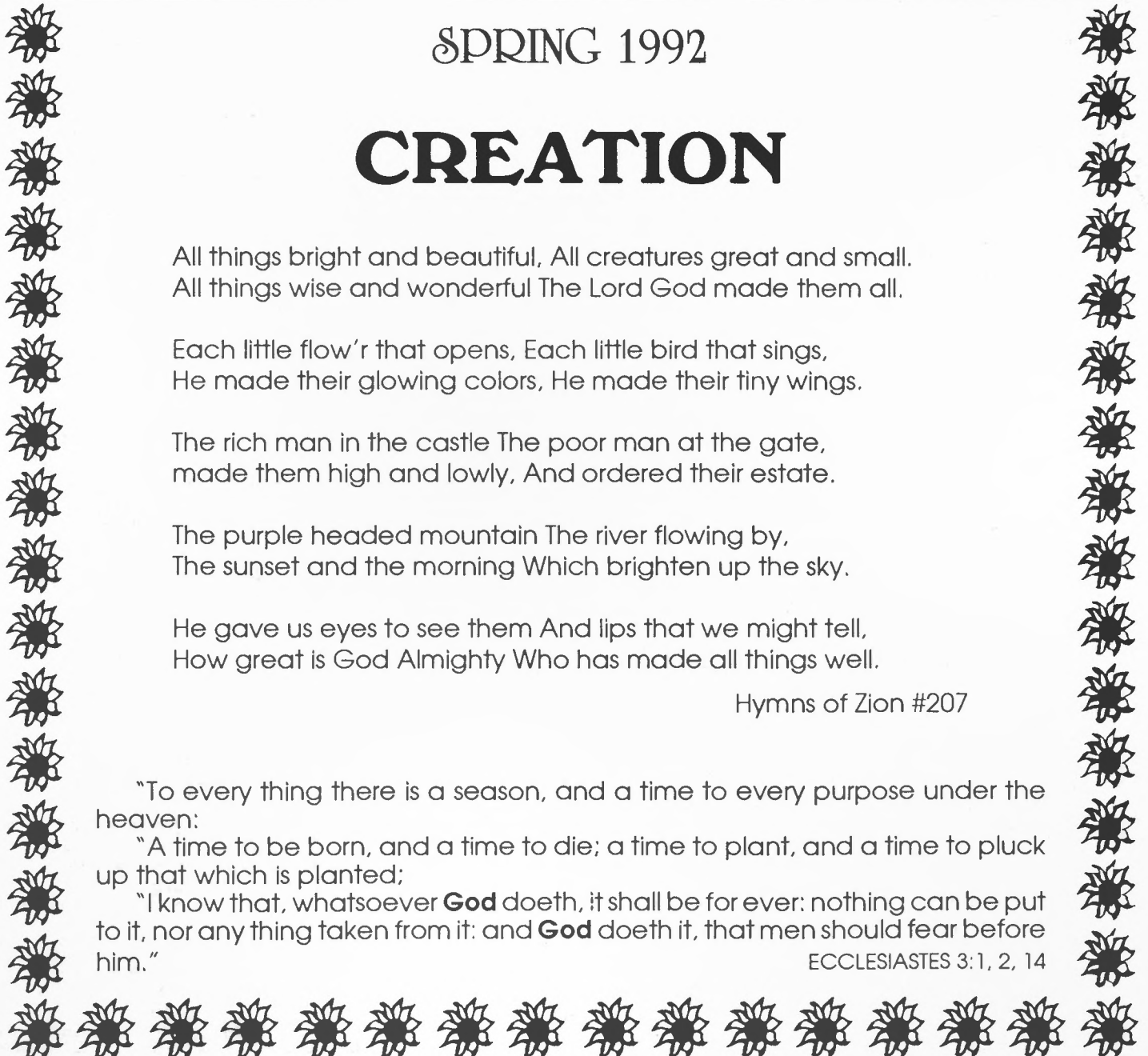
Hymns of Zion #207

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

"A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

"I know that, whatsoever **God** doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and **God** doeth it, that men should fear before him."

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, 2, 14



# MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle — Shioda, Japan

Twenty-six years ago, Lois and I and our four children moved from Tokyo to the little house beside the Shioda Church. We started a kindergarten and an elementary school, with teachers from our church in America. I continued to commute to Tokyo for my work.

I was only working part-time for a company in Tokyo but one way to Tokyo by train took over two hours so I was gone a lot. Lois told me, "You started this kindergarten and then you go off to Tokyo. I can't understand the dialect of these country women who come to the door jabbering about their children." I got the message and wondered what I could do to help my dear wife. The Bible does say, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."

It was necessary for me to cut down on the time I spent in Tokyo and although this probably reduced our income, a person can always lower his standard of living and try to make ends meet. Human beings can live on very, very little if they have to. It was more important to reduce the burden than to have the income.

Do you know anyone who has too much stress or is over-burdened? Go to that person and ask, "What can I do to help you?" This is of

great importance within the family and within the church. The most wonderful person can become unreasonable when over-burdened over a long period of time. Then to the onlooker it may look like the unreasonable person is completely to blame but those of us who failed to ask, "What can I do to help you?" may be even more to blame, although we may seem to have everything under control.

I would suggest that all the members in our churches go to their respective elder and ask, "What can I do to help you?" I would suggest that every wife ask her husband, "What can I do to help you?" and that every husband ask his wife the same question and that each one be willing to sincerely try to help. As humans we have enough critics, we need help.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Recently, while reading the Bible, I came upon a much read, much heard passage in Matthew 28:51 . . . "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" This time, however, instead of just mov-

ing on to the next verse, I began thinking of the significance of this verse. Christ died for our sins so that we might be saved and have everlasting life. This is a truth for which we are so thankful. And, yet, how wonderful that when that veil was rent in half, we immediately had access to God. no longer did a high priest have to offer prayers and sacrifices for our behalf. We could talk to God whenever we wished, and we could ask forgiveness for ourselves. We need to be so thankful for this opportunity. Nothing is too great for God to accomplish if we only believe. And, let's remember that nothing is too small for His attention. He is our best friend, willing to listen and to help. Occasionally, it is good to think

(Continued on Page 4)

## THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

### EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch  
Lester Stoller

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

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### IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

## SINGLE SISTERS NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

We now have child care openings at Gateway Woods for single sisters who would work in the houses with the daily care of our young people. They would help provide for the childrens' physical and spiritual needs, as well as, other various household duties. We pray that mature and motivated individuals will respond to God's call to work with our team of brothers and sisters in helping troubled youth. We provide extensive training and educational opportunities.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information regarding qualifications, salaries and benefits.

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

Bro. David Bertsch, Elder  
11520 Souder Road  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219/627-2923



Writings based  
on God's Word

# Light From The Word

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

## SYMBOLS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH (I)

Although God's work begins in the heart, its results eventually are expressed outwardly in a variety of ways. Such a reflection gives evidence to others that a life-changing work of salvation has occurred, since we cannot see into each other's hearts. Jesus taught, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

The Old Testament taught God's people to follow many ceremonial activities. The numerous feasts and rituals were symbolic of important spiritual truths as well as mighty acts which God had performed in their midst. The New Testament requires only a few doctrinal and worship symbols, but those which have been given are an important part of the Christian faith; they are of great significance and should be cherished. In addition, an inner life that is pure will be reflected by an outward life that is virtuous and full of Christian graces. As a believer practices separation from sin and non-conformity to the world, he is demonstrating that his heart's desire and overall goal in life is to serve God. Conversely, a worldly lifestyle, an emphasis on fashion, materialism, and a love of pleasure would symbolize a heart that is not fully devoted to God.

A symbol is a visible sign that stands for or represents something not seen. For instance, the dove is considered almost universally as a symbol of peace. Kneeling to pray symbolizes the submission of man before his Almighty God.

The Lord Jesus and His Apostles introduced several doctrinal symbols which represent the most basic precept of the Christian faith, which is salvation by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; Eph. 2:8). Baptism, laying on of hands and Holy Communion are sacred rites which carry a deep and

precious meaning for all true believers. They are given as directives in the New Testament and are to be faithfully observed by all who experience true conversion.

Baptism is a very striking symbol of the miracle of conversion. An individual is immersed in water, usually before a host of witnesses. The water represents a grave where our former sinful nature (now dead) is symbolically buried into the death of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). As the new child of God comes up out of the water, he arises unto a new life in Christ Jesus in the "likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:5). Baptism also reflects "the answer of a good conscience toward God" (1 Pet. 3:21). This is accomplished when a heart has been thoroughly cleansed of sin and has fulfilled the scriptural obligations to be at peace with God and man. Baptism should be viewed as a very important part of the conversion process. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Baptism constitutes the rebirth in water which is to follow and confirm spiritual rebirth. The salvation of the repentant thief on the cross just before his death (Luke 23:43) reveals that an individual can be saved without baptism if lack of time and unusual circumstances prevent it, but this does not minimize the importance of this sacred rite.

The "laying on of hands" is one of the principles of the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 6:1-2). After baptism, the elder (1 Tim. 4:14) lays hands on the convert's head and prays over him. This represents being sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise until the redemption of the purchased possession (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).

The Holy Spirit is given to every cleansed and truly converted soul (Acts 5:32) and serves as a seal, marking the individual as a child of God. This sets the newly redeemed person apart unto God, consecrated to a life of sanctification and service unto Him, and it places him under God's protection. The consecration prayer and laying on of hands provide a specific step (like baptism) which then symbolizes and acknowledges the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul reminded Timothy of the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit by this exhortation: "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (2 Tim. 1:6).

Holy Communion is one of the most solemn and impressive rites which can be experienced by God's children. The Lord Jesus introduced this sacred rite when He gathered with His disciples in the upper room on the same night He was betrayed (Matt. 26:26-29). Later, the Apostle Paul gave specific instructions to the church regarding this important practice: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come" (1 Cor. 11:26). The Lord's Supper is a time when believers of like precious faith gather together to eat of the bread (symbolizing Christ's body) and to drink of the fruit of the vine (symbolizing Christ's blood) in a solemn remembrance of the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. By partaking of this holy supper believers remember and deeply appreciate Christ's suffering on their behalf, and they are drawn closer to Him and to one another in the "common union" of their faith.

Let us be deeply grateful to God for the precious doctrinal symbols which He has given to those who love and obey Him. The worship symbols and other visible symbolic attributes of the Christian faith will be covered in a subsequent editorial.

about our prayers — how many were answered, how were they answered, and how many yet remain with Him to be answered at a later date? Look for the times when you have seen His hand in your life, and then be thankful for the many blessings He has provided us.

Again this month there have been many activities. Each month a birthday party is held for those celebrating birthdays within the month. There are several groups attending a Bible study each month and many enjoyed the special program presented by the Bethel Lutheran pre-school class. A big day was February 12 when 101 residents had their pictures taken. Can you imagine the preparation that goes into the dressing, combing hair and grooming of 101 people? Well, it was an exciting time and very busy!

A large group of residents went out to eat February 14 and a smaller group had a special meal prepared for them at the Home. The basketball team participated in the SEAPCO Basketball Tournament and enjoyed themselves. Then, if that isn't enough activity, there was horseback riding for some and swimming for others.

Birthdays for April are: At ACHH: Jane Kohler (1), Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Jaleen Mogler (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27), Zita Palko (27); At Oakwood: Sonja

Metzger (14); no birthdays in April at our CRS's.

As we say farewell for this month, let's remember that God made time but man (with the help of Satan) made haste. God took time to rest. We need to, "Take Time To Be Holy," and refresh our spiritual lives.

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL

Joan Meister

"Suffer little children to come unto me." Luke 18:16. When our Lord Jesus spoke these words to His disciples, He was reminding them that children, too, need to know about Him. So many times that fact is so evident when we are aware of the home lives of some of our students. Many are from broken homes or single parents, and some have no real religious training until they come to the Preschool. We try to encourage the parents to continue this training at home, and not just leave it up to the school. Even in our own homes, how real is Jesus to our children? Do we talk of Him and live our lives to show we believe in Him all week long and not just on Sunday? "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

During the month of March, we will be talking about the five senses and colors. Our lessons will center

around these themes, and hopefully we will learn to be more thankful for the gifts of sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Serena Sauder (Peoria, IL) who has come down to work at the Preschool for awhile. We appreciate her help during this busy time and thank her for her willingness to come. May she feel the Lord's blessings during her time here.

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### GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Jeff Thames

He smiled. I approached. Love real. Eyes bright. He teetered. I extended. Handshake. Holy kiss. "Greetings brother," in unison.

He spoke, "How is Jolly Jeff and the terrific Thames tribe?"

"I wish I had your way with words," I thought. I knew I couldn't match that salutation with an equally witty and encouraging word. I was simply trying to think of an adjective for Uriel. But, none came.

"Doing well," I answered. I continued, "Good day. Wasn't it?" referring to the baptisms of two former residents, John Willis and Stephanie Foster.

"GRRREAT DAY!" Uriel resounded as he swung his right arm across his body as if to put an ex-

## EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN AT GATEWAY WOODS

We will soon have need for a full-time Educational Coordinator at Gateway Woods. This brother or sister would provide a liaison role between the local school system and the Home, tutor the young people with daily homework assignments, maintain the library and coordinate the volunteer program.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the field. We offer competitive salaries, benefits and continuing education opportunities. For further information and a job description, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Please prayerfully consider this work. It provides an excellent opportunity to work with and impact the lives of troubled young people.

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

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
11520 Souder Road  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219/627-2923

## GATEWAY WOODS

*Apostolic Christian Children's Home*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1992  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 8, 1992

clamation point on his enthusiasm for saved souls.

I had to agree. John and Stephanie's testimonies and baptisms had been very uplifting to all of us at Gateway Woods. Now I had to leave.

"Take care Uriel. I love you."

"I love you too, Bro. Jeff!"

"Farewell brother."

"Fare Well!"

Those words echo in my ears as I pen this page. "Farewell brother."

He will never hear those words, spoken less than a day before his death.

All of us at Gateway Woods will miss former administrator, supporter and friend of children, Uriel Gehring. He served and encouraged us for many years and we are thankful that he can see his Lord Jesus who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Our "precious Ida" Metzger was directed by the Lord to go and serve her cousin, Keith Kellenberger, and his family in Elgin as a "housemom" in the absence of their mother, Sharon. We will pray for you and the Kellenberger family, Ida. Thanks again for your love.

There are currently four staff positions which we are trusting God to fill. Ida's Assistant Houseparent position is presently open, while Shay Nelson has recently announced her intention to leave her duties in early May. Sue Grusy will finish her role as Educational Coordinator at the end of May, and the newly created Foster Care Caseworker post is also available. See the notices in the front of this issue for more details.

We had the wonderful opportunity to serve lunch, discuss our program, and give tours to the elder brothers and their wives who came to Leo for the Midwinter Conference. Thank you, brothers, for your labor in the Lord and for your ongoing support of our program in your home congregations.

Our Board of Directors has established an Educational Loan Fund for members, their children and friends who are enrolled in college studies leading to a degree in the human services. Interested persons should contact their local elder, Children's Home representative, or Gateway Woods for more details.

Two special brothers from Bloomington recently brought and installed two garage door openers in the East and West houses. The Lord knows them by name and we will let Him be their reward.

On campus, Jason E. has moved to the West House while Patrick M. is our latest addition to the New House where his sister, Darlene, is already residing.

Thank you all for your prayerful support. Farewell.

## -- NOTICE --

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

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 132, 307 West First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
Phone (309) 448-2416

or

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

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

#### Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 —	13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 —	10,812
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 —	18,247
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 —	25,969
Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 —	25,509
Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 —	25,501
Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 —	32,677

#### Bibles Distributed — Ninth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1991 —	2951	2951
September 1991 —	3318	6269
October 1991 —	3634	9903
November 1991 —	1856	11,759
December 1991 —	4632	16,391
January 1992 —	4207	20,598
February 1992 —	3716	24,314

\*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.

### ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

We've enjoyed many visitors in the past month, including those from the following churches: Forrest, Tremont, Eureka and Peoria, IL; Mansfield, OH; Fort Lau-

derdale, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Kiowa, KS; and Nashville, TN. We are thankful for all of our visitors who help to fill the seats in our little church.

During the month of February, we've begun a Bible study series on Christian Living on Wednesday evenings. We've been talking about and searching in the Bible the importance of prayer in a Christian's daily life.

On February 15, a Sunday school teacher's meeting was held and our monthly potluck lunch was February 16.

We ask your prayers for Bro. Winifred Kelley and Kendra Coulter, who have spent time in the hospital in the past month.

On February 8, we enjoyed having Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), his wife and daughter with us in Athens. We look forward to his warm smile and the Word of God taught to us through him.

We welcome Sis. Serena Sauder (Peoria, IL) to our Athens congregation. She plans to spend time in Athens, working part-time at the preschool. Serena's always been a special person in Athens.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron & Ev Hoerr

No matter who stands at the pulpit, we are assured of a good God-inspired message. We thank visiting Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Nate Leman (Tucson), Carl Wyss, Ken Lawson and Richard Aberle for sharing God's Word.

Our sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Janet Farney on the death of her dad. They were able to fly to Kansas for funeral services.

Sympathy to Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice on his sister's death. Family members flew to Bluffton, IN for her funeral.

Congratulations to Bro. Ted and Sis. Madeline Knochel on their 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Ted is having health problems and has not been out and about lately.

Congratulations and best wishes to Ray and Wendy Blunier. A reception was recently held in their honor.

Little Victoria Anne Roth was

born February 3, to Bro. Todd and Sis. Jill Roth. Jarah and Kent are glad to get their turn helping care for her. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres and Bro. Earl and Sis. Marilyn Roth.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good." We are thanking Him and praising Him! Surgical patients Sis. Doris Kokanovich, Sis. Dorothy Kraft and Sis. Janet Farney are doing good. Bro. Melvin Miller and Bro. Adrian Kellenberger are taking treatments and need our prayers.

Before our rain, daily visits of our bird friends were awesome. A stately looking mockingbird perched atop a pyrachantha bush taking a reddish-orange berry in his beak; a hummingbird's ruby red throat glaring in the bright sunshine. Friendly ladder back woodpeckers entertain on bare branches while Grackles enjoy green grass below. Our Lord made them all for our enjoyment.

On February 9, we heard the betrothal of Bro. Terry Baum and Sis. Janeen Hari (Tucson). Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL) are his parents. Daryle and June Hari (Tucson) are Janeen's.

May our dear Lord be with our elders as they gather in Leo February 20. His direction will keep all of us on our uphill walk.

"We need Thee every hour." Our Sunday school enjoyed their friends from Tucson and California very much. It warms our hearts to see our youth enjoy the better things of life.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

On Sunday, February 9, we heard the of the engagement of Sis. Janeen Hari (Daryle and June Hari) to Bro. Terry Baum (Phoenix), son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody (Morton). We ask many blessings on this young couple as they prepare themselves for marriage, God bless you both!

Our friend, Art Krozner, still lies in a hospital bed. We are praying for his wife, Millie, as she waits by his bedside.

Our pancake supper was held recently and the women enjoyed

watching the men cook and clean for a change.

Sis. Sandy Bauer was hospitalized recently. She is home now and can be counted among the healthy. We are thankful for her full recovery.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Jon Kekonovich (Phoenix), Elder Bro. Richard Schupach (Phoenix), and Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). Bro. Jon and Bro. Richard were here reading the memorandum to us. We ask a blessing on each one.

A singing was enjoyed by everyone at Bro. Loren Knapp's house this month. Many of our winter visitors were with us.

---

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Marian Petrovic

Our congregation has been blessed with many visitors these past weeks. Their presence has warmed our hearts and brought us much joy as we shared the love of our Lord Jesus with each other.

Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena). May the Lord richly bless these dear ministering brothers and their wives for continuing faithfully in the Lord's work.

Many thanks to all in our Phoenix church who put forth many efforts for a blessed and fun-filled weekend for our Bible class youth. The weekend of February 15 and 16 will linger long in the thoughts of those who participated. A special acknowledgment of our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Sunday school teachers for their love for the Word and the desire to impart the same to our youth. May God bless you.

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### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Eric and Marcel Huber

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) spent the weekend of February 1-2 with us to share the memorandum. We are grateful for his continual willingness to serve our congregation.

We were privileged to have Bro. Howard Plattner and his family (Wichita, KS) visit on a recent Sunday. Our thanks to him for his ministry.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

"... And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors... For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

St. Matthew 6:12, 14-15

As our thoughts turn to preparing our hearts for the Lord's Supper, we surely have much to be thankful for, but also we must ask for the Lord's forgiveness where we have gone astray, or disappointed Thee in any way.

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

I Corinthians 10:21

Our hearts are always saddened when there is a loss of loved ones:

Sis. Rose Luginbuhl passed away Wednesday, January 15. She was born in Wyssachen, Switzerland and came to America in 1904. She leaves a sister, Louie Ballasy (Ellington); and many nieces and nephews.

Alfred Ludwig passed away Friday, January 17. Husband of Dorothy Ceperly Ludwig. Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Robert Ludwig (Ellington), Clifford Ludwig (Manchester) and Thomas Ludwig (Ellington); two brothers, Walter Ludwig and Raymond Ludwig (both of Tolland); five sisters, Sis. Ruth Zahner and Sis. Edna Gottier (both of Ellington), Bertha Ludwig (Vernon), Gertrude Newman (Florida), and Helen McGill (California); nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Bro. Henry Lanz passed away Tuesday, January 21 at the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman, OH. He was the widower of Marie Isch Lanz. He leaves two sons, Ralph Lanz (Litchfield, OH) and

Henry K. Lanz (New York, NY); a daughter, Phyllis Lanz (Ellington); a sister, Hattie Schrock (Mediapolis, IN); four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

With each passing of a life, there is a new birth.

Meagan LaNae was born to Sis. JoAnn and Bro. Scott Luginbuhl. Maternal grandparents are Sis. Beverly and Bro. Edwin Gerber; paternal grandparents are Sis. Alma and Bro. Ed Luginbuhl.

Courtney Lynn was born to Leslie and Lisa Luginbuhl. Maternal grandparents are Rose McMann (Stratford, NH) and David McMann (Grovetown, NH); paternal grandparents are Sis. Alma and Bro. Ed Luginbuhl.

JaNae Sara was born to Sis. Lori and Bro. Steve Bahler. Maternal grandparents are Sis. Beverly and Bro. Edwin Gerber; paternal grandparents are Sis. Maxine and Bro. Lee Bahler.

Samuel John was born to Sis. Maureen and Bro. John Gerber. Maternal grandparents are Sis. Millie and Bro. Melvin Gerber; paternal grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Virkler.

May the Lord be with all our newborn children coming into this world not knowing what lies ahead of them. May we always strive to teach our children to know and love Jesus Christ.

"I place myself in Jesus' hands, And there abide forever". (Zion's Harp #177) Our dear Bro. Al Schneider recently underwent open heart surgery. Although Bro. Al is recovering, we trust the Lord will be with him during this time, and that he can feel his arms of love around him.

We appreciate Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for having been in our midst in Rockville, and thank him for his time spent ministering the Word of Life.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

This has been a special month for us. We were able to assemble three times since the last article was written. Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) was here on business

over the weekend of January 26. Also visiting us that Sunday was Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and his family.

Our ministers in February were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) Other visitors were from Rittman, OH; Lester, IA; Philadelphia, PA, and Rockville, CT.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Ed Stoll (703) 494-3955.

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

We are all so happy for Sis. Amy Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), whose engagement to Bro. Win Stoller (Peoria, IL) was recently announced. We are confident that the Lord will bless their life together and His presence will from the "three-fold cord" that strengthens a marriage. Sis. Amy is currently living in Champaign, IL, and finishing up a college education.

On the other hand, we are saddened to have a young family move away. Bro. Eric and Sis. Elaine Olson and baby Rachel have relocated to Melbourne, FL. Our small church really misses their cheerfulness and many talents. May God guide them and provide new friends and caring neighbors to ease the transition. We hope they will return to visit often.

Our bi-weekly Bible study is exploring the book of Romans. Having studied only the first chapter so far, we were astounded at the relevance to today's society. We'd like to thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for participating in our discussion, as well as ministering on Sunday.

Also ministering to us last month were Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Joe Braker (Morton,

IL) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

Our prayers go out for those who have been hospitalized in February: Bro. Al Schneider and our friend and resident, Jerry Steffen, come to mind.

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**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**  
**Marvin and Rhea Steffen**

We have one again been blessed with many visiting ministers this month. Elder Bros. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) shared with us. Also Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), James Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Will Schieler (Milford, IN) brought God's Word to us. We thank these dear brothers and their families for traveling in the Lord's service to bring us the truth.

We held our business meeting recently, and thank those who served in the various positions and ask God's loving direction for those who are assuming duties.

Young Dathan Eisenmann (Dave Jr. and Sue) of Sarasota recently underwent surgery and has been through much. We all should say an extra prayer for him and his family. Bro. Dave Sr. and Sis. Kaye are grandparents to Dathan.

The congregation held an annual clean-up day February 15, and had a group of over 40 people help out, enabling everything to get done that had been planned.

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." (Psalm 147:1) Many have been gathering to sing at a local nursing home on Tuesday or Friday evenings, and they welcome all who wish to take part. What a blessing it must be, for those who can no longer get out as they used to, hearing the precious, inspiring hymns.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
**Gala Gerber - Suellen Ott**  
Our church benches are filled

and the singing in the sanctuary is just a taste of heaven — absolutely beautiful!

What a joy and blessing it is to have so many loved ones down to spend time with us! There are many familiar faces and perhaps, some we have met for the first time. Such a blessed people we are to be able to travel the many miles and yet still feel the "Common Bond" — Jesus!

Thankful for the brethren who are so willing to serve us in the ministry! Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Rick Platmen (Peoria, IL), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) have each shared in bringing us God's Word. Bless them and their wives most abundantly dear father.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Bro. Sid Leman. He has experienced surgery and we pray for God's healing powers!

Viola Leman would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, phone calls and all who visited her in the hospital and at home. She asks for God's blessings to be with each of you!

We want to ask for God's nearness and richest blessings to be with Krista Price and Jon Campbell as they have become one. May they always feel His guidance!

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**  
**Peggy Camp**

We certainly appreciate our visiting ministers for their encouragement in the Word of God and in everything we do. We thank Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

We rejoice with Steve Ochs as he has begun his walk with the Lord. May God be his daily guide.

Services are held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel every Sunday. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-

4554) or Bro. Mark Gerst (404-339-4454) for further information

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**  
**Carol Steffen**

"His call we obey as Abram of old, not knowing the way, but faith makes us bold; where'er He shall lead us, the way He doth guide; He knows best who rules us: "The Lord will provide!" As we read the third verse to the song "The Lord Will Provide" (Zion's Harp #86), we are comforted by our Lord's promise. Recently, we have been researching getting church pews instead of the theater seats there were there. While the brothers were talking to different church pew companies, it became known unto us that our church in Milford, IN, had remodeled and gave some of their old pews to our church in Lexington, KY. The Lexington congregation has not used them and asked if we could use them. They had 18 pews to give us — the exact number we needed. The Lord does provide! Bro. and Sis. Lester Huber so willingly gave of themselves to bring the pews all the way up to us. Not wanting to miss an opportunity of fellowship, we had a church supper and a short singing when they came. A heartfelt thank you to all who made this possible.

The church pews came in handy on the following Sunday when we had approximately 110 people. Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) came to minister unto us and brought along his wife, Sis. Marjorie, along with several others from Gridley. Also, that same Sunday, we were privileged to have the Champaign young groups with us. We had greetings from 9 different churches. A very uplifting day was enjoyed by all.

On that same day, our dear Sis. Stacy Miller was announced to Bro. David Leman (Roanoke, IL). We will miss Sis. Stacy's friendly smile, yet we are thrilled for them and wish them God's richest blessings.

Other visiting ministers whom we appreciate for coming to support us were Bros. Bill Gudeman, Ron Schambach, and Gary Anliker (all from Elgin, IL).

After going Christmas caroling in December, our church decided it



would be nice to go sing at a local nursing home on a regular basis. Every fourth Sunday has been set aside to go sing after church. At the last singing, we were uplifted by the residents and the residents were uplifted by the children. Afterwards, we went back to church for pizza.

Attendance has been 48, 57, 110, 41, 33 people respectively. We really appreciate visitors! Also, if anyone is looking for employment, prayerfully consider our area.

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**ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
Tudy Schmied**

A topical Bible study on "How Satan Attacks the Family" challenged the hearers to consider their daily lives and relationships. The sessions served as a reminder to examine priorities, use of time, communication and parenting skills, and marital commitments.

On January 26 our congregation rejoiced in the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Daren Yergler (Bro. Max and Sis. Donna, Cissna Park) and Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Shiela, Bluffton, IN). May God bless them as they prepare for their wedding July 19.

Closer to home, a work team comprised of volunteers from Bloomington and eleven other A.C. churches is practically rebuilding a home for the "Home Sweet Home Mission" in Bloomington. When finished, this transitional home will house families who would otherwise have to stay in separate quarters at the Mission. The Oakland Charity House, which is located near the Mission, will permit a family to remain together and to receive meals at the Mission. We are thankful to all who have assisted with this labor of love.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Les and Barb Fehr**

On January 22, we had our annual meeting. Bro. Jack Knobloch was elected to replace Bro. Alfred Hausmann as trustee and Bro. Fred Hausmann replaces Bro. Dennis

Pyles as usher. We thank the outgoing brothers for their labors on our behalf and offer our encouragement and support to the brothers who are filling the positions.

Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly Kieser were blessed with a little boy February 5 named Andrew Robert. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Charles and Judy Geary (Wyoming).

Our prayers are with Bro. John Ehnle as he recovers from burns he received while starting a shop heater.

Regretfully, we said farewell this month to two dear families. Sis. Jenny Knobloch and her children have moved to Morton. Also, Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Staley and their family have decided to make Peoria their home church. We will miss all of them as each had their special place in our Bradford congregation.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for their efforts in bringing us the Word of God. They were Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury).

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**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN  
Margie Heintz**

During the last weekend of January our congregation was blessed to hear the testimony of Dean Kaisner (son of Robert Kaisner and Colleen Tholen) and to witness his baptism the following day. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) came to assist our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand. We were all encouraged and renewed in faith as we heard of another miracle of God continuing to call souls and to change lives.

Our congregation joins with two young families as they each rejoice at the birth of their new baby. Benjamin Charles is their first child, born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia Koch February 12. Carrie Jo is the second daughter born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel February 22. We are awed by the miracle of birth and are joyful at God's promises.

". . . He shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his

bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Isaiah: 40:11

February has brought another addition to our congregation. Bro. Dan Schlatter has moved to Clark-Lindsey Village in Urbana from Forrest. His son-in-law and daughter, Bro. Denny and Sis. Cheryl Mangers, and his grandchildren are glad that God has led him here, and we as a congregation join them in welcoming him. We appreciate his smile and his encouraging words!

The engagement of Bro. Win Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy, Peoria) and Sis. Amy Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, Fort Lauderdale, FL) was recently announced. We pray that they will continue to seek God's guidance as they plan their new life together.

Our visiting ministers in the past month, in addition to Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, were Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL). "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Kathy Schlatter**

Recently our family has had its share of stiff necks. They really limit our mobility and usefulness. There are several ways to deal with them. One is direct massage at the "crick." We have to do that for ourselves because no one else knows the spot. There is also massage by someone else, which means we have to tell what feels best. Some people are better and some worse at listening and responding to those needs. And there are heat and rest. Best of all, however, is prevention. There are exercises one can do to make such stiffness less likely to develop. Obviously, we are warned about becoming stiffnecked, and the Bible gives us information about examining ourselves. Sometimes, though, we may need (knead) the touch of a brother or sister to focus on more than a single error and to help change an attitude which has crept in, giving us pain and limit-

ing our spiritual movement. Always, the heat of the chastening Spirit and our removal from the pressures of the world help free us from our stiffness. Yet, we must be aware of preventive exercises, too: prayer without ceasing, reading daily in the Word, giving ourselves moment by moment to His will and not ours, and looking at others through the prism of Christ's love and sacrifice. Although there are remedies, our Father would rather have us ever useful and ready to respond to His call, never stiff-necked. ". . . what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul . . . Circumcise therefore . . . you heart, and be no more stiff-necked." Deuteronomy 10:12, 16

We are grateful to our Lord and Savior and to Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for his visit and ministry. We rejoice in the faithfulness of our ministering brethren.

We are often privileged to have brethren here for a time and then they return home. Yet their influence remains. Bro. Dave Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen) has returned to Roanoke, IL. We miss him, but we remember with appreciation our fellowship time together and his contribution to our church family. We wish him and his fiancée Sis. Stacy Miller (Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev, Valparaiso, IN) the blessings of the Lord both now and always. May they prove the Lord's existence by their walk together. Sis. Tina Leman, also from Roanoke, has been student teaching in our area, living with Arline McMahan. We are glad for the chance to be with her. May the Lord direct each one's steps.

Sis. Pearl Bozzay is replacing Sis. Judy Snyder on our kitchen committee. We are thankful to Sis. Judy for her term of willing service and look forward to Sis. Pearl's addition to carry on. May the Lord continue to give His peaceful order to all these things done in His name.

I have a friend, a former student, who was born in Mexico. He is not the oldest of his family, but he

has four brothers and two sisters who are younger than he is. In many ways he finds his struggle with two jobs and college overwhelming, but he always remembers his responsibility to these younger siblings. That keeps him going sometimes when he would much rather quit. He knows that he alone of his older siblings has a vision beyond the hand-to-mouth existence of his parents, a desire for a better quality of life. He perseveres many times for their welfare and their future, knowing the influence of his deeds. As members of the household of faith, we need to be aware of our responsibilities. We are not only responsible for our thoughts and deeds; we have others watching us, many who would be part of the body but are weighing, observing, questioning. What happens to us when we do not like something in the church? Do we get others to agree with us, causing division? Do we become offended? Do we eventually leave? How does that affect the vision of family members, close friends, those we did not even know were watching us? Where will they look for a better quality of life? Will they look to the Lord Jesus Christ at all, if we have not let Him help us with our differences? We must be careful (I, first of all) not to become arrogant. We are taught submission. Prayer and communication with our brethren can cover many difficulties. "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." I Corinthians 12:15-18 May we search, through the help of the Lord and our brethren, for our gifts and our best use of them for His glory without denying our household of faith. We must persevere for His sake, for ours, for theirs for whom Christ died.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Karol Stock - Bev Knapp

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me as I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee  
Pure warm and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my Guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

Hymns of Zion #117

As I think on these words, I think of the various stages we pass through in our spiritual walk of life. As young people, the trials we experience can be very difficult. If, as babes in Christ, we learn to face struggles by looking up in faith, they can be turned into joy and blessings in spite of trouble. Then as we pass on the time of marriage and child bearing, those trials may change, but they can still present great challenges to us as believers, and then, as the children grow older, so do our concerns increase. Finally, as the physical body begins to fail and we experience ill health, the struggles again can seem so overwhelming. It seems each step is a building block to the next phase of life and I've heard it said that we need all the trials in life to prepare us for old age and the struggles that come with it.

So it is, that we must continually look upward in faith. Friends, brothers and sisters in faith and the people around us can offer a certain amount of encouragement and comfort, but when all else fails, God's nearness and strength will sustain us regardless of how severe the trial.

The month we have many who

are facing these experience. Joshua and Nick Sauder, the young children of Mark and Sherri Sauder were both hospitalized at the same time. Others who were hospitalized this month were Sis. Clara Vogel and Sis. Laura Hodel for medical care and Wes Knapp, Bros. Harry Bauer, Urban Bauer and Melvin Stock for surgery. We pray they can all feel God's rich grace and look forward to recovery. Others who have been facing the trials of aging are our Bro. Herbert Hofer who was hospitalized and is now residing at the Iroquois Memorial Resident Home. Also, the Geyer sisters, Lillian and Emily, as well as Bro. Harry Bauer have moved to the Heartland Care Center in Paxton for the present. We pray they can each feel God's grace and strength in our Savior divine! With His help, the darkness can be turned to day!

Among those in our congregation who are enjoying the sunshine of God's blessings are Scott and Debbie Beer. They are very thankful for their healthy little girl, Christina Michelle, born January 23. Her older brother Jeffrey is enjoying her, too.

As parents, we have many responsibilities as well as opportunities to share our faith with our children. Many timely thoughts on rearing children were shared with us by Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) at our monthly Bible study this month. When we are faced with the concerns that come with children, let us continue to look up to our Lord for guidance. One way we can help them is to encourage activities with others from our church. This opportunity was afforded our young people when they were invited to Tremont February 9. We appreciate their hospitality.

An example of faith and the joy it brings is exemplified in the lives of Bro. Daren Yergler (Bro. Max and Sis. Donna, Cissna Park) and Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila, Bluffton, IN). Their engagement was announced January 26 and we wish them the ongoing love of God in their lives.

Also being led in faith, two couples have left our congregation to live elsewhere. Bro. Matt and

Sis. Betty Obergfel have moved to the Peoria area and Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann are now in the Bloomington-Normal area. We wish them God's continued nearness.

A soul in our midst who has seen darkness turned into day is our new brother in faith, Merle Eisenmann. His zeal and love for God shows us clearly how faith can lighten the burdens we face along life's way. Visiting ministers who were with us January 26 when he was proved and baptized were Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke), and Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank them for their labors.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

##### Myra Steffen - Joanne Roth

Born to Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp February 1 was Jess James Knapp. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield). Also, the new addition to Hal and Rhonda Payne's family is Shelby-Lynn. February 11 was Shelby's birthdate and her excited brother and sister are Derek and Brandi. Grandparents are Richard and Edith Payne (Eureka) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein. We are always so thankful to hear that each baby has arrived safe and healthy and know that each precious baby is a gift from God.

Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) visited with us this month and shared God's Word with us. We want to thank Bro. Bruce in his efforts in bringing us the Word of God.

The foster child, Tiffany, who has been staying with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart has been returned to her parents. The have asked that each of us say a prayer for baby Tiffany and her parents that they may feel the strengthening presence of God in their lives.

Give Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

His call we obey  
As Abram of old,  
Not knowing our way,  
But faith makes us bold;  
Where'er He shall lead us,  
The way He doth guide;  
He knows best who rules us;  
"The Lord will provide!"

Zion's Harp #86, vs. 3

We altogether, welcome Sis. Ida Metzger who has felt moved of God to lend a helping hand as housekeeper in the home of Bro. Keith Kellenberger. She was formerly employed at Gateway Woods (Leo, IN).

Through slides and narrative our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen gave us the opportunity to see that the Lord is working in the hearts of Eastern Europeans. It was humbling to see that the brethren under Communist rule have remained truly sincere in the worship of our precious Lord. Even as he recounted that they have prayed for us in our prosperity, we likewise continue to pray for them, that their faith will not waiver as they begin to enjoy religious freedom.

We offer sincere condolences to Fannie Wieland in the sudden passing of her dear sister, Caroline, 80, with whom she made her home. Burial services were in Morton, IL, February 19.

Again this month, sickness has befallen several of our loved ones. Bro. Harvey Schurter (Sis. Ruth) and Sisters Frances Kaptain and Stephany Welzien (Rick) required hospital care and we pray it may be the Lord's will to restore reasonable health and strength.

Our friends and brethren appreciated the love and inspiration of God as our visiting ministers, Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) willingly shared the Word.

Thank you: My appreciation and thanks to everyone who remembered me with prayers, visits, flowers and gifts during my stay in the hospital and since returning home. God bless each of you for your love

and thoughtfulness.

Sis. Frances Kaptain

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Dori Blunier**

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

II Corinthians 9:7

As we listened to the reading of the conference conclusions, we were reminded that we should give bountifully, cheerfully, quietly, and regularly. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) spent the evening with us and shared with us many good thoughts. We were glad that he was also willing to be with us on the following Sunday. The whole church enjoyed a pot-luck and hymn singing that evening.

On Friday, January 24, some from our congregation went to the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped for services. We were very cordially welcomed at the door by the residents, and Bro. Steve Martin described to all of us how wonderful it will be to be welcomed by Jesus at heaven's door.

On January 19, the engagement of Bro. Dave Rocke, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge, and Sis. Eva Szabo, Bro. Janos and Sis. Eva, of Ersekscanad, Hungary, was announced. Our prayers are certainly with them as they take this step in faith, and as Sis. Eva makes her plans to move to our country.

In January, we were thankful for the visit of ministering brother Rex Frieden from Lamar, MO.

We are always concerned and pray for our hospital patients which were Bro. Jesse Getz, Bro. Lewis Martin, Bro. Dan Hartter, and Bro. Lee Blunier.

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**  
**Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr**

We are grateful for our visiting ministers each month. We want to thank Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka), Steve Baner (Gridley) and Gary Endress (Bradford) for being with us. What a blessing it is to receive

the words of help and encouragement.

Recently we said farewell to Bro. Ben and Sis. Nina Steffen as they have moved to Peoria to live. May the blessings of our Heavenly Father go with them as they reside there.

We are thankful our Lord is still working in hearts and turning souls to repentance. Rick Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) has answered God's call. We pray that he will seek God's help in making a good beginning in his new life for Him. Rick is residing with his aunt and uncle in Sabetha, KS.

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis Fehr are the happy, first-time parents of a little girl, Sarah Lynn, born January 25. We pray that they may have many joys with her and "bring (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine Steidinger along with Amber and Kaleb, welcome a little bundle from heaven into their hearts and home. Jake Erwin was born January 31. Happy grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger.

On January 21, Sis. Lena Steffen passed away at Fairview Haven Nursing Home. Surviving are two brothers, Bro. Alf and Bro. Ezra Steffen and one sister, Sis. Lydia Bachtold. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

Those who have recently spent time in the hospital were Bro. Ben Zehr, Sis. Ada Hartman and Sis. Barb Meiss. We pray for God's healing touch.

We wish to thank each one for their deeds of kindness and love shown our loved one during her illness and passing. It was all greatly appreciated and may God bless you.

Sis. Lena Steffen family  
 Bro. Ben and Sis. Nina Steffen

wish to thank one and all for all the words of kindness and all that has been done while they spent their youthful days in the Fairbury area. They will never be forgotten.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**  
**Sherri Kelson**  
**Sandra Schneider**

We tarry in this blest and tranquil union,  
 And thus united speak the farewell word.  
 Ye loved ones, now the parting hour is nearing,  
 The farewell greeting sounds in one accord.  
 Our hearts are yet in close communion beating;  
 In Jesus' name we bid the farewell greeting.

Zion's Harp #114

Our congregation joined together in singing this hymn to bid farewell to our dear Bro. Dan Schlatter as he is moving to the Champaign-Urbana area. He will be missed in Forrest but we wish him well in his new home and church.

Sis. Leah Honegger, Bro. Elmer Ifft (Sis. Emma) and Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Helen) have been hospitalized. May they each one feel God's nearness as they wait for the healing of the body.

We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin) for their faithful service in bringing the Holy Word to us.

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
**Barb Brim**

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:"  
 I John 3:1

We, as children of God, can hardly comprehend the nature and complexity of God's love, yet we see it every day in our children's faces and feel in our hearts the peace his

love brings. How awesome is His name!

Two dear friends were united in marriage at the fellowship hall the 15th of this month, Heather Plattner (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner) and Kris Swords (Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Swords), exchanged vows and are happily married. We wish them God's abundant blessings.

Congratulations to Bro. Greg and Jill Wagner on the January 17th birth of their daughter, Bethany Rose. Bethany has two sisters, Ellie and Kathy. The proud grandparents are Ray and Sis. Vi Wagner, and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna Koch (Tremont, IL).

We are pleased that Bro. Daniel Wiegand, Harold Debolt, and Steve Fehr are all home from the hospital this month, and doing well. Bro. Larry Bauman is due to have surgery and we wish him Godspeed in his recovery. Our prayers and thoughts are also for Sis. Jackie Knobloch and Bro. Dean, for her swift recovery. We miss you Jackie, and want you back with us real soon!

A special thank you to all who helped at the time when our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Bro. Edwin Hohulin, was in the hospital and since his death. Thank you for cards, gifts, flowers, telephone calls, visits, prayers, and donations made in his memory. May God bless you richly for all the kindness shown to us.

Sis. Elsie Hohulin and family Thank you. We would like to thank our children and grandchildren for a special 50th Anniversary and to our many relatives, family, and friends that came from far and near, for the love, gifts, and cards, that we received. It was deeply appreciated. May God bless you.

Bro. Ivan and Sis. Pearl Nohl

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

Recently in a worship service we were reminded in Psalms 50 of God's magnificence. Out of the heavenly Zion, He "shines forth as the perfection of beauty". That we as mortals can commune with God,

and obtain salvation by His grace, remains as our greatest treasure. The last verse in this chapter is a fitting conclusion: "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation (lifestyle) aright will I show the salvation of God."

On January 22, Melvin Alto (Nevada) was laid to rest. He was the wife of Ida Kaupp Alt who was buried in Gridley less than a year ago. Their only child, Mary Alt Toleno (Las Vegas, NV) survives. Sis. Ida Alt was raised in Gridley and the family resided here briefly in the late 1940's.

Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz became the parents of Mark Russell Kuntz who was born January 22. He is the younger brother of Jacob, 6, Stephanie, 4, David, 3, and Nathan, 1.

Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz, and Harold and Joyce Wells, all of Gridley.

A first child was born February 10 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Peggy Stoller. He was named Derek Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Vyra Stoller, and ministering Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Stoller, all of our Gridley congregation.

On January 5, Sis. Krista Roth of the Goodfield congregation became the wife of Bro. Brian Steffen. She is the daughter of Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth (Goodfield) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Emma Lou Steffen (Lake Bloomington). Our best wishes are extended to the newly married couple for many years of happiness with Christ as the head of their home.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation had cause to rejoice with the angels in heaven at the baptism of Scott Kramer and Don Smith January 22. We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance. We are so happy to welcome them into our spiritual family.

Our Bro. Gus Laidig passed away January 20. Our prayers for comfort are with his wife, Sis. Lydia; his daughters, Donna Shreve,

Phyllis Peasley and Shirley Skaugstad; his son, Theodore; his brother, Wilhelm; his sister, Lina Kowalzik; and his 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Caroline Wieland passed away February 15. May God comfort her sister, Verena (Fanny) Wieland of Elgin.

The announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Terry Baum (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody, Morton) to Sis. Janeen Hari (Daryl and June, Tuscon, AZ). We rejoice with them and are thankful that another home dedicated to serving Christ will be established.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers and their families for being with us this month. They were: Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Martha Glaser wished to thank everyone for remembering her during her recent surgery and recovery. The prayers, cards, gifts, visits, and food were very much appreciated.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Jim David

"Now it is accomplished! I now be come free;  
From sin and transgression  
redeemed I shall be;  
The prince of this world, he  
enslaveth his own,  
A Christian thro' Christ has his  
liberty won."

Zion's Harp #209

On February 8 and 9, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of five dear souls: Kim Bowen, Penny Geyer, Angie Scholl, Molly Stickling, and Brice Teubel. We welcome them into the body of Christ, and we pray that God's love will be with them always.

The Lord blessed Bro. Ed and Sis. Sara Dingledine with their first child, Rebecca Jean, February 20. Rebecca's grandparents are Gary Dingledine and Norma Millard, and

Bro. Les and Sis. Eunice Unsicker (Peoria).

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Bro. Winston Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Amy Sutter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy, Fort Lauderdale, FL). Both are students at the University of Illinois. We wish God's blessings upon their marriage, and His guidance throughout their lives together.

We wish to thank the following ministers for visiting the Peoria church and proclaiming God's eternal truths from His Holy Word: Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Eric Givens (Princeville, IL), and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL).

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Sis. Marie Heller, who passed away last month. We also pray for the recovery of those who have been hospitalized, Sis. Evie Stoller and Sis. Brenda Klein.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

The weekend of February 8-9, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in the reading of the memorandum. We appreciate and thank our dear elders. May we continue to pray for them that we might preserve this precious faith. It was a blessed and encouraging weekend. The same Sunday Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury) ministered to us. We appreciate their labor of love to proclaim the Word of Life.

Children are little bundles of joy from heaven. Kristi Elizabeth joined the family of Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy Stahl, Kelsey and Kendall. May God grant the parents wisdom on how to raise their precious children.

Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl. Also, happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller. Their daughter, Sis. Debbie and Bro. Peter Aberle (Tremont) were blessed with their first girl.

May the Lord continue to grant His healing power to Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (eye surgery), Sis. Betty Lou Herrmann (Bro. Walter) foot

surgery. Also, having surgery were Bro. Glen Braker and Bro. Ronnie Streitmatter.

Bro. Sam Martin was given the duty of being on the hail aid committee.

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

We rejoice with the families of two souls who have recently turned to God in repentance. They are Dave Whitten, son of Bro. Gene and Carol Whitten, and Sam Bradle, brother to Sisters Elsie and Fannie and Bro. Chris Bradle.

We were happy to learn of several engagements recently. Beth Fischer, daughter of Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara, is engaged to Don Wilton, son of Sue Wilton. Beth and Don both reside in New York. Bro. Todd Moser and Sis. Kathy Luginbuhl are planning a May wedding. Their parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl. Sis. Linda Blunier, daughter of Wayne and Sis. Marjorie, to Bro. Chad Kupferschmid (Forrest) was announced. His parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Wanda. Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman's son, Bro. Dave, is engaged to Sis. Stacy Miller (Valparaiso, IN). Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev are her parents. We wish them all God's loving guidance and blessings as they plan for their weddings and future lives.

Jennifer Rechkemmer and Troy Eckman united in marriage December 28. Jennifer's parents are Norm and Jan Rechkemmer, and Troy's parents are Jim and Marva Eckman (Pekin). We wish them a lot of happiness.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene Moser are the happy first-time parents of Joshua Edward, born January 27. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford) are Joshua's grandparents.

Jim and Connie Hodel have a new little bundle, Dalton James, born February 13. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel and Marvin and Sharon Lascelles (Bath, IL).

Valentine's Day is the birthday of Emily Marie Washer, born to

Kenny and Laurie Washer. Her grandparents are Jerry and Betty Hodel.

Other happy grandparents in our congregation are John and Sis. Sarah Diggle who welcome Liesel Ruth, born to Andy and Kathy Pflederer (Eureka) January 27. Bro. Dave Fischer has a new granddaughter in Iraan, TX. Aria Quinne was born to Jim and Deb Fischer December 13.

The Joyful Life, a group from Peoria, was with us February 2 for our Family Hymn Sing.

On February 7, we were privileged to hear about parenting and family worship as Bro. Earl Ringger of Gridley shared with us at our monthly Bible study.

We've had several hospital patients recently: Sisters Dorothy Bittner, Marie Blunier, Mary Jane Steffen, and Bros. Wilmer Fischer and Sam Martin, Jr. (Bro. Sam and Sis. Jane) and Tim Hodel (Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret). May God comfort and heal according to His will.

Bro. Alvin Farney wishes to thank each one who remembered him with cards, gifts, food and visits while he was in the hospital and recovering at home. May God bless you.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT Marsha Koch - Carolyn Bolliger

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Glenn Stuber in the recent passing of Sis. Dorothy's mother and her brother-in-law.

A sweet baby daughter was born to Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle on January 30. Little Rachel Jillyn is welcomed home by her five brothers, Randy, Ryan, Rodney, Rollyn and Royce. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville).

We will miss Sis. Lydia Brunner as she has found it necessary to make her home at Apostolic Christian Restmor in Morton. We pray she will feel the Lord's nearness as she makes this new adjustment in her life.

Our surgical patients this month have been Sis. Wilmina Woerner

(Bro. Chris) and Bro. Chris Pflederer, Jr. (Sis. Ruth). We are thankful they are both on the road to recovery.

Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) spent a recent Wednesday evening with us, as he and our Elder Bro. Dan Koch reviewed the memorandum from the recent elders' conference. Again we do appreciate the love and concern of our elders.

We were happy to hear the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Ruth Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Tim Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene). They are planning an April wedding. May God richly bless their lives together.

Note: Words cannot express our thanks and appreciation for the prayers, gifts, cards and love shown to us during my four-month hospital stay. The love of our church is simply overwhelming. May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. David Beutel

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Susan Ruppert**

**Denis Romesberger**

It is always good to have ministering brothers share in our wonderful fellowship. This month Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington/Normal) assisted with a Sunday service, while Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) led us in a Friday evening Bible study.

We are thankful for the miraculous recovery of Bro. Ed Teubel following a very serious automobile accident. Many prayers were sent up on his behalf and they most certainly were answered. A second anticipated surgery was not necessary due to a degree of healing medically unexplainable. What a great God we have!

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good

things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles."

Psalm 103:1-5

Thought for the day: "The only way to see a rainbow is to look through the rain" Anonymous

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch**

We were blessed to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Shane Gerber, Bro. Doug Isch, and Sis. Micki Ringger February 9. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for assisting in the activities. May God walk with our new brothers and sister-in-Christ.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

St. John 14:1

Steve Klefeker, Gary and Tricia Steffen, and Duane Roberts have decided to give their lives to the Lord. We pray that God will bless them in their new beginning.

Richard James Allen was born January 31 to Shelly Gerber. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. May God bless Shelly and Richard.

Even as a new life has begun, Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr has gone home to be with our Lord January 20. Sis. Elizabeth is survived by two sisters, Sis. Helen Stoller and Marie Anderson (Cliff), and many loving nieces and nephews. Sis. Emma Baumgartner also went home to be with the Lord January 20, her birthday. Sis. Emma is survived by two sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Ginzel and Sis. Queenie Barger. Also surviving are her children, Sis. Lorine Baumgartner, Bro. Ray Baumgartner, Sis. Beulah Baumgartner, Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph), Bro. Glen Baumgartner (Sis. Alice), and Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We were truly joyful to have two engagements this month. Bro. Daren Yergler (Bro. Max and Sis. Donna, Cissna Park) and Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila) will walk their Christian

lives as one, as will Bro. Stacey Stucky (Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Gwen Kipfer (Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy). Daren and Marie hope to be married July 19, and Stacey and Gwen plan on June 28. We wish them all God's richest blessings.

Celebrating a 50th anniversary on Valentine's Day were Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch. God has truly blessed this dear couple with a long and joyful marriage.

We would also like to thank Bro. Marvin Lehman and Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We welcome them to join our congregation again.

We had a blessed evening February 1 with the reading of the Memorandum by Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North).

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Clarabelle Baumgartner (Bro. Milo), Amber DeHoff (Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita), and Ryann Kipfer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wendy). We wish God's healing power and grace for them as they recover.

The spirit has revealed to our congregation that Bro. Alan Stoller (Sis. Susan) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb) are to serve us as ministers. We wish them and their families courage and grace for the years ahead.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

**Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser**

I recently read a story about a police officer who was patrolling on night duty in a town in northern Britain when he heard a small quivering sob. Turning in the direction it came from, he saw a little boy in the shadows sitting on a doorstep. The little boy was crying because he had become lost and could not find his way back home. The policeman named street after street trying to help the boy remember where he lived. He named shops and hotels in the area, all without success. Then he remembered that in the center of the town was a church with a large white cross towering high above the town. He pointed to it and said, "Do you live anywhere near that?" The boy's face

broke into a smile. "Yes, take me to the cross. I can find my way home from there!"

Just as in our lives, Jesus directs lost souls to their eternal home in heaven by the way of the cross. The cross is God's compass, pointing the way to heaven.

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Bro. Kurt Heimer (Alto, MI) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). May God bless them and their families for the service they are giving us.

We were happy to hear that Michelle Cupp (Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie) has heeded the call to repentance. Our prayers are with her in the days ahead.

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

#### WONDERFUL PEACE

Far away in the depths of my spirit  
tonight  
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;  
In celestial-like strains it  
unceasingly falls  
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.  
Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father  
above;  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,  
In fathomless billows of love.

W. D. Cornell

We rejoice with Becky Masten that she has found peace with God and awaits baptism. We pray that many more will seek their soul's salvation and find the peace that passes all understanding.

Three visiting ministers were with us this month. We appreciated having Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber rejoice at the birth of their first child, Eric Allen, who was born February 5. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber (Francesville) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer (Milford, IN).

The engagement of Bro. Nate Gutwein and Sis. Rhonda Yaggie was announced recently. We pray

for the Lord's nearness in their lives.

Bro. Duane Steidinger, Sis. Evelyn Pelsy and Chelsea Overmyer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne) were all hospitalized this month. We pray that the Lord will grant his healing to each of them.

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### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

I believe in miracles;  
They happen every day.  
If we but look more closely,  
They're just a breath away.

One needn't be a poet  
To see each new surprise.  
Greater things can happen yet,  
More than we surmise.

I used to be a cynic.  
I couldn't really see  
Until my eyes were opened  
To the miracle of thee.  
Diane D. Lake

Springtime is just upon us, and those tiny "miracles" will soon be bursting forth all around. Spring is a fresh time, filled with the new beginnings. Our dear friends, Greg and Lisa Stieglitz, have made a new beginning in their lives. We rejoice with them in their decision to give their lives to the Lord, and the long-awaited privilege to call them our brother and sister-in-Christ.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers who come to share the Word and to fellowship with us. Those who came this past month were our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse), and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). Thank you, Lord, for the miracle of freedom that enables us to worship you as we desire.

Our prayers will be with Bro. Eric Zeller and his daughter, Sis. Andrea, as they journey to Mexico to participate in a voluntary health program provided by World Vision. They will be there for a week. May God be with them and bring them safely home. We pray it will enrich all those who are involved, and encourage more to help.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

At times it seems the winter gets long and we complain about the cold, dreary days and wonder why we have to go through them and wish they were over. But we can find the beauty of God's handiwork even in January snowfall.

### REFLECTIONS ON A JANUARY SNOWFALL

Ever so softly, so gently, so sweetly  
falls the snow . . .  
Drifting, blowing, whirling,  
twirling,  
Sweetly falls the snow . . .  
As precious, priceless,  
picture-perfect  
Snowflakes cover the darkness of  
the earth . . .  
So God's blood and love covers the  
sin  
And darkness of our lives,  
Making us precious, priceless,  
picture-perfect  
In His image like the snow.  
Laura Bierman

"For we are labourers together  
with God . . ."  
I Corinthians 3:9

Our annual business meeting was held January 24. We want to thank those who have fulfilled their offices and encourage those who will be taking on new responsibilities.

On February 16, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Champaign, IL) shared God's Word with us. We appreciate his visit and efforts.

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### INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

I Timothy says that the bottom line is love (1:5). Galatians 5:6 says that the only way faith is effective is when it works by love. One of the toughest aspects of love is not seeking your own (but doing whatever is the best for the other person). That spirit fulfills the law (Romans 13). And being rooted and grounded in love enables us to comprehend the width and length and depth and height of the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-20).

God places us into a community



of people to provide us with the opportunity to do that.

We had the rare opportunity in February to host all of our elder brothers for their mid-winter conference. It was an excellent opportunity for us to show our firsthand love, support, and prayers. We appreciated the special experience of having them here.

At the same time, we were shocked by the sudden passing of our dear Bro. Uriel Gehring. He was so full of life, and so full of love for God and his brethren that it's hard to believe he is not with us. His abundant joy and praiseful attitude was exuberant. He truly does still live! This happening was a victory as Bro. John Stoller preached it at the funeral. He is where his heart has been all along. In the meantime, his wife, Sis. Judy and their children will miss him and will need our prayers, cards and telephone calls.

Our Sis. Elda Steiner had a fall and is home recuperating. Her sister Sylvia is taking care of her. We wish them the grace of God.

Bro. Phil Schlatter had a fall and broke his hip. He is in the Regency Place Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Fort Wayne, room 228. He and his faithful wife, Sis. Thelma, would appreciate your prayers and love.

It's always encouraging to see success resulting from your efforts. The Leo Church saw that last Saturday night. Two young people, formerly from Gateway Woods, were taken in the fold. Bro. John Willis and Sis. Stephanie Foster gave their testimony and were baptized. We are so happy to have them. They are a wonderful asset to our fellowship. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman assisted our Elder Bro. David Bertsch. Bro. Wally Ramsier was also here from Mansfield, Ohio, and gave one of the messages.

Elder Bros. Ray Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) stayed over and preached God's Word to us.

NOTE: To the Elders wives who were in our home for the Amish dinner, It was a privilege to have all of you in our home. We all enjoyed the company and how everyone was so kind and friendly. May

the Lord bless you and those you love. David and Leah Miller and family from Grabill, IN.

### INDIANA, MILFORD

#### Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

It is another day without sunshine, but we know that the sun is always shining and just the clouds are in the way so that we can't see the sun. This is so true in a spiritual sense too. We know God's Son is always there for us but so often we let the clouds of our earthly cares keep us from seeing Him.

We have much to be thankful for each day, but we are especially thankful for the many visitors and visiting ministers we were able to enjoy recently. Our cups were filled to overflowing February 2 when Bro. John Stoller (Leo) and Chris Huber (Francesville) were our guest ministers. Bros. David Graff (Akron, OH) and Jon Zellers (Morton, IL) pleasantly surprised us February 11 when they met in our area for their families to spend some time together. We were the beneficiaries of their ministry. Friday evening, February 7, was a special evening as we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton) come and tell us about the trip to Europe, especially Russia, that he was able to make along with a few other brothers. It surely was a thought provoking evening and it left us more thankful for what we have and much more concerned for our European brethren.

We are rejoicing with the angels in heaven over one sinner that repents. Chris McDaniel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup) has been announced to the church as having peace with God and man and desires baptism.

Our Bro. Ted Baumgartner, who resides in the Lakeland Loving Care Home near the church, had to be hospitalized. He is now back in the home in the same room as his dear wife, Sis. Helen. May God sustain them as well as our other shut-ins.

Al Kammerer passed away suddenly after clearing snow from his sidewalks. May God comfort his family, especially his wife, Thelma; sister-in-law, Sis. Laura Kammerer, and brother-in-law, Bro. Jess Haab.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer are first-time grandparents. Their daughter, Sis. Sherry, and Bro. Gene Huber (Francesville) are the happy mom and dad to Eric Alan born February 5. Brian and Jill Brannock and Kayla are pleased with Chelsea Tamarack born February 5. Her grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab. Along with being able to enjoy these little ones, comes the responsibility to be good examples. We need God's help.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

#### Amelia Schini

Sis. Sue Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) underwent back surgery due to an automobile accident. She now was able to be in church a half day last Sunday and is out some. She hopes to be able to return to work by March 1. We are very thankful for Sis. Sue that she is recovering so nicely.

We were favored one Sunday by having Bro. Ken Eisenman (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Paul Eisenman (Burlington, IA) visit us. It was a most blessed day. We do thank them and their wives for visiting us.

Bro. Leon and Sis. LeAnn Kaeb became second-time parents when Loren Mathew was born January 22. He will make a great playmate for his brother, Wesley.

Bro. Harold Schieler passed another milestone January 14 when number 80 came up. They observed this special day while spending the winter in Zapata, TX. He called and asked me to express his thanks to all who sent him a birthday card. They were appreciated very much.

To Harold: "As for old age, embrace it and love it. It abounds with pleasure, if you know how to use it. The gradually declining years are amongst the sweetest" and I maintain, that even where they have reached the extreme limit, they have their pleasure still." (By Seneca)

We were saddened when we learned of the death of William Jones (Nashville, IN), January 25. His wife of 48 years is our Sister Ada (Schieler). Besides Sis. Ada,

he is survived by two sons, Ross (LaCanada, CA) and Kerry (Winchester, MA). Bill taught school for 39 years. He was always a pleasant person to be around. Those of us who knew him well, will miss him greatly.

Saturday evening, February 8, was the date Dale Schneider and Andrea Rogers chose for their wedding. Dale is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta and Andrea is the daughter of Richard and Carolyn Rogers. We wish them God's blessings upon their marriage.

Because Bro. Ken Schneider would have occupied the pulpit alone, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) spent the forenoon with us Sunday, February 9. His sermon was of the Prodigal Son - indeed a touching subject. Can't we remember when we finally realized our life was only one of husks? We thank Bro. Alfred for visiting us.

As I write this, it is Valentine's Day. A day to express our love to those we hold dear.

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest  
Which the Spirit does bestow,  
Though I had a voice like angels,  
Lacking love, I truly know  
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal  
Or a wretched sounding brass:  
For although the sound were  
present  
Lifeless through this world I'd pass.  
Zion's Harp #37

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

We are so very grateful for our elder brothers and sisters who are an encouragement to all in their steadfastness in faith; and, indeed, they are a foundation upon which we all rely.

Sis. Emma Lou Gerber is now temporarily residing with her son, Louis Gerber, and family in Mishawaka, IN, while she regains her strength and health.

Sis. Pauline Laidig has been missed while she vacations in Florida this past month. We look forward to her return.

Sis. Ernestine Meister is recovering nicely from her recent car accident. We're grateful that the collision wasn't too serious.

Bro. John Schuch recently had his 92nd birthday. A group went to the Bremen Nursing Home to help celebrate and fellowship with him.

Sis. Mae Schumacher has just gone into the hospital with pancreatitis. We pray God will soon restore her to health.

Sis. Helen Eisenmann recently had a visit from her son, Elder Bro. Darrel "Bud" Klopfenstein, and his wife, Sis. Billie Klopfenstein. We were fortunate to have them with us for a Sunday service.

We were so thankful to have other recent visiting ministers with us, too, and pray for God's blessings on His faithful servants: Bro. Walt Stephan (Milford), Bro. Wil Schieler (Milford), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse) for the reading of the memorandum, and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer came again when Elder Bro. Darrel Klopfenstein was with us.

Our thanks to the Milford congregation for the invitation to their church for Elder Bro. Phil Stettner's presentation. We're grateful for the fellowship we share with our "neighbor" church.

A special mention and heartfelt thank you to Bro. Don Lehman, Bro. Scott Schafer and their families, and Bro. Rich Gramm for all their efforts toward coordinating activities for our high school Sunday school class. A fondue evening with Bro. Rich and a taffy pull at Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank's were the most recent get-togethers and were very much appreciated.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

They that wait upon the Lord,  
Shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Our well-attended annual meeting was held in January with reports given and decisions made. It was an example of working together in love and each one being reminded that God's house is a house of or-

der. Bros. Joe Kimerer is the new trustee and Bro. Ken Susdorf our representative to Park View Haven. We're all looking forward to the use of our fellowship area and are grateful that the work on it is progressing nicely. Completion date is set for this coming June. Elder Dale Eisenmann reminded each of us to attend our responsibility cheerfully from the heart and God would be the rewarder. II Corinthians 9:6-8.

I'm happy to report four engagements. Krisie Kimerer and Brian Poehlein, both Purdue students, plan to marry May 30. Krisie is the daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Susan Kimerer.

Sis. Marie Sprunger and Bro. Darren Yergler (Bloomington, IL) plan to marry July 19. Marie is from Bluffton and is teaching in the Valparaiso area.

Sis. Stacy Miller (Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Dave Leman plan to marry June 28. Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen, parents of David are from Roanoke, IL, where the couple will be living.

Also my dear granddaughter, Sis. Janeen Hari (Tuscon, AZ), and Bro. Terry Baum (Phoenix, AZ) announced their engagement February 9.

Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a threefold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart.  
Zion's Harp #79

#### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Tracey Putt

"Such lasting joys shall there  
behold,  
As ear ne'er heard not tongue ne'er  
told.  
Lord make me ready for that day,  
Then come, dear Bridegroom, come  
away."

From Anne Bradstreet's  
"As Weary Pilgrim"

Greetings from Purdue in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! On January 23, Bro. Vernon Schwab and his wife Sis. Arlene (Wolcott) came to share the Word with us.

We read from St. Luke chapter 9 and were reminded that it is not enough just to eat the fish and the bread, but that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. We need complete dedication and a willingness to yield to whatever the Lord asks of us because God wants to build His kingdom within each of our hearts "if we let Him. A songwriter wrote on St. Luke 9:25: "Listen when I say: what does it profit a man now " to gain a fortune and lose his soul?" Not only must we be ready to deny ourselves the things of this life, but we must also be willing to proclaim that Christ is the son of God like the Lord did to the disciples on the mountain: "This is my beloved: hear Him," because it is "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast: (Ephesians 2:8-9). In essence, we must be willing to say, "Lord make me ready for that day."

Those of us around the Lafayette area were blessed by hosting a singing in which approximately 150 people attended. It was a beautiful night of fellowship and lifting our voices in song to the Lord.

On Saturday, February 7, the Francesville Apostolic Church Sunday school juniors and seniors came to Purdue for a "day on campus" with our Purdue Young Group. We toured the campus while stopping at points of interest, such as the Union, the Co-Rec., a few academic buildings, and also a dorm room. It was a pleasure showing them the campus as well as becoming better acquainted with each other over a relaxing lunch. We will look forward to having many additions to our group at Purdue as the classes graduate from high school.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp**

Our congratulations are extended to Colleen Kyburz (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat) and Keith Braden as they have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their wedding and life together.

We are thankful Levi Klop-

fenstein (Frances) is home and doing fine after a short hospital stay.

Bro. Gene Lehman conducted our topical Bible study January 29 entitled "Leadership." We were reminded that each one of us is a "leader" in our daily life and we must keep our vision on the cross of Jesus Christ. The evening was a blessing as we were given many thoughts to ponder in our hearts.

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) pleasantly surprised us with a visit Wednesday evening, February 5. We appreciated his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our convert, Bob Radcliffe (Irene), has not been able to assemble with us due to his poor health. On Sunday afternoon, February 9, a small gathering of brothers and sisters went to his home to hear his testimony of faith and witness his baptism. We are thankful the Lord continued to call him and he could be gathered into the fold in his older age. We welcome Bro. Bob as a brother-in-Christ!

Our thoughts and prayers of support are with our elder brothers this week as they gather for the mid-winter conference.

#### IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES

**Aaron Schmidgall**

We are thankful that we have been able to have the following ministers deliver the Word of God to us during our last three gatherings: Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend), and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski). We are grateful for the efforts put forth by these brothers and their families, and all other visitors who have been in attendance this year.

We also have enjoyed the presence of Sis. Colleen Beutel among us within the past few weeks. Sis. Colleen is from Tremont, IL, and has been involved in a physical therapy clinical near Des Moines. As her duties there have now expired, we pray that God will continue to bless in her current surroundings.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf**

We thank Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for bringing us the Word of Life. May God richly bless them for their labors in His vineyard.

We rejoice with Sis. Carrie Wuthrich as she gave her testimony February 15 and has been brought into the faith as our dear sister. May she feel God's peace and grace each day of her life. Sis. Carrie is attending school in our area.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. Uriel Gehring. He and his family were a part of our congregation before moving to Leo. We pray God's comforting spirit may rest upon his family as there will be times of loneliness. May we have a longing to meet our loved ones in heaven where there is no parting or tears.

"How beautiful heaven must be  
Sweet home of the happy and free  
Fair haven of rest for the weary,  
How beautiful heaven must be.

Gospel Hymns #79

#### IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**

As we are on the threshold of another spring season and wait with anticipation for the return of the robins, the budding of trees and for the flowers to, again, break through the sod and warm us with their beauty, may we remember the Creator of all these things and give Him our thanks and praise.

... for this is just God saying"  
"Lift up your eyes to me,  
And the bleakness of your spirit,  
Like the budding of the tree,  
Will lose its wintry darkness.  
And your heavy heart will sing"  
For God never sends the winter  
Without the joy of Spring.

HSR

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum.

The family! What an appropriate topic for the days we're in. So much of our church's future, as well

as the future of our entire nation is determined by how our children today are taught and guided. Many timely exhortations came forth reminding us, as parents, how important time spent in scripture reading and discussion is. May God help us to take heed. Our children are around our tables for a few short years " we have no time to waste.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Janette Schulz**

Greetings! We extend a sincere "thank you" to all of our visitors this month. We always appreciate the surprise visits from those passing through our area, and invite anyone whom God directs this way to worship with us.

As God's children we often experience difficult situations and seemingly unanswered prayers. The author of "Streams in the Desert", Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, addressed this in the March 1 entry as follows:

Often God seems to place His children in positions of profound difficulty, leading them into a wedge from which there is no escape; contriving a situation which no human judgment would have permitted, had it been previously consulted. The very cloud conducts them thither. You may be thus involved at this very hour.

It does seem perplexing and very serious to that degree, but it is perfectly right. The issue will more than justify Him who has brought you hither. It is a platform for the display of His almighty grace and power.

He will not only deliver you; but in doing so, He will give you a lesson that you will never forget, and to which, in many a psalm and song, in after days, you will revert. You will never be able to thank God enough for having done just as He has.

Selected

We may wait till He explains, because we know that Jesus reigns.

It puzzles me; but, Lord, Thou understandest,  
And wilt one day explain this crooked thing.

Meanwhile, I know that it has worked out Thy best—  
Its very crookedness taught me to cling.

Thou has fenced up my ways,  
made my paths crooked,  
To keep me wand'ring eyes fixed on Thee,  
To make me what I was not,  
humble, patient;  
To draw my heart from earthly love to Thee.

So I will thank and praise Thee for this puzzle,  
And trust where I cannot understand.  
Rejoicing Thou dost hold me worth such testing.  
I cling the closer to Thy guiding hand.

F.E.M.I

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Cindy Leuthold**  
**Mary Knobloch**

Once again we have enjoyed the blessings of God when ministering brothers visited us, as we do every time we gather in our church with our local servants. We are thankful to God that He has provided willing servants to speak His Word and carry out duties in our beloved church.

Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) was here to assist Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner in the testimonies of three dear souls, Dan and RaJean Knobloch and Becky Ver Beek, who are now our brother and sisters-in-faith. Bro. Dan is the son of Sis. Iola Knobloch. Sisters RaJean and Becky are the daughters of Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger. Following the proving service our elder brethren read the memorandum. We appreciate the elder brethren who are concerned for our spiritual welfare and remind us how we should live if we wish to gain eternal life. Might our constant striving be obedience to God's Word.

Other ministering brethren who have given to of themselves in our behalf are Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski), and Clifford Grimm

(West Bend). We thank each one for serving us.

We have those in our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. We pray God can comfort and provide for each one. We extend our sympathy to Bros. Earl, Wilbert and Albert Knobloch, Lydia Moser and Sisters Violet, Emma and Pauline Knobloch in the loss of their sister, Elisabeth Barker (Canton, IL). Bro. Ted Gerber mourns the loss of a brother, Gilbert (Sabetha, KS), and Sis. Chris Metzger (Bro. Dale) the loss of her mother, Martha Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

And as God calls loved ones home, he also sends joy and blessings. Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer welcomed Tad Owen January 23. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer are paternal grandparents. On February 6, Jeff and Melissa Baas welcomed Colton Lee. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over dear souls who have felt the call of God and have answered that call. Our prayers and support are with Larry and Emily Peterson in the undertaking.

We also have those who suffer illness and bodily affliction. Recent surgical patients are Bro. Kevin Metzger (Sis. Dawn), Sis. Emma Feucht (Bro. Carl), Sis. Pauline Schambach, and Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce). Hospitalized for medical reasons were Bro. Dean Feucht (Bro. Carl and Sis. Emma) and Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. RaJean). We commit each one to the healing mercies of God.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**  
**Melody Steiner**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers during this past month. Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) have been in our Oakville congregation and so unselfishly gave of themselves to feed the flock. May God bless them for their efforts in His service.

Our prayers are with our dear shepherds as they gather in Leo, IN, at the time of this writing. May

they be encouraged to know that we as their sheep, are praying for them as they carry out many weighty responsibilities in the Lord's service.

Our hearts are shocked and grief-stricken at the news of the sudden passing of our dear Bro. Uriel Gehring. What an inspiration Bro. Uriel was to all of us. May God in His own wise way comfort and restore courage to the hearts of his dear family left this side of the grave. We have many fond memories of Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy. We are thankful that we have been able to be a part of their lives. Our sincere sympathy is also extended to Bro. Uriel's mother-in-law, Sis. Mayme Gerst (Bro. Les); and his dear sister, Sis. Phyllis Knobloch (Bro. Ben). Our prayers are with each one.

"In sorrow and pain, Thy trust do retain,  
In Jesus, the merciful Saviour.  
When burdened with care, when thou wouldst despair,  
Then call on the loving redeemer.  
He'll lighten the load, and level the road,  
And bear thee on hands of compassion.  
He's gentle and kind, rich blessings thou'lt find,  
His words give thee peace everlasting.  
He'll shield and defend His child to the end,  
No suffering or death shall appall thee.  
Keep Him for your gain, earth's pleasures are vain,  
Sweet rest is found only in Heaven.  
In patience then bear, all trial and care,  
Above streams of bliss will refresh thee."

Zion's Harp #46

### IOWA, PULASKI

**Teresa Schock - Carol Wettstein**  
Mild has our winter been and for the most part we are enjoying it very much, though we look forward to the more refreshing springtime.

Likewise, we have once again been privileged to enjoy some refreshing spiritual events here in Pulaski.

On Saturday, January 18, Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) came and served us, by reading the memorandum. Truly, we can feel God's will being expounded so graciously to us. We thank them for likewise serving us the following Sunday. May God richly reward them.

On Saturday evening, February 15, we were privileged to hear the testimony of Carri Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley). On Sunday we witnessed her baptism and welcomed her as a sister-in-faith. Our prayers should remain for her and ourselves that we can maintain humble hearts, wherewith God can continue to lead us. Again, special thanks to Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Leo Moser (Lester) who came and helped carry out this blessed occasion.

Reminder: March is Silver Lining collection for Pulaski. Dues at now \$9.00.

### IOWA, WEST BEND

**Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart**

We are thankful to our visiting ministers who brought us God's Word. Assembling with us were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA); also, Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). May God bless these brothers for their faithfulness in bringing us the Gospel message.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Emma Luthi, 98, who passed away January 17, after faithfully serving the Lord for over 80 years. May the Lord comfort her sister, Sis. Ida Fehr, and her many nieces and nephews.

We are thankful Matt Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) is home after a hospital stay. Bernard Metzger (Alice Marie) and Sis. Helen Zaugg (Bro. Ed) submitted to surgery. We are thankful to have Bernard back in our midst and hope that Sis. Helen will feel the Lord's healing hand. Bro. Jim Knobloch was hospitalized after a fall while visiting in Winthrop, MN. He has returned home to recuperate. Our thoughts and prayers are with Josephine Thomann, as she has suffered a

stroke and has been unable to assemble with us. May she feel the hand of the Lord as she endures this affliction.

Sis. Florence Banwart has moved from her apartment to the West Bend Care Center. We pray she will enjoy her new surroundings and feel God's blessings there.

We extend best wishes to Joel Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy) and Wendy Williams (Steve and Martha) on their engagement. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they establish an earthly home. A May wedding is being planned.

### JAPAN, SHIODA Terri Gramm

We were privileged to have Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy (my sister) Kaeb and their 2-year-old daughter come to visit us at the beginning of the year. I was amazed at Kristin's trust. It reminded me of Jesus' words, "Suffer the little children to come to me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

We want to thank Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie and their family for coming to worship January 1 and February 2 with us. Their fellowship and inspiration is appreciated.

March marks the end of the school year throughout Japan. As this was the final year of the Shioda American Kindergarten, March 20 we will say "good-bye" to our 16 graduates and end the operation of S.A.K.

### JAPAN, TOKYO Frank and Kathy Sauder

On February 11, we had the opportunity to host our annual brotherhood conference. In the morning, Elder Bros. Willis Ehnle and Akito Inoue spoke on "The Family", the theme of the brotherhood conference which was held in the America last summer. The afternoon was devoted to a discussion on what kind of work we can do to help strengthen the church in Japan since the kindergarten program is being phased out this year. At the close of the meeting we all felt greatly encouraged and God had more than answered our prayers and blessed our time together.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda's son, Yuichi, has returned to the university after spending a month in the hospital with a broken neck. We are thankful to God for His mercy in sparing Yuichi from any permanent damage.

It is always a blessing to have visitors from America. What a surprise it was for us to come to church and have not only a visitor, but a visiting minister. May God richly bless Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) who so willingly ministered to us. We are thankful he was able to arrange his business schedule so he could be in Japan over a Sunday. It was a rich day of fellowship. In the past few years, more and more people from the states are coming to Japan on business. If you can work your business trip so you are in Japan over a Sunday, we would greatly appreciate having you worship with us.

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**KANSAS, BERN**

**Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman**

**THE COVENANT OF GRACE**

My Lord, an offering do I bring;  
 My heart I give to Thee.  
 I gladly give this heart of mine,  
 Which Thou dost ask of me.

Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart!"  
 O what a sweet request!  
 It shows the way that we must take  
 To life and peace and rest.

O now, my Saviour, do Thou take  
 My heart and make it Thine;  
 I'll follow thee, a servant true,  
 Within Thy fold divine.  
 Zion's Harp #163

We were blessed to hear the testimony and share the joy of the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Chris Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn), January 17 and 18. Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. John Lehman in this work. Following the testimony the brothers shared with us the reading of the conclusion of the brotherhood conference.

Other visiting ministers this

past month were Bros. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors of love for bringing the Word to us and pray a special blessing for them and their families.

Our hearts rejoice to hear of another dear soul that has turned her back on the world and desires to walk with God. May Miriam Strahm (Clayton) feel God's grace and guidance to do His will.

We rejoice with Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman and Steve and Margaret Kanel on the birth of their grandson, Baylen Derek, born January 18 to Ronnie and Stephanie Edelman. Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner are the happy parents of a new baby boy, Marcus John, born February 12. Big sister, Maria, and his grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne Aberle (Sabetha) and Leslie and Leora Baumgartner, welcome him along with the rest of us!

Casting all your care upon him;  
 for he careth for you.

I Peter 5:7

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Stella Moser (Bro. Rueben) and Sis. Sharon Grimm (Bro. Gordon) for out-patient surgery; Bro. Edward Lehman (Sis. Leola) for knee replacement surgery and Natalie Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Connie) for knee surgery. Let us remember those in prayer with physical afflictions: Sis. Lola Luthi (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Martin Esslinger (Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bro. Roy) who had been hospitalized in Zapata, Texas. We are thankful to have Bro. Harvey Grimm back assembling with us after his hospitalization.

Our prayers extend out to our elders as they assemble for the mid-winter conference in Leo, IN, for the preservation of our most holy faith.

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn**

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and

broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. and He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) with us to assist our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in serving holy communion the evening of February 1. In sharing this holy sacrament, we were encouraged to renew the common union we share in the Lord.

After being hospitalized, our dear Sis. Ida Sinn is recuperating at home. We are thankful that through God's healing power she is once again able to assemble with us.

"Remember now they Creator in the days of thy youth . . ."

Ecclesiastes 12:1

We rejoice with Tim Sinn (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) as he seeks the Saviour's forgiveness in repentance. Our love and prayers are with him as he makes this new beginning.

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

**O MY SOUL, BY PAIN SURROUNDED**

O my soul, by pain surrounded,  
 Firmly trust thy God indeed;  
 He would only make thee worthy  
 By this fear and dire need.  
 Fear thou not when days are dreary,  
 O despair not of God's Word;  
 What He saith will be accomplished.  
 Trust thou ever in the Lord!

Hymns of Zion #192

This month our hospital patients were Bro. Vern Schurter and Sis. Alice Tanner. Sis. Betsy Diel is continuing with her treatments. Our prayer is that these and others in our congregation will feel the Lord's comforting, healing Spirit in their lives.

This month at our church we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship with a group from the Gridley-Lamont churches. We indeed felt blessed by their visit and give them an open invitation to visit any time.

Sis. Rachel Kraft's 90th birthday was observed this month with a birthday breakfast. May God continue to bless this very special sister as she walks the path of faith.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

We're happy to announce the engagement of Bro. John Schrader to Sis. Sara Gallatin of Wichita. Parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Schrader and Joe and Sis. Kathleen Gallatin (Wichita). May God be with them as they make plans for their marriage.

We were fortunate this month to have with us Bro. Roger Aberle and his wife Sis. LaVonne (Sabetha). We're so thankful for the fellowship and for their effort in bringing God's Word to us.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA Sharon Strahm

The Sabetha congregation was privileged to assemble with the Bern church for the reading of the conference letter. We were thankful for the efforts of Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa), John Lehman (Bern) and Sam Huber. Now this week our prayers will be with all our elder brethren as they meet in Leo. May they bountifully feel God's inspiration and guidance.

We appreciated ministering Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Galen Rokey (Bern) being with us and expounding the Word of God. May He bless their efforts. We were encouraged to go onward with faith and not fear.

Again we have had hospital patients. Sis. Marie Kellenberger and Bro. Lou Wenger were treated for medical problems. Sis. Lena Steiner and Bro. Eli Meyer were surgical patients. We are thankful God's healing mercies have permitted each one to return to their own homes.

Our annual business meeting was held. We appreciate willing

brothers and sisters who carry out duties in the church. May they feel our prayerful support.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

We are rejoicing with Sis. Sara Gallatin and Bro. John Schrader. Their engagement was announced January 19. A March 22 wedding is planned.

Bro. Mike Bowers has been relocated in his business apprenticeship. This time he is in Salina, KS, a half hour closer to Wichita, his family, and his church. God is so good!

February 8 was the date for our Sunday school party. All of our students gave up other plans they may have had and gathered for an evening of food and companionship. The diversity of ages was not a problem. Surely, it will be that way in heaven, too!

Another special event was held February 16 when the adults gathered for an evening of fellowship. After the supper, Bro. Max Reimschisel spoke on the value of a loving relationship in the home.

Sis. RoseAnn and Duane Reeves are first-time grandparents. Granddaughter, Emma, was born to Sandy and Craig Smith February 7.

#### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glendoris Huber

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,"

Psalms 92:1-2

In the past few weeks we were blessed to have in our midst the following ministers. Bros. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Ronald C. Palitto (Akron, OH), and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN). We are grateful to God for them, their wives and family, and all who have come. May God bless each one.

We were also thankful to have

the Dear Brethren (sextet singers) and their wives from the Francesville, IN, church, the weekend of February 16. Their voices blended in beautiful harmony with praises to our God who is worthy. They were enjoyed by all along with those at the Shriner's Children's Hospital where we visited Sunday afternoon.

Jerrell and Kim Huber have been blessed with a new healthy baby boy, Jerrod Daniel. Jason is happy to welcome his little baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Glendoris and William and Barbara Brewer (Lexington, KY).

We welcome all those who are traveling through or those who may be in the area to come visit and worship with us. Services are Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and Wednesday evening 7:00 p.m. EST.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Job 33:4

The other morning as I was on my way out the door to get started for the day. I stopped an actually smelled the air to find it felt like a new early spring day. It gave my heart such a lift to know God controls the seasons from winter to spring. And knowing most of all He controls our actual existence. Help us as Christians to change with the seasons if need be. To change and adjust with the winds of time and the influences of the harsh world.

Our hearts were uplifted on a cold winter day when Bro. Bill Waibel came from Bay City to spend a Sunday with us.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Emily Rechsteiner

At the present our congregation has quite a vacant look, so many snowbirds have gone to warmer climates.

We rejoice with Alan and Pam Wackerle (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine) they have heeded the call

of the Lord. May they feel God's nearness.

After a brief illness, Bro. Paul Munsel was able to go to his rest January 23. We express our love and sympathy to Sis. Eleanor; his children, Sis. Marilyn, Bro. Fredrick and Colleen Kosnik; and his grandchildren.

"Love, the fruit of faith, must we show to God and to our neighbor; Yield to discipline each day, Willing for the Lord to labor. No affliction e'er can sever us from Jesus Christ forever.

Zion's Harp #78, vs. 3

Jerry Meier (Sis. Edith) had hip surgery. Recovery has been very favorable.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton  
Marlene Reinhard

We were blessed this past month to have Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) minister the beautiful Word of Life to us. May God richly bless our ministers for their sincere humbleness to be servants of Him.

Our Detroit Choir was privileged to travel to Leo for a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. There were numerous comments of how spiritually uplifting the weekend was.

Sis. Helen Popp (Bro. George) is currently in the hospital, and Sis. Ruth Gudeman had surgery this past month. Sis. Bonnie Popp (Bro. George and Sis. Helen) had the misfortune of falling and breaking her wrist. May we remember these dear souls in our prayers that God will place his healing hand on them and be near them during this time of bodily affliction. We are promised that the good Shepherd will take care of His own.

Our sympathy is extended to two families in our Detroit area this past month. To Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa and family in the passing away of Bill's brother-in-law, Don Ferguson. We also remember the family of Larry Polk. Larry passed away after spending several weeks in the hospital with a

terminal illness. His brothers and sisters are Sis. Kay Cargill (Bro. Jerry, Elgin), Sis. Evelyn Weiland (Bro. Rod, Bay City), Alan, Ed, Betsy, Dorothy, Eleanor, Nancy, and Julie. May our prayers continue to go heavenward that these families may feel the love and support of the brethren and know that God's love is unlimited and real to comfort them during this time of sorrow.

God's plan for us each one continues to be revealed in our lives. Our Sis. Barbara Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario) and Bro. Arlon Zollinger (Sis. Elverna and the late Bro. Alvin, Rittman, OH) as they feel at peace to seek a life together in marriage under God's divine direction. May God richly bless their lives together in this time of planning and preparation to do His will.

On April 12, Toledo will host Tuesday evening church services at Woodhaven. Everyone is welcome to join the residents in worshipping our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Food for thought: Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds.

Reminder: April is the month to collect the Silver Lining dues of \$9.00. Please pay your reporters promptly. Thank you.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

God has blessed us with a mild winter and fellowship of quite a few visitors. We are truly thankful for each one.

At this time, we think of our elder brothers who are gathering for the winter conference at Leo. Our prayers are truly with them.

#### ALL ONE IN CHRIST

In Christ there is no east nor west,  
In Him no south nor north,  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.  
In Him shall true hearts  
everywhere  
Their high communion find—  
His service is the golden cord  
Close-binding all mankind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the  
faith,  
Whate'er your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as a son  
Is surely kin to me.  
In Christ now meet both east and  
west,  
In Him meet south and north,  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.  
John Oxenham

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

Bro. Jerel Schmidgall was hospitalized this month for surgery for a severe infection in his foot. We are thankful that he could feel the healing hand of God.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall along with big brother, Austin, welcomed Drew Charles into their hearts and home. Drew was born January 29. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara Massner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall.

An open house was held at our fellowship hall February 1 for the 50th anniversary of Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith Joos. We are so thankful that God has granted them 50 precious years together and we wish for them many more years together.

On February 8, we gathered for the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, KS) was with us that weekend and we thank him for coming and sharing these words of exhortation with us.

Our only other visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We appreciate his kindly bringing the "wonderful Words of Life" to us.

"A special thank you". We wish to thank everyone who came to visit me while I was recuperating with a broken arm. Also for all the kind deeds, and food brought to us. Your love and kindness will never be forgotten. God bless you dear ones all.

In faith,

Sis. Anna Nohl (Bro. Henry)

"Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks to all who remembered us with cards, gifts, and flowers on our 50th anniversary. It is a



day we will long remember. May God richly bless each one of you."

Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith Joos

Notice: Morris Silver Lining dues (\$9.00) are due April 1. Please pay your reporter promptly.

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Georgia Messner - Kim Messner**

Retired Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner were blessed this past month to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They were blessed to have all their children with them.

We were privileged to have Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) and his wife with us this month. What a blessing it was to have him bring forth God's precious Word.

First-time parents are Wes and Rhonda Schmidt as they were blessed with a baby girl February 2. She has been named Crystal Kay. Grandparents are Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt would like to thank everyone for thinking of them on their 50th wedding anniversary.

The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents. And we are rejoicing with Bonnie Eskuri (Bro. Leroy and Sis. JoAnn Messner) as she has found the grace to repent and has received peace. We rejoice with her and her husband, Walter, and wish them God's blessing.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Martin Hohulin  
Janel Kellenberger**

In the summer and fall seasons, here at Lamar, we expect and we receive a lot of visitors. This is only one of the many blessings and benefits of our beloved faith. We always appreciate our visitors. However, we have enjoyed an unusual amount of company this winter.

Our young married couples, each year, invited young married couples from other congregations. This group of visitors included ministering Bros. Don Braker and Randy Kellenberger (both of Kansas City, MO). Additional visiting ministers for the month were Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and

Bro. Myron Knoblock (Lester, IA).

We are thrilled to have new faces in our assembly. Merle and Orpha Smirell and three small children (Walker, MO). Stanley and Dorothy Heimer, who reside at Republic, MO, and are natives of the Taylor-Quincy area. Both of these families live considerable distances from our church location; so it is not always possible for them to attend our services. We extend a cordial welcome and we appreciate their presence each time that they are able to make the trip.

Bro. Dean Marti experienced a mild fainting spell during the noon fellowship time. He was in the hospital a short time and has returned to his home.

How fortunate it is that we cannot look into the future? But it is a comfort to know that our Heavenly Father knows and holds the future and how we will fit into it.

Our prayers and our support go to our elder brethren as they assemble at Leo, Indiana, for the mid-winter conference.

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Mark Leman**

We were privileged to have ministering Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) gather with us this past month to worship and praise the Lord.

We say farewell to Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy Knapp this month as they have found employment in Illinois. We wish them the best of luck in this new path the Lord is leading them down and pray that angels will be watching over them continually. We will surely miss them.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Ruthie Hoerr**

When we are experiencing difficulties in life, Christians usually draw closer to the Lord, seeking His divine guidance and comfort; but what do we do when every thing seems to be coming up roses? Do we accept the good and feel we deserve a break? Do we relax and let our guard down? Do we become bored that there are no challenges? Do we forget to take this peaceful

time to help someone else who needs a lift? Do we give praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father for the good times as well as the bad?

### MAKE ME A BLESSING

Out in the highways and byways of life,  
Many are weary and sad;  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,  
Making the sorrowing glad.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love.

Tell of His power to forgive;  
Others will trust Him if only you prove  
True every moment you live.

Give as 'twas given to you in your need,  
Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper in deed,  
Unto you mission be true.

Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing,  
Out of my life, may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing to someone today!

New Sunday school teachers elected at our yearly business meeting January 22 were Bros. Rodney Heimer, David Marquart and Tim Sutton; and Sisters Lori Marquart, Deb Sutter and Verene Sutton. Bro. Rod Moser replaced Bro. Don Hoerr as trustee; and Sis. Naomi replaced Sis. Charlene Sutter on the food committee. It is wonderful to have such willing workers for the Lord.

We are thankful Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser are home after spending three weeks in Africa visiting their children, Mark and Pam Hodel; and to have Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine Hoerr safely home from assisting with a work project in St. Vincent, W.I.

Several people were hospitalized for surgery or medical problems and desire your prayers. They are Genievie Adrian, surgery, mother of Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian; Mary Witthaus, surgery, grandmother of Bro. Rusty; Eleanor Arrowsmith, medical, mother of

Sis. Marge and Bro. Arnie Gerst; and Bro. William Cottrell (Sis. Ruth) complications of Parkinson's. May they feel your prayers, be comforted, and experience the touch of God's healing hand for both body and soul.

May God also provide sympathy and comfort for Sis. Trisha (Bro. Don) Grimm in the loss of her grandmother, Eunice Pflum (Burlington, IA).

Special blessings came from heaven to Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp (Congerville, IL); a boy Jesse James Knapp. Grandparents, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO) are rejoicing with them.

The Sunday school classes assisted with a food sale February 17, as a money making project. Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter sold their farm machinery, and are looking forward to the slower pace of retirement. We hope they can experience a slower pace; but as many have testified, they are busier than ever when retired.

The Bible class really enjoyed singing with Congerville at ACYF at Tremont, IL, February 16.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the elder brethren as they assembled this past week in Leo, IN. We pray they experienced God's divine guidance as they counseled together.

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

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:19

We are happy that Roy Sturtze (Sis. Edna) has turned his back to Satan and has begun to walk the pathway of repentance. May God be with him and gently lead him through a true repentance. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he takes this most important step in life - to prepare himself for that hope of life everlasting.

Bro. John Rauhe is recovering well after being hospitalized for hip

surgery. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him and Sis. Esther at this time and we hope he can assemble with us again soon.

Bro. Leland Hirschey has again been given a measure of health so he could be with us on the pulpit. At this writing, Bro. Floyd Graves continues to recover at home and we look forward to a time when he and Sis. Loretta can again be in our assembly. Our thoughts go out to the many in our congregation who are confined to their homes or nursing homes and can no longer go in and out as in former time.

On the weekend of February 15 and 16, we had several visiting families with us. We had a covered dish meal and song service Saturday evening. We thank Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine Bahler (Rockville, CT) for being with us and are thankful to God that Bro. Lee was able to bring the Word to us on Sunday. It is encouraging to hear visiting ministers on the pulpit who preach the true word as we hear it each time we gather together.

In the last report I failed to mention that our Sunday school children presented a Christmas program of verse and song December 22. May each one carry the seeds that have been sown in their Sunday school years in their hearts and may the seed mature in the proper and bring forth fruit. In the evening many of the children were able to sing Christmas carols at the homes of several of our shut-ins.

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
 Joyce Gasser

"My God why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46. If sometimes we may feel forsaken, we can think of Jesus, who was forsaken by the Father, in our stead. When Jesus went to the cross, He took our sin, sickness, depression, and rejection, all as our substitute. In this greatest trial of Jesus, He felt forsaken of the Father, His disciples, the priesthood, and the Roman government. It was God's Word that brought Jesus through, as God upholds all things by the Word of His power. Hebrews 1:3. When we feel forsaken, it is God's Word that will bring us through. Psalm 22:21

states: "Save me from the lion's mouth, for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." The horns were on the brazen altar where the sacrificial lamb was burned and the blood taken to the mercy seat. God hears us from the horns of the sacrifice of Jesus, having taken our rejections, and His mercy will save us from the lions, from Satan, and we can be set free, as we are ". . . accepted in the beloved". Ephesians 1:6.

Bob and Connie Campbell have a new baby boy they named Adam Lee. Their other children are Andrew and Tracy. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Herb Gramm (Gridley).

A thank you goes to Sis. Eleanor Pamer for her tireless dedicated duties on our world relief sewing committee. Her term is up, and replacing her is Sis. Kathy Graf, who we welcome on the committee.

Sis. Janet Graf was in the hospital and we are glad she is back with us. Bro. Bob Graf was in the hospital for tests, and we pray for his relief of his pains. Sis. Bonnie Bako was hospitalized for kidney stones, and Andy Leidal had a hospital stay. Others briefly in the hospital were Bro. Ernest Graf, Bro. Duane Collins, and Sis. Evelyn Walker.

We appreciated visiting ministers Bro. Art Ingold and Bro. Vic Bauman and their inspiring messages.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
 Julie Grimm

Our annual business meeting was held this past month. Elected to various positions were Bro. Larry Banks (Sunday school superintendent), Bro. Stan Sauder (trustee) and Sis. Judy Sauder (kitchen committee). May God bless them in their new responsibilities.

It was a blessed and joyous occasion for us to witness the testimony and baptism of Sis. Diane Sauder (Bill and Sis. Becky) February 1 and 2 at the Mansfield church. May God ever grant her the grace to remain true and faithful until life's end.

Our heartfelt thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Ak-

ron, OH), Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) for being willing ministers of God's Word.

It saddens our hearts to say farewell to Bro. David and Sis. Lynne Steiner and their dear family. Truly they will be missed as their time spent here in Columbus has been a blessing to our congregation. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they establish their new home in the Rittman area.

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 29:11. We rejoice that Jenny Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) and Bill Sauder (Sis. Becky) have felt the peace of God in their hearts. May God be near them as they look forward to being baptized.

Services will not be held here in Columbus March 21 and 22 since our baptisms will be held in Mansfield.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

#### Sandra Manz

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, They God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7) We were recently uplifted by sermons from several visiting ministers. Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty) served us February 9, then Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman) and Mark Steiner (Smithville) February 16. How we love and respect our ministers and elders. We often think of them as "pillars of the church." We were recently reminded that all who have been redeemed should consider themselves to be "pillars" as somewhere someone is looking up to them and depending on them to set a good example.

At our recent annual election, Bros. Lester Manz and Ralph Schlatter and Sis. Dorothy Dietrich were chosen as Sunday school teachers. We wish them heavenly help as they carry out this important function especially as we see

so many young people in our small congregation rapidly approaching the age of accountability.

Our newest church baby is Derek Jacob Schlatter born February 6 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie, your previous correspondent. Big brother and sister are Travis and Tara. Grandparents are Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty) and Sis. Juliet Schlatter. How encouraging it is to parents to know that in addition to their own prayers, many other relatives and loved ones are offering up prayers, possibly daily, for these little ones.

Surgery patients include Sis. Louise Manz (Bro. Emmanuel) and Sis. Sheila Schlatter (Bro. Ralph). We trust that the Lord will provide complete healing to these dear sisters.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### Linda Morrison

"... and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7). On February 1 and 2, Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) assisted Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in the testimony and baptism of Diane Sauder (Bill and Sis. Becky, Columbus). Also added to our number was Bro. Dan and Sis. Joyce Boliantz. "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 gathered Saturday, February 15 to hear Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) along with Elder Bro. Ken Sauder read the memorandum. "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 31:12)

Kara Irene was born February 12 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheli Fairchild. Katie and Kimberly are delighted to have a new baby sister to love. Bro. Richard and Sis. Mabel Banks are the prayerful grandparents.

Our prayers and sympathy support our loved ones who have suffered lose in their families: Bro. Alvin and Sis. Elda Riggenbach in the death of their daughter-in-law and Sis. Sarah Rice in the death of her nephew. "... weep with those who weep."

We also support Sis. Kate Oesch in prayer as her daughter, Sara Jones, undergoes treatment for cancer.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Lois Maibach

#### Charlene Winkler

We recently heard the joyous engagement announcement of Bro. Novko Atanasov (Nikola and Sofia) and Sis. Julie Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl) who are planning their March 22 wedding.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Arlyn Zollinger (Sis. Elverna) as he is engaged to Sis. Barbara Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario).

Robert Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda) and Traci Bowman (Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bowman, Jacksonville, FL) are engaged and planning for their wedding May 30. We wish all these couples God's blessings as they plan for their life-long union.

Sis. Barbara Mathys is happy to receive her grandson, Derek Russel, born January 9. Derek is the first child of Russel and Mary Mathys.

Kraig Daniel joined the family of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Diane Gasser January 21. Kraig's brother and sisters and Kurt, Kelly, Kara, Katrina, and Kristin and his grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Elizabeth Gasser and Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer.

Sis. Marie Gasser is a grandma again as Emily Nicole was born February 13 to Jon and Diane Gasser.

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman welcome a grandson, Richard Duane, born February 16 to Duane and Pam Reynolds.

Those who have been ill and in the hospital recently were Jason Beery (Ralph and Cheryl), Bro. Melvin Beery (Sis. Elizabeth), Sis. Jessie Winkler, and Sis. Sandy Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda).

February 8 we gathered to hear the reading of the memorandum. We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) in assisting our own Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer.

Visiting us and serving as a minister was Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Ralph Lanz (Sis. Diane) on the death of his father, Henry Lanz, who was a resident in our nursing home.

Funeral services were held February 5 for William Oppliger. We want to comfort his wife, Sis. Laura, in her loss. We thank visiting ministers Bro. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) for their service.

We extend condolences to John Calame (Sis. Margaret) on the death of his brother, David Calame.

After living a faithful life and enduring final months of great pain, Bro. Harry Saurer, age 80, has gone to his heavenly home. We want to remember those grieving his absence; his wife, Sis. Esther, children, Bro. Roger (Sis. Sue), Thomas (Mary Lou), Dan (Sis. Brenda), Sis. Marilyn Trent (Bro. Ed), and Sis. Joann Christian (Bro. Ron), twenty-four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Throughout his last days, Bro. Harry's thoughts were probably as those of the hymn writer of #245 in the Zion's Harp. "When at last my hour shall come, When all earthly ties are severed, And from death and toil delivered, Angel bands shall bear me home!"

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
Renee Miller

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

Psalm 121:1-2

These words of the Psalmist had an extra special meaning to those of us living in the hills of Sardis when they were spoken at the funeral of Sis. Lillian Zollinger (Bro. Charles). She has gone to meet her

"helper" in heaven which the Lord has made for those who are faithful. We pray that the Lord will grant an extra measure of his "help" to Bro. Gary Zollinger (Sis. Terry) and family here in our community who have lost their dear mother and grandmother.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
Stephanie Luginbuhl  
Kim Stoller

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

We rejoice with the three dear souls who have found the perfect peace from God. They are Corban Riegenbach (Bro. Edward and Sis. Anita, Rittman, OH), Dennis Indermuhle (Shari), and Dwaine Beery (Arthur and Eileen). May God be with them as they look forward to being baptized.

We appreciate the labors of Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) who ministered encouraging words from God's Holy Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the dear ones who have experienced infirmities of the flesh. We are thankful Bro. David Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) has felt the Lord's healing hand. Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean) is still in the hospital.

On February 8, we assembled with the Rittman congregation to hear the memorandum. May we be willing to accept the warnings and encouragements given to us by the elder body.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
Josephine Rehklau  
Edie Fetter

"The Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6

Our Elder Bro. William Schlat-

ter (Junction), Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Smithville), and Bro. Walter Rager read the conference conclusions and meditated on the Bible passages that would help us to develop a closer walk with our Saviour. We thank the brethren for their service of love on our behalf.

At our annual business meeting, the following were reelected: Bro. Glen Whittaker (assistant treasurer), Sis. Joyce Rehklau (secretary), Bro. Paul Rywalski (trustee), Bro. Glen Whittaker (usher), and Sis. Marilyn Fetter (dinner coordinator). Bro. Al Weigele is our new elected trustee and Sis. Edie Fetter is the new Silver Lining reporter. In the Sunday school, Bro. Al Weigele is our new superintendent and Bible class teacher, and Sis. GERALYN BEARD was reelected as the teacher of the intermediate class. We extend our appreciation for the devoted service rendered by those whose terms have ended.

Our prayers are with our minister, Bro. Eugene Fetter (Sis. Marilyn) who has had surgery and is home recuperating. May God bless him with a good recovery.

We were blessed to have Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville) and his family with us on a recent Sunday. We thank Bro. Vic for his willing service.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
Pearl Miller

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at anytime your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Luke 21:34, 36

We were reminded of the end times and the importance of being ready to enter those realms above by our dear ministering Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR). We thank him for coming, also Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) for leading

the singing. Other visitors this past month were Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm (Oakville, IA), Bro. John Kaufman (Phoenix, AZ).

Sis. Golda Ditch is feeling much better after experiencing pain from a fractured vertebrae. We wish we could visit with her more often and her husband, Lowell as miles separate us. Their address is: 1282 Gardendlae Avenue, Medford, OR, 17501.

We warmly welcome Bro. John Kinsinger (Elgin, IL) to our area as he plans to settle here.

There's a time of still waters  
That comes to us all,  
A time when we hear  
The Lord's soft gentle call—  
He asks us to trust Him  
To be still and rest  
As he works to accomplish  
His will for our best.

B. J. Hoff

### OREGON, SILVERTON

**Becky Gudeman - Peggy Schulz**

We rejoice as springtime comes once again and we see new life coming forth in God's beautiful creation. Likewise we rejoice with Bro. Richard and Sister Marianne Kraft in the birth of their son, Dallas Richard, January 28. His brother, Austin, is very attentive to his new sibling.

Where there is a time to be born, there is also a time to die. We were saddened to learn of the passing away of Martha Knapp (Goodfield, IL). She is the grandmother of Sis. Michelle (Todd) Zollinger, Cindy Metzger, and Kurt Metzger all of our Silvertown congregation. We extend to them our sympathy. Their grandfather, Bro. George Knapp, recently went to his reward also. May we each appreciate our grandparents while they are still with us. We can learn so much from them.

We are happy to learn that little Cameron Sinn (Mark and Elsie) is home and back to his lively self after a brief stay in the hospital for dehydration.

As springtime blossoms around us, may we also remember that now is also the time for pruning. It

is only with the proper pruning that we receive a bountiful harvest.

### PRUNING

When spring has come and snow  
recedes,  
And the chilling March winds  
blows,  
I go to prune the apple trees,  
The grape vine, and the rose.

I prune the trees which are too high,  
And such that are too low;  
And some have barren, rampant  
growth,  
On which no fruit will grow.

Some trees have branches all  
entwined,  
And thus no fruit they bear.  
I cut, and saw, and prune them  
out,  
That light may enter there.

The grape vine, too, has gone astray  
And far their vines, have run;  
I hesitate to cut them back—  
Alas! it must be done.

I prune the branches of the rose,  
Which grows entwined and high.  
The rose, when pruned by skillful  
hands,  
More flowers will supply.

My friends, take note, I will  
explain  
A truth profound and rare.  
The Master's hand must prune our  
lives  
If we good fruit would bear.

How blest the man who will  
submit;  
He ne'er will suffer loss  
God knows just how to prune our  
lives,  
And cut away the dross.

The barren and the harmful growth  
The Master will remove.  
He will, by purging of each branch,  
His loving kindness prove.

Henry Beer

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

**Franz Soni**

"It is good that a man should

both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Lamentations 3:26

Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz held a church supper at their home January 19, welcoming Sis. Kerin Holmes (Tremont, IL). We welcome Sis. Kerin to our church family and look forward to having her worship with us.

We thank Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May our dear God richly reward him for his efforts.

With spring here we welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 pm. Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further information please call Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We would certainly like to say a special thank you to all who so willingly gave of their time to the work project of replacing our church roof. They came from the following congregations: Bern, Lamont and Sabetha, KS, Lester and West Bend, IA, Bluffton, IN and Winthrop, MN. May God bless you.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silvertown, OR). We enjoyed having Bro. Clarence and his wife Sis. Betty visit us. Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to help with the work project. We were blessed to have Bro. Dean bring us God's Word.

We also welcomed a visit from retired minister Bro. Harry Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL).

February 17 was the day chosen to do our annual church cleaning. We very much appreciated the help we received from our winter visitors. They have our whole hearted thanks.

Bro. Emil Strahm has been in the hospital in Laredo. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

## SILVER THREADS

### "DON'T GIVE UP"

Don't give up and think it's  
hopeless  
Tho the way seems hard and drear  
And the clouds hand low and heavy  
For blue sky will yet appear.

These dark days are necessary  
For they test our hearts each day  
And prove just what is in us  
As we walk God's lowly way.

Oftimes we get discouraged  
With such little progress made  
And worrying over our mistakes  
Think we'll never make the grade.

Then at times we do get careless  
And neglect to watch and pray  
Thus the enemy gets a chance to  
work  
And we hinder God from having  
His way.

But it's not the failures or mistakes  
That we make along the way  
Which will cause us greatest  
sorrow  
When we are judged on that last  
day.

For God in His heaven has  
promised  
That such things He will forgive  
If now we're willing to repent  
And differently then live.

It's not the sin which we commit  
That really tells our worth  
It's our willingness to make it right  
That's going to count the most.

And tho we ere and make mistakes  
As we journey on lifes way  
In order to get right with God  
There is a price which we must  
pay.

But the price of sin is costly  
And it's not only us who pay  
It cost God something also  
And others too in His way.

It's not paid with gold or silver  
But it's paid by losses and tears  
It's paid by heartaches and  
suffering  
And sometimes it takes years.

Because of a little folly  
We may lose a lot down here  
The confidence of others  
And some friends we treasure dear.

But of one thing we can be certain  
When other friendships dim  
In Heaven there's one who will not  
fail  
If we put our trust in Him.

He has never disappointed  
And he never, never will  
So if we give our life to Him  
He'll make it worthwhile still.

He'll blot out our failures and  
mistakes  
He'll give us a hope that's new  
He'll stand by us when temptations  
come  
Our courage and strength he'll  
renew.

As we take His hand and journey  
on  
Oe'r a rough and rugged way  
It's then that the clouds will  
disappear  
And brighter will be each day.

We'll meet new friends and they'll  
trust us  
And as we look back on the past  
These heartaches all will have  
vanished  
But the scars of them will last.

By Martha Dahl  
1883-1954

### DEFEAT DEPRESSION

If depression at your door is  
knocking  
making you feel "down" and  
"low" -  
Remember anguish He endured for  
us  
so many years ago!

He never asks we carry  
burdens but such as He did bear  
And when the "going" is bit rough  
He's right there His help to  
share.

Just pick your cross up daily  
with a smile and travel on  
Where'er His hand does lead you -  
how soon, and life is gone!

Forget yourself for others;  
yes, put others in the "fore" --  
You'll be amazed how quickly  
depression will go out the door!

### THE MASTER ARTIST

The Artist's canvas is unfurled --  
'tis seen across the sky --  
In pastel tones: lavender and pink,  
saffron and red and gold;  
and then for contrast He did  
add  
Brush stroke of blue -- deep, bold!

He's giv'n the trees new change of  
dress  
from fresh, green robes of  
spring.  
Now lavishly they are attired  
in brightest hues and bold:  
reds, yellows, golden bronze  
and orange --  
These robes we now behold!

With gentians blue and aster  
bright  
He brightens all the way-sides;  
And golden-rod and cat-tails,  
brown  
we see along the ditches.  
Oh azure skies! October skies!  
All are God-given riches!

(Soon wind will whisper to the  
leaves,  
"do come and play with me")  
Then Artist paints a carpet, bright  
with leaves from off the trees.  
(In answer to the wind's loud  
call  
They dance along with ease).

Our feathered friends are  
gath-er-ing  
to leave us for a season,  
Except the chickadee and jay  
and cardinal in bright vesture  
who stay to brighten dreary  
days  
When autumn's days are over.

Oh wind and trees, birds, flowers  
and skies!  
all made by Great Creator --  
The Word becomes reality:  
". . . heav'ns declare . . . glory of  
God;  
firmament sheweth His handi  
work: --  
Praise! acknowledge! all is from  
God!

## Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

is what God is asking of you and me tonight. We should be steadfast, and we should be unmovable, knowing that our works, our actions and efforts that we put forth will not be in vain.

Beloved ones, that means that at the end of our journey, regardless how long it may be (and we know not how long our journey will be upon this earth), but at the end our journey, there would be a reward. There would be a reward for the faithfulness of those who loved and served God.

Beloved ones, we read here this evening, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

Each and every time that we gather together we hear of the commandments of God. Throughout the Scriptures we are taught of the commandments of God. Each Sunday and Wednesday when you gather together, you hear from the pulpit of the directions and commandments of God, and that you should be a faithful, holy and an upright people, Beloved ones, the Scriptures say, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

So He is testing our love. He is testing our love by our ability to walk in His ways and to follow His footsteps. Do we accomplish this by ourself? No. We read this evening of the Comforter. We read of the Holy Spirit. God will give unto you and me a portion of His Spirit.

If there are those, (and I believe perhaps there are those among us), who have begun in repentance, as you begin to lay the ground-work, and as you begin in this new life, a changed life, you become dead to the world. You become dead to self and alive unto Christ.

We build upon that Solid Rock, the Foundation that has already been laid. This Scripture says wherein man cannot alter. He cannot change it, because it has already been laid.

We can build upon that Foundation. We can build a strong vessel, but only through faith in God, only if we allow His Spirit to richly work within us . . . not of ourself, not even of our own choosing.

I'm sure there are many across

the land, and often perhaps wonder "Why this?" Or, "Why that?" God has a reason. He has a purpose. As things would befall us . . . trials, temptations, and tribulations of this life, God is trying and testing us. He is keeping track.

We read in the Scriptures that there is a Book of Life being written. Perhaps, as we would think of it each day, a page. I would rather believe that for each one of us there would just be a page. God knows it all.

When we think of today's technology, the computers and those things that are sophisticated, I think we should just think of our God. We really do not know, do we? His record will be faultless. He account of the Book of Life is where we want to be entered . . . into those pages white and fair.

In order to have our name written on that page white and fair, we have to love and serve Him, and we have to fear Him. Not that we fear Him as a Father or as a Brother, but that we would fear that we would fail. We should reverence Him and have humility, meekness, kindness, joy, longsuffering, and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

As we read this evening, if the Spirit is within us, and if we are being fed, and taking our strength from the Spirit, then we are going to bear those fruits. We are going to show forth as an example in a world of darkness, a world that is ever growing darker. We sang in a hymn this evening, among other things, "He is the Light and we the glow."

We should walk while we have the Light . . . the light of our Lord and Saviour who is among us tonight. We can look into this precious Word, and we know that the Word is sufficient. The Word is sufficient for all of our problems, our obstacles, whatever it may be. He is able to conquer all.

It says here, "I am the way, the truth, and the life . . ." John 14:6. You know it is so easy for us to sometimes forget that. It is so easy for us to think that we, ourselves, can do this or that, or we depend on that which we achieve, but not really. It is only if the Lord wills. I hope we can always remember that

only if the Lord wills, will He allow us this or that.

We also read this evening of prayer. It said,

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:13-15.

When our Saviour was upon this earth, He didn't miss anything. He says, "If ye ask, I will do it." Beloved ones, I think we have to be wise enough, (I am speaking of spiritual wisdom, and Godly wisdom), to ask according to His will. We would be foolish and we would be only fooling ourselves if we asked for things that were not according to His will.

Beloved ones, in all things, we have to ask, "Not our will, but Thine be done." If the will of God would not be that we would receive what we would ask, that we should not become discouraged. We should not become wrathful or upset, but just simply trust in God. Trust in Him one hundred percent.

We heard some testimonies last Saturday evening, and it was so plain, in one in particular, that that dear soul struggled for a long time. Until she fully submitted "fully" she really could not find what she looked for.

We sing in a hymn in the first verse, "All for me and none for Thee". That is the life of an unconverted soul. As the song goes on, it says, "Some for Thee and some for me." The last verse said, "All for Thee and none for me." When we can submit it all to our God, and take what He gives us, then we can rest assured that He will lead us, and He will guide us.

We are a lost soul. That is what the Saviour came for. He came for the lost. He did not come for those who were self-sustaining. He came for those who were lost, wretched and poor.

Even though we can become rich, and we do, we become rich when we accept that gift He has to offer. Then we must let Him lead us and guide us, because He knows the way.

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## SERMON BY BRO. EDWARD KNECHT OF SILVERTON, OR

“Love God and Keep His Commandments”  
Psalm 24 and John 14:1-25

The heading of this chapter is, “Christ’s Farewell Sermon.” We know that at the time of the writing of this, Christ was yet in the world and He was among His disciples and His followers. He was teaching and instructing them of those things which they were going to have to carry out and carry on when He would no longer be with them.

Beloved ones, we can be so thankful that there were those who were willing to follow and those who were willing to be instructed and to be taught of our Lord and Saviour that the Word might continue to go forth. Not only these, but we know how even after this took place, there were those like the Apostle Paul and others who were called out to minister and preach the gospel to mankind.

Because of that, dear brothers and sisters and all those who are gathered here this evening, we are here together. Because the gospel continued to be preached and to go forth throughout the world, and throughout the nation, the Word of God is a true and everlasting Word.

We read in the Scriptures that heaven and earth will pass away and all that there is therein, but, He said, “My Words will endure forever.” (See Luke 21:33). Beloved ones, as we think of God’s Word enduring forever, then we have to think of our own soul and how it is going to endure forever. Your soul and mine, beloved ones, will rest

on and on in eternity.

We know that eternity is going to be one of two places. In God’s Word, it tells us that. As we look through it from the beginning to the end, we find so many examples and so many exhortations of how there is going to be two destinations.

One is going to be of everlasting joy and peace, as we read in the fore-reading. We read of the King of glory, who is the Lord of hosts. (See Psalm 24:8-10). We know that there is One who has given His life and has died upon the cross. Our Lord and Saviour paid the price that you and I might have a living hope, the living hope of salvation.

Here we read in the Word together that the Saviour ministered unto them in those days. He said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1. What a comfort that we can take words such as these and find how true they are!

All of us here who have become converted, we, at a time, were troubled. But now as we have become reconciled to God, we can have a comfort within our heart. We can put away that troubled thought, that trouble and that condemnation that rested heavy upon us, because if we believe in God, then we believe also in our Saviour. God and the Saviour are One.

It says, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to

prepare a place for you.” John 14:2. Brothers and sisters, how grateful we can be that there is a promise that there are mansions not made with hands . . .

A heaven, beloved ones, that is indescribable! A heaven that, the Word tells us, eye hath not seen! Man has not been able to comprehend heaven, nor has entered into the heart! It is a beauty and a joy that awaits those that love and serve God! Beloved ones, that is the mansions of God!

We read in the Scriptures of the bride of Christ. We read of that building being put together . . . each stone, each part of it being fitted so all will fit together in God’s heavenly kingdom.

You and I, dear brothers and sisters, we are being fitted for those heavenly mansions. As a brother or sister in the Lord, you and I are being fitted. Beloved ones, as It says, “Let not your heart be troubled.” John 14:1.

The enemy of our soul would like nothing better than to disturb us, discourage us, and to cause us to become weak. He would like nothing better than to cause us to become doubtful when we would, perhaps, begin to look off to the left or the right.

Beloved ones, when we think of the precious faith of our fathers and those who have gone on before us who were a steadfast and unmovable people, beloved ones, that

(Continued on Page 31)