



"And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place of a skull*, which is called in the Hebrew *Golgotha*:"

John 19:17

"And when they were come to the place, which is called *Calvary*, there they crucified him,"

Luke 23:33

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NUMBER 2



CALVARY - GOLGOTHA

Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

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!

Yet Thy suffering has defeated
Satan's pow'r, yea, death and hell;
Through Thy death Thou has completed
Thy dear heav'nly Father's will
Thus is given To us even
Life eternal to fulfill.

In humility, dear Saviour,
Thou for me, I know, hast died;
Though I was Thy foe, Redeemer,
Thou for me wast crucified.
Silence keep I, Humbly weep I!
Thus through Thee I'm justified!

Thou, Lord, hast for me devoted
Soul and body, life and all;
So there shall be consecrated
All I have, both great and small,
All my efforts and endeavor
To Thy service and Thy call.

Through the power of Thy dying,
Into Thy Death, Lord, draw me;
Let my body, all my being,
There be nailed, Lord, with Thee;
Calm and gentle May my will be;
To my love give purity!

MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

THE OTHER SIDE OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Who benefits more, the person who is forgiven or the person who forgives? We may too often assume that the person who is forgiven receives all the benefit and that the person who forgives receives all the benefit and that the person who forgives receives nothing, but there is more to it than that.

Let us take the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. His brothers sold him as a slave and many years later went to buy food from him, not knowing that the government official in Egypt was Joseph. When they learned that this man was Joseph, they were rightfully afraid. Joseph could have made them slaves at hard labor for the rest of their lives. Contrariwise, Joseph said, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? . . . God meant it unto good." (Genesis 50:19, 20)

Joseph's brothers profited a great deal as they were saved from a life of hard labor as slaves. However, if Joseph had not forgiven them, would he have been happy and content, wining and dining in

the king's palace? By no means – he probably would have been more miserable than his brothers. Revenge has a way of hurting the revenger.

When it comes to the matter of God forgiving us through the Lord Jesus Christ, we gain heaven and lose hell, which is a big benefit. The question which arises is whether or not God receives any benefit from it. I venture to say He does, albeit not as great as our benefit. II Peter 3:9 reads, "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." If no one meets the conditions for forgiveness through Jesus Christ, would God not be disappointed and sorry? I think he would be, and if this is true, then God, too, benefits when we repent and receive forgiveness. It's an awesome thought.

The other side of forgiveness is that he, in human relations, who forgives (does not hold a grudge) benefits as much or more than he who is forgiven.

GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man accordign to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

Matthew 25:14-15

Praise God, He has given us talents according to our individual abilities. The responsibility of how we use those talents, however, falls on us. How often do we bury our talents by rationalizing, not recognizing our gifts or resisting, assuming someone else will answer? Shouldn't we rather be like Isaiah, who in his newly cleansed state eagerly said "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:7 & 8 The opportunities are available, the call has been sounded, the needs are real, and children's lives depend on your response.

Gateway Woods offers a variety of opportunities to use your God-given talents, and we currently have a staff opening in the following area:

- Houseparent (single sister for the All-Girls House)

Please prayerfully consider using your talents for the Lord. If you have any questions, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder, Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159, Office
(219) 627-2606, Home

David Bertsch, Elder
11520 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-2923

HURRICAN ANDREW PROJECT

Request for Volunteers

It has been seven months since the hurricane hit South Florida.

There is still much work that needs to be done.

We have had a good response from 275 volunteers, however, we need to encourage more people to come and help for a week or longer, during the summer months and further into the year.

We have facilities to house the work teams and those that have come have had a rewarding experience and good Christian fellowship.

For further information, please contact Bro. Roger Sauder, (305) 584-0947 or Bro. Roy Lubinbuhl (305) 472-1738.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

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IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



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).

FREE TO CHOOSE

When God made man in His own image and after His likeness (Gen. 1:26) He purposely chose to give humans superior intellectual capability. Unique in mankind's makeup is the ability to reason and make choices, including the ultimate choice of either believing in or rejecting the very existence of God. Man's freedom to choose offers a great deal of liberty, and it carries with it a heavy responsibility.

Apparently God gave the created human family this intellectual freedom to ensure that those who would become His children would do so voluntarily, out of faith and true adoration. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). The same is true regarding the great gift of the Lord Jesus Christ who suffered and died on the Cross that by grace through faith in His shed blood men might be saved (Eph. 2:8). The Word says, "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

Every person has the freedom to choose to serve the Lord Jesus or to reject Him. This freedom remains intact even after one becomes converted, and we must always remember that we remain as God's children by continuing in faith and by not choosing to turn away. Anyone who feels hopelessly caught in the clutches of Satan, even if this may involve overpowering addiction of any kind, should take heart in the fact that our most basic nature always retains that remnant of freedom to choose to break free.

Although there are many benefits of the moral freedom God has granted us, this can also be detrimental to those who lack a solid foundation on which to base their decisions. We live in a society in which many have rejected the notion of any absolute standards. The trait of individualism reigns and there are numerous

philosophies from which one may choose. There is a prevailing view that no set of beliefs is necessarily closer to the truth than any other and all merit equal respect. Many feel personal preference and experience are the main factors in choosing one's beliefs. They conclude, "If it feels right or feels good, that is good enough for me." Although a large majority of people in our country profess belief in God, their personal philosophies often bear little resemblance to the teachings of Christ and the Apostles. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Unfortunately this deceptive thinking has also infiltrated modern evangelical Christianity. There is a wide divergence of interpretations of Scripture which constitute the doctrines of the many different groups which fit under this broad umbrella. Once again there is a pervasive feeling that no particular interpretation of scriptural principles should be considered as closer to the truth than any other. It is more acceptable to tolerate or embrace widely variant beliefs rather than to risk the danger of being called "narrow" or "fundamentalist" by standing firm on a simple, literal interpretation of the Bible, whether it is popular or not. This attitude is reinforced by the fact that many do not want their faith to interfere with their life style, and thus prefer to design their own set of beliefs. It is simply a "live and let live" situation.

Let us examine ourselves and reflect upon the degree of flexibility in interpretations which could become acceptable within our own Apostolic Christian Church if we are not careful. The God-given freedom to choose can easily be misdirected as a result of the powerful influences of a society which is obsessed with worship of self rather than submission to God. An indi-

vidual once said, "I want to be a part of a church where I can be myself." Once again, we must consider the Apostle Paul's prophetic words regarding the last days, when "men shall be lovers of their own selves" (2 Tim. 3:2). Obviously, no individual or church has a monopoly on truth. Therefore, it is essential that we come before the Lord in deepest humility with hearts that are tender and submissive to the guidance of His Holy Spirit so that we can accurately discern the spirits.

The key to discerning truth was revealed in the words of Jesus when he said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). In addition to the gift of the Holy Spirit to each believer, God has established another avenue through which His Spirit teaches us the application of His Word, namely the holy church, which the Apostle Paul described as the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). If we insist on our own opinions and feel that we should not be expected to conform to church teachings or submit to those who are over us in the Lord, we lose the benefit of an important part of God's plan (Rom. 12:16; 2 Tim. 3:14; Heb. 13:7, 17).

Just like young children, believers in Christ need structure and specific boundaries in certain important aspects of life. Because of human nature, there is always resistance to structure and individuals press hard against the boundaries. May God help us to overcome these childish attitudes and attain true spiritual maturity. Then we will gladly stand firm upon a set of sound, scripturally-based beliefs which have been tried and proven over many years. We can do this without arrogance or a judgmental attitude toward other groups, but with a deep commitment to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

MEDICAL MISSIONS IN MEXICO

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Malachi 3:10

Often we think of the gift of tithe as a form of monetary giving. Have you ever considered sharing your time and talent as a gift of tithe?

We have been blessed by a number of nurses inquiring and willing to share their time and talent on our World Relief Medical-Dental Teams to Juarez, Mexico. We have an ongoing need for willing dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, pharmacists and Spanish interpret-

ers to accompany us in this work.

This year, we are experimenting with a summer team, in hopes to attract those more easily available during summer vacation. We will be taking our trip July 14-21. Our work teams are in Mexico for a week (twice a year) serving the medical and dental needs of the Mexicans in poor locations. We work with a group that assists in spiritual care for the people we meet. If you are interested, in this time or future teams, you may obtain information from Bro. Bob Hoerr, Mexico International Board, 2486 W. 1250 N., Milford, IN 46542, phone (219) 658-4555.

I personally have benefitted by my involvement with the project, both in my career and my personal life. The biggest blessing is realized when I come away noting their attitude of gratitude for what we Americans tend to take for granted.

Sincerely,

Sis. Lynne Fischer Streitmatter

Note: Lynne is planning to be married March 14 to Bro. Jeff Streitmatter

-- NOTICE --

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

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890
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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
Ninth Year — August 1991 thru July 1992 — 39,608

Bibles Distributed — Tenth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1992 —	3670	3670
September 1992 —	3304	6974
October 1992 —	4238	11,212
November 1992 —	3913	15,125
December 1992 —	4629	19,754
January 1993 —	2419	22,173
February 1993 —	2792	24,965

*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.

THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME OF ROANOKE

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Please contact the business office at the home to obtain an application - 1102 W. Randolph, Roanoke, IL 61561, (309) 923-2071.

WORLD RELIEF**European Update****Bro. Andy Hunyady**

Greetings beloved brethren and friends,

"Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

I John 3:1

We rejoice with some of our brethren in the Ukraine and Romania, as they continue to make a steady progress in building new churches and acquiring other buildings which can be converted into a house of worship. During the months of late November, December and the first Sunday in January of this year, five churches were dedicated to the service of the Lord in Romania. Some are under construction and others are yet to be built in the near future, as financial conditions will permit.

Letters continue to come from many of our beneficiaries, who receive the gift packages in Romania. Thus far, over 160 letters were

received from Romania alone. During the year-end holidays I received letters from other countries also, of which I wish to share with you, out beloved supporters.

Elder Bro. Jan Zibritovsky, from Slovakia (formerly the eastern half of the Czechoslovak Republic) writes: "Dearly beloved brethren! May grace, peace and blessing be upon you and may you be strengthened in all things that you do in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, who has gone ahead into the high heavens to prepare a place for you. This is my heartfelt wish for you all as a greeting.

"My dear brother, as we approach the Christmas holiday, we wish you peace and spiritual comfort. We join with you in giving thanks unto our God for sending His only begotten Son, who as a man became our Saviour, but not ours only, but unto all those who believe on Him. We are bound to give thanks unto God every day as long as we live, for it is He who grants us life, and it is He who cleansed us from our sins and sanctified us by giving us His Holy Spirit as an advance token of His love and entry into His eternal kingdom.

"We, and all true believers, must continue to pray and plead for His help in these evil days, so that we can be conquerors in our struggles for the preservation of our most precious faith. To this end, my dear Bro. Andrew and Sis. Theresa, as we approach the new year, our sincere wish and prayer for you is that our dear Lord would lead you and bless you with good health in body and soul, and with the assurance that one day we shall enter into the heavenly home which is being prepared for us. (John 14:2-3)

"Along with my greetings, I want to inform you briefly, that the money you sent to us, we used to purchase a much needed minibus last August, which we find it to be most useful. But, we were not so successful, as yet, in purchasing the needed buildings for church in Zsembéri and Szélice. As you know, there is a serious political and economical uncertainty in our country, and because of it, nobody wants to sell their property.

"Beginning on New Year's Day, Slovakia will become an independent republic. Neither the Czechs nor the Slovaks want to be part of the Old Common Republic. Everyone is fearful of the future, especially about the financial and economics and the inflation. We now just wait and hope that after the new year the situation will calm down and we shall be able to find suitable locations for our churches.

"As I close this letter, it is my hope that it finds you in good health. Again, we greet you my dear ones with the members of the mission committee and all the beloved brethren in us. We remain bound to you by the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Humbly, your brethren,"

Jan and Eva Zibritovsky

On the days between Christmas and New Year, two minibus loads of clothing and medications were brought from Germany, joined by two more such vehicles in Pecs, Hungary and delivered to the suffering brethren in Croatia. A second trip was made from Pecs with additional food supplies. We are saddened to hear of the destruction of many homes and buildings in that part of the former Yugoslavia. The ministering brother in the city of Osijek (Eszek) suffered the loss of one son and two sons-in-law during the early fighting between the Serb and Croatian armies. In addition, he lost his home. The

Church History

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AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 7, 1993

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH WORK SEASON 1992-'93 PROJECT LIST

Project Number	Date	Project	Location	Missionary	Organization	Church Area	Area Coordinators
#7	New Date to be Established	School	Haiti* (Fon De Nerge)	Bob Stewart	M.E.B.S.H.*	#7 E. IL	Jim Walter 26 Timber Ridge Fairbury, IL 61739 (815) 692-3158

† Couples invited on this project
 * Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.)
 □ Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

church building also suffered damage. His car survived and now, the brother living with another son about 60 km away from the church, is able to drive each Sunday to serve the remaining members.

Getting food packages into Yugoslavia (Serbis) is still in the negotiation stage with the International Red Cross in Budapest, Hungary. A few days ago I was informed that permission has been granted for delivery. Now the brethren are preparing the parcels in Budapest and expect to have it delivered in about mid-February. Some medications were delivered into Yugoslavia from Szeged, Hungary in the past two weeks.

Additional letters and excerpts from Romania:

"First of all we wish you good health, faith and Christian love. We thank God and you for all your gifts, having the hope that someday we will be able to repay you for all that you have done for us and for the packages that come to us each month.

"We are a small family, and very tender, having only one hope, which is promised by God, if we obey the laws of His Word to the end of our days. Be it known to you that I was received into the grace to enter the family of God the 25th of October, 1992. We hope and believe that God will help us that at our age of 23, to be God's children and grow in the faith with our four-year-old son with whom God blessed us. Our other brother is also of the same faith as are our parents, of the Nazarene (Apostolic Christian) faith.

"Regarding the packages, we thank you again for all that you care and do for us. They arrive in perfect condition. If at all possible, please, send us a photo of those who take care of us. If you wish to write to us again, for which we would be very happy, write to the address below, and please, pay us a visit when you come to Romania.

"With this close, wishing you the blessings of our Lord and many greetings to all the brethren from our brethren in Teregoava. The Lord teaches us that we should greet each other with a . . ."

Clitan Petru

"Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

"Please, be informed that we receive the packages you send us. We thank you very much for the love you had and have for us. We are not capable of thanking your for we are very weak, but we pray the good Lord to reward you and prepare for you a place in His kingdom.

"This letter is written by two widow sisters: Ghent Ana, 76. With two children and I, Popa Samica am 64 years old. My husband was paralyzed and in bed for over four years and he died one year ago. I have three children but they are not living with me. We are alone. The packages we have received every month, the last one came October 8, contained everything this time. Sometimes the coffee and some canned goods were missing.

"Now we wish to inform you that with the Lord's help, we now worship in our new house of prayer. We thank every much to our brothers and sisters who helped to build

this house of worship. We are eager to enter into this new place of prayer. I close this letter, lovingly, with our holy greetings and pray to our holy God to bless you all!"

Popa Samica and Ghent Ana

"My dearly beloved brethren,
 "First of all, I send you my greetings of appreciation and of Christian love. My name is Tarau Ana, born July 21, 1904. I dwell in the hamlet of Pesac, village of Perim, district of Timis . . . I receive packages from you every second month with my daughter, Baciú Reghina, who lives in the same hamlet and is also of our faith. The packages arrive in good condition and contain everything that is on the list. There is one disadvantage: the medicines included are written in English and many of us do not understand what they are for and remain unused.

"Only a love in our Lord Jesus Christ can explain so much love and care for one another to receive so much for such a long time regularly. I, who do not know you and you do not know me, nor hope to meet you in this life to be able to thank you personally. In my entire long life, I never met anything or believed that there is so much goodness in the world.

"You can imagine how much joy and comfort these packages bring to me who during the Ceausescu era was receiving only 200 lei (Romanian currency) after a lifetime work on the collective farm. Now I receive 1,000.00 lei (at today's rate of exchange about \$2.50) with which not much can be bought. I have no words to express my appreciation and excitement for so

much goodness and brotherly love. Being old and in the knowledge that I only have a short time to live and will not have the privilege to meet you, I am sending you a photo of my grandson, Ionel and of me, so that you may see who prays for you unceasingly to God to reward you and all those who care for me.

"Please, I have one more request for which I ask you to forgive me. Send me some books and literature on our faith in your packages that would help me to lead my grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren and numerous nephews on the road to salvation.

"May the good Lord bless you and keep you safe in His everlasting arms. With greetings of love from all of us to all of you. With much love,"

Tarau Ana

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

Last month we reported that food packages are being prepared in Hungary for delivery to our suffering brethren in Yugoslavia. This shipment is now ready for delivery. The Hungarian Red Cross will do the delivery just as soon as they receive the permit from the United Nations Relief Headquarters in New York. Funding for this shipment was provided by our Apostolic Christian World Relief.

Due to the severe fuel shortages in Yugoslavia, our brethren there would face a serious problem in the distribution of these packages. So, in order to help out, several brothers in Hungary offered to follow the Red Cross truck into Yugoslavia with 5 or 6 vans, and at the points of destination, the cities of Zenta and Novi Sad, the shipment would be transferred to these vans for delivery to the area church communities. Realizing that no fuel is available within Yugoslavia, each vehicle must carry sufficient fuel to assure safe return to Hungary. Let us lend our support to these brethren by praying to God that He will provide safe passage to all who participate in this mission of charity.

We continue to receive letters from brethren and friends in Romania and again we wish to share a few with you for they are really, addressed to you, our supporters:

"Dear brethren and friends, although we find ourselves at a great distance apart, yet we are able to communicate through the love we have as Christians in the Lord Jesus Christ. But first, let me introduce myself. We are a family in the Village of Chesa, county of Bihor, located in the western part of the country, who through the love of God and yours, enjoy receiving the food packages for which we are very grateful. My grandmother and mother are baptized into the Nazarene faith. My mother is a professor of the Romanian language at one of the high schools in the city of Salonta, not far from Chesa. The one who writes this letter is a granddaughter who is a student in her senior year in medicine. I am 24 years old and married. My husband is a student at the Agronomy faculty, also in his senior year. I am not yet baptized, but I began to know God better . . . I am writing this letter in the first place to express my gratitude in the name of our entire family for your gifts, and because I wish to find out more about the life of the Christian youth in the church in America. For this reason I request of you, if at all possible, to contact in writing with someone who would be interested in writing. Since I know English this is no problem . . . we are about to experience a great joy this winter, the dedication of our new church which is to take place on the 28th of November, and we send our invitation to you to come and attend this dedication and we would be very happy to have you among us.

"I am closing with gratitude and faith in God and His blessing in everything you do. With much love,"

Daliana Peres Bota

"Dear Friends, from far away Romania, in the city of Speranta (Hope), Timisoara, I bring you a friendly greeting, full of Christian love, and I wish that the good and great God be with you always! In one of your letters in the month of

August, you stated that you would like to know about us, and you enclosed envelope and paper in order to answer you. My parents have in their care one of your sisters-in-the-Lord, whose name is Hambaras Ana, 81 years old, and I was glad to read your letter to her and to write to you, reading through the lines the love that you share with her especially through the care packages she receives from you each month. About your sister-in-the-Lord, I can tell you that she was well and healthy during the Christmas and new years time and she asked me to write to you.

"Now about myself: My name is Boros M. Mihaita, I am 23 years old. My elementary schooling up to 10th grade was done in Chesa, county of Bihor. Since 1986 I attend a professional school in Timisoara. I have 12 brothers and I am of the Orthodox faith. My father is the only child in his family, my mother has 3 brothers.

Although from an Orthodox family, we have been raised into a deep religious spirit. My father, being a convinced Christian, the same can be said of my mother.

"Since I came here in 1986, I have many schoolmates of different religious beliefs. I went to many churches such as the Baptist, and now to the Adventist and Pentecostal, and having myself some knowledge of the divine Word. While traveling home on the train, I met some Jehovah's Witnesses, who later came to pay me a visit in my dormitory at school, who do not merit even a discussion with them since they do not consider the Son of God, but only a creature like men or the angels.

"On December 1, 1992, I rejoiced together with our brethren when they dedicated the new Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) in my village Chesa, and what can I say, but only that it was beautiful! What I want to kindly ask of you is that I wish to know more about the doctrine of your church. At present I know that in order to enter heaven you must be baptized as an adult and not as a child, such as I was. Although the church is only about 50 meters from the home of my parents, and having neighbors only

a few houses away, I did not succeed to know your doctrine, since in our village I was told, is the largest Apostolic Christian congregation in Romania. The majority are old people between 50 and 70 years of age. I am writing you these lines, perhaps you can help me in this problem and maybe that we will become brothers.

"As I mentioned before, my father is a very religious man and his great problem is baptism. Although he considers himself knowledgeable in the Word, he believes that children should be baptized when they are small because, what if they die without being baptized, they will go to hell. (The discussion between Nicodemus and Jesus Christ). My father has been studying the Bible for over 30 years and has questioned many people concerning baptism, among these your elders from your church and Liviu Olah, an important preacher among the Baptist faith. With regards to the church in Chesa . . . it is a joy to see such a large number of believers that continues to grow in the new church which is a jewel, very beautiful . . . I have another request to you if possible, send me two Bible in English, because I wish to learn English, which I already began and I know some, also some books and cassettes. God bless you and keep you safe in His arms. Please, write to me and if you send what I have requested. I wait eagerly for your reply."

Boros M. Mihaita

"Beloved Friends,

"I send you a warm greeting, full of love, wishing you all peace and understanding filled with love and good health from far away, Romania.

"Now, to introduce myself: I am Crista Dorina, 18 years old and live in Timisoara. I believe that I have discovered God two years ago from a friend who had found faith some time ago. Since there are many religions who serve the Lord in their way (fashion) here and in the world, I cannot distinguish which is the true one. But I am convinced and maybe you agree with me, that only one is the True One. Actually, all serve and praise God in their way,

but, it maybe that God does not like the manner in which they worship Him (some of them). The Pharisees also believed that they knew the Lord and did a service when persecuted the Christian believers (the death of Jesus). Paul was with them for a time. For this reason I don't want to believe in a false religion like many do today. This is my point of view and there are many other things which I do not understand and don't know the answers. I think that some day the answers will come.

"I want to ask you, will you send me the address of a young girl, or man, deeply rooted in the faith of the Lord, with whom I could speak in English by mail about the Lord Jesus Christ and other matters. I also take the liberty to ask you one other thing, if it is not too much, to send me a Bible in the English language. This depends on you if I dared to ask too much, please excuse me (forgive me).

"I would be very grateful to you if you could fulfill my wish, you cannot imagine how happy I would be. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and wish you many successes in the new year! Much love,"

Dorina

Dearly Beloved Reader: If the Lord moves your heart to take up correspondence with any of these young people in Romania, please call me, 614-459-9713, or write: Andy Hunyady, 4800 Moreland Dr., W. Columbus, OH 43220. I will gladly send you the addresses.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Home for the Handicapped, as an agency, recognizes that group facilities in other locations may be better able to serve local needs. In fulfillment of its mission of addressing the needs of the developmentally disabled, contributions have been previously made toward the acquisition of facilities in Sabetha, KS, and Phoenix, AZ, in the amounts of \$300,000 and \$100,000 respectively. Contributions for these and any similar projects in the future would be made from the

general fund and/or trust fund accounts of the corporation or from funds donated specifically for a particular project.

The procedure for any future desire by a local congregation to request support from the corporation is as follows: Submit a request to the Board of Directors indicating the need, outline the extent of the local congregation's ability to handle future operations, and indicate the anticipated level of local financial support. The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the information and making a decision regarding a recommendation to the elder body. Final approval of requested funds shall be made by the elder body.

The corporation maintains an accounting system which segregates general funds and un-designated contributions from restricted contributions, memorials and bequests. The general fund amounts can be used for any approved operational purpose of the corporation. The use of substantial amounts of the general funds for additional services and any use of the trust funds requires the approval of the elder body. These approval procedures were deemed prudent in providing the proper financial oversight of donated monies. It is also the objective of the Board of Directors to be responsible stewards of all funds of the corporation. All monies invested to earn a return whenever possible and all investments are made with the first purpose of protecting the principal and secondly, earning a return. Investments are currently held in certificates of deposit and U.S. Treasury notes.

From the initial establishment of the Home, the ability to provide quality services to the residents has been very dependent on the contributions of our brotherhood. Because of your generosity, the corporation has now accumulated cash reserves which will greatly enhance the ability of the Home to fulfill its purpose for the foreseeable future even if dramatic changes occur in the levels of reimbursement received from public sources. With the difficult financial status of the

State of Illinois and the federal governments, the Board is particularly grateful for the reserves now in place and encourages all of those interested in the mission of the corporation to continue to assist in maintaining the Home's ability to meet residents care needs.

Birthdays for April for ACHH (2125 Veterans Road) are: Jane Kohler (1), Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27) and Zita Palko (27). For Oakwood (2213 Veterans Road): Sonja Metzger (14) and Mark Gundy (17). No April birthdays for our CRS's.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL

Joan Reinhard

It is hard to believe it is March already. The months are really flying by in a flurry of activity here at the Preschool. We started the year learning about health, safety, and how to take care of our bodies. Then, in February, we studied emotions, Valentine's Day, and music, and now we are talking about the five senses God gave us. It makes us more aware of His great love for us. He gives us a beautiful world and creation to live in and then equips us with sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste to enjoy it with. We do want to thank Him and praise Him for these many blessings.

We also have been thanking Him for a very successful year so far. The Preschool has remained very close to full all year, and we have been blessed to have the help we have needed. We would once again ask that you remember us in your prayers, and each one of the students who attend our school. Sometimes when families are struggling against Satan's attacks, the effects are so very noticeable on the young children involved. Their innocence makes the broken homes we see, even more heart-breaking. Let's continue to lift our families up to God in prayer and to try to strengthen this basic unit.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Jeff Thames

The morning had been rather quiet. Brenda and I had shared a peaceful breakfast while the children slept a little later than usual. We finished the meal and I was reaching for my coat when a little boy grabbed my leg in a bear hug with a strength beyond his three short years. Joshua. I could tell by the impact and intensity of his greeting that it was my youngest son. Looking down confirmed my thoughts and I smiled at the pajama clad blessing who was smiling up at me. He held my leg with one hand, reached up to pat my side with his other hand, and then he spoke, "I love you Daddy. You're a good Daddy." He squeezed my leg and grinned at me one more time.

"Thank you Joshua. You're a good Joshua, and I love you too."

"Thank you, Daddy."

Then he was off and running about as quickly as he had come. He obviously had some serious plaything or toy that was demanding his attention at that moment.

Three-year-old devotions. I had been richly blessed by my child in the first moments of his day. He had thought to express his love and give me praise. My heart was touched. His needs were unmentioned, his desires unspoken, and his cares unknown for the joy of another day was his to hold. I was well satisfied.

Thank you dear Lord Jesus for making us your children and reminding us in your word that "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." May we express our love and praise each morning and walk in the joy of our Father in heaven.

We, at Gateway Woods, rejoiced with Sis. Joanne Kaisner as she was wed to Bro. Ked Gerber on Valentine's Sunday. It was a beautiful day and we commit them to the love of Jesus as they build a Christian home. Joanne plans to continue working part-time from their home in Indianapolis, assisted by a computer network and a fax machine. We would also look for-

ward to having Ked and Joanne back in the Leo, IN, area in the near future if the Lord allows.

Sis. Rhonda Stoller has left her post as Office Manager to prepare for her March 14 wedding to Bro. Scott Gerber, after which they plan to attend the Rittman, OH, congregation. Rhonda has been a true blessing for her three and a half years of service and we praise God for her cheerful and faithful work here at Gateway Woods. May God richly bless you, Rhonda!

In light of Rhonda's departure, we are excited to announce Sis. Nancy Messner's decision to follow the Lord's direction as He has led her to come and take over the Office Manager's responsibilities. We are excited to have her joining the Gateway Woods' staff family and we anticipate her arrival in early March. Sis. Nancy is from Minneapolis.

Bro. Bruce, Sis. Amy and Mallory Rossworm (Latty, OH) have helped cover some days off by substituting as houseparents. We appreciated their help during Art and Ruth Gramm's winter trip to Florida. The Gramms are expected back on campus in March. Praise the Lord!

Our Bible class youth enjoyed hosting the Latty and Wolcott Bible classes January 31. It was a good day for all of our youth and we hope the others had a nice time as well. It was great to see our young people build new friendships.

Two final notes from Gateway Woods: first, the annual representatives' meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 17. If you have comments, questions or suggestions for the Home, send them with your local rep. Second, if your church would like to have a member of our staff visit your congregation and make an informational presentation about Gateway Woods' objectives and operations, please let us know. We would be more than glad to share what the Lord is doing through your support and His grace here at Gateway Woods.

"Become as little children." We serve a loving Father!

ALABAMA, ATHENS**Lisa Huetter**

"Who will be next?" Our ministering brothers used these words this month to remind us and impress upon our hearts the fact that God's timing for us on earth may vary from our own plans and thinking. We must be careful not to be deceived into thinking we have an unlimited amount of time here on earth.

We'd like to thank Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. John Bollier (Leo, IN) for lending themselves and sharing the Word of God with us this month. We'd also like to thank our many visitors this month for taking the time to put Athens on their list of stops while traveling. Some of the churches represented were Taylor, MO, Bay City, MI, Bern, Gridley and Lamont, KS, Bluffton, IN, Oakville, IA and Peoria, Cissna Park, Princeville, Bloomington and Goodfield, IL.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Shirley Haggemaker as she has undertone surgery and spent time in the hospital this month.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word, which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 2:25

We are grateful for the labors of visiting brothers who came to minister to us. Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Nate Leman (Tucson, AZ), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN).

Many thanks to our visitors, too. We truly do enjoy seeing family, the "home" folks and former residents. God loves you and so do we. Our cup truly runs over with visitors every month and we enjoy everyone. God's beauty in Arizona is quite awesome! and worth seeing His wonders.

Other blessings from the Lord

... Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss became parents of Trevor James December 17. Richelle, Kaitlin and Lauren love their brother.

Bro. John Kaufman will answer to "Grandpa" as Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman adopted Matthew John.

Fellowship to praise the Lord is what it's all about. Our upper grades in Sunday school enjoyed their invitation from their Tucson friends the weekend of February 12 - 14.

That same long weekend, some of our singles group joined members in Kansas City.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Harry Roth, Bro. George Schuester and Sis. Dorothy Kraft. Sis. Shirley Mohrman had out-patient surgery on her wrist. We miss Bro. Alan Freed and Bro. Ted Knochel.

Address change: Our retired Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach, 11645 N. 25th Place #225, Phoenix, AZ 85028, phone 602-971-6795.

Bro. Earl Sanders and Sis. Patsy Esslinger were surgical patients also. (Last news day addition) Little Mindy Sanders has been homebound.

May the Lord be with our dear elder brothers as they gather to confer on our behalf. Let us pray kindness one to another will be given top priority.

Exceeding rainfalls have kept our bird friends to hummers, doves and long billed sapsuckers (having the green yard to hop and feed undisturbed).

String some pearls from the longest book in the Old Testament, and let us pray one for the other.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

We recently hosted a Sunday school weekend of activities for the California and Phoenix Sunday schools. Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) shared the Word with us that Sunday. Our little church was full and the singing was beautiful! We are thankful for a precious weekend of fellowship and for everyone's safe arrival home.

We enjoyed our pancake supper as the men served us pancakes and sausage - even our winter visitors! Some from Phoenix were here also.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and his family came down to be with us so Bro. Jon and Bro. Loren Knapp could read us the conference letter. We thank Bro. Jon and family for their time and effort to be with us.

A wedding shower was held for Heidi Haas (Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole). She will be married February 20. We pray God's blessings will be with Heidi on her wedding day and throughout her marriage.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**Marian Petrovic**

Our Bible class students were invited to Tucson, AZ, as were those from Altadena and Phoenix, AZ, for a wonderful weekend of fellowship. The exhortations on prayer, Biblical skits, singing hymns on the hayrack ride, and just being with dear friends will long be remembered in the thoughts of all those who attended. Our heartfelt and sincere thanks to the Lord and to all in the Tucson, AZ, congregation for helping make this a blessed and memorable weekend!

We're thankful for the many visitors who found it in their plans to worship with us while in the San Diego area. May God richly bless you for the joy your visit brought to our congregation. Come again soon.

Amongst our visitors were ministering Bros. Dennis Rassi and his wife, Sis. Diane (Fairbury), Mike Rieker and his wife, Sis. Carol (Peoria, IL), Richard Aberle and his wife, Sis. LaNae (Altadena), Elder Bro. Joe Braker and his wife, Sis. Shirley (Morton, IL) and our dear Elder Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois (Altadena).

COLORADO, DENVER**Eric and Marcel Huber**

We are so thankful to have had Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) with us recently. May God bless him for sharing the gospel with us.

It was our privilege to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Naomi Braun January 31.

Her parents are Herman and Sis. Sharon. May she continue to seek His guidance in her life. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen was present to conduct the ceremony. We appreciate his service to our congregation. Bro. Max Reimschisel and his family (Wichita, KS) were also present for the weekend. We thank him for his ministry.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
 Michelle Virkler

"My lifetime doth pass away;
 Hourly to the grave I hasten,
 And I know each fleeting day,
 My allotted span will lessen;
 Think, man, death comes soon or
 late,
 Tarry not, it will not wait!"

Zion's Harp #253

Two dear precious souls have passed from this life, and now their victories have been won. Sis. Marie Kloter, age 96, widow of John Kloter, leaves a son, Norman Kloter; her daughters and son-in-law, Lea and Walter Neff and Audrey Bliss (all of Toland); a daughter-in-law, Gertrude Kloter (Ellington); a sister, Martha Eidam (Ohio); 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two sons, William and Russell.

Sis. Lydia Bahler Luginbuhl, age 91, widow of Alfred Luginbuhl, leaves a brother, Bro. John Ruch, Sis. Albertina Rumpf and Rose Davies, and nieces and nephews.

"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

St. Luke 22:32

Our hearts rejoice for two dear converts who have found peace with our Lord and Savior, Bert Wheeler and Rachel Hoffman. may God guide them in their every footstep on their new pathway of life.

Those under the care of a physician and unable to assemble with us are Sis. Joan Reutter and Terry Kupferschmid.

A bundle of joy, Andrea Louise, has been delivered to Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam (Bahler) Reutter. Julie, Jason and Holly are waiting her arrival home.

Winter has certainly visited the northeast often this year and soon spring will be peeking around the corner. New life begins with all the ever-changing trees and plants and so is our life ever-changing, but one thing remains the same . . . our Lord and His love for us.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

I Corinthians 13:4-8

Bro. Jason Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary) was announced to be married to Sis. Sue Ouellet (Andy and Annette). Their wedding will take place Sunday, March 7.

Our dear friends, Jill Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary) and Peter Welti (Donald and Marilyn) have announced their engagement and will be married May 8.

We wish both couples much love, happiness and understanding as they embark on their new lives together.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
 Henrietta Meyer

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, least at any time we should let them slip."

Hebrews 2:1

On January 24, Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were here to share in reading the memorandum.

On February 7, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) came with his wife, Sis. Lynn, to minister to us. Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) was in the area on business February 21, so served as our minister. Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, and Philadelphia, PA. We often gather in homes on Sundays when we do not have services scheduled. Please contact one of the brothers listed below if you will be in the area.

We welcome Bill and Carol Stover, Darci, Mandi and Tyler back to our congregation after five years in Atlanta.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495). Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. Many meet for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. 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. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
 Marvin and Rhea Steffen

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

Ephesians 4:32

We have had a busy month and a lot of visitors, including the following ministers: Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN). We also had Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale) and our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale). We are so thankful for all our visitors, and really appreciate all the ministers and their wives that travel to share with us.

To show our appreciation for our seasonal visitors, we had a chicken supper after services and a singing one Sunday afternoon. Our brothers and sisters from the north ended up doing most of the meal prepara-

tion. The fellowship and the food was enjoyed by all.

We had our annual meeting in January and elected officers. The following are the positions held: Treasurer - Ivan Stoller, trustees - Art Keller, Marvin Steffen and Ron Yergler, ushers - Lester Meister, Ben Bauer and Melvin Steffen, Sunday school teachers - Marvin Steffen, superintendent, Ivan Stoller, assistant, Marie Keller, Rhea Steffen, assistant. We thank those that served last year and ask for prayerful support for those that will be serving this year.

We also voted to move forward with building on an addition to the church. The addition will be forty by forty-four square feet, and will include larger restrooms, a larger baby room and larger fellowship and dining facilities. There will also be Sunday school rooms, a tape-recording room and a conference room. We expect to break ground sometime in the spring, an ask your prayerful support.

Many of our congregation attended a singing at the home of Carl and Ann Frautschi this month.

Marie Keller had surgery, and we are thankful that she is able to gather with us again, and pray that she will continue to heal fully.

We had our church clean-up day February 13, and had a nice attendance allowing us to get everything done in little more than half a day.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lorane Martin - Gala Gerber

So richly blessed our congregation has been with the many visitors. Such love and precious fellowship is experienced when each one shares a bit of "themselves" with someone else! Thankful for the wonderful faith we share and the 'Great God' we serve! A most blessed, blessed Christian heritage we enjoy.

Bro. Ernie Koehlert celebrated his ninetieth birthday this month. We wish him heavenly blessings. Bro. Ernie's joy and love for all brings happiness to our Sarasota congregation.

We rejoice with Sis. Kristine Price and Bro. Kevin Krieger (Detroit, MI) on their engagement.

Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandie Price and Arnold and Sis. Diane Krieger (Detroit, MI).

Once again we are grateful for the visiting ministers who have come and shared God's Holy Word with us. May God bless Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Thomas Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Carol Steffen

We are instructed in the Word to be doers as well as listeners of the Word. With this thought in mind, our congregation has started meeting the second Wednesday night of the month to do World Relief projects. It is quite a sight to see men, women and children working together on a variety of projects.

We appreciate the efforts put forth by all our visitors to come support our small congregation. As many are beginning to think of summer vacations, please keep us in mind.

Our congregation also thanks the following ministers who took time out of their busy schedules to minister unto us. They are Bro. Gary Anliker and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). Several came from Forrest and Bradford, IL to support Bro. Gary and Bro. Marvin to make two very special weekends.

With joy, we heard the engagement of Bro. Mark Wettstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria, Gridley, IL) to Sis. Karen Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet, LaCrosse, IN). Our prayers are with them as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied
The annual adopt-a-student chili supper and Bible study was held January 28 with Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) conducting the study. The adopt-a-student program is organized so that a group of Bloomington-Normal church

families each "adopt" a freshman I.S.U. student of our faith and keep in touch with him/her throughout the school year. The program provides Godly support for the student who often is far from home and family. It gives the church family a great opportunity to display Christ's love through fellowship with and encouragement of the student.

We're thankful Sis. Ellen Vogel is recovering from her minor surgery and that Sis. Anne Marie Young is back in our midst after a brief hospitalization. Praise be to our God, the Great Physician and Healer!

We are praising God for a number of new converts in our congregation. "I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) It is very encouraging to our ministering brethren to see the Holy Spirit continue to work through them and call loved ones to repentance. A reliable Spring-filled ministry is proved valid by the results in other peoples' lives.

There has been a lot of concern raised recently over our new administration and the direction it seems to want to take our nation. As Christians and advocates of the traditional family unit, we have seen recent defeats on every front through executive orders and proposed legislation. It's very easy to become frightened and discouraged. However, Romans 13:1 has an important reminder for us. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." God is in control and we are to recognize and accept that the powers that be are ordained of God. However, we are also to pray for the leaders in human government. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of our God our Savior." (I Timothy 2:1-3) So let us not be apathetic but pray for this administration that it may be

used of God to accomplish His purpose.

We continue to be amazed at the speed at which the new addition to our church building is going up. Every Wednesday night and Sunday reveals just how quickly it is taking shape. We shall surely enjoy the much-needed extra space when it is completed. We, too, as God's children, are "under construction" to become more and more conformed to Christ's image but our completion date is not known to us!

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Les and Barb Fehr

On February 7, Sis. LaVonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Dale Schumacher (Bro. Robert and Sis. Charlene, Eureka) were joined in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings and happiness as they begin their life together. May each one of us remember the vows we made to our Lord and Savior, and to each other so we all may grow in the spirit of love and humbleness.

We had our annual meeting this past month. Thank you to those brothers whose terms expired for their labors. We wish those who have new positions God's grace and guidance in their new duties. May each of us work together for the love of our Lord and Saviour.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Margie Heintz

On a pleasant weekend in January, we were blessed to have the Chicago church choir visit us and share fellowship and songs of praise and worship with us. We were all uplifted by their enthusiasm, dedication and love and are thankful that they made the effort to come. It is such a joy to listen to and join together in beautiful songs and hymns that glorify our Lord Jesus' name. "O sing unto the Lord a new song . . . For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised . . ." (Psalms 96:1, 4)

It is evident that God's call to lost souls continues to go out. We are thankful and encouraged that men and women continue to hear and answer that call.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Gary Endress (Bradford), Wayne Laub-scher (Cissna Park), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Steve Baner (Gridley), Walt Herrmann (Princeville) and Ken Dietz (Bradford). We appreciate the service that they give.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Sunday evening I was with a friend, learning about the principles of management. Her textbook spoke about the aspects of planning, organizing, leading and controlling. In an example, a man planned his day on the way to work, but when he arrived there, he forgot all long-range plans and only went from task to task as required by demands from either his subordinates or his bosses. He was never in charge – nor ever aware – of the "big picture." Each of us gets the same amount of time. How are we managing with what we are given? Do we keep in mind first and foremost our purpose for being here on earth, as Christ's ambassadors? I certainly need to do some of the planning and organizing for each day. Yet, I must also realize that we have a Master planner-organizer, who may redistribute the outlook of a day, bring in a new soul or a new choice. I am told that my grandfather, Elder Bro. Carl Rassi, told people to go ahead and make plans – as long as they realized that the Lord might change those plans. For leading, we can look again to the Lord, not only day by day, but moment by moment as well. Nevertheless, when it comes to monitoring and controlling our actions, we have the responsibility. The Lord gives us so much that we can accomplish that much, be so responsible – by His grace and mercy. "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." (Matthew 5:40-41) I don't know about each of you, but I need some prayerful work on my time management.

Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) have

blessed us with their presence and inspired us through the words of the Spirit. We are thankful to the Lord for them and for their visit recently.

We appreciate those who help us in church offices. Bro. Tom Waldbeser and Sis. Jeanne Plattner are no longer an usher nor a member of the dinner committee, respectively. Bro. Dale Steiner and Sis. Heidi Haerr have taken their places. We are grateful for the willing replacements as well as for the dedicated service of those who are once again supporting us in less-defined roles.

Saying farewell is always one of the most difficult changes that life brings. We are fortunate to know that the Lord has directed Bro. Craig and Sis. MaryAnn Wettstein to Bloomington, IL. That makes our sadness less intense, our understanding greater. Gridley will be their church. Of course, we know those communities are gaining a special Christian couple, interested in becoming more spiritual. We are appreciative of all they have given us, of the example they have been as part of our church family. Our hearts and prayers go with them.

We welcome two darling babies to our growing church family. On February 3, Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen became the happy parents of Jade Daniel. Dan and Sis. Helen Brown and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Congerville, IL) are the delighted grandparents. Bro. Kurt and Sis. Dana Pfloderer welcomed Hannah Lynn February 12 to make them a family circle. Mrs. Trumbower (Pennsylvania) and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pfloderer (Tremont, IL) are the gladdened grandparents. We laugh and become excited with such precious additions to our church; then we become sober and pray for the church, for these new parents, for these tiny souls sent to earth and entrusted to them.

Purity of heart is an issue in the tales of King Arthur, which I am teaching presently. Without it, the knights will fail in their quests. I have been reminded as I teach of the differences between the world's view and Christ's. Physical prowess and honor may be great, but

they have no bearing on the motives of the heart. And the Lord is only interested in the heart – which we cannot judge for another – and must examine closely in ourselves. Speaking for myself, I continually find impurities in my motives – maybe a desire to be recognized, to be “superior,” to be pitied perhaps, or a tinge of resentment. “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit.” (Psalm 51:10-12)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Cyndee Anderson
Anna Marie Reutter**

Sometimes we are called upon to do things that we would rather not do, but we find if we are submissive, we receive God's blessings and favor. On January 20, Bro. Tom Stock gave a beautiful lesson on “Obedience and Submission.” This was our first topical Bible presentation for this year. Based on God's Word, the challenge is for each of us as to how we will apply ourselves to a closer walk with our Lord.

On January 30, we were privileged to come away from the noise of the world and listen in solitude to the testimonies of Thad Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol), Vickie and Veronica Kaufman (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy) and Nathan Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon). On Sunday we witnessed their baptisms. We have four happy new brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. Our elder brethren with us were Art Bahler (Fairbury), Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Robert Walder (Congerville) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign). We appreciate the efforts each one makes in the Lord's work.

On February 2, Sis. Esther Neukomm passed away at the Fairview Nursing Home. We have missed her cheerful presence in our congregation for many months, and extend our sympathy to her daughters, Sis. Carolyn Hari (Bro. Marvin), Virginia Ehman (Bro. Richard) and Susan Hodel (Glen); and

to her son, Bro. Alvin Neukomm (Sis. Geraldine).

Our Elder Bro. Art Bahler, along with Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), were with us the evening of February 12. We thank them and their wives for being with us, and appreciate the love they have for us.

Sunday, February 14, was a joy of joy and renewal, the wedding of Sis. Judy Walder (Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles) and Bro. Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury). We all with this couple the continued blessings of God. Visiting ministers for the day, along with their wives, were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury). It was a day of blessing.

Also on that Sunday afternoon, our Bible class traveled to Eureka for ACYF. Our teachers put much effort in their duties as they teach God's Word to our young people. We thank them.

Bro. George Gudeman and Bro. Joel Hofbauer have been surgical patients this month. May God be very near to them as they suffer the afflictions of the flesh. Sis. Violet Maul is home again after spending some time at Heartland Health Care. Also, Sis. Viola Greiner is able to assemble with us after a stay in the hospital. Sis. LaVerne Kaufmann suffered a broken bone in her ankle due to a fall. We pray for God's healing.

“Ye Cannot Serve God and Mammon (personification of worldly gain)” was the topical Bible presentation for February 17. It was expounded to us by Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We thank him and his wife for coming. He gave us many thoughts to ponder over. It is impossible to serve two masters. Today my “Bless Your Heart” says “Unless the heart is full, even a rich man is poor.”

Sis. Mary Bauer wishes to thank the many loved ones for their love shown Bro. Urb during his illness and the kind expressions of sympathy extended to the family since his recent death.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Myra Steffen - Sue Wiegand

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that have been in our midst this past month, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley). Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was here to help read the memorandum. May God bless each one for being spent in our behalf.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger were blessed with Andrea Leigh. Audrey and Jesse are glad for a little sister. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger (Bay City, MI) are grandparents.

Bro. Jeff McClure was a surgical patient. We pray God's healing hand for him.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth in one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's
ways.

Henry Beer

We are thankful the Lord has drawn yet one more soul unto Him in repentance. As Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) seeks the Lord in youthful days, may he be granted the grace to humbly walk within the Saviour's ways.

Our annual business meeting, held January 20, brought changes to several offices. Bro. Keith Leman was elected as church treasurer and Bro. Greg Kellenberger as trustee. Also Bro. Tom Schambach will be serving on the Resthaven board as the minister representative, Bro. Norm Schock on the Resthaven board and Bro. Lloyd Kellenberger on the landsight committee. May God bless the efforts of those who have faithfully served in the past and grant strength and direction to our brothers in their new capacities.

We are thankful Bro. Jay and Sis. Teri Leman, along with their family, have recently moved back to the Midwest. May they feel God's spirit as they assemble with us and

continue to feel His blessing in their new home.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;" (Jeremiah 30:17) Many of our loved ones have experienced illness and/or surgery this month. They are Bro. Ben Graf (Viola), Bro. Les Heiniger (Sis. Em), Sis. Mabel Anliker, Sis. Edie Anliker (Bro. Gary), Sis. Joyce Weiss (Bro. Paul) and Tony Hernandez (Carole). May each feel God's tender healing touch and be restored, as He would will.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Frieda (Schock) Scholl, who passed away February 1.

Paul and Barbara (Haas) Leclerc (Phoenix, AZ), welcomed Gregory Paul February 16. Sis. Carolyn Haas (the late Ed) is Gregory's thankful grandma.

On several occasions lately we have been reminded of the temptations our Saviour faced and yet He was the perfect example of a true overcomer. As we face that crafty adversary in our daily life, may we use "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" to put the enemy to flight. We thank Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) for being willing to bring God's Word to us, and trust as we labor side by side, we can each someday be counted among the overcomers.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

We are always grateful for the exhortations from the ministry, and appreciate visiting ministers. This past month we were reminded by Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) that the only way to truly discern the will of God and the leading of God is by referring to His Word, the Bible. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) exhorted us on the believer's walk of life during the reading of the memorandum. We were also privileged to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) spend a Sunday afternoon with us.

Our Bible class students hosted the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship singing two Sunday evenings in February. It was a definite inspiration to sit and listen to

our young people sing those wonderful hymns. What a good, wholesome way to spend their time.

Sunday, February 7, was the wedding day for Bro. Dale Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Lavonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becki, Bradford). May God continue to bless their lives as they walk together.

We are glad to announce the engagement of Brent Cottrell (Bill and Sis. Judy) and Darla Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev, Forrest). We wish them the blessings and love of God as they plan their March wedding.

On January 30, Sis. Alma Cordill passed away at the nursing home in Eureka. Her funeral was held in Lamar, MO. She is survived by a brother, William (Oakville, IA). On February 5, another faithful older sister from our congregation was called to go to her heavenly home. Sis. Kathryn Leman is survived by one brother, Bro. Sam, and one sister, Sis. Eliza (both of Eureka).

Arriving early, Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail Getz were glad to welcome David Bradley safely into this world. He was born February 14, and has one sister, Jennifer.

We pray for our recent hospital patients, Sis. Rachel Hodel, Bro. Fred Knapp and Bro. Fred Meyer.

Teach me to live, dear Lord. Only for Thee,
As Thy disciples lived In Galilee;
Then, all my struggles o'er, Then, victory won,
I shall behold Thee, Lord, The living one.

Hymns of Zion #10

From Sunday to Sunday and at midweek services the Bread of Life is often broken to us by our ministering brothers through the inspiration of the Lord, even as He broke the loaves beside the sea. How often do we really fervently pray for a blessing upon it? Or do we just take the reading of the Word of Life for granted? We are so thankful for visiting brothers who are willing to help our ministers in this labor. Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) were with us this month.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Three precious little bundles were born in our congregation in the past month. Michelle Kay was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner January 21. Jennifer, Travis and Valerie are happy to have a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner.

Quinton Earl joined the family of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe, Durelle, Adrian and Julissa January 25. Grandparents are Julia and Dennis McDugle (Pontiac), Don Rabe (Fairbury) and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand have a little son, Brockton James, who arrived January 31. Nicole, Justin and Brandon and grandparents, Sis. Lena Wiegand (Roanoke), Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman (Roanoke) welcome him home. Our prayers are with these parents as they undertake the awesome responsibility of training up their children in the fear of the Lord.

We rejoice with our new convert Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek
Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living
Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord,
To me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread By
Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, All
fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, My all
in all.

and Sis. Dianne) as he has chosen to give his life to the Lord. Trent has been in our prayers for quite some time as he has been recovering from a farm accident. It is wonderful that he has been able to answer the Lord's call in his youth.

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

Proverbs 18:22

Many of us were present at Cissna Park February 14 when our Bro. Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) was united in marriage to Sis. Judy Walder (Sis. Wilma, Cissna Park). We welcome Sis. Judy to our congregation and with them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

We also welcome Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jacki (Fehr) Masters as they are assembling with us. Sis. Jacki's parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Fehr of our congregation.

Our sympathy is with the survivors of two of our residents of Fairview Haven who passed on into eternity. Sis. Esther Neukomm, 93, passed away February 2. She was a part of the Cissna Park congregation before coming to live at Fairview Haven. Also Pauline Teubel Henry, 88, passed away February 13. May God comfort the hearts of their families.

Bro. Melvin Hartman recently moved into Fairview Haven. We wish him heavenly blessings as he adjusts to his new life.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sandra Schneider
Marlene Walter**

On January 20, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Reuben Roth. We rejoice with him and his wife, Marie, that even though he is in his eighties, his wish to be baptized could be fulfilled.

O I love to talk with Jesus
for it smoothes the rugged road;
And it seems to help me onward,
when I faint beneath my load;
When my heart is crush'd with
sorrow,
and my eyes with tears are dim,

There is nought can yield me
comfort
like a little talk with Him.

Hymns of Zion #87

We also rejoice with Ralph and Velma Koehl as they gave their testimony and were baptized. We know that the above song will always be special to them in the days ahead as they remember how God used it to work in their lives.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) for coming to help with the testimonies and baptisms and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford) for being willing to come and minister to us this month.

Our congregation has been encouraged to see the Lord's work continuing in the hearts and souls of men, as Charity Mueller (Ron and Loida), Scott Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Kyle Edelman (Levi and Donna), Chad Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Matthew Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Eric Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) have answered God's call.

Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Kevin Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty) and William Fehr required hospitalization. May God's healing power be with each one according to His will.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki Zimmerman in the passing of her father, Donald Rieger (Chatsworth). May God comfort their hearts.

Pauline Teubel Henry, 88, passed away February 13. Her funeral was held February 15. Pauline was a long-term resident of Fairview Haven Nursing Home.

Beth Anne Schrof (Ed and Sharon) and Greg Hish (Wayne and Helen, Fairbury) were united in marriage February 13. May they find much happiness in their life together.

We are looking forward to gathering with the Fairbury congregation February 24 to hear the reading of the memorandum.

Once again Bro. Rich and Sis. Marian Rieger wish to say thank you to all who sent cards, gifts and good wishes for his recovery. They were all appreciated very much, especially the prayers that were of-

fered on his behalf. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalm 23:1-4

What comforting words our heavenly Father supplies us with when our grief seems too much to bear. Many times we do not understand God's plan, but He is all-knowing and will only give us what He knows is best.

Our sympathy is extended to Duane Freidinger and his family in the loss of his mother. Also we sympathize with Linda Rokey (John) in the death of her father, and Mickey Shemansky (Rick) in the death of her father. May God comfort them all in this time of loss.

Thanks to Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) for ministering to us.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Hans Hinrichsen as his health is still a concern.

We're thankful Bros. Kent Kloter and Willis Wiegand are recuperating well after their hospital stays.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Recently in visiting with a sister in one of our churches, I learned of her experience of having her two eldest children leave home at the end of their teen years.

While the teenagers didn't move out at the same time, their packing up and moving on to new experiences was a unique and pivotal experience for her - like it would be for any mother. It was interesting

for her to note what they took, and what they left. In a way, she could sense what was important to them, and what was not.

During their Sunday school days, both children had received a framed plaque entitled, "Rules For Today." Both had subsequently placed it on a wall in their bedroom. This plaque contained the well-known saying:

"Do nothing that you would not like to be doing when Jesus comes. Go no place where you would not like to be found when Jesus comes. Say nothing that you would not like to be saying when Jesus comes."

The mother took notice to see if both children would take that plaque with them. After all, it had hung in their rooms for years, was a fond memento of their Sunday school days, and contained profound spiritual reminders.

The mother was heartened that each of her two children, when packing, took the time to remove the plaque and take it with them. In this, the mother received a special assurance that the spiritual values of her offspring were on target. This was a warm comfort to her.

Our church was saddened at the death of Sis. Lydia Kuntz, 94. She died January 21, after being in frail health for the past few years. She had received wonderful care in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosella Knapp, during the culminating years of her life. They had added on a special room at their home south of Gridley to care for Sis. Lydia.

She is survived by two daughters and two sons: Sisters Rosella Knapp and Lucille Romersberger, and Bros. Clyde and Ralph Kuntz, all of our Gridley congregation.

Sis. Lydia possessed an enormously friendly manner and a special countenance that expressed a warm love for all persons she encountered.

A native of West Bend, IA, she was married to Bro. Raymond Kuntz in 1924. This loving union of

58 years ended with his death in 1982.

Bro. Alph Witzig has been seriously ill, and hospitalized for the past few weeks.

Sis. Dorothy Witzig was hospitalized briefly and is again doing fine.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation has experienced the deaths of four of our loved ones this month. As they are missed, we cannot help but think of our own lives; how we appreciate the days we have and yet how transient they are. Our thoughts reflect Psalm 39:4, "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am."

Sis. Mamie Grimm was called home. Her funeral was held January 25. May our heavenly Father richly comfort and bless her two brothers, Bro. Raymond and Ralph; her sister, Salome McCool; and her many other relatives and friends.

Sis. Elizabeth Gerber can now rejoice in her eternal reward. Her funeral was held January 29. May God comfort her son, Glenn; her daughter, Marjorie Paulson; her two brothers, Bro. John and Ralph Oberlandre; her sister, Grace Lyons; and her grandchildren.

Martha Schock's funeral was held February 12. May God's strong arm of comfort surround her family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Henry; her son, William; her two daughters, Nancy Barnes and Rita Strunk; her grandchildren; her brothers, John, Chris and Robert Tisserat; her two sisters, Florence Tisserat and Ruth Scott.

Lucille Strunk's funeral was held February 13. May God comfort and bless her daughter, Gailanne Strunk; her brother, James Stephens; and her many other relatives and friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. We are always glad to have him and his family "home" to Morton.

The family of Mamie Grimm

wishes to express thanks for all the prayers, cards, letters and gifts received.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

As I write this month's column, we have just observed Valentine's Day. Thoughts turn to love and doing special things for those who are special to us. As Christians, our thoughts should also turn to Jesus and that incomparable love He has for us. Let us all think of ways that we can return that love by serving Him to the very best of our ability and reaching out to others in love.

We rejoice along with the families of three new babies in Peoria. They are Dakota Michael Klein, born December 30, 1992 to Rodney and Keri Klein. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen Dunbar (Peoria) and Mike and Mary Klein (Chicago). Amber Mae Christ arrived February 1 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Christ. Amber joins sister, Ashley, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ (Princeville) and Donald and Sis. Viola Messner (Peoria). And Bro. David Jr. and Sis. Rachel Sauder, along with son, David Jacob, welcomed Caleb Joseph January 18. His grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. David and Sis. Rita Sauder.

We are thankful six more souls from our congregation are enjoying the peace of Jesus Christ. In January we heard the testimonies of Eric Staley (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Rose), William Hofstetter, Kristi Rieker (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn), Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Steven and Sis. Christine), Heidi Huthmann (Bro. George and Sis. Ruth) and Renee Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen).

Visiting ministers to Peoria recently have been Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). May they each be blessed for their efforts. Also on Wednesday, February 3, Bro. Jay Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) was in Peoria for our first "family night" to be held

the first Wednesday of each month. Jay's topic was "Applying God's Word in the Home." We thank Jay for bringing a message that was applicable to children as well as adults.

The family of Sis. Vera Klaus would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown them following their mother's death.

We want to extend our sincere condolences to the family of Bro. Reuben Herman, who died January 27. Bro. Reuben had been a resident at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home and will be missed there.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Percida Eberhardt and Bro. George Wyss. We pray for their complete recovery.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We gathered in the Lord's house with the Bradford brethren Saturday evening, February 13, to hear the reading of the memorandum. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) to help our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller. It was truly a blessed evening. May we heed the warnings of our dear elders and be obedient to preserve this precious heritage, as our only goal is heaven. We also want to thank our other visiting ministers. Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless them for their labor of love.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18). Believing through faith that God has brought their lives together. The engagement of Bro. Phil Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Linda Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay) was made known February 14. Bro. Phil is employed in the Quincy area and makes Taylor, MO, his church. We wish them God's richest blessings as they make plans for this important step in life.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht became first-time happy

grandparents of Rebecca Marie Ehnle born January 26 to Bro. John and Sis. Sara Ehnle (Bradford). Little Rebecca spent over two weeks in the hospital, being born premature. Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ are happy grandparents of another girl born to Bro. Ronald and Sis. Carol Christ (Peoria). Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach also are happy grandparents of a little boy born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail Getz (Eureka). He is spending time in the hospital, being born premature.

We wish Bro. Richard and Sis. Marlene Seidel many blessings in their new home in Morton.

We rejoice with Brent Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) having found peace with God and man. His testimony is to be the weekend of February 20 - 21. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he takes this important step in life.

May the Lord grant His healing powers to Bro. David Ehnle (Sis. Beulah) and Hilda Steitmatter. Both had hip surgeries.

We extend our sympathy to the Baer families in the loss of their nephew, age 38, from Tremont.

We thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) for an interesting evening of showing his slides from their trip with World Relief to Russian and Romania. May we appreciate what we have in America.

Thank You: My heartfelt thanks to my family and to everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers, gifts and food during my illness. May God richly bless you all.

In Christian love,
Helen Baer

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

"And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

St. Luke 9:62

We rejoice that two more souls have turned their backs on the world and answered God's call. Jill Hoffman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy)

and Brandi Gerber (Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that they will feel God's nearness and guidance.

We were privileged to witness a baptism February 14. Our new sister-in-faith is Cindy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). We rejoice with them and are thankful that God has won another victory.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman welcome a new baby to their home. Miranda Sue was born January 25. She has an older brother, Jarod, and a sister, Rebecca. Grandparents are Sis. Verna and the late Bro. Bob Wettstein (Eureka) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Roanoke).

Jade Daniel was born February 3 to Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen. Jade is their first child and his grandparents are Don and Sis. Helen Brown (Roanoke) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield). May God watch over and protect these two little ones and their families as they grow together in the Lord.

We thank Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for coming to spend the day with us and sharing God's Word.

The engagement of Sis. Jana Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Matt Gastman (John and Sis. Barb) was announced February 7. We rejoice with them and pray God will continue to bless them as they walk this life together yet both for the Lord.

February 7 was our monthly family hymn sing. We thank the Morton choir for their inspiring singing. It is such a blessing to join our voices in praise to One to Whom all praise belongs.

Our Sisters Shirley Leman and Margaret Hodel were in the hospital. We are thankful to see them back "on the prairie" and pray that they will continue to feel God's healing hand.

Note of Thanks: We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who sent such lovely cards and messages of comfort upon the loss of our mother and grandmother. God bless you.

The family of
Sis. Rose Sauder

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

We are thankful our hospital patients are improving and most have returned home. Hospitalized for surgery were Adam Reinbeck (son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara), Sis. Melba Hangartner (Jerry) and Judy Miller (daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna Koch).

Also spending some time in the hospital was little Cali, daughter of Ron and Amy Crumbo. Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Bob) has been hospitalized with a stroke and we are thankful she, too, is showing improvement.

We are happy for Kendall and Doris Miller and their little son, Matthew, as they welcome a new baby boy, Trent James, into their heart and home. Grandparents are Bro. Leslie and Sis. Wilma Pulfer and Ed and Shirley Miller (Hennepin, IL).

We appreciate the visits of Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) as they shared God's Word with us on a recent Sunday. We also wish to thank Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) as he spent a Wednesday evening with us and presented a topical lesson on "How the Community Views the Church." Bro. Erik gave us much to think about. We do appreciate his time and efforts.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert**

"Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."
Titus 2:13

Spiritual hope - A confident expectation of a spiritual good. It is unseen, in the future, something we are sure of.

We were very blessed to have Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Cissna Park) share with us this month in Bible study concerning "Rejoicing In Hope." The Spirit spoke to many

of us through this willing brother. The difference between wishing for something (wanting, desiring) and hoping for something (waiting with assurance for something we have been promised) was brought out in a wonderful way. We hope for the return of Christ and for an eternity of heaven with God and Christ. This is what directs our every action as a born-again Christian and is what gives us joy and peace in our lives. When we focus on this, our everyday troubles and concerns dim on comparison. This hope also lets us see past the world events happening around us. We should not focus on "what the world is coming to, but on what is coming to the world" i.e. Christ in His second coming. With our focus on that great event, the differences in our lives should make those around us curious enough to ask about it. It is such a joyful thing to have hope in God's promises.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

I Peter 3:15

Also visiting this month was our Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We always appreciate the times he spends with us.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Marty Schlatter, Sis. Martha Simon and Bro. Phil McVitty. We are glad that they are again able to fellowship with us in person.

A World Relief work team, which included Bro. Marshall Heinold, Sis. Becky Heinold, Curt Heinold, Bro. Kirk Florey and Curt Feucht, spent time in Jamaica on a project there. They have safely returned home and now Bro. Ed Fritz is lending his labors to that same project. May they be blessed for their efforts.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle (Massner) Shumacher are the proud parents of their first-born child, Andrew John. We always rejoice when our family grows and prospers under the hand of the Lord.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

We wish to extend belated best wishes to Perry Gerber and Stephanie Mahnensmith. They were united in marriage November 21. Their parents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Rosemary Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mahnensmith.

On February 14, Bro. Ked Gerber and Sis. Joanne Kaisner pledged their lives to one another. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We wish these couples God's richest blessings and many happy years together.

Chris and Shari Pfister were blessed with a new daughter January 18. Karli Rae joins big brother, Kyle, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene Stoller (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolf welcome little Victoria Marie into their lives January 31. She is also welcomed by her brother, David, and grandparents, Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovics (Erseksanad, Hungary) and Gene Wolf and Joyce Wolf. Megan Nichole was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly Reinhard February 4. She joins her sister, Sara, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rhodes. Bro. Keven and Sis. Andrea Sipe were blessed with a new addition. Tyler Scott was born February 4. He is welcomed home by Janelle, Mindy, Kristopher, Nicole and Timothy. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander and Shirley Stoehr and William Sipe.

We were happy to learn of the engagement of Bro. Jeff Neuenschwander (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred) to Sis. Mary Jo Reinhard (stepdaughter of Sis. Sara Steffen and the daughter of the late Bro. Harry and Sis. Catherine Reinhard). They are looking forward to an April wedding.

Bro. Olen Geisel went to be with the Lord February 5. Our sympathy goes to his family and loved ones. His children are: Bro. Jim Geisel, Sis. Lucille Gerber (Bro.

Dwight), Robert Geisel (Coldwater, MI), Harry Geisel and Mrs. Gary (Jayne) Gibson.

On February 15, Sis. Ida Troxel (Bluffton North) also went to be with the Lord after 102 years of living on this earth. Our prayers will be with the family as we know she will be missed.

On January 23, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was with us as we had the opportunity to hear the memorandum read. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

January 30 was a blessed day as we witnessed the baptisms of three souls. They are Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger and Sis. Shannon Compton (Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol).

Prayers also go out to those hospitalized lately. They were Sis. Lorena Steffen (Bro. Ramon), Mildred Krill, Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer) and Bro. Herman Bertsch (Sis. Effie).

Best wishes are extended to Bro. Luster and Sis. Martha Heyerly as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 14.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

Beautiful hands are those that do
Work that is earnest, brave and
true,
Moment by moment, the long day
through . . .

Beautiful feet are those that go
On kindly ministries to and fro -
Down lowliest way, if God wills it
so.

Ellen P. Allerton

We want to express our thanks to all of our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL). God bless you for your faithful service to Him.

God bless you today and always with happiness as endless as His

love. This is the prayer we have for Bro. Jon Leman (Bro. Wally and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Tammy Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) as they were united in marriage February 7.

Congratulations to Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Thornton and Ashley as they have a new little blessing in their family. Staci Rae was born February 6. We rejoice with them.

A special prayer goes out to those who were hospitalized this month, including: Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art) and Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice). May God's healing power be with them.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Jan Moser in the loss of her father. Bro. Richard Banks was recently called from this life.

Sis. Mabel Rauch is now resting in peace as she passed from this life to life eternal February 15. She had been a resident at Christian Care Retirement Community. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Jehu; a son, Bro. Jerome (Sis. Virginia); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We will keep this family in our prayers as they are experiencing this loss.

Our hearts go out to the family of Sis. Ida Troxel. She passed away February 15 at the age of 102. She is survived by three sons, Bro. Kenneth, Bro. William and Bro. Dwight; and four daughters, Sis. Marjorie Troxel, Sis. Evelyn Meyer, Sis. Alice Troxel and Mary Jane Sprunger. We offer our condolences to all of these families.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim Geisel and his family as they recently lay to rest their dear father, Bro. Olen Geisel, who died February 5. Also surviving are sons, Harry Geisel and Robert Geisel; and two daughters, Sis. Lucille Gerber (Bro. Dwight) and Jayne Gibson (Gary).

God uses us to do His work,
Unhindered is His way;
He freely gives His love and power
To serve Him every day.

Sper

Our congregation at Bluffton North has been so richly blessed with two new additions to our ministering body. They are Bro. Steve

Frauhiger and Bro. Robert Meyer Jr. (Sis. Ann). We have witnessed first-hand how God can use ordinary men to bring forth the Living Word. We want to welcome these brothers and their families and wish them God's richest blessings.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

Our hearts rejoice as we continue to hear of souls turning their hearts and minds to the Lord in repentance. As a church of converted brethren, we must "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17), trusting that in these final days many will "come in" before the door is shut forever.

On January 23, Bro. Jim Ramseyer came and lovingly shared his slides of Russia. It was such a blessing to hear of the faithful brethren over there. Each one of us felt the power of the Word of God and His Holy Spirit as we listened to Bro. Jim tell of the experiences of the Russian brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Later the same evening, our Bro. Curt Leman also shared his slides from his recent trip to the Ukraine.

January 25 was the arrival day for Bryce Alexander, first-born son of John and Jessica Murray. His happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton, and Howard and Shirley Murray. May God grant them wisdom in this great responsibility of parenthood.

Our annual brotherhood meeting was held January 27. May His strength, grace and wisdom be upon those who embrace with love their new responsibilities in His church. The newly-elected brothers are as follows: Sunday school teachers, Bros. Brian Huber, James Emch, Doug Leman, Randy Gudeman, Dale Ringger and Dave Wuthrich; ushers, Bros. Wendell Anliker and Dale Gudeman; missionary committee, Bro. Nate Gutwein; fellowship center trustee, Bro. Dale Pelsy; church trustee, Bro. Rick Wuethrich; Parkview Haven board, Bro. Richard Overmyer; Parkview Village board, Bro. Sidney Leman; and Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Phil Gutwein.

We are always thankful for

those brothers who visit us and help in the sharing of the Word. This month special thanks goes to Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

Greetings to all! It seems so hard to believe that winter is almost over and spring is at our doorstep! Where does the time go? It slips away before we even have a chance to enjoy the moment, especially with families and friends. In heaven, there will be no need for time. We will have eternity in which to spend with loved ones and the one most desired to see by all, Jesus!

Our love and sympathy reach out to the families of our Bro. Gordon Gerber and our Sis. Bev Meyer. Bro. Gordie's father, Bro. Frederick Gerber (Bluffton) passed away just before Christmas, and Sis. Bev's grandfather, Bro. Oland Gyse, passed away recently. May God be with them and comfort them.

We also want to keep in our prayers Sis. Lyn Wuethrich's mother, Sis. Betty Zeltwanger, as she is recovering from a broken hip at her home in Houston, TX, and our friend, Tobi Hough (daughter of Tom and Cindy Cox) who is recovering in the hospital from a serious auto accident. May God's healing hand be upon them.

Our annual business meeting was held at the end of January. Bro. Greg Meyer was voted in as assistant Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Greg Baumgartner and Bro. Timothy Gudeman as ushers, and Bro. John Lichtle as trustee. We pray God will help them in their new responsibilities.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeremy Freed and his father as he was baptized February 21. Jeremy is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, and grandson of Bro. John and Sis. Edey Mayer. It was a blessed weekend as Jeremy's uncle, Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) came to share in the service with us along with our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott). May God be with Bro. Jeremy to bless and guide him on his life-long journey.

We are so happy to have join our congregation here in Indy, our dear friends, Brian and Michelle (Leman) Collett, and Brian and Deann (Anliker) Mustard. Also, Kurtis Anliker (son of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Margaret, Francesville), who has announced his engagement to Angela Callahan. We rejoice with them and pray God will lead them as they plan their September wedding.

We want to express our love and appreciation for our visiting ministers these past months. They were Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton). A special thanks goes to our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) who shared with us on a Wednesday evening in January the topic of marriage. May God richly bless them for their un-failing devotion to His work.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Judy Gudeman

January 22 was the date of our annual meeting at LaCrosse. Many business items were discussed and several church offices were filled. We appreciate the work that each does throughout the year to keep activities, meals, committees and the building itself running smoothly. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." (I Corinthians 12:18, 28)

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

February 14 will be a Valentine's Day to remember for our Sis. Karen Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet), as her engagement to Bro. Mark Wettstein (Belvidere, IL) was announced.

The following is a letter from the family of Sis. Bertha Clauss: Humbly and very gratefully do we ask you to accept our thanks and appreciation for your prayers, cards, food, gifts, flowers, visits and in any way that you so graciously

helped and supported us at the death of Sis. Bertha Clauss.

Martha Peters,
 Lydia Heiniger,
 Lucille and John Heiniger,
 and all their children,
 Joe and Delores Stephens,
 Ron and Donna Smith

This poem was written by niece Mary Ward as a tribute to her Aunt Bertha.

A VERY SPECIAL LADY

There's a very special lady we all know,
 Whose love will always grow,
 No matter where she is, she can't be beat,
 You'll never find someone so sweet.

No kinder sister, aunt or friend,
 Who was there beside us till her end.

Now she's gone to a better place,
 Just remember her shining face.

She's waiting for us to share God's land,
 I know, I sat at her side and held her hand,
 Till her last breath of air, all her love we have shared,
 No one else will ever take her place,
 For after all, she has God's Grace.

Yes, we all know she'll be missed,
 But I am happy she made God's list;

And if we all follow her choice,
 We'll meet in heaven and all rejoice.

The family of Sis. Ruth Gudeman (Detroit, MI) also wishes to thank all those who have supported them during her long illness, and after her death.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (St. Matthew 6:33). We are thankful that Jeni Rieke (Goodfield, IL) has begun her repentance and wish her the Lord's blessings. Jeni often assembles with us while she is at college in Kankakee, IL.

 Have A Great Day In The Lord!

**INDIANA, LEO
Doug Kellenberger**

We live in a fast paced world. Proper time management is a must. But how do we determine which action will bring us the biggest return on our investment. Jesus' priorities covers that in Luke 10:27. If we put His Words into our planning, our schedule would be prioritized like this:

Do whatever pleases our Father, and

Do whatever helps the person next to us.

We welcome our new sister, Wanda Halte, into our fellowship. We heard her testimony of faith in Christ and witnessed her baptism into His death and newness of life. We are so glad for her peace and so happy for her.

We also heartily welcome our new sister, Nancy Messner, to Leo. She comes from Winthrop, MN, to be the new office manager at Gateway Woods.

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Maraguerite Hoerr
Judy Longcor**

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Hear the word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
See the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

Our dear Martha Wuthrich has sought her God in repentance and was announced to our congregation that she now has peace with God and man. She is looking forward to the evening of March 6 when she may give her testimony of faith.

On February 2, a group of willing workers from our Milford congregation left for Juarez, Mexico to help on a school work project. Among those were Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie Beer, also their son, Neal, Bro. Brent Beer, Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf, Bro. Dick Steffen and his son, Rod. May God

bless them for giving of their time and talents.

Early on the morning of February 2, a precious little baby girl was born, Taylor Rae, to Jeff and Shannon Haab. Anxiously waiting at home is her brother, Jessey. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab and Charlotte Haines.

Excited second-time parents are Lee and Jamie Price. On February 13 little Nicholas Lee was born. He has a big brother at home by the name of Shelby. Rejoicing grandparents are Stan and Sis. Ginger Price and Joan Bryan. May God give these parents the wisdom and patience they will need as they raise their precious little families.

We are thankful for the healing hand of God that two of our dear sisters are able to worship with us again. Sis. Kathy Price had outpatient surgery and Sis. Naomi Beer (Bro. Theo) has been confined to her home for a period of time.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We want to thank these brothers for coming and ministering God's Holy Word to us. May we always remember them in our prayers.

On Wednesday evening, February 17, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) was with us for a topical Bible study on "Humility." What is humility? freedom of pride; meekness. May we with God's grace be more Christ-like for Christ truly lived an exemplary life we all would want to follow.

After meekness follows rapture,
God's good blessing in this time;
There is at that joyful meeting
Peace and happiness sublime.
Then humility in grandeur
Shall receive the crown of honor;
What was slighted here below
Shineth there in heav'nly glow.

Zion's Harp #186, vs 7

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini**

I just looked at the calendar and realized I usually send off the news a couple days earlier than this. I

hope it makes it yet. My how swiftly the months do go.

On Sunday, February 7, we had furnace problems at church. How thankful we could call everyone and say, "Church will be at the fellowship hall."

We are also thankful that our Bro. Ken Schneider's surgery was as an out-patient at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. After a night at a motel, he could return home and is on the go again.

We thank Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and David Graf (Akron, OH) and their wives for visiting us Sunday, February 14. It was a day of "love" for all of us.

Our Bro. Edwin Bahler has suffered a sinus infection this winter. He was unable to be in church the Sunday of the 14th.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus returned safely from Florida this week. On their way down Bro. Earl held services in Atlanta, GA.

Bro. Dan Stoller left on Friday, 12th, with a group who went down to help rebuild the area where the storm did so much damage. We are always so thankful when these loved ones return home again safely.

Thought for the day: "This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Renee Mangold**

We thank and appreciate Bro. Rich Gramm for opening his home to all of us twice this past month, first, for a potluck and then, again, for a Wednesday evening church service.

We were thankful to have with us Bro. Walt Stephen (Milford, IN) for a service this month. May God richly bless His faithful servants.

The reading of the memorandum was recently held. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) were with us for the reading. We were all very thankful for their loving admonishings and encouragements.

Our thanks to our Milford brethren for the invitation to attend a topical Bible study they recently

held on a Wednesday evening. It's always our pleasure to have the opportunity for fellowshiping with our neighbor church.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

We once again held our annual meeting in this past month with our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL) in attendance. We thank those who have served faithfully and pray God will be with those who remain and are newly elected.

In that same evening, Elder Bro. Dale got us started in preparing ourselves for communion. We were instructed with some of the situations in our church as to how we should be conducting ourselves. How we should be encouraging all to let the Spirit work and praying for His divine guidance. With the situations in all of our churches today, that has got to be good advice for all. Seems as if the evil one is throwing all he has at us as if it's his final charge these days. It would be great to say that he hasn't been able to do any damage in our churches today, but the truth is he has been able to confuse and hurt a lot of us. Through simple faith, we can overcome the tempter, but we have to let the Spirit have the opportunity. It's certain we can't have the victory by trying to defeat the evil one on our own; so let's simply let the Spirit have free course and not let self add to the confusion.

On February 10, Bro. Gene Lehman gave a presentation to us on our World Relief project in the Ukraine and how our churches in Europe are assisting in this situation. We pray that eventually these brothers and sisters can become self supportive with the help and guidance of World Relief and much prayer. We can certainly count our blessings that we are free and didn't have to go through this oppression for the last 70 years or so. With five languages in one church, it makes us all realize how difficult it must have been for the Apostles as they were preaching and trying to start new churches throughout the world. How discouraged they must have gotten at times and yet they

kept the faith and drew much encouragement from those believers around them and from the Holy Spirit given to us all from Jesus Christ. Let's all take courage as life's situations seem to be getting more and more difficult. Our fellowship with one another becomes more and more important and needful as we go along life's ways. Our thanks also to the LaCrosse church for coming and sharing the evening with us.

Dorothy Claussen is back in the hospital. We're all praying that things will get back to normal in her life and that God will bless.

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ed Lester and family as his father has passed on recently.

We are very excited that Jim Bucher (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois) has decided to repent. We pray the Lord will bless and give Jim much grace as he takes this step.

Visiting ministers in this past month have been Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). The Lord continue to bless you dear brothers and your families.

Remember to stop and fellowship with us if you happen to be in our area!

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Pamela Gudas

Our responsibilities to the Lord was the topic addressed by Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) January 28 at Purdue services. He pointed out that in Micah 6:8, God requires us "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly . . ." God wants more than religious rituals, He wants changed lives.

Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso) visited Purdue February 11 and read from Revelation 19. "Not one of us has the promise of tomorrow," he said and so we must be ready for Christ's second coming by putting things in the proper perspective.

We thank the brothers for sharing God's Word with us at Purdue. Everyone is welcome to worship with us at our upcoming services

February 25 and March 4 at 7:30 p.m. EST.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

II Peter 3:18

Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) conducted our Bible study entitled, "Growing in Grace." We were reminded that this undeserved gift from God is necessary to maintain the believer in our Christian walk of life. As we grow in grace, we can be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We appreciate Bro. Ken's willingness to share God's Word with us.

Our prayers of support have been with our elder brothers as they assembled this week at Junction, OH, for the mid-winter conference.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

"Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord, to Thee . . ." Hymns of Zion #106. After nearly 37 years ministering God's Word, Bro. Harvey has felt it is the Lord's will to retire. Bro. Harvey was placed into the ministry in 1956 at Oakville and then became an ordained deacon in 1969. His last fourteen years in the ministry have been spent laboring in God's Word at our church in Burlington. We're so thankful the Lord gave Bro. Harvey sufficient grace and strength to bring forth the Word for these many years. May the Lord continue to stay by Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ollie and bless them as they continue to gather with us.

Sis. Ingrid Buster and Bro. Harvey Heiniger have been able to reassemble with us again after spending time in the hospital and at home. We rejoice to have them gather with us again.

"I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all; especially for your prayers, but also for your visits, phone calls and other deeds

of kindness during my recent illness."

Harvey Heiniger

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. John Steiner, both of Oakville. It was refreshing to once again hear the Word brought forth in truth and simplicity. May the Lord continue to give a double portion of grace and wisdom to each servant who labors in the ministry.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Many prayers are being offered this week on behalf of our beloved shepherds as they gather for the mid-winter elder conference. As they prayerfully consider God's will for the welfare of the flocks, may He reveal to them what pastures are best for His sheep.

May we put our complete faith and trust in the Lord for therein are all our wants supplied.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." I shall not want rest. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." I shall not want drink. "He leadeth me beside the still waters." I shall not want forgiveness. "He restoreth my soul." I shall not want guidance. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." I shall not want companionship. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." I shall not want comfort. "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." I shall not want food. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." I shall not want joy. "Thou anointest my head with oil." I shall not want anything. "My cup runneth over." I shall not want anything in this life. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." I shall not want anything in eternity. "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Leaves of Gold

I apologize for not mentioning our visiting ministers in last month's issue. We are always glad

when Bro. Fred Eberhart and his family (Burlington, IA) come to visit and appreciate Bro. Fred's willingness to feed us from the Bread of Life.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser

Again we would like to thank our visiting ministers and their families for faithfully serving us this past month. They are Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

On Saturday evening, February 13, Bro. Doug Grimm presented the slides for the World Relief. We had an enjoyable evening and a greater appreciation is had for all of the friends and brethren who so willingly assist the many people and places that have needed help.

On Sunday, February 21, we held our annual business meeting. Our Sunday school teachers will be Bros. Tony Funk, Brad Funk and Tom Moser and Sis. April Pamer, Willa Clark and Laura Funk. Our new superintendent is Bro. Tony Funk. Our new trustee is Bro. Phil Webber. The treasurer will be Bro. Tony Funk. Sis. Laura Funk will also assist me in writing this Silver Lining article. Thank you to all those who have faithfully served in these positions in the past.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! It's such a blessed thing to see the sun shining after so many overcast days! You don't even mind the cold so much, though we're currently having some of the coldest days so far this winter. May we be ready to share the sunshine of God's love to those around us who may be downcast or burdened, whether it be by sin or the trials of life.

We extend special thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and his family. May God bless you for your efforts in traveling the many miles to worship with us, and for your willingness to be

used in sharing God's Word with us.

We warmly welcome Todd Scott (Taylor, MO), who has found employment in the area. We hope his work schedule allows him to worship with us often.

SUNSHINE IN THE SOUL

There's sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright
Than glows in any earthly skies,
For Jesus is my light.

There's music in my soul today,
A carol to the King,
And Jesus, listening, can hear
The songs I cannot sing.

There's springtime in my soul
today,
For, when the Lord is near;
The dove of peace sings in my
heart,
The flow'rs of grace appear.

There's gladness in my soul today,
And hope and praise and love,
For blessings which He gives me
now,
For joys "laid up" above.

O there's sunshine, blessed
sunshine,
When the peaceful, happy
moments roll;
When Jesus shows His smiling
face,
There is sunshine in the soul.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We have been encouraged and uplifted by the recent reading of the memorandum by our elder brethren. Many blessed teachings and concerns encourage us to press on in our spiritual walk of life. Our life as an obedient believer is not an easy road, but will be worth it all if we strive to keep our spiritual garments spotless. We appreciate the visit of Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who helped with the reading of the memorandum.

We rejoice with Sis. Mary Knobloch who was recently announced to have found peace with God and man.

The uncertainty of life was sadly

brought to our attention with the sudden death of our Bro. Martin Knoblock. Our prayers for comfort are extended to his dear wife, Sis. Zelma. Also surviving are his son, Bro. Roger (Lester); his daughters, Sis. Linda Knapp (Congerville, IL), Sis. Lavonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Gail Hartter, Sis. Charlene Messner and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe (all of Lester); as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves to mourn his brothers, Bro. August (Lester) and Bro. Paul (Tucson, AZ); and his sisters, Sis. Christine Schmidt and Sis. Louise Anliker (both of West Bend, IA). Bro. Martin's presence will sorely be missed by his family and his brethren. We wish to express sincere sympathy and prayers to his family. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner conducted the funeral service and was assisted by Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

Our hospital patients who recently experienced surgery were Sis. Pauline Knobloch and Sis. Freida Knobloch. We pray for God's healing as they recover and hope they will be able to return to worship with us before long. Also injured in a fall was Clark Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn) who spent a few days in the hospital. Bro. Lynn Doorneweerd (Sis. Marlys) underwent corrective facial surgery and is recuperating well. We are glad to report that Sis. Joyce Metzger (Bro. Glen) no longer requires her wheelchair and is ambulating with crutches since her painful ankle fracture of several months ago.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

Little Emily Jo Eberhardt arrived February 16 to bless the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Karla. Thankful and happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington). The birth of a precious child is certainly good news. Last October 21, little Noah Robert Schrock was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen. We are sorry we overlooked reporting this at an earlier date. Nevertheless, little

Noah has warmed our hearts these past few months. Big brother, Nathan, and big sister, Kaitlin, are happy to have a new brother to love. Grandpa and Grandma Schrock (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith) and Grandpa and Grandma Menold (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie, Princeville, IL) are delighted to once again have a little baby to cuddle.

Our congregation was saddened by the untimely death of Kelly Logan. Kelly had been attending church and Sunday school for several years. He was killed in a tragic automobile accident January 31. We will miss seeing him and pray God will comfort his family as they struggle to cope with the vacancy in their family circle.

Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) have recently visited our congregation and brought forth God's Word. May God bless them.

Note: From the bottom of our hearts we want to say thank you for everything that has been done for us. We appreciate so much the cards and other gifts of love, and especially the prayers. Your visits are always welcome, too. Wishing all of you blessings from above.

Bro. George and Sis. Hazel Kuntz

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich
Carol Wettstein

When in the spring the flowers are
 blooming bright and fair
 After the grey of winter's gone,
 Once again the lark begins its
 tuning
 Back in the meadows of my home.
 Lord, to my heart bring back the
 springtime,
 Take away the cold and dark of sin;
 Oh, refill me now, sweet Holy Spirit
 May I warm and tender be again.

The winter days are swiftly passing by, and it is always refreshing to know springtime will be back with us soon!

We surely appreciate the efforts of Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) as they helped in reading the memorandum. May we continue to

pray for our elders as they strive to preserve our precious faith.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert) and Bro. Paul Teubel (Sis. Charlotte). Our prayers are also with Dennis Teubel (Carolyn), along with his parents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma, as he is undergoing chemotherapy at this time.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock, along with Nathan, Barbara, Loren and Steven welcomed little Alan Thomas into their hearts and home February 11. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois Schock (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester, IA).

Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich want to thank everyone who sent cards or gifts for their anniversary. God bless all of you.

Reminder: March is the month for \$9.00 Silver Lining dues.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

We appreciate these brothers who have shared the Word with us this past month: Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS). We thank Bro. Jay for helping our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm bring us the conference letter. May they be blessed for their efforts.

God has called home a soldier of the cross in our neighboring Lester congregation. Bro. Martin Knoblock will be missed by many, along with his wife, Sis. Zelma, who grew up as a child in our congregation. We extend our sympathy to Zelma and family, as well as his sisters, Sis. Pearl Anliker and Sis. Christine Schmidt; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Sis. Marie Metzger, Sis. Darlene Metzger, Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger, Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger, Bernard and Alice Metzger and families (all of our congregation).

We have had a number of hospital and surgical patients the past month. Those who have been afflicted are Bros. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille), Sis. Nima Fehr, Bros. Earl Banwart (Sis. Edna), Callie Gerber (Dave and Diane), Bros. Earnie

Schmidt (Sis. Ida), Alan Banwart (Dean and Irene), Alex Banwart (Ronald and Carolyn), Sis. Lydia Wilson, Donald Zaugg and Jean Knoboch (Adolph). Sis. Lydia Wilson remains hospitalized, and we pray that she might feel the nearness and grace of the Lord. We are thankful that all the other patients are home and we pray and trust God will continue to heal and bless each one.

CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM

How sweet, my Saviour, to repose,
On Thine almighty pow'r!
To feel Thy strength upholding me,
Thro' every trying hour!

Chorus:

Casting all your care upon Him,
For He careth for you.

Gospel Hymns #327

Sis. Lena Grimm has moved to the West Bend Care Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and we hope she will enjoy her new surroundings.

Sis. Florence Banwart is now residing at Tompkins Memorial Center, Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge, IA. We pray for God's presence in her life and that she will be happy and blessed in her new home.

Congratulations go to Janet and Kevin Oleson on their recent marriage at our fellowship center. Bro. Art and Sis. Kristi Metzger (Lester) and Robert and Linda Oleson Sr. (Live Oak, FL) are their parents. We welcome them into our church community and hope they will feel at home in our fellowship.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Frank and Kathy Sauder

As we traveled to church this past Sunday, I noticed that the plum trees, the first flowering trees of spring, were in full bloom. I was reminded of the words in Song of Solomon, "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come . . ."

This past month, Shioda hosted the brotherhood conference for our churches in Japan. During the

morning we listened to Elder Bros. Akito Inoue and Willis Ehnle. In the afternoon we had a discussion concerning the issues confronting our churches in Japan. We felt the Lord's blessing as evidenced by the Spirit of unity and peace which could be felt among the believers.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

This news is late in coming, but still reported with excitement -- the Nakatani's had their first child, a baby girl, in late December. We look forward to seeing the three of them soon. As is a custom in Japan, the wife goes back to her parents to live for two to three months, during and around the time of the birth of a baby.

In early February, we were privileged to have Bro. Merle Roche (Eureka, IL) worship with us twice. In recent years, it seems that more and more men are sent here on business trips, and it's a delight to our church to have them visit us.

The Shioda congregation hosted our annual brother meeting February 11, which was a holiday due to it being Japan's Independence Day. Our elder brothers spoke on working together more effectively as a church body, and other pertinent subjects were brought out in group discussion.

Recently, we've had a single man and a couple show interest in coming to church. Our prayers, and we ask for yours too, are that they will continue coming, and that they will see the need for a committed life to Jesus Christ.

We, the Klaus', were able to spend nearly a month with family and friends in Illinois this past Christmas and New Year's. We hold the memories dear to our hearts! Upon arriving again in Japan, we abruptly noticed the weather change! It seldom gets below freezing here, and in fact, in early February, we had several gorgeous days which brought on spring fever too early! Adding to that, pink and white plum blossoms have popped out recently. It's so interesting to note God's intricate designing of climatic changes from place to place. "All things bright

and beautiful (and wind, rain, and cold, too) the Lord God made them all."

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

Our annual meeting was held January 19. We welcome all the newly elected and thank those who served their terms.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er-shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

We were saddened by the death of baby, Natalie Kay, January 19. She was born January 18 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim Baumgartner and is also survived by a sister, Miranda. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer. Great-grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella Hartter.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lillian Esslinger and Sis. Anna Ulmer on the death of a brother and brother-in-law, Wilbur Heiniger, February 3.

Also, sympathy is extended to Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner on the death of their grandfather, Bro. Martin Knoblock (Lester, IA), February 9.

May God, our great Creator, comfort and heal the hearts of each one.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Brian Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) has heeded God's call and turned his back to the world in repentance. May he build on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to the following grandparents: Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner, a grandson, Joshua David, born January 23 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha); Bro. Dan Edelman, a grandson, Troy Thomas, born January 27 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn (Silverton, OR); and Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger, a grandson, Spencer Irvin, born February 1 to Dan and Karen Esslinger (Phoenix, AZ). May God bless these

families with their bundles of joy from heaven.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Marie Grimm (Bro. Harvey) for medical; Sis. Leola Lehman (Bro. Edward) for cataract surgery and Jananne Hartter (Bro. Neal and Sis. Evelyn) for knee surgery. Our prayers go to each one for God's healing and to Bro. Harvey Grimm (Sis. Marie) as he has tests at Mayo Clinic.

Bros. James Meyer, Alan Meyer, Terry Menold, Christopher Menold and Todd Rokey went to Florida on a World Relief project to help with rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew.

May we remember our elders as they gather for the winter conference at Junction, OH. Our prayers are with them as they work for the preservation of our most precious faith.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) minister to us from the Word this month. We appreciate his kind efforts on our behalf.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and loved ones of Jeanette Tice who was tragically taken from this life in a car accident February 18. Her parents, Steve Robb and Gayle Robb, and children have our thoughts and prayers throughout this difficult time.

As we approach the Easter season, may we remember the death and suffering of our Lord.

Out onto Calvary's hill,
where Jesus died I'll go
To hear the words He speaks,
to see Him in His woe.
He bows His head and cries,
"Tis finished, all is done.
O God, receive my soul,
Life's victory is won."
Zion's Harp #89 vs. 1, 7

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Judy Kraft

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over those who are repenting. Tonya Edelman (Bro. Albert

and Sis. Mara Jean) and Hope Williams have chose to follow the Savior. We wish them much grace to continue in this walk of life.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) was willing to lend himself. Our prayer is that God will bless each minister for their willing service.

Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 28. A reception for them was held in Gridley, January 31, hosted by their children; Gary, Raymond, Janice, Norma, Carol, Vickie and their families. May God continue to bless them.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

Our annual business meeting was held this month. May the Lord bless those who have served and grant each newly elected brother and sister the wisdom and grace to fulfill their duties.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and his family with us this month. Bro. Jay assisted Elder Bro. Ron Nelson in the reading of the memorandum. May the Lord richly bless them for their service to Him.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber, Sis. Edna Reeb, Bro. John Hoffman, and Sis. Elizabeth Deil. Sis. Mildred Farney suffered a broken bone in her foot. Our prayer for each of them is that they feel the healing presence of the Lord.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

Our dear friend, Bertha Huber, passed away at the Madison Manor Nursing Home. We extend our sympathy to her family, Drew and Beverly Huber and their children. We are thankful for the many years that she assembled with us.

We appreciated the messages of encouragement and admonition brought to us by visiting minister, Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern). May God bless him and Sis. Nancy and their children for coming and sharing such a blessed day.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm

On January 15, Bro. George Lambert was called home to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elsie and her family. Services were held January 18. They had moved here ten years ago to our Retirement Village from Wichita, and we appreciated the years they shared with us.

We also express heartfelt sympathy to Sis. LaVonne and Bro. Roger Aberle and family as her father, Bro. Martin Knoblock (Lester, IA), was suddenly called to meet his Maker. How important it is that we each be prepared.

The evening of January 23, we gathered to hear the testimonies of two dear souls: Colleen Hartter (Bro. Rober and Sis. Ilene) and Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter). What a blessing it is to be submissive to His call. On Sunday we witnessed their baptism and welcomed our new sisters-in-faith. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Sam Huber. Also here for the occasion were Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA).

Other visiting ministers this month that we appreciated and thank are Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS).

We rejoice with Loel Strahm (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Phyllis) and Matthew Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) as they have answered His call to forsake the world and follow after righteousness. May God provide grace to do this and bless them is our prayer.

Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter welcomed a baby son, Joshua David, born January 23. He joins Jacob and Lena in the family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Wanetta Plattner (Bern, KS); and two great-grandfathers, Bro. John Plattner and Bro. Charles Sinn.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm are happy for their new granddaughter, Rachel Lyn, born

January 26 to their daughter, Gayla and Dan McKee (Wichita, KS).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Ben Rokey, Bro. Nathan Grimm, Loel Strahm and Bro. Lou Wenger. Sis. Mary Aberle was in a Kansas City Hospital and Sis. Lena Steiner in Topeka. We are thankful for God's healing and restoring and continue to pray for those convalescing.

Our annual business meeting was held. We are thankful for the efforts of each one this past year and pray God will guide will guide and direct those taking on new duties.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Peggy Strahm's son, Curtis, is engaged to Paula Rilinger. We wish them God's blessings in this important step in life.

April is our Silver Lining collection month.

KANSAS, WICHITA

We are thankful that Bro. Ernie Lambert is home from the hospital and recuperating.

To celebrate this February month of expressing love to dear ones, our Sunday school children prepared gifts of decorated cookies for several of our shut-ins and then enjoyed a pizza supper.

We lift up Chris and Dena Miller (Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Emma) in prayer. Dena will undergo tests in Houston soon.

It is a joy to announce baptism for Jodi and Jennifer Reimschisel, daughters of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy, is planned for March 28. Surely they have heard the truth of the gospel preached in our little church.

Don't be unwise enough to think that we are serving God best by constant activity at the cost of headaches and broken rest. I am getting to be of the opinion that we may be doing too much. We want - at least this is my own want - a higher quality of work. Our labor should be to maintain unbroken communion with our blessed Lord; then we shall have entire rest, and

God abiding in us; that which we do will not be ours, but His.

John Kenneth Mackenzie,
1850-1887

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

At this writing, we are finally getting a little colder weather. We have had a very mild winter again this year. It won't be long and we will again see the first signs of Spring, with the early flowers and budding trees, and green grass. It is always such an inspiring time of the year with a new hope and anticipation for the future. "Consider the lilies, how they grow." (Matthew 6:28). It is a mystery we will never understand. But the God who made them knows. So it is with us, we know not what makes us grow, but God does. Let us leave all our trouble and cares in His all knowing hands.

. . . yes, leave it with Him
'Tis more dear to His heart
You will know.
Then the lilies that bloom,
Or the flowers that start
'Neath the snow.
Whatever you need
If you seek it in prayer,
You can leave it with Him -
For you are His care
You, you know.

Author Unknown

Our prayers have been with our dear Bro. Lester Huber and his wife as he has been in bed with severe back pain. We have really missed his encouraging presence the last couple of weeks. He is slowly recovering and we certainly wish him God's healing mercies. Also, our dear Sis. Rebecca Germann had an overnight stay in the hospital, but is feeling better again. We want to wish her God's continuing strength and grace also.

Our visiting ministers this month have been. Bros. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Jack (John) Bollier (Leo, IN) and their wives. We appreciate their many efforts in traveling here to serve us and encourage us on our pilgrim way. A special thank you to them

and to all the brethren and friends who have come to worship with us. Also a special invitation to anyone having a desire to visit us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

"Therefore being justified by faith . . ." (Romans 5:1) Melanie Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) and Karen Zaagman (Ed and Joyleen) now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayers are with Melanie and Karen as they wait for the beginning of their new lives in Him.

Blessings were showered upon us the day Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), and the Detroit Choir, joined us and also when Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City) shared pictures of Bro. Jim's trip to Russia and Estonia. We thank these brothers and the Detroit Choir for their labors of love. Truly, our cups were filled, and overflowing.

Sis. Margaret Wingeier (Sis. Christine) was hospitalized for a short time. We pray that God will bless both these dear sisters with added strength and grace in the days ahead.

We also need to remember Harry Erickson (Pat), a long-time friend of the Alto church, as he was also hospitalized this month. Our prayers are with him and his family.

May God richly bless each one.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Janel Ramseyer

Winter has returned to central Michigan with 7" - 10" of snow over this February weekend. The sights are beautiful as everything is white and almost blinds yours eyes as it reflects the sun. I couldn't help but think that as soon as the sun comes out, the snow will begin to melt and the beauty will soon be dirtied. All the evidence of last fall's decay will be visible. How thankful we are for the promise of spring when all the tree are budding and the whole earth seems reborn. Similarly, we humans often try to hide

the decaying areas of our lives under ribbons, bows, and pretty paper that may be beautiful to see, but are temporary, like the snow, disappearing when heated by the fire of judgment. Like spring, Jesus Christ comes to our hearts to bring to life that which is dying, not only for a season, but for eternity. We can all feel incredibly blessed that we have the opportunity to experience not only once a year, but daily, continually, the freshness of spring's rebirth in our hearts and souls. Even though spring becomes summer, summer turns to fall, and winter returns, God's life-giving Son will never return to the winter of death, but supplies us always with life-giving joy, peace, and forgiveness.

In this time of the year when everything seems possible and love is celebrated by all, it is a special privilege to announce the engagement of Sis. Peggy Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol (Ramseyer) to Bro. John Jackson (Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda (Kollar). Sis. Peggy is studying nursing at Delta College and Bro. John will graduate from Michigan State with a degree in electrical engineering this May. Peggy and John are special people in our Bay City congregation and we rejoice with them and their families. We are also happy that God has brought together Tonia Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue (Ramseyer) and Russ Ettinger, who is from St. Johns, MI. Tonia has a teaching degree from Central Michigan University in English, speech, and reading. Russ also has his degree from Central Michigan in Outdoor Recreation and is currently a residence hall director at Northern Michigan University. Please join us in praying for both these couples, that God will continue to guide them as they join their lives together.

We are also thankful for the continuing good health of our former Elder Bro. Joe Waibel and Sis. Emily Rechsteiner, both of whom were recently hospitalized. We all felt their absence from our services and welcome them back to once again worship with us.

"Into every life a little rain must fall, and losing one you love is like

a storm." (M. W. Smith) Rosemary Wackerle is experiencing one of life's storm with the passing of her mother. We pray for God's gentle care and overwhelming compassion to touch Rosemary and her family.

February 11-19 was at time scheduled by World Relief for a work team to go to Montego Bay, Jamaica. Bay City was one of the designated churches invited to attend and Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, Bro. Ken Schlatter (Sis. Pam), and I were able to go. Also on the team were: Bro. Ed Fritz (Morton, IL), Bro. Harold Witzig (Morton, IL), Bro. Glen and Sis. Beverly Rufener (Rittman, OH), Sis. Norma Zeller (Morton, IL), Sis. Catherine Meiss (Gridley, IL), Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fisher (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Ron Anliker (Francesville, IN), Bro. Alex Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Duane Waibel (Remington, IN), and Bro. John Knapp (Congerville, IL). We spent our week in Granville, a little town 15 minutes from Montego Bay, laying block, painting, welding, pouring cement, and putting up rafters on what will soon be the second Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.). We also had the opportunity to visit the first C.C.C.D. three hours south of Montego Bay, The Place of Safety, a home for girls awaiting their day in court, and the Trelawney Infirmary in Falmouth, 30 minutes east of Montego Bay. Our visit with Larry and Kathryn Frick and Jim and Becky Hedrick, the missionaries from Chattanooga, TN, who oversee the construction of C.C.C.D. in Granville, will never be forgotten. Whether we were working or playing, singing or praying, sweating or trying to cool off, our time in beautiful Jamaica was a gift from God. The world is so much bigger than we imagine but God is omnipresent and faithful to protect us, going before us to prepare the way. There is so much work yet to be done and I invite all of you "to come and taste and see" what incredible experiences are there for the taking. If you are unable to travel to Jamaica, Haiti, Florida, or the many other work areas but would

still like to be part of this mission, there are other options for you to exercise. First, pray. Pray not only for World Relief and its leaders, but also for the missionaries who have moved from families and friends simply because Jesus Christ has called them to do so. Pray for the teams who travel to these places, for their safety and for hearts and minds open to God's still small voice. And pray for the people who will be affected by this work. In Granville, Jamaica, there are 117 children on a waiting list for the school now under construction. These are children who want to learn but do not have any way to hear their name, their lessons, or the wonderful story of God's love. They can be reached and taught and they were willing to share their testimonies with us. Second, give. Give not only financially, donating directly to World Relief or helping someone with the costs of such a trip, but donate old clothing, shoes, and Bibles. The children at C.C.C.D., for example, have a dress code with the boys wearing khaki pants and the girls wearing skirts. The girls at The Place of Safety would love to go to church but have no shoes. Third, commit your own time and energy to the various World Relief projects around your home church. There are countless opportunities and everyone has talents, given by God that are best used when used for His purpose. Be prepared: you will expect to give of yourself and will instead receive. Instead of asking what you can do for World Relief, ask what World Relief can do for you. World Relief can give you compassion for people you have never met, new, life-long friends from foreign countries and neighboring churches, and World Relief will give you an inheritance in the Father's kingdom, for "inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40)

We welcome you all to worship with us in Bay City. We realize the trip is long and our schedule today are hectic, but we would love to meet you and share with you the wonderful fellowship that is God's earthly evidence of His divine love.

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MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Holly Barton****Marlene Reinhard**

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) share a very blessed and encouraging weekend with us January 30 and 31. On Saturday, we were privileged to listen to the testimonies of two dear souls, Bro. Kevin Krieger and Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz (Edward), as they each one told how God has so faithfully worked in their lives and how the blessings have come down when they listened to the Holy Spirit to be their guide. On Sunday, we were instructed and re-united with the teachings of a Christian life as we listened to and prayerfully received the reading of the memorandum. May we realize how fortunate a people we are to be able to say we are a child of the King and by the grace of God we shall be victorious over death and the grave!

We are thankful God has watched over those hospitalized this past month and is granting healing to the body. Sis. Sancha Denes (Bro. Frank) had surgery and is recuperating speedily. Bro. Floyd Weiland (Sis. Perseda) underwent eye surgery. We pray God's will be done in a successful recovery. Sis. Kay Novak (Harvey) was also hospitalized. May these loved ones continue to feel our love, prayers, and support.

On February 7, our choir had the opportunity to travel to Alto, MI. It was a blessing to share the true Word of God with fellow believers and partake in the fellowship and singing God has so richly blessed us with.

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

We were excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Kevin Krieger to Sis. Kristine Price (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy, Sarasota, FL). United in marriage February 14 were Bro. Ked Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl, Bluffton, IN) to Sis. Joanne Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary).

May God richly bless the lives of these two dear couples and may

the light from heaven shine down upon them and light their pathways for the future. Visiting ministers sharing in this blessed occasion were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN).

The residents of Woodhaven look forward to the annual Tuesday evening worship services hosted by many of our churches. On April 6, Bay City is scheduled to host this service. May the Word of God fall on fertile soil and grown in each one of our hearts.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Delores Sauder**

As our elder brothers gather together for the winter conference, we pray that they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS) were our visiting ministers this past month. We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

With Easter approaching, we are reminded that 'tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." Hymns of Zion #36.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos**

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leann Gerber were blessed with a little daughter, Leah Lee, born January 29. Happy to have a sister are Sarah and Philip. Leah's grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Joey Alan Schreck was born December 5, 1992, to Alan and Renae Schreck. At home to love their little brother are sisters, Makayla and Kelsey. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Norene Moser.

Thankful for a little girl in their family are Bro. Keith and Sis. Jody Schieler and big brother, Austin. Erin Nicole was born February 20 and is a granddaughter to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury, IL).

Those of our congregation who

have been sick or have had surgery are Sis. Thelma Dogotch, Bro. Jerry Wulf, Sis. Esther Koehl and Ruby Luthi who is now residing at the Villa of St. Francis. We are thankful that Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger is able to be recuperating at home after her hospital stay.

We are thankful that three of our sisters were spared of serious injury after they were involved in a car accident. They are Sis. Diane Kellenberger, Sis. Bev Minke and Sis. Barb Lesmeister and her son, Robert.

Brady Gramm (Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda) had to be put back into a body cast after re-fracturing his leg. We trust that the healing hand of God will be upon Brady.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of our Bro. Edwin Koehl who passed away February 2. Bro. Edwin is survived by his wife, Sis. Doris; sons, Bro. Edward A., Chris (Washington, IL) and Gerald (Apple Valley, MN); and by a daughter, Gloria Koehl (Minneapolis, MN).

Funeral services were held February 13 for Walt Greiner, age 80, who is survived by his wife, Gladys; and children, James, Terry, Robert, Richard, Joyce and Ilene, all of Morris.

We rejoice with Loren Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) who has answered the call to repentance. We are so thankful that God is still calling souls one by one. We wish Loren God's grace in this important step.

Reminder: Morris Silver Lining dues are due April 1.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Kim Messner - Nancy Messner**

We are thankful and ask God to bless Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Gerri Messner (Bro. Harold), and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Marcy). We pray for God's healing hand and comfort upon them as they recover.

God has blessed Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner with a precious baby boy, Landon Philip, born February 19. Happy grandparents are Richard Daigger and Bro. Don and

Sis. Viola Messner (Peoria, IL). May God provide them wisdom and guidance as they raise him according to His will. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On January 24, we held our annual business meeting. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti will replace Bro. Dennis Miller as trustee, Sis. Doreen Leuthold will replace Sis. Janice Lehman on the food committee and Sis. Kara Snyder will replace Sis. Lanette Meyer in Sunday school this fall. We thank Bro. Dennis, Sis. Janice and Sis. Lanette for their year of service and pray God's blessings on those taking on new responsibilities.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) with us the last weekend in January to assist Elder Bro. Gene in the reading of the memorandum. May we heed the warnings and strive to serve our Lord in all ways. Thank you Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra for spending the weekend with us.

February 13 and 14 we enjoyed having the young groups from Phoenix, AZ; Congerville and Goodfield, IL; Fort Scott, Gridley, Lamont and Wichita, KS. We especially thank Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley, IL) for also sharing the weekend. May God bless Bro. Earl for ministering unto us.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin

Carolyn Banwart

We wish to thank the following ministers for sharing God's Word with us: Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

Our prayers are with Dot Heimer (Bro. Stan) as she has begun her repentance. May she feel God's nearness and presence as she works out her souls salvation.

Our hospital and surgical pa-

tients this month were Bro. Art Banwart, Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Sis. Alice Marti. May God grant them faith to endure the trials of this life.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Bonnie Braker and her family on the death of her mother, Thelma Davis. Also, funeral services were held for Sis. Alma Cordill February 2. She was living in Eureka, IL. We want to extend our sympathy to her brother, Bro. Bill Cordill (Oakville, IA), and many nieces and nephews.

Leon and Teresa Luthi were blessed with a little girl, Melinda Irene, born February 13. The grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Danny and Nancy Neher.

Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with the elders as they counsel together this week. May God be with them and grant them the needed grace and strength for their duties.

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and visits while Art was in the hospital. We appreciated it an may God bless you for your love and concern.

Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart March is the month for the Silver Lining collection for Lamar. The subscription rate is \$9.00 per year.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

Blessing us by delivering God's Word this past month were Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor). We thank these brothers and all who accompanied them.

Our little congregation warmly welcomes Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger who have moved here from Lamar. We pray that they will feel God's love and closeness as they adjust to living in a large urban area.

One Sunday the message we heard concerned putting on the whole armor of God. It is easy to stand for the right in church, surrounded by our brothers and sisters-in-Christ and bathed in God's love. But we do need to remember that we have the help and protection of God in every situation and

to boldly stand for the right by taking advantage of His armour. Ephesians 6:11-20.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tami Grimm

"Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow; Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." From "Whiter Than Snow", James Nicholson. Recently, on a beautiful Sunday morning, with several inches of snow on the ground, one of our faithful ministers reminded us that our dear Lord can wash our sins away, making us even whiter than the brilliant snow outside. The world seems so much brighter when the sun and moon reflect their light off the sparkling snow. Likewise, when we surrender ourselves to Christ and allow Him to cleanse our souls, our outlook on life can be so much brighter as His love reflects off our hearts. We must search our lives daily to be sure we are keeping ourselves spotless and reflecting the love of our Lord in our walk and talk.

Our congregation enjoyed hosting the Eureka, IL, Pulaski, IA, and Iowa City, IA, young groups January 23 and 24. On Saturday evening, we were thankful to have Bro. Kent Heimer share a message on God's will for our lives. We were especially blessed to have Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) with us and thank him for ministering to us.

We were also happy to have Bro. Lenny Myers (Chicago, IL) and his family visit us this month. It is so good to know we will hear the same old story every Sunday, whether it be from our home ministers or from visiting brothers.

We rejoice with Shannon and Marci Haerr on the birth of their first child, Madison FaeLee. Happy grandparents are Rany Musolino and Bird Musolino (both of Quincy, IL) and Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO). We also rejoice with Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm over the birth of their grandson, Matthew Phillip, to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein (Francesville, IN). May God bless both these precious little bundles and their families.

Stacy Hoerr, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine, recently underwent surgery and is recuperating nicely. Sis. Marie Butikofer was also hospitalized this month.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21) We sympathize with the family of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp in the death of her dear father, Martin Knobloch (Lester, IA) February 9. We pray God will comfort all the family and remind them they now have even more to go to heaven for.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of our Bro. Phil Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol, Princeville, IL) to Sis. Linda Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay, Princeville, IL). Also, Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr have announced the engagement of their son Doug to Amy Entrup (daughter of Mark and Peggy Entrup, Quincy, IL). We pray God will be with both these couples as they plan to united their lives as one.

Several of our brothers recently spent some time in Florida on a work projects team. It was encouraging to hear what a blessing they received through fellowship with other brothers and sisters and with members of the Mennonite and Amish groups they worked with. May God bless each one for their efforts.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah."
Psalm 68:19

We thank Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) for being with us February 14. We thank Bro. Ed for bringing us God's precious Word. May God richly bless him for his efforts.

We are currently meeting once a month at the Days Inn North Bergen, 2750 Tonnelles Avenue (Route 109) North Bergen, NJ. We encourage you to come worship with us if you are in the area. For further information please call El-

der Bro. Edward Aeschleman (302) 478-7846 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

On January 6, Kristina and Tim Panowicz welcomed Ashley Nicole into their home and hearts. Their address is 8993 Bonham Circle, Manassas, VA 22110. Ashley's grandparent's are Sis. Bernice and the late Bro. Leland Hirschey and Emil and Virginia Panowicz (Northville, MI).

Chris and Sue Virkler and Emma have welcomed their first son and brother, Michael Clyde, who was born January 13. Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler and John and Katherine VanNest.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Austa Einbeck as her nephew, Malcolm Hirschey, was called from this life. Services were held January 31 by Bro. Duane Farney and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler.

Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville) were with us February 6 and 7. A covered dish meal and church service were held Saturday evening. We want to thank them for their love and concern for us and the kind words of instruction given through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit working through these brothers.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine!"
Titus 2:1

Once again the prayer of our congregation have been heard and another brother has been called to serve in the ministry. We are thankful that Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. is willing to answer this call and accept the important responsibility of serving God as a minister of the gospel. May each of us be given sufficient grace to listen to the Word and give obedience to it as it is spoken by faithful brothers. As these added duties have been given to Bro. Floyd may each of us remember Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda

and their family in our prayers each day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Betty Herzig who is unable to be with us and is confined to her home with afflictions of the body. May God give her grace for each day. We are glad that Sis. Betty Virkler has been able to assemble with us again. She was at home several weeks while she recovered from pneumonia.

Thank You - We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone from far and near for all their kind expressions of love and sympathy to us in the loss of our beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Family of Bro. Lelan Hirschey

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Easter is approaching and we commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus, our High Priest, completed seven sprinklings of blood as referred to in Leviticus 4:6: "The priest . . . sprinkle of the blood seven times."

1. His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.

2. His head was smitten with a reed in the high priest's palace. Matthew 27:30

3. His body was beaten with stripes, so he could set our bodies free, for He ". . . bare our sickness," Matthew 8:17; and with His "stripes we were healed." (I Peter 2:24)

4. His hair was plucked off His cheeks. (Isaiah 50:6)

5. His head had a crown of thorns, so He can set us free from a reprobate mind, as He can give us peace and "the mind of Christ." (I Corinthians 2:16)

6. His hands and feet were pierced, so He can set us free from our trespasses, and use our hands and feet for service.

7. His side was pierced, so He could set us free from sins. He was rejected, so we can be ". . . accepted in the beloved." (Ephesians 1:6)

We rejoice with our new converts: Sherri Bako (daughter of Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie) and Tammy Bako (twin sister of Sis. Amy Bako who was baptized (daughter of Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako).

Sis. Joyce Schamback has been

elected to be on our World Relief sewing committee as my term has expired. I wanted to express thanks to our group for a wonderful job.

Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa Palitto became a new mother and dad with the birth of a baby girl they named Brianna Joy. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto and Boyd and Barbara Acker of Rittman.

Sis. Juliet Graf was released from the hospital, and our prayers are with here.

We were happy to have Bro. Mark Masters and Elder Bros. Nate Steffen and Henry Dotterer visit us and minister to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

We thank our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and their families for worshipping with us. May God encourage and bless them in their labors in the ministry.

Our annual business meeting was held January 24. Those receiving new responsibilities are as follows: Sis. Jenny Banks, Bro. Bill Sauder and Sis. Becky Sauder (Sunday school), Bro. Ted Orsick (trustee and usher) and Sis. Julie Grimm (kitchen committee).

Congratulations and wishes for God's blessings are extended to Paxton Williams (Fred and Sue) and Denise Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) as they exchanged wedding vows January 30. May they seek God's wisdom and guidance as they begin their life together.

Our condolences are extended to Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks and their family on the death of their dear father and grandfather, Bro. Richard Banks (Mansfield, OH). May they look to the Lord for comfort in this time.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalms 32:8). What a comfort these words must be as our elder brothers gather from time to time to seek

God's counsel in shepherding the flocks. We were indeed privileged to host the mid-winter elder conference. Despite anxious moments beforehand when rather severe winter weather was predicted, we were so thankful that 56 active and retired elders and many wives arrived and later returned home safely. The lovely display of ice-covered landscape helped to balance out the frigid temperatures and slippery roads. As we served the leaders in various capacities to make their stay more comfortable, we couldn't help but notice their humble, sincere, and appreciative natures. Our respect and love for these highly esteemed brethren were deepened during this conference. We pray God's rich blessings and sincerely thank the elders and their wives for all they do, both seen and unseen, to maintain a righteous Church for the present and future generations. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Arthur Nohl (Morris, MN) for their kind words of exhortation during Tuesday evening church services.

Our elderly Sis. Julia Hale, who spends most of the winter with her husband Maburn in their Florida home, underwent extensive brain surgery to remove a large tumor.

Our prayers are with her and her family as she has a long recovery time ahead of her.

Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy) also spent a few days in the hospital in preparation for kidney dialysis. This dear family also needs our prayers as Bro. Gus awaits a kidney transplant possibly in the near future.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

We reaped many blessings from the mid-winter conference being held in Junction during February. Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) gathered with us Friday, February 12 for services. What a blessing to listed to brothers who are willing to be used by the Spirit of the Lord. May God richly bless all of the

brothers and their families for the many hours of service.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) also ministered the word during the month. May God richly bless him and his family.

Little Isaac Curtis joined the family of Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager. He was welcomed home by brothers: David, Daniel, and Jesse, and sister, Alisha. Grandparents are Bill Sr. and Sis. Elsie Rager and Bro. Viola Stoller (Wolcott, IN).

During the past month, we have had several in need of hospital care. They include Sis. June Rager (Bro. Roy), Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim), Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rodney and Sis. LeAnn), Megan Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay), Bro. Louis Stoller (Sis. Mildred), and Daniel Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise). May God continue to grant healing blessings to these brethren.

Bro. Merrill and Sis. Dolly Laukhuf gathered with their friends and family to commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary. May they feel God's richest blessings on their lives as He has blessed them in the past.

Sis. Donna Teubel (Eureka, IL) Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma, Pulaski, IA), has felt God's direction to move to Fort Wayne, IN; and has sought employment there. We surely welcome Donna into our congregation.

During the month of February, we have changed the interior of our church. We have re-carpeted our sanctuary and have installed padded benches. We are also adding an elevator in the southeast corner of the church building.

We failed to report the wedding announcement of Sis. Marsha Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva) to Bro. Steve Scheitlin (Bro. Al and Sis. Joan) from Elgin, IL. May they feel God's richest blessings in their lives together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Bro. Richard Banks closed his eyes in death February 10. Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to his widow, Sis. Mabel and their children, Bro. Larry Banks (Columbus); Sis. Jan Moser

(Bluffton); Sis. Sheli Fairchild, Jim Banks and Bill Banks (Mansfield); 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren will sorely miss their grandpa. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still water. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:1-3)

Sis. Ruth Weiss and Sis. Dorothy Durkin have both been hospitalized for surgery. We are thankful they have both been able to assemble with us. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works." (Psalm 73:28) Bro. Pete Baltic has stepped down from the pulpit for the time being due to health reasons.

Leonard and Renee Dolce have a daughter, Olivia, born February 6. Sarah is happy to have a little sister to love and play with.

OHIO, RITTMAN Marsha Hartzler Charlene Winkler

On January 19, Tim and Kim Hanzie, along with their children Andrew, Megan, and Molly, welcomed Abby Christine. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hanzie, and Glenn and Sis. Ella Miller.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Lorie Riegenbach are the happy parents of another son, Jacob Robert. Oldest brother, Joshua, welcomes his new brother, along with sisters Crystal, Cymbal, and Charity. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riegenbach and Boyd and Barbara Acker.

Mark Alan joined the family of Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty February 14. Older sister, Jolene, and grandparents, Sis. Ruth Hilty and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario), rejoice with the new addition.

We neglected to announce the arrival of Alexandria Nicole, born September 18, 1992, to Bob and

Kristie Moore. Happy grandparents are Randy and Sis. Beverly Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Derhammer. We pray that the Lord will be near each family as they continue to raise their children.

We are thankful to have two dear friends turn to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with Jody Moore (Randy and Sis. Beverly) and Lisa Riegenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen) as they begin their new walk of life.

On February 13, Keith Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma) and Peggy Emick (Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilson) were united in marriage.

Randy Saylor (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma) and Deborah Snodgrass (Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik) were married February 20. We wish God's blessings and guidance to both couples.

Those who have been ill and in the hospital are: Sis. Helen Babin (Bro. Emanuel), Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Joseph Hartzler (Sis. Marian), Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Cheri), Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma), Sis. Vicki Pelfrey, Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph), Bro. Andy Winkler (Sis. Mary Jane), and Glenn Winkler (Mary Jane). We need to remember these dear ones in prayer.

We want to thank Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for assembling with us and ministering to us.

We were privileged to gather February 6 to hear the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer in this important work. The Zion's Harp #144 beautifully reminds us to be receptive hearers. "Teach us, Lord, that we may be filled with Thy true meekness. We would humbly follow Thee, striving for Thy likeness. Fill our hearts with this desire; may we godliness acquire, like Thee, pure and righteous."

OHIO, SARDIS Renee Miller

Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were with us to read and exhort on the memoran-

dum of the 1992 brotherhood conference. May God bless them and their wives for making the effort to be with us.

The same special weekend it was announced that Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) has been given peace. We rejoice with her as she looks forward to baptism.

A little girl, Alysha Rose, was born to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Cyndi Figel (Smithville, OH). Excited first-time Sardis grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller

"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and they stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law. . ." (Deuteronomy 31:12) We have begun a new Sunday school season and we trust each student and teacher will feel God's blessing as we continue to learn about Him.

Sis. Martha Riegenbach spent several days in the hospital. We are thankful she can be home again. We pray she will feel the healing touch of the Lord.

We are thankful for brothers who come to minister God's Word. Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sis. Jeanette, Sabetha) helped in the reading of the memorandum which we shared with the Rittman congregation. Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield) and his family also spent a Sunday with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Ron Gray (Carrie) in the death of his grandfather.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi Figel are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Alysha Rose. Her grandparents are Sis. Janette Blough and Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel (Sardis).

OHIO, TOLEDO Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We recently were reminded of our responsibilities in the Lord as the memorandum was shared with

us. We appreciated the willing service of our Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) on this occasion.

Recent surgical patients were Bro. Howard Harmon (Sis. Colette) and Sis. Betty Fetter (Bro. Richard). We are thankful that they have felt God's healing hand and are recovering well.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Elizabeth Klopfenstein

Something beautiful; something good;
All my confusion He understood;
All I had to offer Him was
brokenness and strife,
But He made something beautiful
of my life.

W. Gaither

This past Valentine's Day, a five-year old girl showed her grandparents and cousin a lovely box she had made. She cut a slit in the top so she could drop her cards in, and she pasted some lace and some lovely red hearts on the sides. She explained that all it was to begin with was a plain box, but she had made it into a beautiful Valentine box. Just as this dear child diligently worked to create her special box, our loving Lord works in the hearts of men to bring meaning to loves that are black from sin.

Saturday evening, February 6, we were able to learn how God created "something beautiful" in the lives of Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa Gallup. We are so thankful that they felt led by Him to attend our church and again welcome them with open arms into God's family. After the testimonies were given, our Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MI) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), read the memorandum. The next day we were privileged to witness the baptisms of Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa, and later in the evening we were served holy communion. It was truly a joyful and blessed occasion, and we are so thankful that Bro. Art and Sis. Sandy and Bro. John and Sis. Lois could be with us. There were many Silverton brethren present as well, along with

loved ones from Altadena where Bro. Mark and Sis. Louisa previously attended church, including Bro. Chris Cisneros, Bro. Bob Crockett, Bro. David Klotzle, and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle. It was so wonderful to see all our benches filled!

The following Sunday we were blessed to have Bro. Harold and Sis. Mildred Hodel (Eureka, IL) with us. We are so thankful for all our visitors and invite you to return!

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rebecca Gudeman
Peggy Schulz

Greetings! May His grace and peace be with us all. Many smiles appeared in the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn as Kenton, Brianna, Laura, Darwin, Trenton and Nelson welcomed little Troy Thomas. This past month we were richly blessed by a visit from our dear Elder Bro. Art Nohl and his wife, Sis. Sandy. May the Lord ever grant grace and strength to our dear elders as they lead the flock.

Our thoughts and prayer are with Bro. Richard Kuenzi (Sis. Rosalee) as he recovers from his recent surgery. May God's healing power allow him to assemble with us soon.

Sunday, February 21, was a farewell singing for our dear Sis. Brenda Knobloch. She has been led of the Lord to return to the Lester, IA, congregation. We will truly have an empty spot in our assembly, but we know that our great loss will be their great gain. We are thankful that thoughts and prayers are not hindered by the miles that now separate us.

Elections were held recently. Bro. Jim Dietrich was elected to fill the new position of Sunday school teacher for grades 5 and 6. Sis. Tresa Kuenzi was chosen to complete Sis. Brenda's unexpired term for the 4-7 year old class. Bro. Jack Kuenzi will be our new usher in the interim until we have a new edifice to worship in. We pray the Lord will be with these dear ones and bless their efforts in serving the Lord in these new duties.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

In heav'n there will no parting be,
And tears have there no place.
There we'll rejoice with jubilee,
Immersed in love as in a sea
Before God's holy face. Before God's
holy face.

Hymns of Zion #214

We extend our sympathies to Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and their family in the loss of Sis. Nancy's mother Sis. Rose Sauder, who passed away January 15, at the age of 90, at the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home. Sis. Rose is also survived by two sons, another daughter, 16 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for assisting Bro. Ed January 23, in reading the conference memorandum. We are thankful for the efforts of our Elder Brothers. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20

God's presence was certainly felt again this month as Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL congregation) ministered. His family and a few others from Bloomington attended to worship also. May God's spirit continue to be with all of you, and may he bless and keep you in his care.

Come visit us in Nashville. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Enid Miller (615) 384-1081, or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

May each of us strive to journey onward toward heaven with faith, hope, and love in our hearts.

When dawn announces each new
day,
Rejoice in what's ahead.

And for each opportunity
To trust who God has said.

Sper

TEXAS, HOUSTON
Sandy Darlington

On a warm, sunny January 31, our monthly service was held at the Holiday Inn. We are thankful the Lord provided two ministers that day. Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and his wife, Sis. Esther and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and his wife, Sis. Ethel. How wonderful it makes us feel when others take extra effort to plan vacations and business trips around our church schedules and join us. You are so appreciated!

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.

We welcome Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser and their two children to the Dallas, TX, area. We pray that they are adjusting to their new home. Please contact Greg and Sis. Christine for information regarding services in Dallas. They can be reached at 5600 Charleston Dr., Frisco, TX 75034. (214) 335-0105.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Our visiting ministers and their wives that visited us this past month were: Bro. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), Bro. Carrol Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. James Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Phyllis, Rockville, CT), Bro. John Bollier (Sis. Velma, Leo, IN) and our Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We want to thank the brothers for bringing us God's Word.

We are thankful for all the willing help we had for our annual church cleaning day this month. A special thanks to our winter visitors.

At our annual business meeting this month Bro. David Schlatter was elected to replace Bro. Willis Sauder as trustee. Bro. Willis Sauder and his wife, Sis. Pauline, were elected to be on the food committee to replace Bro. Emil Strahm and his wife, Sis. Grace.

SILVER THREADS

HIS NAME IS JESUS

Come now ye children and gather
around,
List to the story of old where is
found;
Message of Peace and Goodwill to
all men,
told thru the ages again and again.

Shepherds were watching their
sheep in the night,
Stars in the sky over Bethlehem
bright;
Then came the Angels their voices
did ring,
Telling the birth of a wonderful
King!

Joseph and Mary with manger of
hay,
Made there a cradle for Baby to
lay;
Born was Christ Child His life
would begin,
There in a stable alongside the Inn.

Soon came the Wise Men from
country afar,
Led by the light of a wonderful star;
Bringing rich gifts for this Child
who was King,
Wonderful Counselor, peace He
does bring!

Down through the ages this story's
been told,
Story of Love, it will never grow
old;
Joy to the world for this glorious
night,
Come all ye faithful sing out with
delight!

His name is Jesus! Let everyone
sing!
Lord and Redeemer, our Master
and King!

Son of the Father, from heaven
above!
Saviour, Messiah! 'Tis God's gift
of Love

Bro. Rodney Stoller

**THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS
ON THE CROSS**

Out onto Calv'ry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

How great the pains, O Lord,
Afflict Thee on this day;
"My God, my God," He calls,
"Forsake Me not, I pray."

No vengeance fills His heart;
For them I hear Him plead;
"They know not what they do;
Forgive them for this deed."

Now Mary weeps for Him;
In love He soothes her lot;
"See, mother, thine own son!"
"Thou friend, forsake her not!"

The thief in penitence
Is pardoned ere he dies:
"Today shalt thou yet be,
With Me in Paradise."

"Thirst," He cries in pain,
For there is no distress,
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,
Endured not at His death.

He bows His head and cries,
" 'Tis finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul."
Life's victory is won.

Zion's Harp #89

FOLLOW ME!

In earth's anguish here I will not
murmur,
Neither seek nor crave a crown of
honor,
When my Lord a crown of thorns
did wear.
Will not seek the flow'ry path of
roses,
When our holy Lord and Saviour,
Jesus,
There on Calvary the cross did
bear.

Give me, Lord, for this life's
journey only
Truth to guide me through this
world so lonely
And Thy Spirit for to lead the
way.
Give a heart that willingly will
follow
On the path so steep and straight
and narrow
Where Thy holy feet once led the
way.

In the true faith let me never tire;
And the fruit of faith, the holy fire,
Love untarnished, Lord, O give to
me.
Without it I cannot forward
journey;
Love alone can lead to love
eternal;
Only love leads through this
world to Thee.

Friendly was to me Thine
invitation,
Dearest Lord! So, in my humble
station
Heavenward my steps shall e'er
proceed;
Therefore lend unto Thy lowly
servant
From above Thy grace and love so
fervent;
Strengthen and direct my weary
feet.

Let a clear and hopeful view be
given
Unto me into Thy blissful heaven,
When on earth no rest from toil I
find.
In this vale of anguish and
affliction
Give me constant peace and pure
affection
And a trusting, heaven-gladdened
mind.
Yea, upon this earth I am a
stranger,
Burdened with a cross and many
dangers,
Am a pilgrim, poor and
unbeknown.
Be the cross my pilgrim journey's
token
Till my earthly house at last be
broken,
And I reach that dear and
heav'nly home.

Zion's Harp #90

GOD SAID, "I WILL"

I will bless thee – Genesis 12:2
I will not fail thee – Joshua 1:5
I will heal thee – II Kings 20:5
I will guide thee – Psalm 32:8

I will instruct thee – Psalm 32:8
I will teach thee – Psalm 32:8
I will deliver thee – Psalm 50:15
I will satisfy – Psalm 132:15

I will help thee – Isaiah 41:10
I will strengthen thee –
Isaiah 41:10
I will uphold thee – Isaiah 41:10
I will hold thine hand –
Isaiah 42:6

I will not forget thee – Isaiah 49:15
I will comfort thee – Isaiah 66:13
I will forgive – Jeremiah 31:34
I will restore – Jeremiah 30:17

I will be your God – Ezekiel 36:28
I will put my Spirit within you –
Ezekiel 36:27
I will save you – Ezekiel 36:29
I will love him – John 14:21

I will manifest myself – John 14:21
I will come again – John 14:3
I will sup with him –
Revelation 3:20
I will give thee a crown of life –
Revelation 2:18

"For all the promises of God in
Him are yea, and in him Amen,
unto the glory of God by us."
II Corinthians 1:20

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

after all He had done for them. He brought them out of Egypt . . . He took them through to the Promised Land . . . He blest them in so many ways. Really, if they would have been happy and content, they would have had nothing to complain about.

But out of the thousands that came out of Egypt, how many got to go to the Promised Land that were over twenty years old? Two. Is it because God didn't do His part? Dear ones, I'm sure you and I feel this morning that God is interested in doing everything He can possibly do because He wants to bless us. He wants us to enjoy an abun-

dant life. We have it before us.

When we go back here to the writings of Peter, now He is talking to us today. Now could God have done something more than He did for Israel? Yes. What was it? It was giving His Son, Jesus Christ. He hadn't given His Son at that time.

Some people ask me, "What is going to happen to all those people that have lived in the old law? They really didn't have the opportunity that we have." "Well," I said, "God is going to be fair. I don't think we have to worry about any of those people that lived before Christ. I firmly believe that those who were looking forward to the Messiah and to the time when Someone was going to come and pay that great price there upon the cross, which was promised back even in the Garden of Eden, that someone was going to come and He was going to crush the serpent's head. (Genesis 3:15) For those people that looked forward to that Messiah coming, I believe the blood of Christ is going to apply to them also."

Peter wrote in one of his chapters, where he said that when Christ was in the tomb that he went and spoke to the spirits in the lower parts of the earth. (I Peter 3:19) I think all of those souls knew that now was the time that their souls could be redeemed because they looked for the Messiah.

God could not have been any fairer; and I know He is going to be fair with everyone of us. Now here we are today, dear ones, gathered together from the east, from the west, from the north and from the south and we are here worshipping this same God.

God has created us. He has given unto us a living soul, and probably, looking over this group of people, like you say, most of us have made the born-again experience.

We know what it is to be children of God. We know what it is to know what God meant when He said, "This is my beloved Son; hear Him." Mark 9:7, because . . .

. . . He told us to repent

. . . He told us to be converted

. . . He told us that we could be a new creature

... He told us that His blood is going to be sufficient for all of our sins.

Then to think that through repentance and giving our heart to the Lord, we could make this wonderful experience! Isn't it true? This is why our hearts are so filled with love this morning for each other and for God Himself because He made it known to us.

I often think, I could have been born in some foreign land . . . in India . . . in China . . . someplace where they don't even have this true religion. There are many people today that don't even know what the real truth is.

But God made it possible that you and I could be born in a Christian community and many of us in Christian homes and taken to a church like we have here this morning where we believe the truth is going to be taught and has been taught. We believe that it will be a haven that if anybody comes in from the outside, even though they haven't ever been here before (and sometimes they do this if they know there is a church here and say, "I like to worship somewhere,") they are going to hear this message: ". . . that God hath no pleasure in the death of a sinner." (Ezekiel 33:11)

He wants us to come out from the sinful life. He wants us to come and surrender our life to Him so that He can become one with us. We should feel this this morning: Christ within us and we with Him!

That is what, I believe, the Apostle Peter meant here when he said, "Beloved . . ." he is talking to those he loved . . . those that have been redeemed! He said, "I want to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." (II Peter 3:1) Don't we need this from time to time, dear ones, just to get together and sing the beautiful hymns like we sang this morning and then to sit and hear the Word read by someone and see what the Spirit is going to reveal?

It says to "stir up your minds." (II Peter 3:1) Our minds have a lot to do with our attitudes. Sometimes we can become very depressed and cast down. Why? Because we permit it. Because we permit these things to happen. It is in our power

to do different because we have access to a Power that is far greater than anything that is upon this earth - this wonderful gift of grace!

We can become so depressed sometimes that we feel that we have lost the real abundant Christian life. This is not God's plan. We read in Romans: "All things work together for good to them that love God." (Romans 8:28)

This is a beautiful verse, isn't it, when everything is going fine? But when everything is not working out quite like the way we thought, then we become discouraged as we wonder, "Why did this happen to me?"

Just last evening, we were going home after we left church and with all love and kindness, we thought we were going to spend some time with our loved ones. But we got off of one road and got onto another road and when you're not used to these roads, sometimes it is rather confusing. So it took us quite awhile until we got to where we wanted to go. But we finally made it.

But as we were going through this disappointment, we wondered, "Now, why? Why did this have to happen to me tonight?" It was dark and how thankful I was when I could stop someplace and ask someone, "Could you direct us? How can I get back on 202? How can I get back to where I want to be?"

He so kindly said, "I will just lead you there." He did and finally after that, then we did it again. You know, it was so disappointing! We wanted to know, "Why does this all happen to me?" But for some cause or other, there had to be some good to come out of it. And I believe it has.

I think one thing it did, it reminded us how nothing we are and how much we have to depend upon guidance. You see, you drive down the road and what a comforting feeling it is when you can see that you are still on the right road. What a disappointment it is when you see that sign and you just know, "Now this isn't right."

The Word of God is this sign that we have along the way. I just had to think of it, you know. How thankful we can be this morning that we can just look at the sign,

"Are we still on the right way, like it says here?" My eyes don't just fall on the verse right now, but, you know, we just know that we are doing the things that God wants us to do: following the teachings of the prophets and of the apostles. This is our desire.

Isn't it strange through that even with all that God wants to offer to us this morning, that there will be those that will say, "Well, we've heard this so many years. What are you talking about? Why not eat, drink and be merry and enjoy life?"

The Psalmist experienced this one time. He looked out into the world and saw that they didn't have any cares. He just thought that everything was going so beautiful for them, until he went to the house of the God . . . until he heard the Word. Then he said, "I had almost slipped, until I heard what the end result was going to be for them." (Psalm 73)

Why would people want to scoff? Why would people want to make fun of God's Word or think, "Well, it's not going to happen." I think down within everyone of us, there is that real inner feeling that there is a Supreme Being and that we wouldn't be here this morning if it would not have been that God's plan has directed us here.

I had to think also as we were driving over the miles and we saw all the mountains, the valleys and the hills and how this all took place! The beautiful trees and how they are budding at this time . . . beautiful flowers . . . and things that you can see along the way! You know some people who don't get too far away from home, they really don't know how great God's creation is, and how great God really is. But when you go out and start to drive, it just really humbles you. At least, it does me.

When I was coming through the Allegheny mountains, I just felt so humble and so small to think, "Here I am worshipping this God that created all of these things!" Yet there are people who will scoff and will say that what He says in this Word isn't true.

Beloved ones, let us be thankful if we have the love of God in our

hearts and if we want to do that which He wants us to do.

"And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:4)

Yes, there has been a lot of changes since the beginning. But I hope that in the Apostolic Christian Church, the plan of salvation and the gospel message will never change. Yes, I believe that if my grandfather could come back and come to church, I think he would feel at home today with us. But maybe he would be rather surprised about some of the things that maybe are going on in the church. Maybe we have been a little too permissive.

Seems like we always have to try to hold the line and try to be watchful here and try to be watchful there because the world would like to get into the church. This is where we need to come together and to be united in thought and in mind in supporting one another and helping us so that we can preserve this precious faith that we have enjoyed. We would like to have it for our children and our grandchildren.

We know the Lord is coming, because the Bible has prophesied it. So many things have come true. This is one thing that I believe you can go and read in the gospels. There probably isn't any other issue that will talk more about anything than the coming of Christ the second time.

The Lord is going to return. The main thing is: we want to be ready.

Peter tells us that there is a time coming: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (II Peter 3:7) Sometimes this really humbles me and I just feel real sad about this.

When I get up in the morning and I go out and it is so beautiful -- the sun is shining and feel just like there isn't anything impossible. Did you ever feel that way? You just feel great. Then you think, "Now the Lord is going to have to destroy all of this someday . . . all the beau-

tiful trees, flowers, beautiful homes and all the beautiful buildings. All of this is going to have to be destroyed someday. Why? Because of sin and because of unbelief. That is sad, isn't it?

The only thing believers have got to look forward to is this. You know, God has promised that there will be "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:13) Then we look forward to this. What a joy! What a joy!

To look forward to the time when we can leave this earth and be a part of that new heaven and new earth. I'm sure that everyone that is here is looking forward to being in that place where there is going to be peace, joy, happiness and there will be no conflict with the enemy of our soul. The devil is not going to be there. It's just going to be a beautiful, beautiful time of eternity!

How long is it? I don't think anybody can say. Sometimes we use little illustrations. Like if a bird would go to the ocean and take a drink of water once a year, we know that sometime down in the future, the ocean would be dry. But it would take a long time, wouldn't it? As we look out into the waters and see how much water is there, we would think it would be forever. But eventually it would end. But then to think that eternity is still beginning. It's that much longer.

We are going to spend eternity somewhere: in that beautiful city and joy of delight or it is going to be that outer darkness where there is going to be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Beloved ones, I hope this really stirs our hearts and minds this morning because there are many souls that need to be saved.

We heard last evening about the wonderful illustration how the disciples fished all night and didn't catch anything. Then when they followed the Lord's direction and He blessed their labors, then it wasn't very long until they gathered in the fish.

How many times have you and I experienced this, that with the Lord's blessings with what we do, it just means so much. Sometimes we can struggle and we can work

and we can try and we just don't accomplish much.

So let's stay close to the Lord. Let's begin each day . . . each morning by saying, "Lord, direct me again today. What do you want me to do? Is this what You really want me to do?" Be available.

I told this to a sister one time (I guess I brought it out in the message on a Wednesday night) when she thought she didn't have much to do in the service of the Lord and she was wondering about spending her time. When I brought this out in the message, I said, "Make yourself available. Pray to the Lord that you are available," and I said, "It will surprise you how much He will bring to you."

She said, "You know, it really worked. It wasn't long and I was having things to do that I wasn't expecting." That's how the Lord works. He wants us to be available. He wants us to be willing.

First of all, we need to repent, to be converted, to come into the real fellowship with the Lord and He becomes a part of our life. Then the Holy Spirit comes into our souls and directs us. Sometimes we might not just feel like the Holy Spirit is there; but the Holy Spirit won't leave us right away even though our feelings might not be there. But if you go back into sin, the Holy Spirit will have to leave.

One time, I had a sister say, "I have trouble believing that I am going to be saved." I said, "Why? Have you sinned?" She said, "No, not really. I'm not perfect, but I did not willfully sin." I said, "Don't you believe God's Word?" She said, "Yes." I said, "Don't you believe when the Lord said, '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 . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also?' (John 14:2,3). Don't you believe that?" "Yes, I believe that." "Then," I said, "why won't you be saved?" "I guess I'll be saved!" she said. I said, "Sure."

Sometimes feelings have to come back and be changed by the Word of God. We are so thankful that we have the Word.

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SERMON BY RETIRED ELDER BRO. ORVILLE RINGGER OF BLUFFTON, IN CONGREGATION

Isaiah 5:1-12 and II Peter 3

Beloved ones, I hope this morning that we can all think that God is really looking upon us . . . that He is in heaven . . . that His Spirit is here upon the earth . . . and that He is just as interested in us today, or perhaps even more so, than He was in the times when the prophet Isaiah looked to Him.

The few verses that we read together in the prophet Isaiah, I believe the Lord, in this chapter, was asking the question, "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?" (Isaiah 5:4) That was quite a question, wasn't it? When I read that verse this morning again, I had to think, is there anything more that God could have done at that time for the people of Israel, His followers?

Of course, we need to go back sometimes to think how patiently God has worked with His former people. We can go back to the time of Noah, when there was hardly a righteous man found.

What is a righteous man? I think a righteous man is, in God's sight, someone that puts his trust in God and is willing and tries each day to do what He wants him to do. He wants to be faithful . . . he wants to be obedient. This is a righteous man. He may not always accom-

plish it but this is a righteous man, in God's sight. Someone who has that inner, down deep feeling, "I want to do what God wants me to do."

Noah was that man and God used him to build that ark and saved his family because of his righteousness. Then after the earth was destroyed by water and the time came when the ark was opened, they started over to a complete new beginning again.

I have to think of how many times God worked with His former people in order that He could get people to worship Him. Why is it? Dear ones, we could ask this question this morning again, "Why is it so difficult for people to want to worship a loving Father in heaven . . . a loving God . . . Someone who is interested in blessing us?"

I think we can read after Noah came out of the ark that God looked forward to blessing those people, if they would do certain things. He had a few commandments that He asked them to keep. But isn't it strange, the enemy of our soul is traveling to and fro here upon the earth? He is always out to get people to fall away from God, to fall back upon their own strength, upon their own ability, upon their own minds in thinking that, "This is the way it ought to be; this is the way I see it."

We have a Scripture passage that says, "There is a way that seems right to man but the end thereof is death." (Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 16:25) This will never change. If we are going to listen to man, we can be mistaken.

I'm afraid, dear ones, today that there are too many people who are listening to men rather than to the Word. They form their own opinions. They have a third party that tells them what to do. There is a lot of people who are going to be misled. They have been misled and are being misled even today because they are not going back to the Word.

Let's just think about the children of Israel. When God spoke with Isaiah there, He said, "What more could I have done?" He had a little illustration. He said He had a nice tract of ground and He took out all the stones. He built a hedge around it and I can believe that God planted the choicest of grapes.

You know how beautiful it is to go into a grape arbor and see those large clusters of grapes. He provided everything for them. Then when they came to the time of the harvest, those grapes were sour instead of the sweet grapes they would have liked to have used. God was disappointed.

I think this is just a symbol of what God saw in those people, even
(Continued on Page 37)