



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

"And to everything there is
a season and to every pur-
pose under the Heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

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SPRING

"Therefore said He unto them, The Harvest truly is Great, but the laborers are few; Pray ye, therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that he would send forth laborers into the Harvest."

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

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

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

Hymns of Zion #207

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

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

But God Giveth The Increase

1 Corinthians 3: 6-7

MISSION - WORLD RELIEF - WORKS PROJECTS

"NO"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is my prayer that people in the United States and Japan, and indeed all over the world, would say a clear and forceful "NO" to all illegal drugs, to all lustful sins, to excessive drinking of any alcoholic beverage, to abortion, to misuse of guns and other weapons, to dishonesty of any kind, and to driving at excessive speed on the highways. The ability to say "NO" is important and must be practiced and cultivated.

In Isaiah 7:15, we read prophesy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good." The "Butter and Honey" probably refers to wholesome food for His physical body but also wholesome food for His soul. We should be concerned about both and without hesitation "Refuse the evil and choose the good."

We can be comforted to know that the brothers and sisters in our brotherhood do say "NO" to the above listed vices. However, all of our friends should also say "NO" to

these practices. They would thus save themselves from the devastation of these sins. We cannot blame God for letting something happen to us when we walk right into it on purpose and willfully. We don't have to go out and commit all kinds of sin in order to have something to repent of or for. We can say "NO" to all the sins we can think of and still have reason to repent and be born again, since none of us has always loved the Lord God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind and all our strength.

The world is being swamped with problems caused by people's misconduct. This is our chance to shine. To shine we must all say an emphatic "NO" to evil.

In Romans 12:21 we read, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Therefore, it is not enough to simply say "NO" to evil, we must at the same time say "YES" to that which is good and holy, such as repentance, faith in Christ, living a holy life and helping others and sharing God's Word.

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria and Hungary, containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book) and Zion's Harp Hymnals.

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others. Even though the communist "wall" is down and many new freedoms are enjoyed, the economic situation remains desperate in many areas.

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

singing.

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

We have received a great response in the sale of these five tapes and wish to thank everyone for their past support.

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

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

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

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

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

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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IN MEMORY - EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

The World Relief Committee is composed of four counseling elders who serve as chairmen, plus twelve brothers from across the nation. Each member serves an eight year term. The World Relief Committee works in cooperation with the Mission Committee to minister to the needy around the world. Its objective is to meet humanitarian needs while the Mission Committee has the goal and purpose of spreading the gospel. Four boards serve as subcommittees under the national World Relief Committee.

EUROPEAN BOARD

Efforts in Europe are channeled through this Board. Projects are ongoing in Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, the former Yugoslavia, and Germany. At this time, the greatest needs are in Yugoslavia, but the unfortunate situation of the embargo by the UN makes it extremely hard to get materials into the country. However, we are sending much needed funds on a regular basis, and monitoring the status weekly.

Food parcels go into Romania every month, packed and shipped from Bluffton, IN. This effort is greatly appreciated by the recipients who often write warm letters of thanks. These struggling pilgrims know first hand what tribulation is, having lived through many long years of oppression. The Mission Committee sends funds for building and repairing churches, which is a continuing effort. Several new church buildings have been occupied, and others are being built.

The situation in Ukraine continues to be difficult due to an unstable government and spiralling inflation. A large truck shipment of foodstuffs and clothing is scheduled to go into this country as soon as possible in the

spring. We have about 600 members and 400 friends and children in 11 assemblies. The church began here in 1922, and lived through the years of Communism. After its collapse, contact with the western brethren was possible, and the Ukrainian believers have received much needed material and spiritual aid, for which they are very thankful. Contact Bro. Andy Hunyady, Columbus, OH, 614/459-7431 for more information about this work.

U.S. BOARD

This Board was created in 1992 for the purpose of coordinating projects in the US. The disasters of Hurricane Andrew and the Mississippi flood provided many opportunities to help others. The nation is divided into areas, each of which has a coordinator. When needs arise, these coordinators evaluate them and bring the requests to the World Relief Committee. Work teams are coordinated by local brethren. For more information, contact Bro. Arnold Gerst, Taylor, MO, 217/223-8424.

CARIBBEAN BOARD

As its name implies, this Board oversees projects in the Caribbean Sea. Brethren have been assisting in physical needs in the impoverished island of Haiti for about 25 years. Needs there are enormous, but the unfortunate situation resulting from an unstable government has brought most efforts to a halt as of this writing. However, changes can and do occur practically overnight, and as soon as the way is open, projects will resume. Sea containers of material aid are still being shipped, and three hospitals plus schools and nursing homes are receiving financial assistance.

For several years, we have been sending material aid to Jamaica, and

in the last year work teams have been helping in a school for deaf children.

Anyone who would like to take part in these efforts is encouraged to contact their local treasurer-representative or contact Bro. Roger Sauder, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 305/584-0947 for more information on current needs.

MEXICO BOARD

Since 1988, World Relief has built two community centers used for medical clinics and the spiritual and physical nourishment of hundreds of impoverished people in Juarez, Mexico. Hot meal programs for approximately 150 children are offered twice a week. Medical/Dental teams consisting of 20-30 volunteers lend their talents to this work twice a year. Teams to build housing are sent from time to time, working alongside those that will live in the home. These are opportunities for personal involvement by brethren and friends. Volunteers often find their experiences to be very rewarding, changing their outlook and values. Contact Bro. Bob Hoerr, Milford, IN 219/658-4555 for building and medical teams. Information will be sent including details on travel, costs and a team leader to visit with.

INDIA BOARD

Although a separate entity, the India Board works with both World Relief and Mission Committees. Brethren visit this country to oversee the work which was begun many years ago, and passed into our hands after the death of the founder. The challenge of spreading the gospel in a culture adverse to Christianity has benefitted many who have gone. Inquiries about India can be directed to Bro. John Klotzle, Altadena, CA, 818/794-0814.



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).

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF

We believe strongly in the scriptural truth that we should abstain from violence and never take another person's life. The Word teaches that hatred is much the same as murder. "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15).

It is hypocritical to say that we are peace-loving, non-violent people and then to allow "war" in our personal lives or among brethren. The Apostle Paul warned: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (Gal. 5:14-15). He also wrote, "...live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you" (2 Cor. 13:11).

How can we establish and keep good relationships in which love and harmony abound? In order to have the right attitude we must love and feast upon God's Word. "Let your conversation (conduct) be as it becometh (is worthy of) the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). During our repentance we had a clear vision of our own failures and the good in other people. We should retain this attitude.

We must also be realistic and acknowledge the sobering fact that life upon this earth is quite temporary, and thus our greatest emphasis should be upon spiritual matters. The Apostle Peter wrote of the day of the Lord coming as a "thief in the night" and he urged us to consider our priorities: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:10-11).

Strong, loving relationships are formed and nurtured by good communication. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). This Scripture indicates that we should pray before we speak, especially in stressful circumstances; then we will have grace to choose the proper words and avoid hurt

and misunderstanding. We can also ask the other party to repeat what they believe we said so that we can be sure that we expressed ourselves clearly.

Our tongue can be an instrument of good or it can be an evil weapon, "full of deadly poison" (Jam. 3:8). Angry words can create deep and lasting wounds in another person's heart. How can we honestly say that we despise violence, if we harm another person with our tongue? The Apostle Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29), and he also warned, "be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath" (Eph. 4:26). Anger is a human emotion we all experience, but we must learn to redirect this feeling in a way that will keep us from sinning. We sing in one of our beautiful hymns, "Angry words, Oh let them never, from the tongue unbridled slip; May the heart's best impulse ever, check them ere they soil the lip. Love is much too pure and holy, friendship is too sacred far, for a moment's reckless folly, thus to desolate and mar." *Hymns of Zion # 65*.

If we should slip and allow anger to bring forth harsh words, the scriptural remedy is very clear. We must humble ourselves promptly "before the sun goes down" and seek forgiveness. Loving our neighbor as ourself also requires us to forgive as we would wish to be forgiven. "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

Building strong relationships requires special effort to encourage our loved ones and to avoid unnecessarily discouraging them. All of us are somewhat weak and are susceptible to Satan's efforts to cause us to grow weary with the burdens of life. Unwarranted criticism adds greatly to these burdens. It takes no special talent to criticize or belittle another person.

This does not mean that we should refrain from kind and loving admonition when someone has clearly erred or is

demonstrating an ungodly lifestyle. This should be done after prayer and self-examination, and it should be motivated by love (Matt. 7:1-5). There can also be a great blessing in making a special effort to encourage and edify one another by our words and deeds. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom 14:19). Let us also be willing to offer an honest compliment when the opportunity arises.

Good communication requires careful and sincere listening so that individuals can feel free to be open about their feelings. It is not sufficient to discuss only behaviors, we must move to a deeper emotional and spiritual level and talk about what we believe and feel and how our struggles relate to the teachings of God's Word and the church's direction. A helpful guideline in choosing an effective approach is to consider how we would like to be dealt with if our roles were reversed. Jesus said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matt. 7:12).

Finally if we are going to be able to properly love and respect others, we must have a healthy attitude about ourselves. Our self-concept must be based on the fact that God made each of us as a special person, deeply beloved by Him. True humility reflects an accurate self-concept—not putting one's self down or becoming proud. Paul said, "by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10). With this kind of attitude we will not spend much time thinking or talking about self, but we, like Christ, will focus on what we can do to love and serve one another.

If we as individuals and as a brotherhood put forth a valiant effort to fulfill these scriptural truths, we will send forth a clear missionary message to the many lost sinners all around us. Jesus put it very simply when He said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

EUROPEAN UPDATE**By Bro. Andy Hunyady**

Greetings beloved,

It took over two weeks in January for the European Postal Service to deliver a letter from Bukovina to Budapest, Hungary. This letter contained an urgent request for medications to combat an epidemic of hepatitis that affected a number of adults and children among our brethren and claimed the life of a five-year-old son of Elder Bro. Vasile and Sis. Silvia Paladean (Ostrica). The letter was faxed to us and to Germany, asking for needed medications.

Brothers in Germany responded immediately, just in time as a sister-in-faith was to travel to Budapest. She handed it over to ministering Bro. Janos Namenyi, who with another brother to accompany him on this treacherous, long journey to Bukovina, delivered the medication. Bro. Namenyi's son, Janos, Jr. and his family live in Bukovina.

During their brief stay with the brethren in the Ukraine, they visited several sick people. Most are suffering with hepatitis and others with cancer. One mother of five young children, in her mid-forties has terminal cancer. The youngest child is two years old. The husband, not in faith, is unemployed and without income. Another child, about five or six years old is suffer-

ing with a strange disease, atrophy, can hardly walk and her frail body is wasting away. Some brothers suggested to have her brought to Hungary for medical treatment. Local hospitals and drug stores are without medications, even the very basics are absent. Hospitals send their doctors home without pay, no drugs and no patients.

Some steps are being taken at

this time to have doctors and medications sent to Bukovina and provide some preventing measures, vaccinations to stop the spread of the hepatitis. Two Hungarian doctors, one in the northern part of Hungary and another who lives and has a practice in Bern, Switzerland, offered their services as volunteers to go to the Ukraine and work with local doctors as soon as

GATEWAY WOODS CHILDREN'S HOME**This is NOT an Ad**

We, at Gateway Woods, decided to share with you some quotes from present houseparents when we asked them how they were blessed or changed by coming to Gateway Woods. We still have staff openings, but we thought you may be refreshed by the words of some who have already come.

"I've been blessed by seeing God's purpose for the family as I have worked with these children and their families." **Todd Schrock**

"The biggest blessing is being able to teach the youth about the Word and seeing their interest grow. You definitely recognize where your strength comes from and His strength is there when your strength fails." **Carol Schrock**

"I really appreciate working with brothers and sisters and developing deep relationships with the staff and children. I have seen how conflict gets me into the Word." **Stephany Moser**

"I've been blessed by having my eyes opened to what's out in the world and what I can do to help out. I realize the importance of teaching our own children God's ways in their earlier years." **Kevin Fiechter**

"As you touch the children's lives you get blessed and you see improvement. God has become more real." **Brenda Fiechter**

"I have been blessed in seeing the children's lives change. I have become more mission minded and service oriented. Material things don't mean as much as they once did." **Andria Moushon**

"I have been blessed in knowing that God provides in so many ways, and when we do His will, that is what's best." **Sandy Leman**

"I've been blessed with a support system of fellow brothers and sisters. I've learned to become more flexible and tolerant. . . . because of where the children come from . . . we have to look beyond the behavior to the need that is there." **Deb Neuenschwander**

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information, job description and application process.

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

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

HURRICANE ANDREW PROJECT

We are still seeking work teams for the remaining winter months, to help rebuild storm damaged homes in South Florida.

Couples or small groups are welcome as well as larger groups.

It is an excellent opportunity to help the less fortunate and also enjoy Christian fellowship.

We have the facilities to house the feed the work teams during their week on the project.

Florida City is located 60 miles south of the Fort Lauderdale church.

Please contact Bro. Roger Sauder, (305) 584-0947 or Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (305) 472-1738 to make arrangements or to ask for further information.

sufficient drugs can be purchase. It is hoped that the brethren in Switzerland, Hilfe, will contribute to this most worthy cause. According to Bro. Namenyi's report, there are about 650-700 adults and 300-350 children who need to be vaccinated.

Bro. Namenyi also reported that the local elders and brethren with whom they discussed the conditions, find that most food items can be found in the local stores and

marketplace, but one must have hard currency, U.S. dollars or German Mark (DM) to pay for it, and that they can buy twice the amount of food for the money that what one can buy in the foreign countries and not counting the cost of the delivery. This matter is yet to be studied more carefully. Now another problem, crime, robbery and stealing. Knowing that many of our brethren have hard currency in

their possession, they are the target for such crimes. Such an attempt was made recently when someone tried to break into the home of Elder Bro. Peter Karcia while they were at home. The robber, scared, took off when he learned that the family was at home. It is by the grace of God that no harm was done to them.

The Relief Committee in Yugoslavia, who receives funds and is responsible in distributing it to needy families, sent us their annual financial report. It is remarkable how well they manage and give account of every dollar they handle. In their letters they express their heartfelt thanks to Almighty God and to the brethren and friends, both in the United States and other supporting countries, such as Canada, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Australia. Without such help they would have perished of hunger and starvation, without medications and heating fuel for their homes and churches. Economic sanction is strictly enforced by the U.N.

A large shipment of chemically treated seed corn, clothes and some fabrics are on the way to Arad, Romania from our Bluffton Distribution Center. Here too, economic conditions are still deteriorating. Inflation is running high. Food, medications, clothing and shoes are hard to find and are too expensive for the average citizen. Churches are well attended, but have shortage of

— NOTICE —

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

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches
Ten Years — August 1983 thru July 1993 — 256,743

Bibles Distributed — Eleventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1993 —	1509	1509
September 1993 —	1661	3170
October 1993 —	3572	6742
November 1993 —	2580	9322
December 1993 —	2864	12,186
January 1994 —	1486	13,672
February 1994 —	1998	15,671

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and testaments, 3rd shipment

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testaments, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

NOTICE

Due to the lack of requests for "Zion's Harp," "Hymns of Zion" and other hymn books, we ask that you not send us these until our surplus is used up. We'll submit a NOTICE when we need more. However, continue to send us your used Bibles which are greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you,
Phil and Gloria Grant

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1994
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 13, 1994

Romanian Bibles and Zion's Harp Hymnals. The Zion's Harp Hymnals are being revised to conform to the present day language and hopefully this will be solved by the end of the year.

Work on the New Szeged, Hungary, church is progressing well and the target date to finish and hold dedication is set for the later part of October. In the village of Pogany, a new church building is being planned to replace the more than a hundred year old building, on the verge of collapsing walls. Most of the materials are on the site, have sufficient funding and expect to demolish the old building and start construction early in the spring. Due to nice growth in the membership in the city of Kaposvar, it is necessary to enlarge the present facilities. Plans are completed, but will need some financial assistance to carry out this project.

HAITI UPDATE

The Caribbean Board has either cancelled or deferred all work teams to Haiti at this time due to the unrest and instability in the country.

The United Nations embargo has a devastating impact on the whole country and the poor in particular.

Fuel supplies are about to run dry making travel almost impossible, other supplies are also short, driving up the prices because of the demand.

The State Department has warned against unnecessary travel to Haiti and further action by the United Nations is imminent to force the military to allow the elected President to return to office.

We will only resume sending work teams when the people we work with assure us that travel is safe and supplies are available.

We still have the option of sending funds to help the ongoing projects.

We would ask that you remember Haiti in your prayers as they are in dire need of even daily bread and much more that a spiritual revival could continue in Haiti.

Bro. Roger Sauder, Chairman
Caribbean Board

The following letter was written by a friend who was at the new church dedication in Arad, Romania, October 24, 1993. It was sent to her relatives in Akron, OH. Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner and Bro. Andy Hunyady also attended this dedication. Excerpts, translated from Romanian:

"I was in Arad at the dedication of the new church building . . . what can I say? It was a great and blessed day for the believers in Arad. The church is like a jewel. The architect who designed it was truly inspired. On a not too big lot, on a main thoroughfare he succeeded to build a model church, beautifully executed . . . There are two rows of steps leading up to the church where the believers worship . . . below the steps one finds the offices, store rooms, dining room, everything executed perfectly. The benches in the church are very beautiful, with three divisions for Bibles, hymnals and others. The church was filled to capacity. Many were standing in the aisles and in the balcony and outside the entire courtyard was full.

The entire worship was most beautiful through its simplicity. The messages brought tears in the eyes, coming from heart to heart. It has been a long time since I was able to attend, listen and be impressed by such words of faith and hope as spoken by those who for many years had to hide in their houses and were persecuted. Now

they have the privilege of worshipping freely in their own house of prayer. A beautiful message was given by Elder Bro. Phil Stettner from America. In conclusion, Elder Bro. Sandu Virtaci was one who showed through a message of great inspiration that filled all eyes with tears. The warmth radiating from his soul as he spoke filled us all with the same warmth and love for Christ, our Saviour. He reminded us of the persecutions endured by the faithful believers who filled the prisons.

He thanked Almighty God for His help and also those who so generously contributed to this house of worship. Here, I heard and saw how beautifully people are able to understand each other: There were Romanians, Hungarians, Americans, Germans and other nationalities in attendance. Songs were sung praising God in all languages. The messages were given in three languages. It was really something to behold. On the end, a fine meal was served to all in attendance in the three beautifully-arranged dining rooms. We could not stay, but thanked Elder Bro. Virtaci for everything he has done for the Lord and the needy brethren and friends."

by C.S.

HAITI & JAMAICA WORK TEAM SCHEDULE

Project	Date	World Relief Area	Locations	Area Coordinators
Deaf Village	5/19 - 5/27/94	#4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH	Jamaica* C.C.C.D. ^o	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541

For more information, contact:
Harold Witzig

See Jamaica Trip Reports on
Page 36

*Couples invited on this project

^oMissions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.)

^oCaribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

308 N. Second Avenue
Morton, IL 61550
HO. (309) 266-6263
OF. (309) 263-2041
FAX (309) 266-7644

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We often worry about making the right decisions in our spiritual, work and personal lives. It seems like there are decisions which are too complicated to figure out. It also seems sometimes like there is no way to know the right answer. Because of this, sometimes our faith is weak and we may doubt our salvation. When Paul wrote to the Philippians he wrote with a confidence and optimism we should try to emulate. In Philippians 1:6 he said, "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."

In our decisions at the Home we need to be reminded of this at times. We know that this is a work which God has begun and as we worry about what the future holds and how to meet needs, we need to remind ourselves that since God has begun this work He will take responsibility to continue and perform it as long as it serves as a ministry to Him.

In past articles we have talked about being led to build another 16-bed home called Linden Estate. Some of you who have been in the area may have seen it and noted the progress. The structure is complete and the interior is being completed. We hope to be ready to start the licensing process soon. This can be a long process which makes it impossible to determine when we will be ready to begin operations. We ask you to pray that as God has begun this work He will continue in it.

We have hired some of the staff in preparation for opening. Helen Schuon will be the administrator of Linden Estate in addition to her current duties as administrator of Oakwood Estate and our Community services. A case manager at our large home will be the Resident Services Director. Her name is Meg Gaydos and we are pleased she accepted the responsibility. Many of the residents moving will be familiar with her which will make the move more smooth.

All of the residents who will move to Linden Estate have been

informed and the families have been informed. They have started orientation meetings to answer questions and to prepare for the move. There are three residents of Oakwood Estate who will move to Linden Estate, one person will move to Linden from his parents' home and twelve from the large home. There will be three residents from the large home who will move to the openings at Oakwood Estate. We ask that you pray for each of them to be blessed in their new homes.

Our main activities here at the Home are training for the Special Olympics and going on over-nighters. Our basketball team played in a tournament and won first place. They were pretty pleased about this.

April birthdays at ACHH are: Jane Kohler (1), Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27) and Zita Palko (27). At Oakwood will be Sonja Metzger (14) and Mark Gundy (17). There are no birthdays at our CRS's.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Reinhard

"But Papa, we need to pray and thank God for the food," commented one four-year-old while eating supper with her grandparents. This and many other similar examples are so encouraging to us as we get a glimpse of the outreach that we really do deal with. We hope and believe that the time and effort spent in teaching and training is truly worth every minute of it.

At the Preschool, we have children from the age of two up to the age of five years old, and we average about 35 students a day. The children come from all over the community and are from many different backgrounds. They learn how to play and get along with each other, and they learn how Jesus would want them to live.

They also learn to appreciate the many good gifts that God has given us. This month we will be talking about the themes of colors

and the five senses and how the Lord has given us each one. The senses of hearing, touching, tasting, smelling and seeing are tremendous blessings that we oftentimes just take for granted. Let us not forget to thank God for each of these often.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Andria Mathshon

Gateway Woods. Change. The two seem to go hand in hand, interchangeable. In the past month, we welcomed Jennifer M. who joined the New House family with houseparents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock and Sis. Stephany Moser. The New House also anxiously awaits the arrival of baby Schrock who is due mid-March. Misty, an energetic six year old, has added yet another ray of light to the East House ladies and houseparents, Sisters Marilyn Walder, Deb Neuenschwander and Sandy Leman.

Along with the joy of welcoming new friends, we are saddened to have to say good-bye to Sis. Nancy Messner who has served as our Office Manager and now feels God leading her back home to Minnesota. We all understand God's calling and the importance of following, yet it's hard to say good-bye for now and to feel the void that Sis. Nancy will leave behind. We love you Sis. Nancy and wish you God's richest blessings.

We also want to express our sympathy to Robin S. in the passing away of her mother and to Robin E. whose grandfather also died in Kansas. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

Did you pray for Gateway Woods today? We now have several staff positions that need to be filled. Bro. Jeff Thames and his family will soon be leaving and that leaves us without a Child Care Supervisor. Bro. Jeff's position enables him to do a lot of work with the house-

parent staff and the process of intake and referrals on children. A couple to serve as alternate houseparents has been needed since early fall. Alternates come into the houses when the regular houseparents take days off. With Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm in Florida for the winter, we have depended fully on substitute brothers and sisters who are willing to come fill in. This is hard on everyone. The children never know for sure who they are going to come home to and houseparents never know how the children will respond. I was talking to one of our children about the substitute situation letting them know that different people will be coming in until we had a permanent couple. "What's the matter, doesn't anyone want to work with us?" was her reply. Ouch, it hurt me and I know it must have hurt her as well.

Have you prayed about it? Not just that God would send someone, but have you asked God if He could use you in His work at Gateway Woods? But you have a stable job, your family is all settled, you own your home, your children like their school, your home church needs you. God asked Noah to build an ark on a beautiful sunny day, not in the midst of a storm. Is God asking you to build an ark today, to step out of your comfort zone, to take a leap of total faith, to do something you don't understand, to prepare for a future you cannot see? Noah listened to God and prepared for the storm in the sunshine. When the rains came, Noah continued to listen and remained faithful . . . and God was faithful to Noah. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil." (II Thessalonians 3:3) Is God calling you? Are you willing to listen?

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

Recently, in Athens and surrounding communities, we experienced what was termed "the worst ice storm in 20 years". The ice storm only lasted two days, however, we still can see the effects of it, more than two weeks later. Experienc-

ing three days without power halts our routine lifestyles that we take for granted, and reminds us of how blessed we really are. So much of what we take for granted can be gone so quickly, leaving us helpless and unable to do anything about it. God is still in control!

The first weekend of February was the board meeting for the Tennessee Fellowship Area. We had many visitors that weekend, and were especially thankful to have Elder Bro. David Bertsch with us, who brought us the Word of God on Sunday. On Saturday evening, we were blessed with the testimonies of two precious souls who are now Bro. Charles and Sis. Corrine Williams. With Satan tearing so many marriages apart today, it is a joy to see two souls brought closer together by God's love.

God has touched another soul in our community, Nancy Chapman. We appreciate Nancy and her two children, and can see the love of God touching the life of another dear person.

We were pleasantly surprised to have Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and his wife with us Sunday, February 20. It was a blessing to have Bro. Bill bring to us God's Word.

The Sunday school children spent that Sunday afternoon ice skating at an ice skating rink in Decatur. A supper was provided for them at the fellowship hall afterwards, with the children and the adults enjoying each other's fellowship and company.

We ask that you pray for those who have been hospitalized in the past month, Sis. Hazel Vibbert, Ricky Haggenmaker, Sis. Shirley Haggenmaker and Terry Haggenmaker.

April 16 is the day planned for the singing/weekend at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. A lot of work has, and is, going into improvements on the shelter and camping areas. If you have time and/or talents to offer to this project, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, 205-232-2035, about the scheduled work days.

We rejoice in God's love and power, and let's all try to have a positive attitude in this upcoming

month! "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think of these things." (Philippians 4:8)

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Count your blessings - see what God has done."

What joy to have our winter resident families and winter visitors join us. The sun shines, the birds are singing at daybreak, and you can be very close to God -alone- or with many others.

Every one of us can make someone else have a better day. Praying is one way. Kindness is most inspiring. Love is ineffective, if not given away.

We have been blessed with messages from Bro. Harold Grimm (Morris, MN), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We are grateful to each of you.

Funeral services were held in church, January 23, for Sis. Ida Freulich (the late Bro. Paul Freulich). There were memorial services in Rittman, OH, after Sis. Ida passed away January 19. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich was assisted by Bros. William Dotterer and Greg Gramm for the services. Internment was in our church cemetery (Resthaven).

Our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch, their family and her sister, Ella Mae, and families and other nieces and nephews.

Sis. Ida endeared herself to all, when Phoenix was home.

Bro. Dave Klopfenstein and Bro. Jim Ringger were surgery patients and Kory Langhofer has replaced his leg cast with one on a boot.

We surely appreciate our monthly church suppers and singings. Thank you to every one for their labor of love.

With our daily temperature in the 70's, our many birds are back.

Inca doves line up on the fence in the sun while woodpeckers and finches grab black olives and fly away - only to return for more.

As we enjoy reading our Bibles, let us not overlook the seven miracles in John 1 or the I ams.

"God has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness."

II Peter 1:3

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

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

Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1

We wish to thank the following ministers for sharing God's Word with us: our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Michael Rickew (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA). God bless you for the beautiful teachings.

Thank you and God bless all the Sunday school children and their teachers for the beautiful Christmas program we were able to enjoy. We know it was a lot of work. "God bless you!"

A special thank you to all our visitors this past month. May God richly bless you for the joy your visit brought to our congregation. Come back soon.

We are excited and so very thankful that our new church here in San Diego is started.

COLORADO, DENVER
Jamie Grant

On February 2, I sat down to write our little monthly column. My thoughts sort of became fashioned on the idea of groundhogs. That's right . . ., groundhogs. After all, it was Groundhog's Day.

As a child, I had always wondered if this little weather-forecaster was real, or not. I also pondered as to why he was so scared of seeing his own shadow? Why did

he have to go "hide" for another six weeks? And, what does seeing your shadow have to do with another forty-two days of bad weather?

As I reversed my thoughts to a spiritual sense, some new questions arose in my mind. Why did Peter thrice "hide" the fact that he knew Jesus? Why did Elijah "hide" in the wilderness to spare his life from Queen Jezebel, and then ask God to take away his life? (She would have been happy to do it for him.) What do I "hide" from as a Christian?

I soon found that the Bible uses the words "hid" and "hide" some 24 times. I am so thankful that we have the Word and the Holy Spirit to clearly explain some of the things that should and should not be "hidden". Her are just a few of those verses:

Psalm 17:8 - "Keep me as the apple of the eye, Hide me under the shadow of thy wings."

I Peter 3:4 - "But let it be the Hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God a great price."

Lastly, this verse seemed appropriate as Denver is often call the "Mile High City". Matthew 5:14 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

It is our hope that we can always be that "silent sermon" and a "light" to others who are lost in a dark and sinful world.

As the letters of old were sent long ago, we send our greetings to all, and hope that our fellowship by pen or presence is strengthening!

In closing, we welcome Brad Hays (Bloomington, IL) to our haven of rest in the "Rockies"!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

January 4 was a blessed event for Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider with the arrival of a son, Jacob James. Samuel and Lydia welcome their new brother. The grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and

Sis. Marge Schneider and Bro. James and Sis. Jane Moser.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy welcome a new grandson, Drew Douglas. Drew's parents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna Mogler (Lester, IA).

Two souls, Catherine Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) and Mary Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma), gave their testimonies Saturday, February 5 and were baptized Sunday, February 6. May God richly bless them as they walk this path of life.

Our congregation was blessed with having Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman with us for the testimonies and baptisms.

Believing it was God's will, Bro. Brian Luginbuhl (Sis. Florine) and Sis. Cyndi Galat (Bro. Dave, Sr., and Sis. Marlene) have announced their engagement. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pete Skipper as he recovers from a recent accident.

Sis. Elizabeth Erismann went to her rest after being in the nursing home for some time. She leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Michael Capello; two daughters-in-law, Sis. Della Erismann (Bay City, MI) and Barbara Erismann; and many grandchildren.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Sis. Barbara Reutter (Bro. Alfred) in the passing of her father, Bro. Jacob Metzger (Lester, IA).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

One thing about being near the Nation's Capital, the entire country hears our weather reports. We survived the February snow and ice storm without too many difficulties. The Aeschleman's were without electricity for two days, some areas were out close to a week.

By the following weekend we had temperatures in the upper 60's. This was nice for the group who came with Bro. Earl Berry (Rittman, OH). Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). Our

attendance this month ranged from 12 to 44. We are thankful for all who come to worship with us.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Many from the area meet for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship or singing (which we did with our visitors from Rittman) and the other Sundays for a tape, so please let us know if you are in town. For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

This has been a month of a bountiful number of visitors, including many visiting ministers. We are so thankful for each one. It is such a blessing in our churches across the land the way the ministers and their wives travel to support each other in doing the Lord's work. We know our home church ministers need and appreciate the support. They are used so heavily throughout the year that they must welcome the opportunity to be ministered to for a change. The list of those we were privileged to hear from are as follows: Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Joseph Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL). Also, Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ralph Garber and Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL) shared with us. Several of these brothers shared two or more times with us.

Our sympathies and prayers are extended to Marie and Art Keller and Mike in the passing of Marie's mother, Agnes Troesch (Springfield, IL), January 31. We hope we, as brothers and sisters, can be some small comfort to them.

We also extend our sincere con-

dolences to the Gutwein families and the family of Robert Cook (Francesville, IL) at his passing away recently.

Our annual business meeting will be held February 27.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Jeff and Gloria Fischer

Psalms 90:10 reminds us that the days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength fourscore . . . We celebrate the ninetieth birthday of our beloved Sis. Minnie Neust following the Sunday church services January 16. Minnie is quite active and a tremendous blessing to our congregation. We are grateful that God has prospered her health.

Our monthly church potluck also served as a wedding shower for Sis. Gala Gerber and Bro. Marvin Wieland. The congregation extends the best wishes to this couple as they plan their future as one. Gala's cheerful presence will be missed as they plan to marry March 27.

We all enjoy singing that in heaven we will never say goodbye. On earth, however, goodbyes can hardly be avoided. A special potluck dinner followed by a singing was held February 20 to say farewell to a longtime resident, Sis. Viola Leman. Her family will benefit from our loss as she moves near her brother and sister in Peoria, IL. Her address is now: Viola Leman, 7023 N.E. Skyline Drive, Peoria, IL 61614. May God be with her till we meet again.

We are thankful that our hospital patients are at home and recovering. Lucy Buser (Bro. Ernie) and Sis. Linda Sabo (Bro. Douglas) were hospitalized. Also, Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Kenneth, Latty, OH) endured an extended hospitalization. Our prayers rest upon them as they recover.

We appreciate the many visitors that have come to be with us recently. It is such a blessing to fellowship with our church family from various locations. Our walk has been enriched by crossing paths that ultimately lead home to a place that is out of this world. We thank the many travelers who have ministered to our needs.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Peg Anliker

We are thankful for ministering brethren, Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) who visited us. We trust God will be their Rich Rewarder.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

In late January, we had a Bible study led by Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) involving the prophecies of Revelation and the end times. We closely studied the scriptures pertaining to Israel becoming a nation once again and how that fits in the end times. I remember early in my Christian life attending Bible studies when the end times were discussed, an apprehension would rise in my heart always wondering if I was really ready for Christ to come back. But as the years went on the apprehension disappeared, replaced with a fascination of how much God is really in control. This is especially true as the world becomes more and more dark. I do not have that apprehension as I used to have, knowing my salvation is secure on the shed blood of Christ, but the Word tells us that we should be looking at these signs which point to the end times. As "signs of the times" become more frequent, we should be look up toward the sky, for Christ will be coming for us soon.

We appreciate the time Bro. Jim Ramseyer for taking the time for the Bible study and coming to minister to us. We also appreciate the ministering words of Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Bro. Glenn Price, and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) who have come to visit the last two months.

February was the month we held our first potluck for 1994 at Chris and Sis. Peggy Camp's house. It amazes me that as we gather as friends, it seems more like a family, that over the years we have grown closer and closer. It is a joy that we can gather together and help each other when times tend to get a little rough. Our group is

small, but every time we get together, it seems just right. As we gather, it thrills me how much God has really blessed our congregation.

Sis. Cindy Hitz and family came back for one (of which we hope there will be many) visits since they moved back to Detroit. We miss the Hitz family since they moved back, but it is a blessing that 700 miles will not keep us apart from them.

If you are in the Atlanta area, we would be more than thrilled that you stop by for a visit. We meet every Sunday at the Renaissance Hotel which is located on Riverdale Road at I-85 just south of Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. Our song service begins at 10:20. Feel free to call either Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Bros. Don Sellers (404-381-1395) or John Brewer (404-591-5432.)

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

It has been a quiet reporting period for our congregation. We have shared in the grief of loved ones in our church family as they have lost those dear to them. Our hearts go out to Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman at the loss of Tim's father, Bro. Sam Leman (Eureka, IL) and to Bro. Jim and Sis. Ann Kellenberger at the loss of Ann's father, Bro. Leslie Unsicker (Peoria, IL). We were also saddened upon learning of the passing of Sis. Shirley Aberle's daughter-in-law, Sharon Aberle, who resided in Fairbury, IL. We pray that the Lord will comfort them in their loss through our support and love.

As each one of us sojourns upon this earth, we experience the loss of those dear to us, both family and friends. Although the pain of this earthly separation is sometimes almost more than we can bear, what great joy we're given as we realize that our converted loved ones will someday meet us in the sky! We have this hope because Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, bore our sins on the cross and shed His blood to cover them. He was resurrected on the third day and the empty tomb symbolizes His vic-

tory over death and Satan for us. The words of a gospel song beautifully express this hope of eternal life we have through our Lord Jesus.

The Garden of Eden was the end of freedom

where Death was born and Life began to die.

God took the fallen man, clothed his guilt and then,

forgave the sin and gave the world a sign.

There would come a time, when God would draw the line.

Death and Deity would meet head on!

There on Calvary's Hill, The Man of God was killed

By His Death, life forever Won!

(Chorus)

Death has died, the chains have been broken.

Death has died, my heart sings without end.

Death has died, Heaven's door is now open.

Death has died, and we can live again.

They carried him away to an unfamiliar grave,

They rolled the stone in place but not for long.

For on the third day as Mary came to that place,

she found His clothes lying there, but He was gone!

But the story does not end. This is where it all begins.

Because He lives we too can have new Life.

We know we all must face Death and the Grave

We too shall rise because Death has died!

(Chorus repeat)

Ernie Haase & Carolyn Cross

As the Easter season approaches, our eyes focus on the cross and our Lord's suffering. Jesus knew what our salvation would cost Him in terms of His humiliation, torture, and painful death on the cross.

In the Garden of Gethsemane He agonized in prayer to His heavenly Father asking, "Father, if thou

be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (St. Luke 22:42-43) He knew what the extent of His suffering would be, not only from the physical pain of being nailed to the cross, but even greater from the spiritual pain of bearing the sins of the world and feeling the resultant separation from God, His Father. He also must have foreseen how as He hung on that cross He would experience, along with the excruciating pain, a deep unquenchable thirst. "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, "I thirst". Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth." (St. John 19:28-29) This brings to mind the words of another deeply moving gospel song.

One day I came to Him, I was so thirsty,

I asked for water. My throat was so dry.

He gave me water that I had never dreamed of,

But for this water, my Lord had to die.

(Chorus)

He said I thirst, yet He made the rivers.

He said, "I thirst!," yet He made the seas.

"I thirst!", said the King of the Ages. In His great thirst He brought water to me.

Now there is a river that flows clear as crystal.

It comes from God's throne above. And like a river, it wells up inside me,

Bringing mercy and life giving love.

(Chorus repeat)

Bev Lowry

Let us take time in this Easter season to reflect on and thank Jesus for His sacrifice in bringing the River of Life to us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Les and Barb Fehr

"For this cause shall man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31) We rejoice with Bro. Matthew Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) and Sis. Tracy White (Sis. Gloria, Princeville and Claude White) who were recently united in marriage. May God be their guide and strength throughout their life together.

During the last month our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont) and Joe Stoller (Princeville). We want to thank these brothers for their labors of love in bringing us the Word of our Lord.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Margie Heintz

On the weekend of February 12 and 13, we enjoyed a special time in which everyone was encouraged to "invite a friend". We all share a potluck dinner at church Saturday evening along with fellowship and singing. Following the song service, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) spoke about the purpose of the church in the life of a believer. It is a place for worship, and a spiritual shelter, but most of all it is people - it is us. We individually make the church what it is. He challenged us to consider: what am I adding to the church? Am I a part of the building crew or part of the wrecking crew?

"ye are . . . fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda (Blunier) Kupferschmid are the thankful parents of their first child, Alyssa Rachelle, who was born February 4. We rejoice with them and welcome her into our church family.

We are grateful that Ed Scott has recovered sufficiently so that he is again able to worship with us.

Visiting ministers in this past month have been in addition to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Ted Hirstein (Morton). Thank you all for bringing us the truth and love of Jesus.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

There is a historic landmark, an old grist mill, along one of my possible routes to work. Sometimes I choose it especially for encouragement; other times it is the best way for the time of day I am traveling. The spillway beside the mill always seems to have water pouring over it and I think of the Holy Spirit available to me and of the outpouring of love that I need to give. This winter, however, when it was really cold, there was no water -- only ice. I was reminded of the tragedy of becoming cold in the Spirit, and there are times when I feel so overwhelmed that I start to withdraw. What I must do is to renew with Him the warmth of His light and freely-given salvation, that the Spirit of His love can continue to well up within me and overflow into the lives of others. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach . . ." (Psalm 51:10-13)

We appreciated Bro. Walt Rager's visit (Toledo, OH). When the Lord's messenger is willing, our spirits are refreshed.

At our business meeting the end of January, two brothers rotated out of their positions and two others took their places. We are so thankful for the work of Bro. Jim Lang as trustee and Bro. Paul Sauder as usher. May the Lord reward their efforts. Bros. Randy Knapp and Jay Leman will be, respectively, trustee and usher. May we pray and be supportive to them.

The Lord again has given a

healthy child to loving parents. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager are overwhelmed with the blessing of Allison Kay, born February 12. Allison's joyful grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager (Toledo, OH); and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor Bogart (Francesville, IN). We, as a church family, welcome Allison and hope to be encouragers to both her and her family in the Lord's name.

Sis. Erin Jennings (Bloomington-Normal, IL) is student teaching in our area. We are grateful for her company and pray that, if the Lord chooses, she may replace one of the many retiring teachers in our area within the next year. Whatever is to be, we pray that she may be led step by step by His hand.

When a brother or sister or friend asks me for prayers specifically in his/her life, I always try to add that special request to my prayer list. Many times I remember for awhile, but I usually do not ask again about the answer(s) and progress. I realized recently that is a mistake. A sister questioned me not long ago about a long-term prayer request I had made of her as we shared in conversation some time back. She was so encouraging to me -- for I was reminded that she remembered me and this situation in prayer, I now knew that I was not praying along, and I was uplifted by the Lord as we helpful to someone else's need. I want to say as Isaiah, "Hear am I; send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

I just finished a computer class with a friend. He had a real problem, not because of the program nor because of his knowledge, not because of what was ready to be printed -- no, the problem was with the printer. One of the TOPS for the guides for the paper was missing -- only one -- only the top. Nevertheless, the execution of the desired output was uncertain, needing several tries. For us, we must remember that our knowledge of Him and even our salvation in Him is not enough to show the world unless we still accept His guidance as we have it revealed to us by His Word, our church and its leadership, and our fellow believers. The

application of His will in us is only certain and sure when we remain "on track."

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:12-14)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Cyndee Anderson
Anna Marie Reutter

Greetings of love from our congregation. We are refreshed when we can tell you of marriages and engagements.

Bro. Dan Weerts (Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna) and Sis. Denise Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally) were united in marriage at our Washington church December 19. The engagement of John Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) to Tresa Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Fairbury) has been made known. They plan a May 28 wedding. May our Lord supply the special needs of these couples and bless them.

In January, Phillip Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne) went to Jamaica with a work group to give of his time and talent.

The topical Bible presentation in January was given by Bro. Ken Eisenmann. He gave us some insights on the book "Fond Expectations" written by Bro. Perry Klopfenstein of our Gridley congregation. It outlines the Bible foundation on training children and the duty of parents in nurturing their children. It was a timely presentation. Our February topical Bible presentation was given by Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury). His topic was Personal Experiences. We are all drawn closer to the Lord when we experience fiery trials, sorrow and joy. It is a challenge for the believer to be busy doing the Lord's work regardless of what comes over us. May the Lord bless Bro. Ken and Bro. Duane and their families.

Since the last writing we've had

many sick ones. Hospitalized were Sisters Mary Bauer and Martha Brenner, Bros. Les Walder, Alf Eisenmann, Aaron Bauer, Melvin Knapp, Kenny Bauer, Phil Sauder and Alvin Baumgartner.

**AM I A SOLDIER OF THE
 CROSS?**

Sure I must fight, if I would reign;
 Increase my courage, Lord;
 I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
 Supported by thy Word.

Tabernacle Hymns #321, vs. 4

We learned of the death of Bro. Alvin Baumgartner just before this goes in to print. Our prayers are with Sis. Loretta and her dear family as they make funeral arrangements and face the days ahead. May each one feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Blessed Hope is now a reality for Bro. Alvin.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Beth Steffen - Sue Wiegand

We are thankful for God's healing hand for Bro. Clarence Zobrist (surgery) and Sis. Sarah Dietrich (medical). They are back assembling with us again.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk and their families in the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont).

We would love to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every one for your prayers, sympathy cards and many deeds of kindness shown at the time of the passing of our loved one, William Dietrich.

The family of William Dietrich

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

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

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

Through the power of Thy dying,
 Into Thy death, Lord, draw me;
 Let my body, all my being, There
 be nailed, Lord, with Thee;

Calm and gentle may my will be;
 To my love give purity!"

Zion's Harp 226, vs. 1, 7, 8

At this time of year, may we pause and reflect on the great love our Saviour had for us, that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. May we ever anew, strive more diligently to serve our Lord, in all capacities, as we remember that He gave His all, in our stead.

Our annual business meeting was held January 26. It is always heartwarming to hear of those who do so much for our church, home and others. We are thankful to all who are so willing to give of themselves, especially those completing terms of faithful service this year; Bros. Earl Steffen, Jerry Cargill and Bill Schambach. May the Lord be with the brothers chosen to fill vacated positions; Bro. Elvis Kellenberger - church trustee, Bro. David Martin - Resthaven Board of Directors and Bro. Bob Schambach - land site committee. May we all do our part to make each one's job a little easier to fulfill.

"Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am."

Isaiah 58:9

The Lord has promised to be with us, as long as unwavering faith and trust is placed in Him. Several within our congregation can attest that the Lord's faithfulness is true and prayers are indeed answered, as felt during their recent hospitalization and convalescing; Sis. Dorothy Schambach (Bro. Albert), Sis. Frances Kaptain, Sis. Joyce Weiss (Bro. Paul), Bro. Elvis Kellenberger and Matthew Dietz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara). May each one continue

to feel God's nearness and healing touch.

The engagement of Bro. Elvis Kellenberger (the late Gail) and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (the late Bro. Jerry) was recently made known. God's divine blessing is promised to each that can take this step, in faith, according to His will.

Anthony John Hernandez was born to Tony and Carol January 25. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Wava Steffen. May these new parents seek grace and guidance from our heavenly Father, to raise their new little bundle, in the true faith.

We are thankful, time and again, that we have faithful brothers who are willing to be of service for the Lord. Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). May each brother, who can stand and proclaim the truth in sincerity, without fear nor favor of man, always be assured of God's inspiration through the Spirit, as well as our support through prayer and obedience.

How quickly our lifetime doth pass away and it seems that has been quite prevalent all around, during this past month. On February 1, Frank Smith was called from time into eternity. Two days later, his wife, Mary, also passed from this life. While they both were blessed with many years, we see that the time comes for all to answer the summons, and only God knows when the time will be for each of us. Our prayers and sympathy go to the nieces and nephews that remain, as well as others in our church family that have also experienced partings; Bro. Bob Buckheister (Sis. Lynette) lost a grandmother and Bro. Bob Cox (Sis. DeAnne), an uncle. May God comfort each one.

This month we certainly have been afforded the opportunity to practice the scriptural directive of "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15). May we each do our little part for others; we know not what lies ahead for anyone, and someday we may be ever so thankful to lean on our brethren, to help us through.

Jamaica Deaf Village

Psalm 118:23 - "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Truly, I believe the Lord has provided us this opportunity to reach out, and help; with talent and time to those dear souls whom He has created, and given the breath of life.

Matthew 9:36-38 - As the Lord Jesus saw the need for those who fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd, He was moved with compassion on them. And said to His disciples "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest."

We were able to see the deaf students in their classrooms, learning to read, write and work out math problems up at the chalk board. Correspondence with the teacher, of course, was by signing. Some of the students learned music, and were able to sign the words of the songs to us, while we, who could hear with our ears, listened to the words and melody from cassette tape in the background. Hallelujah Square, was one of their choices. Verse Two: "Now I saw a cripple, dragging his feet, He couldn't walk, like we, down the street; I said "My friend, I feel sorry for you". But he said "up in heaven, I'm gonna walk just like you." Chorus: "I'll see all my friends in Hallelujah Square, what a wonderful time, we'll all have up there; we'll sing and praise Jesus, His glory to share, and you'll not see one cripple in Hallelujah Square." A very touching, spiritual moment we all could enjoy. If the Lord, through His spirit gives anyone; brother, sister, singles or couples and our dear friends, this desire, to go on a work team, truly it was spiritually, very beneficial for me.

I thank each one who participated in this endeavor January 27 - February 4.

Least of the Brotherhood:

Bro. Tom Schambach

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

We had an inspiring day January 23 as we witnessed the baptisms of Ira and Ruby Grusy and Jenny Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet). We are thankful for the peace and love of God that is evident in their lives. We appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton) and Bro. Kenny Woertz (Cissna Park) that week-end also.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Eva Roche rejoiced in the birth of their first child, Krista Johanna, who was born January 26. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Marge Roche and Bro. Janos and Sis. Eva Szabo (Ersekscanad, Hungary).

Our congregation was saddened by many deaths this past month. Bro. Walter Schumacher (Sis. Salome) passed away January 19. We sympathize with Sis. Salome and his children, Bro. Gerald (Roanoke), Bro. Robert, Sam and Sis. Joyce Crawford (Eureka) and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp (Pulaski, IA). Sis. Mary Aberle died February 4 and will be missed by all who knew her.

Bro. Lee Blunier died February 5. We extend our sympathy to his brothers and sisters, Bro. Harold, Bro. Walter, Sis. Ruth Knepp and Sis. Pearl Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Homer (Forrest), Bro. Sam, Bro. Vernon, Henry, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Genny (Eureka), Bro. Ben. (Champaign) and Sis. Grace Strahm (Bern, KS). Sis. Eliza Leman passed away February 12 and we extend our sympathy to her brother, Bro. Sam Leman (Eureka). Even though all four of these brothers and sisters were in their eighties and nineties, we will miss them greatly. We appreciated their walk of life and the faith they exhibited.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Becky Bauman, who lost her father, Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont).

"The family of Lee Blunier extends a sincere thank you to all who remembered him during his illness and on his birthday. We also appreciate the love and kindnesses shown since his death. May God bless you all."

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Sam Huber visit us and share with us God's wisdom as we heard the memorandum read February 12.

As we approach the time of Easter, may we each one look to Jesus as our Savior, and also our friend. Let us take time on our knees to truly consider His great love and sacrifice for us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
 Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Recently I took a short walk down a country road early in the morning. The fields and trees were furry-white with frost, but the snow was all melted. Above in the tops of the trees, twittered a chorus of birds, which had just come home for spring. The gentle breeze brought the breath of the warming earth to me. I stopped to pick up a fallen leaf which was flawlessly overlaid with frost on every lobe and vein. How beautifully intricate is God's creation! So often we, caught up in the everyday toil of life, don't even notice the miracles that are happening all around us. As "the time of the singing of birds" comes again, let us pause to savor and appreciate the marvel of renewed life.

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
 O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
 I claim a place, though weak and lowly
 Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host
 Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin;
 Thy Spirit now shall live within.

"The Baptismal Covenant"
 Zion's Harp #41

Four more souls made a covenant with God and were immersed in holy baptism February 13. We welcome our new sisters, Lisa and Lori Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis.

Rosetta), Beverly Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and brother, Kevin Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane). We thank Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) who shared the joyful weekend with us.

Other visiting brothers who ministered unto us this month were: Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park). May the Lord be your Rich Rewarder.

Our congregation is rejoicing as the goodness of God has led two more souls to repentance (Romans 2:4). Angela Herr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy) and Frank Schmidt (Pearl) have found grace to follow His leading. May they continue to experience His goodness in their lives.

Cassidy Diane Brucker was born January 24 to Douglas and Bethany Brucker. They have two other children, Erin and Lane. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannette Bahler are happy grandparents.

Edward Zimmerman was called into eternity February 4. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Shirley; children, Kari Kamrath and Jon; grandchildren and family, including his sister, Arlene Walter (Willard) who assembles with us. May they look heavenward for comfort.

Hospital patients were Bro. Dennis Steidinger (Sis. Jane), Sis. Clara Maurer, Bro. Melvin Hartman, Bro. Glenn Fehr and Sis. Barb Meiss.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

On January 29, we assembled at Forrest with our brethren there for a spiritually uplifting evening. Our elder brethren, Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker, along with Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), shared with us the memorandum and many exhortations and en-

couragements. At the conclusion, we went forth with renewed zeal and determination to walk more closely with the Lord.

Let us always appreciate our elder brethren's efforts in our behalf and strive to "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (I Thessalonians 5:13). We should remember them in prayer often, especially now as they are assembling for the mid-winter conference.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
 Marlene Walter - Mary
 Bachtold

We appreciate Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Art Bahler (Fairbury), along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker, so willingly exhorted us as we gathered with the Fairbury congregation for the reading of the memorandum. We are thankful for the encouragement and warnings so lovingly given. May we always strive to walk closer with the Lord.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May God bless them for sharing His Word with us through the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Allen, Sis. Alisa and Jamie Ricketts were blessed with the arrival of Alex Michael into their family circle. His grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Tom and Sis. Earlene Hamilton.

May Kevin Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty), Bro. Ron Mueller and Bro. John Bolliger feel God's healing power as they have spent time in the hospital this past month. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bro. Larry Bachman, who remains hospitalized at the Mayo Clinic.

Funeral services were held for Ben Rinkenberger, 95, January 20. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Minnie, and children, Donald and Jack (Fairbury), Kenneth (Denver, CO), Robert (Forrest), Barbara Lund (Schaumburg) and Darlene Miller (New Castle, OK).

We also sympathize with Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier in the passing of his brother, Bro. Lee Blunier (Eureka), and to Maurice and Joy Zimmerman who also feel

a loss in the death of his brother, Ed (Fairbury). May all these loved ones feel God's comforting Spirit.

We rejoice with Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 23. They have been blessed with four children, Bro. Larry, Sis. Janice, Bro. Duane and David; and twelve grandchildren. May God grant them many more years of happiness together.

Words fail us to express our thanks and gratitude to all the dear brothers, sisters and friends for the outpouring of love, prayers, get-well wishes, birthday wishes, gifts of love, anonymous gifts and food brought in during my illness. Pray God will richly bless each one.

Humbly in Christ,
Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura
Kachelmuss

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Barb Brim

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 1:4

What greater joy can there be for us as believers than seeing our children walking in the truth as written by the beloved apostle John. The Lord has blessed us so richly in Goodfield this year. We rejoice with all the parents of our many new converts. Our flock has been increased by the addition of three young brothers, Bart and Scott Rinkenberger, and Bro. Ryan Knapp. The witnessing of their testimonies and baptisms brings joy to us all as they begin their walk in truth with the Lord.

We also have reason for great happiness over the birth of another young soul, Jordan William Edwards, son of Karie and Chet. Grandparents, Gary and Sis. Wanda Edwards and Dean and Julie Ricke, are all blessed with this newest addition to their families. May he, too, walk in the truth of God's light.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the hospital patients from Goodfield this month, Bro. Ira Rokey and Bro. Joe Rinkenberger.

We would ask for God's helping hands to speed your recoveries and bring you home to us safely.

Our Lord has called home another saint this month, Bro. Simon Wagenbach, and we share the grief of his passing with his daughter and her family, our dear Sis. Helen and Bro. Les Bauman. Your father has reached the end of his walk in truth and faithfulness and is now safe in the arms of Jesus. Rejoice!

Many thanks to all of the visiting ministers and their wives this month. We've had quite a few and it's always a pleasure to share their kindness and fellowship. Thank you, Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger (Lester, IA), Bro. Ed and Sally Fritz (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Steph and Sis. Donnalou Baner (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton, IL), for so generously sharing the Lord's Word with us. We are all enriched by your company.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Recently I undertook a project I hope I can complete. It is my goal to make a list of every person who has ever been a member of our church here in Gridley. With the congregation being established in 1870, this 124 year time span will require a lot of work.

Crucial in helping me complete this is Sis. Louise Gramm, 94, who resides in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. Until she moved to the Eureka home she had been a lifelong resident of the Gridley area. My first interview with her was held February 6. She was a tremendous help, and is of keen mind and spirit. She can remember the early families, the marriages, and who became members of the church. She can recall the events and persons of those who constitute the first and second generations of brethren comprising the Gridley church.

Her father was Engelbert Grusy, a German native who migrated to Gridley, and served in the minis-

try for many years. She was the wife of Bro. George Gramm who served as elder in Gridley for several years.

Thus, for our local church's 125th anniversary, I hope I can provide an accurate membership list. My hope, too, is that many names can be added to the list that would include those who will repent and become converted during the upcoming year.

Our hearts were saddened on hearing the death of Sis. Bernice Yergler February 19. She suffered a massive heart attack at an airport in St. Louis on her return from a Florida vacation. Her passing was a striking reminder that life is fragile and we have no promise of tomorrow.

Her beloved husband of 38 years, the late Bro. Louis Yergler, preceded her in death January 13, 1986. She is survived by three sons: Gaylin (Lafayette, IN) and Kevin and Bro. Tim (Gridley); three daughters, Jan Rigo (Denver, CO), Debra Edenburn (Peoria) and Sis. Margi Steffen (Gridley).

Sis. "Bernie" had a unique and special smile and an unusually sparkling personality - and she used it to bring warmth and friendliness to others. She truly will be missed. Our loss, however, is heaven's gain, and we are all thankful to God for the legacy of love and sincerity she brought to her fellow-believers in Christ.

Bro. William, Jr. and Sis. Patty Schifferer became the happy parents of Adam Joseph Schifferer January 19. He has an older brother, Matthew William, age 4. Grandparents are Bro. William, Sr. and Sis. Lona (Belvidere), and Bud and Sharon Malcom (El Paso).

Daniel and Kathleen Gilmore Kinkade were blessed by the birth of a girl born January 25. She was named Alison Kathleen. She has an older brother, Ronnie. Grandparents are Don and Sis. Alyce Gilmore (Gridley), and Jim and Eileen Kinkade (Flanagan).

Sis. Lucille Hofmann was a hospital patient recently, and received several weeks of therapy.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN);

and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield).

Bro. Alf and Sis. Lillian Witzig recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They reside in the Eureka Home.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

The funeral of our Sis. Ida Kaufman was held January 23. May God comfort and bless her one remaining sibling, Sis. Marie Hauter, and her many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ruth Staley died February 13 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor. May God comfort and bless her son, Gene, and her grandsons, Bro. Ron Jones (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Steve Jones and Bro. Dave Jones (both of Morton), and her seven great-grandchildren.

We always appreciate those ministers and their families who visit our Morton congregation. We wish to thank Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria), Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago).

A big thank you goes to our Young Group for sponsoring a pork chop dinner and hymn sing. Sunday, February 20, we enjoyed a delicious meal at our fellowship hall and enjoyed singing and listening to a group from the Gridley, IL congregation.

The family of Ida Kaufman would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy shown to them in so many ways during the loss of their loved one. Your prayers, cards and many loving deeds are deeply appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel as they welcome a precious baby girl into their family. Brenna Marie was born February 7, and joins sister, Jessica, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria) and Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevromov (San Diego, CA).

Lena Sauder, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Rita, and Maria Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of January 29 and 30. We praise the Lord that two more young souls have given their hearts to the Lord and wish to serve Him. Let's not forget to pray for all these young people who face many obstacles daily in their walk with the Lord.

We appreciate Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) coming to speak at our February "Family Night". Bro. Kent's topic was "Seize the Moment". It was very convicting and gave us all a lot of food for thought.

Other ministers visiting Peoria recently were Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) who assisted with the testimonies and baptisms, and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We thank them for their willingness to serve.

We sympathize with Sis. Eunice Unsicker and her family following the death of her husband, Bro. Les, recently. Their children are Bro. Gary, Bro. Alan and Sis. Sara Dingleline (Peoria); Sis. Beth (Washington, IL); Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Ann Kellenberger (Bloomington, IL). Bro. Les is also survived by several brothers, including Bro. Wayne (Peoria). We extend our condolences to them.

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Karen Dunbar and Sis. Dina Pfister. We pray that God has given them a full recovery.

We want to thank all the brothers who served lunch Sunday, February 13. It was very thoughtful and very much appreciated.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We appreciate and thank our visiting ministers, they were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Nate Stoller (Bradford), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Bill Gudekan (Elgin), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Marvin Leman (Bradford). May God bless them for their labor of love in our behalf.

We were privilege to have Elder

Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) to help our dear Elder Bro. Joe with the reading and exhortation of the conference letter February 5. Then on Sunday we had an all church potluck. May we heed the warnings which were sounded and let's do our part, by being faithful and obedient, to keep the faith during these evil times. We are thankful our elders have a concern for us.

"I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (St. Luke 13:5) We are thankful Brian and Renee Wieland have heeded the call to repentance. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland and Norman and Pat Stahl. May they walk the narrow path that leads to heaven. We wish them much grace and help from above. We are looking forward to the testimonies and baptisms of Roy and Elsie Mueller February 19 and 20. May they feel our love and prayers.

"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) Bro. Matthew Kieser (Bradford) and Sis. Tracy White became one-in-the-Lord February 13. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bradford) and Sis. Gloria White are the parents of this couple. We will miss Sis. Tracy, but wish them God's richest blessings as they establish a Christian home and may they always look to God for their help.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3) Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Herrmann rejoice in the birth of their first child, Dallas Samuel, born February 3. Thankful and happy grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Bro. Douglas and Sis. Cindy Streitmatter were blessed with another girl, Chelsea Renee, born February 5. Rachel welcomes her home as do thankful grandparents, Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter and Bro. Ken and Sis. Edith Plattner (Peoria). Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny's daughter, Sis. Beth and Bro. Curt Feucht (Washington) were blessed with a girl, Samantha Jo, born January 24. Her brother, Jed, welcomes her home, as do

grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Feucht (Lester, IA). May God bless these families as they raise these precious souls in the ways of the Lord.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Lillian Stahl (the late Bro. Herman) surgery, Fred Schafer (Sis. Esther) hip surgery, Otto Baer (Eleanor) surgery, Martha Stahl (the late Leonard) pneumonia and Sarah Stahl, infant daughter of Bro. Douglas and Sis. Ann Stahl (pneumonia). We wish them all Gods healing powers.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter (Bro. Steve) in the passing of her father, Bro. Leslie Unsicker (Peoria). We wish them the nearness and comfort of the Lord at this time of sorrow.

Thank you:

Dear Beloved brothers, sisters and friends.

We want to thank each and everyone for your many prayers, lovely cards, delicious food, gifts, visits, phone calls and many offers to help in any way during my recent surgery and since I am home. The many prayers, all the love which was shown and good will wishes meant so much. May our heavenly Father bless each one of you for your love and kindness. Your prayers mean so much.

Love,
Ronald and Jackie Rumbold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

We rejoice with the angels and families of three new converts, Jeremy Zimmerman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene) and Samuel and Steven Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev). May God bless and guide each of these converts to a closer walk with Him.

February 11 was our Bible study. Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) talked to us about angels. It was an interesting and thought-provoking talk and we pray that God will bless Bro. Kevin for all his research and time spent on our behalf.

We rejoice with our Bro. Brian

Moser and Sis. Beth Gerber who announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber, all of Roanoke. May God bless them as they walk this life together.

Our community and brotherhood were saddened at the sudden death of our Bro. Sam Leman. Bro. Sam was killed in a car accident February 3. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ann and their children, Bros. Ben and Tim and Sis. Cindy and Sis. Bev (Rich) Bertschi and their spouses and children. We pray that God will fill the void they feel with His love and grace.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Lee Blunier (Eureka). His brothers and sisters that worship with us are, Bros. Harold and Walt, Sisters Ruth Knapp (Ralph) and Pearl Leman (Don). May it be God's will that their family may once again be reunited. Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Jerry Schumacher in the passing of his father, Bro. Walter (Eureka). May God also be with Sis. Dorothy Bittner, a sister to Bro. Walt.

Edward Zimmerman (Fairbury) passed away February 4. He is the son-in-law of our Bro. Art and Sis. Mabel Bowald. We extend our sympathy to them and his wife, Shirley.

Hope Elizabeth Knapp was born January 25. Hope's mother is Krista Knapp and grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol Knapp, all of Roanoke.

Laura Fehr welcomes home a new little sister. John and Jane Fehr are the parents of a little girl, Rachel Kristine. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Roanoke).

Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda Kupferschmid are parents of their first child. Alyssa Rachele was born February 4. Her grandparents are our Sis. Marge and Wayne Blunier. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Emma Blunier. Alyssa was born on the 84th birthday of her great-grandfather Blunier.

Bro. Erwin Knecht (Eureka) was with us Wednesday evening, February 9 to help with the conference letter. We thank him for his kind words and insight. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), Chris

Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton). We thank them all for their labor of love in sharing the Word with us. May God be their Rich Rewarder.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Marsha Koch

Our many thanks goes to Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) who came to help with the reading of the memorandum. Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) also came to minister to us. May God bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Bro. James and Sis. Karol Holmes have a new addition to their family. Grant Christian was born January 20. Grant has an older sister, Jamee. Grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck. May God give them grace and guidance as they rear their children.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Bro. Chris), little Mary Koch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jennifer), little Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Les Schweigert and Bro. Weldon Staker. We pray for each dear soul that God will heal and restore health according to His will.

Our sympathy goes to Bill Hopkins and family on the passing of his father, Robert Hopkins. After many years of service, our retired minister Bro. Simon Wagenbach Sr., passed from this life and went Home. Our sympathy goes to his 19 children who survive him. In Tremont he is survived by Bro. Robert, Simon Jr., Bro. Jim, Stephen, David, Bro. Ron, Sis. Jeannette Beutel (Bro. Fred) and Sis. Kathleen Rocke (Bro. Nelson). May God comfort each one in his sorrow.

Our Sis. Julia Sauder has made her home at Apostolic Christian Restmor. May God be with her as she adjusts to her new home.

John Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam) and Misty Green (Joliet, Jim and Shirley, Fairfield) were united in marriage February 17. They plan to reside at 2281 Mennonite Church Road, Pekin.

May God bless them as they join their lives.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Susan Ruppert

Life is made up of choices. Whenever we get up each day we choose what we will wear, what we will do, where we will go, etc. We even choose whether or not to get out of bed in the first place. "But, you say, "I don't have a choice, I have to get up and go to work, or take care of the children, or go to class or whatever." No, you still have a choice. But we have to face the consequences of each choice that we make. Generally, we find it easier to choose to do the responsible thing (getting out of bed) versus paying the consequence for choosing not to be responsible (getting fired from our job).

Our faith is also a choice. We have chosen to repent of our sinful nature and live our lives in service to Christ because we couldn't face the consequences of the weight of sin and eventual eternal punishment. Sometimes we have to make choices based on what we know about an item or situation. In the same way, there are times when we choose to believe God's promises because we know Who God is and His nature is. We can make that choice despite our feelings, despite our circumstances or despite what everyone else is telling us. When it seems that everything is going wrong, when we feel that God is far away, when we doubt or wonder "why?", then we need to trust God for Who He is. If we can do this, we discover that He is the only One that makes sense, even when nothing else does. God is faithful. He loves and cares for us. Whatever is put in our path is put there to either bring us or someone near to us closer to God. Choose to believe His promises.

"Trust in the Lord will all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from

evil. It shall be healthy to thy name, and marrow to thy bones.

Proverbs 3:5-8

Bible study was conducted by Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL). The topic was "Spiritual Growth." We want to thank Bro. Ron for his effort in preparation and presentation. The group very much enjoyed hearing the Word.

We were once again blessed with a new baby in our congregation. Samantha Jo Feucht, daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth (Streitmatter) Feucht. Samantha was welcomed home by brother, Jed. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Marge Feucht and Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter.

November 27 was the wedding of Doug and Danette Fritz. Parents of the bride are Dale and Melba Musselman. Parents of the groom are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally (Witzig) Fritz. We apologize for the delay in reporting this wedding. May the Lord bless this life together.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:9

We rejoice with Tim Claghorn (Teresa) and Jeff Bertsch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Christy) as they have made the decision to live their lives for Christ.

On the weekend of February 19 and 20, we were blessed to witness the testimonies and baptisms of four new souls. They were Sis. Heather Cress (Sis. Sheri), Sis. Mandy Steffen (John and Etta), Bro. Tony Gerber (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Lana Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl).

Jeff and Dana Bluhm were blessed with a little boy January 21. His name is Travis Jeffrey, and his grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Elaine Baumgartner and Gene and Elaine Bluhm.

On February 10, Joe and

Tawnya Isch welcomed their new son, Taylor Joe. His grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch and Ted and Elaine Liechty.

Those spending time in the hospital have been Brandon Longenberger (Bro. Terry and Sis. Twila), Bro. Ray Baumgartner, Bro. Everett Geisel (Sis. Alice), Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona), Bro. Mike Leyse (Sis. Becky), Bro. Dale Reinhard (Sis. Martha), Sis. Amber Yergler (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Oscar Schaefer (Sis. Agnes). Our thoughts and prayers are with these loved ones.

Our prayers of sympathy go to the family of Sis. Charlotte Kipfer who went to be with the Lord January 23. Her children are Sis. Carole Isch (Bro. Al) and Bro. Ken Kipfer.

On February 5, we were blessed to hear the reading of the memorandum. We want to thank Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for sharing with us that evening.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) shared the message with us this month. God bless him and his family for being with us.

Bro. Vince and Sis. Susan Gerber were blessed with their first child, a daughter, Sophia Rose, born February 15. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon Gerber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel. We wish them God's blessings with their new little girl.

We spent a very enjoyable day at Bluffton North Saturday, February 12, as we attended a marriage seminar entitled "Sailing the C's of Marriage." If we have Christ as the Center of our lives and a true Commitment to Him and our spouse. We will then have a good Communication that will lead to marital and spiritual Contentment.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Martha Reinhard as they were hospitalized as the result of a car accident. We pray and encourage Bro. Dale as he is recuperating at home.

"Amazing Grace shall always be my song of praise. For it was grace

Apostolic Christian Endowment Fund



"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they that do good, that they will be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;..."

1 Timothy 6:17-18

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN ENDOWMENT FUND

WHAT IS THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

The Endowment Fund is a fund established by the Elder body to provide an alternative for those individuals who wish to make charitable gifts within the framework of the Apostolic Christian Church, but who do not have a specific donee intended at the time of the gift, or wish to retain the income of the gift until some future date or the death of the donor.

WHY WAS THE ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED?

1. To receive and manage assets from individuals for the benefit of Apostolic Christian charities or organizations.
2. To provide easy administration of funds going to multiple church charities and to provide professional assistance involving donations other than cash.
3. To provide an alternative for those individuals who wish to make a gift while continuing to receive the income for their lifetime; to encourage larger lifetime gifts or bequests under a Will by providing an organization to manage such gifts; or to receive gifts when the donor has no specific Apostolic Christian Charity in mind, or has multiple intended church charities.

WHAT CAN THE ENDOWMENT FUND DO?

It can accept non-cash gifts, provide professional advice on compliance with tax laws, provide management of funds assets, and distribute earnings to those individuals who want to retain their lifetime income.

WHAT CAN THE ENDOWMENT FUND DO TO BENEFIT MYSELF AND THE CHURCH?

Provide better stewardship of the assets given to the Church for the Lord's work. By giving assets to the Church, and retaining the lifetime income, the donor can receive income tax savings. As the Endowment Fund grows, the income can be used to assist existing Church funds, or provide a source of funds for ongoing projects, or for unusual or unexpected needs as deemed fit by the Elder supervised Endowment Fund committee.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Contact any member of the Endowment Fund committee shown on the last page of this letter.

EXAMPLES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH THE ENDOWMENT FUND

PLAN I: GIFT OF CASH

Cash gifts are certainly the easiest way to make a charitable contribution, and these gifts are generally deductible for income tax purposes in the year they are made. At the present day income tax rates, a gift will normally result in an income tax savings of 15%, 28% or 31% of the value of the gift, depending upon the income tax bracket of the donor.

PLAN II: GIFT OF SECURITIES

If long term securities such as stocks or bonds are given to charity, a charitable deduction is received for the full present fair market value with probably no tax on the increase in value of the security donated.

PLAN III: GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

If a life insurance policy is donated to charity, the value of the policy, which normally approximates the present cash value, is deductible and any future premium payments will generally be deductible.

PLAN IV: GIFT OF RESIDENCE OR FARM WHILE RETAINING LIFE USE

By deeding a residence or farm to the Endowment Fund during a person's lifetime, the donor can obtain a sizable current income tax deduction depending upon the value of the property, the donor's age, and the age of any other person such as a spouse who is also given lifetime use. For example, a 70 year old single individual donating a farm worth \$200,000 would be able to obtain a federal income tax deduction of approximately \$82,000 based on current tax laws and interest rates.

After making these gifts, the donor may continue to farm or manage the farm and retain all of the income from the farm. The donor of a residence can continue to reside in the residence.

PLAN V: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITABLE TRUST FOR THE DONOR AND CHARITY

If an individual would like to transfer cash, stocks, bonds or other assets to a trust while receiving either a fixed dollar amount of income for the donor's life, or a percentage of the transferred assets for the donor's life, a current income tax deduction can be received for the value of the interest which is transferred. The amount of the deduction will depend upon the value of the property transferred, the age of the donor, and the annual income payment.

These examples are intended to very simple summaries and an individual should consult with their own tax consultant prior to making substantial gifts based on the above ideas.

MEMBERS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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that bought my liberty. I do not know just why He came to love me so. He looked beyond my fault and saw my need. I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary. To view the cross where Jesus died for me; How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul. He looked beyond my fault and saw my need."

Dottie Rambo

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Val Gutwein

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought neither shall cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8) Trusting in Christ, whether we face trials and sorrows or blessings and happiness, is part of our walk as Christians. This past month in Francesville we have had both, and by His grace we look to Him Who is the source of our comfort and our joy.

Our Bro. Robert L. Cook passed away February 5. His wife, Sis Debra, along with their three children, Ben, Carmen, and Joshua, will dearly miss him. Also surviving are his parents, Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook; three brothers, Dale, Bradley and Brian; and three sisters, Sis. Miriam Wuethrich, Salli Morris and Melissa Whitaker. May our prayers for this dear family continue to flow to God above, as we trust that His strength will be their strength during this time of sorrow and adjustments. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and loved him.

We wish to express our sympathy also to Sis. Donna Wuethrich (Bro. Otto) at the passing of her mother, Cassie Rockwell. It is never easy to say goodbye. May the love and the prayers of the brethren be a source of strength during this time.

We are thankful to God who has answered the prayer of the church and has given Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki) as our new minister of the precious gospel of Jesus Christ.

We trust that the Master Teacher will be Bro. Brian's Teacher as he humbly fulfills his new duties in the Lord.

We express thanks to Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) who came and shared in the reading of the memorandum. May each of us take to heart the exhortations and seek to serve Christ a little more fervently. Thanks also to Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) who faithfully served us while he was here.

Recently in Francesville we had our annual elections for the various offices of the church. May each brother feel grateful to God for this time of service to Him in His church.

Sunday School - Bro. Bob Huber, Bro. Rick Wuethrich, Bro. Mike Fritz; church trustee - Bro. Jerry Gutwein; ushers - Bro. Alex Gutwein, Bro. Brad Wuethrich; missionary committee - Bro. James Bogart; Parkview Haven Board - Bro. Willis Gudeman; fellowship hall trustee - Bro. Jerry Overmyer; World Relief committee - Bro. Gene Huber.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Our hearts and prayers arc with loved ones who have suffered loss in their dear families. Sis. Lyn Wuethrich's mother, Sis. Betty Zeltwanger, recently passed away. We shall greatly miss her warm fellowship and lovely smile. She was a wonderful example of strength and courage to us, and will always be remembered dearly.

Also, our dear friend, Kathy Kaul, recently suffered the loss of her father. May God be near each one and grant His comforting touch.

Our annual business meeting was held January 26. As terms were ending, we voted for new recruits. We want to thank each one who gave of their time and talents in

serving the Lord and church. May He guide those assuming new duties and responsibilities.

On Saturday, February 26, we enjoyed an evening of singing and fellowship at the home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford. It is such a blessing getting together on these occasions to draw closer to one another in friendship and love. We're hoping to make this a monthly event!

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott). May God bless them for their untiring efforts in His work.

Note: Silver Lining collection (\$9.00) for Indy will be in April.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Judy Gudeman

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18) Several of our members and friends have been hospitalized this past month. Bro. Ralph Levy (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger, and Paul and Karen Heiniger. We are thankful that they are all home now and hope that they will continue to recover.

Sometimes when misgivings
darken the day,
And faith's light I cannot see;
I ask my dear Lord to brighten the
way,
He whispers sweet peace to me.
He whispers sweet peace to me,
When I am cast down in spirit and
soul,
He whispers sweet peace to me.

(Gospel Hymns #780, v. 1)

Two of our friends have repented of their sins and have found peace with God and man. We are looking forward to hearing the testimonies soon of Julie Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Diana Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie).

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

It's only the first part of March and spring isn't in sight yet. The cold and the deadness of winter still lingers. How long will it be until a renewed life springs forth?

Sometimes there are dormant periods in our life that seem to drag on forever. Times when we don't think God will ever answer. Jesus said he stayed away once, on purpose, just so the people could believe. (John 11:15)

Bro. Ben Masten was announced for engagement for marriage to Sis. Rachael Kellenberger. Bro. Ben's grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola VonTobel (Francesville). Sis. Rachael's parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue Kellenberger.

It was nice to see Bro. Phil and Sis. Thelma Schlatter in church again. They were happy to be there.

Open house was held for The Cedars Nursing Home February 20.

INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Judy Longcor

Warm Christian greetings to all! We are so thankful for our dear one, Monica Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen) has heard the Lord's tender calling. We truly wish her God's grace as she turns from a world of sin and darkness.

The cold, icy weather didn't stop a group of our Milford brethren and children from going to Bluffton for an evening of food packaging. It's always a blessing for all who go and give of their time. God bless you all.

Surgery patients this month were Bob Vice (knee) and Sis. Gwen Steffen (gall bladder). We are thankful they both are recovering well. Sis. Kathy Price has been having out-patient testing done, our prayers are with her during this time. Also, Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil) will be traveling to Indianapolis again. We wish her God's nearness.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Rod and Sheryl Piper. Sheryl's father passed away this past week. He had been terminally ill with cancer. Our prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Also, Rod has been having back problems, so we pray God's healing hand upon him.

This past week the mid-winter elder conference was held here in Milford. For all of us it was such a blessing. There were many we had not seen for a long time. What a precious faith we have. Our prayers were truly with these elders as they met and discussed the concerns and preservation of our wonderful faith. May we continue to support them wholeheartedly.

There are times in all of our lives when we are brought to our knees, really praying for God's will and leaving all in His dear hands. What a privilege prayer is for us. God leads us through sunshine and rain, takes us to the mountain tops and down through the valleys, but God is so faithful. Bill, Blessing, Matthew and myself want to thank so many of our loved ones for their prayers, phone calls, cards and caring for our children during the past weeks while we spent time with my father, Fred Schafer (Princeville, IL), who has been quite ill. May God bless you all. We are thankful he has just recently returned to the Peoria Church Home.

Simply trusting ev'ry day,
Trusting thru' a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus that is all.

Chorus:

Trusting as the moments fly.
Trusting as the days go by;
Trusting Him whate'er befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Gospel Hymns #581, vs. 1

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

Great victories come, not through ease but by fighting valiantly and meeting hardships bravely.

As sure as ever God puts His children in the furnace, He will be in the furnace with them. It is not until we have passed through the furnace that we are made to know how much dross there is in our composition.

Anonymous

I believe Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) can relate to the above. He was our guest speaker January 26 for our topical Bible study, entitled "Why A Tried Faith?" We thank you, Bro. Duane, for coming and sharing with us some of your experiences.

We welcomed Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) Sunday, February 6. Your visit was a blessing to all of us, as well as Bro. Duane's. May God continue to provide for both of you.

As I write this, we are enjoying sunshine and 40* temperature. A real treat after the cold weather.

A closing thought: Experience is what makes you wonder how it got a reputation for being the best teacher.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

St. John 4:14

We are thankful that another soul has made the decision to drink from that living water. Eva Kalwitz (daughter of John and Sis. Lucia) has made her beginning in faith. We pray that the Lord will strengthen her and give her courage in the days to come.

Bro. Rich Gramm recently returned from a work team trip to Mexico. We are thankful for his safe return and willingness to serve those less fortunate.

The week of February 15-18 was the mid-winter elder conference in Milford. Many of our congregation were able to help out by providing food, working or keeping elders in our homes. What a privilege to be able to serve these dear shepherds who labor so diligently on behalf of the church! Many blessings were experienced this week, and we were reminded again what a precious faith and fellowship we have.

Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer wish to express special thanks to everyone for their

prayers, love and support after the fire in their home and business in August. May God richly bless you all.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to you all once again. We pray the Lord has blessed you all in this last month as He has us. We are certainly thankful His hand is ever with us in all that we attempt to do here on earth.

We thank Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) for being with us as Sis. Dawn Gaddis (Don) gave her testimony and was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Once again we were reminded of how it was when each of us made our beginnings into this wonderful family. May the Lord bless and keep her as she begins this new walk in life. Even our little children watched as Sis. Dawn rose a new being in Christ from the baptismal waters.

Other visiting ministers in this past month have been Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We thank them for their labors.

Our congregation has been rejoicing once again with the repentant heart of Tim Ames (Joyce). May the Lord be with him as he makes the necessary changes in his life.

We are thankful that Millie Williams and Dorothy Claussen are able to assemble with us once again.

Sis. Garnet Nuest would like to thank each one for their love, prayers, cards, flowers, meals, visits, phone calls, etc. during Bro. Rich's illness and passing.

We once again held our annual meeting with our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann providing his time and love on our behalf. We thank those who have served faithfully and pray God will be with those who remain and are newly elected.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Missy Furrer - Sheri Bahler

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be

joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

Sunday, January 23, we were pleased to hear the engagement of Sis. Missy Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) to Bro. Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene, Congerville, IL). We wish them God's abundant blessings as they prepare for their life together.

We would like to thank Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) for lending of himself in our recent Bible study, "Why A Tried Faith?" We were encouraged to give God all glory even in our times of affliction and trial.

We were thankful to have Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) with us Sunday, January 30. May the Lord bless him for sharing God's Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Lorene Furrer (Bro. Brian) as she underwent surgery. We trust that God will grant her a speedy recovery.

Our prayers are also with the elder body as they gather in Milford, IN, for the annual mid-winter conference. May God give them wisdom in all things.

IOWA, AMES

Luann Schmidgall

With the beginning of another semester at ISU, we are thankful that church services also resume. We extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) for their labors on our behalf.

Services for the remainder of the semester will be held March 27, April 10 and April 24.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Lorna Knapp

We rejoice with Sis. Ivy Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid) and Bro. Michael Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella, Tremont, IL) who were united as one-in-the-Lord January 16. We wish them much happiness together and God's guidance and

blessings as they walk life's pathway.

Visiting ministers for this special occasion were Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). We thank each one for coming and appreciate their willingness to be used on our behalf.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell in the passing of her father, Bro. George Kuntz (Oakville). May they feel our support and find comfort in knowing that he has reached his reward.

It is good to have Sis. Esther Peterson assembling with us again after a lengthy illness.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

In these trying times filled with concern for our children (who are trying to grow up in a world full of sin), concern for lost souls (who are gambling with their soul, that sufficient time will be granted them to repent) and concern over our own faults and weaknesses as we strive to live a life pleasing to God, may we turn frequently to God's Word and be reminded "to pray and not faint" and of His promise "My grace is sufficient for thee."

May we also take time to reflect upon our many blessings and times of refreshing that also come our way from time to time. Two of these times of refreshing recently took place here as we could hear the reading of the memorandum and then when we could partake of holy communion. Truly a very blessed weekend giving us much encouragement to continue on. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest) for assisting Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with these sacred duties.

At the time of this writing, our beloved elder body are gathering at Milford, IN, for the mid-winter elder conference. May God's presence truly be felt and may we all sincerely appreciate all the love and concern our shepherds have for their flocks and may God grant them abundant grace, wisdom and strength for the tasks they have been entrusted with.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk - Dawn Moser

THE CHOICE

I dreamed that it was Judgment Day:

It hit me pretty hard,
To meet my Maker face to face,
And receive my just reward.
As I stood there before Him,
He sadly shook His head.
He turned the pages of the Book,
And I was filled with dread!
He looked at me squarely in the eye;

I knew I'd lost the race.
Too many times I'd made the choice,
And God took second place!

Robert C. Gates

When I read this poem, I had to stop and wonder how many times God took second place in my life. Are we so busy with our worldly lives that God takes second place on Sundays or Wednesday evenings? If we can remember when we are making decisions or have concerns to put God first and the rest will be taken care of no matter how large or small the problem may be.

We want to thank our many visitors this past month which include ministering Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). Many times the ministering brethren will bring others with them which we certainly appreciate and enjoy. All are welcome!

We held our annual business meeting in January. We want to thank those who have fulfilled their terms for a job well done. We want to encourage those who have new duties. May we all just look to the Lord for the guidance in whatever capacity we are in.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We're so thankful for all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Jon Schmid-

gall (Oakville, IA) and their families. We humbly appreciate their willingness to travel and to share the Gospel message with our small flock.

We gladly join Bro. Joe, Sis. Connie, Tim, Dawn, Sharon, Amy and Luke Gerst in welcoming their precious bundle from heaven, Ruth Elizabeth. After a safe arrival, she had to return to the hospital for awhile. Everyone is thankful to have her safely home again.

After all of the snow and sub-zero weather, it is wonderful to walk outside in the balmy, southern breezes and 60 degree temperatures, to look out the window and see the grass turning green and hearing the birds celebrating the change, to sit in the car and feel the sun's warmth soak into your bones. Although it is a bit premature for spring, and there most certainly are some cold, snowy days ahead of us, we thank God for the reprieve from the cold and for the glimpse of the warmer days ahead.

Our Father also gives us glimpses of our heavenly future to sustain us through our sometimes dreary struggles in this life. How encouraging the look of peace on the face of a new convert, the sound of God's children lifting their voices in praise to Him, the heart-stirring pictures painted by His humble servants as they share with us His Holy Word!

As we eagerly await the signs of new life in the outdoors around us, let us also watch for the "signs of the times" and eagerly await our new life in heaven.

IOWA, LESTER Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

"Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do."

Deuteronomy 29:9

Two dear souls erected their covenant with God this past month and pledged their obedience to Him. Baptized into the faith were Bro. Travis Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Rachael Metzger (Bro. Robert and Sis. R

osella). We deeply appreciated the efforts of our own elders on this blessed weekend and especially enjoyed the presence of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), as well as visiting ministers, Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Despite the snowy and bitterly cold winter we are experiencing this year, we were warmed and blessed as we gathered together to listen to the reading of the memorandum January 29. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) joined us that weekend. Also with us on Sunday was Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris). We thank these dear brothers for bringing forth His precious Word.

Four beautiful babies were born this past month. LaChelle Marie Moser made her appearance February 19 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch. LaChelle has one brother, Tyler, at home. Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna Mogler became parents to Drew Douglas January 31. Little Janae is happy to have a baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy (Rockville, CT). Miranda and Andrew Metzger are very happy they have a new brother, Joshua Kevin, born February 5. His proud parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn Metzger. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger and Ed and Judy Martin. Then on February 14, Katie Jo blessed the home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes. She joins her five sisters, Kristy, Melinda, Julie, Deann and Jennifer. Proud grandmother is Sis. Eleanor Popkes.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Simon Wagenbach. We enjoyed his many visits to our congregation as he ministered the Word to us over the years. Among his many survivors are Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim, Lester).

Those who experienced illnesses or accident and succumbed to surgery were Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lollie), Emil Wulf (Liz) and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete). All have returned to their homes for

which we are thankful.

We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who remembered us with kind expressions of sympathy, and gifts of love at the time of our husband and father's death. God bless you all.

The family of Jacob Metzger

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

On January 23 we welcomed Bro. Brent Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby) into our precious church family. We are always thankful to witness a baptismal service. May God continue to be near Bro. Brent and guide his footsteps in the ways of truth. Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington) shared the day with us and lent himself in the Lord's service. May God bless him and his family.

Kenzy Jo Wagenbach arrived February 13 into the family circle of Donnie and Sis. Kris and Joel Wagenbach. Little Kenzy experienced some problems at birth and at this time is reported to be recovering. We are so thankful that God holds these precious little blossoms in His hands and that He kindly hears and answers our prayers. Kenzy is the granddaughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. and Tim and Candace Licko (Mediapolis). We are humbled at the power of God and may we always accept His will for our lives. We must believe that He knows what is best for us as we journey on toward heaven. It so often takes us several years to understand why things have been thus in our life. Let us be thankful!

We are glad to have visiting ministers. Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington) have fed us from the Word of Life in this past month. May God bless them for their willing service.

Note of Thanks: The family of Bro. George Kuntz would like to thank all who helped ease our pain in the passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather, by showing they cared in the prayers, flowers, memorial gifts, phone calls,

food and cards. God bless each and every one.

Sis. Hazel Kuntz
 Bro. John, Sis. Nelda Powell
 and family
 Bro. Leon and Sis. Doris Kuntz

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich
Carol Wettstein

As we experience cold, winter weather, it surely makes us look forward to spring!

After spending some time in the hospital, Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert) has moved to the Bloomfield Care Center, 800 N. Davis, Bloomfield, IA.

We read in God's Word, "Sorrow is better than laughter . . ." (Psalm 7:3) We extend sympathy to Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Russell) and Bro. Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn) in the passing of their brother, Bro. Jake Metzger (Lester, IA). Also called to his eternal rest was Bro. Walter Schumacher (Eureka, IL), father of Sis. Mary Jane Knapp (Bro. Harold). May God comfort these loved ones.

We appreciated very much the encouraging words brought to us by ministering brothers, Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless them along with their wives who made the effort to be with us.

Dennis Teubel (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma) is again in the hospital in Iowa City. We are so thankful Dennis has answered God's call to repentance and pray he will feel God's nearness especially during his affliction.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscriptions are due for Pulaski in March.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

God blessed our congregation with a visit from Bro. Myron Knobloch and family from Lester. May they be blessed for sharing time and talent with us. We also think of our elder brethren as they gather this week in Milford, IN. May God be in their midst as they lean on His wisdom to make decisions to guide the church.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy Metzger and family on the death of her mother, Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (Bro. Bill), originally of the Morris, MN congregation and more recently of the Dallas, TX area. Likewise, we extend our sympathy to Sis. Irene and Bro. Lyle Rick and Sis. Pearl Anliker on the death of brother and brother-in-law, Earl Anliker, (Wisconsin).

We are thankful to note that Bro. Lawrence Schneider and Sis. Ella, who faithfully stood by his side, are again in their home after many weeks in the Des Moines hospital.

We thank and praise the Lord for granting Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Banwart the privilege of observing their 60th wedding anniversary. May God's blessings be with them at this special time and continue with them in the future.

This time of year we begin to look forward to spring and Easter with its promise as found in God's Word. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." (I Corinthians 20:23)

THE ROAD THAT JESUS TROD

There was a road that Jesus
 walked
 from which He, Jesus, couldn't
 hide;
 He had to bear that cross alone:
 He was the Christ they crucified.

There is a road that we must walk
 'mid thorny briars of pain and
 care;
 though Jesus walks along beside,
 there is a cross we too must bear.

There is a hope to help us live,
 there is a faith to help us die;
 there is a love to help us give,
 there is a joy to help us try.

There is a crown that we will
 share

whene'er this earthly trial is thru;
there is a glory road up there,
where Jesus waits for me and you.
Alvin Finkelstein

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We had our annual brother meeting with the country churches coming in to Tokyo February 11. It was a time to hear the summary of the brotherhood conference that took place in the U.S. last year and to reflect on activities pertaining to our churches. One of the areas in which we were encouraged is that as we desire to be a witness for God, we should first be very open and friendly with visitors and friends that do come to church and make them feel welcome.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle also came on February 6 to minister at our church. We are thankful for all of his labors in the Lord.

Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta has been home sick with acute arthritis for a number of weeks now. We are praying that the Lord will soon grant her healing. We all sure do miss her joyful presence.

Last week a junior high student who was going to take an entrance exam for a high school (which all students must do), came to me and asked a question. Since this was a Christian school, she was wondering what she would say if the interviewer at the school asked her what she thought of Christianity. I said, "Tell him that you think there is nothing more important in the world than Christianity." She replied that if she could say that, she would be a Christian! Neither she nor her family is Christian, but what a simple truth she stated. To be a Christian means to put our faith above anything else in the world. Her heart was open to the truth, and when she actually was asked that question, she stated that "From now on, I would like to learn more and more about Christianity." I pray, too, that our hearts would be childlike, ready to accept the simple truths that are spoken.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

Visiting ministers who came to proclaim God's Word were Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita). We thank them for their labors.

The engagement of Sis. Anita Edelman (Eugene and Judy) and Bro. Dwight Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) was made known to us February 6. We rejoice with them as they undertake the second most important step in their lives.

"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish".

St. Luke 13:5

Three dear souls, Marci and Wendy Edelman (Eugene and Judy) and Anna Edelman (Leonard) have turned to God in repentance. As the angels in heaven rejoice over them, so do we. We wish them much grace and God's blessings.

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Paul Grimm (Sis. Katie) for knee surgery and Bro. Martin Esslinger (Sis. Arlene) for medical. May God heal where healing is willed and grant Christ-like endurance where it is needed.

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Saviour heav'n is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning,
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.

Hymns of Zion #172

Our congregation has been touched, as we bid our last farewells to two dear ones in the faith. Sis. Lucy Hartter, at the age of 102, passed from this life January 27. Surviving her are a daughter, Donna Hartter; and two sons, Eldon and Harold Hartter; many grandchildren.

Sis. Pearl Meyer passed from this life January 27. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her children, Bro. Leroy Meyer, Earl Meyer, Keith Meyer, Virgil Meyer,

Bro. James Meyer, Rowena Kaster and K'Lynne Gugelman and their families. May God grant comfort to these two families.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell are the happy grandparents of little Conner John who has come to live with Brian and Sis. Kristy Schweitzer (Sabetha).

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

Thank You: We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the kind expressions of love and sympathy to us in the loss of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Family of Sis. Florence Rokey

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear elder brothers as they are at the winter conference. May we all take a sincere look at our self and heed the exhortations that our dear shepherds give us. Remembering always that they are really from our heavenly Father.

Sis. Juanita Sinn had surgery done on an outpatient basis. Sis. Ida Sinn and Bro. Raymond Banwart both spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful they are all doing well.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Doug and Judy Kraft

We will miss Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseteen Strahm as they have moved to Sabetha. It is our prayer that God will be with them and keep them in His care.

We're thankful Bros. Al Langhofer and Glen Funk *could be with us*. We always appreciate those that come and visit our small congregation.

Arnold Bahr has been in the hospital. Arnold and Helen are planning a move to Sabetha also. May our heavenly Father bless them. They will be missed here in Gridley.

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

Jesus knows thy conflict,
Hears thy burdened sigh;
When thy heart is wounded,
Hears thy plaintive cry;
He thy soul will strengthen,
Overcome thy fears;
He will send thee comfort,
Wipe away thy tears.

Hymns of Zion #74, vs. 3

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Edna Tucker (mother of Dale Tucker) who passed away this month at Kiowa. May they feel the comfort of the Lord's hand at this time of sorrow.

How great was our joy when we had with us visiting minister Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his family. May the Lord bless them for their labor of love.

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

Proverbs 18:22

Our congratulations goes to Fern Swartz (Hazelton) and Don Kircher (Sis. Sophia Kircher, Bella Vista, AR) who were united in marriage January 22 at Hazelton, KS. May the Lord bless them as they start their new life together.

KANSAS, SABETHA**Sharon Strahm
Mary Kay Wenger**

We were blessed with several visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) brought us the inspired Word of God. We appreciate each of them, as well as our home ministers who faithfully carry out their duties Sunday after Sunday.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We thank those brothers and sisters for their past "labor of love", and we encourage and wish God's blessings on those taking on new responsibilities.

God has been good to our hospital patients as all are now at home. These include Bro. Joe Menold (Sis. Tillie), Bro. Joe Steiner (Sis. Clara)

and Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald). Our prayers have also been with Tony Cole, son-in-law of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Phyllis Strahm as he was very critical. He is now awaiting further tests. Many heartfelt prayers are with our dear Sis. Jana (Edelman) Gruber, her husband, Todd, and all her family as she is to have surgery this week to remove a brain tumor. May she feel our prayers and trust in "The Best Refuge."

In sorrow and pain, Thy trust do retain

In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
He'll lighten the load, And level the road

And bear thee on hands of compassion.

He'll shield and defend His child to the end;

No suffering or death shall appall thee

In patience then bear All trial and care;

Above streams of bliss will refresh thee.

Zion's Harp #46

We welcome several new couples to our Sabetha church. Edwin and Sis. Louise Wreath (Kansas City, KS) and Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm (Gridley, KS) have moved to our Retirement Village. We trust they feel our love and appreciation as they assemble with us.

Our prayers are with our dear elder brethren as they meet for their conference. May God guide and direct them in their concerns for the preservation of our most precious faith.

April is our Silver Lining collection month.

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

We were blessed January 23 when Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger (West Bend, IA) worshipped with us. We thank Bro. Duane for his ministry that day.

The Lord has been merciful to Andrew Yackley who recently underwent by-pass surgery. Andrew is making a recovery and we pray he will soon be able to assemble

with us for Bible study as was his custom.

Our present Bible study is on the book of Hebrews. The theme of the betterness of Christ is dominant and we need to examine ourselves to see if we are neglecting His salvation and living in self-pity and self-righteous - a sign of a hardened heart.

Bro. Godfrey Miller and I want to express our appreciation to our brethren and friends who have supported us with prayer and encouragement during the year-long cancer treatment for our daughter-in-law, Deene. Her death came quickly February 9.

As the Lord ends life on earth so he begins it. Blessed be His name! Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel became first-time grandparents February 14 when Jacqueline Kate was born to their son, Mark, and his wife, Lynette (Prescott, IL).

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Wayne and Becky Snodgrass**

"Conscience, I say, not my own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"

I Corinthians 10:29

I read this verse this morning and it kind of struck me. Does this mean we will be judged for the liberty's we allow ourselves to take even though we have been instructed differently? We are all weak and human, but is that an excuse if we offer another brother or friend, or become a stumbling block even unknowingly. Will we be judged on judgment day according to what we know? or according to what we do? We all fail, but do we really try our hardest to overcome our weaknesses or just hope God understands how hard it is for us and accepts them. I think of Jonah, who didn't have the strength to go to Ninevah (and that was before grace). Did God say, that's okay. I understand. I'll send someone else? or Moses who couldn't speak very well, to lead the children of Israel? God has simply informed us ". . . my grace is suffi-

cient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness . . ." (II Corinthians 12:9)

May we always be totally submitted to the Holy Spirit and be true disciples of Christ. Let us also remember no matter how weak we are He will always give us the grace to do what He asks us to do, if we really ask Him to. But if we don't ask Him, I fear what our judgment will be.

May God richly bless the brethren and friends, along with Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) who worshipped with us this past month and ministered to us. We welcome all who wish to visit us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

We want to welcome Miriam Nikolaeva of St. Petersburg, Russia to the Alto congregation. Miriam is a student at Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary and plans to be in our area approximately a year and a half. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen are "Mom and Dad" while Miriam is with us.

In Sunday school, Miriam explained that just a few years ago people in Russia were punished for worshiping God and Sunday school teachers were arrested, brought to trial and imprisoned. We just don't realize what a fortunate people we are.

We experienced quite inclement weather the night Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) joined us for services. We appreciate his coming and thank him for his labors of love.

We were invited to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen's for singing the weekend that Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bay City) were here. We thank Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta for having us, and we especially want to thank Bro. Jim for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Sis. Delila) was hospitalized in Laredo, TX. Our prayers are with them as Bro. Elmer recuperates.

Prayers are with our elders as they convene for the mid-winter conference this year. May our Lord's blessings be with each one.

As springtime nears, we think of Easter - the crucifixion and resurrection - and the love God has for each of us.

"There was a glorious dawn
On that first Easter day.
For Jesus who arose
From the tomb wherein He lay.
He was glorified at last,
And paved for us the way,
And proved that for all trials
God, in heaven, will repay."

Henry Kipfer

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Marlene Mosher

With our sick of the past month, which we wish the Lord's blessings, grace and comfort to those who are ill and confined. Sis. Linda Andrejewski (Norm) spent time in the hospital. Sis. Emma Waibel had eye surgery. Bro. Edwin Wieland spent time in the hospital again and will be transferred to Hampton Manor Nursing Home, Bay City, MI 48708. Sis. Elizabeth Waibel (Bro. Joe) has been transferred for therapy to the rehab at Mid-Michigan Medical Center, Midland, MI 48640. Sis. Doris Knochel is residing with her daughter in Bay City, MI.

The month of February is the month for the mid-season brother meeting. We wish the Lord's grace and blessings to help our brothers make decisions for the continuance and preservation of our faith and our church to serve our Lord in His will and not our own will and ways.

If we look and lean on our Lord and do His will in all things, He will see us through to His heavenly kingdom.

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.

"These things command and teach.

"Let no man despise the youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

"Neglect not the gift that is in there, which was given thee by prophecy, with thy laying on of hands of the presbytery.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shall both save thyself and them that hear thee."

I Timothy 4:10-15

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

"Wake Up" for God is calling . . . was the message we heard from visiting minister Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). How much louder do we need God to talk to us if we do not hear Him when He speaks to us through hurricanes, floods and earthquakes?? We just pray God's mercy will continue to the end.

As a result of our winter weather, Sis. Esther Orcsik (Bro. John) fell on the ice and broke her hand. Our prayers are with Sis. Esther for a complete and speedy recovery.

Our prayers are extended to four dear families in the loss of a loved one. First to Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi in the passing away of Sis. Vi and Martha's sister-in-law, Lorraine Koprince (late Julius). Then we remember Craig and Sis. Pat Baran in the death of Sis. Pat's uncle, Bro. Bert Gasser (Sis. Lucy, Rittman, OH). Lastly, our prayers are with Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz in the passing away of Bro. Leonard's mother, Sis. Esther Hitz (LaCrosse, IN).

We are glad to know that God is still being heard in His calling of souls to repentance. Michael Rambeau, son of Sis. Ethel Rambeau, has recognized the need to let God reign in his heart and has decided to experience the many joys from following Jesus. May God's grace be sufficient to supply Michael's every need.

On February 1, the Beverly Hills congregation held worship services at Woodhaven. On April 5, Bay City

is scheduled to host the monthly Tuesday evening worship service. Services begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Whenever we gather together in praising God, He grants a blessing to our hearts.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven".

Matthew 5:16

Reminder: April is the month to renew your Silver Lining subscriptions. Please pay the \$9.00 dues to one of your reporters.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

Many attended an open house February 5 honoring Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura Miller's 60th wedding anniversary.

The following is a brief history of Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura who have been strong pillars in our church.

Noah was born February 22, 1912, to Mike and Ida Miller at West Bend, IA. He moved to Winthrop, MN with his parents when he was a small child.

Laura was born December 30, 1913, to John and Lizzie Schmidgall at Alvord, IA, and as a young child moved with her parents to Hancock, MN.

Noah's father was a minister and Noah traveled with him to Morris, where he met Laura. They corresponded by letter at first and their love for one another grew. They were married March 24, 1934, at Winthrop, MN.

Times were difficult and wages were low. Laura worked at the hotel for \$3.00 a week and Noah worked at the meat locker.

In 1943, they felt the need to repent and were baptized that fall.

Noah was instated into the ministry at Winthrop in 1955, and felt directed to move to Minneapolis in 1965 to provide that small congregation with a resident minister. He ministered God's Word 30 years, retiring September, 1985.

They owned and operated a restaurant in a suburb south of Min-

neapolis which was known for Laura's good cooking. To have time to enjoy life they sold the restaurant and bought a card and gift shop before retiring.

In 1993, they sold their house and moved into a retirement apartment in Apple Valley, MN.

They have been blessed with 12 children, 35 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

We want to thank everyone who attended our 60th wedding anniversary open house and to all who remembered us with cards, gifts and prayers. May God bless you.

Noah and Laura Miller

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos

We are grateful to the two ministers who visited us this past month and fed us from the Word of God. Thanks to Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Martha Greiner and Ruby Luthi. We pray for their return to the blessing of good health.

Rejoicing in the birth of their first child are Byron and Julie Koehl. Brady Allen was born February 7. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and their family in the death of Sis. Diane's father, Rudy Max.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15) We are very thankful to our precious Lord for providing for and giving encouragement to our congregation. After much prayer, Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce) were placed into the ministry. "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2) Our prayers are with these two brothers and their families.

Thank You: I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone who

remembered me with prayers, gifts, cards and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Doug Nohl

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Kim Messner - Joleen Messner Greetings!

CHRIST AROSE!

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus, my Savior!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus, my Lord!

Vainly they watch His bed
Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey
Jesus, my Saviour!
He tore the bars away
Jesus, my Lord!

Chorus:
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 for ever with His
saints to reign;
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!

Gospel Hymns #323, vs. 1-3

How thankful we should be to have the opportunity to celebrate Easter and to look forward to His return.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10) We are rejoicing with Rebecca Braulick (Sis. Julia Messner and the late Bro. James) as she has found the grace to repent and was announced that she has received peace. We rejoice with her and her husband, Marlyn, and wish them God's blessings.

Ministering Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and his wife, Bernadine, shared a Sunday with us. We appreciate those who are willing to speak the Word as often as they are called upon.

Sis. Pearl Lienemann celebrated her 80th birthday. May the Lord continue to watch over her as she goes about her daily life.

Our patients recovering from surgery are Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Phillip Messner (Sandi). Our hospital patient was Sis. Florence Messner. We pray that God will provide His strength for these dear loved ones as they deal with their bodily afflictions.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Our Sis. Sophie Delph (Bro. Jesse) recently had gall bladder surgery. We are thankful for her quick recovery.

On January 29 we had a farewell/retirement dinner for Sis. Dee Stoller. We wish her God's blessings in her retirement and hope she will soon feel at home in Illinois. Later that evening Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti in reading of the memorandum.

This past month we were privileged to have four visiting ministers assemble with us. They were Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN). We appreciate all our visitors and encourage anyone visiting in the area to worship with us.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart - Becky Marti

We were thankful to have Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) spend a weekend with us. May God bless him for sharing God's Word with us.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were: Bro. Willie Stefan (Sis. Hilda), Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Joe), Bro. Roy Braker (Sis. Judy), Bill Hohulin (Martin, Jr. and Marilyn) and Kurt Marti (Mary Jo). We are thankful they are all improving and getting along satisfactorily.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the elders as they gather for the winter conference. May God

grant them the needed grace to carry out their duties.

March is the month for the Silver Lining collection for Lamar.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

This month bring us renewed thankfulness for our church building. The second Sunday of March marked our third anniversary in our wonderful little church. We think back to the efficient builders, the eager volunteers, the generous donors. Often a visitor will share with us that he or she had been here volunteering, and we remember those deeds of love and generosity with appreciation.

Bros. Bill Hodel and Tim Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Don Braker (Kansas City) were our visiting ministers. Our thanks to each of you.

As we approach springtime and Easter, we anticipate the new life they each bring - the plants and birds and animals all starting new cycles of life, and we, as Christians, remembering the sacrifice of Christ and the new life made possible for us by it. As we, across the land, prepare for communion, let us each pray to grow and become more mature as Christians, increasing in love and understanding.

Our new phone number is (314) 994-1944, and our address is: Loren and Betsy Schrenk, 430 Hackmann Lane, Creve Coeur, MO 63141. If you are planning to come to our area, feel free to call us if you want help finding a place to stay or need other information. Also, we appreciate knowing the approximate number of visitors so we can plan approximately for lunch at church. All are welcome!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

Already time is swiftly passing by as we are moving well into the new year. God has blessed our congregation with two more precious babies. On February 8 Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg Haerr welcomed the arrival of a baby boy, Dallas Levi. He will be welcomed home by his older brother, Tyler. Happy grand-

parents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr and Bro. Al and Sis. Ginny Hunziker (Morton, IL). Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp were also blessed with a baby boy, Jared Allen, February 11. He was welcomed home by his older brother, Jesse. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

As we can see new life being added to our young families our prayers and sympathy go out to Marci and Shannon Haerr in the passing of John Musolino, Marci's grandfather.

On February 9 we were all encouraged with a Bible study presented by Bro. Kent Heimer. Many scriptures were used in showing us how Jesus Christ seized the moment to help those who are in need. May we all take advantage of the opportunities that come before us so that we too can seize the moment like our Lord and Savior.

The Bible class traveled to Bloomington, IL (February 13) for A.C.Y.F. We pray that our young people can feel God's presence as they sing songs and have fellowship together.

We thank our visiting ministers this month for their willingness to bring God's Word to us. Those ministers were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

As I set here thinking about what to write, my thoughts go out to our elder brethren who are gathered in Milford, IN at this time. We lift each one up in prayer to the Lord for the responsibility that they have. May God strengthen and keep each one who has the oversight of our precious faith throughout the world.

Our continued prayers are with Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell and little *Mary Beth Sutton* (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) for their struggles in life are great at this time. May God bless and keep them in the palm of His hand.

As our precious faith is drawn together by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we thank each one for their continued prayers and help that has been given toward the cleanup of the flood in 1993. The

wonderful examples that have been shown bring forth much encouragement to our lives.

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

WHEN A CHRISTIAN DIES

When a Christian dies
 Precious is the prize!
 Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
 Rest from conflict on the morrow
 Follows when he dies,
 Follows when he dies.

When a Christian dies
 His grief buried lies.
 All distress and tribulation
 In death's slumber find cessation.
 When a Christian dies
 His grief buried lies.

When a Christian dies
 In repose he lies.
 As in slumber, worn and weary,
 He in silent grave will tarry
 Until called to rise
 By our God all wise.
 Hymns of Zion #248, vs. 1, 2, 3

Sis. Lena Virkler was taken from this life January 19 at the age of 100 years. Sis. Lena had been a widow for almost 30 years, having lost her husband, ministering Bro. Jonas, February 2, 1965. Her only daughter, Blanche, was taken from this life at the age of 28 years April 27, 1952. She was a quiet, Christian example to each of us and will be missed at the East Road Adult Home when we hold our services there one Sunday a month. She attended church regularly until about two years ago when her health did not permit her to get out to gather with us each Sunday. Our sympathy is extended to each of her many nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Berdena Widrick and Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr. as their brother-in-law, Elmer Streeter, was suddenly called from this life. Also sympathy goes to Norman and Mary Schulz and their family as Norman's brother, Vernon Schulz, was also taken from this life after a brief illness. May each of these

families feel God's nearness in their time of sorrow.

Our thoughts and prayers this week have been for our elder brothers who have gathered together for the mid-winter elder conference, that God would be their guide in each decision that must be made.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and warm greetings from Akron. This month we have been reminded of the truth of the writings in Ecclesiastes.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die . . . A time to weep, and a time to laugh . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2 and 4

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle in the loss of Sis. Jane's father. Also, we extend our sympathy to Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico in the loss of Sis. Sarah's sister. Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako are remembered in prayer over the loss of Sis. Kathy's mother. May God's comforting nearness be felt by all who were touched by loss in recent weeks.

On February 3, Retired Elder Bro. Rudolph H. Graf was called to his heavenly home. Bro. Rudy had walked faithfully with the Lord for 75 years when he finished his earthly sojourn at the age of 91.

"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Psalms 103:15-16

Bro. Rudy was placed in the ministry in 1939, and was ordained elder of the Akron congregation in 1946, succeeding his father, Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr. Among other churches for which Bro. Rudy at some time served or assisted as elder were Croghan-Naumburg, NY; Detroit, MI; Francesville, IN; Girard, Mansfield, Sardis, and briefly, Rittman, OH.

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

I Corinthians 9:16

In the 1930's and 1940's, Bro. Rudy worked on behalf of European relief and in later years made trips to Europe for relief efforts. In 1956, he was part of the committee of elders called upon to oversee the revision of our beloved hymnal, the Zion's Harp. Two years later he was part of an official church committee established to direct a fund for the propagation and distribution of the Word of God. In 1967, he was chosen to serve on the Missionary Committee. Bro. Rudy's burden for missions was also evidenced in his support of the early churches of Alabama and Columbus, OH. In 1962 and 1971, he visited Japan to support the mission efforts underway there.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 28:19

For 44 years, Bro. Rudy served tirelessly as minister of the Akron flock; for nearly 37 of those years, he also carried the burden of shepherding our congregation. When he retired from the ministry October 2, 1983, Bro. Eugene Pamer was called upon to serve as elder of the Akron church.

Bro. Rudy leaves behind Sis. Bethi, his wife of 60 years; sons, Bro. Art (Sis Audrey), Bro. John (Sis. Janice), Rudolph (Jean): daughter, Margaret Gallagher (John); 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition, Bro. Rudy is survived by brothers, Bro. Ernest (Sis. Louise) and Walter (Lois), and sisters-in-law, Sis. Juliet and Sis. Esther, as well as brother-in-law, Albert Bachofen.

The family of Bro. Rudy Graf would like to extend their thanks to all who remembered them with prayers, cards and gifts. May God bless each of you.

We are thankful that Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner is again able to as-

semble with us after fracturing her foot. Bro. Zoltan Bako has returned home from a hospital stay and we pray that God will continue to provide healing.

Bro. Todd Graf has replaced Bro. Eric Graf who completed his term as Sunday school teacher. Thank you Bro. Eric for your faithful service.

We look forward to hearing the testimonies of faith of Don and Nan Steidl, who previously attended the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene). Don and Nan, along with their family, have worshipped with us for several months and we welcome them to our congregation.

March 9 marks the 80th birthday of Mary Leidat.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22) Today sunshine, unseasonably mild temperatures, and a brisk wind have combined to "blow away" our memories of a record cold and snowy winter here in northwest Ohio.

Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy), Barb Brink (Rob) and Aaron Calvert (Sis. Verginia Manz) spent some time in the hospital this past month.

Peg Bauman has a new responsibility as she gave birth to Jacob Elias February 15. Many prayers arise for Peg as she raises her newborn son and his older brother and sister, Zachary and Samantha. The grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. This is their 65th grandchild. What a heritage!

Please keep Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) and his family in your prayers as he plans, Lord willing, to travel to Chicago, IL, in a few weeks for a bone marrow transplant.

Thought from a sermon: Do you have your admission ticket to heaven? It doesn't cost anything, because Jesus Christ paid for one for everyone.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

We, here in northwest Ohio, have experienced a long, hard and extremely cold winter this year. After many years of mild winters, it has not been easy to quietly endure the subzero, icy weather.

It is much the same way with our spiritual walk. If we have had a relatively smooth path for awhile, we tend to murmur and complain bitterly when the storms of life blow fiercely around us. However, let's remember what God has promised in His Word: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Corinthians 11:13)

Let us patiently bear whatever the Lord allows in this life knowing that there is a great reward awaiting us if we will endure to the end.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) bring forth the Holy Word this past month.

God has heard our prayers for those having surgery. Sis. Ede Stoller (Bro. Glenn) is back worshipping with us following her surgery, and Sis. Mary Eisenmann (Bro. Lee) is home from the hospital and recovering well.

Our hearts rejoice when we hear that converts feel they are at peace with God and man. We wish Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) and Larisa Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) God's continued grace and nearness as they look forward to the time when they will be able to give their testimonies of faith and then be baptized.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trode the valley of the shade?
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so
sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's
shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

This past month brought release from earthly pains and cares to one of our own dear brothers and to two others who held a special place in most of our hearts. On January 27, Bro. Frank Bertka was relieved of the earthly pain he had suffered for so long. He was often ill and confined to home so we didn't have the opportunity to see him as often as we would have liked. We will surely miss him.

On February 3, we heard of the passing of Bro. Bert Gasser (Sis. Lucy, Rittman, OH). He and Lucy often came to visit his sister, Sis. Leora Bocka and her family. We all knew there would be a generous supply of encouraging words whenever Bro. Bert was around. May Sisters Lucy and Leora and their families feel our sincerest prayers with the loss of someone so dear.

On February 4, we learned of Retired Elder Bro. Rudy Graf's (Sis. Bethi, Akron, OH) going to meet his Lord. Bro. Rudy always brought wise council and sometimes the necessary admonishment during the years he served as our elder

brother. May Bro. Rudy's family also feel our loving support in their loss.

All of these dear brothers suffered from painful diseases although sometimes the pain may have been harder on the family than on the brother. It is our belief that they are now standing on the golden shore, free from suffering and pain, waiting for our coming. May each of us strive so they are not waiting in vain.

Our hospital patients this month have been little Wesley Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy) and Sis. Becky Vent (Dick). Our prayers ascend to our heavenly Father for His healing power upon these loved ones and upon all those who were ill but were fortunate enough not to need hospitalization.

A BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by golden hours;
Don't remember clouds at all.

Count the night by stars, not
shadows;
Count your life by smiles, not
tears.
And with joy on every birthday,
Count your age by friends, not
years.

On February 8, our dear Sis. Elda Riggenbach celebrated her 90th birthday. She and her husband, Bro. Alvin, hold the honor of being the oldest members of our congregation. It is always so encouraging to see them come to church or to see them out around town or at one of the neighboring churches. May God richly bless them both while He lends them to us here on earth.

As I am writing this, the elder brethren are gathered in Milford, IN for the mid-winter conference. Even though this will be published after the conference is over, we wish to express our prayerful support to these beloved brethren who so faithfully lead us to do our Lord's will.

The last few days have been sunny and warmer than what we have experienced most of this win-

ter, giving me a real case of spring fever. Along with my fever, there is an anticipation to see all those loved ones of our congregation who have gone to warmer climates for the winter. When the weather starts to warm, they will gradually return and our little "family" will be together again. However, if it be the Lord's will that we don't meet again on this earth, may He be with each of you until we can meet again.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Linda Ramsier
Marsha Hartzler

YOUR OWN VERSION

You are writing a Gospel,
A chapter each day,
By deeds that you do
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,
Whether faithless or true
Say, what is the Gospel
according to you?

Paul Gilbert

Our congregation has been reminded, recently, of both birth and death. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler welcomed their firstborn, Mason Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty).

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne Beery also welcome another son, Evan Isaac. Big brother, Austin will now have a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Berry and Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Smithville).

Jolene and Mark Hilty have a new brother, Thomas David. Parents are Bro. Roscoe and Sis. Wanda Hilty. Grandparents are Sis. Ruth Hilty and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario). May the Lord be near each family as they look to Him for guidance.

Two faithful brothers have been called to meet our Lord. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. David Maletich, Sr. Our thoughts are with Sis. Mary, his wife, and children, Bro. David, Jr. (Sis. Connie, Smithville) and

Rebecca Palmer (Dennis) and grandchildren.

Bro. Bert Gasser was called to the heavenly mansions. Our prayers are also with his wife, Sis. Lucy, and children, Alan (Toronto), Lee (Debbie), Chris (Angela, Haslett, MI), Marylou, Carol, and the grandchildren. May we continue to strive for the homeland.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized recently. They are: Sis. Pearl Breece (Bro. Bill), Bro. Dave Hartzler (Sis. Linda), Bro. Richard Hartzler (Sis. Karen), Bro. Jon Kipfer (Sis. Suzanne), Gladys Ramsier, Sis. Minnie Riggenbach (Bro. George), Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph) and Glenn Winkler (Mary Jane). May we always remember that God is with us and will take care of us.

We were privileged February 12, to listen to the reading of the memorandum. We thank you faithful Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Eugene Pamer (Akron), Andy Stoller (Smithville) and our Bro. Henry Dotterer for reminding us and exhorting us on the conference conclusions. It is our prayer that we would continue to walk in the straight and narrow way.

Many visiting brethren assembled and ministered unto us this past month. We thank you for your labors - Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

What an encouragement, when a soul turns to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Milan Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) as he begins his walk with the Lord. May we continue to pray that many more would yet seek the Lord. We were reminded of how quickly time can be gone. Recently, our Smithville church experienced a power outage during morning church. What a blessing to have the brethren assemble with us for the afternoon service. We appreciated Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and Bro. Vic Bauman for lending of themselves to preach the gospel. The twinkling of an eye took on a new meaning for us. We were reminded that the amount of time it takes from the time the lights go off, until the room gets dark, is precisely the amount

of time we have from the time the Lord returns until it's too late to do anything about it.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

Sometimes our monthly Sunday evening nursing home visit gets canceled in Sardis for various reasons. When that happens I have to admit it's pretty easy to be relieved that the effort doesn't have to be made. The time for our February visit came and several people were away for the weekend. It appeared the visit would probably be called off; but the decision was made to go. A few of us went to the home, unsure about how enjoyable the evening was going to be. We were greeted at the door by the same two ladies that are always sitting there. They have the nicest smiles on their faces and their eyes light up when we walk in. We go in to the cafeteria to sing. The room is half full of residents still sitting around tables where they've been since supper, wheel chairs turned toward the front. As we file in they look at us with expectation. It gives us courage to sing. The first song ends and a hunched over man continues singing softly, eyes closed. We didn't think he could do much of anything, but we were wrong. The next song we noticed almost everyone was singing or drumming along. Before long the room was full. Full of song, full of joy, full of life. The singing ended much too soon, but it was special to shake the hands of all our friends. Their words were encouraging. They wanted us to come back. And the truth is, we can't wait to go back.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Kim Stoller - Edith Miller

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. (I Peter 5:2) Again, as so many times in the past, this scripture was adhered to by our dear elder brothers as they brought unto us the conclusions of the 1993

conference, through the reading of the memorandum. We thank Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), for assisting our own elders in this work, as we assembled with the Rittman congregation on a recent Saturday evening for this purpose. We hope our elders can feel our full support as they "watch for our souls."

We thank Bro. Ed for ministering to us at Smithville the following day. Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Hospitalized were Bros. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty) and Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine). We trust the Lord for a return of good health to each one.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich and family in the passing of his father, Bro David, Sr. (Rittman, OH).

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalms 119:11) These words were read and meditated upon by our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller at the start of our new Sunday school season, having recessed for the month of January. We hope and pray each teacher and each student will put forth the effort, so that the above words of the Psalmist will be fulfilled in each precious heart.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:124) We appreciated the counsel given to us in the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) brought forth the many good teachings for our safety.

We were also blessed with a visit from Bro. Mark Masters and his family (Mansfield). May we give thanks for the rich tradition of our fellowship.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Mary Berg - Lori Martin

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalms 19:14

We were reminded of this teaching by visiting ministering Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Ray Moser was voted trustee and Bro. Dennis Martin, Sunday school teacher. We pray that God will direct them with their new duties in the church. We thank the brothers who previously held these positions.

We sang a song last Sunday from our Hymns of Zion that we don't sing often, but the words are so meaningful.

Teach me yet more of Thy blest ways,
Thou holy Lamb of God;
And fix and root me in the grace,
so dearly bought with blood.
Oh, tell me often of each wound,
of ev'ry grief and pain;
And let my heart with joy confess,
from hence comes all my gain.
For this, oh may I freely count,
whate'er I have but loss;
And ev'ry name, and ev'ry thing,
compared with Thee but dross.
Engrave this deeply on my heart,
with an eternal pen;
That I may, in some small degree,
return thy love again.

Hymns of Zion #98

OREGON, SILVERTON
Peggy Schulz

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. February 14 is a day we will long remember as it was the day ground was first broken for our new church building. We pray for God's blessings upon all those who have given so willingly of their time and talent for this work, both in the past and in the days to come.

Bro. John and Sis. Jane (Rocke) Wiegand received a blessed addition to their family January 19. Jenna Leigh is welcomed by her big sister, Tiera.

We realize anew what a blessing Christian friendships are as we bid farewell to Bro. Jon Knapp. He has felt led to return to the Congerville area. We will miss him and pray for the Lord's blessings upon him there.

Notice: March is the month for Silver Lining collection for the Silverton congregation. Please make checks payable to The Silver Lining.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."

Luke 3:10, 11

After a potluck dinner January 28, brethren gathered to assemble school bags that are to be used by children in the Third World countries.

Our annual business meeting was held January 30.

We encourage those who will be in the area to come worship with us now that spring is here. Services are held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Revelation 4:11

The week of February 6, the state of Tennessee felt God's power and might as we experienced the worst ice storm to hit the area in decades. Over 70,000 people were left without electricity. Tree limbs and many whole trees were down everywhere, leaving the impression

a tornado had passed through. When something like this happens, you quickly realize how many blessings are taken for granted each and every day and exactly who is in control.

Church services were not scheduled to be held in Nashville in February. We look forward to our March 6 services when, Lord-willing, Rockville, CT, will be with us.

We welcome anyone traveling in the Nashville area to contact us on a scheduled or unscheduled church service weekend. Nashville is a very nice city to visit as well as to live. Call Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-1081 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you are planning to be in the area.

In closing, this message was viewed from one of the area church welcome signs referring to the recent power outages: "The power of God will never go out."

TEXAS, DALLAS
Christine Kaiser
Kimberly Kaiser

Would you travel hundreds of miles for church? That's what our Apostolic Christian ministers do for us in northeast Texas most first and third Sundays. We are always grateful for the sacrifice the ministers' families make on our behalf.

We recently shared our Sunday with Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), his wife, Karen, and some of their family. We thank them and our visitors very much. It is truly a joy to have people come to our small gathering in Dallas. May God bless you all for your efforts and kindness.

We extend a special invitation to those traveling in the Dallas area to come and worship with us. Our services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074, Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102, or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

On January 23 Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Eugene Marti served holy communion. It was a blessing to partake of the sacrament with our winter residents and visitors.

On January 30 we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Elmer Fehr was voted to be our new trustee. Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein's term was completed. Bro. David and Sis. Margaret Schlatter were voted to be on the food committee. Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores Messerli completed their time to be on the committee.

On February 8 we did our annual church cleaning. We wish to thank all our visitors for their help.

Retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk spent a few days in the hospital this month. We are glad he is back home again.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl have a new foster child in their home, two-year-old Kevin. Their foster child, Patricia, was adopted by a well deserving family, and we wish her well in her new home.

SILVER THREADS

YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD

You Are Precious In God's Sight

"Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee."

Isaiah 43:4

God Loves You Individually

"But now thus saith the Lord that created thee . . . Fear not: for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

Isaiah 43:1

God Rejoices Over You With Singing

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

Zephaniah 3:17

God Lifts You Up And Saves You

"In all their affliction he was

afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Isaiah 63:9

God's Tender Love Carries You To Old Age

"Even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." Isaiah 46:4

God Carries You On Eagles' Wings
". . . I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself."

Exodus 19:4

God Surrounds You With His Love

"Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about." Psalm 32:10

God Hides You In The Shadow Of His Wings

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings." Psalm 17:8

God Feeds You Honey From The "Rock"

"He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee." Psalm 81:16

God Guides You Continually

"The Lord shall guide thee continually . . ." Isaiah 58:11

God Satisfies Our Soul's Desire

"The Lord shall . . . satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Isaiah 58:11

God Chose You To Be His Very Own Before He Formed The Earth

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

Ephesians 1:4

God Covers You With His "Blanket" Of Love

"Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with

lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3

JAMAICA WORK AND EVALUATION TEAM

January 27 - February 4, 1994

By Bro. Hartzel Kaisner
World Relief and
Caribbean Board

January 27, 1994, the work team and the evaluation team were to leave for Jamaica. Due to the threat of an ice storm, there were many cancellations. Much effort and concern for rescheduling occurred at this time. We must remember that the Lord knows best and we must allow Him to be in control.

Our arrival Thursday in Jamaica was rather scattered. Some arrived in the day time, some in the evening and others at night. Our thanks go to Tracy Daggar for his patience and effort to furnish transportation and making arrangements for our accommodations.

After stopping for a bite to eat, we headed for Shooters Hill in the Manchester area. This was a three hour drive from Montego Bay to where our accommodations were. We arrived at Shooters Hill safely, unloaded our cargo, made our beds and retired about 1:30 a.m.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch whose schedule was delayed, did not join us until Friday evening.

Friday, January 28, we started our day with an 8 a.m. breakfast followed by a devotional service. Then we proceeded to the Village Site for the Deaf. When we arrived on the site we saw the results and efforts of previous work teams.

There were three houses started. House No. 1 had the roof on and finished floors started. House No. 2 had approximately 98% of the walls up. House No. 3 had the masonry foundation walls just started.

Our work team was made up of plumbers, electricians, carpenters and masons along with many more good helping hands.

Our daily routine went something like this:

In House No. 1, we started installing plumbing fixtures, rough-

ing in electrical and pulling wire, sanding wood door frames and doors, stone rubbing interior walls preparing them for painting, then painting the walls.

In House No. 2, we topped out the interior bearing walls with concrete, installed wall plates, ceiling joists, started roof rafters and roughed in plumbing.

In House No. 3, we laid masonry block foundations and walls. We were fortunate to have someone who could weld and he was able to make steel guards for the windows. This is a very necessary item in Jamaica.

The work team enjoyed working together. I believe quitting time was a relief for some, especially those not accustomed to working in the hot sun.

We then headed back to the compound for an invigorating cold shower and 6 p.m. supper. Devotion and fellowship time followed the supper hour.

Sunday, January 30, we enjoyed an 8 a.m. breakfast and a 9 a.m. worship service, fellowship and relaxation time. Our dedicated Jamaican cooks had a 12 o'clock dinner prepared for us. Following dinner, we were taken to what Jamaica calls the Poor House. This includes the young, the aged and the handicap. This sight was very depressing. Some residents seem to be starving for love and attention. We were encouraged to see them join us in singing.

On Monday, February 1, the teams were taken to the existing CCCD School for the Deaf at Knockpatrick. This gave the team an opportunity to see the efforts that are put forth to teach the children, not only academically but much more to learn of God and Jesus Christ and the plan of Salvation. Perhaps one of the highlights of this visit was seeing the deaf choir perform. This is very impressive. At the end of the day, Bro. Kurt Munsel joined us for our evaluation team.

On Tuesday morning following breakfast and devotional hour, the evaluation team left the work team to go about our evaluation duties.

Our schedule for this day is to visit CCCD at Knockpatrick, Pas-

tor Moose in Pourington area and the new CCCD campus at Grandville near Montego Bay.

Our first stop was Knockpatrick to meet with Donville Jones, the new manager who replaced Bruce Mulberry. We had a very pleasant visit hopefully clarifying any questions that may interfere with our beliefs and worship services of our work teams. They will furnish us a place to hold our own worship services and we are in no way required to attend their Chapel Services.

We also questioned the lack of progress of the 2nd floor addition over the kitchen and dining area only to find that they had not purchased a building permit. They also are in need of materials, financial support and work teams for this project.

Pastor Morris was not at home so we continued on to Grandville where we met David and Grace Charmichael. David is the new construction supervisor. On this campus there are two houses already constructed. The one house is the living quarters for the Charmichaels and the other house is partially two stories. The one story part is the living quarters for the assistant manager and the two story part is to be used for visitors and work teams. Also a two story dormitory is started with the masonry block work approximately 45% complete. The masonry security fence around the property is complete other than the security top which could be barb wire or whatever other choice they may choose. Following this meeting, we stopped for dinner and headed for our accommodations at Falmouth.

Wednesday, February 2 our schedule for the day was Falmouth Hospital, Falmouth Infirmary, Grandville Place of Safety, Sherwood Contents Community School and Gladys Gardner.

At Falmouth Hospital, we met with Matron Bowen discussing their needs. We received many kind words of their appreciation for the World Relief help.

The next stop was the Falmouth Infirmary where we met with Matron Thelma Wright and her assistant Paulette Barton. We discussed their needs and toured the com-

plex. They have 85 residence. At this time all laundry is being done by hand and hung on the lines to dry. Heating and water for the laundry is being done over burning logs. They have two large washers and neither one works. Our recommendation is that when a work team arrives with an electricians, that they be pulled out of the team scheduled to Falmouth Infirmary. They can check out these machines and also the complete electrical system of this whole complex.

Our next stop was Grandville Place of Safety where we talked with the coordinator Lallie Smith and his assistant Paola Genas. They have 57 girls at this time which can range from 7 years to 17 years of age. They also have a staff of 14 people. This project is mainly supported by the Government. The cost to operate this facility is approximately \$11,000 Jamaican dollars every 2 weeks. This amount does not include the staff salaries. These children are being taught some elementary classes and taught of God's love along with encouragement to attend church on Sunday.

Sherwood Contents Community School was our next stop. Miss Flash was not there but we spoke with Lowes Louious concerning some of their needs and conditions.

Our last stop was Gladys Gardner only to find that she was not at home. She is one of our recipients of World Relief items of the Trelawny area.

With our evaluations completed, we headed back to Falmouth for a 6 p.m. supper. We retired early for we were to have Bro. David at the airport early Thursday morning. Bro. Kurt Munsel left in the afternoon.

Bro. Harold Witzig and myself joined the work teams at Miss Bettys in Montego Bay for Thursday night accommodations and leaving Friday afternoon for the USA.

We thank our Almighty God and our Dear Savior for the bountiful blessings we received. God's spirit of love was felt throughout our entire group.

If, through helping hands, financial support and God's blessings,

some of these deaf children learn to know the Lord, it will be worth it all. May we thank God for opening this opportunity which we can be a part of.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

is there every minute. As often as we would call upon Him, He is there, and He cares!

I think this morning of prayer. As we come to God's house, we pray from the pulpit. We pray as a united church. Yet, I have to think each one of you has a prayer upon your heart. Think of all the prayers. Yet, I am humbled to think how God can hear each one of those prayers. He knows each one and He can answer each prayer.

It reminds me of the opportunity we have to pray for one another. We have the opportunity to pray for those we love. Pray for one another. I would have to be the first to admit that sometimes -- many times -- I fail. I don't pray enough for those I love. It is an opportunity that we need to remember each day. What a feeling it is to come into God's house and we can feel the prayers of each one.

Last evening as we gathered at the fellowship hall and even this morning as we came into God's house, so many would come up to us and say, "You are in our prayers." What a tremendous feeling as we can feel the Spirit of God.

He went on to speak about the prayers of the Pharisee and publican . . . sincere prayers . . . prayers that came from the heart. We can feel, loved ones, when there are those that come to us and say they are praying for us. It is such a blessing when we can feel it is not just the words, but it is coming from the heart -- the bottom of their heart because it is so sincere.

I have to think of an old sister back home. So often when I travel, I make it a point to get to her just days before or the Sunday before because I know that she is always going to tell me, "I will be praying for you Sunday." I can just feel the sincerity and I can feel so much power in that prayer, dear ones, that I am almost fearful to travel without speaking to her. Yet, I

know today, again she is remembering us here in the pulpit in her prayers.

We go on with this Pharisee and publican, and we know that they had a different outlook in prayer, we might say . . . a different approach. We know the Pharisee had his eyes on the many things around him, did he not? He had his eyes on those who were perhaps observing him. He was measuring himself and his life on those around him. He said, "I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." (Luke 18:11) He had an excuse, didn't he? At least, he thought he did. "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." (Luke 18:12)

Yet, we know, "The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13) What a sincere prayer coming from the bottom of his heart! His focus was upon God. His focus was not upon those around him, and how he measured up to them. His focus was upon God and the directions that God was giving to him.

It says, "This man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18:14) Exalted by God.

We can be thankful that the Word speaks so clearly to us that every sincere prayer, God hears. We can be thankful that we can call upon our Lord and our God and just seek in sincerity. Our prayer can be from the bottom of our heart that He will help us each day and each hour, through any trial, and through any temptation.

We know that Satan is powerful, but we know that God is all powerful! We know that whatever the trial would be, whatever the temptation would be, God is there ready to help us, if we are sincere.

It says how they brought infants unto Him and "he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them." (Luke 18:15) Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them

not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." (Luke 18:16-17) We can picture this in our mind, can we not? Here is the Lord and they are bringing little children unto Him. Perhaps there were some crying.

As we sat on the pulpit this morning, we could hear a little baby crying. It touched my heart to think that our children are among us . . . our future church and the love we have for them. We don't need to separate them somewhere off to themselves, but they can be with us. We can appreciate those little cries from time to time, but there is our future church and they are our children that God has given to us.

The Lord made it very plain, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." (Luke 18:17) We think of little children and their innocence, their humbleness and their willingness to be taught. They are teachable and that is how the Lord wants us, each one to be teachable as the Word would speak to us and be willing to follow as He directs, each one of us, dear ones.

The rich ruler asked a question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18) In our hearts and minds, is there any more important question that we can ask of how we can serve our Lord and our Saviour?

"Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich." (Luke 18:19-23)

When we speak to our God, we ask Him to direct our lives. May it

be that there would not be any one thing that would keep us from a close walk with our Lord and Saviour.

Dear friends, my prayer for you would be that if there be any one thing that would hold you back from seeking our Lord and Saviour while it is a day of grace, remember this account. Here was one who had something that he counted more important. He counted the treasures here upon this earth as having more value than the treasures he could have in heaven. That is a very sad ending, if we stop to think about it.

If we think about the ending, how much better it would have been if he could have gone away willing to give up that what was near and dear to him here upon this earth, and be willing to follow as the Lord directed.

Be willing to follow, as the Lord spoke here, ". . . thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." (Luke 18:22)

If we stop to think of our time here upon earth, we are so reminded of that. Just this past week, I attended a seminar for two or three days. The first day we went through the seminar and that evening they had some type of reception. I had other plans that evening and I didn't intend to go anyway. They had a reception for those attending the seminar and I don't even remember what the title was . . . some type of football celebration or something, but nevertheless, it went on.

The next morning as we gathered again for the seminar at eight o'clock in the morning, the first thing they did after we went into the room and sat down, there was a screen in front of us and they began showing slides of this event of the night before. As they went through the various slides, I looked around to those in the room and they were quite surprised that they were showing these slides.

I believe that if some had it to do over, maybe they would have conducted themselves a little bit differently at that reception the evening before. But nevertheless, they went through all these slides and each one that was there the

night before could now come this morning and see themselves up in front of several hundred people.

I had to think of that, loved ones. That is the way it is for our life here on earth, is it not? We are all going to stand before the Lord and we are all going to give an account of our life. That is the way it is going to be. It is going to be clear. There is not going to be any question. The image up on that screen was plain and clear.

It causes me to stop and think of our life and how our life, too, is recorded, is it not? It doesn't take a camera because I am sure God has a much better system. He knows our life and that day when the Lord returns or when we are called out of this life, when we stand to give an account, He is going to know our life. He is going to know if there was anything between us and our Lord. Are we willing to give up those things which He asked us to give up? Are we willing to follow as He asked us to follow?

How much nicer this parable could have ended if this rich man would have been willing to give up. He could have gone away joyful, as we read at the ending of this chapter of those blind men that followed. It says, "And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God." (Luke 18:43) What a tremendous difference!

"When Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." (Luke 18:24-27)

These are words of Jesus Christ Himself. So we don't have an excuse. There are no excuses. Yes, as we would look at it in men's eyes, it may look impossible, but it says that in the eyes of God, it is possible. All things are possible with God.

So let there not be anything in our lives to be a hindrance. Let us

all just commit it to our Lord realizing He can provide.

"Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." (Luke 18:28-30)

The blessings even in this lifetime, if we are willing to follow, loved ones, are blessings untold, a peace we can't explain, and a peace that passeth understanding. Yet, in the world to come for life everlasting, what a tremendous promise!

Jesus went on to tell of His death and the prophecy "concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again." (Luke 18:31-33)

"And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken." (Luke 18:34) Yet, loved ones, we have these precious words today. We know the Lord and Saviour went to that cross. We know He gave His life. We know it was for you and me. We know that we all can be beneficiaries of what He has offered us.

They went on to Jericho and it tells of the blind man. "And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me." (Luke 18:36-39)

Here again, Jesus reached out, did He not? "And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight." (Luke 18:40-41) Look at

the faith of this blind man!

"And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee." (Luke 18:42) Loved ones, the faith of this dear man, the faith that this blind man was able to have is what saved him. Stop and think that this same faith is available to you and me today, loved ones.

If we are willing to make the effort, if we are willing to answer that call to follow our Lord and Saviour and the time that He gives us here upon earth, be it a short time or be it a long time, it is that precious faith that we can look to. Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is what can save us, help us, and provide for us until that day and time when we would stand before our Lord and Saviour. We don't know when that will be, do we? Not one of us know when we would be taken out of this life or when our Lord and Saviour would return as a thief in the night.

May it be that each one can have that faith in our precious Saviour Who died upon that cross, and on that great day, we will not be found wanting.

I think of the hotel we stayed in Friday night. When we got up Saturday morning to eat our breakfast, there was another couple sitting beside us and soon, a police officer came and sat down with them. I heard him say, "I am so sorry you lost your car during the night." Then it all made sense as I could see what was happening. During the night as they stayed at the hotel, the thief had come and their car was gone. They didn't expect it; I could tell by the look in their face. They were quite surprised.

May it be as the precious Word is preserved for us and as the Lord calls us . . . each one . . . He speaks to our heart that today is the day of grace so we can prepare ourself. If we are willing to follow, that we will not be found wanting on that great day. When it would be the time that the Lord would call us out of this life or the time when He would again return as that thief in the night, may God give us each one the grace and understanding to follow faithfully and sincerely.

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SERMON BY BRO. ARTHUR INGOLD OF RITTMAN, OH

"God Is Love" Genesis 37 and Luke 18

What beautiful words, loved ones, spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ when He was here upon this earth. So often He spoke in parables . . . parables that are so meaningful to us. Even though spoken many, many years ago, but how much application they have for us today, dear ones.

I remember once I heard someone I work with say, "I don't go to church because I keep hearing the same old story." Yet, what a blessing it is, dear ones, if we hear the same old, old story. The Word does not change! The precious Word of God is the same today as yesterday, and we have the Word in store for us. These same words that the Lord spoke are for us today. We need not change them or add to them, or take away. The simple words that Christ taught are so meaningful to us today.

As I read this of one who was so persistent in prayer, my thoughts go back to the reading about Joseph. We should consider that for just a moment as we all know the account of Joseph. So often I think of the account of Joseph and I think of his life, and of the many things that came his way. I guess perhaps many of us would almost at times put ourself in his place, and ask the question, "How would we have reacted?" How would we have reacted to be sold by brethren into

slavery? How would we have reacted if we were falsely accused and thrown into prison? Just stop and consider that a little bit.

He was persistent. He continued on. I don't know of any words where he complained, or that he said, "I am here because of this. My brethren left me down. I am here because someone told a lie about me." He accepted where he was placed. He did not make excuses. He only looked forward and looked to the Lord to provide.

Today, so often we can hear of those who would make excuses, even for their lot in life. They would say, "It is because of this or that. I don't have an opportunity." Or, "I haven't had the same chances." I am sorry to say I sometimes hear that even of young people who will say, "My parents didn't do this for me, or didn't do that."

This morning I am reminded of Joseph and how we can almost say the odds were against him, but he had that which was most needful. He had God on his side, loved ones. I know that each one of us has that opportunity. We have God available and we have the Lord available to walk with us and to provide for each one of us in this day and time. We need not make excuses. There really is no excuse.

We have God Who is willing to provide, and God Who sent His only

beloved Son here on this earth because He had such a great love for you and me. He was willing to send Him here below. Jesus was willing to give His life and He was willing to shed His blood for each and every one of us. Yes, the price was paid!

So we understand . . . we don't have an excuse. Yet, it is sad for those who make excuses or say that they don't have a chance.

Look at this widow. It says that she was before an unjust judge, who was a judge who did not fear God, neither regarded man. Yet, this widow came to him and said, "Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." (Luke 18:5)

The Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily." (Luke 18:6-8) We stop to think of the opportunity we have of prayer, loved ones, that as often as we would call upon our God, He is there!

We don't get an answering service as we so often do today when we make phone calls. We make a call and get an answering service, or a machine. But God is there! He
(Continued on Page 37)