



"And she said, Oh my lord,
as thy soul liveth, my lord, I
am the woman that stood by
thee here, praying unto the
Lord.

For this child I prayed; and
the Lord hath given me my

petition which I asked of him;
Therefore also I have lent
him to the Lord; as long as he
liveth he shall be lent to the
Lord. And he worshiped the
Lord there." 1 Sam. 1:26-28

VOLUME 42

MAY 1992

NUMBER 5

Mother's Day

**"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."
Proverbs 31:30**

BLACK - a symbol of affliction and calamity - when Daddy died five years after their marriage, Mother turned it into BLUE which represents DEITY - Her faith in God and His Word taught me to love Him. Mother rejoiced when I repented and JESUS BLOOD of CRIMSON RED washed away my sin. Adopted into the family of God my GARMENT is ROYAL PURPLE.

Now in Mother's infirmity, distress and confusion, HE is teaching me patience, more purity and holiness and some day I'll wear a ROBE of WHITE.

Note: During a recent Mother/Daughter dinner the mothers and daughters were to write of the colors their mother reminded them of.

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

WHERE WAS SATAN?

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle — Shioda, Japan

Where was Satan at the time of Christ's resurrection? Now that Easter has come and gone, I'm wondering about that. Satan is not mentioned directly in the Easter story but I noticed Mark 16:9 which reads, "He "Christ" appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils." This was a reminder of the work of evil spirits.

We also remember that Satan is mentioned in regard to Christ's betrayal by Judas. Luke 22:3 reads, "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of twelve." We do understand that there is a spiritual warfare going on between God and Satan -- hence the question, "Where was Satan at the time of Christ's resurrection?"

To prevent the resurrection would no doubt be his first goal. About all he could do was seal the tomb but that was non-effective. Having failed to stop the resurrection, the next line of battle would be to keep people from believing it. In Matthew we can read that the chief priests gave the soldiers money to say that the disciples sold Christ's body. Also, the disciples were very reluctant to believe in the resurrection but finally had to believe because of Christ's many appearances.

If Satan was really that active in those days, he must still be very

active today. We readily recognize that he is active with the friends in keeping them from repentance and saving faith. The area in which we may need to give more prayerful thought is the area of Satan working among the believers. What is he up to and how is he effecting our relationship with one another? He works through our own weaknesses and through our own desire, in some cases, to have the preeminence. What can we do to combat the devil?

The Bible teaches us to be humble and to esteem others higher than ourselves. This is very helpful. However, when others are plainly in violation of the teachings of the New Testament, we should disagree with them while esteeming them. It's in the interpretation of the New Testament where Satan attacks us. Let's be careful for his attacks.

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation will soon be coming up. Why not give a gift of cassette tapes produced in Austria and Hungary, containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book) and Zion's Harp Hymnals.

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the East-

ern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others. Even though the communist "wall" is down and many new freedoms are enjoyed, the economic situation remains desperate in many areas.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

"Holy Love" and "Blest Be the Tie," tapes recorded in Hungary, feature orchestra and choral renditions of songs from the Zion's Harp and Long Book, as well as many of their Hungarian hymns.

We have received a great re-
(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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Grabill, IN 46741

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

A new Froehlich book entitled, "OLD TESTAMENT MEDITATIONS" will be available in May from the Apostolic Christian Publications bookstore in Eureka, IL. The text contains writings of S. H. Froehlich, including new sections previously not available in English, along with a number of educational maps. These writings have been carefully translated in order to remain true to the original, then the entire work formatted and printed in a new style which is easier to read than existing Froehlich works.

The casual reader as well as the serious student, will gain a blessing from these Bible studies, which are based on the doctrine of our faith and applicable to our times.

Your needy Brother-in-Christ,
Ron Heiniger
Secretary Apostolic Christian Publications



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).

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE OR BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE?

The above question is not intended to have an either/or answer. Both attributes in the question (knowledge and obedience) are very important, and both are beneficial in our spiritual walk.

The question is intended to draw attention to the matters of knowledge and obedience as they pertain to Christian living; and it is recommended that a proper and balanced emphasis be given to both aspects of discipleship. True spiritual knowledge and obedience go hand in hand and cannot be separated.

There are essentially two ways of responding to knowledge. They are referred to in James 1:23-25: "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Biblical knowledge without obedience does not accomplish God's will. Lip service to Christ may be openly acknowledged, but often the fruitful life is lacking, and a worldly lifestyle is not forsaken. Such half-hearted efforts seem to abound in our time.

Some professing Christians who appear to have a strong grasp of the Scriptures, nonetheless fail to come out from the world and reflect the traits of self-denial and obedience which would distinguish them from unbelievers. The Word describes such as those who are "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7). They have a form of godliness, but their unregenerated lives indicate that they "deny the power thereof" (2 Tim. 3:5).

True spiritual knowledge is a desirable trait. It is obtained by prayerfully studying the Word, both personally and under the guidance of church counsel (2 Thess. 3:9; 1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:15). This should result in the individual developing a longing to embrace the truths and apply them in every aspect of life. Such knowledge of God should not make one self-centered, but should reflect the biblical ideals of "likemindedness" (Rom. 15:5) and "esteeming others better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

An intricate knowledge of God's Word is beneficial as long as it does not cause a believer to become exalted in his own understanding or deviant from established doctrine. If a soul becomes over-studied, all too often an attitude of self-sufficiency undermines a love for church guidance and for the humble pathways of the church body, of which the individual member is an integral part. This is not the intended outcome of growing in biblical knowledge. With any kind of knowledge (spiritual or secular), there is a risk of becoming vain and puffed up and even falling into the sin of variance (Gal. 5:20). It is love that edifieth (1 Cor. 8:1-2) and strengthens the church (Eph. 4:16).

Biblical knowledge is an important step in the sequence which leads from faith to fruitfulness: "...add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance...if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful..." (2 Pet. 1:5-8).

Sound knowledge is distinguished by several scriptural examples. The "fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7); "the prudent are crowned with knowledge" (Prov. 14:18); "the tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright" (Prov.

15:2). Thus, it is clear that wisdom, prudence and godly fear are attributes that are closely associated with biblical knowledge.

Biblical obedience is not an option for the believer. A devout, humble Christian will be motivated by love for Christ to be obedient to His Word. Jesus exhorted, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Samuel told Saul that "to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Sam. 15:22). God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

We live in a society which places a high value on individualism. In the world any type of submission must be preceded by prolonged introspection to determine if reasons for obedience are credible, and acceptable. Such attitudes, which stem from patterns of reason and rationalism, want to spill into the beloved church. There is a tendency to hesitate to obey a church teaching unless one is in full agreement with it. Submission involves obeying without waiting for agreement. However, understanding and conviction will follow if we obey with a willing, humble attitude. Jesus taught that if we do the will of God, we will come to know that it is the truth (John 7:17).

We should remember that increased spiritual knowledge is intended to lead to a deeper obedience to Christ. Knowledge is not an end in itself. In fact wisdom is even more important because this is the ability to apply knowledge properly. James writes: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (Jam. 1:5).

As believers we should sincerely desire and pray to be "filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col. 1:9) so that we may become "obedient in all things" (2 Cor. 2:9) and bring glory to our beloved Saviour.

sponse in the sale of these 5 tapes and wish to thank everyone for their past support.

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

The two tapes, "Holy Love," a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be the Tie," which has both orchestra and singing are available at \$7.00 for each tape. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add 75¢ extra for each tape. On orders of 6 or more tapes, add only 30¢ extra for each tape. Make checks for Hungarian tapes to the person you order from.

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

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

or

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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR
THE HANDICAPPED**

Spring . . . a time of new beginnings. We are looking forward to

spending time in the "great outdoors". There is talk of camping, bike riding, walks, picnics and kite flying. One can imagine the walls bowing with our anticipation of enjoying activities outside. Each day offers a new beginning. Each day offers interesting experiences and challenges under our roof. Seventy-five percent of the residents leave the building in the morning for various work and learning experiences. The remaining 25% attend a day program provided for them here at the Home. Then late afternoon, bus by bus, the residents begin arriving home. There is a social hour with refreshments for the transition time and then one by one, day by day, various activities take place. In house we schedule various class-type activity; activities centered around music and song, leisure activity such as you would find in your own home during the evening. We are scattered about the Home through the evening hours. Some residents are busy in the wings with their daily care; some are in the living rooms piecing puzzles, playing games, etc.; some are in the activity that requires a bit more space.

Off campus or in the community we regularly go shopping and out to eat. We participate with the Park District in specially planned outings. Various events in the community offer more opportunities for participation. We are definitely looking forward to spending a lot of time in the "great outdoors".

Springtime means new beginnings,

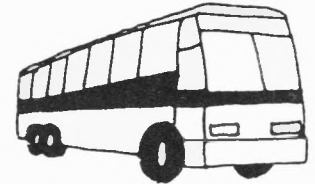
Sermons in each tender shoot;
Peach and plum and apple
blossoms
Promise give of summer fruit.

Springtime and Easter's message—
Earth adopts a hopeful mood.
Easter means resurrection,
Life and strength and faith
renewed.

Easter and reassurance
Soothes a weary, ravaged earth;
As again her people witness
The changeless miracle of spring's
rebirth.

June birthdays at ACHH are:
Dale Plattner (5), Aldine Winger
(15), Rodney Blaum (15), Donnie
Parks (18), Sharilyn Rowell (19),
Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet
Wilt (21), Chip Johann (22), Kim
White (23), Lyle Steffen (24), Willis
Belsley (25). At Oakwood: Doris
Hutchinson's birthday is the 18th.
At CRS: Harold Miller's birthday
is the 7th.

RIDE THE BUS



Central Illinois bus trip to
the Gateway Children's Home
Auction and Sale on August 8.

Noah and Evie Herrmann
are chartering a bus from Cen-
tral Illinois for the Children's
Home Auction and Sale Satur-
day, August 8.

The bus will leave Peoria
Apostolic Christian fellowship
hall Friday, August 7, at ap-
proximately 12:30 p.m. and
make passenger pick-ups along
Route 24 with overnight stay in
Fort Wayne at a motel.

The bus will return Satur-
day, August 8, leaving the
Children's Home at 4:00 p.m.
The first forty-six reservations
will be honored. The cost of the
bus trip is \$30 per person.

Contact Noah Herrmann,
211 Ostrom Avenue, Princeville,
IL 61559, phone: 309-385-4872.

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH

We now have need for a full-time Educational Coordinator in our classroom at Gateway Woods. This brother or sister will tutor our young people with daily homework assignments, school projects and tests. In addition, they will provide a liaison role between the local school system and the Home, 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.

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

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

What a beautiful time of year. The children have enjoyed learning about plants and spring, and we also had a beautiful Easter season. It is always so good to hear a child's view of the crucifixion. In their simple world they recognize the pain and agony our Lord Jesus

suffered. One child was emphasizing this point to another and he made the comment, "And Jesus didn't even have any bandaids either!" The children are also quick to learn why Jesus died and that He did not stay dead.

During the month of May, we have been studying about animals and are planning to take a field trip to a local animal farm. The

other big event for the month of May is graduation. On Thursday, May 28, all of the students put on graduation gowns and the oldest students who will be going to kindergarten in the fall, also wear caps. Then they all put on a program for their parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, and friends. The students work hard for this program, and the evening is an exciting one for all.

Our last day of our regular school year is May 29, but we start right into our summer program on June 1. The Preschool has been especially busy this year, and we expect a busy summer. We need help! If anyone is interested in coming down for any length of time to volunteer their services here at the Preschool, we could sure use the help. There are many opportunities for all different talents, and lodging is available. If you are interested, please contact Sis. Joan Meister at Rt. 11, Box 33, Athens, AL 35611, or call 205-233-0591. May the Lord richly bless your willingness to give of your time and yourself to His work.

-- 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
March 1992 —	3146	27,460
April 1992 —	4553	32,013

*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.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Sue Grusy

It's a busy time of year here at Gateway Woods, as we prepare for the upcoming summer months. Bro. Trent Schrock has been hired as

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1992
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1992**

our summer volunteer coordinator. We look forward to a full and active season service with our many volunteers.

But as we find ourselves pressed to "accomplish" things, it's important to be sure that our hearts are rightly motivated. I was recently reminded of this when I heard this hymn: "Let Your Heart Be Broken"

Let your heart be broken,
For a world in need:
Feed the mouths that hunger,
Sooth the wounds that bleed.
Give a cup of water,
And the loaf of bread -
Be the hands of Jesus,
Serving in His stead.

Here on earth applying,
principles of love,
Visible expressions,
God still rules above -
Giving illustrations,
of the Living Word
To the minds of those
who've never seen or heard.

Blest to be a blessing,
privileged to care,
Challenged by the need -
apparent everywhere,
Where mankind is wanting,
fill the vacant place
Be the means through which
the Lord reveals His grace.

Let your heart be tender,
And your vision clear;
See the world as God see,
Serve Him far and near.

Let your heart be broken,
By a brother's pain,
Share your rich resources,
Give and give again.

B. J. Leech

Each of us here prays that the Lord would keep our hearts broken. The scriptures remind us that "The Lord is nigh unto those who are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psalms 34:18)

We are always glad to welcome new children as the Lord leads them to us. We're thankful to have Josh with us in the West Hose. We also give an official "welcome" to Sis. Marilyn Walder who joins us in the "All Girls House" as a houseparent. We pray that the Lord will keep her heart tender, and her vision clear as she serves our children.

Several of our children were in spring vocal concerts. Charity is busy with practices for the softball team. Jason E. plays sax for the elementary school band, while Chris B. plays drums.

We'll continue to pray for an Assistant Houseparent and an Educational Coordinator. We trust God to lead hearts and provide for our needs. (See notice in this issue.)

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

Spring has arrived in Alabama!
A sure sign is the breathtaking
blooming of the dogwood trees and

azalea bushes, a reminder of God's awesome beauty and power!

Again this month, we have enjoyed many visitors, some of those were from Mansfield, OH, Forrest, Peoria, Bloomington and Fairbury, IL, Detroit, MI and Leo, IN. Thank you, we always enjoy visitors!

Our Sunday school children brought the true meaning of Easter to us during their Easter program Palm Sunday. From the youngest to the oldest, each had their part to share.

The day before the Easter program, the Sunday school children got together for a day full of fellowship and fun. It started with an Easter egg hunt for the youngest, volleyball, a wiener roast, practice for the Easter program. They all had a special time, while it also encouraged fellowship and friendships of our Sunday school students.

Sis. Shirley Haggemaker spent time in the hospital in the past month, and we're thankful she's back home again, doing better.

Bro. John Bollier (Leo, IN) was with us to share the Word of God on Easter Sunday. We were glad to have Bro. Bollier and his wife with us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron & Ev Hoerr

March 22 was a special day to honor God, for all commandments of marriage are governed by God.

Bro. Mark Steffen and Sis. Stacey Baum said their wedding vows before Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, the bride's grandfather.

A sit down reception was held at the Arizona Biltmore. Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen (Alto, MI) are their parents.

We pray much happiness in a home filled with Godly love.

We pray God's blessings on loved ones leaving our congregation. Bro. Jim Zollinger has found employment in Rittman. Sis. Frances Schrenck is moving to Chicago, Doug and Pam Ott and children are moving to Kansas.

March 15 is Taylor Rae Massner's birth date. Her mother

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Our Sis. Shay Nelson, Assistant Houseparent in the New House, is returning to the Central Illinois area in early May. This creates an immediate opening for an Assistant Houseparent on our staff. Please prayerfully consider this important mission of reaching out to troubled young people. Perhaps God is calling you.

The sister would help the Houseparents with the daily care of our children as well as other various household duties. We provide extensive trainign and continuing 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
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

is Jeri Massner. Grandmother, Phyliss Massner Knobloch came from Oakville to visit.

We enjoyed a fellowship dinner and singing March 29. A hearty thank you to all who worked so we could enjoy being together.

Palm Sunday is special for the start of Holy Week, even more special, was holy communion. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Richard Schupbach passed the bread and the cup. "My body . . . my blood which is shed for you." Luke 22:19-20.

We give thanks unto the Lord – for Sis. Doris Kokanovich's successful surgery; Bro. Ted Knochel is sometimes able to worship with us; Sis. Josephine Martin is back after being ill; Bro. Earl Sanders had wrist surgery.

The desert is green and flowers abloom, it's beautiful. Many birds are singing their delightful songs. Oh the wonder of it all!

As surely as spring comes – so does the end of the school year, and graduation. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom." Proverbs 3:13. Daily reading from the Psalms or Proverbs will help you fill your every need and become even more dear to us who love you.

Graduates from the 8th grade: David Dotterer, Mark Dotterer, Erica Johnston, Heidi Kokanovich, Sis. Carmen Langhofer and Robin Esslinger. High school graduates are: Kolette Niemeyer, Kelli Tooley and Brian Emch. College graduates are Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Jerry Baum. Parents of our graduates are: Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, Bro. John and Sis. Joanne Dotterer, Debra Johnston, Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich, Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger.

Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois Niemeyer, Jerry and Sis. June Tooley and Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton).

Thank You: We wish to thank all the dear ones for their kind expressions of love and sympathy in the loss of our grandson and son. The support and kindness of our

church family is so precious. May God richly bless each one.

Bro. Clarence & Sis. Linda Yackley

Harold & Ramona Wenninger

Until we join here together next issue, let's let our love for Him glow from within, we will all be happier.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The Tucson church was privileged to have the Phoenix choir spend the day with us recently. After enjoying their beautiful singing, we had food and fellowship. It was a day everyone enjoyed so we thank them for making it possible. May God bless your efforts!

Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) was able to visit us and share the Word. We are always glad to see Bro. Greg, Sis. Denise and their family. Thanks to them for their service and fellowship.

COLORADO, DENVER

Eric and Marcel Huber

What is a miracle? Is it an act of God? Is it an event unexplainable by the laws of nature? During Christ's time many miracles were performed: healing of the sick and blind, casting out demons and devils, and raising individuals from the dead. This was so the power of God might be known unto men. What about today? Do we recognize miracles when they happen? On March 23, Bro. Verne Lehman suffered a cardiac arrest as he was driving down the street. Two individuals observed Bro. Verne's car crossing the yellow line. They were able to stop the car and summon paramedics. CPR was performed and Bro. Verne was taken to the hospital and stabilized. The timing of events was critical in this situation in order for Bro. Verne to survive. The following is a quote from an individual who helped with the rescue. "If the key people were not there, I think this man would have died. It is just bizarre that all the pieces fell together . . . I give all the glory to God. I just don't think I did anything special." Bro. Verne subsequently had heart surgery to have a defibrillator implanted and

is now recovering at home. Our prayer is that God will grant Bro. Verne full recovery.

On Easter, we heard about the miracle of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is encouraging to remember Christ's words, "Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19.

The engagement of Bro. Chris Johnson (Roy and Susan Johnson, Tallahassee, FL) and Sis. Barb Baer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer, Princeville, IL) was announced Easter Sunday. We pray God will continue to bless their lives as they plan their future together.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren. (Acts 15:23). We recently attended the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Kevin in exhortations to the members and friends. The Lord has such a loving way of drawing us nearer to him. There is so much that we have heard and now may we all apply it to our hearts and minds.

"And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

John 3:24

"Faithful until death remain! For the crown of life be striving. Break through bonds of woe and pain, In His promise e'er confiding, Which through grace is kept in store, For thee when thy journey's o'er, For thee when thy journey's o'er." (Zion's Harp #105). Not knowing when the Lord will call us, working towards that heavenly goal requires being faithful until death. May the Lord grant us all the wisdom, grace and peace in our lives to strive daily.

Our dear Sis. Emma Moser passed away Saturday, April 11 at the age of 83. She was the widow of Rudolph Moser. She leaves four sons, Edward Moser (Tucson, AZ),

Bros. Ben, James and Roger Moser, all of Ellington; a daughter, Sis. Florine Luginbuhl (Tolland); a sister, Sis. Ida Welti (Ellington); 24 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren. Sis. Emma always portrayed a quiet, gentle spirit and shall be greatly missed. Our love and prayers are offered to all the family.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

We welcome Sis. Jill Aeschleman to our congregation. She and Bro. Matthew Aeschleman were united in marriage March 22 in Lester, IA. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA).

We also extend our best wishes to Sharon and Russell Floyd who were married April 11. Her parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Smithville, OH). With so many in the area for the wedding we had services April 12. It was our largest assembly to date. There were at least 80 assembled. Ministers that day were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH).

Whether there are seventy or just one person in town, we are glad for the extra fellowship. Several of us enjoyed an evening of fellowship with Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) who was in the area during the week.

Our minister for our regularly scheduled Sundays were Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Wallace Ramsier. A special thanks to Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen for making the trip two weekends in a row. Other visitors this month were from Milford, IN, Rittman and Smithville, OH, Eureka and Gridley, IL, Nashville, TN and Philadelphia, PA.

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 have had more surprise and excitement in the last month! Considering how small our congregation is, we were all astonished to hear two more engagement announcements!

Bro. Seth Sauder (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) had been led to ask for Sis. Dawn Plattner's hand in marriage. Dawn is from Goodfield, IL, although she is currently attending school in Champaign, IL.

Bro. Jonathan Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Sis. Jill Kaufman (Cissna Park). Both of them are residing in Champaign, IL. Our warmest wishes and prayers accompany both couples in the coming months of their engagements.

This year we have several graduations to report. High school graduates are Aaron Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne) and Bryan Hohulin (Keith and Connie). College graduates include: Sis. Amy Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Bros. Doug and Seth Sauder (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy). Congratulations and God's blessings as you enter the next exciting stages of your lives.

At the annual Sunday school Easter picnic, the children were challenged with Bible-based clues on their scavenger hunt. The adults enjoyed fellowship and watching the children.

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

We were fortunate this month to have many visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN), along with Bros.

Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Richard Sutter (Fort Lauderdale), Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota), John Bollier (Leo, IN) and Douglas Sabo (Sarasota) shared God's Holy Word with us. We are so thankful for their labors of love and those of our local ministers and their families.

Saturday, April 4, several from our congregation were able to attend a hog roast put together by Sarasota members. We thank our brothers and sisters in Sarasota for the wonderful food and fellowship they shared with us.

Sunday, April 12, the richest blessings a congregation can experience on this earth were realized, as we had the Truth proclaimed from the pulpit in the morning, heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls that afternoon, then had the privilege of taking communion yet that blessed day. What a joy to welcome our new brother and sister-in-faith. We pray God will richly bless Bro. Ronald and Sis. Barbara Yergler as they let His will guide their lives. We thank Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Doug Sabo for assisting our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein with the testimonies, baptisms and communion. We ended this beautiful day with a baptismal supper.

"You may be the only Bible some people will ever read." This is a truth that was spoken by two of our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Doug Sabo and Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota). How humbling to think that the way we conduct ourselves, whether at our work place, school, or even the grocery store, we, as Christians, are being "read" by unbelievers. What an awesome responsibility, duty and privilege to be ambassadors for Christ in the world!

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Gerber - Suellen Ott**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after sup-

per, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19 & 20

So thankful are we for the opportunity to share in holy communion with our fellow brethren. A time to take personal inventory of our lives, to see just where we are standing and if we are fit to partake in that great feast.

Easter Sunday, what a celebration! The valued price of this season is Christ's blood. Had Christ not willingly died on the cross, and on the third day rose again from the grave, we would have no hope!

We began our day with an Easter service and program. What a joy to welcome the day in the early morning hours with the anticipation of experiencing the feelings and emotions as Christ ascended up to be with the Father . . . A great day of hope to the believer and for those who stand without - we pray for you to come!

We were privileged to hear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Walt Steffen share the Easter story. Following services, we shared in hearing the testimony of our friend Herman Weisser. What a double blessing for our congregation at this holy time of year, to see the burial of the "old Herman" and seeing him arise a new brother-in-Christ. May God be near our new brother and grant he and his family many loving days together.

Our congregation has been blessed with several ministering brothers and their families. Elder Bros. David Bertsch, Dale Eisenmann and Jesse Beer. Other brothers included were Bros. Walt Steffen, Mark Bahr and Dave Eisenmann Sr.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We pray they are richly rewarded for their willingness to bring forth God's Word to us.

We are thankful that Dorothy Elder is able to assemble with us again following her recent surgery.

Our congratulations go to Bro. John Brewer on his college graduation. We pray the Lord will lead John in the path He has planned for him.

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.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carol Steffen

Spring is here. It is a joyous time with sprouts shooting forth, grass turning green, and an eagerness to begin anew. The first Sunday of spring, Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen (Milford, IN) came to worship and minister unto us. On March 28, Bros. Ed Alt and Tom Stock, their wives and others came from Cissna Park to support our congregation. Bro. Mike Rinkenberger and family (Congerville, IL) also ministered unto us that same weekend. Afterward, we had a church supper. We appreciate the blessed fellowship. Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL) ministered unto us April 5. He brought along a few others to provide another blessing. Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) willingly lent himself Palm Sunday. We thank each minister and each visitor who came to worship with us and to support us.

We welcome Bro. Jeff Waibel, formerly from Peoria, IL, to Belvidere. The Lord provided a job for him in Huntley. His new address is: Jeff Waibel, 301½ 6th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Fort Scott, KS, congregation for furnishing the wallpaper and window treatments for our church and for all their labors of love. Even though we are thankful that project is completed, we will have many memories working together in harmony.

On April 12, our Sunday school presented the Easter program. As each child told the story of Jesus'

death, it reminded us how indebted we are to our Savior.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

Bro. Aaron Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary, Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Jackie Fehr (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Linda, Fairbury, IL) exchanged their sacred marriage vows March 22 in Fairbury. This blessed occasion brings to mind Jesus' words, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and the twain shall be one flesh." Mark 10:7-8. We welcome the newlyweds into our Bloomington-Normal congregation.

On Wednesday evening, April 1, Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) administered communion to our congregation. It is an evening that draws us closer to Christ, as well as to our brothers and sisters-in-faith. We partook of the bread and wine in remembrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of His ultimate sacrifice for us.

Palm Sunday marks the day of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the "multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way. And the multitude that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest." Matthew 21:8-9. In doing this, Jesus was announcing that he was their long awaited Messiah. But the Jewish leaders rejected their King and refused God's offer of salvation in His Son Jesus Christ, as the unconverted do today. For us as believers, Palm Sunday should be a day for us to re-proclaim Jesus as King of our lives, our Lord. The Sunday school and junior choir highlighted this day by presenting their Easter program to the congregation which consisted of songs and readings relating to Christ's betrayal, crucifixion and glorious resurrection. We deeply appreciate

the Sunday school teachers' and song leaders' dedication and hours spent in preparation for the program. It is a blessing to hear the carefully prepared songs/verses and to see the beaming faces of the children and parents alike.

We continue to welcome prayers for Dave Brummit (father of Bro. Dennis) during his lengthy hospitalization.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

On March 21 and 22 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Donna Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma), David Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley) and Valerie Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell). We rejoice with these three souls and wish them an abundance of God's grace as they begin their new life in Christ.

That weekend also brought us the blessing of visiting ministers. They were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Joe Stoller (Princeville).

On April 5, we heard two engagement announcements! Our Sis. Julie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) to Brice Teubel of Peoria (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline Teubel, Lester, IA) and our Bro. John Ehnle (Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna) to Sis. Sara Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret, Princeville). May God bless these couples as they plan their life together.

Card of Thanks: I wish to thank everyone for the phone calls, gifts, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to my family for being there. God bless you all.

Emma Knobloch

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

On March 30, the annual ACYF meeting was hosted here. The purpose of the meeting was to plan for ACYF activities for the coming year.

Our Easter program, put on by

the Sunday school students, was held April 12. Through the theme "The Shed Blood," it was made clear that Jesus' blood bring us near to Him, reconciles us to Him, redeems us and cleanses us from sin (Ephesians 2:13-14; Colossians 1:18-20; I Peter 1:18-19; I John 1:7). After telling about Jesus' shed blood at Calvary through songs and poems, the children took us back to Egypt. The story of the Lamb's blood shed on the first Passover was told and correlated with the purposes of Christ's shed blood. It was a simple and stirring message and we were also reminded that we, like the Egyptians, must be ready when Jesus comes again. "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus . . ." ". . . and the blood of Jesus Christ the Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

It was with reluctance and with selfish sadness we said goodbye to Sis. Marilyn Walder as she left Champaign to work at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN. We have been blessed by the example of her faithful walk with the Lord and we will miss her; yet we are excited and thankful the Lord is leading her into further service for Him. Our prayers go with Marilyn as she takes her love and enthusiasm and joins the children and staff at Gateway Woods.

The engagement of Bro. Jonathan Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, Fort Lauderdale, FL) to Sis. Jill Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanie, Cissna Park) was announced recently. We pray for God's continued presence and leading in their lives.

We thank all of the visitors who have come to worship with us in the past month, and we are especially thankful for the visiting ministers who shared with us God's Word. They were: Bros. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Rich Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL). May God bless them for their love.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

The masking tape on the shirt read: "Jim's blue shirt. That was a very stubborn stain. Mother." My husband was amazed. He told my mother how impressed he was, saying that the stain wasn't just stubborn - it had been impossible. She had worked on it for two weeks, putting on cleaning solutions, letting it dry, and trying over and over to eradicate it. Obviously, her methods were successful. She had not been willing to accept defeat. Speaking for myself as a Christian, I am afraid there are times I am more willing to allow a stain (perhaps a twinge of jealousy or resentment, for example) to remain on my garment than to spend the energy and dedication the Lord needs me to take to remove it. However, my garment is much more important than my husband's blue shirt, infinitely more. May I be willing, not only before communion but always, to check my wedding garment and to use the Lord's treatments - from repentance and confession to more prayer and more application of His will to replace mine - that He may someday present me "faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24b. Incredible how often Mom understands the key!

We are so grateful for additions to our church family, especially when they are new Christians. This Easter Sunday was a special blessing for the church. Saturday evening Blake and Penny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) gave their testimonies of faith, aided by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and their uncle, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). On Easter itself, we witnessed their covenants, baptisms and the seal of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Lord has added Bro. Blake and Sis. Penny to our congregation and we rejoice. As we pray for their continued close walk with the Lord, may we strive for the harmony prayed for in their consecration prayer. Would that each of us match our hearts' desires to our words and deeds, that we may be a glory and honor to Christ, our risen Redeemer.

Our Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin,

IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) both added to the thoughtfulness and wonder of our spiritual journey on Easter. We are, as always, blessed in the labors of our ministers.

We have been appreciating the joys of increased fellowship. Sis. Lynne Fischer, originally from Fort Scott, KS, is nursing at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. What a joy to have her here! We also must not forget to welcome home Bro. Randy Meyer from the west coast. He and his wife, Sis. Lanae, and children, Kendall, Kevin and Kayla, are grand additions to our Chicago family. As a church, may our hearts be large, thanking God for each one and upholding each one in prayer.

Amidst the joys, there often comes sorrow. Whether death comes unexpectedly or as a relief, we grieve. We express our sympathies to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Dana (Trumbower) Pfloderer on the death of her father, John, in Pennsylvania and to Bros. Merle and Martin Hodel on the death of their mother/grandmother, Sis. Emma (Roanoke, IL). May their tears be wiped away in Christ's healing touch and their prayers be remembered. May we, too, be prayerful for them and for their families.

As I was visiting with my sister-in-law, her pager went off. She left immediately as a first responder to the emergency call: a child hit by a car. I waited for her return and I prayed. When she finally called back, she said the three-year-old needed to be taken by helicopter to a larger hospital and she was afraid he wouldn't live. Her next call said he had died. That evening, Good Friday, we sang verse 5 of "Christ the Crucified and Glorified" (Zion's Harp #225). There was the answer to my saddened heart, wondering about the prayer I had prayed:

"Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on His right
With the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified."

For all who are sad, for all who are glad, He has taken care of all

the impossibles and rolled away all that is too heavy. Yet we must have faith to take His hand and trust Him with control of our heart.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Cyndee Anderson**

By its homes one knows a nation,
Not its wisdom or its wealth,
And their strength in true relation
Shows the nature of its health.

In its homes this land was
nourished
By the Bible and by bread
Till its minds and souls both
flourished
And its hearts were duly fed.

'Round the hearthstone, almost
holy,
Met the families of yore
As they worshipped God who
solely
Guided every hope and chore.

There regard was born for
neighbors.
There respect for elders dwelt.
There was respite from one's
labors.
There concern for each was felt.

From its homes came wholesome
thinking
That has made this country great,
Down the generations linking
To each other by this trait.

May our homes accept this duty
In the future as the past,
Giving strength and inner beauty
That allow a land to last.

(Author Unknown)

As we think on motherhood this month, we cannot overestimate the great responsibility and influence a mother carries in creating the type of home to give "strength and inner beauty" to her family and all they come in contact with. As mothers, we feel so weak and incapable of this worthy task, and must often rely completely on the strength and grace of the Lord. How wonderful to be able to turn to His Word when we need guidance. And how well it always fits together.

Psalms 25:9 tells us "The meek

will He guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." It seems God knew how badly we mothers would need His guidance, as He kindly reminds us in I Peter 3:1, 4 to be meek: "Likewise, ye wives, . . . let it (your adorning) be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

We want to thank Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) for serving us from the pulpit this month. We appreciate their willingness to come and the fellowship we could share with them.

On March 29 and April 5, the Cissna church hosted the ACYF singing program. It was refreshing to see so many young people willing to spend an evening in church singing hymns respectfully before God. We thank each one for coming, and also our Sunday school superintendent and teachers for all their efforts.

We appreciate our Bros. Ken Weerts' and Sid Kaufman's efforts in preparing topical Bible presentations for us on "Pilgrims and Strangers" and "Leading A Sanctified Life." We know they take these very seriously, wanting to say only what the Lord would direct them to say through His Word. One verse seemed especially fitting for today. "For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." Isaiah 50:7. It takes real determination at times to stand for the Truth in a world that doesn't believe in the Truth anymore. But God can make us stronger than the world, as it tells us further in Ezekiel 3:7-9.

On April 4, Sis. Cheryl Hermann (Princeville) showed us her slides on the Juarez, Mexico works project. It was a very interesting evening for all, including the many children who came. We want to thank Sis. Cheryl for her enjoyable program and pray for God's blessing on the labor there.

Two Mondays in a row we met at church this month, one to collect

and package clothing, and one for our annual church housecleaning. It's always a blessed day to gather with our church family, whatever the reason.

Hospital patients this month are little Elizabeth Rudin (infant daughter of Greg and Patti Rudin) and Bro. Marvin Hari. "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." I Peter 5:7.

On April 12, Palm Sunday, we rejoiced to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Julie Weerts (Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna) and Bro. Tim Walder (Dave and Sue), both of Cissna. May the Lord keep them close to Him as they prepare for their marriage in Him. That same day we gathered together in the evening to hear our Sunday school sing the songs they have learned for Easter. What a nice way to start out Easter week. Then on the Wednesday evening before Easter, the members and converts came together for communion. Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) came to help our Elder Bro. Art Bahler and Bro. Ed Alt in serving the Lord's Supper to us. As Bro. Dave recounted the events of the cross for us, he reminded us how Jesus had cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Then he put this thought to our hearts: When we hear these words ring out of the darkness, how can we ever do anything to hurt Him again? How good for us to stop and "hear" those words every now and then, and to realize it was for us that He was forsaken. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any many will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Joanne Roth - Myra Steffen

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death 'til He come." I Corinthians 11:26. We were thankful to share in holy communion as we were reminded of our Lord's suffering and death. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) with us for the evening. Other visiting ministers who served us this month

were Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA). May God bless each one.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Bob Williamson (Sis. Doris), Clarence Schlipf and Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion). May God be with them; We remember them in prayer.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her . . . a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28, 30

How thankful we are for our God-fearing mothers, who willingly and faithfully have taught us of God. We have been so richly blessed.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply."
Charles Wesley

It was heart-warming as our Sunday school children shared their talents with beautiful Easter songs and verses.

Together we rejoice that a new Christian home is established as Bro. Jeff Cargill and Sis. Crystal Broquard were untied in marriage March 29. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL). May God continue to bless this union of hearts.

Also, we want to share sympathy to those who mourn the loss of Lillian (Goll) Davis who passed away March 20.

We have loved ones who are enduring great afflictions of the body and who must wait upon the Lord. Sis. Sarah Kellenberger remains quite ill; Sis. Anna Schmidgall underwent surgery and is recuperat-

ing, as well as Phyllis Kaptain, who was able to return home. Bro. John Feucht also spent time in the hospital. We pray each one will feel God's nearness and the comfort of His love and healing if it can be His will.

Visiting Elgin this past month was Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and we ask a special blessing upon him and all for their willingness to be used of God.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

So tender is a mother's love,
A love that can't be measured,
A love we know, without a doubt,
Is one that's to be treasured.
For God instilled this special love
Within a mother's heart
For each of her dear children,
Whether near or far apart.

Unchanging is a mother's love
Throughout the fleeting years,
A love that's wrapped with
gentleness
Which wipes away all tears.
How precious is a mother's love;
It lingers all the while,
And keeps alive that heavenly bond
"Tween mother and her child.
Lois Pinkerton Fritz

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"Jesus will walk with me,
guarding me ever,
Giving me victory thro' storm and
thro' strife;
He is my Comforter, Counselor,
Leader,
Over the uneven journey of life.
Jesus will walk with me, He will
take with me,
In joy or in sorrow today and
tomorrow,
I know He will walk with me."
Gospel Hymns #766

This song seems to give a special message to our high school graduates that Jesus will walk with them in all of their tomorrows no matter how uneven the road may be. Our graduates this year are Chad Bauman, Bruce Blunier, Brian Cottrell, Sis. Denise Knecht,

Bro. Doug Knepp, Sis. Cherry Rocke and Norman Wiegand.

We rejoice with two of our converts who have expressed peace in their hearts. They are Michael Huber (Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen) and Daniel Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila).

It was good to listen to the exhortations from our visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Roy Ehnle, Bro. Gary Endress and Bro. Nathan Stoller (all of Bradford) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Lacrosse, IN).

Our prayers were with hospital patients, Roland Martin and Bro. Neil Gerber. We were very thankful our Elder Bro. Walt Anliker could return home after a lengthy stay in the hospital. We look forward to having him again assemble with us.

"I am overwhelmed with the response of prayers from our brotherhood throughout the land. May our great God reward each of your for your prayers, love, cards and gifts of love shown during my hospital stay and since returning home. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all. May God bless you."

Elder Bro. Walt Anliker

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

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

May God's richest blessings rest on the following visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville), Everett Hari (Bloomington), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Denneth Dietz (Bradford) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke).

We are thankful that Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) is on his way to recovery following a farm accident. May he continue to improve with the many prayers on his behalf.

A VERY THANKFUL FATHER

My Dear Jesus, up in heaven,
Can you hear my feeble
prayer,
As I sit here by the bed side,
of this child - that's in your
care,

Jesus I can almost see Them,
all the angels standing here,
each is carrying in Their bosom,
prayers from our friends so
dear.

From the smallest friends of
Trent,
to the strangers on the street,
all our Sisters and our Brothers,
almost every one we meet,

all are praying to Thee Jesus,
"not our will, but Thine be
done,"
for whatever will might be,
the very best, for this our son.

Jesus all those prayers uttered,
surely must have moved Thy
heart,
to let Trent stay here with us,
instead of having his soul
depart.

Now we beg and plead, Dear
Jesus,
let Thy name be Glorified,
show to all the seeking sinners,
that Thy Grace will be supplied.

If only they can pray sincerely,
that Thy tender loving heart,
might be moved to forgive them,
now before they must depart.

Let Thy presence be felt amongst
them,
when they ponder what Thou
gave,
grant that they can clearly feel
Thee,
pull them from the sinner's
grave.

Also hospitalized were Sis. Sally Schieler, Sis. Mary Traub, Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp, Sis. Aldine Steffen. May the Lord comfort them and continue to be by their side.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr announced the birth of a daughter, Hannah Kristine, March

21. Welcoming her home are two sisters, Kyann and Kaylee, and two brothers, Brett and Austin. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr.

Trent Alan was born to Tammy and Kurt Hoffman April 15. Trevor is happy to welcome his little brother home. Grandparents are Jay and Roberta Zimmerman and Sam and Norma Hoffman.

Sally Moser was married to Leslie Fehr April 11. We wish Sally and Leslie many blessed and happy years together as they continue their lives as one. Their parents are Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

Our congregation rejoices with Sis. Julie Weerts and Bro. Tim Walder (Cissna Park) as their engagement was announced April 12. Their parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Myrna Weerts (Cissna Park) and David and Sue Walder (Cissna Park). We wish them God's richest blessings as they make their plans for their future together. A June wedding is being planned.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

Our prayers are with Bro. Willis and Sis. Elsie Bachtold at the death of Bro. Willis's sister, Sis. Luella Bachtold (Forrest). May the Lord grant them comfort as only He can.

We were privileged to hear the blessed Easter story presented by our Sunday school April 12. May God bless each one that participated as well as each one that listened.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

April 4 and 5 was a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome into the fold our new sisters and brother, Hazel Karcher and Mary and Dan Schmidgall. We thank Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and

Dan Koch (Tremont) for helping in this Lord's work.

We also appreciate and thank Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Ron Schambach (Elgin) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for ministering to us this past month. May our heavenly Father reward them.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman with the birth of healthy little boy, Jordan Allen. Jesse is now a big brother. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

The engagement of Sis. Sarah Ricketts and Bro. Aaron Steffen (Champaign) was announced. May God be the center of their plans during this special time in their lives. Their parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Bro. Herb and Sis. Georgia Steffen (Bloomington).

Sis. LuElla Bachtold passed from this life into eternity April 10. We extend sympathy to her sisters and brothers, Louis (Gilman), Joe (Sibley), Bro. Willis (Fairbury), Melvin (Arcadia, FL), Sis. Laura Kupferschmid (Eureka), and Carl, Bro. Elmer, Sis. Lillian Bachtold, Sis. Nettie Kyburz and Sis. Janita Koehl, all of our congregation.

We also sympathize with Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Kupferschmid in the death of her father, Raymond Sledge (Bloomington).

May these dear families feel our prayers and the comfort from the Lord.

Our Easter program was held Good Friday evening. We received many blessings from hearing the Easter story told through songs and verses.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

What a joyous month we've had in the Goodfield congregation! I'm sure we have all felt God's abundant grace showered upon us. As the April rains replenished the earth, we are again reminded of the never ending love and care He extends to us, His children in faith.

It was with great anticipation and humility that we heard the testimonies and witnessed the bap-

tisms of our dear friends, Phil and Nikie Hodel. What a true reminder it is, of our own battles of faith, to hear of the experiences and victories of these two new converts. May He continue to guide your lives with His grace. We would like to thank ministering Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman (Roanoke) for sharing the Word of God with us on this happy occasion.

We rejoice with Sis. Jayne and Bro. Dan Plattner on the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Dawn, to Bro. Seth Souder, Sis. Nancy and Bro. Roger (Fort Lauderdale, FL). May the light of God's love shine on your life together.

On Sunday, March 29, we witnessed the ordination of our beloved Bro. Wes Knapp as deacon. Assisting were Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) and Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley). We were so fortunate to be a part of this inspiring ceremony and pray God's rich blessings on Bro. Wes and Sis. Millie as they embark on this new service of faith.

Communion services were held Good Friday. Joining Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and Bro. Wes Knapp was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Sis. Emily (Junction, OH). We thank them for sharing with us this opportunity to reaffirm our lives in Christ.

Easter Sunday began with our Sunrise service held at the fellowship hall. Included were several beautiful choral groups, poetry readings and a timely exhortation. We would like to thank Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Lou Baner (Gridley) for celebrating the joy of Christ's ascension with us this Easter.

Thank You: We wish to thank everyone for their love and deeds of kindness shown to us after the loss of our mother, Martha Knapp.

Chris and Dale Metzger family
George and Fern Knapp family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Sis. Anna Klopfenstein, 89, passed away March 19. She was a sister-in-faith for 72 years. Except for the last few years of her life when she resided at the Peoria

Home, she was a lifelong resident of Gridley.

She was married for 36 years to the late Bro. Elmer J. Klopfenstein, who passed away in 1960. This union bore six children, all of whom survive her: Sis. Alice Stevig (Morton) and Sis. Ada Christensen (Minonk); four sons, Jay (Chicago), Lynn (Decatur, AL), and Bros. Ralph and Perry (Gridley); one sister, Florence Krones (Gridley); and one brother, Frank Gramm (Huntington Park, CA). She is also survived by 22 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

It is perhaps rare that a Silver Lining reporter has the opportunity to comment on his mother at the time of her death. This is not meant to eulogize her, but only to demonstrate the enormous value our dear mothers contribute to our lives.

I remember her good advice when I began my repentance in 1968 at age 29. Having been hardened by sin, highminded, somewhat wise in my own conceits, and often touchy about matter of faith before my conversion, I responded affirmatively to a helpful suggestion she gave to me. I had just informed her, in tears and a breaking down of heart, that I was repenting. After we visited awhile and I gained my composure, she said I ought to visit the elder right away. Just as I began to leave she said, "You just do everything the elder tells you to do." Already an avenue of grace had opened into my heart and I told her I would. I have always felt that God used her, at a crucial time, to give me that advice.

Over the years such advice has always remained in my heart. Despite my many frailties, I credit my dear mother with much good spiritual advice. She, as much as anyone, helped to ignite in my heart an appreciation of our faith and its many Biblical, special characteristics.

Another thing I will always remember was her dedication to work, homemaking and to the Bible's ethic of being "a keeper at home." She was always working, it seems. Even at day's end she would sit in her chair and knit or do needlework. She, as well as many

others, personified the woman's role in keeping house, showing love and esteem to her husband, being dutiful to her children's daily welfare and living a sanctified life.

She was a widow for 32 years, yet she was not subdued in sorrow or loneliness. Rather, she served as a focal point for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At our last visit with her at the Peoria Home her departing words to us were, "I love you all." This was two weeks prior to her death.

She, and sisters-in-faith from her generation, have much to offer this and coming generations. They were rooted in well-ordered lifestyles that emphasized hard work, diligence to duty, faithfulness to the Lord, and wide-ranging domestic skills.

OUR DEAR MOTHER

Our dear Mother
has passed away,
To a better land
forever to stay.

Her toils are ended
her victory is won.
She served the Lord Jesus,
God's redeeming Son.

Oh, Mother, we thank you
for being so kind.
For reflecting the value
of a Godly mind.

We miss you, we miss you,
But then, we know,
you're in God's presence,
where you longed to go.

Her life was spent
In ways that were pure.
She held to God's truth,
to ways that were sure.

A sister in faith,
and a loving wife.
She devoted her talents
to family life.

From young girl, to wife,
to grandmother she went.
Over many hundreds
her influence was spent.

Her chair is now empty.

Her hands are made still,
as she basks in God's comfort,
and in His perfect will.

She claims those treasures
far away up on high.
She looks them all over
with a marvelous sigh.

The truths she embraced
she now can behold,
as she sees God's face
and those streets of gold.

And embraces her loved ones
who've gone on before,
who are enjoying the glories
of that celestial shore.

The sorrow she felt
is now made glad,
as she meets once again
our wonderful Dad.

Together they beckon
to loved ones on earth,
"Make ready, make ready
for this land of mirth."

Hand in hand,
we can hear them utter,
"Loved ones, loved ones,
Come hither, come hither."

"Seek your salvation,
it's worth the fight.
Oh, learn Christ's message,
Oh, cling to His might."

"On earth bear Christ's cross,
Oh, hold to His way.
Strive to enter heaven,
eternity to stay!"

And so, dear Mother
we gladly let go.
With you our wish
is to share heaven's glow.

We extend our sympathies to
Sis. Annette Kaupp, whose mother
passed away; also to Nancy Grusy,
whose father passed away recently.

Our visiting ministers were Bro.
Mike Leman (Denver, CO), who
was here Wednesday evening, April
1; also, Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City,
IA), who was present for Good Friday.

Chet Stortz was hospitalized
this month.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

We are thankful our heavenly
Father has called two more work-
ers into His vineyard. March 28
and 29 we heard the testimonies
and witnessed the baptism of Bro.
Allen Zimmerman (Bro. Doug and
Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ben Kaiser (Bro.
Harry and Sis. Laverne). We wel-
comed them into our precious
brotherhood and wish them God's
grace as they walk the narrow path
of life.

We want to wish Sis. Cindy
Sauder (Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy)
and Bro. Scott Kramer (Richard
and Marge) God's richest blessings
as they prepare for their wedding
day. May they continue to seek
God's guidance.

We rejoice with Bro. Robert and
Sis. Lillian (Gehr) Getz on the cel-
ebration of their 50th wedding an-
niversary. They are the parents of
Linda Klein, Bonnie Cronier, Sis.
Barbara Zimmerman and Cindy
Devers.

Galen Strunk was called into
all eternity. His funeral was April
4. May our heavenly Father com-
fort and bless his wife, Lucille; his
daughter, Gailanne; his sister, Elda
Woerner; and his many other rela-
tives and friends.

We were reminded about our
duties as a child of God through
the reading of the memorandum.
We wish to thank Elder Bro.
Wendall Gudeman (Francesville,
IN) for sharing in this with us.

May God richly bless Sis. Sherry
Funk (Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Violet)
and Bro. Don Smith as they were
married April 11. We rejoice that
another Godly home will be estab-
lished. May God continue to be the
center of their lives.

We wish to thank Elder Bro.
Dave Wiegand (Champaign-
Urbana, IL), Bros. Bill Hodel
(Roanoke, IL) and Merrill Laukhuf
(Latty, OH) for ministering God's
Holy Word to us. May they be richly
blessed for their service to us.

Sis. Lena Aberle wishes to thank
all who remembered her with cards,
gifts and visits on her 95th birth-
day. Bro. Jack Krantz also wishes
to thank all who remembered him
during his surgery and recovery.

What a blessing to both the giver and receiver when these acts of kindness are done.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. What an opportunity we had this month to show love to one another. Let us pray we will take advantage of these opportunities.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki Stickling were blessed with their second daughter, Whittney Linn, March 28. Older sister, Leah, simply can't wait to begin helping Mom and Dad with the new baby. (And her help will definitely be appreciated!) Whittney's grandparents are Ben Stickling and Sharon Stickling, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Caroll Zobrist (Eureka).

The Peoria church was saddened by the passing of Sis. Sophie Hoerr last month. Sis. Sophie was a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home on Skyline Drive, and was a longtime member of our congregation. She will be remembered as a faithful and obedient servant of God, and also as one who set a good Christian example for so many of us. Her love, kindness and generosity will certainly be missed, but we can rejoice that she is now reunited with her husband in God's glorious kingdom.

We pray for the recovery of our hospital patients, Sis. Ruth Hartman, Bro. Walter Knepp, Emma Stoller and Bro. Bob Waibel. Mary Thiem sends this message of thanks: "A very special 'thank you' to all who remembered me with gifts, flowers, plants, cards and visits during my stay at the hospital and since my return home. May God bless you."

We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Richard Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL) for visiting the Peoria church and proclaiming the truths of God's Word.

As we conduct our daily business out in the world, especially in the work place, we encounter many different types of individuals. Some are friends, some are a little difficult to get along with, and in a few

rare instances, certain people may be openly hostile toward our Christian beliefs. Occasionally, we may feel hurt, betrayed, or "used" by someone whom we considered to be a friend, or a close business associate. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us some excellent advice on how to deal with such circumstances: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.' But I say unto you, 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.'" (Matthew 5:43-44) The apostle Paul echoes this statement when he says, "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." (Romans 12:14) This may be hard to do, and it goes against human nature, but as followers of Jesus Christ, it is our best option. If we continually harbor anger toward someone, then bitterness, resentment and disillusionment will certainly follow. By maintaining a prayerful attitude and putting aside painful incidents of the past, we may follow Paul's example: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We appreciate every ministering brother who brings forth the true Word. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Dwayne Dill (Champaign). We pray the Lord will bless each brother and his family.

It was our privilege to partake of holy communion March 29. This blessed sacrament was made possible by Jesus' love and suffering on the cross. We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann for coming and helping our Elder Bro. Joe.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19) Luke Rumbold (Bro. Ronald and Sis.

Jackie) has turned his back to the world and has begun the pathway of repentance. May God be with him and lead him through a true repentance.

We rejoice with Ema Jean Streitmatter (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou) and Debbie Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty) having found peace with God and man. They were announced to give their testimony on the weekend of April 25-26. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they take this important step in life.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing," (Proverbs 18:22). Believing God has led them to each other, Sis. Sara Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. John Ehnle (Bradford, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna) have made their engagement known. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

"Lo children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3). Thankful grandparents are Eldon and Irene Stahl as their daughter, Sis. Linda, and Bro. Jerry Knobloch were blessed with a boy. Also, Becky and John DeClercq were blessed with a boy, Aaron Michael. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal.

We do appreciate the efforts of the Sunday school students and teachers as the Sunday school children so beautifully told the Easter story in Word and song.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many loved ones who are experiencing the afflictions of the body. Special prayers for our Bro. Leonard Menold (Sis. Marie) who had heart surgery. May we continue to pray for his recovery. It is nice to see Katherine Baer in church after being absent for some time with a broken hip. We think of Sis. Dortha Kieser (Peoria) formerly of Princeville, who has undergone surgery. May He heal as He sees best. God knows all our needs and He hears every prayer and He keeps all of His children safe in His care.

Please make this change in the Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers Book dated 1992: Address and telephone number should be: Retired: David Kieser, Route 1,

308 N. Creek Court, Princeville, IL
61559; phone 309-385-2244.

MY MOTHER

My mother, thou art gone to rest,
Now free from sorrow, pain and
care.
I know that while thou wast on
earth,
Of these thou surely hadst thy
share.
I know that thou didst share my
grief,
And kissed away my childish
tears,
And with thy loving, gently voice
Didst strive to calm my boyish
fears.
When but a child, each Sabbath
Day
You took me on your tired knee
And told me of the narrow way
Of Him who died for you and
me.
You taught me from the "Holy
Book"
Of Him who died on Calvary.
And pointed out the "Way of Life"
That leads to immortality.
And as I think o'er childhood days,
My heart doth sing this
pleasing strain:
Thou never caused thy child a tear,
Or gave to him a moment's pain.
And when life's cares so weigh me
down
They seem almost my soul to
sever,
'Tis then my memory turns to thee,
My kind and gentle loving
mother.
All that I am or hope to be,
I owe to thee, my patient
mother.
Thou wast so true a friend to me.
The world can ne'er give such
another.
'Tis true thy grave is far away;
The sacred spot I long to see
Where rests the cold and silent
clay
Of one 'twas always kind to me.
I know that thou must be in
Heaven,
Arrayed in white, where angels
be.
No sweeter life, no purer soul
E'er crossed the crystal sea.
And now, Farewell! my gentle
mother,
Thou art not gone for evermore,

For if I live as thou taughtest me,
I'll meet thee on the other shore.
Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Annie Hoffman - Cathy Hohulin
As we witnessed the signs of new
life all around us this spring sea-
son, we were also happy to celebrate
the new life made available through
the death and resurrection of our
Saviour.

On Palm Sunday, we were privi-
leged to have Elder Bros. Aaron
Steffen (Alto, MI) and Wayne
Anliker (Forrest) with us for our
communion service.

On April 15, the Sunday school
presented their Easter program. We
appreciate the time, effort and en-
thusiasm put forth by our students
and teachers.

Celebrating a new life in their
home are Dave and Melissa Knepp
(Geneseo). Bryce David was born
March 11. Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy
Knepp and Earl and Sandy Rusk
(Geneseo) are the happy grandpar-
ents.

Dan and Justine Hodel are also
first-time parents. Jordan Daniel
was born April 10 and his grand-
parents are Roger and Elaine Hodel
and Mark and RuthAnn Martino.

Kaitlyn and Landon Isaiah wel-
comed their new baby brother, De-
rek Allen, April 4. Bro. Rich and
Sis. Deanna are his parents, and
his grandmothers are Mrs. Dorothy
Isaiah (Roanoke) and Sis. Delores
Marti (Gridley).

Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington)
spoke about the "Power of Prayer"
at our monthly Bible study April
10. Other visiting ministers this
month were Bros. Wayne Laubscher
(Cissna Park), Mike Lemman (Den-
ver, CO) and Marvin Lemman
(Princeville). We sincerely appreci-
ate the talents and willingness of
each one.

Bro. Dick Bowald (Mardell) was
seriously injured in an automobile
accident, and our prayers are with
him, as well as our other hospital
patients, Sis. Ruth Scherer and Sis.
Dorothy Beer. May God give them
the grace to bear their pain, and
heal them according to His good
and perfect will.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

Our visiting ministers this
month were Bros. John Rowell
(Burlington, IA), John Hartman
(Fairbury), James Plattner
(Princeville), Kenneth Schneider
(Remington, IN), John Steiner
(Oakville, IA) and Vernon Wett-
stein (Congerville). Also Elder Bro.
Robert Walder (Congerville) came
and helped with communion. May
God bless each one for their la-
bors.

Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Julie
Koch had a baby daughter, Katie
Lynn, March 25. She is welcomed
home by Lisa, Jon, Jason, Michel
and Rebecca. Grandparents are
Sis. Madelyn Tobler (Elgin) and
Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch. May
God bless them as they rear their
family. Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma
Pulfer have a new granddaughter.
Rena Marie was born April 2 to
Eldon and Jill Pulfer (Manito).
Ruth and Fred Endress have a new
grandson. Corey Michael was born
March 12 to Tom and Dianne
Endress. Bro. Gene and Sis. Anna
Koch have a new grandson, Adam
Joseph. He was born March 30 to
Ron and Julie Koch.

Bro. Kevin Dill (Bro. Kenneth
and Sis. Sandy, Delavan) and Sis.
Jody Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis.
Jane) have announced their en-
gagement. May God be with them
as they plan their August wed-
ding.

Kappy Koch (Bro. Elmon and
Sis. Janice) and Gayle Lowman
(Pekin, Tom and Judy) were united
March 28. On April 11, Jonathan
Wagenbach (Simon, Jr. and Sis.
Lavonne) and Rebekah Meister
(Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy)
were married. May God be with
these couples as they begin this
new life together.

Our hospital patients this
month were Bro. Ralph Koch, Sis.
Sandy Kaiser (Bro. Don) and Bro.
Dan Steiner, Jr. We're thankful
they are back home recuperating.

Our sympathy goes to Iris
Gschwind and family on the pass-
ing of her husband, Aaron. Our
prayers are especially with Sis.
Christine (Bro. Terry) and Sis.
Elizabeth (Bro. Ron) in this time

of sorrow.

The annual Easter program was held April 12. As usual it is so good to hear the story of Jesus sung and read by our Sunday school. Thanks to them and their teachers for a beautiful program.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Easter is upon us and the death of our Savior is ever present in our thoughts. The children of our church presented a thought-provoking program to remind us all of what Jesus went through. We thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of two dear souls and witness their baptisms. They were Kathy Wickert and Dave Kellenberger. Our Lord has much to say about the plan of salvation. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

What a blessing to know we are God's special children and we have a home in heaven.

We were very fortunate this month to have several visiting ministers. They were Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). Communion was observed with Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

Bro. John and Ellen (Woodward) Cox have a new arrival. Her name is Jenna Kim. She is 3½ months old and arrived from Korea safe and sound. We rejoice with them.

Sis. Kathy (Isch) Steffen and Sis. Sue Ruppert both went through knee surgery and both are doing well.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie (Blunier) Mogler had the opportunity to visit believers in the Ukraine, Romania and Hungary. They bring "greetings in the Lord"

to the churches here. Greetings were also brought from Vienna, Austria and Germany. Their trip was successful and all felt a blessing.

We are thankful that around the world people are "called out from among them to worship the true and living God."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch

Even as spring has arrived and given the earth an awakening, we too, as God's children, have felt His great power of love and grace.

We were blessed this month with several new little ones. Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch welcomed Whitney Raye home February 26. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch and Bro. Vernon Gerber. Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolf are new parents to David James, born March 18. Keith and Kathy Fiechter also welcomed Kameron Lee into their lives March 18. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Doris Fiechter. Krista Naomi is the new daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter born March 25. Krista joins sisters, Heidi, Janon, Amy, Shanna, Holly and Wendy, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber. Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger welcomed Caitleigh Alizabeth to their home March 27. Caitleigh joins brother, Chase, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger. Also, Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen Sinn welcomed Carla Ann home March 19. We wish all these parents and little ones God's richest blessings.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bro. Sylvan Frauhiger April 15. Bro. Sylvan is survived by his wife, Sis. Doris, and three children, Bro. Lynn (Sis. Jenny), Sis. LaVon Gerber (Bro. Rex), and LuAnn, and several grandchildren. May the Lord comfort these dear ones.

Bro. Tom Bertsch (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian) and Sis. Brenda Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) announced their engagement to be wed June 7. Also feeling it is the

Lord's will to share their lives as one is Bro. Kurt Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Angie Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie). We wish both couples God's grace and peace as they walk together with Him.

Hospitalized this month were Anthony Steffen (Todd and Teresa), Bro. Harry Aschliman, Sis. Nancy Herring (Bro. Bob), Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice) and Dan Habegger (Florence). May God give them strength as they recover.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford), Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) for ministering God's Word this past month. May God bless them for their efforts and be their Rewarder.

We rejoice that two more souls are turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Arlon and Roxanne Heyerly. We wish them God's grace and blessings.

Our "family" is rejoicing over five dear souls who have found peace with God. We witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Shirley Carrico, her son, Bro. Bill Carrico, Sis. Amber Heyerly, Bro. Phil Hoover and his wife, Sis. Cindy. We welcome our new brothers and sisters-in-faith.

We extend best wishes to Bro. Kurt Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Holly Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) on their recent engagement. May God be with this couple as they prepare for this important step in life.

Several dear ones have spent time in the hospital this month. Sis. Tami Kaehr (Bro. Doug), Sis. Virginia Rauch (Bro. Jerome), Bro. Obed Gerber (Sis. Leona), Sis. Edna Neuenschwander (Bro. Walter), Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa). Our prayers are with them and may God's healing hand be upon them.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Ben Habegger (Sis. Arlene), whose mother, Savilla, recently traded her life here on earth for an eternal

one in heaven. May God comfort Bro. Ben and his family at this time.

Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Bill Frauhiger (Sis. Betty) on the passing of his brother, Bro. Sylvan Frauhiger. Bro. Sylvan had to wait long for his reward, but is now "safe in the arms of Jesus".

Our congregation was more closely joined together as we celebrated the death and rising again of Jesus through communion and our Easter services and program.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Haab wish to thank all who remembered them on their 50th wedding anniversary with cards and love.

Dear Jesus, take my heart and hand,
And grant me this, I pray:
That I through Your sweet love
may grow
More like You day by day.

Garrison

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

We have three new mothers in our congregation. On March 26, Jenna Elizabeth Putt was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt. Jenna has one older brother, Joel, and her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann Gudeman and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Darlene Pfladderer are first-time parents of a baby girl, Rylie Jo, born March 27. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pfladderer are Rylie Jo's grandparents.

Mike and Cheri Streitmatter are the happy parents of Joshua Daniel, born April 2. Joshua has an older brother, Ben. Gene and Jan Hazelwood (Trafalgar, IN) and Keith and Marlene Streitmatter (Rensselaer, IN) are the grandparents.

On a recent Wednesday evening, we were taught and reminded of tools Satan uses. Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) shared these thoughts with us in a topical Bible study. It was helpful to hear tactics Satan uses, so we can recognize their source when we are tried, and call upon God to help us

through. We are thankful to Bro. Wayne and his wife, Sis. Gloria, for taking of their time to share with us.

One of the verses that was shared was, ". . . to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. We were encouraged to do any good we can, while we have the opportunity. We might all think of times when we didn't do something we thought we should, because we thought someone else may misjudge our motive or that we might feel embarrassed. The devil would love to take away every good work by making us focus on what others might think, or of ourselves. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10.

Francesville recently hosted College weekend. It was a blessing to have many visitors with us. On Sunday, Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) shared God's Word with us. We were thankful to have them here.

On Palm Sunday, April 11, Bro. Nate Gutwein and Sis. Rhonda Yaggi (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois), were united in marriage. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) was in Francesville for the wedding and shared in the morning service. May the Lord be with Bro. Nate and Sis. Rhonda. Ecclesiastes 4:12, ". . . a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Hospital patients this month have been Leslie Timmons (David and Beth), Sisters Verna Stedman and Viola Von Tobel, and Bros. Walter Culp and Wayne Huber. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John, verse 2.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

This past month has been such a blessing! We were fortunate to have had three visiting ministers who came and shared with us on very special occasions. Our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Cham-

paign, IL) partook of communion with us the Saturday of Palm Sunday weekend. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler later read to us the "letter" from the brotherhood conference. We also were thankful for Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) who came to join us on Wednesday evening, April 22, and shared with us such spiritual enlightenments on "Raising a Family." May God richly bless them for their efforts and commitment to His work.

We had such a beautiful weekend for our Easter program Good Friday evening followed by our early morning services Easter Sunday. What a blessing it is to enjoy the fellowship of family and friends during this special time.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

TWINS

Double the diapers,
Double the pins,
Double the laundry
And hampers and bins.

Twice the feedings,
Half as much sleep,
So many time tables
And schedules to keep.

When one is awake,
The other's in bed,
One gets hungry,
When the other's fed.

But they are so blessed,
From heaven above,
For God gave them twins,
And twice as much love.

Unknown

On April 2, Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller were blessed with twin daughters, Hannah Rose and Rachel Lynne. Jessica and Ross, as well as grandparents, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller and Norm and Marge Jacobs, are very happy to welcome them into their family.

We should fear only if
The Lord were not in control . . .
We should worry only if
The Lord were not able to meet our
needs . . .

We should not strive only if
The Lord were not our
Shepherd . . .
We should doubt only if
The Lord were not faithful . . .
We should grieve only if
The Lord were not risen!

Unknown

Our Sunday school children told us of the risen Lord at our Easter program Palm Sunday. The evening before we were privileged to partake of holy communion. We want to thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for helping Elder Bro. Curt in this sacred remembrance of the Lord's Last Supper with His disciples.

We also want to thank Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us this past month. We appreciate their willingness to minister to us.

INDIANA, LEO

Doug Kellenberger

New life comes out in all sorts of ways at this Easter/Springtime season. Remember, Jesus' coming back to life is a real celebration. All of its eternal implications are absolutely sure regardless of any negative circumstances going on around or in us. We have to fight off our natural feelings by faith and thanksgiving in order to keep the truth in our mind, because when the head is sick, the whole heart becomes faint. Isaiah 1:5.

New life has come to the Schumakers. A baby boy, Zachary Loren, was born to the proud and happy parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina. Tina's parents came all the way from Gridley, Kansas, to help them on this special occasion. We were glad to get acquainted with them.

Our Easter Sunrise Service was more attended this year than ever before. A number of families and individuals participated in the program. It is really satisfying to be involved. Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) ministered his heart and God's Spirit to us. The Sunrise Service was a blessing to us all.

It was exciting to see Bro. Phil Schlatter sitting among us and enjoying himself. His face was glowing with the joy of the Lord. Bro. Phil had been absent from among us for quite some time due to a broken hip.

Another person whose presence was remembered was Bro. Uriel Gehring. Different ones had thought, it won't be the same this year at Easter Sunrise Service without Uriel. Actually, he was there in heart. His son, Brad, read a poem composed by Sis. Judy Gehring. It was a loving exhortation to all the church written from the heart of her husband to encourage everyone to "Carry On."

CARRY ON

Dearly Beloved

As our Elder Brother David:

It may not be long before you lay your mantle down for someone else to carry on. We can still see you with all your work to do such as World Relief, your committee meetings, Bible Distribution, and such a faithful servant with the Silver Lining, all being carried out as heartily unto the Lord. Bro. David, carry on.

Bro. Jack, you could never do enough for those less fortunate, those at Gateway Woods, or anyone your path crossed, always "Johnny on the Spot" with the wonderful talent of a tool box and the tool you used the most was the power of prayer. Bro. Jack, carry on.

Bro. Marvin's home is always open for one and all and remember all the children who have benefitted by your loving compassionate way. What a wonderful example of a loving home atmosphere insuring that each could feel warm and secure. Bro. Marvin, carry on.

Bro. Lynn, for all the time taken out for others, your wonderful love for the youth, we praise God for planting the seed in your days in Sunday school as a teacher, for also being involved as president at Gateway Woods, and yet raising a family in a God-fearing home. Bro. Lynn, carry on.

My dearly beloved son, Bro. John: I'm waiting to meet and greet

you on the street of gold to continue our walks by the crystal river of life till then be constant in fervent prayer, preach the word without fear or favor of man. Keep the faith Bro. John, carry on.

To the beloved congregation: Stand fast, love one another, and have the unity of the Christian brethren continue on. Carry on.

As this is Easter morning, carry on with a new zeal and fervent love to serve one another until Christ returns with those who have died and gone on before to meet in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Carry on.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

I am thinking spring even though it has been cold outside. It was warm inside when many worked together to clean our church. It always reminds me how we need to "clean" our hearts and minds from time to time to be sure we are still on the path leading to life eternal.

We were happy to have visitors from several of our churches March 29. God inspired Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Ed Bahler (Remington) to bring us much spiritual food on that Sunday. Thanks to all of you for coming.

It was a quiet and solemn evening April 3 when we sat together for communion in order to remember Jesus suffering and death for each one of us. Elder Bro. David Weigand (Champaign, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jess Beer and helped to make it a very blessed time together.

When our Sunday school children sing and tell us of Jesus birth and resurrection, it always lifts our spirits. Our Palm Sunday program did just that. Our hope and prayer is that these little ones will avail themselves of this wonderful plan of salvation someday.

It saddened all of us when God saw fit to take Bro. Millard Stoller (Latty, OH) to his eternal home while we would call his death premature. Milford was his wife, Sis. Irma's, home church. We will miss his visits and warm handshake.

May God comfort all of his family.

A goodly number gathered early Easter morning in our fellowship hall to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We have to agree with the song writer who wrote, "Life is Worth the living Just Because He Lives."

Our prayers were answered when our good friend, Herman Weisser, could become our brother-in-Christ, He gave his testimony and was baptized in Sarasota Easter Sunday. He and his wife reside there several months of the year. May God continue to be near Bro. Herman and Gwen and see fit to bring them back to their home church soon.

Sis. Millie Beer (Phillip) continues to have health problems and has had many more tests. They need our prayers.

Our oldest member, Sis. Marie Reuter, celebrated her 95th birthday April 20. She is still taking care of her home, busy doing deeds of kindness and walks several blocks every day. We thank God for all of this.

Congratulations to Bevan Hurd (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) who will become a graduate of Indiana University May 9. We pray God will lead him further on life's pathway.

I heard some talking about plans for our Mother-Daughter banquet. It seemed fitting since we were just reminded how much Jesus loved his mother, when from the cross he asked John to take care of her. One of God's commandments is to honor our fathers and mothers. It is sad to see so much disobedience to parents in our world. It seems we need our country to set aside a Mother's Day to remind everyone of their mother. Let's love and obey mothers everyday so God can bless us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

On Sunday, March 22, retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) visited us. We thank you and Sis. Leah for your kind and inspiring visit.

On Wednesday evening, March 25, we and our neighbor church (Wolcott) enjoyed having Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) speak to us on the

topic "Overcoming the Power of Satan." He stated that Satan has no power (as such); we have the power because we have Christ in us. He can only do what we allow him to do. The Bible will keep us from his power. This tells us how important it is for us to hide His Word in our heart. We thank you Bro. John and Sis. Pat for your visit.

Our congratulations to Stan and Patty Schneider (Fort Wayne) on the birth of their daughter, Brittini Erin, February 20. Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider from here are the paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents are Richard and Linda Harner (Monticello).

It was a happy occasion Sunday, April 12 when Bro. Ken Schneider told us that he and Sis. Loretta announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Greg, to Sis. Heidi Graf (Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey, Akron, OH). We surely do welcome you, Sis. Heidi.

Our Sunday school classes presented an Easter program the afternoon of Palm Sunday. It was a beautiful praise to the one who shed His blood for all who would come to Him.

Many parents are thinking "graduation," even though it is several weeks away. We have quite a number of graduates to tell you about, considering we are a small congregation.

Rob Meister (Bro. Richard and Sis. Sharon) is graduating from Purdue's class in Industrial Engineering. He has accepted a position in Minneapolis where he will be moving June 1.

Dean Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) also graduates from Purdue having taken their Aeronautical Technology course. At this writing, he hasn't made a decision where he will locate.

We have nine of our Bible class students graduating from high school. Seven of them will attend Purdue this fall. Sandra Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) is interested in the Physical Therapy School. Heidi Vaughn (Joe and Betty (Braker) Vaughn) wants to go for Elementary Ed. Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) will study English. Neil Waibel

(Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) will go for Engineering of some nature. Dan Getz (Ron and Sis. Jean) is interested in Business Ag. Matt Getz (Bro. Ron and Sis. Charlene) will be an Agriculture Ed student. Ryan Meister (Bro. Richard and Sis. Sharon) will go to the Mechanical Engineering school. Megan Isabel (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) will join the Purdue "seven" in Lafayette by going to Ivy Tech, wanting to be a Surgical Technician. Bob Schini (Bro. Albert and Sis. Amelia) will enter ITT Technology Institute in Indianapolis, June 15, for a two year course in Architectural Engineering Technology. Many of you know Bob as our grandson who has lived with us since he was 16 months old.

I know I can speak for all the parents when I say we wish all these students God's blessings as they leave their homes to go to schools of higher learning. We trust they will take with them the many good teachings from home, Sunday school and church. We should recommend them to also enter the "School of God," where they will learn to know true joy and peace and obtain hope for an eternal home in heaven.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have with us this month Bro. Dan Stoller (LaCrosse) and his family.

Also, this month we were fortunate to have with us for our Easter services Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse) and their families. May God richly bless His faithful servants who spread His Word.

A special thank you to Bro. Marty Langhofer for his efforts in coordinating our Sunday school and adult Easter program. Also, the women really appreciated the efforts of the men and high school children as they joined together and prepared a lovely breakfast for us Easter morning. Easter day was a blessing as every single person in our small congregation participated.

This month a special singing service was held at the Bremen

Nursing Home for Bro. John Schuch. Bro. John's faith remains strong even as his body grows very weak. We are keeping Him in our prayers.

A note from Bro. Wayne Lehman:

"I would like to thank all those for the cards, flowers and prayers, and for the visits while in the hospital and at home during my recent surgery and recovery. May God richly bless you."

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

It's a delight to welcome spring with robins feeding outside my kitchen window and two cardinal families homing in an evergreen nearby.

The Goodfield choir came to rejoice with us this Easter season. The greatest story ever, was told to us in songs. How our risen Lord Jesus the anointed suffered on "The Old Rugged Cross" was laid in the grave and arose. "Were you there when they Crucified My Lord?" Not in person, but our sins were there. We can believe and truly sing hallelujah! It was beautiful! Ministering Bros. Arnold Gerst and Jay Rinkenberger were with us. Also we enjoyed many other visitors.

One Wednesday evening, Bro. Merril Laukhuf gave an enlightening history and the progress of the New Age Movement. We hear and read of this force, so it was good to be more informed. We appreciated someone with knowledge and background information to talk about this subtle satanic influence.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

God grant me the serenity to
Accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Tracey Putt

Greetings of love from Purdue! This past weekend we had the blessing of hosting College Weekend Spring 1992. It was such a

glorious weekend with many churches coming together to praise God and to learn more about His Holy Word. The theme of the weekend was "Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain" I Timothy 6:6, and it began Saturday, April 4 with registration from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 12:30, we lifted up our voices in song until the afternoon program which started at 1:00. Bro. Matt Gudeman then welcomed everyone and introduced Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) as our resident minister at Purdue. He in turn introduced the first of five ministering brothers who came to share God's precious teachings with us. Retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) spoke to us about Godliness vs. Ungodliness and Contentment vs. Discontentment. He said that godliness is conforming one's life to the ways of God and that ungodliness can be overcome by grace and the Holy Spirit. Bro. Loren described contentment as having desires limited to what one has, and he commented that our mental content will determine how content we are. Bro. Loren cited many scriptures on this topic including I Corinthians 13, Hebrews 13:5-6, Luke 12:15 and 16:15, Matthew 16:24, and also Hymns of Zion #207.

The second speaker of the afternoon was Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), and he spoke on having contentment in one's personal relationship with God and in one's relationships with brothers and sisters-in-Christ. His message focused on the promise of heaven and understanding what we really need, not dwelling on the things we want. He also challenged us to appreciate the purpose God has for us and to be satisfied with what He has given us to be (Psalm 84:10-11 and Philippians 4:11). In relation to our brothers and sisters, Bro. Wayne said that to maintain healthy, Christian relationships we need to hold onto the spirit, use prayer, put on the mind of Christ, and exhibit selflessness.

Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) was our third speaker, and his message centered upon having contentment in the midst of an uncertain future and disappointment. He com-

mented that contentment was a learning process and that sometimes we do not deal with the present when we look toward the future only. Bro. Ken stated that we are stewards (Romans 12:1-2), and that there are four prerequisites to making godly decisions: salvation, dedication, separation from the world, and transformation of our thinking. He also said that when we make decisions we need to erase our personal thoughts and pray, to read the Bible and write down options and circumstances, to seek counsel, and then finally to actually make the decision. Lastly, Bro. Ken reminded us that the church is where we can talk, share, and find refuge from trials in our lives (Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:26, 28).

The fourth message of the day came from Bro. Marshall Heinhold (Washington, IL) who spoke to us on having contentment in the face of frustration. He told us it was a matter of repositioning ourselves to God's will, and he gave us Caleb as an example: In Joshua 14, we learn that Caleb had to wait 45 years to get a mountain that God had promised him, and throughout that time of waiting, Caleb had to reposition/adapt himself to closed doors and listen to what the Lord had to say. Bro. Marshall assured us that when God is directing us, we can't go back and second guess our decision. He also reminded us that we have to be willing to give up ourselves so that we can do as Caleb did and wait for the mountain for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Our final speaker of the afternoon was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and his topic was appreciating our church in relation to the world. He pointed out that there are three important parts of the church's mission and that each is essential. The first is promoting the gospel and furthering the salvation of souls by reaching the needy for the sake of the body and the soul; the second is nurturing the believer - strengthening, fortifying, and correction; and finally, the third important part of the church's mission is contending for the faith, or preserving the correct interpretation

of the Word – feeding the flock with the truth. Bro. Dale said that we are a part of the bride and that what we do either makes the garment pure or it makes it spotted.

After the afternoon speakers we divided into discussion groups that were assigned various relevant topics for college age individuals. Approximately twenty ministers took part in leading discussion groups consisting of about 15-20 young people. They turned out to be such a blessing for so many!

The evening program consisted of uniting our voices in song, and then as choirs representing each hosting college at College weekend: Illinois State University, University of Illinois, Ball State University, Illinois Central College, and finally Purdue University. The entire weekend was such a blessing as we were able to come from our Apostolic Christian Churches across the nation – even from as far as San Diego, CA, and Sarasota, FL, – and be united in Christ through praising Him and being instructed through His precious and holy Word. The Purdue and Francesville Young Groups would like to thank all of the ministering brethren and their wives who took the time to come and uplift our spirits and feed our hearts, minds, and souls with God's eternal bread. We would also like to thank our parents for working so hard in helping us make this weekend a blessing for everyone. A special thanks also goes out to those of our home church for meeting our needs of food, overnight accommodations, and especially, prayers. God truly blessed our weekend together, and deep within our hearts we know that "Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain."

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Our dear Bro. Bob Radcliffe was laid to rest March 26 and is now free of his earthly affliction. We rejoice that Bro. Bob sought the Lord in repentance and was baptized just a few weeks before his death. We pray the Lord will comfort his wife, Irene, and their children and grandchildren in their time of sorrow.

Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) blessed us with many teachings at our Bible study March 25. Truly we can "Overcome Satan and Evil" by reading and obeying God's Word and praying earnestly. On April 10, Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) conducted a meeting for the "single" believers and friends at the fellowship hall. It was an evening of encouragement and inspiration for all that attended. Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) ministered God's Word to us April 17. We thank these brothers who lended themselves in the Lord's service in our behalf.

Our Sunday school children eagerly and willingly presented the Easter program Good Friday, April 17. We took a spiritual journey to Calvary's Hill as they sang praises and recited the message of the Easter story. May we always be mindful of the great price that was paid!

"I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards, visits, gifts, food, and flowers during my hospital stays and since returning home. May God bless each of you for your love, kindness, and thoughtfulness."

Sis. Marilyn Schieler

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Walter Stoller in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Dolly. May God comfort him and supply the needed grace in his time of sorrow.

We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for being with us to bring the communion exhortation. It is a serious matter, as we partake of holy communion. May each one of us look into our own lives and lay aside the weights that may have easily beset us. May God's holy will be done in all our lives.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

MOTHERS INFLUENCE

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,

And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were past
The form I gave it, still it bore,
But I could change that form no
more.

I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and
art

A young child's soft and yielding
heart,

I came again when days were gone
It was a man I looked upon,
He still that early impress bore
And I could change it nevermore.

Author Unknown

May God help us mothers, to be
Christian examples to the children
entrusted to us.

We rejoice with Jeff and Tammy
Callahan at the birth of their
daughter, Ashley Brooke. Also wel-
coming Ashley into the family circle
are grandparents Bro. Dale and Sis.
Cheryl Moore and Tom and
LaVonne Callahan.

God bless the precious little soul
Entrusted to your care;
God grant the baby many joys
For all of you to share;
God fill your home
With love and faith
And in the future, too,
May He bestow His blessings
On your little one and you.

We have been blessed with three
visiting ministers since our last
writing and want to thank them
for their visits and for sharing the
"Good News" with us, Bros. Dean
Messner (Winthrop, MN), Andy
Virkler (Croghan/Naumburg, NY)
and Wayne Grimm (West Bend).

Our sympathy is extended to
Sis. Milly Butikofer in the death of
her aunt, Rosa Sucher, who has
been residing at the Wapello Nurs-
ing Home.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We welcome
the freshness, warmth and colors
of spring. We also joyfully welcome
three additions to our congrega-
tion in the near future.

Sis. Lori Cargill (Elgin, IL) will be beginning the Physician's Assistant program at the University of Iowa in May. Bro. Neil Knobloch (Lester, IA) has accepted a teaching position in a town near Iowa City. We welcome them and Sis. June Mogler (West Bend, IA) after her marriage to Bro. Neil in May. May they soon feel a part of our special church family.

We extend our thanks to all of our visitors this month, including Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS), who so willingly and lovingly shared the memorandum with us. May God richly bless them and their wives for being willing servants of the Lord. May they feel our prayerful support as they continue to faithfully watch for our souls.

I never cease to marvel,
as winter turns to spring
At the wonder of God's handiwork
in every little thing.
Each slender blade of grass
comes up to form a carpet green.
The dogwood and the redbud
along the roads are seen.

Each tree is donning a new dress,
it's made of blossoms gay.
The cattle rest in lush green wheat,
the children run and play.
The rain has washed the dirt away,
and everything looks clean.
The beauty of God's handiwork
just everywhere is seen.

So pause a moment,
and take some time today
To count the many blessings
that God has sent your way.
Brad and Brace

IOWA, LESTER
Mary Ellen Knobloch
Cindy Leuthold

Communion services were held April 11 with Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisting our Elder Bros. Dennis Warner and Leo Moser for the occasion. We were so beautifully reminded of our dear Lord Jesus and the suffering and agony He bore for all mankind. May we remember his sacrifice each day of our lives "not only

just at Easter time. Other ministers who visited our congregation this month were Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA).

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman and Sis. Jill Metzger chose March 22 as their wedding day. We pray for many blessings for this dear couple as they begin their lives together. We will miss Sis. Jill as they will congregate with the church in Washington, D.C. Parents of the couple are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger.

On April 5, the engagement of Bro. Brice Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline) and Sis. Julie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) was made known. May God direct them as they plan their marriage together.

Little Wade John made his appearance April 3 to his parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger. He joins two older brothers who welcome him home.

Our dear Sis. Freda Giesel is now making her home in the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills, MN, following a hospital stay. We are happy to have her assemble with us once again.

Many of our young people graduate from schools of higher learning this year. High school graduates are: Charlene Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam), Sis. Amy Feucht (Bro. Ron and Sis. Sandy), Lonn Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Alvin Knobloch (Orvie and Loretta), Bro. Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor), Mitchell Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce), Kelly Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi), Mark Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy), Aaron Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Kari Metzger (Keith and Mary), Cathi Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn), and Delayne Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane).

Four young men have graduated from college and they are: Jeff Bass (Missy), Bro. Neil Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie), Lloyd Metzger (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary

Jane), and Perry Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie). Also vocational school graduates are: Ryan Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean), Bro. Brad Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki), and Ross Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois). May the accomplishments of these young men and women include seeking direction in life from our Lord and Saviour.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser in our Oakville congregation to assist Elder Bro. Ed with our communion service on the first weekend in April. As we think of the terrible death and suffering of our Lord, let us strive to put Him first in our lives and willingly obey His teachings. We can rejoice that the tomb could not hold Him and He is ever interceding for us at the Father's right hand.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner became first-time parents with the birth of their son, Trevor Collins. Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara Massner and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz are thankful to see once again the miracle of birth and the joy that it brings to a family circle.

Our dear Sis. Dolly Stoller was called from this life to her eternal reward. Sis. Dolly had been suffering and we are thankful that after living even beyond the allotted three score and ten, she could go home to be with Jesus. May God comfort the hearts of her dear husband, Bro. Walter, and her children who remain here on earth.

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein
Ernestine Wuthrich

We were blessed with the teachings of visiting ministering Bros. Ted Witzig and Willis Wiegand this past month.

We appreciate all the time our ministers and wives give to the Lord and churches.

The Bible class hosted the Bible classes from Bern, KS, and Elgin, IA. Ministering Bro. Jon Schmid-

gall (Oakville, IA) spent the day with us.

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich observed her 90th birthday with her children and several of her grandchildren.

Sis. Elizabeth and Bro. Albert Wuthrich would like to thank everyone for the love and kindness shown to them with cards, gifts and food on Sis. Elizabeth's birthday.

The Sunday school presented a very meaningful Easter program Palm Sunday. Thank you to the students and teachers for their time and effort.

Mother's Day will soon be here. Let us remember them everyday with a special prayer of thanksgiving and love.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Like wise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Matthew 22:19, 20

Palm Sunday evening was a very special and blessed time for our congregation when Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr in serving holy communion. We truly were taken in spirit to Calvary where our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ gave His all for us.

"Oh, can it be, upon a tree the Saviour died for me? My soul is thrilled, My heart is filled, to think He died for me!"

Gospel Hymns #837 (chorus)

We are thankful Bro. Noah Gerber is home again after a lengthy hospital stay and surgery. He and Sis. Emma wish to thank everyone for the cards, letters, phone calls, visits, and especially prayers on his behalf. Others who have been ill are Bro. Fred Wirtz (Sis. Hulda) and Bro. Earnie Schmidt (Sis. Ida). Sis. Pat Banwart

submitted to surgery. We are thankful all these are back in our midst. Sis. Tillie Mogler was hospitalized, and we are happy to report she is able to be home again. Sis. Nima Fehr is hospitalized at this time following surgery. We hope she will feel the Lord's healing hand. We sang last Sunday in church "Endure and Be Still" (Zion's Harp #241). May we all endure the crosses we are called to bear, both physical and otherwise.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Tedd Knobloch (Adolph and Jean, Durant, IA) and Kris Huesmann (Cheryl and Kenneth Huesmann, Stockton, IA) on their engagement. May God bless and guide their lives at this time and in the future.

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Sherry Schmidt and family on the passing of their sister-in-law, Jean (Bernard) Gifford. May the Lord comfort them now and in the coming days.

MY MOTHER'S PRAYER (Gospel Hymns #808)

I never can forget the day
I heard my mother kindly say,
You're leaving now my tender care;
Remember, child, your mother's
prayer."

I never can forget the voice
that always made my heart rejoice;
Tho' I have wandered God knows
where,
Still I remember mother's prayer.

Tho' years have gone, I can't forget
those words of joy " I hear them
yet.

I see her by the old arm chair,
My mother, dear, in humble prayer.

Whene're I think of her so dear,
It seems her angel spirit's near;
A voice comes floating on the air,
Reminding me of mother's prayer.

I never can forget the hour
I felt the Saviour's cleansing pow'r;
My sin and guilt He canceled there,
'Twas there He answered mother's
prayer.

Oh, praise the Lord for saving
grace!

We'll meet up yonder, face to face;
The home above together share,
In answer to my mother's prayer.

Let us be thankful for our mothers who have sent many a prayer to heaven on our behalf.

JAPAN, SHIODA Terri Gramm

Don't we often see ourselves in children's words and behavior? This child's action and words brought to mind an illustration of how I sometimes act with God. He had brought some powdered soup for lunch and needed only to add hot water. I filled up a couple of other children's cups who also had soup that day and then came to this boy. He proceeded to say he didn't have a cup. The look on his face was one of "I don't know how I'm going to drink this soup without a cup." I kindly said, "Well, you can ask for one." Certain days I awake and wonder how I'm going to make it through the day. The Spirit kindly says, "Well you can ask for strength." Praise the Lord for his consistent love and patience on our behalf.

March 29 we had communion proclaiming the Lord's death. In my understanding, that means we are telling everyone we believe Jesus died, and that he died for our sins. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ . . ." Romans 1:16.

Thanks to Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana Klaus for ministering and fellowshiping with us April 6. Among other things, we reflected on the beauty and the unimaginable glory, peace, and safety of heaven.

April 12 we hosted a singing for the Tokyo and Shioda churches. It was well attended and everyone had a good time. Because we live a couple hours apart, an occasion as this becomes a treasured memory.

On Easter Sunday we enjoyed an early breakfast together. The three women went to Jesus' tomb early in the morning too, full of fear and painful sadness. Suddenly, they were abruptly shaken and filled with fear and joy at the probability of the Lord's resurrection. We too, at times are like the three

women. We're in a tough situation or waiting, waiting, waiting for an answer to prayer and become fearful and filled with a painful sadness when, abruptly shaken, God moves hearts or gives us an answer to our prayer. Aren't we then filled with a wonderment and joy and confidence in our God? Yes!

The Sunday school also presented a program telling of the Son of Man who became the firstfruits of the resurrection. Jesus won the victory over evil as our (human) representative. Adam, as our first representative, gave in to Satan's temptation. But Jesus, as our second representative, did not give in to His own desires and Satan's temptations. Jesus gained the victory and made it possible for man to live. Oh, that we would always follow Jesus's example. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Corinthians 15:22.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

"Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead . . ."

Matthew 28:5-7

Our little church in Tokyo was filled to capacity with believers and neighborhood friends to hear the Easter story retold through the words and songs presented by our 15 students in Sunday school. We pray that their message of salvation which they gave us will also be a message that they will keep in their hearts as they grow older.

Several weeks earlier, the Sunday school children went on their annual spring hiking trip. It was a special time of fellowship for adults and children alike.

In Japan, spring is not just a time when flowers appear upon the earth, but is also the time when students pass from one grade to another. We extend congratulations to Keiko Sakuta (Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta) who has graduated from

high school and will go on to college, and also to our three junior high school graduates. A special Sunday lunch was held for them. After the meal, the four of them presented a small program where they sang "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" for all of us. May God be with them as they continue their education and may their closest friend be Jesus Christ.

During the month of March, several people from our congregation traveled overseas. Keiko Sakuta traveled to the Holy Land and was able to see firsthand the places where Jesus Christ lived upon the earth. Sis. Jana Klaus returned to Illinois for her brother's testimony and baptism. Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder and their children were also in the States to spend time with their family. We are thankful to God for watching over them while they were away.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

A MOTHER'S FAITH

It is a Mother's Faith
In our Father above
That fills the home with happiness
And the heart with truth and love!
Helen Steiner Rice

May our mothers be blessed this Mother's Day and all year through for all their concerns for our eternal welfare. We thank God for having the precious gift of a God-fearing mother.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Robert Aberle (Sabetha). Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) talked on the Sunday school curriculum and education in our public schools. We appreciated and thank these brothers for their labors of love.

This month we have two births to announce. Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly Meyer were blessed with their first child, Keithen Duane, March 21. Happy grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Helen Meyer and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner. Little Daniel Thomas was born to Bro. Curt and Sis.

Ellen Strahm April 3. Daniel has three brothers, Clinton, John and Douglas and three sisters, Emily, Diane and Michelle. Grandparents are Bro. Alphaia and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Richard and Dorothy Zaugg (West Bend, IA). May God bless these family circles!

"But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."

I Corinthians 11:28

It has been announced that we will soon partake of holy communion. Let us prepare our hearts and souls for this blessed occasion.

Hospitalized this past month for surgery were: Darcie Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella), Bro. Allan Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn), Diane Kaeb (Bro. Jim). May they feel God's nearness and healing powers.

Thank You Notes:

We wish to thank our family and many friends for their prayers, get well wishes, cards, letters, flowers, phone calls and all deeds of kindness during Melvin's surgery and hospital stay. May God bless you.

Bro. Melvin and
Sis. Florence Rokey

Bro. Emil Strahm wishes to thank all who remembered him while in the hospital. The prayers, cards, gifts, visits and telephone calls were very much appreciated. May God bless you.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10. Let us ever appreciate our God-fearing mothers for the ways of truth they have taught us, especially on Mother's Day.

On March 29, Bro. Charles Sinn was ordained as the elder of the Fort Scott congregation. Carrying out this work were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), John Leman (Bern), and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). Also among us were

ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and several others from Lamar, MO, Lamont and Gridley, KS. Our many thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Charles, Sis. Karen, and their family as they accept this new responsibility. The Lord has blessed us in providing another shepherd for our congregation. We wish to thank our retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart for his many years of faithful service.

We were privileged together on the evening of April 12 for the Sunday school Easter program. We were reminded of the death and suffering of our Lord through the verses and songs of the children. May the seed that has been planted in their hearts grow to bring forth good fruit.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm are happy grandparents. Zachary Loren, was born March 22 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schmaucher (Leo, IN). Big brother, Jonathan, welcomes Zachary home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schmaucher (Eureka, IL).

Elder Bro. Eugene Marti shared pictures he had taken while in India with Gridley - Lamont.

Sis. Edna Somerhalder, has undoubtedly felt in recent days, the turbulent storms of life. She has had to endure diagnostic testing and major surgery. How thankful we are that God can give peace and serenity in the midst of a storm.

Thanks, especially for prayers, cards and good wishes from the many loves ones who remembered me during my surgery. I am home, doing fine. Sis. Edna Somerhalder

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIV.

Sheri Braker

We have been privileged to have three ministers come and proclaim God's Word: Bros. Jay Luthi and Bill Emch (Lamont, KS), and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). Their efforts are greatly appreciated by all of us! We are also thank-

ful for the families and friends who join our worship services. It warms our hearts to know people care enough to come!

KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

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

Proverbs 31:28

At this time of year, when we celebrate Mother's Day, we can reflect on all of the selfless things that mothers do. Only God could have created this kind of love.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Edna Reed. We are pleased that she is home and has regained her strength since her illness.

This month we had the blessing of communion: a time of bringing to mind the price our Saviour paid for each one of us; a time to examine ourselves and renew our Christian vows. May we ever strive to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to his name.

The 8th grade graduates this year are Kristen Farney (Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay), Sandi Willson (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jan), Brooke Tucker (Stan and Judy), and Matt Schupbach (Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling). May God bless each of them as they grew into young adults.

KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

MOTHER'S LOVE

You can't define a mother's love.
It's faith and hope and power.
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.

You can't define a mother's love.
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a tear.

You can't define a mother's love,
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a mother's love is
found,
The path that leads to Him.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

We want to thank Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO) for spending an evening with us and sharing their slides of his trip to India.

Wayne and Dawn Anliker are happy to have a new baby girl, Danielle Marie, who was born April 2. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker and Bill and Carol Loechler (Kansas City, MO).

Graduation is here once again as we extend our best wishes to our four graduates. Becky Burnham (Bro. Max) is graduating from 8th grade. Brandon Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) are our high school graduates. Matt Schrader (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy) is graduating from college. May God bless and direct their lives.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Sharon Strahm

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

Zion's Harp #226

It was a truly blessed evening when we could gather in the quietness of God's house and partake of holy communion. Just as this time of year brings a renewal of life on earth, we were renewed in the Spirit as we remembered His death and suffering for us. We appreciated Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and John Lehman (Bern) assisting our Elder Bro. Sam Huber.

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller met with our Sunday school teachers and presented new material and also talked to parents regarding some concerns in our schools. We were thankful for the guidance and thank him and his wife, Sis. Roberta, for their visit.

Our new Sunday school teachers will be Sis. Ellen Hertzal, Bro. Gerry Hertzal and Bro. Rod Edelman. We wish them God's guidance and grace in their new responsibilities of "sowing seeds of goodness" in the hearts of our youth.

Bro. Elmer Strahm submitted to surgery and is now convalescing at home. We wish him God's continued nearness and healing.

Our mid-week services are being discontinued, and we will begin our song service every other Sunday evening alternating with the Bern congregation.

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

I do not pray for riches,
I do not pray for fame;
I care not for glory,
Or a great and famous name.
I only pray for wisdom,
That to my children I may be
A wise and loving mother,
As my mother was to me.

Lela B. Tadlock

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

On Sunday, March 22, Sis. Sara Gallatin and Bro. John Schrader were united in marriage by Bro. Max Reimchisel. Our church was filled with friends and relatives who witnessed this union of hearts. Visiting ministers that day were Bros. Bill Emch and Jay Luthi, both of Lamont.

On Saturday, March 28, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann Farney's family circle was increased when their grandson, Brian Farney, son of Jerry and Donna Perryton, TX, and Ruth Nusz were married.

Members of the Wichita congregation gathered at the church early Easter Sunday morning to share in a breakfast and fellowship before the regular service. The Sunday school students presented a brief program of choral readings and songs proclaiming the Easter message.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glendoris Huber

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."

Psalm 150:6

Our children on the Easter program reminded us of this, to give praise and honor to our Heavenly Father, not only for the many, many earthly blessings of life, but most of all for His love for us through His son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Let us never cease to remind ourselves of the suffering and agony our dear Saviour took upon Himself, knowing it was God's will to save the world from sin that all might have life eternal. Such a precious gift of which we are not worthy. May we continually pray for grace that we may be found thankful and faithful at His appearing.

We express our thanks and appreciation again to our ministering brethren who came during the past few weeks to share God's living Word with us. There were Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). May God bless each one, their wives and families, and all who came.

We were also grateful for the busload and two vans totaling sixty individuals, young couples and their families, including the instruments of praise brethren singing group from Francesville, IN, the weekend of March 15 and 16. The harmony and melody of praises to our loving and gracious group and Saviour was a real inspiration to all. A church supper was planned for everyone Saturday evening followed by a singing. We always appreciate our precious faith we share in Christian fellowship.

We are happy to have Sis. Tina Leman (Roanoke, IL) and some of her family assemble with us during her eight weeks of student teaching at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville, KY.

"Behold thy Mother" John 19:27. We are reminded of Mother's Day in this month of May. How interesting it is to now that in the depth and agony of Calvary, Jesus did not forget His mother and instructed John to care for her. From this, He would remind us to not forget our mothers, another lesson from the "last words" of His ministry. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Proverbs 31:30.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch

MOTHER

Your are a strong lady with kind eyes,
You have prayed and given love to many people.
Much of my strength comes from the knowledge,
And respect you have poured into my life.
You have built a bridge of faith between your life and mine,
You have taught me to face a real world
Remembering to be strong and yet gentle.
Your service to life is a great example
And I am proud you are my mother.
Author Unknown

This poem is a fitting tribute to all mothers everywhere. I think this would have fit Jesus' mother Mary perfectly.

Cleaning and scrubbing can wait
til tomorrow,
For babies grow up we learned to
our sorrow.
So quiet down cobwebs, dust go to
sleep,
For I'm rocking my baby and
babies don't keep.

This plaque stands upon my wall and each time I walk by and read I think how fast my children are growing. Hoping I am doing a good job as a mother. I seems motherhood is handled by faith and lots of prayer.

We were privileged to be able to

partake of a joyous experience one weekend this month when the Washington, IL, choir came to Alto. Bro. Ed Fritz also came to spread His Word with us Sunday.

We also were able to share with the children songs and verses for our annual Easter program.

We also here at Alto are excited to see our snowbirds coming back home. We welcome them back with love and open arms.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Emily Rechsteiner

March has been a month of variable weather. There have been days of sunshine then days of snow. We are all looking forward to spring.

We took a ride east of Bay City one day to see the migrating of hundreds of wild geese and white swan. It is a miracle how God created them to know when to go north for summer and when to go south for the winter. "All things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all." Hymns of Zion #207

To all parts under heaven Thy truth and faith extend; We see each morn and even Thy grace of covenant. Let us this day consider, Lord, Thy kindness; Our heart and soul together inspire with thankfulness. Zion's Harp #154, verse 2.

We again had several who needed surgery, Sis. Anna Magyar, and Bro. Winsor Mosher, (Sis. Loretta).

We hope and pray that with God's healing power they will soon be able to enjoy better health.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

We apologize for failing to congratulate Henry and Sis. Astrid Schlauch (Kitchner, Ontario) on the birth of their daughter, April Rose, January 28. Helping hands at home are Virginia, Denise, and Matthew. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Frotenbacher and Wilhelm and Elsie Schlauch. May they be granted Godly wisdom for the training of their children.

Our prayers continue to ascend heavenward for Sis. Helen Popp (Bro. George) and her family. Sis. Helen is still in the hospital battling the afflictions of the body that have been placed upon her during the last few months. We also want to remember Sis. Ruth Gudeman as she, too, is fighting against the afflictions of the body. We do not know what God's plans are for them each one, but we do know that through them, God has touched many hearts and may we remember these dear loved ones on our prayer list each day.

Throughout the past year, Woodhaven has been blessed by many charitable brothers, sisters, and community friends in volunteering their time and services in many different ways. A Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was provided April 11, as one way to say "thank you!", and we want to return a heartfelt "thank you" to Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue), the Woodhaven cooks, office staff, activity director, and all for the hard work in making it a wonderful afternoon and delicious lunch. God has richly blessed Woodhaven in the past and may He continue to bless the labors of love and the residents in the future.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City) for hosting the monthly Tuesday evening worship service at Woodhaven for April. Detroit will be hosting services June 2 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

May 31 has been set aside for the Woodhaven Benefit Dinner. Everyone is invited to help support the Godly service that has helped so many different people and touched so many hearts.

On April 11, we were privileged to travel in our hearts and minds to the upper chamber of the Feast of the Passover where bread was broken for Christ's body and wine was shared for Christ's blood in our communion service. We realize how unworthy our body is for this solemn occasion and how important the partaking of communion is to our spiritual lives. My mind goes back to the Zion's Harp song #301.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEE

According to Thy gracious work,
In meek humility,
This will we do, our dying Lord,
We will remember Thee,
Thy body broken for our sake,,
Our bread shall be;
Thy sacramental cup we take,
And thus remember Thee.
Can We Gethsemane forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?
When to the cross we turn our eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
Oh Lamb of God our sacrifice,
We must remember Thee.

Then on Palm Sunday, we again had the opportunity to listen to the Easter Program and rejoice that Jesus does indeed live— for He was victorious over death.

Chorus:

Because He lives, I can face
tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know, He holds the
future,
And life is worth the living,
just because He lives.
Hymn #73, "Because He Lives"

With this hope in our hearts, may we be overcomers to the sin of this world and be united with Christ some glorious day.

We also want to remember the love of our mothers as Mother's Day is upon us once again. God bless all our mothers for the patience, love, and prayers on our behalf.

BUILDING A TEMPLE

A builder builded a temple
He wroughted with care and skill —
Pillars and groins and arches,
All fashioned to work his will,
And men said,
As they saw its beauty,
"It never shall know decay;
Great is thy skill, O builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye!"

A mother builded a temple
With infinite loving care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.

None praised her increasing effort,
None knew of their wondrous plan,
For the temple the mother builded
Was unseen by the eye of man.

On June 14, Alto, MI, is scheduled to host services in Kitchener, Ontario. Please contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher, (519) 699-4133, for details if you plan to be in the area.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris) and Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come" (I Corinthians 11:26). Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) as we partook of holy communion.

On April 5, following the afternoon services, the Sunday school children brought forth the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Following the program a potluck supper was enjoyed by all.

Our prayers are with Joe Benarski (Sis. Ethel) as he is recovering from surgery.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos

Mother's Day is a special day for all of us to remember our mothers and thank God for them. May those of us who are mothers stay close to the Lord and strive to be good examples to our children.

"Mother's Day is remembrance day
And we pause on The Path Of The
Year

To pay honor and worshipful
tribute
To the Mother our heart holds dear.
For whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide.
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside.
Time cannot destroy her memory
And years can never erase
The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face.
And when we think of our Mother,

We draw nearer to God above,
For only God in His greatness
Could fashion a Mother's Love.
Helen Steiner Rice

We were thankful to have Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) as our visiting ministers this month.

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized or met with accident. They are Sis. Kathy Nohl, Harmony Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa), Bro. John Schaefer, Jerri Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne), Sis. Christa Sauder and Sis. Lena Lou Reuter.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill Furrer rejoice at the birth of a new little daughter, Anna Christine, born March 23. Also welcoming Anna are Benjamin, Jillaine, Daniel and grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen Furrer.

Congratulations are extended to our high school graduates: Brad Fehr (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane), Melanie Goll (Howard and Edna), Kevin Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), Sis. Kristi Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn), Gaylen Luthi (Sis. Della), Chris Minke (Sis. Bev), Tim Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam), Amy Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June), Dana Sutter (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel).

A GRADUATE'S PRAYER

Father, I have knowledge,
So will you show me now
How to use it wisely
And find a way somehow
To make the world I live in
A little better place,
And make life with its problems
A bit easier to face . . .
Grant me faith and courage
And put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve Thee
In the most effective ways
So all my education
My knowledge and my skill,
May find their true fulfillment
As I learn to do Thy Will . . .
And may I ever be aware
In everything I do
That knowledge comes from
learning -

And wisdom comes from You.
Helen Steiner Rice

Sis. Kathy Nohl would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, visits, and phone call she has received while being in the hospital. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

We had the blessed privilege of having Bro. Wes Moser and family (Lester, IA) with us as a visiting minister. Would like to thank him for his efforts in bringing forth God's precious Word.

Howard Lauwagie (Charlene) received sever burns on his hands from an explosion. We are very thankful God is watching over him.

Our congregation was blessed with a new baby. A baby boy was born to Darcy and Sis. Rachel Kent and was named Tanner David. Brooke and Macy are at home to welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Marylou Schmidt.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Messner were blessed this past month with a new granddaughter. Molly Camille was born to Jim and Faye Odegaard and sister, Catina.

We want to wish our graduate, Derek Schmidt (Bro. Darrel and Darlene), God's blessings in the future.

A mom always knows how to
brighten you day,
With things that she does in her
kind, loving way.

She knows how to see things from
your point of view
And be understanding and helpful
to you.

A mom always knows how to give
and to share,
To bring special joy to lighten a
care.

She knows how to add so much
beauty to living -
for she knows the true art of loving
and giving.

Author Unknown

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**Lanette Meyer**

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) was with us January 25 to assist Elder Bro. Gene Marti in reading the conference memorandum. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) was a guest minister April 12 and assisted Bro. Gene in the holy communion service April 12. Other recent visiting ministers were Bro. Karl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

Lynn Braker (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen) and Jeff Bennett have announced their engagement. They are planning a fall wedding.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Martin Hohulin****Janel Kellenberger**

In our small town, we have a general store. While this small store does not have the selection of a larger store, we find it convenient to shop there when we need something quickly. We enjoy taking our two-year-old grandson along, where the owner will give him a candy sucker.

A few days ago a copy of "Heavens General Store" came into my hands.

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago, one day, I saw a sign that read: "Heaven's General Store".

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide. And when I came to myself I was standing inside. I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere.

One handed me a basket and said "My child . . . shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in that store. All you could not carry, you could return the next day for more. First I got some patience; love was in the same row. Further down was understanding; you need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of wisdom; a bag or two of faith. I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race. But then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace. I didn't forget salva-

tion for salvation was free. Then I started up to the counter to pay my bill, for I thought I have everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer, and I just had to put that in. For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into temptation and trials.

Peace and joy were plentiful; they were the last on the shelf. Song and praises were hanging near, so I helped myself.

Then I asked the angel, "How much do I owe?" He smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I smiled and said. "How much do I really owe?"

He smiled again and said, "My child Jesus paid your bill a long, long time ago."

"All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22).

The past month it was our good fortune to have two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City) assisted our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in serving holy communion.

Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) brought to us two inspiring messages that the Holy Spirit revealed unto him. We enjoyed meeting members of his family.

Walter Cordill is a hospital patient in the Lamar Hospital at this time.

Little Steven Jay Hohulin came to gladden the lives of Bubs and Marilyn Hohulin and a two-year-old brother, William Scott. He was born April 13 in Lamar.

His grandparents are Hubert and Mildred Leonard (Fort Scott, KS). Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohulin and his great-grandmother is Sis. Marie Hohulin (Forrest, IL).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Betsy Schrenk**

The following ministers visited the St. Louis Church this past month: Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). We rejoice in the fellowship we sometimes

have on Saturday evening and then on Sunday with our visitors.

Bro. Marv read Philippians 4, and verse 9 was highlighted. Paul wrote, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." If only each of us could say the same, with such confidence, to each of those with whom we come into contact. Each of us, as a child of God, needs to be aware daily of the potential for being a powerful witness for Him."

April is the month for spring housecleaning in our church. We also look at the exterior, as there is work to be done outside, too. Several trees and bushes need to be replaced.

Last spring it was too wet to get the final grading and landscaping done before our Open House and Dedication services in May. But when conditions allowed, a crew of volunteers came to plant trees, shrubs, flowering plants, sod and grass seed. Then came the responsibility of watering, for we had a long hot, dry spell. We had a schedule that kept our small group busy, but it has paid off, with most of the plantings surviving and looking beautiful this spring. We remember with gratitude the generous donations of so many to our church here.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Ruthie Hoerr**

When I think of mothers, I automatically think of Proverbs 31:10-31. Always, when I think of the virtues a mother should have, I compare with the teachings from this scripture. I thought my mother had many of these virtues; and her mother, too. I never knew my father's mother; but I believe she too must have possessed these qualities for almost all of her children and her children's children were converted Christians. When I look at my own life, I feel I have failed in so many in being the "good" mother I should have been. I know I am not alone with these feelings. In reflecting, I feel I tried to do the best I could do in each given situation, even though it may not have

been what others would have done. I would like to say that each day I sought God's guidance, but there are times I was negligent. Nevertheless, teaching the children about the Lord and the importance of their soul's salvation was my goal. Praise be to God that the Lord was the only one that was perfect. This gives us mothers courage that when we do make mistakes, He is just and forgiving and will help step on the scales of our lives to balance them out. How I long to be that virtuous woman of Proverbs, but I'll never make the grade. I can keep trying and you can too, by God's grace.

We are looking forward to our second Mother's Day banquet May 2. It is a special time when we can say thanks to those special people who helped us along life's way.

Our prayers were for Sis. Verene (Bro. Tim) Sutton and her family when Verene's mother experienced open heart surgery. We are glad she is improving. Bro. William (Sis. Ruth) Cottrell again spent some time in the hospital. Jody Meyers (Dan), daughter of Sis. Charlene Sutter, is recovering from a bout of pneumonia. They also had our prayerful support and are recuperating nicely.

Sympathy and love goes out to Dean and Gaye Redd in the loss of Dean's grandfather and great-uncle both in the same week. Many were also saddened with the death of Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab's brother-in-law, Bro. Millard Stoller (Sis. Irma, Latty, OH). May God be with them in their sorrow.

Our dear Aunt Marie Butikofer celebrated her 93rd birthday. She keeps going and is always doing for others. She is such an inspiration to us all truly fits that "virtuous woman".

Our Bible class traveled to Cissna Park to be with the ACYF groups gathered there. On April 26 they were in Congerville with some other churches. They do enjoy being included in ACYF to have the opportunity to fellowship with others from our faith.

We had a wonderful and blessed Easter program Palm Sunday. How inspiring to hear the old, old story again spoken and sung by our chil-

dren. It is encouraging to see the numbers represented by each class and the joy they had in sharing what they had learned.

The Saturday before Palm Sunday we also shared holy communion. It is very special to take communion at the time of the year when Jesus also shared the Passover with His Disciples. Then He said "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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 14:1-2. May we all be counted worthy to go there.

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

Signs of spring are slow in arriving in upstate New York this year. We continue to have cold weather and the green of spring is just now beginning to show. We welcome our loved ones back into our midst who have spent the winter months in the warmth of Florida: Elder Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer and Bro. Raymond Stockberger.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Eleanor Herzig (Bro. Ronald), Sis. Corrine Virkler, and Bro. Seth Schulz (Sis. Olivia). At this time, Bro. Seth remains in the hospital. Our prayers are that God will restore a measure of health to him if it is His will.

We were happy to have Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta Graves in our midst again after many weeks of absence because of their physical afflictions. May God continue to restore them to moderate health so they can soon assemble with us regularly.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Betty Virkler and her family at this time as her father, Lyle Abel, was taken from this life. Funeral services were held by Bro. Andy Virkler and Bro. Duane Farney. May each one be comforted by God's loving words and instructions for us all.

Midweek services have begun for the season. We meet at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday from Easter

until Thanksgiving. Visitors are welcome to worship with us.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

May has the day of recognition to Mothers. Our Godly Mothers have prayed and labored endlessly, and given of themselves to show love bountifully. There are many exemplary Mothers in the Bible. It was a Mother that God gave for the first time the revelation of the Messiah using the Hebrew word translated as anointed. That was Hannah, and she is regarded as a prophetess. She made many statements praising and exalting the Lord, and then said the revelation: ". . . and exalt the horn of his anointed." I Samuel 2:10. She prayed that if she could have a son, she would lend him to the Lord. Her prayer was answered and Samuel was born. When he was a young child, she took him to the house of the Lord. She made him a little coat to take each year when they went for the yearly sacrifice. She wanted her son to serve the Lord all the days of his life, and that prayer was answered, too. Samuel became a prophet, a priest, and a judge. He anointed both Saul and David to become kings. Samuel started a school for prophets and many of the prophets came out of the school he started. We're thankful for Hannah's example to praise and exalt the Lord, and that a Mother's prayers can bring many blessings.

Sis. Heidi Graf is engaged to Bro. Greg Schneider (Remington, IN). Parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta Schneider. We believe Sis. Heidi and Bro. Greg have been brought together by the Lord and they will make their plans as the Lord directs them.

Sis. Esther Graf had the misfortune of fracturing a bone by her ankle, and we pray for it to mend strongly.

Bro. Ernest Graf, Sis. Juliet Graf, and Sis. Margaret Gangle are in the hospital.

Sis. Alma Curie wishes to thank all that remembered her thoughtfully for her 85th birthday.

Bro. Bob Graf wishes to thank all that remembered him thoughtfully through his back surgery. We're praying for his more speedy restoration of strength and alleviation of pains.

We appreciated Bro. Glenn Riggenschach visiting us and ministering us.

Congratulations to our graduates. From high school: Sis. Gyongyi Bako, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako, who plans to attend Kent State University, and Cindy (Collins) Kulton plans to go to Akron University.

From College: Sis. Susie Bako, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako graduates from Akron University with a Bachelor's degree in Child Development Pre-kindergarten. Sis. Heidi Graf, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Art Graf, graduates from schooling to be a Dental Hygienist. Bro. Mike Palitto graduates from a 4-year apprenticeship program making him a Journeyman Mold Maker. Katherine Gasser, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser, graduates from Akron University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. Sis. Sue Stoller, daughter of Bro. Sis. Millard Stoller (Latty), has been assembling with us while attending Akron University, and now graduates from there. We will miss Sue as she returns to her home.

OHIO COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

How wonderful it is when souls can experience God's forgiveness and peace which we can find through the shed blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jenny Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) and Bill Sauder (Sis. Becky) shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized March 21 and 22. What a blessing to welcome them as a sister and brother-in-Christ. We extend a sincere thank you to the Mansfield congregation for sharing their church with us for this special occasion.

On Saturday evening, April 11, we assembled to hear the reading of the memorandum. We ask a special blessing upon our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and

Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) for their loving labors. So thankful we are for the loving admonition, encouragement and instruction brought forth for the Christian family.

We were thankful to have Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and his wife, Sis. Pam, share a Sunday with us. May God reward his labor on our behalf.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday school students so willingly shared of Christ's death and resurrection at our Easter program. It was encouraging to see the efforts and enthusiasm of our young people. May we each one be reminded that it is the way of the cross which leads us home to heaven.

Our prayers have been with our friend Cody Stoller in the loss of his father, Bro. Millard (Latty, OH). May God comfort him in this time of sorrow.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

We began our month be partaking of holy communion. Despite his responsibilities to many of our churches across the nation, Elder Bro. Leo Mosier (Lester, IA) and his wife, Sis. Leona, flew in Saturday, March 28, to assist our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with this important sacrament. On Sunday we were the beneficiaries of Bro. Leo's gift of bringing the scriptures alive with his use of word pictures.

On April 4, Junction was privileged to host the meeting of the World Relief Committee. Friday evening before the meeting, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Gary Ifft presented slides depicting the work being done in Europe as well as here in the states. How blessed to see the cooperation among the committee, needy churches, and even local communities in working to provide for those with special needs.

Visiting minister Bro. Paul Eisenman (Burlington, IA) served us Good Friday and Easter Sunday for which we are grateful. Thought from the sermon: The fate of any unrepentant souls will be no better on Judgment Day than that of those who spit in the face of the

very Son of God before He was crucified.

Our high school graduates include Jason Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline), Mark Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Wendell and Elizabeth Spangler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Caroline). We trust that they will include the Lord in their plans for the future and as they go off to college.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us over the past month. We trust that God will bless you as only He can.

We are thankful that God's healing hand has allowed our dear Bros. Alvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Ellen) and Ben Schlatter (Sis. Helen) to once again gather with us on Sunday mornings. Our prayers are also with Sis. Tootie Sinn as she recovers from her hospital stay.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Bro. Millard Stoller (Sis. Irma). We will miss Bro. Millard deeply. He always had a smile and a kind word. Our prayers are with his wife and family. We love you and are here to ease the pain. God will carry you through.

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19, 22) We were blessed to be served communion April 4 by Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder. On Sunday, Bro. Ron Stiener (Rittman) was also with us to help minister God's Word. We appreciate the time and effort expended on our behalf. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

"The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee." (Psalm 102:28) There are lots of new babies to report . . . Allison Rene Sauder was born March 23 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy. Benjamin, Adam and Andrew are happy to have a new sister. We are sorry Benjamin had to welcome her home with his broken arm from an accident at home. The following day, March 24, Jedidiah Kane was born to Mark and Diane Sauder. Veronica and Abraham welcome their new brother. Elder Bro. Ken and Sis., Sue Sauder are the grandparents for both babies. Then on March 28, Mitchel Jay was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin Beer. Staci and Julie are happy to welcome a new baby brother. Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn Beer and Bernie and Bev Washington are the grandparents. On March 31, Rachel Nicole was welcomed into the home of Bill and Carol Kovach. Jennifer and Nicholas are very pleased with their new baby sister. Harold and Sis. Emilie Went are the grandparents. Quinton Rick waited until April 9 to join Rick and Sis. Susan Foss's family. Elijah, Isaac, Zachary, and Angela welcomed him home. The boys are happy to have a brother and Angela is happy to still be the only girl! Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmer are the grandparents. "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers . . ." (Malachi 4:6)

On April 4, Bro. Edwin and Thelma Beer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children: JoAnn Stevenson and Barbara Hone (Minneapolis, MN), Wendi Beck (Columbus) and Barry Beer (Ontario) planned and hosted the event held in Ontario. "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." (Psalm 91:16)

The Sunday school classes presented the Easter story in song and verse. Thank you to the children, their parents and especially the Sunday school teachers for their faithful service. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

OHIO, RITTMAN Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

We thank visiting ministers Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) for sharing God's Word with us.

On March 22, Bro. Novko Atanasov (Nikola and Sofia) and Sis. Julie Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl) were married. May they find joy in their marriage as together they serve God.

March 29 we heard the wonderful engagement announcement of Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Pam Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann). As they plan for their wedding June 14 and lifetime marriage, we wish them God's blessings.

Those who have been ill and in the hospital recently have been Sis. Helen Babin (Bro. Emanuel), Bro. Melvin Beery (Sis. Elizabeth), Sis. Neva Gasser (Bro. Robert), Sis. Elda Hartzler, Bro. Jack Maibach (Sis. Delores), Bro. Alvin Steiner (Sis. Eldora) and Sis. Margaret Winkler (Bro. Stanley).

Greta Rose joined the family of Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery March 30. Family members to love and help care for Greta are her sisters and brothers, Mollie, Katie, Caleb, Reid and Maria, and grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH).

Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser along with their son, Kirk, welcome a girl, Andrea Nicole, born April 2. Andrea's grandparents are Sis. Doris Gasser and Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller.

Welcoming their first child, Abigail Ann, born April 9, are Keith and Regina Winkler. Glenn and Mary Jane Winkler and Bro. Robert and Sis. Marjorie Boltz are happy to have a granddaughter.

We gathered for communion services Saturday evening, April 18. Assisting our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with these duties were Elder Bros. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Wednesday evening, April 1, we heard the testimony and observed the baptism of our elderly friend Willard Steiner. We are indeed thankful to welcome Bro. Willard into God's family.

After a life of service to God and to the church, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier has gone to her heavenly home. We extend sympathy to her husband, retired Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier; her son, Bro. Marvin Ramsier (Sis. Terri); three grandchildren; her sister, Sis. Rhoda Riggenschach; and her brother, Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Sis. Pauline). During her funeral service April 15, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) considered with us the tremendous sacrifice Sis. Elizabeth made in serving as the wife of an elder and for this we have great appreciation. Also with us for the funeral were Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

Note of thanks: We wish to thank all for their prayers, expressions of sympathy, and the many deeds of love shown us during the sickness and death of our dear wife and mother, Elizabeth.

Joseph Ramsier and family

The Silver Lining subscription fees are due in May for the Rittman congregation. Please pay \$9.00 to the general fund box.

OHIO, SARDIS Renee Miller

Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) read and expounded on the memorandum letter of the 1991 summer conference. Even though some of us were at the conference and we all heard the tapes, it was uplifting to hear the exhortations about our families both spiritual and earthly. Our earthly families are such a blessing to us in our spiritual walk of life. Likewise, our spiritual family is a constant source of strength in guiding our earthly relationships.

Many of the Sardis congregation traveled to Smithville, OH, to witness the wedding of Bro. Andrew Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula of Sardis) and Sis. Cyndi

Blough (Sis. Janett) March 29. It is a wonderful thing when husbands love their wives and wives reverence their husbands. When they both love and serve the Lord, we find a three-fold cord not lightly rent apart.

The annual West Virginia memorial service will be held June 28. There will be a Saturday evening service June 27 at the Sardis church at 7:30. On Sunday there will be a song service at 10:30 and a regular church service at 1:00. Anyone desiring information about accommodations can contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle (614) 483-1593.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

Be present, Holy Spirit,
To bless them as they kneel,
As thou, for Christ the Bridegroom,
The heav'nly bride dost seal;
O spread thy pure wing o'er them;
Let no ill pow'r find place,
While onward to thy presence
Their hallowed path they trace.

Hymns of Zion #196

On March 29, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Andy Figel (Bro. John and Sis. Paula, Sardis, OH) and Sis. Cyndi Blough (Sis. Janette) May God always be first in their marriage.

Bro. Marvin Zollinger felt the Lord's guidance to ask Sis. Pam Christian to be his lifetime helpmate. The wedding date has been set for June 14. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian (Rittman, OH).

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise." Jeremiah 17:14. Our thoughts and prayers are with our loved ones who have been hospitalized this past month. They are Sis. Mildred Hartzler and Sis. Delphine (Bro. Charles) Nieman.

We appreciate the inspiring words Bro. Mark Ramsier and Bro. Ken Indermuhle, both from Sardis, OH, ministered unto us. May God

richly bless them for their faithful service.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklaue
Edie Fetter

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 3:2

We were thankful for the visits of Elder Bros. William Schlatter (Junction) and Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) to our congregation. May God bless these brothers for their labors of love.

We enjoyed the Sunday school Easter program Palm Sunday. May we remember the message that was presented throughout the year.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation." And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord."

II Samuel 2:1, 21

Our thoughts go to Hannah who personified ideal motherhood. She was a veritable lily among thorns "portraying quietness, patience, perseverance and humility. What an example for us and our role as mothers:

A mother's love will guide you
When you don't know where to
turn,
And teach you all the little things
You must take time to learn . . .

A mother's love will listen
When all others turn away.
And hear what's hidden deep
inside -
The words you cannot say.

You've given me a constant love
That's faithful without end . . .
The kind of sweet and caring love
That brings me home again.

Unknown

How much we miss our dear mothers who have been called from this life, who have faithfully and tenderly cared for us with love and patience.

Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein was called home for the funeral of her dear grandmother, Sis. Anna Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). We are in sympathy with the dear bereft and may the God of all comfort sustain them.

Precious memories, unseen angels
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred past unfold.

Gospel Hymns

Our Sunday school children are diligently learning songs and verses for the Easter program. May the messages contained therein remain with them forever.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Becky Gudeman - Peggy Schulz

Greetings to each one of you. We are enjoying beautiful spring-time weather. The new life coming forth is such an encouragement and reminds us of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. We all received a blessing as the Sunday school portrayed the Easter story to us in hymns, sign language, pieces, and Bible readings. The earnestness and sincerity reflected in those young faces were a lesson to us all in childlike faith.

We have such a rich heritage in our faith. This was made even more evident as a group of us went to the Benedictine Care Center and sang one evening. The residents and staff there were so welcoming and appreciative of the short time we spent with them singing hymns of praise and encouragement. Sis. Linda Hari's Sunday school class also went to a local nursing home and presented their Easter program and gave favors to the residents. It take so little to brighten someone's day. May we take time out of our

busy schedules more often to remember and share time with those less fortunate than ourselves.

A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Each day I'll do a golden deed,
By helping those who are in need;
My life on earth is but a span,
And so I'll do the best I can.
Life's evening sun is sinking low,
A few more days and I must go
To meet the deeds that I have done,
Where there will be no setting sun.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

Psalm 143:10

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman and Sis. Jill Metzger were united in marriage March 22 in Lester, IA. We wish them God's blessings as they walk this path of life together. Parents are Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA).

We rejoice with Gabriel and Rebeca Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) who have found peace with God and man. Our prayers are with them as they await their baptism.

We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly bless this dear brother and his family.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Don Sauder

And Jesus unto them, "Thus it is written, and thus at beloved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24: 46-47. How thankful we should be that our loving Saviour bled and died for us. That His blood was so pure, it covered all our sins, that He rose on the third day, over coming death

and grave was received up into heaven and is setting on the right hand of God pleading the Father that all may have everlasting life. Not only on Easter should we think of this and praise our God, but every day we are given the breath of life. Some day, only by the grace of God, it should be our hope, we can praise him in eternity.

We are very thankful God has given us faithful brothers who are willing to be used, preaching repentance and remission of sins. Our minister this month was our Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore. May God richly bless and encourage those who speak His Word.

Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH; Bluffton, IN; Wolcott, IN; Athens, AL; and Detroit, MI; God bless you for your visit please come again.

For the last several months, we were blessed to have our dear Sis. Gwen Leuthold from Tremont living in Nashville. As we so often sing: Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. We should continue to pray that as brothers and sisters in Christ we would never lose that love and fellowship that we have in our blessed faith.

We invite and welcome you to come worship with us. We need your prayers and support.

TEXAS, HOUSTON Sandy Darlington

We were so happy to gather in Houston March 29 for our regular monthly worship service. Our pleasure was soon doubled as we were able to meet and greet two ministers, Bro. Frank Sauder (Japan) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). Bro. Frank was visiting in the United States and came from Illinois to renew a friendship made with Kiyoshi and Sachiko Fujii. This Japanese couple and their son now make their temporary home in Point Comfort, TX. Accompanying Bro. Frank was his four-year old son. Sis. Marcie Gudeman joined her husband as they were also traveling.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of the month at

10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn - Southwest. Please contact Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger at (409) 542-0763 or Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington at (409) 297-8301 for information regarding Houston services.

There are also scheduled services for the Dallas, TX, area on the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn - DeSoto, TX. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp at (214) 867-4074.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). Bro. Dennis served holy communion to our congregation. We thank Bro. Dennis for his visit.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Dolly Stoller at Burlington, Iowa. Sis. Dolly and her husband, Bro. Walter, bought property here in Zapata about 1965. They and Bro. Ben Wagler and his wife, Sis. Esther, were the first members of our church to buy property in Zapata. Bro. Walter and Sis. Dolly spent their winters here until recent years. Because of poor health they were not able to travel. We remember the wonderful hospitality they showed to all of us. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Walter and his family.

NOTE: The sermon for April was by deceased Elder Bro. Andrew Koehl.

Happy Mother's Day



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

SILVER THREADS

TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE

When I was but a little child,
 how well I recollect
 How I would grieve my mother
 with my folly and neglect,
 And now that she has gone to
 heav'n,
 I miss her tender care.
 O Saviour, tell my mother
 I'll be there.

Though I was often wayward,
 she was always kind and good,
 So patient, gentle, loving,
 when I acted rough and rude.
 My childhood griefs and trials
 she would gladly with me share;
 O Saviour, tell my mother
 I'll be there.

When I became a prodigal,
 and left the old roof-tree,
 She almost broke her loving heart
 in mourning after me,
 And day and night she pray'd to
 God
 to keep me in his care;
 O Saviour, tell my mother
 I'll be there.

One day a message came to me;
 it bade me quickly come
 If I would see my mother,
 ere the Saviour took her home.
 I promised her before she died,
 for heaven to prepare;
 O Saviour, tell my mother
 I'll be there.

Chorus:
 Tell mother I'll be there,
 in answer to her pray'r.
 This message, blessed Saviour,
 to her bear!
 Tell mother I'll be there,
 heav'n's joys with her to share;
 Yes, tell my darling mother
 I'll be there.

Gospel Hymns #801

LIFE

Do not ask to have your life's load
 lightened,
 But for courage to endure,
 Do not ask for fulfillment in all
 your life,

But for patience to accept
 frustrations.
 Do not ask for perfection in all
 you do,
 But for wisdom not to repeat
 mistakes,
 And finally, do not ask for more,
 Before saying "thank you" for
 what you already received.
 B. Short
 Taylor, MO

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

the darkness but that is in the
 light? Where is it? We all know the
 answer!

When we somewhat try to
 stretch God deeper into the world,
 we hear the farmer voice and we
 see the farmer sitting with agony
 in his heart trying to bend us a
 little bit in the right direction. With
 patience, he expects maybe this
 branch to grow out this way, but
 next season maybe it will be a little
 bit different. Each season he
 prayerfully hopes that since he laid
 this branch in the good direction,
 he will continue that way.

Our father in faith in the family
 in the brotherhood prays not only
 for his and their own son and chil-
 dren but for others. We are all, in a
 sense, a farmer. We all trust that
 each branch would receive good
 nourishment which is so vital for
 the growth from the main trunk,
 that is Jesus Christ, and that we
 may not be cut off.

We sometimes then wait with
 patience but suddenly some
 branches do not go right. Then the
 time comes, the farmer feels that
 there is not other way and cuts it
 off. I tell you that after they are
 cut off and laid on the ground, farm-
 ers would gather them and they
 burn well. When they are in the
 vine and have a lot of water in it,
 the grapevines are difficult to burn.
 But after quite a while, it turns
 out to be dry as a bone and it is one
 of the most burnable, easy to burn,
 trees.

The Lord says that unless the
 branch bears good fruit, the end
 would be fate for you and I. The
 judgment of God is the fire and we

would be the branch. When the
 Lord would burn us, we will burn
 well. In this still-living flesh, we
 will not burn. But when we wither
 away, especially when we are cut
 off from the branch of Jesus Christ
 and when the judgment comes and
 the angel of the Lord, who acts as
 this farmer in this vineyard and
 collects all these branches that are
 cut off from Jesus Christ, and here
 waits a fire – eternal hell and dam-
 nation – and we are put into this
 fire, we will burn well.

What a difference it is, the gravi-
 ty of it, if we did in obedience re-
 spond to the prayer and good will
 of the farmer when he wished us to
 grow in the right direction. We
 could have brought forth a good
 fruit.

You know, the branch itself does
 not sit still and make special effort
 when we observe carefully the
 branch of the tree.

If the branch lays in the right
 direction and does spread out in
 the good sunshine, then, for sure,
 the branch will bring forth good
 fruit. All branches have the capa-
 bility of bringing forth good fruit.
 It is the same with you and I. There
 is no single person who cannot
 bring forth good fruit.

The strength is from the Lord.

In His creation, God did make
 the grapevine; and grapevines, in
 its capacity and potentiality, have
 the ability to bring forth the fruit.
 All is needed for the branch is just
 to grow in the right direction.

All is required for you and I is
 just to heed the Word of God and
 grow into the right direction.

What is the sunshine? This is a
 good and wholesome environment
 for the spirit to grow. Where can
 we find this climate upon this
 earth? Where is the most likely
 place to provide with us a whole-
 some and good atmosphere and cli-
 mate for our spirits to grow? That
 is church. That is our fellowship.
 That is our family circle . . . where
 prayer is uttered daily . . . where
 we can sit together around the table
 and thank the Lord every day . . .
 where we can share the Word . . .
 where the father of the family –
 the head – can lead the prayer at
 the table.

Unfortunately, when we are

young and after, especially, we graduated from elementary and junior high and go a little bit higher into the education, there is a time for us that we may feel that we want to seek out a little bit more independence . . . a little bit more freedom.

You know what we often call freedom is somewhere behind the tree . . . somewhere in the darkness. We feel free – more free – usually when our unconverted man, the flesh, feels a little bit more free, that is somewhere you have a little bit more free choice for your flesh to take over the spirit. Here we are seeking the shade. Here we are seeking somewhere to go around other things that would block the sunshine, but we must be careful . . . we must all be prayerful.

Because in the Old Testament when we read about Solomon, we know that Solomon was once called a great king. He was a king known from all the countries and he was even known as one of the wisest men upon this earth. We believe that he wrote the beautiful Scripture of the many, many wisdoms and Ecclesiastes and so forth. He speaks of the unthinkable riches of wisdom of God.

Yet, in his latter days, he somewhat turned away and fell from the grace of God and did walk in the way that is most abominable in the sight of God. We can say that this is the kind of branch that started out in the right direction and gave such a joy to the farmer and once did bring forth good fruit. But unfortunately, somehow all of a sudden, the branch started to grow in the wrong direction and in the end, it lost its fruitfulness.

When the Scripture mentions about bowing before many gods and so forth, it somewhat frightens me. Because in my country, I am very much acquainted with them. A person usually can be about three things. He can be a Buddhist and a Shintoist at the same time. When you are married, they say you are married in Shintoist at the same time. When you die, you are buried in Buddhism, while all the same time, you would have several other gods.

Now in this country, of course, you do not know this and you don't observe this so when you turn to the Scripture to something like this, you only imagine. You are only thinking there are some other gods and there is something other than the leading and true God. You can only appreciate this Scripture in your imagination because you are not exposed to this.

But in the land where Solomon did live, there existed such a thing. In my country, they do exist today and I know very well what they are like. It just shudders me when I know that one can so easily bow before them and serve them and give the praise and honor to them. But this is an abomination to the Lord.

This is bringing forth a different kind of fruit. The fruit that is supposed to bring forth good grapes – that is, good to your throat that will quench the thirsty and hungry mouth, that would make one to pause and thank God, "How gracious Thou art, that Thou art so good to give us this beautiful fruit!"

But there is fruit of the other kind . . . fruit of the poison that give discouragement. We can be, today, fruitful in two ways: either we can be fruitful in the Lord's fruit or the fruit of Satan. One cannot be, let's say, nothing. Either one is a fruitful vine of the holy nature or very fruitful vine of Satan. Because Jesus said that one can either be in the light or in the darkness. If he is with the Lord, he is not with the world. If he is not with the Lord, he is with the world. There is NO road in between.

I can look back on myself and see entirely a different Akito today. As born in the country just like it was when this Scripture – the old testament – was recorded, there are many gods . . . many are bowing. Born in that country, brought up in that country, I can well imagine and picture myself bowing to those gods. But, somehow the love of God and that mysterious plan of salvation reached to me. The branch that was going away from the right direction had a help. How thankful I am!

Now in this country, you have many, many workers. Many farm-

ers who would help the branch – help you to grow in that right direction. You have much more opportunity and you have continuously this help compared with us in the foreign country. How fortunate you are! How thankful you should be! Maybe in your time, you have heard of this correction; you have heard ten times . . . hundred times . . . more times . . . than I received it or many of my friends are receiving over there.

You know the Lord is merciful and long-suffering but yet we know that He is a Righteous Person. As much as He give you ten times help, He expects you the ten times obedience. If He gives you one-hundred fold assistance and help, He would expect you to bring forth one hundred times more fruit. Isn't this fair! Isn't this reasonable.?

Yes, the Lord who cannot live with unrighteousness is going to be a very righteous and right with the person in the country where maybe that opportunity for him to receive this kind of correction and help the branch of a tree because he wants to receive this correction but did not heed to it and did not bring forth good fruit.

Another result, he was cut off and did receive the judgment of God. How much more and how surely He is going to put the judgment upon someone like yourselves in a country where you can continuously receive the helping hand of the Father!

Oh, it makes me shudder, if we are not obedient to the Word of God; and how terrible would be the end of it. We not only think of the terrible end of our own fate, but much tears that are shed by the Lord. Because we know, even my uncle, when he reached out for the branch and cuts it off, a lot of pain goes right through his heart. If this earthly husbandman feels this pain and sheds his tears, how much more the Father in the heavenly vineyard does when he has to reach out and cut a branch off the trunk. There is a pain. There is a tear shed.

So not only we are losing our own privilege, but we are putting much sorrow and pain on the Lord who was so willing to come upon

this earth and live among us and taste of all of the sorrows and sicknesses and pains and allergies. All this time, He kept Himself clean and holy so that one day He might be sacrificed for all of you and I.

This blood was shed in vain as much as that particular person is concerned, if he did not bring forth the fruit. He precious blood that is shed is rewarded if the particular soul does bring forth good fruit. What a loss it is. One soul is worthy – more worthy – than the world's treasures.

The Lord's precious blood is even more precious. Do you know you can personally waste that blood? But, you know, we can be wasteful and we can be ignorant. If the person that wastes that precious blood because he was ignorant, maybe there is room for sympathy trying to understand Him. Well, that person did not understand Him. He was not granted the opportunity to hear the gospel.

But, what about if one did have the opportunity? One did have this privilege of hearing the gospel and willingly, willfully, because of his stubbornness, disobedience, the desire of the flesh, reject and knowingly and willfully waste this precious blood? Oh, we cannot avoid the judgment of God! Oh, how terrible that would be!

So, we can say that if you are born in a country where you are provided with the spiritual opportunities, you are thankful and you are blessed and you are fortunate. But never forget the other side of the story: that born here and given this opportunity and then willfully go the way of sin and the way of darkness, you are really going to have ten times – a hundred times – more stern judgment of God.

I like to mention this out of love and with honesty that you are the one I just mentioned! You are blest! You are expected to bring forth good fruit!

But that does not excuse us in Japan or in any other country. God's merciful plan of salvation is patiently and steadily extending. I am so thankful that our beautiful faith – this precious way of spiritual life was preserved and shared with us, and the one in Japan like

myself who found himself in many gods.

You know, I want to share with you a little bit of my path of sensation and feelings. Somehow, somehow, I do not know how, but I had an idea that in our faith over here, generally speaking, there was once a time that they did not look upon the missionary work too well. I do not know where I get this impression. I do not know how I hear or learn this, but I got this kind of feeling.

Then when I was converted and I was saved and I got a peace and joy in my heart, I thought, "Well, this is all the result of this work." If there would not have been a brother come over there and preach the gospel and teach us the need of repentance, I know that 99.9999%, would be today bowing to those gods and offering them incense. Or, I would be totally indifferent and going on my way seeking the treasures and knowledge and wisdom of the world. And I couldn't have cared less.

Then I sometimes felt I was called an illegitimate child. How do you pronounce this word . . . like a child of bond . . . not through the local marriage of parents? I felt a little bit I was a person somewhat like this, because I know somehow and somewhat that missionary work was not looked upon too favorably. But I, today, find out that brothers and sisters have love and concern and they give such a helping hand to us and to many other areas.

In fact, I was just attending the elder's gathering where they were asking about the purpose of the missionary work. I am thankful that there are brothers who are willing to work very closely with this church, which is a main trunk.

This, again, we can liken this activity with Jesus' beautiful analogy of the trunk and branch. The branch can reach out to much wide area. The farmers seeks and see that the branch will not lap over against each other. When the church grows, you grown out in new areas. When you see an open space, the farmer somewhat helps the branches to reach out in that direction so that the entire vine-

yard would be covered with these fruitful branches.

So that when the Lord returns and collects His own and His fruit, His basket shall be full and overflowing.

I can see that the work of this wonderful missionary activity is just like a branch growing out.

But you know, you cannot be cut off from the main trunk and keep growing. The moment the branch is cut off, there is water shed and pain and the branch withers away.

I am so thankful that we in Japan – the two churches – belong to the branch and then to this main body of our precious faith. We can prayerfully support this activity. We know that if any little bit of the branch is securely fastened to this main body of our precious faith, that branch is going to be blessed. That branch can bring forth good fruit.

I am very, very thankful today that in this beautiful illustration of God, it did apply to this work and today, I feel that I am no longer an illegitimate child; but I am a child born or a parent – my father in faith and my mother in faith – who is legally a part of the Lord, part of the main trunk, and I don't have to feel that I am a little bit different child.

I feel love. I feel acceptance when I come over here because the branch that did extend to go over to Japan Never, never left from the main trunk. Whenever we are doing a piece of deed or whatever, if we leave our home, if we leave where we first belonged, in a sense, we are being cut off. The Lord is not going to bless it.

So whether you be out in school, whether you be on the job, or whether you be working in the new area for the Lord, be mindful and careful that you surely belong to the main trunk. If you cannot directly, join the local little-heavier branch, which would connect to the main trunk. That is how we can bring forth fruit. That is how you can remain with that main trunk. And how beautiful is that illustration of Jesus Christ.

I wish some of the other brothers would just continue to help me.

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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. AKITO INOUE OF TOKYO, JAPAN

St. John 15:1-11

What a beautiful teaching it is! It cannot be any simpler than this. It cannot be any more concise than it is recorded here. The Word is plain and we can all understand what the Lord is speaking here. But the Lord always kindly gave us an earthly example so we can, a little bit better, acquaint ourselves with what He was trying to share with us.

Now in this portion, He likens us all as a branch of a vine – a grape vine. Of course, we know that the Lord Jesus Himself was the Main Vine. He said, that unless we all abide in Him, we cannot bear fruit.

He mentions about the farmer going out into the field and looks up to this vine, and carefully see the conditions of each branch spreading out. Some branches, he mentions, he shall cut off. Some branches, the farmer will spare.

I, myself, coming from the region of Japan producing most beautiful grapes of the country, I can well see what the Lord is talking about. We have beautiful vineyards, the entire town and village. We have many mountains and many hills. All mountain and hill-sides, we have overheard grapevine net. This is made about seven or eight feet high and farmers carefully make a net out of steel wire and on this are raised the grapevines.

Grapevines are strivingly thin, but when it goes out over the net, it can spread out. Let's say, in this

assembly room this size, in our country maybe there are about three or four vines. They are fruitful for, let's say, somewhere from five to six years they start to be very fruitful all the way to thirty or forty years. But, yet, even after forty years or so, the trunk would get only this thick.

Now the farmer goes out every winter and early spring and sits under the vine and looks up. The first attention the farmer gives is which way the branch is growing. Now if the branch is growing into a crowded area or shade, the farmer would carefully turn his branch toward another direction so the branch would stretch out into a little bit more open space so he would receive the blessings of God, which is sunshine.

Another thing he is carefully looking at is what is the relationship of this branch toward the main branch. See, the small branch is joined to the next big branch and the next big branch joins to the next even heavier branch and so forth until you see a main big branch here – a trunk. He sees that the branch is very well balanced. We can see that farmers select some branches and cuts them off. But, you know, the farmers, with love, dig around the roots and give them fertilizer, water, and keeps weeds away.

One of my uncles, being a grape-raiser, when he looks up, in his mind many things goes and I can tell what he is thinking. Some of

the branches, he feels, he needs to cut off. He knows that he must cut off; but I also know that he goes through a kind of sentiment and it is very difficult for him to cut off. Because we know that when he cuts the branches off, tomorrow morning when we go, you see from the cut off place, the water is seeping out.

Whenever you cut the branch, it shows, the signs: number one is that the cut off branch is found on the ground and he is no longer strong. The branch withered away. Another thing you see is the water running out of the branch . . . and makes us feel a pain. We know that farmer felt a pain when he did cut the branch off.

It is the same with our Lord . . . our Heavenly Father. We are all implanted into this branch into this beautiful Holy Tree and the Lord expects us to stretch out to grow out in the right direction that we may not seek the darkness. That our branch – each branch – may not seek the place where he can find a shelter or his existence, his behavior or things in his life may not be brought out to the light.

The Lord does not want us to seek that way; but the Lord wants us to stretch out into the place where the blessings of the Lord can fall upon the branch.

Now, spiritually, where is it that we can seek and expect the richest blessings of God that freely befall upon us, which is not something in

(Continued on Page 36)