



"But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher,"

John 20:11

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die . . ."

Luke 23:33

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HE IS RISEN

He is risen . . .

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

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

But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulcher; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Mark 16:1-8, 14



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

THE OTHER SIDE OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Mistaken identity is sometimes a problem. I have called people by the wrong name, thinking they were someone other than whom they really are. In such a case, I apologize and smile and let it go at that.

After the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the grave, Mary met Him but didn't recognize Him. In John 20:15 we read, "She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him . . ."

Mary was looking for the body of Jesus but didn't expect to find Him up and moving around. She thought He was the gardener but there was quite a difference between Jesus and the gardener. The difference is that Jesus is the Son of God.

With different people claiming to be Jesus Christ, we should identify the true Son of God by the resurrection. This is the basis for our claim that He is the Son of God, our Saviour. The Apostle Paul

wrote, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (I Corinthians 15:14)

The validity of our faith and our assurance of salvation hinges on the resurrection, yet we cannot prove it. We do not have a record of His fingerprints before His death to be compared with His fingerprints taken after His resurrection. We must by faith accept the testimony of those who saw Him after His resurrection, as recorded in the Scriptures. He appeared to a large number of people who positively identified Him as the Christ, not the gardener. "After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once." (I Corinthians 15:6)

We need to identify our Saviour. He's not the gardener. I suggest that you will know Him by the nail prints in His hands, and also by the fact that He can go through a door without opening it.

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

It has been seven months since the devastating hurricane hit South Florida and there is still much work to be done.

Since our first request for volunteers, we have had 275 respond to the need. We want to encourage more people to come and help for a week or longer, during the summer months and further into the year.

We have the facilities to house and feed the work teams. Those that have volunteered expressed that it was a rewarding experience, with 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).

OUR THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE (I)

In all aspects of life we have a heritage, whether it be family, nation, state or village. The same is true regarding matters of faith. The psalmist wrote: "For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name" (Psa. 61:5). This editorial and the following will attempt to trace the major historical roots of our spiritual heritage.

The Apostolic Christian Church has never given much credence to theology or theologians. It has felt that theological influence from seminaries and formal theological training are more likely to undermine than to build up a biblical faith. With this attitude, the church has promoted the concept of a simple and enduring faith that is patterned after a literal interpretation of the Word. Like any group its beliefs were at least partially shaped by historical forces. In acknowledging this it must be understood, however, that the overwhelming influential forces on our forefathers were the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

The Bible itself best represents the "theology" and/or doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church. In fact, very little has been written by Apostolic Christians over the years to give specific definitions to what the Bible says. Even though Samuel H. Froehlich (who started our church in Switzerland) published several books, his writings were intended to defend the faith against the falsehoods of his time. It was for the same purpose that our church published the booklet "Winds of Doctrine" several years ago. The church has felt that Spirit-inspired preaching Sunday after Sunday has been the most effective method for expounding upon the Word of God.

In Christianity's earliest years the church was noted for its deep devotion to the existing Scriptures and for its purity of life. The believers' willingness to sacrifice all (even life itself) served as a marvelous witness for what early followers of Christ believed. By the 4th century, however,

when the emperor Constantine formally recognized the Christian faith, and the church and state became one entity, the door was opened for a religious apostasy that has continued until our time.

While many misrepresentations of Christianity evolved over the centuries, a "true" remnant also existed, although in many instances, it was mostly unnoticed. Such groups became known historically as the "free church" consisting of truly converted people who held to the literal interpretation of the Bible's teachings. Without fanfare and void of the pomp and extravagance of officialdom, and without the approval of the state churches, these groups walked on the narrow pathways of Christ, often at great peril to life and limb. Reflecting holiness and a clear difference between the church and the world, they were distinguished by their evident piety and devotion to the Lord.

By 1517, the doctrinal errors and worldly life-style of the state churches in Europe resulted in the protestant reformation. People fled the state church in order to establish a new church more in line with the Holy Scriptures. Yet, reform leaders, both in Germany and Switzerland, still clung to various biblical contradictions such as infant baptism and bearing arms in war.

In 1525, more serious reformers broke off from the initial reformers (such as Luther in Germany and Zwingli in Switzerland) and strove to re-establish a true church based solely on the Bible. They also initiated the idea of separation of church and state, a radical precept at that time. They taught that the Word alone, rather than the writings of men and a preponderant ecclesiastical tradition, was to be the final authority of faith and life. The Latin term *sola scriptura* (scriptures alone) was the major theme of these sincere believers who became known as Anabaptists. This term means "re-baptizers": that is, they had been baptized as infants in the state

church, and then later were re-baptized as adults in the newly-founded Anabaptist group. This baptism was based on their faith in Christ and a commitment to newness of life in Him.

Persecution of the Anabaptists by the state church was brutal and without mercy. Thousands died as martyrs. In 1527, a gathering of Anabaptists in Schleitheim, Switzerland drew up seven articles of faith that dealt with (1) adult baptism (2) holy communion (3) congregational discipline (4) separation from the world (5) duties of elders and shepherds (6) non-resistance, and (7) oath-taking. This became known historically as the Schleitheim Confession. The idea of a pure body of converted believers in mutual submission to Christ and to one another was revived by the Anabaptists. Separation from worldliness and a biblical sense of nonconformity to the world's seductive influences were themes of their spiritual outlook. These "theological" forces influenced our brethren to some degree. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:17-18).

In the 1830's God used Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich, a young man in his twenties and a former seminarian in Switzerland, to begin preaching the literal interpretation of the gospel. A hunger for the truth was profound at that time and a church movement, based solely on the Scriptures, was set in motion. In 35 years approximately 110 congregations were formed in a number of European countries. This faith has since spread to more than fifteen nations. The next editorial will continue the discussion of the work of the Holy Spirit in the early years of our church as well as the basis for the remarkable stability and simplicity it has retained up until this time.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In this final article of the series, we will focus on the functional areas of the home. We will look at their purpose relative to the needs of the residents, and requirements and standards that are used to judge our success. The structure of the services can be considered to

be in three basic categories. They are administration, Direct Care Services and Support Services. It is difficult to separate these into unique, defined areas because each function complements the others, and in fact, is dependent on the others' involvement to succeed in providing for the unique needs of individual residents.

Within the Direct Care Services

area we find six departments, each made up of a department head and various levels of support personnel. These areas are the most obvious to the residents as they work with each one on a long term and daily basis, accessing the needs, making plans and implementing various programs and activities to improve the "quality of life" on an individual basis.

In the Program Department there are six "QMRP's" or program managers who accept the responsibility to plan, coordinate and record progress of the total activity for the next 12 months for each of the residents. They find themselves at the focal point of an interdisciplinary team made up of training, day programs, jobs, counseling, speech therapy and issues involving the family of the residents. The implementation of these plans may involve any or all of the other functions on a daily basis or on an "as needed" basis.

The Nursing Department is by far the largest and is made up of approximately 80 RN's, LPN's and resident aides. Although there is the typical medically related activity carried out by the nurses at the direction of the resident's doctor, the aides are in more frequent contact and identify more closely with each resident. Aides are oriented on site by senior staff. The Home gives each new aide 120 hours of state approved training in the classroom and on the job. Each aide has

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First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 —	13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 —	10,812
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Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 —	25,969
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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

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	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
March 1993 —	3657	28,622

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
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GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1993
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 7, 1993

about eight residents and is responsible for helping them with and teaching them new skills in all basic health and living needs such as baths/showers, hair combing, dressing, feeding, leisure and special mobility requirements. Helping residents achieve improvement and greater independence in these basic living skills are part of the "program" for which the aids are responsible. This interaction improves their quality of life. Nursing staff is present around the clock, however, the day starts at 5:30 a.m. with residents beginning to arise at 6:00 a.m. for baths and breakfast before beginning their day's activities. Volunteers help lighten the load on the aides by helping with games, bike rides and ball games in the evenings.

The remainder of the Direct Care Services is made up of three specialty areas. These contribute to major improvements and enhancements of ability related to the quality of life of each resident. "Physical Therapy" and "Occupational Therapy" provides services to approximately 45 residents. These sessions take place three to four times per week for about an hour and are directed by a doctor. The second area is "Day Program," which residents attend on weekdays. For those residents who cannot attend a program away from the Home, there is a day program certified to be provided in the Home. It is aimed at providing training and development for about 25 residents. "Activities" deals with the things that are done during evening and weekends to constructively use time for entertainment and socializing in the community and in the Home. Volunteers help with the outings such as swimming and are especially appreciated on weekends.

The third category is Support Services which provides the things that are basic to running any home and include seven departments. They are dietary, maintenance, transportation, laundry, housekeeping and office.

The Dietary Department serves three meals a day plus an evening snack to the over 100 residents and approximately 70 staff members.

The day begins at 5:15 a.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m. for the staff of eight. Meal planning is special in that 80 residents have diet and calorie restrictions as part of their program. At meal times aides provide feeding assistance to those who require some extra help. Some residents also require tailor-made cups, spoons, non-skid mats and plate guards that are devised by the Occupation Therapy Department. Sanitation is important in the kitchen and the Home must always be prepared to pass an inspection by the Department of Public Health. The kitchen is the recipient of frequent volunteer effort who, among other things, prepare the Sunday evening meal each week. During the summer months they also receive fresh produce from the local gardeners and others.

The Maintenance and Transportation Departments are staffed by a small core of five to six people who move to the ever-changing needs as the day progresses and the seasons change. They drive 120 miles each day using one of the three buses or five vans in the morning and evening. They also paint rooms, fix the furnaces, remove snow, etc. the remainder of the day. Laundry is staffed by six people on a full-time basis to make sure there is a continual supply of clean bedding and towels as well as doing the personal laundry for the residents. Housekeeping maintains the residents' rooms by dusting, sweeping and all that is required to make 54 resident rooms and 50 bathrooms liveable. In these areas volunteer help is appreciated to do bus driving for church, lawn mowing, painting and etc.

Finally, the Office Department is staffed by two full-time people and various part-time assistance to maintain the records of the Home as well as maintain records for each resident. They also prepare the payroll each week for the 177 employees.

Most of the above is focused on the main facility of ACHH, however, similar functions exist for the smaller facility (Oakwood Estate) which is "home" for 16 residents who are able to provide many of their own needs. For instance, they

are responsible for cleaning their own rooms as well as accept certain kitchen duties, yard work and gardening chores. They also enjoy a much expanded "activities" program with trips into the community to attend events like travelogue presentations, shopping, monthly eat-outs and occasional trips to the local health club. Even though many of the needs are similar to those described earlier, the staff, day programs and activities are separate from the large facility and focused on the needs of the more capable residents who live there.

It is event that even though there are many departments and functions at the Home, they are supportive of each other and work to a common goal which is to make it "home" for each resident.

Birthdays for May for ACHH (2125 Veterans Road) are: Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stichling (13), Steve Slagel (13), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19) and Marlene Moser (22). For Oakwood (2213 Veterans Road): Herbert Stieglitz (11). At 540 N. Main: Jackie Barton (26).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Reinhard

The beautiful sunny weather of the south is finally here, and we are greatly enjoying it after the win-

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We have a great need of volunteers to help out at the Preschool this summer. We will be short staffed and still expect to have a fairly full enrollment. Also there is a need for some painting and repair work. Anyone who would be interested in coming to Athens to give of their time and talents, for any length of time, is encouraged to call Sis. Joan Reinhard or write to Route 11, Box 333, Athens, AL 35611, for more information. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be used in the Lord's fields.

ter storms. We are especially enjoying seeing the refreshing signs of growth around us and the students are studying spring and plants. As we learn about these topics and become aware of the beauty and new birth of the earth, it also reminds us of our third topic this month, which is Easter. This is always a very touching season for the children during their Bible story time. They have heard of the great miracles that Jesus did, and their faith grows quickly to the extent that they do not question that Jesus really is the most wonderful being this world has ever known. Invariably, when we get to the part where Jesus is to die on the cross, one of the students will ask the question, "Why?" Then they all want to know, "Why did Jesus have to die?" As adults we easily can answer that Jesus died to pay the price for our sins so that we can go to heaven some day. That statement, though, quickly brings to mind the thought, "Did He die in vain?" How about for each one of us? Did Jesus' death truly liberate us from the bonds of sin, or have we failed to completely take advantage of the offering He gave?

April 24 is the date of our semi-annual board meeting. We ask for your prayers of wisdom and guidance as our school board makes the necessary decisions to keep our school efficiently doing the work of the Lord.

Volunteers for the Preschool summer classes can call Sis. Joan Reinhard, (205) 233-0591.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home

Bill and Jan Baumgartner

SALT

I was hungry
and you formed a humanities
committee to discuss my hunger.
I was imprisoned
and you crept off quietly to your
chapel to pray for my release.
I was naked
and in your mind you debated the
morality of my appearance.

I was sick
and you knelt and thanked God
for your health.

I was homeless
and you preached to me of the
shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely
and you let me alone to pray for
me.

You seem so holy,
so close to God;
But I am still very hungry,
lonely, cold and still in pain.

Salt. Are we salt? Are we? Salts are compounds of ionic characteristics and behaviors. They form very strong inseparable bonds with some compounds, and also very strongly reject other elements; their behaviour is very predictable and well established. There is no vacillating in their actions or behavior. Their behavior is immutable and in their particular reactions and relationships, there is not even a place for a substitution. "If the salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?"

Or are we satisfied with being merely the salt shaker, simply feeling good about helping to dispense those who we think are the real salt? Or worse, concentrating our efforts and resources on making a very beautiful, crystal, ornate, delicate salt shaker that just sits on the shelf, to look good, but which actually holds the salt separate and apart from that which is to be salted.

In this land of excesses and comforts, in the realm of what is known as 20th century Christianity, we sometimes find ourselves asking God questions of the sort. "Which of these very delicious, delicate seasons might I add to this bountiful feast that I've set before me, that I might enjoy it all the more?" While the truth remains that the work is yet to be done, and the laborers need to leave the table just a little while longer till the end is here, and the real feasting begins. The feast that is, that we're all contributing to, if we are, in fact, laborers in the field, seasoning with salt that has not lost its savour.

I had taken hundreds of pictures of people in different parts of the world over the years, until one time

when I had my camera in the face of a man that was so desperately poor, who had no hope whatsoever if improving his lot, when I realized that I had more money in just the hardware hanging around my neck that this person could ever hope to earn in many years of labor. God doesn't need us to merely document these things and then to pass it on to someone else, perhaps to who we think is the real salt, but the truth cries out that we be doing it ourselves.

And what about the carpeting? Some of the things we think are so necessary for our survival, when we realize that those are, in fact, the very constituents of the salt shaker, however sadly, not to dispense, but merely to contain.

"Pray ye therefore, that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers!"

We celebrated two weddings of Gateway Woods staff by attending a wedding reception for Sis. Joanne (Kaisner) and Bro. Ked Gerber in Bluffton March 7 and the wedding of Sis. Rhonda Stoller and Bro. Scott Gerber March 14 in Latty, OH. Joanne is still working at Gateway Woods part-time, but Rhonda is moving to the Rittman, OH, area. Rhonda's encouraging smile and words will be missed by both the staff and children. Rhonda's family also opened their home to children on holidays. We're sure that God will use Rhonda in new ways where she goes.

We are blessed to have Sis. Nancy Messner as the new office manager and her patient and kind manner is already evident.

We also have two other new faces on campus with Robin joining the West House and Melissa joining the East House. Welcome to Gateway Woods!

Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm have finally returned after a winter spent in Florida. The staff and all the children eagerly welcomed Grandma and Grandpa back to Gateway Woods. Welcome home!

During their absence, several people helped fill in, including Sisters Jean Steffen, Tammy Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Kathy Huthmann

and Karen Meister (Peoria, IL). Also many volunteers have been involved in painting, papering and clean-up in the new addition to the Social Services building. May God bless the volunteers for being willing to step in and help whatever there is a need.

On March 19, Gateway Woods hosted an Appreciation Night for local volunteers who have helped in various ways throughout the year, including everything from haircuts to horseback riding. It was a blessed evening for all, and the children enjoyed singing and presenting skits for the volunteers.

We recently welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors. They are Bros. Ed Graf (Latty, OH) and Justin Koch (Champaign, IL). We trust God will use their talents and insights to be blessings for many. We thank the Lord for the commitment and service of our outgoing board members, Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Eldon Waibel (Forrest, IL) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless them for their time and efforts on behalf of hurting children.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Lisa Huette

For those of us living in the south, a winter storm is indeed a rare occurrence. And yet, on the night of March 12, the Tennessee Valley was hit by one of the strongest winter storms in history. Many people were prepared for this and yet there were those that, in spite of many warnings, did nothing to prepare for the days of being snow-bound ahead. In a way, this winter storm can be compared to the return of Christ. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:2) Let us not get caught asleep and not watching.

We'd like to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We were so privileged to have Sis. Terry Gramm's family here from Gridley, IL, as well as Retta Knobloch's parents from Bloomington, IL.

Our prayers especially go out to

Chuck and Linda Smith as they have suffered much sorrow over the past weeks. Linda's father passed away followed shortly by Chuck's mother. Those who have lost a parent can surely empathize with Chuck and Linda at this time. We'd also like to remember O. C. Hagggenmaker as he has spent some time in the hospital recently.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

Prayer is a golden key, kept bright by constant use, will unlock the treasures of heaven and earth.

The big "storm of the century" has just ravished the eastern part of our country. How comforting to hear an encouraging sermon and ask God to protect others not as fortunate.

We heard encouraging messages from Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Don Miller, Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), as well as our own Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bros. Bill Dotterer and Greg Gramm.

March 14 was the special evening to break bread and take the cup in remembrance of the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Bro. Jon Kokanovich served us holy communion.

Our prayers are with retired Elder Bro. Richard Schubach and Sis. Barbra as he goes to India with three others on a mission. We surely await our brother's safe return.

We are told to count our blessings. In just one week, we had three very special ones . . . babies.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica Baum are first-time parents, with the birth of Whitney Ann, February 22. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum.

On February 27, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger welcomed grandson Steven Irwin. Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheri Klotzle and also sister, Annie, welcome him in Rittman, OH.

T'Kya Sue Hoerr was born February 28 to Bro. Jacob and Sis.

Wanda Hoerr (Bettendorf, IA). Franz and Annelise told grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Evelyn, we call her Tah-ki-ah.

More blessings were counted in successful surgeries on Bro. Melvin Miller, Sis. Helen Wuthrich, Sis. Sherry Roth and Sis. Patsy Esslinger.

Sis. Ethel Smith broke a wrist. Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Sis. Ora Schrenck were hospitalized.

'Tis good to see Floran Klopfenstein and Bro. Ted Knochel in church again.

Our compliments and thanks to Sis. Cathy Emch (Bro. Jerry) and her crew for our monthly church suppers. We do appreciate these events and also for those with the many duties for our monthly hymn singings. You all put lots of joy in our lives.

Yet another blessing - Robin Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy) is taking residence in the Children's Home in Indiana. May the Lord make this a pleasant experience for the dear ones involved.

Our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beris on Sis. Jennie Bauman's death. They went to Rittman, OH, for the funeral services.

Psalms 118:6 will help you have a great day.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were happy to have two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) was with us for Sunday services. We thank him for his visit and service on the pulpit.

Also, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) was here for a Sunday to share the Word with us. We enjoyed visiting with his family and invite them to come any time!

Spring has arrived in Tucson - we are having sunshine and 80° weather as our winter visitors head home. We welcome the beautiful weather, but we will miss our snowbirds from the Midwest.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

Visiting ministers in the past

two months were Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Mike Reicker (Peoria, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

After living in the Midwest for over a year and a half, Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Dreeste are moving back to California. They and their children, Rebecca and Phillip, will be welcome additions to our congregation.

Bro. Fred Erhart passed away last month. He was in his early eighties and had been unable to attend church for some time due to illness. Bro. Fred is survived by his sons, John and Marty, and their children. His wife, Sis. Louise, preceded him in death.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic

Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena) was our visiting minister in March. We appreciate him and Sis. Kay and all of our other visitors who came to worship with us.

Silver Lining subscriptions dues should be paid by May. Thank you.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"This God-made union then
Shall never more be broken
Where faith and love have been
The holy cov'nants token
Where God the seal does give
The hope shall e'er remain
Though parting be our lot
To meet in heav'n again."

Zion's Harp #79

Bro. Jason Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Sue Ouellet (Andy and Annette) were married Sunday, March 7. We trust the Lord will be with them to love and forgive each other as they journey on this complex road of life.

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." (I Corinthians 11:27) We were reminded once again to search our hearts and minds as we approach the time when we shall "eat this

bread and drink this cup" and commune with our Lord and Savior that we do so in humility, love and thankfulness. Also, that we look into the Word, and pray the Lord will reveal to us what is best in our lives, perhaps if it is chastisement, that we will still feel His love and appreciation for the sacrifice of His death on the cross that we might live.

Our communion supper is such a solemn and holy opportunity to draw closer and closer to our Savior.

We pray for those who cannot come and go as they would like in times of illness or convalescing. Our prayers and thoughts are with Sis. LaVina Kloter, and Sis. Helen Heintz.

"Jesus' death arena
And His cross and grave
Teach me wait serenely
God's will sure and safe;
My support and Pillar
And my gain is He
My strong fort in terror;
God is still with me."

Zion's Harp #148

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

St. Matthew 6:14

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

In the February article I mentioned spring usually comes a little earlier to our area. The key word was usually. That did not hold true for March '93. We received the blizzard just like the rest of the eastern portion of the nation. That Sunday there was not a service scheduled, but there was fellowship over the phone lines as loved ones called each other to see how they were coping.

Our ministers the past month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Leo, IN and Sarasota, FL.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often meet for a tape on the other Sundays, so please let us know if you are in the area. 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, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

In February we had many visiting ministers: Bros. Gary Tonner and Steve Freidinger (Bluffton, IN), Bros. Earl Kilgus and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bros. Gary Maibach and Ron Steiner (Smithville and Rittman, OH), Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bros. Glenn Price and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL). It is a privilege we shouldn't take for granted to hear God's Word every Sunday and Wednesday night.

We had extra-full pews February 28 as many came to share the special day with a special couple. Bro. Doug Sauder and Sis. Suzanne Green were married that day – the first wedding in our church in almost a decade! The couple's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder and Bro. Peter and Sis. Claudia Green. We pray for God's blessings to overflow in Doug and Suzanne's new life and new home.

Sis. Joyce Banwart would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and visits during her recent hospitalization. Let's remember to pray for God's grace to help her through her time of illness.

Also hospitalized recently was Bro. Roy VanNorman. Thankfully, he is worshipping with us in person once again!

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Marvin and Rhea Steffen

February saw the coming and going of many of our brothers and sisters from the north. We trea-

sure the time they spend with us here. Among the visitors were the following ministers: Elder Bros. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL) also shared God's Word with us. We thank all the ministers and their wives for traveling to share with us, and pray the Lord will richly bless them for their kind diligence!

Sis. Kay Eisenmann wants to thank all for their gifts of love and prayers while she has been in the hospital. She said she could feel those prayers. We all need to reach into that power of prayer God has so lovingly given to His children. Prayer doesn't always change things as we would want them to be, but God knows what's best for us!

We have had so many ask about Dathan; as of this writing he is sleeping a lot, his quality of life is less, but still so loving. When Dave and I go to visit, we come away feeling very humbled to have such a loving grandson in spite of all his pain and surgeries, 23 as of now. He is a very special little man who always talks of his love for the Lord, and is so very thankful for prayers and cards! When he was in a coma, he saw the heavenly gates and such a bright Light! But then he heard his dad say, "Dathan, Dathan, we love you," so the thought "Well, Dad still needs me so I'll go back." David and Sue, Damian and Tina, and David Arthur have been right there with him through all of the many ups and downs. Dave and Sue have said many times it's been a blessing and a privilege to be his parents. Please keep those prayers coming for the strength to accept whatever God's will is, and thanks to each and every one who has kept this family in your prayers! March 25 Dathan will be 17! Their address is still 1742 Jewel Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240 for those who would like to send him a card. They mean so very much to him! God's blessings to all.

Sis. Kay Eisenmann

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according

to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Titus 3:5

April is Silver Lining collection month for North Fort Myers. Please give \$9.00, along with any address changes, to your reporters. Thank you.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lorane Marin - Gala Gerbers

The annual Sunday school bake sale and chili dinner was March 6. A special thanks goes to the students and teachers who make this a special event each year. Funds collected are used to share with those in need. May God bless their efforts by sharing with others. (It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35)

We rejoice with Sis. Paulette Feucht and Bro. Gary Sinn who have announced their engagement. Paulette is the daughter of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht (Lester, IA). Gary's parents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH). God bless them.

Sunday, March 14, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III exchanged marriage vows with Sis. Lynn Fischer at Fort Scott, KS. We welcome Sis. Lynne to our congregation and wish God's richest blessings in their life together.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL). We are thankful to them for sharing God's Word with us! Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Elder Bro. Ed Ringger also read the memorandum to us. We are grateful in their efforts to bring us closer to the Lord.

We ask you to remember the victims of Hurricane Andrew in your prayers. They need God's love as they struggle to get their lives and homes back in order.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Carol Steffen

Greetings from Belvidere! We thank the visiting ministers who came to minister to our congrega-

tion in Bro. Dean's absence. They were Bro. Tom Schambach and Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). We appreciate them for being unselfish servants. Also, we rejoiced after having a group vacationing in Wisconsin coming to worship with us. Among them was ministering Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We appreciate each visitor who came to worship with us this month.

Several from our congregation had the opportunity to go help on the Hurricane Andrew Project in Florida. We pray that God will bless the efforts of those who coordinate the project and pray the Lord will continue to help the people who live down there.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco

It was good to once again have Bro. Everett Hari on the pulpit following a lengthy recovery from hip surgery. His return to service began with a soul-searching Bible study on the topic, "Who Are We?". The study reminded us that we Christians, we need to know what "Christ-like" really means and to have this understanding we must be a student of the scriptures. Our spiritual growth is based upon our understanding of biblical truth. For to grow spiritually, we must be able to understand, interpret and apply God's Word, and this must be done accurately. This requires prayerful consideration of the Word. II Timothy 2:15 tells us to . . . "Study to shew thyself approved unto God . . ." and II Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Do we seek solutions to life's everyday problems and decisions in God's Word?

Our commitment to God is reflected in who we appear to be to others. Do our actions, our behaviors, our speech reflect our love for God? When we speak, are our words true, harmless and necessary?

Words that we use are reflections of what's in our heart and mind. Philippians 4:8 says, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good rapport, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on those things." Be armed with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God; be preoccupied with the Lord; and enjoy an all consuming walk with Him.

The Bible study was a gentle nudge for us to each examine our spiritual walk with God. As we near the celebration of Easter, we are inspired by the ultimate sacrifice which Christ made for us and the responsibilities we have as a Christian.

Our congregation was blessed as our Lord and Savior was praised through beautiful singing by the Wuethrich Quartet at our monthly hymn sing February 20. Thanks to all who traveled from Indianapolis, IN, to be with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Our prayers were with Bro. Alfred Hausmann when he was hospitalized this month for heart surgery. We are glad to have Bro. Alfred back worshipping with us.

During the last month our visiting ministers were Bros. Gary Brown (Forest) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We are especially glad for each visiting minister who brings us the Word of God.

Note of Thanks: Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts, visits and the phone calls while I was hospitalized this past December. May God bless each one of you.

Lois Endress

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

On March 12, Emily Michelle was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand, another creation of God, "... fearful and wonderfully made ..." Psalm 139:14. She was welcomed home by everyone, especially by her big sister, Lauren.

But even as we meet this newest member of their family, we are saying a reluctant "farewell" to Ben and Michelle. Ben has taken and position with Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati, OH, and they are in the process of moving to that area. We will miss their love and support and pray that they will know God's nearness and direction as they make the transition and settle in their new home.

Visiting ministers in the past month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton). Each brought us a special message of encouragement and love from God's Word of Truth.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Renewal is something I always seem to need, but, especially at this time of year, to be reminded of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, as it is annually recreated by springtime in Illinois, makes renewal an almost constant thought. In our family, I have an aunt to whom the Lord waited long. In her recent proving, when she was asked what she would like to tell the congregation, she said, "Tell them to continue to pray for me." I believe not one prayer of her father or mother, sisters or brothers (in faith and in the family) were forgotten before the throne of God. May we be renewed in the miracle of God within us, in our prayers for those He has set before us.

We have the opportunity to listen to brothers guided by the Spirit as they proclaim the Word to us. May we not take them for granted who feed us week by week and month by month. But may we also appreciate visits from those who come from a distance. We are thankful for those who have lent themselves in the past month: Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO); Joe Stoller (Princeville); and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign); Gary Endress (Bradford); and Art Baurer (Princeville).

Another privilege we enjoy is the concern our elder body has for the welfare of the church entrusted

to them. Elder Bro. Gene Marti assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the conference report the beginning of March. Perhaps we should look at their cautions to us in this way. I was behind a car on a curving exit one recent snowy Friday afternoon. As he began to apply the brakes, his car started sliding. I immediately began to slow down, barking before I reached the spot where he was in trouble. Surely the Lord expects us to learn from both positive and negative examples, which have been freely shared to us from our elders' collective vantage point.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Teri Leman, and their children, Bryant, Grant, Drew and Kara have moved from Phoenix, AZ, to Algonquin, IL; and hope to make Chicago their church family. We are thrilled to have them with us and look forward to knowing them better, supporting them in their transition, learning from them in the Lord's ways.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Sis. Lynnette Lang and her family because of her maternal grandfather's death in Texas. Somehow we are always surprised by death, but we can rest in the assurance that God is aware (for it is within His timing) and will carry us through the grief and upheaval in our lives.

Sometimes already in this year I have felt overwhelmed, yet I believe I am doing what the Lord has in mind for me to do. Did I think He said that it would be easy? These prayers of supplication I am praying for others – would I rather I had their overwhelming problems? What is it that I want? Surely, I hope to be in the center of His will. For my former student in prison, who rejoices because he found the Lord there – and accepts that however long he must stay is a part of the Lord's protection for him, he is ready to wait. When I am tired or not feeling well, perhaps that is the way the Lord is telling me that everything does not need to happen at once. Can I accept that? If I am listening, I can. Can I rejoice in a flat tire when I am on the "the Lord's errand"? He tells me I must rejoice – at the beginning, the middle, and the end. Yet He is also

ready to answer. "Hither to have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive that our joy may be made full." (John 16:24)

I have started noticing the fourth (or last stanzas) of hymns. There is a pattern, taking us beyond our needs for this life, reminding us of Christ's second coming. I should be more thoughtful and prayerful, remembering. This could be a watchword for me for many days: "When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found; Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne." ("The Solid Rock," vs 4)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Anna Marie Reutter
Cyndee Anderson

"And as it appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Hebrews 9:27-28

On February 19, our congregation was saddened with news of the death of Joe Neukomm, 94, who had been residing at Iroquois Resident Home in Watseka. We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Eileen Kaufmann, of our congregation, and also daughters, Ida Ferdinand (Milford, IN) and Velma Roselius (Crescent City); and son, Ervin (Onarga).

Also laid to rest this month, March 17, was Sis. Ida Laubscher, 88, who had been a resident at the Heartland Health Care Facility in Paxton for over a year. We are thankful her struggle is over and she has moved into that realm "Beyond the Sunset", where the Son is always shining. Surviving her are one brother, Art (Cissna Park), and many nieces and nephews.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul in the birth of their son, Stephen Charles, born March 5. His siblings are Jean, John, Sarah, Heidi and Maria. "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord:

and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalms 127:3)

The evening of Wednesday, March 3, was a blessed evening for our congregation as we gathered to hear the reading of the memorandum. It was read and expounded upon by Elder Bros. Art Bahler, Joe Braker (Morton), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign). How thankful we are for the encouragement, the love shown, and also the pricking of the Spirit, for the Bible tells us. ". . . My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou are rebuked of Him; For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth . . ." (Hebrews 12:6-7)

The following Sunday we enjoyed visitors on the pulpit along with other company from various churches. We wish to thank Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont) and Steve Martin (Eureka) for being with us that day.

On March 14, our Bible class hosted the Bible classes from Champaign, Bloomington, and St. Louis, MO. We thank Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for ministering to us that day, and also thank our Bible class teachers and superintendent for the efforts put forth on behalf of our youth.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Dale Walder and Sis. Violet Maul who are currently in the hospital. We will continue to remember them and their families. Also spending time in the hospital this past month was Bro. Walt Kaufmann. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped . . ." (Psalm 28:7)

Announcing their engagement this month are Dawn Knapp, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores, and John Elmendorf, son of Frances Elmendorf and William Elmendorf. They are planning a July 31 wedding.

The family of Sis. Esther Neukomm wishes to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy shown to them with cards, food, and memorial contributions. For the many visits to Esther and prayers on her behalf during her years at Fairview Haven Nursing Home - thank you. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Sue Wiegand - Myra Steffen

CHRIST THE RESURRECTED

"Jesus bore all our transgressions
 With Him there upon the cross,
 And for us endured the anguish,
 As a meek lamb suffered loss;
 There He won for me and thee
 Life and joy eternally.

". . . In my saviour's resurrection
 There is comfort; I am blest.
 In His life my hope renewing,
 In His love my soul shall rest.
 Everything I have in Thee,
 Life and hope and victory."

Zion's Harp #183, vs 4, 15

As we remember our Lord's suffering, death, and His resurrection, let us rejoice with thankful hearts this Easter season for the hope of eternal life.

We were thankful to have Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) with us. We appreciate their willing service. Bro. Gene showed us slides of their recent trip to Ukraine one Sunday evening. It was a sobering glimpse of the struggles our faithful brethren there are experiencing.

Jessica Nicole Kath was born March 13 to Doug and Miriam. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk and John and Jane Kath (Carlock). May God grant them His wisdom, guidance and blessing.

Tiffany Bohannan, former foster child of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwert, died February 22, following heart surgery. She was 21 months old. Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) conducted graveside services. May God work in the hearts of her parents, and may He comfort those who loved and cared for her.

Sis. Polly Schrock was hospitalized this month. We are thankful she is able to assemble with us again. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Note of thanks: "I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, gifts and visits during my recent illness. I feel the prayers

helped much to bring about my speedy recovery. Thanks in our Lord's name."

Sis. Polly Schrock

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by
all

Hark what meaneth the sudden call
What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus
Neutral you cannot be
Someday your heart will be asking
What will He do with me?

As we are once again reminded of the price our Saviour paid, may we not be neutral, but rather rededicated to serving our God faithfully and obediently each day.

Several of our loved ones have been absent, due to afflictions of the body. May God heal and restore Sis. Edna Bolliger, Bro. Ben Graf (Viola), Sis. Ann Reber (Bro. Bill), Bro. Les Heiniger (Sis. Emma) and Sis. Mabel Anliker to a fair measure of health.

There is sorrow mingled with joy in the home of Dave and Lori (Kinsinger) Lodge. On February 22, Dave's grandmother, Marie Chouinard, passed away and February 26 Austin David joined Mario, Courtney and Kelsey to complete their little family. May Dave and Lori find God's grace to be sufficient for whatever life may hold. Austin's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Lodge.

Does Jesus care when I've said
"good-by"

To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches
Till it nearly breaks;
Is it aught to Him? Does He care?
O yes, He cares, I know He cares.
His heart is touched with my grief
When the days are weary,
the long night dreary,

I know my Saviour cares. (He cares)
J. Lincoln Hall

Two dear sisters have faithfully completed their course and, we be-

lieve, entered into the joy of their Lord. Though they will be missed, it clearly reminds each of us left behind to earnestly contend for the faith, so someday we may be reunited with those who have gone on before.

On February 24, Sis. Cecelia Braun (the late Bro. Herman) exchanged her cross for a crown. Her family includes: Herman (Sharon), Bro. Gene (Sis. Sue), Gordy (Diana) and Kathy Durrenberger (Ed) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our prayers are with them as well as Sisters Gertrude and Katherine, Sis. Martha (Bro. Ben, Morris, MN) and Bro. Clarence (Sis. Laura, Forrest, IL) in the loss of their sister.

The following evening Sis. Rose Viellieber quietly passed from this life to eternity. May Sis. Emma continually be assured that Jesus does care and will comfort and provide for her in the days ahead.

We trust that God will comfort Bro. John Feucht in the loss of his brother, Ben Feucht (Lester, IA).

The engagement of Sis. Lorri Cargill and Bro. Jay Wiegand was recently made known. Their parents include Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand (Oakville, IA). May God's Spirit and direction be a part of their lives now and in the days ahead.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." (Psalm 51:1) How grateful we are that Elvis Kellenberger (the late Gail) has turned unto God in repentance. May he find the necessary grace and mercy to lay a firm foundation of faith.

"We beseech you brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." (I Thessalonians 5:12-13) We are thankful the Lord has seen fit to provide brethren within our congregation to be over us in the Lord. Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy) has been called to the responsibilities of ordained deacon, within our midst. A weekend of

God's presence and blessing was ours as this solemn occasion was performed March 21. May Bro. Ron, Sis. Nancy and their family feel our continued prayers and support. We truly appreciate the exhortations Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and our Bro. Nathan brought forth as we each were charged with our responsibilities in this matter. May God's Spirit motivate us to humbly fulfill our part that we may be at peace among ourselves. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). May God bless the faithfulness of our visiting and home brothers that bring forth the Word, in season and out.

Note of thanks: I would like to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers in the recent loss of my dear sister. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Emma Viellieber

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"Tis midnight and on Olive's brow,
The star is dimmed that lately
shone.

"Tis midnight in the garden now
The suffering Saviour prays alone."
Hymns of Zion #28

Those times in our lives when we feel all alone, we should think of our Saviour suffering in the garden as He prayed so earnestly. He was alone in that no other people were with Him, but yet His Father was there to minister to Him.

Our congregation rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls. They were Rodney Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) and Dennis Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene). We were thankful for our many visitors that shared in the weekend with us especially Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Bro. Willis Wiegand and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Dave read and meditated in Isaiah 35 about "The Way of Holiness",

reminding us of how thankful we should be that God has provided a way for wayfaring men to find peace and faith.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein welcomed their first child, Joshua James, into their lives February 21. Joshua had to return to the hospital for several days, but is home and doing better. Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail Getz's new little son, David, also home from the hospital and doing well.

Our prayers are with Sis. Caroline Leman who was in the hospital for surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Claribel Anliker (Bro. Walt) who lost her mother, Sis. Jennie Bauman (Rittman, OH) March 4.

"We are again indebted to many of our loved ones for your thoughtfulness at the time of Claribel's mother's death and Walt's hospitalization and recuperation. The many prayers, calls, food, flowers, and love gifts meant so much, and all were greatly appreciated. May our Great God be your rewarder."

Walt and Claribel Anliker

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

CHRIST AROSE

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

Gospel Hymns #323

As we approach the season in which we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross and His arising from the grave, may we ever through His grace, be obedient and faithful to His Holy Word.

We were encouraged as we gathered together February 24, along with our Forrest brethren, to hear the reading of the memorandum. What a beautiful way we've been shown! May we always support and uphold our precious faith, that united we may stand strong and be

secure in the doctrines and traditions we've been brought into. We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) to help our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in this service. We pray for our elder brethren as they strive to uphold the doctrines and traditions of our precious faith.

Also this month Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) shared God's Word with us. We appreciated and enjoyed the visits of these brothers and their wives and families.

We rejoice with Sis. Janice Edelman (Levi and Donna, Forrest) and Bro. Chad Wettstein (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda, Gridley, IL) as their engagement was announced March 14. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

Loving parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger, were blessed with a precious baby girl, Faith Barbara, February 27. Bro. Michael, Bro. Philip, Sis. Joy, Matthew, Timothy, Mark and Hope are happy for a sister. Sis. Carolyn Fehr and Ollie Steidinger are grandmothers.

Leslie and Sally Fehr are happy first-time parents of a precious baby boy, Marcus Dean, born March 15. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Lloyd and (the late Myrna) Moser are his grandparents.

We rejoiced together after hearing the testimonies of seven souls who were brought into our fold Wednesday, March 17. Our new brothers and sisters-in-faith are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys Slagel, Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman, Bro. William and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and Sis. Mary Ifft (Gilbert). We welcome them as our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker assisted in this work of faith.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Willis and Sis. Elsie Bachtold in the loss of his brother, Louis Bachtold, 86, (Gilman) February 25.

Sis. Ella Von Bergen, 91, passed away March 4. We extend our sympathy to her family: Robert Von Bergen (Laguna Hills, CA), Howard Von Bergen (Citrus Heights, CA),

Alberta Hurt (Casa Grande, AZ), Doris Wiegand (Washington) and Rosella Mowery (Fairbury); one brother, William Kilgus (Fort Meade, FL); and seventeen grandchildren, one of which is Sis. June Slagel (Ron) of our congregation.

Hospitalized recently were Margaret Kelson and Sis. Linda Fehr (Bro. Kenneth). We trust that the Lord's healing hand will be upon them.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sandra Schneider
Marlene Walter

A minister once told the following story in his sermon: A wheat farmer longed to have a child to grow up and help him with his wheat farm. One day he and his wife had a baby boy. When the boy was a toddler, the farmer took his son with him in his truck and drove out to the wheat fields to see if the wheat was ready for harvest. As they left the truck, he took the boy's hand and they walked through one field and then another. The farmer got more and more engrossed in his thoughts and suddenly realized that his son was not with him. Frantically he searched, trying to retrace his steps. But his efforts were in vain. He hurried back to ask the neighbors to help. But by dark the boy still was not found. The next morning as they began to search, the farmer said, "Let's join hands as we walk through the fields." When they did this, the little boy was found but his life was gone. The distraught farmer said "Why oh why did we not join hands and walk more closely together before?"

Wednesday, March 10, was a blessed evening as we heard the testimonies of Kenneth and Carol Edelman, Keith and Nadine Edelman and John and Lavonne Teubel. Let us all strive to join hands and walk closely together as brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) coming to help in this important work.

We also want to thank ministering Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) for visiting us and being used in God's service.

The angels in heaven rejoice over even one sinner who turns their back on the world and repents! We also rejoice as Rachel Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) has found the grace to make a beginning in living for the Lord.

Kimberly Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol) will become the April 10 bride of Guy Grant (Kenneth Grant and Marilyn Grant, LeRoy). We wish them God's blessings.

Mildred Metz and Bros. Ed Honegger, Joe Metz and Earl Gerber have required hospital stays. May God restore health and strength according to His will.

Our hearts go out to Darrin McBride and his parents, Steve and Kay, as Darrin was hospitalized due to an accident in the home resulting in serious injuries. Our prayers will be with them as they go through this difficult time.

Many hearts have been saddened as loved ones have passed from this life. We extend heartfelt sympathy to: Sis. Lillian Bachtold, Sis. Nettie Kyburz, Sis. Janita Koehl, Carl and Bro. Elmer Bachtold in the passing of their brother, Louis Bachtold (Gilman); Sis. Martha Huber in the passing of her sister, Sis. Lois Elsasser (Peoria); Sis. Dorothy Bachtold in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Naomi (Bay City, MI); Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss in the passing of his sister, Sis. Cecilia Braun (Elgin); Harvey and Maxine Rieger and Sis. Jane Bounds in the passing of Kathryn Knauer (Forrest); Sis. Aldine Wackerle in the passing of her step-son, Lyle Wackerle (Bay City, MI). May God comfort each of their hearts.

As the Easter season approaches, we look forward to the Sunday school children bringing us the story of the Old Rugged Cross through the Easter program. May it be a reminder to us to be willing to pick up our cross daily and follow the Lord.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy counte-

nance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day; and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted."

Psalm 89:15-16

Our Goodfield congregation had much opportunity for rejoicing this month. The ordination of our dear Bro. Wes Knapp, as elder, was an inspiring reminder of our Father's faithfulness in providing shepherds for His flocks. As our new steward and his wife, Sister Millie, begin this journey, let us march confidently forward in the light of our Lord's good will.

The Bible class enjoyed the companionship of friends from the Oakville and Burlington, IA, Bible classes when they spent the weekend with us this month. We are very grateful to all the brothers, sisters, and friends who gave of themselves to make this event proceed so smoothly. Christian fellowship is an important part of our lives; it is good to see our young people participating in such a rewarding experience.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of a couple new grandbabies this month. Dave and Melinda Aberle (Bloomington) made Sis. Eloise Diggelman (Bloomington) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle (Morton) grandparents once again, with the birth of their first son, Conor Davis. Conor, born March 18, joins his sister, Laurel in the Aberle household. Sis. Jill and Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke) are the new parents of a daughter, Heidi Jo, who was born March 19. Heidi's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle (Roanoke), and Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Goodfield). From what we hear, Bro. Jaye has pictures to pass out to anyone interested in viewing this first little bouncing grandchild of his!

Our Bro. Jim Hohulin is recuperating from eye surgery this month and we send our prayers for a speedy recovery to him.

Our thoughts and prayers are also extended to our Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfrey. Bro. Tony's father, John Monfrey (Jackson, MS), passed away this month. We sympathize with you over the loss of your loved one, and pray that

our Father's grace and comfort surround you in your time of grief.

We would like to thank Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand for their participation in the reading of the memorandum to us. We would also like to thank all the visiting ministers and their wives for sharing so richly with us. Thanks to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp (Bloomington), Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Bainer (Gridley), Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch (Tremont), and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton) for the time you've shared with us and the love you've shown.

Card of Thanks: Words fail us in expressing our thankfulness for all the prayers, cards, and deeds of kindness during my stay in the hospital. May God bless you as only He can.

Willis and Betty Wiegand

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A Klopfenstein

Although the Word of God exhorts us as brethren to weep with those that weep, it further teaches us to rejoice with those that rejoice. In this, we have cause to rejoice because our congregation is very happy over the birth of a little son and three recent wedding engagements.

Scott and Lisa Kiefer are the parents of their second child, a boy, born March 17. He has been named Zachary Eli. He has a sister, Larissa, age 2. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer (Gridley), and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Williamson (Lexington).

Bro. Mark Wettstein was announced to be married to Sis. Karen Nuest (LaCrosse, IN) church. She is the daughter of Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet Nuest (LaCrosse, IN). He is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein (Gridley).

Bro. Chad Wettstein, a first-cousin of Bro. Mark, was announced to be married to Sis. Janice Edelman (Fairbury). She is the daughter of Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman (Forrest). His par-

ents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein (Gridley).

The forthcoming marriage of Bro. Barry Ehresman to Sis. Beth Landes (Morton) was announced recently. His parents are Roy and Gladys Ehresman (Gridley); and her parents are Bruce and Sis. Pat Landes (Morton).

A very positive pattern in our churches is the ongoing practice of seeking God's guidance in selecting a mate, and relying totally on His direction. That our young people are willing to spend much time in prayer to prove God's will is an enormous blessing for our churches, in these times.

Bro. Kenneth Meiss was hospitalized for a short time with a very serious illness.

We are happy to report that Bro. Craig and Sis. Mary Ann Wettstein, formerly of Elk Grove Village, have recently moved to Bloomington and are making Gridley their church as this is Bro. Craig's boyhood home.

Bro. Alph and Sis. Lillian Witzig are residing in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Ben S. Hauter was called into eternity. His funeral was February 20. May God comfort and bless his son, Dean Hauter; his brother, Bro. Chris Hauter; his grandchildren, and his many relatives and friends.

The Morton Young Group sponsored a pork chop dinner. The proceeds went to various church charities. It was followed by a hymn sing. We wish to thank them for providing an evening of fellowship and for supporting those in need.

Marilyn Clark wishes to thank all for the prayers, cards, and gifts of love while in the hospital and at home. May God bless all who were so kind.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Beth Landis (Bruce and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Barry Ehresman (Roy and Gladys, Gridley, IL) as the Lord directed them to become one-in-Christ. May God richly bless them as they prepare for their wedding day.

Sis. Lola Strunk wishes to thank

everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts of love while in the hospital, at Roanoke Apostolic Nursing Home and since coming home.

Bro. Edward and Sis. Dorothy (Klopfenstein) Belsley celebrated their 50th anniversary March 17. They were married in Morton March 17, 1943. They are the parents of Mrs. Ralph (Karen) Zeigler (Morton). They have two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Bro. Gotthold and Sis. Anna Tanner wish to thank everyone who helped them celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. May God bless all who sent cards and gifts and remembered them in various ways.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Peoria has been very blessed recently to have many new converts. On Saturday, February 27, we were happy to hear the testimonies of Jill and Jody Herman, daughters of Bro. Allan and Sis. Lois Herman. We wish them much grace as they continue their walk of faith.

A precious baby boy, Ethan Randall, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marie Hoerr, February 27. He joins sister, Lauren, and brother, Jordan, at home. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. Dick and Sis. Marlene Seidel.

Note of Thanks: I want to thank all who have been so nice with prayers, gifts, flowers and meals during my stay at the hospital and since returning home. They were deeply appreciated. God bless you all.

Sis. Donna Ferrero

We were saddened by the recent death of Sis. Lois Elsasser, a resident at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Her family sent the following note: The family of Lois Elsasser wish to express our appreciation and sincere thanks for all of the cards, prayers, kind deeds and gifts of love following the death of our sister, sister-in-law and aunt.

Visiting ministers to Peoria recently were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bro.

Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). We thank each one of them for their labors of love.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Henry Traub and Sis. Elizabeth Merkle. We are happy they are now able to be home.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who were willing to share with us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bros. Kenny Kietz (Bradford), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Jim Vierling (Eureka), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless them and their families.

Elder Bro. Wayne helped with the testimony and baptism of Brent Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) February 20. We welcome him as our dear brother-in-faith and may the Lord be ever at his side to lead and direct him as he walks the narrow pathway of life which leads to heaven.

We have a newly engaged couple, Ross Herrmann (Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Lou) and Ketra Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine, Goodfield). They have set June 19 as their wedding date. We wish them God's special blessings as they take this important step in life.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

Psalms 127:3

Welcoming in their hearts and home a precious bundle of joy from heaven are Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter (Kitchener, Ontario). Andrew James Baxter's happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal. Merle and Terry Endress are also happy parents of a precious boy, Dylan James, born January 20. Sis. Mildred Endress is the happy and thankful grandmother. Both of these couples are first-time parents. May God's loving hand guide these precious little souls throughout life.

B. J. Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) had the misfortune

of breaking his leg. Spending some time in the hospital is Bro. John Stahl. Our hearts go out to Tammy Wieland and her family, Bro. Robert and Sis. Nancy. We pray for all those who are ill and may the Lord grant His healing powers.

We had our annual church housecleaning. As we take care of our physical part of our church, we also must keep our spiritual house in order. Our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller gave us many kind and loving exhortations in preparation for holy communion to be held March 27.

We are in the season where we will commemorate the death and dying of our dear Lord. May we through His abounding grace be obedient and faithful to His Holy Word, that one day when we stand before our God, we may receive that great reward for which we are all striving.

EACH SPRING, GOD RENEWS HIS PROMISE

Long, long ago in a land far away,
There came the dawn of the first
Easter Day,
And each year we see that promise
reborn
That God gave the world on that
first Easter Morn . . .
For in each waking flower and each
singing bird,
The Promise of Easter is witnessed
and heard,
And Spring is God's way of
speaking to men
And renewing the promise of
Easter again,
For death is a season that man must
pass through
And, just like the flowers, God
wakens him, too . . .
So why should we grieve when our
loved ones die,
For we'll meet them again in a
"cloudless sky" -
For Easter is more than a beautiful
story,
It's the promise of life and Eternal
Glory.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over the repentance of an-

other young soul, Byron Gerber. He is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber.

March 7 was the wedding day of our Sis. Dawn Harris and Bro. Dave Duckworth. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Harris (Roanoke), and Bro. Donald and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bradford). We wish them much joy as they establish their home in Kewanee.

Big brothers, Matthew, Mark, Jacob, Joshua and Caleb are delighted with their new baby, Benjamin Tyler. He was born March 3 to Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg. His grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Ron and Jeanette Lindberg.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Wilma Fischer also welcome a new granddaughter, Emily Ann, born to Harvey and Kathy Fischer (Benson) January 21. Justin and Laura are her brother and sister.

The Prairie Choristers sang at our Family Hymn Sing this month. It was a blessed evening, as their songs centered around the theme of "comfort in times of sorrow" and "looking forward to our heavenly home".

The old Proverb "many hands make light work" was proven again as many turned out for the annual church cleaning March 8. Each person's contribution is greatly appreciated.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) showed slides and spoke about his trip to the Ukraine for our February Bible study. For our March Bible study, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberg (Goodfield) talked about the important things we learn when we're young. We appreciate their visits!

We were also privileged to have visiting ministers, Bros. Nathan Stoller, Kenneth Dietz, Marvin Leman (all of Bradford), and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville). Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger was here to assist in reading the conference letter.

Our thoughts and prayers turn to those recently hospitalized: Bro. Orville Martin, Sisters Carol Schwab and Angela Rassi, and little Heather Leman, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie.

Note of Thanks: I want to thank

everyone for the prayers, gifts, and cards while in the hospital and home again. May God bless you.

Love,
Dorothy Sauder

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Marsha Koch - Carolyn Bolliger

February brought two new grandbabies. Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch welcomed little Grace Burton, born February 20 to Cleo's son, John, and his wife, Dawn (Chicago). Big sister, Hannah, is excited about her new sister.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch welcomed a new grandson, Dexter Silas February 22, born to their daughter Nancy and her husband, Ed King. Little Dexter has a big brother Alex to welcome him home.

Also welcoming a new daughter are Bro. and Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach. Emily Elizabeth was born March 4. Little Emily is welcomed home by brothers, Paul, Gary and David, and sisters, Holly, Lisa and Wendy. Grandparents are Iris Gashwind (Morton) and Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Sr., now living in our Eureka home.

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed evening visit from Bro. Kent Heimer and his family (Taylor, MO). Bro. Kent gave a topical lesson, speaking on "Loyalty to the Faith of the Apostolic Christian Church." Again, we were given much food for thought. We certainly wish to thank Bro. Kent for giving of himself so willingly. We also wish to thank Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) for spending a day with us.

It is the time of year when we replace two Sunday school teaching brothers and one of our trustees. The teaching positions have fallen upon Bro. Jerry Zuercher and Bro. David Kaeb. Our new trustee will be Bro. Roger Beutel. We wish to thank our brothers who are rotating out, Bros. Dan S. Koch and David Huette in the Sunday school and Bro. Earl Sauder as retiring trustee. They have all given many untiring hours of service.

We are thankful our hospital patients have returned home and are feeling better. Sis. Pauline Sauder

(Bro. Willis) and Sis. Jennifer Koch (Bro. Stan) both spent some time in the hospital this month. It was good to see Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Bob) in church once again. We are thankful she too is feeling some better.

Thank you note: I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and flowers for my 90th birthday. Thank you again. God bless you all.

Your least one,
Sis. Mary Baurer

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Erwin Knecht (Eureka) and Don Sauder (Roanoke) read the memorandum to us. Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) joined us for our "Invite a Friend" Sunday. A blessed day of listening to God's Word and fellowship was enjoyed by all who were in attendance. Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) lent himself at our monthly Bible study. "Thank-you" to all of them!

A new bundle of joy has been added to our congregation. Her name is Carly Slagel and she is the daughter of Tim and Barb Slagel. We rejoice with them!

FOUNDATION

When you build a new house
Would you build it on sand?
Without a foundation,
How long would it stand?

The Forefathers of this great
nation
Carefully built on a solid
foundation,
The foundation base was the Word
of God.
The building blocks were faith,
trust, and love.
In the past, day after day

The Supreme Court has been
picking away
Destroying the base that holds the
foundation

That supports the blocks that
support the nation.
Now, Washington leaders don't
understand
Our forefathers, our God, and the
laws of our land.
Loads of sand are used each day
Replacing the foundation that has
been chipped away.

Christians can be ridiculed in any
discussion
Without the fear of repercussion.
They are the only minority
standing in the way
Of total destruction and total
decay.
The only minority with "Open
Season"
To be ridiculed and picked on
without any reason
By news reporters and television
stations.
Picking and chopping at the
foundation.

The book of instruction that built
this nation
Is full of advice and important
notations.
We cannot ignore them and go our
way
And expect God's blessings day
after day.
The many problems Government
has today
Cannot, and will not go away
Until the rules that guide this
nation
Are based on the Bible and the God
of Creation.

(Read II Chronicles 7:14)

Milton Ruppert

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter
Herman and Sis. Phyllis
Fiechter are happy grandparents
of Keaton William born to Keith
and Kathy Fiechter February 17.
Bro. Roger and Sis. Tara Steffen
were blessed with a third son Feb-
ruary 21. Jonathan Jay joins big
brothers, Matthew and Timothy at
home. Grandparents are Bro.
Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen and
Ted and Elaine Liechty. Darren and
Trisha Scheumann became first-
time parents when Marissa Kae-
lynn was born to them February

22. Grandparents are Sis. Colleen
Landrum and Robert Landrum and
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Scheumann.
Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch are
the grandparents of Bonnie Marie.
Bonnie was born March 1 to Bro.
Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch (Phila-
delphia, PA). Bro. Kent and Sis.
Kim Gerber were blessed with a
daughter March 5. Kyra Lynn is
welcomed home by Kasha and Kyle.
Grandparents are Bro. Vic and Sis.
Julia Gerber (Bluffton North) and
Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois Gerber
(Bluffton North). Mark and Laura
Grime became new parents March
14 when they welcomed Shane Wil-
liam into their lives. Grandparents
are Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice
Aeschliman.

On February 21, four souls were
added to the fold. They are Sis.
Amy and Sis. Amber Yergler (Bro.
Rick and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Austin
Smith (Bro. Dave and Sis. Loretta),
and Sis. Stephanie Reinhard (Bro.
Steve and Sis. Renee). We were
thankful also to have Elder Bro.
Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) with us
for the occasion.

Also visiting our congregation
over the past month were Bro. Bob
Meyer Jr. (Bluffton North), Bro.
Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and
Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

We know that the angels in
heaven rejoice over one sinner that
repents, and our congregation is
also rejoicing. Adrienne Maggart
has given her heart to the Lord.
She is the daughter of Bro. John
and Sis. Becky Maggart.

February 28 was the wedding
day of Sis. Darla Hari (Bluffton
North) and Bro. Ryan Fiechter. Par-
ents are Daryle and June Hari
(Tucson, AZ), and Bro. Charles and
Sis. Maxine Fiechter. We wish
God's richest blessing on their
union.

We recently had two couples an-
nounce their engagements. They
are Bro. Chris Pulver (Bro. Lester
and Sis. Dulla) to Sis. Kara Heyerly
(Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores); and
Bro. Burt Isch (Bro. Al and Sis.
Carole) to Sis. Karlene Westfall
(Bro. Karl, Francesville).

Our prayers go up for a quick
recovery to those hospitalized this
month. They were Bro. Dale
Fiechter (Sis. Doris), Alicia Gerber

(Scott and Sis. Melinda), Mildred Krill, Bro. Cliff Heyerly (Sis. Helen), Sis. Melinda Gerber (Scott) and Sis. Charlotte Kipfer who is recuperating at her winter home in Fort Myers, FL.

On March 1, Sis. Minnie Isch went to her eternal rest. She lived to be 103 years old and will be missed by her loved ones. Her children are Bro. Ervin Isch, Glen Isch, Mrs. Herb (Sis. Lucile) Frauhiger, Mildred Krill, Mrs. Ed (Sis. Viola) Gerber (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Mrs. John (Sis. Irene) Neuenschwander, Bro. Hubert Isch, Mrs. William (Sis. Betty) Longenberger, and Bro. Kenneth Isch.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

On February 24, our congregation was privileged to hear the testimony and to witness the baptism of Sis. Corine Hari. We want to wish her God's richest blessings as she begins her new walk with Him.

There was much joy February 28 as Sis. Darla Hari (Daryl and June) and Bro. Ryan Feichter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine) were united in holy matrimony. We pray that their lives would become as one and that God would be a part of this union.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baumgartner were pleased to announce that their son, Bro. Greg (Indianapolis) is engaged to be married to Sis. Missy Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb, Francesville).

Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim Gerber were blessed March 5 with a lovely daughter, Kyra Lynn. She will have fun playing with her sister and brother, Kasha and Kayle. Happy grandparents from our congregation are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Vic and Sis. Julia Gerber.

EXTRA PRAYER

When the world falls down around
you
And a prayer will see you
through,
Say an extra prayer for someone
Who may need it more than you.
Nick Kenny

We want to send out an extra prayer for all of our friends who have spent time in the hospital this month. They are Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice), Mike Rauch (Susan) and Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art). May we spend a few extra minutes to send a special prayer for the healing of these dear souls.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

It's an encouragement to our faith when we see those seeking the Lord and finding peace with God. Jennifer Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam) and LaVonne Pelsy (Ryan) were announced to have peace.

We have been blessed with two precious babies. Born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein February 15 was Matthew Philip. Ryan, Alyssa, Shawna, Brett, Brooke, Joshua and Amy will be good helpers in taking care of him. On March 13, Jonathan Edward was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Lilly Pelsy. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt and Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Luella Pelsy.

Bro. Karl Westphal wished to announce his engagement to Sis. Donna Parish, and will be united in marriage soon. His daughter, Sis. Karlene Westphal, was announced to Bro. Bert Isch and we wish them the Lord's nearness as they plan their wedding day.

On March 14, we enjoyed the Indianapolis Choir coming to share with us in singing praises to His name. It was a nice day of fellowship.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Missy to Bro. Greg Baumgartner (Indianapolis, IN). His parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baumgartner (Bluffton North).

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Merle Yaggie (Sis. Louise). We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Louise; and two daughters, Sis. Darla at home and Clara Ulery (Rochester, IN).

Those spending time in the hospital this month were: Bro. Keith Putt (Sis. Lorna), Sis. Catherine Neihouser and Sis. Donna Gutwein

(Bro. Rodney). We are thankful they are home and doing well.

We thank Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and their families for sharing God's Word in the ministry to us recently.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Mirian Gudeman

Jesus, the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter for Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can
frame,
Nor can the memory find.
A sweeter sound than Thy blest
name,
O Saviour of mankind!

Oh, hope of every contrite heart!
Oh, joy of all the meek!
To those who fall, how kind Thou
art!
How good to those who seek.

And those who find Thee, find a
bliss
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but His loved ones know.

Jesus! our only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus! be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.

John Dykes and Bernard
of Clairvaux

Our dear friends, Ron and Marcelle (Neihouser) Gress, have yearned for the love of Jesus in their hearts and now they share in that wonderful bliss that only His can know! We rejoice with them in their decision to give their lives to the Lord, and the long awaited privilege to call them our brother and sister-in-Christ! May God strengthen them and encourage them.

We are so happy to announce the engagement of our Sis. Missy Huber (daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb, Francesville) to our dear Bro. Greg Baumgartner (son of Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary, Bluffton North). We wish them all

of God's joyful blessings as they plan their August wedding and their future lives together.

We would like to extend a warm thanks and appreciation to our loved ones in Francesville for inviting the Indianapolis choir the weekend of March 14. We had a wonderful time of praise and fellowship. To God be the glory! A special thanks to our dear Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim Wuethrich for their love and devotion in bringing us together. May God bless them.

College weekend, March 27 and 28, was such a blessing for us. We want to thank all those who came to share in the special work projects on Saturday and in worship and fellowship on Sunday. It is such a wonderful encouragement to see and hear the joyful enthusiasm these students have for our Lord! A very special thanks and appreciation to visiting minister Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) for sharing his World Relief slide presentation on Hungary and for sharing God's Word with us in Sunday worship.

A heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Bro. John Bollier (Leo). May God continue to bless their loving devotion to His work.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) The theme of the 1992 Brotherhood Conference was "A Believer's Walk . . ." and we were privileged to hear the conference report March 6. A special thanks to Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for his labors in coming to assist with the memorandum reading.

Bro. Wayne told a story about walking with God. A young Sunday school student was asked to tell what happened to Enoch, one of the two men who never died. The student stated, "God and Enoch were walking one day. They walked all day together. Finally, God said, 'Enoch, you're so far from your home, and you're so close to my home - why don't you come home

with me?'" May each of us walk closely with the Lord so that we can also hear Him say, "Why don't you just come home with me?"

Several couples from the Bradford, IL, congregation assembled with us recently. Our blessed fellowship is certainly something to be thankful for. Visiting ministers on this weekend were Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI).

INDIANA, LEO David Bertsch

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have experienced injury. Sis. Maudie Greuter experienced a fall and has been bed-fast. She is starting to take some steps. Sis. Mary Lantz had fallen several times and suffered injury. Sis. Mary has moved temporarily from her apartment to intermediate care.

We rejoice with two young converts: Jaret Wieland, son of Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland, and Kevin Stoller, son of Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller, have both turned in faith to their Saviour.

We were blessed, as the Sunday school children and youth shared in song and recitation of the many truths of our Saviour's suffering, crucifixion and resurrection in the Easter program.

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Chorus:
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Tabernacle Hymns #135

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor
Marguerite Hoerr**

We welcome our newest sister-in-faith, Martha Wuthrich. Many members of her family came to be with her to hear her testimony and to witness her baptism. The pulpit was filled that Sunday with her relatives. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Ministering Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was also with us that Sunday. We wish Sis. Martha continuing grace from God above as she walks each day with Him.

Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab announce the engagement of their daughter, Rose, to Lowell Bender. Lowell's parents are Robert and Barbara Bender (Goshen). Their wedding date is planned for April 23, and a reception is planned for them April 25. We wish them blessings from God above as they make plans to build their future home together.

Bro. Harold Emch submitted to surgery today, Friday, March 19, at Elkhart General Hospital. We ask God to grant him healing mercies as he recuperates. He and Sis. Kathryn have been a rich blessing to our Milford congregation since their move from the Girard, OH, area.

We look forward to holy communion Saturday, March 20. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) will assist our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer

in administering this rite to our congregation.

The Apostolic Christian World Relief Program, among its many work projects, includes the colonies in Juarez, Mexico, where poverty is of third world proportions. A number from our congregation recently gave their time and talents on teams that provided home building and medical help there. They were: Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer and their son, Barry; Bro. Brent Beer; Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf; Bro. Dick Steffen and his son, Rod; and ministering Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer.

As we look forward to the Easter season, I am reminded once again of the feelings I experienced as the following poem was written:

THE MIDDLE CROSS

I stood with that crowd,
bloodthirsty in part;
Though some were intensely sad.
I, too, felt the anguish, but didn't
know why.
More confusion my thoughts never
had.

Two thieves had done wrong to their
fellow man.
Their crosses stood one on each side.
But the One in the middle, my
agony caused;
He looked down with love in His
eyes.

My gaze was just glued to His
countenance, when
Comprehension and light filled my
soul.
You've done this for me, my heart
tells me. Why?
When I have misused You so?

On this lonely dark hill, gratitude
fills my soul.
I'm filled with such joy . . . I'm not
lost!
You've done this in love, to save me
from sin,
And You hang from the middle
cross.

Marguerite Hoerr

A dairy barn fire greeted Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer and sons, Chad and Mark, upon returning home from church this past month.

Because of the kind actions of a neighbor, only seven cows were lost, saving the rest of the sixty-two cow herd. The barn, however, is a total loss. They felt the kindness of neighbors in many ways according to Bro. Lee and the herd is housed in the barn of his father, Bro. Jesse and his brother-in-law, Bro. Rich Schlipf, until other arrangements can be made.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

Many years ago I read a little story I think has a wonderful meaning. I don't know who to give credit for it as I no longer have it.

It seems there was a mother with two children who often took them on outings. One day they went to a stone quarry. After observing a man for a lengthy time striking a large rock with a sledge hammer, it finally broke in pieces. The little girl asked her mother why he had to strike so often to get it to break. Why didn't it break the first strike. The mother's reply was that it was breaking down inside all of the time.

Can we use this story in our lives? Can we be the "sledge hammer" striking somewhere? Doesn't our walk of life affect others? Are we a good light? Are we reaching out with love and kindness and patience? Aren't these ways we can be used of God to help break hearts of stone?

The fact that they may be breaking down inside should be an encouragement to all of us who anxiously await for loved ones to come with "broken hearts". Let us keep on praying and loving.

We were thankful Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) came over from Wolcott at noon Sunday, February 21 to minister to us in the afternoon. We thank you and Sis. Nancy for your visit. Come again.

It was good to see Loren Wilson (Sis. Velma) in church again after five days in the hospital with pneumonia.

Talk about style, Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Bro. Earl) is wearing a new pair of shoes. I can't tell you what brand name they are but they are

the kind doctors have designed for someone to wear after foot surgery. She had surgery on both feet and is doing real well. She's looking forward to getting to wear her regular shoes in a few weeks.

Our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) spent Sunday, March 14 with us. In the forenoon he visited the Bible class which he likes to do at least once a year. What a wonderful thing for our young people (our future church) to get to know our elder better. In the afternoon, he gave a short talk on communion which we hope to have in April.

There were many empty benches Sunday, March 7 as many had traveled by bus to Lester, IA, to attend the wedding of Bro. Kurt Bahler and Sis. Patti Knobloch. We welcome you, Patti.

By the time this reaches your home, Easter will be past. I hope it has been a time of hope and comfort for all. What a joyous thing to think of a Risen Lord, rather than a dead Christ.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Renee Mangold

We're so thankful for the ministering brethren who bring to us God's Word which continually renews us, even as the warmer weather coming renews the earth and brings forth life.

THANK YOU GOD

Life can hold such lovely things!
Apple - blossom - scented springs;
Purple mists of haze and heather
Books to read in stormy weather.
Common as a cookie jar,
Things I hold the dearest are:
A small white house, a small brown
dog;
Sunlight breaking through a fog;
And as sweet as summer rain,
Understanding after pain.
Life holds all these lovely things.
Thank you, God, for all it brings.

By Nina Steiles

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In the name of Jesus Christ dear ones, we greet you all and hope

this last month has been a blessed one for you.

Just recently we were reminded of all that Jesus has done for us as we broke bread and drank of the cup together in remembrance of Him. How could we possibly survive without Him? Life would be unbearable and there would be no hope for tomorrow. "Oh to be nothing, nothing" Hymns of Zion #76

This month also we had an anniversary celebration in our fellowship hall, marking Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo Meiss's 40th wedding anniversary. We pray the Lord will continue to bless and watch over their household.

Dorothy Claussen has once again been in and out of the hospital. She seems to be regaining strength and is home. We pray for a full recovery.

We were also reminded again this month that death is certain for each of us as Sis. Carol Bucher (Bro. Ken) had a brother and Merv Morrow a mother (Sis. Sherry) who have passed on. Our heartfelt sympathies to these dear families.

Our hearts rejoiced as Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) came and helped our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) serve communion to us with both staying over for Sunday services and dinner after. Two of our dear elders who are excellent examples for us all. We thank God for all of our spiritual leaders including our own ministers, Bro. Gary Bucher and Bro. Andy Moser whom we love dearly. Also we were blessed with Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) as he came and labored for us through God's Holy Word. The Lord bless and keep you all in your service for Him.

Until the next time; the Lord watch between us as all run the spiritual race.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Pamela Gudas

"Have courage in your convictions," Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) encouraged us at our March 4 service. He pointed to Joshua, Daniel and Esther as good examples to follow. Also important is know-

ing our divine purpose and utilizing our resources to carry out God's will.

The fundamentals of prayer, reading and pure thoughts in our relationship with God are vital in getting closer to Him, said Bro. Will Schieler (Milford) at our March 18 gathering. "Sow a thought and you will reap an action. Sow an action and you will reap a habit. Sow a habit and you will reap a character. Sow a character and you will reap a destiny," explained Bro. Schieler after reading Philippians 4:8.

Our appreciation goes out to the visiting brothers for blessing us with the Word. We are also grateful for Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott) for stepping in when the snowy weather kept our expected visiting minister away February 25. All are welcome to join us at Purdue as we look forward to having brothers from Leo, Milford, and Bluffton North minister in April.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were supremely blessed by the God-inspired messages of two visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN). We are so thankful that there are brothers who will not preach to itching ears for fear of stepping on toes, but will without fear of man prick our hearts to a closer walk with our Lord. We need this so much for our own salvation and especially if we are going to preserve a true faith for our children and future generations. May we heed their loving warnings, and may they continue to sound the trumpet loud and clear.

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

Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,

Should I not be more faithful?

Awed by a moral's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most
High?

Should praise of man be more to
me

Than God's most blessed favor?

And though man might reject His
Word,

The Truth remains forever;
Unchanging, sure, it does impart
A comfort to the poor in heart.

Shall I to please the blinded throng
Withhold Thy Word so truthful?
Or thus to soothe the ears of men
Of their reproach be mindful,
To gain earth's gilded joys, or flee
The cross endured, my Lord, by
Thee?

Zion's Harp #113 vs 1, 2, 4

As we enter the Easter season, may we take time to solemnly ponder the depth of Christ's suffering for us, and may it inspire us to more completely crucify our fleshly desires as we take up the cross daily and follow Him. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus - joyfully we serve Him!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We thank our visiting ministers this past month for bring God's Holy Word to us in truth and plainness. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) so kindly helped Elder Bro. Ed Lanz read the memorandum. May God give us the needed grace to live by His Holy Word. Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) also spent a Wednesday evening with us. May God richly bless those who bring forth the Word of Life.

At this time of year, we reflect upon our Savior's suffering and the wonderful plan of salvation He fulfilled. May we endure our earthly trials and tests patiently so we may see our Heavenly Father and Savior someday face to face.

Upward soar, my soul and spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the king of highest merit
On the cross so bare and cold!
His compassion brought salvation
While He died in love untold.

Hymns of Zion #236, vs 1

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Again we have heard the Easter story. What has the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus meant to each of us? Perhaps if we fill in the blanks with our name, John 3:16-17 will have more meaning for us.

For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten Son that _____ believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn _____ but that _____ through Him might be saved.

Since the death of Sis. Marie Butikofer who passed away last November at the age of 102, our oldest member is Sis. Esther Braker who will turn 97 on the 21st of July. In case Esther ever wonders why she lived so long I'm sure most of us here could give the same reason. Her Christian example of meekness and contentment has been invaluable to us. Esther has been blessed with a keen memory for her years. She remembers well her repentance and baptism, though it was over 76 years ago. "I had a fear of dying and I didn't want the Lord to say to me, Depart from me, I never knew you." She also remembers having a deep longing for baptism after receiving peace.

Esther remembers teaching Sunday school. "Back then we didn't vote for teachers, it was all free will." She believes she taught the primary class between 30 and 40 years. "I have such lovely memories! I got so attached to youngsters." We didn't have a table to sit around then. We just shared a bench. At first we read to the children in German and later in English. They were so eager to hear stories."

When asked if she has seen many changes over the years in church, she replied, "Oh yes, but the message is the same." I found that very encouraging. She reports that she enjoys reading from the book of Isaiah. She found it difficult to single out a Bible verse as being her favorite but readily recited the first chapter of Psalms.

Esther eats an early supper and

goes to bed. "I like to read from my German Testament until I go to sleep." She still lives alone in her own home. Although she was never blessed with a family of her own, she is very appreciative of all the love and care she receives from her nieces and nephews. Esther enjoys company and one never leaves without feeling richly blessed for the time spent with her.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser and Laura Funk

In a recent sermon we read about when David counted the children of Israel and how this greatly displeased God. David was given three choices for punishment and he chose to "fall now into the hands of the Lord; for very great are his mercies . . ." (I Chronicles 20:13) On this same day we were reminded of God's greatest act of mercy shown when our Saviour suffered all things for us, that we should be suffering in hell - from pain and unquenchable thirst to death and complete separation from God the Father. Easter has come and gone again, but our hearts and minds can remember throughout the year that God is a merciful God and that we do have a "victory in Jesus." We need to continue to pray for our friends that they can realize these truths too and be like David and come before a merciful God for forgiveness and renewed life in Jesus.

Our thanks, which again seem inadequate, to our visiting ministers and their families for bringing God's Word to us in such a way that it is easy for us to understand. Thank you Bros. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

On Saturday, March 6, many from our congregation gathered to repaint our dining room and Sunday school rooms. The rooms look nice and we appreciate the efforts of the painters.

Also on Saturday, March 6, Bro. Tom, Sis. Dawn, Britany, Clint and Alecia Moser welcomed Andrea Jeannette into their lives. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis.

Jeannette Moser and Ken and Eunice Mengler, all from Elgin, IL.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We're thankful for our visitors this month. May God bless all who make the effort to assemble with us. We are sure blessed by your presence!

We extend our best wishes and prayers to Bro. Jay Wiegand and Sis. Lorri Cargill. May the Lord guide their planning during their engagement, grant them a special blessing on their wedding day, and lovingly support them as they both continue their studies.

We're thankful for the safe arrival of T'Kya Sue Hoerr, born to Bro. Jake and Sis. Wanda Hoerr. We join big brother, Franz, and sister, Anneliese, in welcoming her into our "family".

As spring arrives and we find joy in the new life budding forth around us, may we be prayerful that many more hearts will awaken unto new life while grace is yet to be found.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

How long has it been since you talked with the Lord
And told him your heart's hidden secrets?
How long since you prayed? How long since you stayed
On your knees till the Light shone through?
How long has it been since your mind felt at ease?
How long since your heart knew no burden?
Can you call Him your friend? How long has it been
Since you knew that He cared for you?

How long has it been since you knelt by your bed
And prayed to the Lord up in heaven?
How long since you knew that He'd answer you,
And would keep you the long night through?
How long has it been since you woke with the dawn,

And felt that the day's worth the living?
Can you call Him your friend? How long has it been
Since you knew that He cared for you?

Gospel Hymnal #83

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

Another month has swiftly past, and already we're beginning to see the signs of springtime approaching. We can be so uplifted by the wonder of the sunshine and new life about us, but an even greater blessing is the everpresent gift of God's grace. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

We enjoyed having several visiting ministers share the Word of Life with us. We're so thankful for our willing servants both from home and away. Visitors include Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Mike Rinkenberg (Congerville, IL), Edwin Bahler, Dan Stoller, and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). May God bless them all for their labours.

We extend our congratulations to Dan Leuthold (Jim and Betty) and Amy Bofenkamp as they exchanged wedding vows February 20.

We also wish the best to Sis. Patti Knobloch (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen) who was united in marriage to Bro. Kurt Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois) March 7. May God bless these two dear couples. Our prayers are with Sis. Pattie as she moves to the Remington congregation.

Sincere sympathy is shared with the family of Ben Feucht who passed away March 7. Our special prayers are with his wife Sarah; his daughter and son-in-law, Ed and Judy Martin; and his grandchildren, as well as his brothers and sisters. We were also sorry to hear of the passing of Arnie

Banwart (West Bend). We extend our sympathy to his sisters, Sis. Leona Wulf (Bill), Sis. Alice Metzger (Eli) and Sis. Esty Metzger (Fred) and their families. May God comfort each one.

We pray for God's nearness to the several from our congregation who have been hospitalized or bedridden or are suffering the afflictions of the flesh. Hospital patients were Bro. Ernst Metzger, Sis. Vicki Leuthold, and Lydia Moser.

Congratulations and best wishes to Bob and Carol Moliter on the adoption of their son, Timothy Titus. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

On March 9, little Brendan Alan was born to Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie Metzger. Brendan has a big sister, Whitney. May God ever provide the wisdom to these parents to rear their children according to His will.

We rejoice with Paul Metzger, who has been given that blessed gift of peace. Our prayers are with him as he awaits baptism.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Bro. Robert Frank and Sis. Mildred Scheitlin were recently united in marriage. We just pray the Lord will richly bless and guide their union. Our prayers are also with the children are grandchildren of Bro. Bob that they can warmly welcome Sis. Mil into their hearts and lives.

We also rejoiced to hear of the betrothal of Bro. Jay Wiegand to Sis. Lori Cargill (Elgin, IL). We just pray they can feel the Lord's guidance during their engagement.

Recently also was the wedding of Danny Gerst (Bro. Conrad and Sis. Roletta) and Lisa O'Riley. We rejoice with them also.

Bro. David and Sis. Karla Eberhardt welcome into their hearts and home little Emily Jo. Also rejoicing are grandparents Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington) and Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Burlington).

So happy to have a new little brother is big sister, Kaylyn Lanz. Logan Todd was recently born to Robbie and Chris Lanz. Thankful

for another grandson are Bro. Rob and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Dennis and Teddy Lolling.

We just pray both of these couples can feel the Lord's strength and guidance as they strive to raise the little blessings God has entrusted them.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month for lending themselves to bring us the Word. They were Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). We also want to thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler for his labours in helping read the memorandum. May we take heed to the instruction and concern of our dear shepherds.

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) recently shared with us his slides from his trip to the Ukraine. It really made us stop and think how we need to pray for our brethren there.

IOWA, PULASKI

Carol Wettstein Ernestine Wuthrich

After a winter of icy, foggy and dreary weather, everyone is welcoming the return of the first robins of spring. We are also thankful our winter travelers returned safely home, to families in our congregation.

The Pulaski congregation and the community joined together in a successful benefit for Dennis Teubel. The blessings of our heavenly Father made this event possible. Dennis is continuing with treatment which require hospitalization.

Thank You: We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has offered prayers on our behalf for Dennis' healing, for your thoughts and concerns and also for your love gifts. Your kindness and generosity will never be forgotten. May God richly bless you all as He has done for us.

The Dennis Teubel Family

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

**SHALL WE GATHER
 AT THE RIVER**

Shall we gather at the river,
 Where bright angel feet have trod:
 With it's crystal tide for ever
 Flowing by the throne of God?

On the margin of the river,
 Washing up its silver spray.
 We will walk and worship ever,
 All the happy golden day.

Ere we reach the shining river,
 Lay we every burden down;
 Grace our spirits will deliver,
 And provide a robe and crown.

Chorus:

Yes, we'll gather at the river;
 The beautiful, the beautiful river -
 Gather with the saints, at the river,
 That flows by the throne of God.

Gospel Hymns #669

Arnold "Arnie" Banwart, 68, was called to his eternal reward so suddenly February 26. We extend sympathy to his brothers and sisters. Sis. Leona Wulf (Bro. Bill), Sis. Alice Metzger (Bro. Eli) and Sis. Estellyn Metzger (Bro. Fred) all of Lester, Sis. Clara Anliker (Bro. Sam, Lamont), Bro. Elmer Banwart (Sis. Esther, Washington), Bro. Edwin Banwart (Sis Ada, Oakville) and Miriam Frieden, Sis. Lela Banwart, Art (Madeline), Paul Jr. (Emmy), Benji (Betty) and Bob (Kay) Banwart, all of our congregation. It reminds us how fleeting life is, and that daily and hourly preparation for that final farewell is needful. May God comfort each heart of this dear family, especially our Sis. Lela, with whom Arnie made his home. We are grateful for the prayers and support of visiting ministers at the funeral. In attendance were: Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester), Bro. Carl Wyss, and Bro. Ed Fritz (both of Washington, IL).

We were blessed this month when Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), spent a weekend in our midst.

Sis. Alice Metzger (Bro. Arnold)

recently had a brief hospital stay. We are thankful she is able to be among us again.

Bro. Neal and Sis. Angie Schmidt welcome Cody Alan into their family. Grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille Schmidt, are all thankful for his safe arrival. We wish them much grace in this important work of raising children in the Lord.

How beautiful are the promises of God as we think of the resurrection at this Easter time.

**RESURRECTION AND
 SPIRITUAL LIFE**

O Thou who in the grave didst lay
 O sacred be to us this day,
 For on this day our Lord arose
 In glory from His death repose.

How did Thy humble flocks rejoice
 When they saw Thee and heard
 Thy voice!

O Lord, may we, though on this
 earth
 Share with them all their peace
 and mirth!

O Lord, Thou livest for us now;
 Our Lord and Jesus Christ art thou!
 We know that Thou canst hear and
 see,
 When we sing songs of praise to
 Thee!

And now in Spirit Thou dost call
 From heaven to us one and all;
 "May peace be with thee, child of
 mine,
 For heaven's kingdom shall be
 thine."

Zion's Harp #124

JAPAN, SHIODA

Frank and Kathy Sauder

". . . Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26:26) This past Sunday, March 21, the believers in Shioda, 14 in all, were able to partake in the Lord's Supper together. It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue from the Tokyo church with us for the day and to assist Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle with the communion service.

With the advent of spring comes new life. In Japan, this meaning is not limited to the budding forth of flowers and the return of the song birds, but it also means the time of year when students begin a new school year. Our thoughts and prayers are with our three high school graduates: Kei Saegusa, Rei Iijima and Chieko Aoyama. As they move away from home and go to college, we pray that they will not forget the teachings they have learned at church - "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 3:6)

Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle will be making a trip to China. We pray that the Lord will bless their travel and bring them back home safely.

We look forward to next Sunday when the brothers and sisters from Tokyo will travel out to Shioda for our bimonthly singing.

KANSAS, BERN
Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore . . ."

Revelation 1:18

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! At this time of year may we go back to Calvary and remember our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection and through His grace be obedient and faithful to His Holy Word.

Not now, but in the coming years,
 It may be in a better land,
 We'll read the meaning of our tears,
 And there, sometime we'll understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of sun

Were over many a cherished plan;
 Why song has ceased when scarce begun;

"Tis there, sometime, we'll understand."

Then trust in God thro' all the days;
 Fear not, for He doth hold they hand.

Tho' dark they way, still sing and praise,

Sometime, sometime, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion, #165

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Strahm in the loss of their little son, Andy John. He was born March 1 and then passed away 5 days later, March 6. This is one of those burdens in life that are so hard to understand, yet we know God's will for each of us is perfect. Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane can find comfort in that some day they can meet their precious little angel in heaven. Our thoughts are with the grandparents also, Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold.

Our hearts were again saddened when we heard of the sudden death of Eldora Isch, March 9. Our sympathy reaches out to her children, Jerlynn McCune, Mary Moore and James Isch; grandchildren; her sister, Evelyn Robinson; and her brother, Harlan and Alice Wittmer.

May God grant each of these families His comforting presence in the coming months.

We were uplifted to witness the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls March 6 and 7. We wish Natalie Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) and Cynthia Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) God's grace as they begin their walk with Him. We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sinn, Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for lending themselves in the Lord's service.

We rejoice with Roger and Michelle Edelman as they have answered the call to repentance. May our heavenly Father grant them sufficient grace each day.

On March 13 our Sabetha and Bern congregations hosted the annual Western World Relief meeting. Slide presentations were shown on the hurricane damage in Florida and on Eastern Europe. Demonstrations and reports were on Youth in World Relief, Central Illinois and the Wing Distributions Centers, Home for the Handicapped, hospitals in Haiti and responsibilities of World Relief were all very enlightening. It was a blessed day as we heard how we

may hasten gladly to the labor. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

Thanks to all who attended. Next year it will be held in Princeville and Bradford.

We also appreciate and thank Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Leroy Massner (Winthrop, MN) for sharing the Word of God with us.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

We were blessed to have Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) with us this past month to minister from the Word. May the Lord richly bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

The home of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr has once again been blessed with a gift from God. Jared Steven, born March 8, joins sisters, Anna Maria and Adrienne. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr (Fort Scott) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Schrader (Lamont).

Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Sis. Lynne Fischer (Chicago, IL) were united in holy matrimony March 14. Parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Fort Scott). Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Sarasota, FL) and John Lehman (Bern) were with us to share in performing this ceremony. May the Lord continue to guide and direct Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne in their life together.

On the weekend of March 20 and 21, our congregation rejoiced to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Trenton Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie), Chuck Sinn and Tim Sinn (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen). Assisting our Elder Bro. Charles Sinn was Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO). Also with us to minister from the Word were Bros. Darrell Stoller (Bern), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). We appreciate all those who were with us to share in the blessed weekend.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Doug and Judy Kraft

We have recently gathered together with Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) in our midst. They shared the memorandum of the conference with us. As we hear the loving words of exhortation from our elder brothers, may each of us do our part in carrying out God's will for us on this earth.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our sisters, Wilma Young (Andy, Jr.) and Janiece Isch (Dale). They were involved in an accident and were both seriously hurt. May they feel God's presence and His healing touch during this time.

We rejoice with our Bro. Barry (Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) who was engaged to Sis. Regina Edelman (Sis. Marge, Sabetha, KS) of Kansas City. May God bless them as they plan their life together.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Brad Strahm

We who are attending school and working here in Manhattan are again thankful for all of those who come to worship with us on Wednesday evenings. It is always a bright spot in our week when we can set aside our earthly labors and gather around God's Word. We are especially thankful for the ministers who have given the time to bring us the Word. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS). As always, anyone who may be in our area are invited to come and worship with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

THIS IS MY FIRM BELIEF

I thank Thee, Lord, for eyes to see
The glorious sights of spring:
The tulips by the garden gate,
The birds now on the wing.

The swelling of each little bud,
The forming of each leaf . . .

Your face, O Lord, appears in each;
This is my firm belief.

I thank Thee, Lord, for ears to hear
The joyous sounds of spring:
The babbling of the little brook,
The song the robins sing.
The peepers calling from the woods
At dusk when shadows creep . . .

You voice, O Lord, resounds in each;
This is my firm belief.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz

As we look around us and behold the new life of spring, how can we keep from remembering the life, death and resurrection of the "One" who gave to the human race the "hope" of life everlasting - Jesus Christ our Lord. With sadness and humility we remember the death (cruel and painful) "He" suffered to cleanse our sin. But with reverence, and joy filled with thanksgiving we praise "Him" for the resurrection that shows we too can overcome death and the grave if we but come to Him with a contrite heart in repentance and let "Him" change us to "His" likeness and live in our heart. We are so blessed, if we just realize it!

However dark the night may seem
However deep the pain,
Pour out your heart to Him in
prayer

He will help you to sustain.

Fern Ackerman

To the family of Jeanette Stevenson Robb, we extend our deepest love and sympathy. Jeanette was killed in a car accident at the age of 29 years, and we deeply feel the pain her family is suffering. It is our prayer that God will comfort Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow (grandparents). Gayle Robb (mother) and family and Sis. Jan Willson and Sis. Lynn Johnson (aunts) and families. When our loved ones suffer, we do too. That's what being a part of God's family means. Sharing and caring for one another!

To every one that supports rest home services, Wednesday evening

services, Bible study, singing, or any of our fellowship gatherings - God bless you for your effort. In this busy world, we must keep God first or the world will try to lead us away.

To Bro. Larry Frieden, who suffered a broken collar bone in a three-wheeler accident, and to Sis. Elizabeth Diel, who has had much pain and suffering to face, we just pray for God's grace and healing hand of love.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Anliker in the loss of her brother, Arnie Banwart (West Bend, IA), and also to Joann Luthi in the death of her sister, Eldora Isch (Bern). May the Lord be their comfort during this time.

We gathered with the Gridley congregation March 13 to hear the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) was with us to lend himself in this work, along with Bro. Jay Luthi. May they receive a special blessing for their labors. On Sunday, Bro. Gene and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) shared the day with us. May God bless them all.

As Easter approaches and we daily see signs of the earth's awakening from winter, may our spirits be renewed to walk ever closer to our Savior and Lord who gave His all for us.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Sharon Strahm

Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) spoke to the Sabetha-Bern Single Group at the fellowship center February 22 on "singleness". There were many good thoughts for the single or married. God has a purpose for each of us. Are we willing to give up our will for the perfect will of God? Another thing to ponder is happiness or misery is a matter of choice. We thank Bro. Jim for his visit. We extend sympathy to him on the passing of his mother.

"In everything give thanks: for

this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

"Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

We rejoice with Marc and Sis. Julie Wenger on the birth of Claire Ann, March 5. Her sisters, Erika and Morgan, welcome her home as well as grandparents, LaVon and Sis. Erma Wenger.

Kurt Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene), Sis. Lena Steiner and Bro. Joe Steiner (Sis. Clara) have been hospitalized. Sis. Lena has been transferred to the Apostolic Christian Home. As of this writing Ellsworth Dobson is in the hospital with an infection and our Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sis. Jeanette) is confined to his home with health problems.

Further we rejoice in the fact we have a new convert, Tom Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) who saw the need to repent after his life was miraculously spared in a car accident near Morris, MN. Tom has been working there.

We thank God for where He has extended his healing hand and pray He will grant strength and a return of good health to those in need according to His will.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

"All to Him committing, Wait on the Lord. . ."

Hymns of Zion #69

The Sabetha-Bern congregations hosted the Annual Western Division World Relief meeting March 13. It was a very blessed weekend and we especially thank the visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Alphai Moser (Morris, MN) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

There is joy in the news that

Wanda Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) has found peace with God and man. She is planning to give her testimony April 3.

There is likewise joy in the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Richard Meyer (Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Joni Leman (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane). May God bless them as they plan their June 6 wedding. We look forward to having Sis. Joni in our congregation.

Do something nice for someone you don't know.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings of love from all of us in Lexington. We have had two bad snowstorms this month, much more than we had all winter. This last Sunday we even had to cancel our church services. Isn't it wonderful though that even as we weren't able to gather at church, we still could open God's Word and see written in front of us the exact same words that come over the pulpit every Sunday. Even apart we can still feel God's wondrous love and power.

We can turn to the Old Testament and be right there when Goliath came crashing to the ground, or see the Red Sea part when the Israelites passed through. Or go to the New Testament and sit at the feet of Jesus and learn the many teachings He has for us to learn.

Now especially with the Easter season soon upon us we can and need to once more refresh our hearts and minds with the account of His death on the cross and His shed blood and resurrection unto a new life. It saddens me to know all the pain and anguish He went through was because of our sinful nature. But it should also make us rejoice that God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, loved us enough to go through it all for us, so we could spend eternity with Them in heaven. So if you ever feel God has let you down in some way, think again of the cross and you will know for a certainty God has never and will never let you down if we just trust Him with our whole heart and keep His commandments.

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

I John 3:24

Is it such a large price He asks in return?

We want to ask the Lord for a special blessing on our dear Bro. Ken Schneider and his dear wife and daughter from Remington, IN, who made the effort to come and serve us this past month. We always appreciate the love and support of our brethren and friends and always want to extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to assemble with us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

"Our life is a gift from God; What we do with that life is our gift to God."

Author Unknown

We rejoice with the angels as Mark and Natalie Berg (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer and Jerry and Jane Berg) have answered our Lord's call to repentance. Our love and prayers are with Mark and Natalie as they begin their walk with Him.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Carl Wheeler (Sis. Kate) has been hospitalized while vacationing in California. We pray for God's healing mercies and for added grace and strength for both Carl and Sis. Kate as they remain separated until Carl gains strength enough to return home.

". . . , it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

David Brian Grawburg and Ceri Jo Brown were united in marriage

March 13. Their parents are Kyril and Sandra Brown (Lake Odessa) and Sis. Jane Grawburg (Clarks-ville). May our Lord always be with Brian and Ceri as they begin their life together.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, And shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

We thank Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for bringing God's Word to us. May you be richly rewarded for your labors of love.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

Recently, I was browsing through a Bible Book Store when I came across a poster that said; "You can only see miracles when you're looking through the eyes of faith." The more I thought about that, the more I realized that it was true. Often, we ask God to perform a miracle, to do the "impossible," but immediately our faith gets weak and our human minds question whether or not our Great God can even do such a seemingly hard task. In Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 1, we read: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Without faith, we can't even begin to see the miracles of God, or the evidence of things not seen. Often His miracles take place in human hearts, a place that our physical eyes cannot see. When we look into the human heart with eyes of faith, we'll be able to see God's love, His convicting spirit, and His holiness slowly and softly flowing over even the most hardened of hearts, softening it and purifying it in the greatest miracle of all.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer as their children, Mark and Natalie Berg, have chosen to lead a life of service to their Lord and Savior. We pray that as they walk through the stages of repentance and conversion, that their lives will be full of peace and joy, knowing that they are God's children.

Our congregation has grieved three times over the loss of some very wonderful people in the last month. Sis. Naomi Ramseyer was called home to be with her Lord and Savior and although we rejoice that she no longer has to be confined to a sick, earthly body, we are still grieved to be losing someone so special as she was. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family. Lyle Wackerle, a dear friend of our entire congregation, was also released from the chains of his earthly body. Lyle will be missed greatly and his loss is felt by all. We extend our sincere condolences to his beloved wife, Rosemary, and to his entire family. May God's peace fill their hearts at this difficult time. Bro. Erwin Erismann experienced the ultimate healing of a new and glorious body when he was called home to be with his Lord and Savior. Bro. Erwin was loved by all, even the small children loved him, with his zest for life and ready smile. We certainly feel his loss and our love and sympathies are extended to his wife, Della, and to the rest of his family.

Bro. Eli Schlatter (Sis. Ella) and retired Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Sis. Elizabeth) have both been hospitalized this month. Both are now at home and seem to be doing well. We thank God that he has mercifully extended his healing hand to these wonderful brothers and we pray that God will continue to touch their lives.

As we gladly welcomed the first day of spring and warm sunshine, may we also gladly welcome the warmth and light of God's Son into the fertile soil of our hearts.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

Several new babies have arrived to warm the hearts of their families this cold winter (though hopefully by the time you read this, spring will be making an appearance!). Making Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter (Kitchener, Ontario) first-time parents is Andrew James, born February 18. His grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal (Princeville, IL).

Leland and Katie Haines are proud of their first grandson, Andrew Philip. Happily welcoming a son and brother are Phil, Wanita, and Kimberly Haines (Spencerville, IN). Andrew was born March 1.

Also welcoming their first son are Bro. Von and Sis. Janelle Ringger. Born March 17, Blake Andrew has one sister, Lauren. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger (Oakville, IA). We know that parents have many hopes and dreams for their children, and we pray that God will fulfill those in His will and time.

It often seems that along with rejoicing comes illness and sorrow. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer on the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Naomi Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). Spending some time in the hospital this month was Becky Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene).

We also sorrow at loved ones leaving Detroit for a new residence. Andy Walker has been transferred to Florida for a few months; we are glad that he will be returning. We are very sad, however, to say farewell to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard as they move to Garden Grove, IA. We will deeply miss their fellowship and hospitality and pray that the Lord will watch between us!

Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) was our visiting minister at Woodhaven this month. We greatly appreciate him coming up for services. Our next service at the home will be on Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to our annual Benefit Dinner for Woodhaven Sunday, May 23. Following the dinner, the choir will sing. We encourage and welcome anyone who is interested in a weekend of fine fellowship!

I wrote in the Christmas article last year about my dismay over the secularization of that holiday. In this month, we celebrate Easter. We can see almost an obliteration of the true meaning of the holiday. Society, it seems, would reduce the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection to a "spring festival",

a celebration of creation but not the Creator. Truly the season of spring is welcome after a long and sometimes depressing winter season, but let's rejoice that Jesus brings the "spring" of salvation after the "winter" of sin!

Silver Lining dues for Detroit will be collected in April. Your promptness is appreciated!

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

We bid farewell to ministering Bro. Ken, Sis. Sharon, and Tricia Lawson, as they move to Phoenix, AZ. It brings sadness to our hearts, but we were reminded to think of all the many blessings we have shared and enjoyed together. Our prayers are that God will continue to bless them in their new endeavor.

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

St. Luke 22:19-20

We had the privilege of partaking of holy communion March 13. Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) in this holy sacrament. Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester) was also among us and shared with us God's Holy Word. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Maxine Sauder

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like Christ was raised up from the dead, by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in the newness of life. (Romans 6:4) Lord, help us, this Easter season, to remember that to share in the glory and hope of the empty tomb, we must first kneel at the foot of the cross.

We rejoice that Tom Strahm has recognized his need for a Savior and has come to the foot of the cross. May he be well-grounded as

he builds on the Solid Rock. Tom, who is the son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm of Sabetha, KS, has been employed in the area. We also pray for Tom a trusting, patient heart; and renewed strength as he recuperates from an automobile accident.

Also suffering physical afflictions are Bro. William Zeltwanger and Ruby Luthi. We can be thankful God promises to meet our every need if we put our trust in him.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Knobloch are celebrating the new little gift of life God has entrusted to them. Alyssa Mae is also welcomed by her brother, Jeff; and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall, and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL).

You can't anticipate finishing the race if you are not up and running; was one of the insights expounded upon by visiting ministers, Bro. Ken Lawson. We are saddened to realize Bro. Ken's visits will not be as frequent as the Lawson family moves from Malo to Phoenix. We do thank God for Bro. Ken's dedicated service and pray God's blessing to their family.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner - Kim Messner
Bro. Marlyn Messner (Sis. Lois) had surgery on his shoulder. May God be near to him as he recovers, and we pray it will be successful, Lord willing.

Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt's son, Sid, was married to Dulcie Woods, February 27. May God's love be near to them, and may they seek for His guidance in all things.

A precious baby girl was born to Darrin and Jan Schmidt. She was born February 24 and was named Brittany Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt. May God give them direction as they raise up their gift.

It is good to have our snowbirds back assembling with us.

"With good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men:" (Ephesians 6:7). Sis. Nancy Messner has accepted employment at Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian

Childrens Home. We want to wish her God's blessings and pray that His protecting arms be around her on her new undertaking as she will be missed here. "Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

We would like to thank all those who assembled with us the past month. We appreciate our visitors and the fellowship we enjoy.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:27-28) As Mother's Day approaches, may we remember our special mothers in prayer.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Martin Hohulin
Carolyn Banwart**

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Banwart in the recent loss of two of her sisters. Della Kircher (Bella Vista, AR) passed away in August of 1992.

Viola Townsend (Camarilla, CA) passed from this life in March 1993. These girls were part of the Bro. Sam Miller family of the Old Burlington, Oklahoma, Church area.

A pleasant surprise visit was that of Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari (Bloomington, IL).

We were encouraged by Bro. Everett's timely messages.

Bro. Dean Marti was a recent hospital patient.

We bid an affectionate farewell to Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger as they move to the St. Charles, MO, area to worship with the St. Louis brethren. We look forward to their returns as they visit their children here at Lamar.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We thank the following ministers for coming to St. Louis to share

God's Word with us: Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City); Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). The fellowship we enjoy with our many guests is a blessing we appreciate very much.

Spring is slow in coming this year, but the tulips, daffodils and hyacinths are up and will soon bloom. We continue to feed the birds even though the snow is gone. Cardinals, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Mourning Doves, Sparrows . . . as well as Starlings . . . are frequent visitors to our feeder. Watching them gives such pleasure. The new life and promise that springtime brings is uplifting to the soul.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tami Grimm

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), who came to help Bro. Roy with the conference report. Our thanks to both of these brothers.

Sis. Marie Butikofer was hospitalized again this month. We pray she will quickly recover.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer who recently lost their shop in a fire. We are thankful no one was injured, but the building and its contents were a total loss. The fire was a reminder to us all not to "trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God" (I Timothy 6:17), as we never know when our earthly belongings might be taken from us, but we know that God will be with us to the end of time. Many from our congregation helped with the cleanup, along with friends, neighbors, and employees of Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan.

On March 20 our Sunday school held its annual soup supper. They plan to buy furniture for the Sunday school rooms with the donations received. Thanks to the students, teachers, and all the others who helped make the supper a success. The meal was delicious and everyone enjoyed listening to different groups sing. If only each one who heard the song "Prepare to Meet Thy God", by J. H. Stanley, would pay attention to the words:

"Careless soul, O heed the warning,
For your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgement,
Unprepared to meet thy God."

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

RESURRECTION

Hail, my Redeemer liveth,
All hail, I live with Him!
New life to me He giveth
And saves from death and sin.
Hail me, no more repining,
The Prince of Life arose,
And after death and sorrow,
The homeland's sweet repose!

The grave is now defeated.
I rise in glorious light
To where the crowns are waiting,
Before God's face so bright.
I know my Saviour liveth
In whom I now believe;
Who raises me to heaven
When dust and earth I leave!

I love with sweet affection
Him who first gave His love;
Who with divine attraction
Draws me to Him above.
So then I'll journey onward
To my eternal home;
The hand of Jesus leads me
To rest, no more to roam.

Hymns of Zion #270

We think of Christ's suffering,
death and resurrection for us as
the spring season of the year
approaches. Because of His love and
giving of His life for us we can have
the hope of spending the endless
ages of eternity with Him and the
Father in heaven.

We are thankful that Bro. Clifton Farney (Sis. Bessie) was not seriously injured when he fell from a ladder. Many have had to shovel their roofs in our area as we have received much snow since early February.

We were unable to hold church services Sunday, March 14, as we had the effects of the serious storm on the East Coast from south to north. The winds were strong with the snow and roads in Lewis County were closed for a time.

On Wednesday evening, March 10, we had a covered dish meal and song service. It was nice to have brothers visiting us from the Midwest at this time of the year.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Mothers Day. We each give special thought to our mothers, their love and kindness to us. My mother was so precious. Her name was Lydia, and I wondered if her mother thought of how the Lydia in the Bible was so useful in furthering the Gospel and named her Lydia, praying that she would be like Lydia, because Mother was very useful in furthering the kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul and his helpers went on missionary journeys to Asia, and Paul has a vision to go to Macedonia. So, in going to a different continent, Paul went to the place where women gathered to pray and worship, and Lydia was Paul's first convert recorded in Europe. Lydia let the Lord open her heart to the Gospel, and then she opened her home to the missionaries, and Europe was opened for the Gospel, and the Gospel came to us from Europe. We're thankful for our loving mothers, like Lydia, who could let the Lord use them for furthering the Gospel.

Sis. Juliet Graf will be four score and ten years old as she will be celebrating her 90th birthday May 1. Sis. Juliet is now a resident of our Apostolic Christian Home, 10680 Steiner Road, Rittman.

Sis. Kathryn Novotny, 91, passed away to her eternal rest. Her husband, Bro. Charles, preceded her in death, and also their daughter, Sis. Adeline Gutwein. Surviving children are: Bro. Art (Francesville, IN), Harold, Ray and Jane Krebs; 18 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Glenn Riggenbach blessed us with a sermon recently. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler was here for a weekend, but this area was hit with a blizzard at that time and church services were canceled.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

We thank Bro. Ron Steiner and his wife, Sis. Ruth, for visiting us and sharing in the labors of the ministry.

We are thankful to have Sis. Sara Adam back in our midst after a four month visit to Hungary. Sis. Sara came to the United States 18 years ago and this was her first visit back to Hungary. It was very special for her to be reunited with her family and loved ones again. We are thankful the Lord was with her on her journey and has brought her safely home.

Bro. Dwaine Beery has completed his college education here in Columbus and will now be returning back to Smithville. It has been a blessing to have Bro. Dwaine worship with us and his presence will be missed in our assembly. May God bless and provide for him as he begins another step in life.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

In our part of the country, probably no season is anticipated and appreciated more than Spring.

"The beauty that God placed on earth is fairest in the spring,
When all the trees and buds turn green and birds their sweet notes sing.

It seems an artist took a brush and palette in his hand,
And with a few deft strokes erased the starkness of the land.

God gave us other seasons too but none I think so fair,
As that of spring when all the earth is clothed in beauty fare."

Harold F. Mohn

Springtime also brings thoughts of annual "spring cleaning." Just as our physical houses need a special time of cleaning and rearranging, so our spiritual houses. Recently we were given ample time to cleanse and prepare our hearts, then invited to partake of holy communion March 6. It was a blessing to pause and reflect on the sufferings of our Savior, then break bread and share the cup with our beloved brethren. We thank Elder Bro. Ray

Sinn (Latty, OH) for sharing the work of the evening with our Elder Bro. Bill.

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn

We were blessed with many visiting ministers during the month. They include: Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). May God's guiding hand and strengthening Spirit be felt by each of these brothers and their families.

Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Sis. Dolly) was hospitalized during the past month. May we lift Bro. Merrill and his family up in prayer during this time.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Naomi Ramseyer who was the mother of Sis. Edith Laukhuf (Bro. Rod), grandmother to Deb Graf (Bro. Ed), and aunt to Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Bro. Larry). The Lord will surely supply our every need including in time of sorrow. May each member of these families feel His nearness at this time.

On March 3, Nolan Dean was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn. Nolan was warmly welcomed by siblings: Thad, Calvin and Marla. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger.

Jacob Michael was welcomed into the home of Mike and Valerie Klima. Sisters, Sarah and Audrey, will be ready playmates for their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge Laukhuf and Norbert and Lucille Klima.

May our prayer be that these two little souls and every soul be brought up knowing the love of the Lord and their parents.

We want to thank all who sent us cards, gifts, and the many good wishes given to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you.

Bro. Henry and
Sis. Arvilla Kipfer
Bro. Ed Graf (Sis. Debbie) has

accepted a position on the Gateway Woods board. May Bro. Ed feel God's directing hand as he gives of his time in this matter.

Our junior high and senior high Sunday school classes invited the classes from Sardis, Columbus and Mansfield, OH, and Leo, IN. Many came to enjoy the weekend with us. Lord willing, many friendships were made which can be strengthened as these young folks come to know the Lord.

On March 14, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Scott Gerber (Roger and Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Rhonda Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby). May God direct their lives together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

Psalm 22:22

Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) assisted Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in reading the memorandum. May our lives praise the Lord; May our lips praise the Lord; May our congregation be a praise to the Lord.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32) And Jesus died on the cross and rose triumphant from the grave.

Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara), Sis. Ruth Weiss and Bro. Ora Sauder have been hospitalized. We continue to pray for Bro. Steve Domka (Sis. Ruth) as he undergoes treatments in Cleveland. "God is our refuge and our strength."

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Hartzler
Charlene Winkler

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his richest in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville,

OH) was inspired to bring forth God's precious Word unto us. We thank him for his labor of love.

The weather conditions hindered us from assembling in God's house March 14, but we still have that opportunity and privilege to worship in our homes unhindered by our government. May we never take for granted the blessed privilege we have to worship in God's house and to fellowship with one another.

Sis. Alice Widmer (Bro. Darrel) has recently had surgery. May the Lord bless her with a speedy recovery.

On March 14, Bro. Scott Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Eunice, Latty) and Sis. Rhonda Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby, Latty) were united together in the Lord. We sure wish them the Lord's blessings as another home is being established. We want to welcome Sis. Rhonda to our Rittman congregation and hope she feels at home here.

On March 7, we heard the wonderful engagement announcement of Bro. Jon Widmer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Joann) and Sis. Mary Beery (Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol). June 13, is the day set aside for their wedding day. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their life-long union.

Our congregation has been blessed with four new little babies.

On February 23, Brian and Lori Maibach welcomed Kendal Brian. Benjamin is happy for a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans.

Steven Irwin arrived safely February 27, to Bro. John and Sis. Cheri Klotzle. Anne, along with grandparents, Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Phoenix, AZ), will help love and care for him.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois Maibach welcomed their first child, Blake Warren, March 1. Blake's grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller.

Blake Gerald joined the family of Bro. Heinz and Sis. Tanya Zierau March 3. Paige is his big sister. Happy grandparents are Mr. and

Mrs. Gerald Zierau and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

February 26 was the day Sis. Helen Babin was taken to her heavenly home. May her loving husband, Bro. Emanuel, and children, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Jacki), Sis. Marlene Galat (Bro. David), Sis. Beverly Rufener (Bro. Glen), and eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, feel our comfort and prayers in this time of sorrow.

Sis. Jennie Bauman passed away March 3. She will surely be missed by her loving family which includes: one son, Ralph Walters (Ruth); four daughters, Sis. Elizabeth Beery (Bro. Melvin), Mary Emch (Don), Lillian Montgomery (Tom), Sis. Claribel Anliker (Bro. Walter); 16 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; four stepsons, Marion Bauman (Sis. Delores), Kenneth Bauman (Shirley), Harold Bauman (Sharon), Richard Bauman (Gladys); one stepdaughter, Sis. Lois Beres (Bro. James); 33 step-grandchildren; and 57 step-great-grandchildren.

May the family of Sis. Jessie Winkler feel the Lord's nearness during this time of sorrow. Her children are Bro. Fred Winkler, Jeannette Woyat (Ron) and Sis. Anita Riggenbach (Bro. Edward). She also has six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a sister, Sis. Elda Hartzler.

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

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

From every stormy wind that
blows,
From every swelling tide of woes,
There is a calm, a sure retreat,
'Tis found beneath the mercy-seat.
Gospel Hymns #685

An unusually heavy snowfall for our area brought nearly two feet of snow in one weekend. There were some tense moments as some of us were stranded away from home or confined to our homes with no electricity or heat, but it was good to experience the help that comes

from God in troubled times and to see everyone pull together to help those in need.

It was a special privilege to witness the testimony and baptism of Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda). Even the shedding of tears was a blessing as we were reminded they were tears of happiness and peace, not sorrow or fear. Visiting elders were Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron).

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We appreciate and thank the visiting ministering brothers who relayed the Lord's message to us. They were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). May the Lord bless them and their families for their efforts.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Elizabeth Klopfenstein

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

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

Hymns of Zion #207

This song comes to mind as we see signs of springtime all around us. The air is getting warmer, flowers are blooming, trees are budding, birds are singing, and eggs are hatching. We can't help but praise the Lord for the marvelous beauty of His creation!

However, amid all the beauty comes a reminder that this world is not our home; we are simply passing through. Our elderly brother, Ray Cooper, Sr., was called to his eternal home in heaven, Friday, February 26. Although we will miss Bro. Ray, we have many blessed memories of times spent together and are thankful he could join his wife, Sis. Anna, who was called home about three years ago. We

extend our sympathy to his children, Bro. Ray Cooper, Jr. (Sis. Ginny) and Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth), both of Portland, and Anna Marie Day (Tidewater, OR).

We had our annual church business meeting in February and elected brothers to serve in various positions. Bro. Bill Berg will replace Bro. Ray Cooper as trustee, and Bro. Denny Martin will replace Bro. Paul Rumbold as treasurer. We thank Bro. Ray and Bro. Paul for their service in these positions for many years. We also have added the positions of Sunday school teacher and usher due to our increase in size, and Bro. Ray Moser and Bro. Mark Gallup were selected for these offices.

We are also privileged to have had Bro. Art Metz (Silverton) with us Sunday, March 14, and we thank him for coming and ministering God's Word. We also enjoyed having other visitors this past month, including Joe Miller (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ernie and Sis. Arlene Ballasey (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Sarasota, FL). We thank you for coming and invite you to return.

This is the time of year many families begin to make summer vacation plans, and we invited you to worship with us here in Portland if you plan to travel to the Northwest. "Restless Surf," our cabin at the coast, is also available to all church members and their families. For reservations, contact Sis. Pearl Miller at (503) 771-7834.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Becky Gudeman - Peggy Schulz

Greetings are extended to all in this blessed Easter Season! What a lot we have to be thankful for! We have recently been reminded just what Easter means through testimonies, baptisms, and holy communion.

Our congregation has been rapidly growing. Blessings were many this month as we welcomed several dear souls into our brotherhood: Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet (Klopfenstein) Kuenzi, Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann (Klopfenstein) Kuenzi, Bro. Myron and Sis. Dian (Gulstrom) Kuenzi, Bro. Art and Sis.

Mary Beth (Buchheit) Kuenzi, Sis. Verla (Klopfenstein) Hari (Bill), Sis. Renee Hari (Bill and Sis. Verla), Sis. Lucy Kuenzi (Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet), Sis. Trinda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Sis. Cindy Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris, Lester), and Sis. Marie Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary). We truly rejoice and are very thankful for each one. May God's richest blessings be upon you!

Visiting and helping with the testimonies, baptisms, and communion this month were Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA). Also visiting were Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine, Gridley, KS), Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester), Bro. Bob Miller (Sis. Pearl, Portland) and Bro. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie, Portland). We appreciate the labors of love spent on our behalf; our thanks are heart-felt.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth."
Psalm 33:6

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch have been blessed with a daughter, Bonnie Marie. Brother, Joel, welcomes his little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen Furrer (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch (Bluffton, IN).

We thank Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for delivering God's Word to us this past month. May Bro. Mark be richly rewarded by our heavenly Father for his efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, . . ."
Zion's Harp #236

Certainly all of us have count-

less reasons to thank God for all of the many wonderful blessings he has and keeps bestowing on us.

We, here in Nashville, were especially thankful the weekend of March 7 when 19 visited us from the Tremont, IL, congregation. On Saturday evening, a singing was held at Bro. Don and Faye Sauder's home and enjoyed by all. Some from Athens, AL, attended also. On Sunday, Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) ministered to us. May God richly bless all of you, and we hope you will visit us again soon.

Contact one of us if you plan to be in the Nashville area. Everyone is welcome. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Enid Miller (615) 384-1081; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 3523940. May each of us strive to be more thankful for all God has done for us.

TEXAS, HOUSTON
Sandy Darlington

On February 28, we held our monthly service in Houston, TX. We appreciated a last minute change in the travel plans of Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich. They drove from Zapata, TX, to Lake Jackson on their way to Pulaski, IA, so Bro. Russ could be our minister on Sunday.

My family, along with the Wuthrich's, had the blessing and opportunity to travel a beautiful drive in Texas to visit Sis. Betty Zeltwanger. She is home after having hip replacement surgery. Sis. Betty would like to extend her sincere thanks to all her immediate family, relatives and friends for all the cards, gifts, flowers, prayers, thoughts and concerns during her last surgery and also throughout her last eight years battling cancer. She is home recuperating slowly. If you are ever in the area, please look Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty up in Round Top, TX. God bless you all.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Sis. Pauline Sauder spent some time in the hospital this month. We are so thankful she is again

able to be home and assemble with us in church.

Our visiting ministers with us this month were: Bro. Russell (Sis. Karoline) Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). We felt a special blessing from their visit. We want to thank them.

I wish to thank all who remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts, and love shown me during my stay at the hospital and recovery. God bless you all richly.

Your least sister-in-faith,
Pauline Sauder.

Sis. Joyce Gasser showed us the picture and gave us an interesting talk on the Holy Lands. Thank you Joyce.

SILVER THREADS

**NATURE OF
A CONVERTED SOUL**

What does the soul do with spare time?

" . . . To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."
James 1:27

What does the soul do with extra money?

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

I John 3:17

How does the soul treat fellow believers?

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

I John 4:20

Does the soul love the Word?

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
Psalms 119:11

Does the soul feel the need to pray?

"Evening, and morning, and at

noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”

Psalms 55:17

Is the soul thankful?

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Pride takes the long end, is convinced it has the short end, and never ceases to tell others about it.

Humility takes the short end, believes it received the better part, and prays for the other daily.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

required as we grow. Even for Christ to have died is one thing, but then He arose from the grave. We know that many died, but to arise again and show that we have this hope! Though we are all going to be buried someday, we will have the chance to arise again. Christ did not stay here on this earth and we will not either.

There will be an eternity that we will spend. We pray that each one be ready to spend eternity with God.

It goes on about the Jews. Many believed as Jesus preached unto them. “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.” Acts 17:4, 5.

So they went to this Jason whom they knew was probably one of the followers. They thought they would use him to get these people out. We can believe that even that time was as it is today.

There are so many riots and so many of the people do not really know why they are there. They are just out there to show their emotion. It is contagious. Some people get riled up and influence others. They probably really don't know

the purpose, the deep purpose, of what it originated from.

Remember, when Christ was about to be crucified, He entered into Jerusalem and they cried out, “The King of the Jews”. That was the superscription that was written over Him, “The King of the Jews.” The people didn't like it.

We believe that, as we read, there were even those, at that time when Christ was crucified and put in the grave, that some believed that He was the One Who was going to come up and set them free.

They, no doubt, were thinking of the freedom here on earth from kings and freedom from the taxes and restriction that they were placed under. Yet, this King was to set them free, but not from the things that they were thinking about here on earth.

He set them free from the spiritual clutches of Satan and let them go to have that peace. He has given them that freedom, and He has given us the chance to have this freedom that we can have this peace. We do not have to live in the clutches of Satan.

Sure, we are still on this earth among the world and Satan is still here, but we do not have to live in the fear that our eternity is destruction. We can live with a peace in our hearts, and that is pretty hard to explain or describe, to have that wonderful feeling of peace!

When we visit with those well up in years and have a desire to go on, they say, “Well, I am ready to go whenever the Lord will take me.” They have that peace and feeling that there is something much more important than life here on earth.

Those of us that are younger, no doubt have ambitions and desires that we would like to do while here on earth. That is normal, but those who have become of age and are ready to go on, we hear them talk of it. It is a wonderful feeling to hear them say that. It makes us realize that this life here on earth is but for a short time. It will pass. What is not going to pass is eternity.

Paul was telling these people about this. No doubt he knew that there would be a lot of conflicting ideas. No doubt he knew it was

going to cause some problems, but he was not afraid to speak.

Paul, we can remember of his conversion, was so excited, so relieved and so thankful for what he had been brought from. He wanted to share it with everyone. He wanted everyone to have the chance to find this God and Saviour which he had found.

We still want everyone to have this chance and this opportunity. We have dear friends who are so near and dear to us, and we wonder, “Why can't they see this opportunity?” We sense that many of them are heavy burdened. We think, “What is holding them?” Satan has them in his clutches. We believe that Satan is trying to mislead many who have been called.

Paul loved these people. He loved them and wanted them to have this opportunity to meet in heaven. He went on and spoke about it, and they sent Paul on to another city. As Paul went from place to place, there were many that were converted and did believe. As Paul went on in his travels, again at the next place, it was the same thing -- some would believe and some would not.

There were those who continued to come and try to stir up trouble and cause conflict. Yet from place to place there were those who believed. Those believers did not quit when Paul left. The disciples did not quit when Christ left, but they continued their efforts and beliefs, and gradually the churches grew and the Word spread.

Yet, today, we wonder, are the churches growing? Is the Word spreading? Or are we diminishing? Is Satan getting the better hand? Is his word growing? Satan has many crafty ways that he tries to mislead and deceive each one of us.

Yet, we believe that God is Almighty! If we are true and faithful, God will help us even in the trials and troubles.

Paul went on and lived in Athens. Paul again was brought before many philosophers who spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing. (See Acts 17:21).

They were interested and wanted to hear what this strange

thing was that Paul had to say. "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." Acts 17:22, 23

We can visualize that no doubt they had many idols at this place. This city was wholly given to idolatry. So, no doubt, they had many idols in this city and whether they were lined up or at different locations, Paul said he had seen the one with the inscription written over it, "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD."

They thought maybe there was just one thing missing. Just in case they did not have all the gods they needed, this one was to the unknown. Surely they must have sensed there was something that had more power than these idols that they worshipped.

We know our true God does have power. These idols had no power. They could not do anything. Satan is powerful, but God is all-powerful. Satan can work many wonders among the people, but if we have God on our side, much more can be done.

Paul told them, "Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." Acts 17:23. He meant that God was the One Whom they did not know about but thought might be.

"God made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Acts 17:24. There are no restrictions, there are no boundaries, there are no buildings that can contain God.

Wherever we are on this earth, whether we are at our job or at home or out in the field or wherever we might be, we can pray, visit or talk with our God. We can have close communion. He has not left us, and He will not leave us alone.

"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of

the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us." Acts 17:25-27

This Lord is not far from anybody. He is wherever we are, if we but ask Him to come into our hearts, and ask Him to come into our lives, He will help us. He will come. He is not made with hands. He is not something that we can form or take away.

The images that they worshipped were made with men's hands. We know that whatever man does make is fallible. Man has failures and problems. What God makes is perfect. What God does is not something that man can do. Man cannot put breath of life in, as God does.

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:28-30

We know we were all in this life of sin. We all were born into it, and inherited it. We can read that in the Garden of Eden, man sinned. Because of that, we all inherited sin. But now God commanded -- He did not ask us -- but He commanded all men everywhere to repent (See Acts 17:30).

We need to repent. We can repent continually, but what comes after that? We need to repent and be converted. We need to change our ways. We want to do away with the old, sinful life and do away with the things that have been the attractions in the past. But now we seek after something that is everlasting.

"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Acts 17:31

There has been appointed a day, as we well know, where they will be a Judgment Day -- a Judgment Day when He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man Whom He hath ordained. We know that that Man is the very Christ Whom He speaks about to all men. He has raised Him from the dead.

As we spoke at the beginning of the chapter, Paul had preached about this One that should die and again arise. Here it is brought up again, how that God raised Him from the dead. It is for each one of us. We have been given this opportunity.

"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and other said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them." Acts 17:32, 33. We can think about those words, "We will hear thee again of this matter."

It reminds us of another time when Paul gave his testimony. He was before the king who said, "Almost thou persuaded me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28. Paul said that he wished that not almost, but altogether that he would believe, and all that hear.

How true that is! That is our desire yet today -- that all who hear the Word would not only hear it, but be doers of the Word. We have been commanded and told, that is the way it has to be.

We should obey the Lord so that we would be ready when this time comes, this Judgment Day. How often we have heard it spoken as a trial. We think about it, that when we stand there on Judgment Day, what are we going to have to say? What are we going to have to look forward to? Are we going to look forward to Judgment Day, when we get the reward? Or, are we going to stand on Judgment Day in great fear and wonder what is coming?

I don't think we will have to wonder very long. We are going to feel the condemnation if we have done wrong. We are going to be rewarded greatly if we have done what is right. We have to make that decision while we have the breath of life here on this earth.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
PO BOX 96
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. REX FRIEDEN OF LAMAR, MO

Acts 17

We read of where Paul was traveling and going from place to place, and so often he was met by those who would go up against him and not agree. We read here they thought he was setting forth some strange things and was bringing something new to them.

When we started, we read how they had passed through different places and they went to the synagogue of the Jews. Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them. He abode there with them three sabbath days, reasoning with them out of the scriptures. It goes on and says, "Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ." Acts 17:1, 2.

He told them how that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead. We think of that often, how unfair it surely must have been that this One had to die in our stead . . . die for our sins. Now we think on it for so much of this Bible is written about this very thing - of how Christ came on this earth.

We can read in the Old Testament how it was prophesied that He would come and that there would be a Messiah. We know that man tried, but could not live a true life. They continually fell into sin.

God found that there needed to be a better way. We know how God

did provide a better way, a way that we would not have to continue in this life of sin, but that we could be relieved and we could have a hope of eternal life.

He has given us this chance to change our ways out of this sinful life and sinful state and have a hope to spend eternity in heaven. Yes, it was needful that Christ come and suffer. There had to be blood shed. We know in the Old Testament that blood from animals was shed. It was to take away sin, but it was not the true, innocent blood of man.

Christ did come. He taught the disciples from time to time as they followed Him. He would give them examples and teach them what to do. He knew His time was going to be short here on this earth. Though His life was short, that does not mean His work ended there.

That is why He taught the disciples to continue the work and to continue the teachings. Here Paul was chosen later to continue the preaching as well as those that were with Him and many, many others. Today, the Word is still going forth! Maybe there are those who have not heard the Word . . . they have not heard the Word spoken out of the true Bible.

Yet the Word is going forth. There are very few who do not have the opportunity to get a Bible or hear the Word. We believe that there are many that do not have

the desire. They do not want to gather with us. They do not want to hear the Word. They do not want to feel condemned; it does not make them feel very good.

The Word does not always tell us exactly what we want to hear. It does not always tell us, "You are doing good, just keep doing what you are doing or do what you enjoy." Sometimes it kind of pricks and hurts. We that read the Word stand before you. We have to speak to ourselves, too. Yes, sometimes that is what we need. We need to be set back to realize that we have work to do. We have improvements to make because we want to reach that heavenly shore.

That is our purpose. That is what we are here for - to make the decision of where we are going to spend eternity. I don't think that there is anyone here who does not want to be in heaven some day. We each have the same goal.

This is our road map, as so often referred to. It is our guide. This book has the instructions of how to get there. We can read them and God will help us to understand. We do not understand everything we read, each time we read it, but from time to time, God is able to give us a little more understanding.

We have to grow. We start as babes on milk, but gradually grow and become stronger and more is

(Continued on Page 34)