



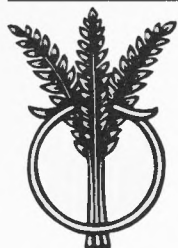
"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."
1 Corinthians 3:7

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."
1 Corinthians 3:6

VOLUME 44

APRIL 1994

NUMBER 4



PLANTING



SOWING SEEDS OF GOODNESS

THE GOLDEN HARVEST

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Children come the grain to gather,
While the morning sun doth shine;
And ere long, beloved brethren,
It will be your harvest time.

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?

He who gathers not at harvest,
Will a beggar be at last.
Therefore rise today and labor,
Gath'ring golden sheaves with haste!

Chorus:
Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46



"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

“ABIDE WITH ME”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

After the Lord Jesus Christ had arisen from the dead, He joined a couple of disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize Him and proceeded to tell Him all about the crucifixion. He listened and then told them that they were “slow of heart to believe.” They did not catch on but they rather liked Him and decided to invite Him in where they were going to stay. Prior to being invited He “made as though he would have gone further,” indicating He only goes where He is invited.

The words they used to invite Him are, “Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” (Luke 24:29) This was a very hospitable invitation considering that they did not recognize Him as someone they knew. Today we would rightfully hesitate to invite a stranger into our home to abide with us.

Later the two disciples recognized the Lord and said, “Did not

our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?” They must have had the Holy Spirit working in their hearts which caused them to invite Him in.

The hymn writer who wrote “Abide With Me” considers the evening to be the end of life here on earth and invites the Lord to abide with us as we turn in for a rest. This thought is a very comforting and reposeful scenario. We love to approach death “As one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams,” as a certain author has written. This is made possible because the Lord abides with us. We trust in Him, not in ourselves.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ after having died for our sins shows that He was and is the Son of God and qualified to be our Saviour. Since He is God incarnate, what a joy it is to invite Him to “Abide With Me” everywhere we go and forever. He is entirely trustworthy, He is the Son of God.

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

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 SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors: Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$9.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTIVISM

There is little doubt that in America today there is a serious decline in traditional morality. Although we claim to be a nation "under God," there is a clear trend away from the Christian influence which in the past formed the foundation of our social-moral outlook.

The degree to which our nation's moral structure is weakening can often be distressing to believers in Christ. The very fact that 1.5 million babies are aborted each year causes anguish in a believer's heart. Likewise, the growing promotion of homosexuality, the high incidence of venereal disease, the availability of pornography, and the general anti-Christian bias and moral wantonness in the arts and media are dismaying to those seeking to uphold biblical truth.

The rapid rate of moral decline and family breakdown may tempt a believer to become involved in social action. Distraught hearts may be drawn into the fray of public discourse, attempting to better society through various means of confronting the forces of social decline, without considering the many implications of such activity.

It may be helpful to view the present social decay from a historical perspective. Many nations have never known the influence of biblical truth as part of their moral foundation. In addition to abortion, some have practiced infanticide and left their elderly to die unattended. Moreover, in some societies acts of public sexuality were commonplace. History indicates that war, plunder and "ethnic cleansing" took place on the soil of many nations. Political despotism, injustice and religious persecution resulted in victims being tortured, beheaded, and burned at the stake. They had no civil rights. However, we live in a democracy which retains a sense of fairness and justice and still guarantees religious freedom.

Much more importantly we should view this subject from a biblical perspective. The Lord Jesus' short life span was during a time of harsh political oppression. There

was no democracy. A rigid class system favored the ruling elite. Slavery existed along with other grave social injustices. Individuals who did not conform to the rigid standards of oppressive rulers were unmercifully persecuted.

Yet, Jesus quietly endured these inequities. He did not offer an agenda of social and political reform. He said, "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight" (John 18:36). His vision pointed beyond this short life. His focus was on that long and endless eternity; and He promised a home in heaven for all who would humbly repent for their sins and follow Him.

The mission for followers of Christ remains the same today. The primary objectives of the church are first, saving souls and then, nurturing them spiritually in the warm bond of brotherhood, so they can overcome sin and remain faithful until life's end.

Entering into the fray of social activism presents many risks for the devout Christian. Almost invariably this results in strife and contention. The Apostle Paul taught Timothy that "...the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient" (2 Tim. 2:24). He also said that the "good soldier of Jesus Christ" does not entangle himself with the "affairs of this life" (2 Tim. 2:4). The arenas of social activism are not conducive to the virtues of restraint and gentleness. Instead there are outbursts of temper and strong, self-willed expressions which bring reproach to the name of Christ. The Word teaches, "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go" (Prov. 22:24).

Loud, boisterous and partisan demonstrations are manifestations of the works of the flesh (reveling and variance) and are in no way reflective of Christ's gentleness and lowliness of mind. Even a calm show of force (as in an orderly march) is nonetheless a form of intimidation and can cause a contentious reaction.

Perhaps one of the most distressing

changes in our society is the loss of respect for biblically-based truths. There seems to be a growing hostility toward Christian values. Many consider organized efforts to promote Christian influence as an imposition by the "religious right," which is deeply resented.

What can be done? If sincere believers seek to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14), the true and gentle spirit of Christ will enable them to offer constructive and meaningful influence. First and foremost should be sincere prayers for "all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Believers can also convey thoughtful suggestions to public officials and teachers, write respectable letters of concern to elected legislators, and record their preferences at the ballot-box. Creative ideas, void of extremes, can be forwarded to an array of decision-makers. These low-key actions can allow a separated believer to exert an effective influence in society while maintaining the respect of fellow citizens in a Christ-like manner.

All power is of God (Rom. 13:1). It is He who installs and replaces political power. The Bible teaches the believer that no matter what state he is in he should be content (Phil. 4:11). We can be very thankful that even in the midst of a time of deterioration, the true believer can find contentment. We can also be comforted by the assurance that "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom 5:20).

The cautious, low-key approach advocated by our church does not imply submission to any earthly authority or ordinance which would require our disobedience to God's Word. If this conflict should arise someday, we must say as Peter, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29), no matter what the cost. We can be assured that we will be able to withstand every test and trial, if we put our trust in the power of God and walk in humble obedience to His Word.



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

European Board Update

Yugoslavia

As of this date, the most dire situation in Europe continues to be Yugoslavia due to the war and the blockade by the United Nations. We are in constant contact with the brethren there. Telephone connections do work, and the connection via fax is also excellent. However, it continues to be very hard to get physical aid into the country due to the blockade. Experiences have been made where foodstuffs, even in small quantities were confiscated at the border. We are, however, sending money in on a regular basis, and are standing by awaiting the time when the restrictions are removed, and we can get humanitarian aid into the country. There is no question that our brethren are suffering from the effects of this turmoil. However, the spiritual harvest is continuing as souls repent and seek salvation. We sincerely appreciate the concern of our brethren. If things open up, and additional help is needed, you may rest assured we will request it promptly. In the mean time, please keep these dear souls in your prayers.

Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine is also very difficult. The governmental order and structure is functioning very poorly, and the Mafia has taken control in many areas. Our brethren, for the most part, have small parcels of land and a place for a few animals, and thus have managed to avoid many of the dire troubles of those confined to city apartments. Some goods are available in Ukraine if one has hard currency and others cannot be had under any conditions. There is an epidemic of Hepatitis in the country, and the youngest son of elder Vasile Paladean died from this dreaded disease. Our brethren are coordinating efforts in

America and Europe to get vaccine into Ukraine at this time. Here, as in Yugoslavia, the efforts are channelled through the European Board. It is nearly impossible for us in the West who live under stable governments to understand the trauma which results when social order disintegrates as it has in these two countries. Travel into these countries should not be attempted without careful planning and assistance from local brethren who understand how to deal with unscrupulous border personnel and the police. Another truck shipment of humanitarian aid will probably go into the country this April.



Romania

We continue to ship food parcels into Romania each month from the distribution center in Bluffton, Indiana. Opportunities exist here for volunteers to participate in this work, and we certainly encourage anyone having an interest to contact Br. Ron Kipfer at Bluffton for more information. There are 38 congregations in Romania, and an effort is ongoing to restore and rebuild old church buildings as well as to construct new ones. Our contact with Romania is excellent, and other than the inevitable delays at the border, travel in and out of the country is possible, although not to be attempted without careful advance planning. Telephone and fax connections are also good, and we maintain very close and frequent contact with the brethren there. They suffered under Communism, and sincerely appreciate the opportunities

which they now have for worship, as well as the love and support of brethren from the West.

Hungary

The new church building at Szegeed, Hungary is progressing nicely. We are grateful that at this time it is ahead of schedule and under budget, something that doesn't often happen. It has been made possible by the diligent efforts of faithful brethren, and we feel that your contributions have certainly been appreciated and well used. This is a mammoth undertaking, housing not only the worship facility, but also a nursing home. This is another of our efforts in providing for the spiritual as well as the physical needs of our brethren in faith.

Germany

In Breidenbach, Germany, the brethren are beginning construction on a new church building. The opportunity for skilled masons and bricklayers to participate in this will be presented at the World Relief Meeting on April 9. If anyone feels a desire to go and help in the work, this summer will be the time when it is needed. They feel they have sufficient unskilled labor locally, but could well use the skills of anyone able to lay bricks. The exterior of the building will be of brick construction, laid in the same manner as in the USA.

Brethren from America are planning a trip into Europe in June, with visits to Romania, Hungary, and Germany. At that time, they intend to meet with the Ukrainian elders, as well as other European brethren in Budapest to plan future relief projects and support. A full report will be given when they return home. Please include this important work in your prayers for God's servants, so that everything can be done to His name's praise and honor.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

The Mission Committee is the arm of the Church with the responsibility of carrying out the goals and purposes of spreading the gospel. This committee was first established at a conference in Bluffton, Indiana in 1958. Presently 9 elder brothers serve in carrying out its functions.

The Mission Committee works in cooperation with the World Relief Committee to meet spiritual and humanitarian needs around the world. Our mission is, first and above all, to render all praise and honor to Almighty God. Before reaching beyond the local level with the gospel, there must be a firm foundation built upon hearts cleansed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the primary effort of the church is to communicate the gospel through the example of a sanctified life with a ready testimony of what Christ has accomplished.

Having experienced the blessings of the love of God and fellowship within our brotherhood, we extend our hands of love and mercy toward all mankind, in fulfillment of the scripture which says...



...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

ST. MARK 16:15-16



The Mission Committee Supports...

- Mission programs in the U.S. and other countries.
- Bible Distribution - throughout the world.
- Hymn Book translation and dispersion.
- Printing and distribution of sermons and other materials.
- Establishing and aiding new congregations.
- Church building construction. Supplements printing costs of the Silver Lining.
- Recording and distribution of sermons on cassette tape.

Where the funds are disbursed

- ♦ **USA**
Throughout the entire land — assisting in the items listed.
- ♦ **Canada**
Sending ministers and aid to support small congregations.
- ♦ **Mexico**
Bibles and hymnbooks in Spanish; with individual assistance where possible.
- ♦ **Central America**
Distributing Bibles and Hymnbooks in Spanish.
- ♦ **South America**
Distributing Bibles and hymnbooks in Spanish.
- ♦ **India**
Supporting work in the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission.
- ♦ **Europe**
Helping build and repair churches in Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Ukraine, and Germany. Translating, printing and distributing Bibles and hymnbooks in various European languages.
- ♦ **Japan**
Supporting work in existing churches of Tokyo, Shioda and Tamahata.



This page is for the purpose of informing our brethren and friends of current efforts and future projects of the Mission Committee. It will appear each month in this format.

CONFIDENCE
Bro. Robert Miller
Portland, OR

Confidence is very important in the salvation of a believer's life. One definition in the dictionary is, "an intimate and trusting relationship."

Confidence is similar to faith and hope, by which a Christian is saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 8:24) The Bible tells us what to have confidence in, and what not to have confidence in. First, what should not a "born again" believer have confidence in? Job declared, "If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold thou art my confidence" — this also was an iniquity to be punished by the Judge: for I should have denied the God that is above." (Job 31:24, 28) We are told "the love of money is the root of all evil" (I Timothy 6:10) In Psalm 118:8, 9, God's Holy Word tells us "It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes." The apostle Paul wrote — "we worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3) We read ". . . they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8) "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." (Philippians 1:6)

". . . It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) In Christ, "we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him." (Ephesians 3:12) In Proverbs 3:26, we are told "the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge." (Proverbs 1:26)

For those who experience peace in their hearts by the blood of Christ, (Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 1:7) they embrace (I John 3:21) "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the

end." (Hebrews 3:14)

The true believer is Christ's habitation, "if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end," (Hebrews 3:6; Colossians 1:27)

In I John 5:14, 15, we may embrace a precious promise regarding prayer "and this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us, and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." May no follower of Christ ever cast away their confidence, "which hath great recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:35) "And now little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." (I John 2:28, Zion's Harp #177)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR
THE HANDICAPPED

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1) From the first discussion by the administration and board of directors through the securing of a certificate of need from the state of Illinois to the recent weekly orientation meetings for sixteen excited people preparing to move, we have felt the Lord's leading and blessing in building Linden Estate.

Linden Estate, a group home similar to Oakwood Estate, will be home to eight men and eight women sometime late spring or early summer. These people will have the opportunity to live in a smaller home and to learn more independent living skills. Their address will be Linden Estate, 1000 Linden, Morton, IL 61550; Telephone # 263-8992

Many willing volunteers have been working in recent months painting, varnishing, wallpapering, laying sod, and cleaning to make Linden a beautiful home. We are thankful and pray our Lord will bless each person who has contributed through faith-filled prayers, financial support, and volunteer labor. Now we ask for your prayers

as the Linden residents and staff members complete orientation and establish another Christian home for God's glory. "Peace be within thy walls." (Psalm 122:7)

May birthdays at ACHH: Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stichling (13), Steve Slagel (13), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser (22). Oakwood birthdays: Herb Stieglitz (11) Main birthdays: Jackie Barton (26). There are no May birthdays at Hazelwood or Wagler.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) We are comforted to know that our dear Sis. Ruth Gramm has gone to be with the Lord, and that we will be together again some day. While that hope keeps us from sorrowing, "even as others which have no hope," we do feel the deep loss of her being taken from us in a tragic auto accident. She was Grandma to all of us here at Gateway Woods, and we will miss her loving care and her wonderful example of unselfish giving. Our hearts go out to Bro. Art and all of their children and grandchildren. We pray that God will comfort them and fill the needs that Sis. Ruth would have filled if she had stayed here with

us. We have experienced His faithfulness, and we trust Him to continue to provide.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die: . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2) In the midst of our sorrow God has provided hope as the New House young people have welcomed the arrival of Eric Joel Schrock, born March 8 to houseparents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol. We see a new and tender side to our children as they interact with a little one.

On March 20, Tammy W. completed her stay here at Gateway Woods and went back to live with her family. May the Lord go with her and bless her and help her through this time of readjustment.

We appreciate all the volunteers who have come to help us in the past weeks. They include Bros. Dan Meister (Peoria, IL), Chad Plattner (Princeville, IL), Mark Klaus (Washington, IL), Nelson Koch (Tremont, IL), Bart Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Brad Kauffman (Tremont, IL). Many thanks to each of you for sharing in our labor of love.

Our annual Representatives Meeting was held March 19. We thank all the representatives who came to spend some time with us. It was good to share with you the work that is going on here.

On the same day, March 19, three of our girls, Jodi C., Christy K., and Danial R., participated in a

school music contest. We are thankful for the gift of music and for opportunities to use it.

Once more we ask your prayers for people to come and work with us here. It is impossible to express what a blessing there is in working with other brothers and sisters to help hurting children. No, it isn't always easy. There are times when we don't know what we should do.

What would really help our young people to learn what they need to know? How should we handle this particular situation? There are no easy answers, and we sometimes make mistakes. But God is faithful; He can even use our mistakes and turn them into good. We believe that He is preparing someone to fill the positions of Child Care Supervisor and Alternate House-

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

After one and one-half years, the Christian Aid Ministries/Mennonite group we have been working with has decided to close the facility and end the project.

We have made arrangements with The Salvation Army to house and feed anyone that would still be interested in working on the relief program.

We thank the volunteers who have taken part in this work.

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

parents. Could it be you? Or do you know someone you could encourage to consider if they might be the right ones for one of these positions? I believe that all of us here would testify that even in hard times, the rewards outweigh the difficulties. We praise God and thank Him for making it so.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

With the beautiful sunshine and warm weather we are experiencing, it's hard to believe that last month I was writing about the ice storm that affected northern Alabama. Now, God once again is displaying His power, in the beautiful blossoming of the Dogwood and Bradford pear trees in our area.

March has been a difficult month for William and Ethel Haggemaker. William experienced a stroke, and then underwent surgery following the stroke. We were very thankful to have them back in church, and recuperating. Please pray for his recovery, as it is a slow process. Kendra Coulter was also hospitalized this past month, and we continue to pray for her.

It was a joy to have David and Pela Naffin with us for a weekend in February. We miss their familiar presence in Athens, as they seem part of the Athens family.

Plans are being made for the weekend planned at the Tennessee fellowship area, April 16 and 17. We look forward to everyone who is able to come and fellowship with us.

— 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
March 1994 —	2741	18,412

*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

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"In God is my salvation and glory; the rock of my strength, and refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times . . . pour out your heart before Him."

Psalms 62:7, 8

How adequate were these words, when our Sunday school hosted their friends from the Tucson and Altadena, CA, churches, during the February 19 through 21. Their liveliness and loveliness is so uplift-

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1994
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 13, 1994

ing. If your youth ever needed a Saviour, it is clearly now. God's love flowed freely among the youth groups and it was a joy to hear and see them. Our church is grateful to those who were in charge of their weekend.

May you dear youngsters always keep His love and sunshine in your hearts! Everybody needs a best friend, you'll find no better than our Lord.

Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) was our visiting minister. We are appreciative.

Bro. John Kaufman went to Jamaica to work on the deaf school project. He and Bro. Dick Beery went to Mexico later.

We've enjoyed wonderful weather and many visitors. Please keep coming – the weather only gets better.

Bro. Dick Beery had surgery. Bro. Earl Sanders is having con-

tinued heart problems. Many shut-ins show no improvement, nor losses. How good to see Sis. Ora Schrenck in church one Sunday.

Bro. Joe Dotterer has made a great effort to contact our many visitors to meet, greet and dine together Tuesday mornings. Christian fellowship is what it is all about. Thanks you Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina.

Our sympathy to Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer and children on the untimely death of Bro. Wayne Huber, Sis. Cindy's dad. Also to Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophie Huber and children, Bro. Wilbur's brother. The two couples and grandchildren flew to Francesville, IN, for the funeral. May God comfort you.

Christ does not promise our life to be free from sorrow or suffering. He does give us grace to carry on.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Last month's column was accidentally omitted. This is our news for the past two months.

A breakfast was held in honor of Sis. Martha Blessman and Sis. Caroline Zeltwanger who both had birthdays recently. May the Lord continue to grant them grace for as long as He sees fit to give them life.

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) who read the memorandum to us and shared with us some guidance

also; Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix). We thank each one for their visits and invite them back!

Our Sunday school traveled to Phoenix recently for a weekend of activities with the Phoenix and California Sunday schools. As usual, a good report was brought back – good weather, food, fellowship and blessings – all in abundance. Many thanks to the Phoenix church.

Our winter visitors have begun leaving. We wish them God's blessings as they travel to their homes. They are leaving behind 80° weather as they head for more winter weather at home.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Carol Graf

We were blessed to have three visiting ministers this month. Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) was here with his wife (Sis. Mary) and family and was willing to serve from our pulpit. Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman also were here from Wolcott, IN and shared with us slides from the European churches, especially from the Ukraine. It was humbling to look at pictures of people who have so little material wealth. We are thankful that they can be spiritually rich.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and his wife, Sis. Emily, were with us the weekend of March

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

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

19 and 20 for the testimonies and baptisms of two new sisters and one new brother-in-faith. May God be with them as they continued their lives in him.

Last month I reported that Sis. Blanche Coldeen has fallen and broken her hip. We are very happy that she has been able to be moved from the hospital to a retirement/nursing home which is across the street from our church. She is now close to the church, and in a very nice home. We hope that she can make progress with walking in the near future, so that she can move from the nursing care facility into the regular residence area in the home.

Our friend, Allan Crocket (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy) was critically ill with pneumonia this past month, but is breathing normally again. Allan was in a major car accident six and a half years ago and has severe brain injuries from the accident. It was his parents' hope when he had pneumonia that he would be released from this life, but it appears that it was God's will to keep him alive longer. We pray that His will would be done for Allan, and that the Lord will help Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy as they face the severe trials God has given them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huetten

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace."
Tabernacle #7

What beautiful words that give so much warmth and direction with love. It is so true that the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace! May we observe the Easter season with reverence for the light of our souls.

We want to thank our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) for their labors in the Lord on our behalf. May God richly bless all who so willingly serve in bringing the message of the gospel to us. The many visitors, too, thank you for

coming. We loved having you. Come back soon.

Our Sunday school recently visited the Phoenix, AZ, church and had a beautiful time. Thank you, Phoenix.

COLORADO, DENVER Jamie Grant

Greetings dear brothers, sisters and friends! As the Easter season has fallen on us once again, we feel flooded with a mixture of emotions. In one sense, there are feelings of exceeding gladness and thankfulness, and yet on the other hand, a feeling of grief and unworthiness. These feelings race in my heart and mind as we are exhorted to a spiritual examination of our daily walk with Jesus.

Each time I partake of the wine, a tinge of bitterness bites my lips. I'm reminded of my past bitter sins that His blood covered, and yet slowly, my stomach warms and I feel that inner peace and forgiveness.

It is just as agonizing to tear a piece of His body, which is the bread. The first morsel is nauseating to think of the gruesome death He suffered, yet as it settles, it is filling, nourishing and life-giving.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus chose bread and wine for His holy supper? For some reason I pondered this thought for a couple of days. Why not water and lamb chops? I really don't know why, nor does it trouble my appetite, but some interesting thoughts were inspired by my trivial questions. For some reason the word ferment came to mind. I guess because it was the only thing I could see bread and wine had in common. Anyway, I went to my trusty dictionary to define fermentation. The criteria is interesting: to undergo a chemical change, changing in character, cause unrest in, excite, agitate.

You see the given is that at one time the wine was really a cluster of grapes, and the bread was a heap of grain. Yet both, through a refining process of various changes, and each undergoing a fermentation process, become something that is very delightful, unique and new!

It seems safe to say that our

spiritual conversion is like our "fermentation" process. A process where we become something totally new, unique and delightful for God's intended purposes. I really could relate to the definition where it said to "cause unrest in, excited to agitate". I remember those feelings when I refused to repent . . . , that still small voice, "fermenting" my heart, causing my guilt to produce unrest, excitement, agitation. It is so sad as science attempts to theorize that Jesus Christ was "just a man unfortunately, they've skipped a lesson that many of us learned of back in the fifth or sixth grade, when we were explained the "fermentation process".

Aside from the blessings of communion, we feel truly blessed with some new additions to our church! Bro. Ben, Sis. Kris, and their children, Luke, Anna and Bethany Bauman (Goodfield, IL) have been lead by God to make their home here in Denver. Also, we rejoice with Chuck Wiegand (Eureka, IL) as he has found peace and a new home here in Colorado!

Sometimes it is a mystery how God leads us from one point to the next, yet despite not understanding all the "why's", we are consoled with this text. Isaiah 42:16, "And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and forsake them not."

Lastly, our thanks to visiting minister, Bro. Jim Plattner, for allowing God to use him. We enjoyed the fellowship with he, his family, and many others this past month. Also, with are thankful for the safe return of Sis. Naomi Braun, Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman from their mission in Juarez, Mexico. May God bless you for your labors of love. Muchas gracias mis hermanas y hermano!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

March 7 was a blessed event for Bro. Dave, Jr. and Sis. Ellen Galat, with the arrival of a daughter, Deborah Ellen. Nathan and Aaron

welcome their new sister. The grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Emily Foote and Bro. Dave, Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat.

On March 11, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole Gerber welcomed their new little blessing. A daughter, Josie Lynn, was born to them. She is welcomed home by her big brother, Thomas. The grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ken Schulz, as he recovers from hip surgery.

Rachel Virkler, daughter of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan, is doing well after a hernia operation.

As Easter time approaches, we remember the suffering and resurrection of our Lord. It is a time of preparation and self-examination of our spiritual standing.

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Luke 15:10) Kent Zahner, son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally, having received peace, is now awaiting baptism.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

On February 27, Elder Bros. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) shared the memorandum with us. It was a time of encouragement for all of us.

Other ministers this month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Cissna Park, IL.

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 Sunday evenings for fellowship or singing and the other Sundays on 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, FT. LAUDERDALE

Mary Ann Klaus

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

St. John 11:25, 26

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Bro. George Bolliger, who passed away February 25. Bro. George and his family were among the first permanent residents here in south Florida and he was instrumental in establishing a church in Fort Lauderdale. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Elsie, who cared for him so devotedly in the past years. He will also be missed by his two sons, Eugene and Edward; his daughter, Patricia Cancelli; four grandchildren; and a sister. May they feel God's comforting spirit.

We are thankful for the ministers who came to share the Word of God with us this month. May God richly bless Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH).

The fifth annual spring break get-together was held during the week of March 5-12 this year. There were 27 young people here from central Illinois and Bluffton, IN. Most of them are students at the University of Illinois. It was very gratifying to get acquainted with these vibrant young people who will some day take over the reins of our church for all of us. We hope to see them all again next year.

Many of our winter residents are returning north and we pray for their safe return. We are saddened when we realize that Bro. Sam Leman will not be returning. In the past, Bro. Sam and his family have spent a lot of time in southern Florida and we will miss him. May God keep his family in His tender care.

We also wish to express our sym-

pathy to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein in the death of Sis. Catherine's sister, Sis. Bernie Yergler (Gridley, IL). Sis. Bernie had spent two weeks with us here in Florida just prior to her passing.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Marvin and Rhea Steffen

February has been such a busy month for our church! We had a clean-up day for the outside of the church on the 26th, then our annual business meeting after services on the 27th. Our offices will be filled by the following: trustees - Marvin Steffen, Ron Yergler and Ivan Stoller; Sunday school teachers - Marvin Steffen, Ivan Stoller, assistant, Marie Keller, Rhea Steffen, assistant; ushers - Lester Meister, Bill Heckel, Ray Piper and Art Keller; treasurer - Ivan Stoller; secretary - Dottie Beer. We thank all of those that served in the past year, and ask your prayerful support for those that will serve this year. Our attendance at times during February swelled to almost 200, and we certainly appreciate all the people that work together to feed everyone pretty much in one sitting, in the short period of time between services. We were happy to have several visiting ministers share with us. They were: Bros. Carroll Gerber and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Richard Sutter (Fort Lauderdale), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), James Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Harold Schmidgall and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). We so appreciate each one.

We also welcome a new couple to our "little" congregation. Rob and Angie Baum have left their Illinois home for a home with us in Florida. We hope and pray that individually, and as a group, we can make them feel at home here, as we welcome them into our church family.

Bro. Tim Sauder shared with us some of the exciting things happening at Gateway Woods, and challenged us to help make the Home all it can be.

We were saddened to lose two dear sisters recently. Ruth Gramm and Naomi Moser were taken from this life in an automobile accident

March 3. We offer our prayers and sympathies to Bros. Art Gramm and Rod Moser and all the family members in both families. We so enjoyed being with them as they visited here with us. As we struggled for words that would comfort, one of the dear daughters told us, "What can we say, but that God makes no mistakes." Isn't that just the kind of faith and trust we believers need to get through times like this? We know the Comforter will be with the two brothers as they recover from their injuries and their losses. And with the families, as they go on in life here awaiting that reunion in the sky.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
John Brewer

"For I determined to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

I Corinthians 2:2

This verse was brought to my attention a few weeks ago by a ministering brother. As we remember Easter, the verse is a good reminder. Paul did not hold much stock in all the knowledge he had gained over the years. He was very intelligent, taught by the greatest teachers at that time. But with all his knowledge, the only thing he was sure of and could count on was Jesus Christ. Not only Christ, but the importance of His crucifixion and resurrection. Because of Jesus' shed blood that He freely gave, our sins are covered. We can have life because Jesus paid our penalty for our sins, something we could not do. Paul's confidence (and authority!) wasn't in his intelligence or knowledge or anything he acquired, but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It fills me with awe that I can go before Christ each day and give my all to Him and He is all I need. This Easter, my prayer is that we not only remember His death and resurrection but also that through remembering, He is all we need!

This past March we are thankful for the Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We appreciate the

time and travel they took to bring the Word of God to us.

As spring approaches, the flower blooms from the Dogwoods and Cherries, and other trees have gorgeously painted the landscape of the Atlanta area. In poems, writers would call God the Master Painter. With each new spring I can see why God has been given that description.

If you are passing through, visiting on business, or just want a unique place to visit, please come by and visit us. We hold services every Sunday at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located just south of the airport off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. The hotel is right next to the highway. Song service starts at 10:20 with the worship services beginning at 10:30. Please free feel to call us if you are coming into town. You can reach either Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), John Brewer (404-502-8629) or Don Sellers (404-381-1395).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Peg Anliker

Our sincere sympathy to our Sisters Sheila McCoy (Dave) and Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art). Their father, Bro. Alvin Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL) passed away. May our heavenly Father comfort those who have lost loved ones.

Bro. Jeff Waibel received emergency room care. We are thankful he is feeling better now, but know he still would appreciate your prayers.

We thank Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for visiting us and bringing the truth to us. May God bless them for being willing to serve us through the preaching of God's Word.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco

"Kind words can never die, Cherished and blest; God knows how deep they lie, stored in the breast, Like childhood's simple rhymes, Said over a thousand times, Yes, in

all years and climes, Distant or near. Kind words can never die, Never die, never die; Kind words can never die, No, never die.

"Kind Words"

Hymns of Zion #163, vs. 1

Bro. Dennis Kaufman had a special Bible study to further our spiritual growth. He encouraged and challenged everyone to grow in loving kindness which is truly the Lord's delight. (Jeremiah 9:23) The three areas of kindness are: Kindness to families, kindness to strangers, and kindness to brothers and sisters. God is pleased if we can control our tongue, because it can be a tool of harm, or capable of being a blessing to God if we can encourage others to be kind. If we can exercise this virtue it can be infectious, especially if we prepare our hearts ahead of time and ask the Lord to use us in any way he sees fit.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Marvin and Sis. Virginia Huette who were married 50 years February 7. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary February 20 at the Paragon Ballroom in Bloomington. Their dear children hosted the event. May God's blessings be on this couple for many more years together.

What a joy it was to hear the beautiful voices of The New Life Choir at our monthly hymn sing February 19. We heartily thank them for their labors of love.

God has blessed Greg and Louanne Umland with a precious little son February 23. Taylor Scott Umland is the firstborn and the happy grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Taylor, MO) and Bev Buckley (Normal, IL) and Ned Umland (Gridley, IL). We all praise God for this new addition to the Umland family.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr's family at the loss of Jeanie's sister, Sis. Ruth Graham (Gridley, IL) and their sister-in-law, Sis. Naomi Moser (Taylor, MO). Our hearts go out to Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Candy Huber, at the loss of Sis. Kathie and Bro. Dave's father, Bro. Wayne Huber (Francesville, IN).

We pray that the Lord will comfort these dear families and give them a peace that passeth all understanding.

Sis. Ella Schlipf was hospitalized and is doing quite well. May the Lord provide His healing hand.

Todd and Andrea Harris are leaving Bloomington. They will be making Roanoke their new home. May God bless them and hope they will be back in Bloomington to visit.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) for ministering God's Word so unselfishly to us. May God richly bless him for his love and encouragement.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

We appreciate the many visitors we have had over the last month. The visiting ministers who gave of themselves on our behalf are Bros. Wayne Grimm, Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington-Normal).

Our prayers have been with Sis. Ann Rumbold and her family. May the Lord be near her as she struggles with her illness.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

We are thankful that we can welcome to our congregation Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelly (Kupferschmid) Kaeb, who were united in marriage. We pray God bless their lives as they grow together in His love and in their love for each other. Also making their home in Champaign for a time are Bro. Brad and Sis. Erica (Hart) Leman. We are thankful for their presence also and trust that we will all be blessed as we share God's love in Christian fellowship. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Hebrews 10:24)

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury), Dale Stoller (Fairbury) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest). Our thanks go to them for bringing us God's Word.

Our prayers go with Sis. Krista Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis.

Charlen) as she takes up temporary residence in Providence, RI until mid-June to complete her occupational therapy training. We trust that she will continue to feel God's nearness and direction in this new phase in her life.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

We have a new copier (christened Ethel Pitney-Bowes) in my department at school. She is the ultimate. She can take as many as 50 one-sided originals, and make them two-sided to make 20 sets collated and stapled. She can work without being overseen. She follows instructions and she works tirelessly. People stand in line to get access to her. But even Ethel needs paper and toner to work, and she can only copy what she is given. What can the Lord expect from us? He knows we have need of materials to work with: some measure of physical well-being (though perhaps not as much as we would like), some measure of mental and emotional health (though, again, not without the stresses of our own problems and those of others), and as much of the Spirit as we will claim. He expects us not to compare ourselves among ourselves but rather to copy Christ as our perfect example (not horizontal comparisons, which leave us either smug or despondent but a vertical one to leave us humble). Then we can be of great use, working without spiritual fatigue, if we follow instructions and can perform with integrity, no matter whether or not we are being watched. The Lord can use such a worker in any of His "departments".

On Saturday, March 5, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) served with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann to clearly and plainly explain the ideas of the church conferences to us, that we may be exhorted, that we may be warned, that we may be unified. We were also privileged to have Bro. Ron Schambach speak to us in a topical Bible study on a snowy February evening on "Submission," which he defined as "willingly yielding to the spirit of the law." Recently, we were

privileged as well to listen to the Spirit through Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May we be ever more prayerful and thankful for the gifts of the Spirit our ministering brothers share with us.

We have sympathy for many. Bro. Paul Leman lost a brother and Sis. Heidi Haerr and Sis. Heather Knapp have lost two dear aunts. We have lost a brother who, though far away, considered our congregation home. Bro. Herb Gray died March 14. His funeral was in Burlington church and he was buried in Oakville cemetery. Bro. Herb was a giant of a man. The Lord had blessed him with a brilliant mind, a wonderful heart and a great capacity to adapt. While he and Sis. Lois were engaged, she was diagnosed with cancer, which took her leg, but Bro. Herb, in the midst of tears and turmoil, said, "I love you. Let's go ahead and get married, and we'll see what is to be." They had over 22 years together, and she survives. Bro. Herb was a patient man who loved a challenge, a thinker, a questioner. The Lord gave him life, love and laughter, and now those have been transformed with him into a new body, ". . . willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8) Our hearts are tender and our prayers constant for our loved ones, even as we are reminded of our own nebulous, tenuous link to this earth.

In a sermon I just heard, a brother exhorted us to be useful: to visit the sick, to encourage someone who is down, to write a letter, to pray for someone who doesn't love us as much as some others do. I need to remember each of those suggestions, but I especially should pray more for those who are not pleased with me - and with whom I may not be happy either. It is easier, even as a Christian, I am afraid, to "write someone off" than to pray for them. I must be more willing, especially when there is conflict and confrontation, to pray for the person across from me. Perhaps I can be more like Teflon, evenly distributing and dealing with the heat through the oil of love and prayer, instead of losing

such Spirit and burning on the blackness of judgment.

One spoke recently of those of another ethnic background, whom he found unable to do simple carpentry and plumbing. At first he was appalled, assuming they were being lazy. (We all do that, forgetting that our own experiences color each assumption.) He tried again, taking the time to teach these people the skills he took for granted, learned from his father. They were interested in learning, capable and no longer seemed lazy. Both sets of people changed, but notice who needed to change first. Let us ask the Lord to help us challenge each idea that may be a judgment on others. The lens of our own perception may be too thick to allow us to see another clearly. "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)

"Thro' many dangers, toils and
snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus
far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten
thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's
praise
Than when we've first begun."
"Amazing Grace"
Tabernacle #13

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Anna Marie Reutter
Cyndee Anderson

"What you are in the sight of
God, that you truly are."

Did you know . . .

A tiny bird, the Lesser Whitethroat Warbler, summers in Germany and winters in Africa. As the days grow short, the adult birds head south, leaving their little ones behind. Several weeks later, the young fly across thousands of miles of unfamiliar land and sea to join their parents. How do they find a place totally unknown to them? Ex-

periments have shown that they have an instinctive knowledge of longitude, latitude, and an ability to tell direction by the stars. God has given them a calendar, a clock, and all the navigational data they need to fly those thousands of uncharted miles to their parents' side.

We learned this faith-building example of the wonders of God's creation at our last topical Bible presentation for the year. It was given in March by Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) on "Rebuilding the Crumbled Ruins of Self-Worth". When we stop and meditate on God's perfect and beautiful creation and realize that this same God made each one of us, it helps us to realize that in His eyes we are valuable, and that is the true measure of our worth. And how clear it then becomes to us that it is only when we are completely yielded to this same Creator that we can let go of our "misguided self-worth" and He can make of us the kind of person He intended for us to be.

"The Lord is my strength and
my shield; my heart trusted in Him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart
greatly rejoiceth; and with my song
will I praise Him."

Psalm 28:7

We appreciate Bro. Ed's willingness and the time spent in this presentation.

Last month we reported the passing of our Bro. Alvin Baumgartner just as the report was ready to be mailed. We want to extend our sincere sympathy now to his wife, Sis. Loretta; and to his daughters, Sharon Moran (Antioch), Sis. Kay Reutter (Tolland, CT), Nada Shaw (Champaign), Sis. Marlene Mueller (Clinton, WI), Sis. Sheila McCoy (Muskego, WI), Sis. Dinah Wilkening (Cissna Park) and Sis. Julie Rabe (Fairbury); and to his son, Keith (Golden Valley, AZ). We also want to remember his sister, Gladys Knapp, of our congregation; and his brother, Amos (Danville).

"The eternal God is thy refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting
arms . . ."

Deuteronomy 33:27

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, visits, food, cards, and all the wonderful acts of kindness shown us. May God richly bless each and every one.

The family of Alvin Baumgartner
In the hospital this past month were Jim Hofbauer and Bro. Dale Farney for surgery, and Diane Hofer, who suffered a broken arm in an auto accident. Our thoughts are also with Sisters Anna Hari, Martha Brenner and Lydia Moser, who are at this time residing at Heartland Health Care Facility in Paxton.

We wish God's continued blessings for Bro. Walt and Sis. Aldean Kaufmann who have recently reached the milestone of fifty years of married life together.

On the 6th of March we enjoyed the visit of the Peoria Bible class and teachers. We are thankful that our young people can enjoy this fellowship with other churches and appreciate their cooperation which made the day enjoyable for all involved.

I wish to thank everyone for the many cards, telephone calls, prayers and gifts of love, while I was in the hospital and at home recuperating. May God richly bless each of you.

Sis. Vi Greiner

We wish to thank ministering Bro. Eric Givens (Princeville) for coming to spend the day with us March 13, and hope he could feel the love and welcome of the Cissna Park congregation.

We certainly want to apologize for omitting the name of Bro. Stan Gudeman from the list of new Sunday school teachers for the coming year. We surely do support Bro. Stan in this, and will remember him in prayer. Also omitted was the name of Bro. Walt Laubscher who is finishing up his term. We want to thank Bro. Walt for his faithful service, and apologize to both of these brothers for this error.

Although Easter will be past when this is printed, may its joy linger in our hearts and cheer us in our daily battle.

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. 7 & 8

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sue Wiegand - Beth Steffen

It's a blessing when we see our congregation growing. We sincerely welcome two dear sisters to Congerville since their marriages to two of our brothers. March 13 was the wedding date for both of these young couples. Bro. Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Missy Furrer (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley) were married in Wolcott, IN. Bro. Brad Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Linda) were united as one in Sardis, OH. We hope Sis. Missy and Sis. Carla can feel our love as they adjust to their new home.

Once again we were the benefactors of many kind exhortations and invitations to become soldiers of the cross by our visiting ministers. Laboring in love this month were Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bros. Jon Schmidgall and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

"... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" (Luke 18:1) Our prayers have been answered as we heard of Clayton Ott's beginning in faith. How we rejoice with him and his family and pray God will be ever near to him as he faces physical affliction in his life. Although he cannot assemble with us, we hope he feels our love and prayers in Jesus' name.

As we approach this Easter season, let's ask ourselves how we would feel if we gave one of our beloved children to be tortured before a cruel death so that others may live . . . only to find that many

react to our sacrifice by unbelief or lack of sincerity and obedience.

Reminder to Congerville subscribers: Renewals to the Silver Lining are due. If you haven't done so, payments (\$9.00) are to be placed in the maintenance fund box.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."

St. Matthew 8:8

How thankful we are that our Lord is so great that He need only speak the word, and we can be healed in the spirit, as well as in the body. We trust His nearness will be felt by Sis. Mary Jane Hirschey, Sis. Frances Kaptain, Sis. Dorothy Schambach (Bro. Albert), Phyllis Kaptain and Bro. Don Stenner as they continue to convalesce in their homes. May each one have the faith to believe that the Lord does hear and answer prayer and restoration is as simple as our Lord, speaking the word.

We trust Sis. Edna Bolliger has also felt the power of prayer during the recent loss of her brother, Bro. George Bolliger (Fort Lauderdale, FL), as well as through her time of physical weakness. May she be comforted in her loss and restored to a fair measure of health.

Miles and Landon Kellenberger are thrilled with the addition of twin brothers, Dillon Lee and Taylor Lee, born March 13. Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie are the thankful parents for these little blessings, along with Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Bro. Elvis and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger, the grandparents. May God's blessings and divine guidance be given to each parent that is entrusted with these precious little bundles, from above.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him"

Genesis 2:18

Bro. Elvis Kellenberger and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger were united in holy matrimony March 13. May God's nearness and blessing be felt by these two dear families as they adjust to another of life's changing seasons. With us for this occasion was Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). May God bless him for his faithful labors on our behalf.

"Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,

Which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;

To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on."

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5

Saturday evening, March 19, it was our privilege to commemorate our dear Saviour's suffering and death by partaking of holy communion. It is always a time we, as God's children, look forward to with a deep humility and sense of unworthiness. We were thankful Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was willing to give of himself in sharing this holy sacrament with us and then bringing forth the Word, in the power of the Spirit, the following day. We trust God will reward our shepherds for their untiring willingness to labor in the Lord's vineyard. May we each do our little part to help lighten their load by leading a humble, consistent, obedient walk, each and every day of our life.

A time, special to each of us, is when our Sunday school children recite the story of our Saviour's death and resurrection, through verse and song. The complete trust and innocency these precious little souls exemplify, is a quiet unwavering faith we all can learn from. May the seed planted in their tender hearts be nourished that it may grow and bring forth the fruit, pleasing unto our Lord, as they reach the age of accountability.

"Haste and seek your soul's
salvation;

Heed the word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the world pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;

Seek the everlasting treasure,
 Ere the day of grace expire.
 Do not put off till tomorrow
 your repentance; come today!
 For to wait will bring you sorrow;
 Only grief comes from delay.
 At the feet of Jesus bowing
 make confession of your sins;
 While your tears of grief are
 flowing,
 Let the loving Saviour in."

Zion's Harp #52, vs. 1 & 3

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that one more sinner has chosen to forsake all this world has to offer and seek the straight and narrow way. May Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) find the grace to humbly seek the Lord in true repentance and lay a firm foundation of faith; letting our loving Redeemer into his heart and life. How we long for each one, in haste, to seek their soul's salvation and heed God's Word, today. May we earnestly plead, with our merciful Saviour, that the call will continue to not only go forth, but be answered by many broken and contrite souls.

Note of Thanks:

To everyone who so kindly remembered us with gifts, cards, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital, and my daughter was home on sick leave. May our heavenly Father richly bless you all.

Sis. Frances and Phyllis Keptain

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

In the springtime we are always uplifted by the new life that comes forth all around us. Thankful for new lives in their families, Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier gave birth to Mallory Verda February 25. Mallory has a little brother, Cody. Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth Leman and their son, Joseph, welcomed Jacob Andrew into their lives March 2. Also rejoicing over the safe arrival of their little son are Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis Leman and Tracy. Brett Daniel was born March 12. On March 9, Brent and Darla Cottrell gave birth to their first child, Kurt Michael. Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet Hartter had Derek

Samuel March 16. Michael, Kayla and Phillip are excited about their new little brother.

We all mourned the death of our retired Elder Bro. Walter Anliker who died February 25. We extend our sympathy and love to Sis. Claribel, Mary Kay Rumbold (Morton), Sis. Dort Leman (Goodfield), Sis. Jane Stoller and Bro. Art (Eureka) and Sis. Carol Wettstein (Moulton, IA). Our whole congregation will miss Bro. Walt and will remember his loving, willing service.

On Sunday, March 6, Sis. Shelly Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) and Bro. Greg Kaeb of Champaign (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie, Cissna Park) were united in marriage. Sis. Debbie Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Randy Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) were also joined as one in the Lord Sunday, March 20. May our Father in heaven bless and guide both couples in their lives together.

We appreciate the service of our visiting ministers which were Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Bro. Kenny Woertz and Bro. Wayne Lobscher (Cissna), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

May God bless our dear Sis. Kathryn Schumacher who celebrated her 100th birthday. We also pray for God's blessings and direction for our convert, Chuck Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora), who has moved to the Denver area.

We pray for Sis. Edna Anliker, Bro. Willis Stoller and Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Bev) who have met with accident or recently had surgery.

The family of Bro. Walt Anliker would like to convey our deepest gratitude for the many deeds of love and kindness shown to us during our loved one's illness and death. The warm cards, beautiful flowers, sincere prayers, delicious food, and gifts of love were very much appreciated. The many, many acts of kindness helped get us

through a difficult time. We pray that God will bless you all richly.

Sis. Claribel and family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

A PRAYER FOR YOU AT EASTER

May the blessed Easter story
 Of the Resurrection bring
 New hopes, new peace,
 New joy and love,
 And make your heart sing
 "He Is Risen"

Pearl McKinney

We were blessed this month to have with us ministering Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN). We thank these brothers for lending themselves in the service of our Lord by bringing forth the wonderful Word of our blessed Lord.

On March 13, the engagement of Sis. Kim Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) was announced to be wed to Bro. Rick Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane). We are happy that God has brought them together and pray that God will continue to guide them as they plan their future together.

Several precious babies have given special joy to their families. We rejoice with all of them.

Abram Lee was born March 1 to Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr. Laura and Micah are thrilled to have a baby brother. Grandparents sharing the joy are Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores Zehr, and Bro. Eldon Waibel and Sis. Marge (Forrest). Great-grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss.

Seth Adam was born March 3 to happy parents, Jay and Amy Steidinger (Forrest). Caleb and Lindsey are excited to have a baby brother. Denise and Carl Kinzer, Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice are the delighted grandparents. Great-grandmother is Ollie Steidinger, and John Menold (Sabetha, KS).

Lane Steven was born March 6 to Steven and Sis. Donna Maurer. Jessi, Staci, Katie and Addi are happy to have a brother. Also welcoming the new baby boy are grand-

parents, Sam and Norma Hoffman and Keith and Betty Collins. Great-grandmother is Sis. Clara Maurer.

Samantha Jane was born March 8 to happy parents, Scott and Dawn Meiss (Sibley). Zachary and Greg are excited about having a baby sister. Loving grandparents are Robert and Nancy Sudduth (Kansas, IL) and Roger and Judy Meiss (Sibley). Great-grandparents are Herb and Rowena Steidinger (Sibley); Sis. Lucille Meiss.

Ashley Elaine was born March 10 to Frank and Elaine Nester (Pontiac). Blake and Janelle are happy to have a baby sister. Grandparents are David and Elaine Schmid and Iseble Nester (Chicago).

Destini Anne arrived March 12. Happy parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi. Darl, Derek and Denver are elated having a baby sister. Loving grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi (Tremont) and Sam and Norma Hoffman.

First-time, elated parents were blessed with twins, a little girl, Damaris Lee and a little boy, Silas Robert, born March 14 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser. Loving grandparents are: Robert and Cheri Kaisner; Brian and Colleen Laschen (Tuscola); and Bro. Lloyd Moser. Great-grandparents: Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner, great-grandmother, Dorothy Hoffman, great-great-grandmother, Sis. Clara Maurer.

May God guide these families as they raise their precious children.

May God comfort the hearts of all who have suffered loss of a loved one. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Julie Rabe (Bro. Derek) on the death of her father, Bro. Alvin Baumgartner, 72 (Cissna Park). Sympathy also to Sis. Juanita Walter (Bro. Jim) in the loss of her dear mother, Elsa Rasmus, 83 (Chenoa).

Margaret E. Bachtold, 89, passed away February 28. We are thankful that she was able to find the Lord in her last days here on earth. Our sympathy is extended to her sisters, Minnie Bachtold and Frieda Pfladderer, (Kouts, IN), and her nieces and nephews.

With grateful hearts, those of us that did not labor in the redeco-rating of our fellowship hall, wish to thank all of those who did. May God bless each one abundantly.

Hospital patients this month were: Louise Hibsich and Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane). May God grant them a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter - Mary Bachtold

The weekend of February 26 and 27 was a blessed one as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four converts. Our new brothers-in-faith are Todd Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy), Clint Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy), Matthew Schneider and Michael Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra). We rejoice with them and their families. We thank Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for sharing in these important duties with our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Bill Gudeman and Ron Schambach (Elgin), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and Curt Rassi (Tremont). We appreciate the willingness to share God's Word with us.

Even though we have had much to rejoice about, there are those whose lives have been touched with sorrow. Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Mary Ann Plattner and Sis. Betty Nussbaum in the loss of their brother, Ivan Metz and to Sis. Diane Koehl in the death of her grandmother, Elsa Rasmus.

The grave of Christ, the risen Lord,
Is vacant where He lay;
The Son is victor over death;
Whoe'er believes is saved.

"Christ Arose"
Hymns of Zion #257

As the Easter season approaches, we are looking forward to the Sunday school program where our children will remind us of the pain and suffering of our Lord and His victory over death and grave. May we always be mind-

ful of the high price that was paid for our salvation.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power . . . For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

I Corinthians 7:14 & 20

Beloved brothers and sisters, isn't this a beautiful truth, we are God's! What could we ever hope for more than this, to be his, body and spirit, eagerly awaiting to be raised up by his own power into heaven. These verses tell us we are bought with a price, a price we didn't have to pay, a price paid for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate this Easter season, let us not forget to acknowledge the price that was paid for all and rejoice in our Father's great love.

Our Sunday school children sang songs of rejoicing over our Lord Jesus' death and resurrection at their Easter program this month. How appreciative we should be of the price that He paid when we consider our children and the wonderful promise of life they, too, inherit. God bless all the Sunday school teachers and helpers who serve so patiently at this most important of tasks.

We had the pleasure of sharing the joy of a wedding this month. Bro. Doug Hart and Sis. Julie Rieke, both of Goodfield, pledged their lives to each other fulfilling God's own command: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." We wish you all God's mercy and grace in your life as one.

We are looking forward in December to the marriage of dear friends, Tom Baughman (Bro. Les and Sis. Helen) to Jodee Tanner (Joe Tanner, Goodfield and Jan Litwiller, Secor) and wish them God's rich blessings in their life together.

Our congregation bid farewell this month to Bro. Ben and Sis.

Kris Bauman and their dear children, who are moving to Denver, CO, and will be attending church there. We will miss your presence in our church family and pray for you on your new life's path.

As we start on life's paths, so must they end. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Janell Kloter (Bro. Kent) upon the passing of her brother-in-law, and also with Sis. Dort Leman (Bro. Keith) upon the completion of her dear father, Elder Bro. Walt Anliker's, path here on earth. What joyful celebration there must be in heaven when saints are added to their number.

Again we thank the visiting ministers and their wives who spent time with us this month. We are grateful to you, Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Steph and Sis. Donnalou Baner (Gridley), Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkensberger (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder (Roanoke) for sharing God's message with us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

The funeral of Sis. Ruth Gramm, 67, was held March 8 at our Gridley congregation. She had been fatally injured in a car accident in Florida. She was a former Silver Lining reporter for Gridley.

She had lived in the Gridley area since her marriage to Bro. Art Gramm in 1950 until the two of them left the area in 1988 to become active at Gateway Woods (Leo, IN).

Sis. Ruth's legacy was one of service to the Lord, to her husband and to her children. After many years of raising seven children, she and Bro. Art devoted themselves to Christian service at the Leo home. She had been very active for many years, too, at the senior citizen's home at Meadows, IL.

She is survived by her loyal and beloved helpmate of 44 years, Bro. Art (Fort Wayne, IN). Also surviving are six daughters, Rebecca Grandusky (Olean, NY), Sally Kaufman (Toyama, Japan), Susan Julian (Bloomington), Holly Stahl (Normal), Jennifer Sauder (Fort Wayne, IN) and Ellen Lewis

(Galesburg); one son, Karl (Fairview Heights); two brothers, Roger Moser (Taylor, MO) and Arnold Moser (Greer, SC); three sisters, Beulah Ehnle (Princeville), Marvel Knobloch (Morton) and Gelene Haerr (Bloomington); and 14 grandchildren.

Sis. Ardean Romersberger was united in marriage to Bro. Larry Stoller in a Wednesday evening ceremony March 16. Both had previously lost their mates and after many years the Lord led these two hearts into a three-fold cord of holy matrimony. Attending them at their wedding were their children, Sis. Christine, Phillip and Nathan Romersberger and his children, Sis. Brenda Hodel and Brian Stoller.

On February 21, Bro. Barry and Sis. Beth Ehresman became the parents of their first child, a boy. He was named Brian Roy and has brought enormous joy to his parents. Grandparents are Bruce and Sis. Pat Landes (Morton) and Roy and Gladys Ehresman (Gridley).

An equally joyous occasion occurred February 26 when Nicole Ashley Butikofer became the second daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Kaylene Butikofer. She has an older sister, Whitney, 4. Her grandparents are Glenn and Sis. Laura Knapp (Fairbury) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer (Gridley).

On Sunday evening, March 20, Bro. Earl Ringger, 45, was ordained an elder. Participating in the ceremony were Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Joe Braker (Morton). Other area elders were also present. Bro. Earl became the fifth local elder of our congregation, following in the tradition of Bros. Rudolph Witzig (1883-1912), Joe M. Klopfenstein (1947-1965), George M. Gramm (1963-1972) and Bro. Edwin Ringger, who was ordained in 1972. Our congregation was served by Bros. Michael and David Mangold (Roanoke) from 1912-1947, as non-resident elders.

It is a weighty task to take on the responsibilities of elder and to oversee the spiritual welfare of the flock. May the congregation's prayers be continuous that God's will can be done, and that Christian love and warmth, as well as

meekness and obedience, can always be found throughout the congregation.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation had cause for rejoicing Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20 when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four teenage converts. They were Erin Mayo (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail), Shalome Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), Tasha Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly) and Keri Baum (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody). Certainly they have fulfilled our "fond expectation" that the hymn "Tarry Not!" speaks of. We are thankful that they are living examples of the second verse. We pray they will always strive for that close relationship with Christ, and we pray the same for all of our young people.

Offer the lively, the cheerful, and beautiful flower,
Offer with gladness and willingness thy youthful power
To Christ, thy friend,

Who thy soul e'er will defend,
Safe in his heavenly bower.

"Tarry Not!"

Zion's Harp #168

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and their families. We would like to thank Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for their labors of love.

Sis. Alice Knapp would like to thank everyone for the cards, love, prayers and food that were given her as she recovered from surgery.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Saturday, February 26, was one of the coldest winter evenings of the season (ten degrees with ten inches of snow) but the "Great Need Auction" of the Peoria/Princeville congregations at the fellowship hall was a success. It yielded a substantial contribution to the building fund for the Skyline Home expansion. The board wishes to thank all

who attended, prepared the buffet meal, the donors, bidders and our auctioneers, Clark Stoller, Gale Wiegand, Walt Edelman and Lyrin Rinkenberger. A recent vote by both congregations authorized the board to proceed to add an Alzheimers wing and enlarge the kitchen and dining facilities.

A seminar on long-term care was held at the fellowship hall March 11. Several speakers discussed the availability and need for long-term coverage, the current Skyline Home expansion plans, investment opportunities in general, and with regard to raising funds for the construction costs, living wills, etc. It was well-attended by Peoria and Princeville and focused on some of our retirement needs. Thanks to all who attended and to those who made presentations.

Peoria extends a special thank you to Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). He talked about sanctification with regards to the family, at our March "Family Night."

Sis. Donna Ferrero has recently returned from Mayo's where she underwent a number of tests. Our prayers are with you, Donna.

Note of thanks: The Roy Sauder family wishes to express their grateful thanks for the many prayers and support offered in behalf of their son, Steve, and his wife, Vicky, as a result of a serious auto accident in September. Steve is slowly improving after hospitalization and therapy in the Chicago area. Steve and Vicky are presently living in the Chicago area where he is receiving outpatient therapy. Again we say thank you, and may our Eternal God reward you.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley). May God bless him for his labor of love.

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) We had a blessed weekend February 19-20 as Roy and Elsie Mueller are now our dear brother and sister-in-faith.

May the Lord always be near and provide for them as they travel this narrow pathway.

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

Psalm 127:3

We welcome several precious bundles from heaven. Brice Kenneth Elsasser was born to Kenny and Karen Elsasser, welcoming him home are his two brothers, Jason and Jerid, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser and Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach. Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold were blessed with another girl, Andrea LaNae. She joins Alyssa and Aubrey, along with happy grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold and Sis. Lois Dill (Tremont). Thankful grandparents of Mallory Verda Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri, Eureka) are Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn Herrmann and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Blunier. Happy and thankful grandparents of Victoria "Tori" Elizabeth Snare (Deonne [Baurer] and Philip Snare, Brasil) are Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer. She is their first child. On March 16, David Philip Baurer was born to first-time parents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Baurer (Taylor, MO). Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal. May the Lord grant Godly wisdom to all parents to teach these precious souls the ways of the Lord.

The World Relief meeting was held in Princeville March 12. It was a very interesting and blessed day to hear about all of the World Relief projects. May God bless all who took part and all the efforts put forth.

We pray for God's healing hand for Marian Riley (Kenneth), Bro. Bob Herrmann (Sis. Esther) and Sis. Elizabeth Kieser (heart attack). We are thankful all are home again.

We have those who are sick, lost loved ones and those who are shut-in. May we remember them in prayer, a phone call or a note of encouragement.

Our deepest sympathy to Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Bro. Dave) in the

loss of her sister and sister-in-law from and accident in Florida. May God comfort these dear families in their loss and may we remember them in prayer.

Did you leave a trail of kindness today? Kindness is becoming at any age.

Thank you note:

Dear beloved brothers, sisters and friends,

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

Love, Lillian Stahl

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Before the dawn of Easter
There came Gethsemane . . .
Before the Resurrection
There were hours of agony . . .
For there can be no crown of stars
Without a cross to bear,
And there is no salvation
Without Faith and Love and
Prayer,
And when we take our needs to
God

Let us pray as did His Son
That dark night in Gethsemane
"Thy will, not mine, be done."
Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

We rejoice with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman, as their son, Eric, is repenting and beginning his walk with the Lord. We praise God for each new lamb that enters the fold.

It was an uplifting day March 13 as we witnessed the baptisms of three new brothers, Byron Gerber (Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley), Kenny Stoller (Bro. Rich and Sis. Barb) and Paul Hangartner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn).

Sis. Peggy Leman and Bro. Ted Schieler (Goodfield) were united in

marriage February 27. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marci Schieler (Goodfield). Elder Bro. Wes Knapp was here to assist in the wedding ceremony.

The Mortonaires were our guests for the family hymn sing March 6. A special thank you to them for their visit.

Our visiting ministers last month were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville).

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) was also here on March 11 for a slide presentation on our World Relief projects.

Prayers for healing are extended to our hospital patients. Bros. Lyle Martin, Herb Blunier and Lee Scherer, and Sis. Ella Belsley.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Barb Kaeb

We greatly appreciated ministering Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington) who visited us this past month and lovingly shared God's Word with us.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn on the birth of their third son, Drake Frederick, born March 1. His brothers, Brooklyn and Wade, grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Dan and Donna Sinn, welcome him home.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert were blessed with a new grandson, Taylor Joseph, son of Joe and Nancy Schweigert. He was born February 22 and has two sisters, Lauren and Brie, to help take care of him.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy Dill and family on the death of Sis. Sandy's father, Robert Neeley.

It brings sorrow to our hearts to see dear ones suffer. Hospitalized this past month are Bro. George Lang (Sis. Phyllis), Bro. Les Schweigert (Sis. Betty), Bro. Glenn Stuber (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. John Greiner (Sis. Emma), Bro. Chris Woerner (Sis. Wilmina), Sis. Freida Schaefer, Jeff Rose (Marla) and Les Staker (Beverly). We ask that God

will grant a good measure of added strength to these loved ones.

God be with you till we meet again was sung March 6 as our Bro. Michael and Sis. Ivy Steiner have moved from Tremont to Burlington, IA, where Bro. Michael has found employment. Tremont's loss is Burlington's gain.

NOTES: I wish to thank all of my relatives and friends for the cards, gifts and love shown to me on my birthday. May God bless you all.

Sis. Wilma Aberle

We want to thank each one of you who remembered us with prayers, cards, food, visits and memorials at the passing of our dear father. May God bless all of you.

The family of
Bro. Simon Wagenbach.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

Another month has come and gone so very quickly. We can't imagine eternity until we realize how fast life on this Earth seems as we look back on it. When we get to heaven we will realize how short our time on Earth really was. I am looking forward to a lot of things in eternity, and will have all the time I need to enjoy them. Just imagine spending all that time with our Lord and Savior!! And the music of praise will go on forever! How good our God is to us to promise us the best there is to offer!

We had several visiting ministers with us this month, including our own Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield), and Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield). We always appreciate the efforts these brothers put forth to visit other congregations and share in the Word.

We rejoiced with three souls that gave their testimonies and were baptized. Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger, daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol, Sis. Stephanie Kellenberger, daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth, and Bro. Dean Martin, son of Bro. Roland and Sis. Delores (Eureka) were added to our family of believ-

ers. It was with joy and remembrance that we listened to their heartfelt need for salvation in their lives. Thanks be to God for the way He works in our lives! We look forward to adding more to our family in the upcoming months.

We also look forward to communion services upcoming after Easter. How healthy it is to examine ourselves in the light of the Word and feel at peace with our God. How gracious He is to offer His forgiveness every night, when we ask, and His promise every morning. Aren't we silly when we sometimes complain that God isn't fair?!

We extend our love and sympathy to Stephanie Andrews on the loss of her grandmother, and to Sis. Pam Huber on the loss of her father. God is faithful, especially during trying times like these. May we all continue to show the love of God to all who have trials through our acts of concern and love.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17

We rejoice with Luke Rinkenberger who has answered God's call to repentance. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger.

Bro. Michael Gerber and Sis. Tammy Leyse were united in marriage February 27. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber and Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse.

March 6 was the wedding day of Bro. Arlo Kipfer and Sis. Lisa Mikel in Milford, IN. Parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer (Bluffton North) and Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel (Milford, IN). May God bless these couples richly.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda Bertsch were blessed with a daughter, Jessica Sue, born March 13. She is welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian

Bertsch and Bro. Stan and Sis Genny Isch.

On March 21, Hope Danielle was welcomed by Bro. Jeff and Sis Rhonda Gerber. Hope joins Jacob and Autumn at home. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary K Gerber and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Neust (Francesville, IN).

We pray for God's healing hand to rest upon our loved ones hospitalized this month. They are Bro. John Fiechter (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Dale Meyer (Sis. Glenda), Sis. Edith Stultz and Brandon Longenberger (Bro. Terry and Sis. Twila).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

“. . . Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many the remission of sins.”

Matthew 26:26-28

We say thanks to Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) for assisting as we shared a blessed evening of holy communion March 12.

Also visiting us this past month were Bro. Ron Messner (Washington IL), Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL).

May God's blessing be with them for sharing with us and we welcome them back anytime.

We rejoice with two young souls have begun their heavenly race by turning to the Lord in repentance. Tad Baumgartner (Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce) and Rob Cupp (Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie) have rejected the sinful pleasures of the world and instead are seeking the true and lasting pleasure of serving God.

“Each for the Other and Both for the Lord.” On March 6, Bro. Arlo Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie) and Sis. Lisa Mikel (Sis.

Pat and Russ) were united in holy matrimony in Milford, IN.

March 27 was a special day for Bro. Marvin Wieland (Detroit, MI), parents, Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina (Bay City, MI) and Sis. Gala Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise). We wish both couples all God's grace as they start their lives together.

Loved ones hospitalized this month are: Sis. Lucille Borrer, Bro. Oscar Schaffer (husband of Sis. Agnas) and Bro. Jim Geisel (husband of Sis. Dorothy). We also like to keep in our prayers Sis. Jodi Towle, who is laid up in bed at home. We pray that they will feel God's comfort and healing hands.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Stafanie Wuethrich

May God bless our ministering brethren who willingly labor on our behalf. Visiting ministers this past month were Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

We congratulate Sis. Erica Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy) on her engagement to Bro. Michael Thomas (Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia). We pray the Lord's blessings on this couple now and in the future.

“To everything 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 plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

It was Alisha Tanner's time to be born February 18. Her parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina, along with big brother, Jacob, and sister, Sabrina, welcome her home. Grandparents are Ralph and Carol Tanner and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton.

Our dear, respected and beloved Bro. Wayne Huber was called to join our heavenly Father March 15. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Carol; and their children, Sis. Kathy Inoue (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Pam (Washington, IL), Bro. Brian, Sis. Cindy Langhofer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Dave (Bloomington, IL). He will be greatly missed.

The seed has been planted and is growing. We rejoice with our recent young converts as they begin their new walk with the Lord. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1) Brad Cook (Herb and Sis. Suzanne) has found this peace and we are eagerly awaiting his baptism.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this month were Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel) and Sis. Margaret Leman (Bro. Doug).

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Missy Baumgartner
Sandy Lichtle

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

Acts 3:19

We rejoice with Tiara Wuethrich and Sarah Bollier as they have given their hearts to the Lord. Tiara's parents are Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim Wuethrich. Sarah's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier. May God grant our new converts His abundant grace and Godly wisdom as they begin their new walk in Him. We also rejoice with Ron and Marcelle Gress as we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

On March 19 we were blessed and humbled as we partook of holy communion together. We are thankful for the service of our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) as they shared the Lord's Supper with us. May we daily remember the price that Jesus paid at the cross for our sins.

Special request: Due to the blessing of growing Sunday school classes, we are in need of additional seating. We would like to have up to twelve eight-foot benches. We have brothers who have woodworking experience and different lengths of benches could be modified. If anyone has new or used benches available, please contact Bros. John

Lichtle (317-251-8793) or Eric Zeller (317-844-1461).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Judy Gudeman

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Sis. Esther Hitz, who passed away this month after years of illness. We are thankful that she has finally come to her reward.

Special thanks are due to the elders and ministers who visited us this month for various occasions. Elder Bro. Art Nohl and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Kent Mogler and Duane Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) all served us recently. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7)

Our dear Sisters Julie Frank (Bill and Joan) and Diana Heinold (Gene and Evie) brought their testimonies before the church and were baptized at the end of February. We are so happy to have them added to the fold! Our dear friends Paul Heiniger and Duane Gudeman also brought encouragement to the congregation. Paul has begun his repentance and Duane, having repented, has found peace with God and man.

"All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all . . . Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:6, 12) We are reminded again of our Lord's death and resurrection at this Easter season. We hope to observe communion soon. May we never forget the debt which was paid for us.

INDIANA, LEO
Judy Gehring

Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock were blessed with a son, Eric Joel. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford) and Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Congerville).

Bro. Phillip Schlatter is in Parkview Hospital. He is very ill physically but spiritually, he is ready to go to his heavenly home.

Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser were on their way home from the North Fort Myers, FL, church after the Wednesday evening services. In an auto-truck accident both sisters went home to be with the Lord. Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth had planned to come home to Leo soon. Services were held at North Fort Myers, FL, Gridley, IL and Leo, IN.

The family of Sis. Ruth Gramm wishes to express their sincere appreciation to all who showed their love, support and sympathy during this difficult time after the loss of our loved one. Bro. Art Gramm was at Parkview Hospital for more surgery on his foot. He is getting along well.

Sis. Ruth Gramm wrote the following poem:

SUNSET

Do you know the hour
When the sun goes down
Is a beautiful time of day?
When your tasks are done,
And the shadows fall,
And your worries are all laid away.

Well, it's just as true,
That the close of life
Can a beautiful sunset be.
Every task well done
Let the shadows fall
There's no fear of eternity.

We were blessed in gathering together to remember the Lord's sacrifice on the cross on Calvary's hill. Through the hymn "Out On Calvary's Hill" we could follow and remember all Jesus had done for all. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and our Elder Bro. David Bertsch and ordained deacon John Stoller shared in the communion service.

Our annual Gateway Woods representative meeting was held Saturday, March 19. Many of our brothers and sisters from Illinois, Ohio and Michigan came to share in a very informative explanation of the "Labor of Love" for the youth at the Children's Home.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Judy Longcor

Marguerite Hoerr

Sermons are around us every day. I was given the living example of a sermon by one of our dear older sisters, Marie Reuter, as I visited her recently. Sis. Marie will be 97 her next birthday, April 19. She related to me different experiences she'd had and how the Lord had constantly stayed by her side and helped her meet each difficulty. Her faith shone in her animated face, as she reviewed those times. Until very recently, each Saturday, she would walk several blocks to church from her home and lovingly set the dining room tables for whomever would be serving lunch the following day. Several Sundays ago, as I was preparing the tables for our serving, my thoughts were of her, and another dear sister, as I placed each cup on the table. The second sister who served us in the church dining room and faithfully cleaned the church each week was Sis. Frieda Ruch, who went to her heavenly reward years ago. Both of these Godly women were faithful and loving friends of my mother, Sis. Naoma Beer, and their kindnesses to her and the love they showed her were sermons to me. Because of their humble natures, I'm sure neither of them realized they have been used by the Lord as walking sermons.

Lending their talents to bring us loving sermons from the pulpit during the past month, were Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North). Their visits were deeply appreciated.

Sis. Lisa Mikel, of our congregation and Bro. Arlo Kipfer (Bluffton) joined hands and heart

in marriage March 6. Their parents are Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel, and Bro. Lynne and Sis. Valerie Kipfer. Both church families joined together in the celebration of this very important step in their lives; and in wishing them God's blessings on their marriage. They will establish their first home in the Bluffton area.

Bro. Randy Beer (Milford) and Sis. Deborah Shumacher (Eureka, IL) celebrated their marriage vows March 20. Randy's parents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer; Deb's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Shumacher (Eureka). As Randy and Deb establish their home on a farm in this area, the Milford church family extends a warm welcome to Deb.

May these two young couples be given the blessings, and the opportunity for celebration, afforded to their great aunts and uncles March 5. Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Betty Beer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries on that day. They were honored by immediate family members at a dinner in recognition of the happy time they were married in a double ceremony in the Milford church. These two couples are a blessing to our Milford church.

Sis. Edith Baumgartner had successful cataract surgery this past month. Sisters Esther Getz and Millie Beer underwent testing in hospitals with positive results.

Bro. Bill Troup continues with his treatments, and admits to discouragement at times.

Sis. Kathy Price has made a satisfactory recovery from surgery.

Simon Beer is recovering from his third sinus surgery, which was performed at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

Everett Price had outpatient surgery on his arm, which was successful. At this time he is receiving treatment for other medical problems.

Rod Piper is also able to worship with us again, following his back problems. For successes in medical treatment, we are so grateful. When waiting seems to be the case, and with so many members of a small congregation needing

medical help, it's a real concern to the rest of us. Many prayers have been offered. Collectively, all of these persons make up an integral part of our church family.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

HIS LOVE

His love is like an ocean
 Or a calm and peaceful sea,
 His love dates from creation,
 It envelopes you and me.

We can never overtake it
 We can never use it up,
 It is boundless, it is endless,
 And it overflows our cup.

Bees A. Fountain

We have again experienced God's love and the fellowship of visiting brethren this past month. February 20 brought Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) to South Bend on his way home from the mid-winter conference. It was a special day for our dear Sis. Helen Eisenmann to be able to worship with her son. The Milford young group also came to lend their support to us.

On March 6, Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), along with their wives, ministered to us for the day. We appreciate the Roanoke young group also spending the weekend with us. We are always so thankful for our visitors! Special thanks to the ministering brothers for their labors of love in our behalf.

We are delighted that the Lord has lead Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter and their daughter, Victoria, to the South Bend area. We lovingly welcome them and look forward to them becoming a part of our church family.

Sis. Emma Lou Gerber has recently moved to a retirement community. Her new address is: Hubbard Hill Estates, 28070 Co. Rd. 24W, Elkhart, IN 46514.

April is collection month for Silver Lining dues. If there are any changes of address, or new subscriptions, please contact one of the representatives.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In the name of Jesus Christ dear ones, we greet you all and hope this last month has been a blessed one for you. Once again, we have had both joys and sorrows. As Ecclesiastes tell us, there is a time for all things. Once again that just proves how true the Bible is. Most importantly we all know what our end result is after life if we are faithful.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Gary Anliker (Forrest, IL). Our heartfelt thanks to all you dear brethren for helping to make our month such a blessing.

We have witnessed as Derek Salles (Greg and Diane) and Debra Bucher (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois) become one. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) conducted the service. We pray the Lord will bless this dear couple with many happy years together.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Michael Thomas (Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia) to Sis. Erica Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy, Francesville).

Finally and definitely not least, our hearts and prayers are with Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser and all families involved as two loved ones have been taken and two injured in an automobile-truck accident down in Florida. We just never know what is in store for us and we hear over and over again and again, how we must be ready for our dear Lord. But it is so true, and we are thankful that these were ready. We pray for a speedy recovery for those injured and that the Lord would grant them that peace that surpasses understanding.

We also pray for all your needs across the lands and please do the same for us. It's a precious family we belong to and we thank you all for your love. If you are in the area, come fellowship with us.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
 To Your Reporter

INDIANA, WOLCOTT**Sheri Bahler**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers with us this month. Among them were Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We are always grateful for their willingness to share God's Word.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler have been blessed with another grandson, Emory Lowell, born January 31. Happy parents are Anthony and Patsy Blades. Landon, Emma Rose, Evan and Leah gladly welcome another brother.

On February 28, Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman became parents of a second daughter, Samantha Lynn. She is welcomed by her sister, Rebekah, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer and Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman (Gridley, KS).

"When pure and upright hearts, By flames of love ignited, Are by the bonds of faith More firmly yet united . . ." (Zion's Harp #79) Sunday, March 13, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Missy Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene, Congerville, IL). We pray that God will continue to guide their steps as they start a new phase of life together.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, visits, calls, flowers and food. It was all greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler

IOWA, AMES**Luann Schmidgall**

"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 thankful for ministering Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) who brought us the "gospel of peace" at our last service.

We will have services April 10 and 24 next month.

Have A Great Day!

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Lorna Knapp****Monica Eisenmann**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month; among them were Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA). We also appreciated having Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester) in Burlington, and for his help in reading the memorandum with Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville).

Sis. Leola Heiniger and Blaine Applegarth were in the hospital recently. We are pleased that they are able to assemble with us again.

With much joy, we welcome Bro. Michael and Sis. Ivy Steiner into our small congregation. May God richly bless them in their new home.

Our sincere sympathy to Sis. Lois Gray and her mother, Sis. Maye Heiniger, in the passing of Lois' husband, Bro. Herb Gray. We know only God can truly fill the void that has been left in their home. Funeral services were held March 17 in Burlington, with Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) officiating.

IOWA, ELGIN**Gloria Frieden**

By the time this Silver Lining edition reaches our homes, Easter will have been here and gone for another year. But may we never forget the suffering and cruel death our Savior so willingly endured for our salvation. What a deplorable state if all our hope for eternal salvation depended on our own good works. We are reminded in God's Word that "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags." (hardly anything fit to enter heaven). But we rejoice that God in His rich love and mercy sent His Son to pay the price for our sins on the cross. May we humbly accept this free gift with undying gratitude and willingly serve Him all our days, for "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

As April comes to a close, we rejoice in the resurrection of new life all around us. How exciting to

watch the lawns change from dry brown to lush green and the pear trees become full with leaves and see colorful flowers spring forth. May we appreciate all the blessings God gives us to enjoy.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! Another busy spring is upon us. With all of our comings and goings, we double appreciate our visitors who help fill in the gaps. Among our visitors this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg. May God bless you for including us in your travel plans and being willing to serve our small gathering.

As some of us begin to plan our gardens, at least in our minds or on paper, let us also take time to carefully examine the gardens of our hearts - to make sure the soil is prepared for the Good Seed whenever we hear or read the Word, that the weeds sown by Satan are carefully plucked out by the roots, and that the Fruit of the Spirit are diligently cultivated.

We can apply a lot of truths from the growing world around us to our spiritual lives. Another example is illustrated in the March 29 entry of "Streams in the Desert," by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman:

"Consider the lilies, how they grow."

Matthew 6:28

"I need oil," said an ancient monk; so he planted an olive sapling. "Lord," he prayed, "it needs rain that its tender roots may drink and swell. Send gentle showers." And the Lord sent gentle showers. "Lord," prayed the monk, "my tree needs sun. Send sun, I pray Thee." And the sun shone, gilding the dripping clouds. "No frost, my Lord, to brace its tissues," cried the monk. And behold, the little tree stood sparkling with frost, but at evening it died.

Then the monk sought the cell of a brother monk, and told his strange experience. "I, too, planted a little tree," he said, "and see! it thrives well. But I entrusted my tree to its God. he who make it

knows better what it needs than a man like me. I laid no condition. I fixed not ways or means. Lord, sent what it needs, I prayed, 'storm and sunshine, wind, rain or frost. Thou hast made it and Thou dost know.'"

Yes, leave it with Him,
The lilies all do,
 Andy they grow –
They grow in the rain,
And they grow in the dew –
 Yes, they grow:
They grow in the darkness,
 all hid in the night –
They grow in the sunshine,
 revealed by the light –
 Still they grow.

Yes, leave it with Him
'Tis more dear to His heart,
 You will know,
Than the lilies that bloom,
Or the flowers that start
 'Neath the snow:
Whatever you need,
 if you seek it in prayer,
You can leave it with Him –
 for you are His care.
 You, you know.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

We are thankful for our ministers who share with us the Word of Life. We pray that God will bless Bro. Alphi Moser (Morris, MN), as well as our home ministers, for willingly serving us.

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth." (Psalm 127:4) Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser have been blessed with the arrival of Caleb John, born February 25. Loving siblings are Alex, Trixie, Jessica, Tessa and Kara. Grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser and Bro. August and Sis. Martha Feucht.

We have had many from our congregation who have been hospitalized this past month. Our thoughts and prayers have been with John DeHaan (Sis. Ione), Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill), Sis. Linda Meyer (Bro. Dean), little Karemén Klostergaard (Brad and Linda) and Anna Knobloch (Otto). Our special prayers have been with our Sis. Betty Leughold (Bro. Paul), who required hospitalization while

spending the winter months in Zapata, TX.

We pray that God will be near Otto and Anna Knobloch as Anna is now residing at the Lyon Manor Care Center in Rock Rapids.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Erma Gerber (Bro. Bill) on the death of her brother, Bro. Martin Esslinger (Bern, KS).

May all who suffer sorrow and affliction find comfort in God's Word. ". . . yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." (Psalm 57:1)

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Larry and Sis. Bev Moser in the recent loss of Larry's step-mother, Sis. Naomi Moser (Taylor, MO). Many in our congregation remember the 11 years Sis. Naomi and Bro. Rod assembled with our congregation and we remember her faithful and caring ways. She will be missed by many. We just pray her family can feel the many prayers of love offered for them during this time of loss. We also think of Bro. Rod and just pray the Lord will strengthen him each day not only in heart and soul but also in his mortal body.

A new little blessing has been added to the hearts and home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Schrock. A new little sister, Lauren Marie, was welcomed home by big brothers, Nathan and Noah, and big sister, Kaitlin. Also rejoicing in this joyous occasion are grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold (Princeville, IL). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester) was with us recently to assist Elder Bro. Ed in reading to us the memorandum. We heard much to strengthen our spiritual walk. We thank Bro. Dennis for allowing himself to be used in sharing with us many good teachings and exhortations.

A special thanks also to Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester) and, Joe Gerst (Iowa City), for ministering to us this past month through

the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless them and their families.

IOWA, PULASKI

Ernestine Wuthrich

Our prayers of sympathy go to Sis. Carol Wettstein (Lloyd) and her family. Her father, Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka) passed away recently. Our earthly walk goes on but we have precious memories of our loved ones and the hope of joining them for eternity.

Bro. Roger Wuthrich (DeAnn) and son, Brent, were recently involved in a car accident and we are thankful neither received injuries. Not always are we so fortunate as many are mourning the death of two sisters, Sis. Ruth Gramm (Bro. Art, Gridley, IL) and Sis. Naomi Moser (Bro. Rod, Taylor, MO). Sis. Ruth and Sis. Naomi have both touched so many lives and given of themselves through their work at Gateway Woods and World Relief.

We will soon observe the most holy days: Christ's crucifixion and His victory over the grave. We should allow our hearts and thoughts to back to go back to when we knelt at the cross and gave our lives to Christ.

Faith is the tap root of the Christian life. The fruit tree roots deep down. When leaves and blossoms appear in the spring, we know the root is active; then we may indeed expect fruit. When life shows forth patience, loving kindness, self control and a Christ-likeness, then we know it roots down deep in Jesus."

Author Unknown

Sis. Donna Teubel and Bro. Robert Manz exchanged vows of matrimony November 28 in Latty, OH. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma (Pulaski) and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty (Junction, OH). Our prayers and thoughts go with Sis. Donna and Bro. Robert as they begin a journey together in the Lord.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

On March 5, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) was

with us to help our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm read and exhort us on the brotherhood conference conclusions. We feel fortunate and blessed that our elder brothers have put forth the effort to bring us many good and timely teachings.

Our prayers are with Reuben Anliker who has been a hospital patient. May God bless and heal the sick and suffering.

Several families in our congregation have experienced the loss of a loved one. We extend sympathy to Bro. Paul and Martha Demiter and family. Bro. Paul's twin sister, Margaret Demiter, of the Akron, OH, area, was relieved of her earthly trials after a lengthy illness. Bro. Paul wishes to thank all for their love and concern during Margaret's illness and at the time of her passing. Bro. Martin Esslinger of the Bern, KS, congregation has gained the victory and gone home. We extend sympathy to Bro. Martin's loved ones from our midst. Sis. Tillie Mogler, Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler and family, Duane Mogler and Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and family. Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider and family bid farewell to son-in-law, Jim Merryman. We extend sympathy to his wife, Marilyn, and their families. May God comfort each of these lonely hearts as they adjust to the losses in their lives and in the days ahead.

As a number of our congregation make plans to attend the World Relief meeting in Princeville, we wish to express our appreciation for all those involved in the work of helping the less fortunate. In West Bend we do our World Relief work in January, February and March. May God richly bless those who are in charge of the soap making, quilting, bandages and other projects, as well as those who help in this effort.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

As we rejoice in another Easter season, may we remember the importance of the death and suffering of our Saviour. He died for each of

us and we have the precious privilege and responsibility of living each day of our lives for Him. After Easter we will discontinue our Wednesday evening church services and start having singing every other Sunday evening.

"Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep, From which none ever wakes to weep! A calm and undisturbed repose, Unbroken by the last of foes." (Hymn of Zion #111) Our dear Bro. Martin Esslinger was able to close his eyes in death February 19 and enter the rest awaiting him. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Arlene; their children, Bro. Leland (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Dennis, Daniel (Glendale, AZ), Sis. Marlene (Morton, IL), Sis. Linda (Bern, KS), Sis. Diane Smith (Kansas City), Wanda Guerra (Phoenix, AZ), Bonnie (Scottsdale, AZ); two brothers, Bro. Vernon Esslinger and Waymer Esslinger; and grandchildren.

We also share in the sorrow that Lee and Lori Wilson feel in the loss of their mother, Antoinette Wilson. Our prayer is that God will provide the comfort and peace to heal broken and sorrowful hearts.

Believing children are an heritage of the Lord, we rejoice that God has blessed Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Strahm with a daughter. Malerie Jo was born March 9. Her grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm.

Our cups were filled to overflowing as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed three baptisms. We welcome Sis. Lisa, Bro. Leslie and Bro. Lynn Strahm into the fold and may the Lord be ever at their sides to lead and direct them as they walk the narrow pathway of life which leads to heaven. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm.

The angels in heaven rejoice over even one sinner who turns their back on the world and repents! We also rejoice with Becky Rokey (Tom) has found the grace to make a beginning in living for the Lord.

Thanks to Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) for their

labors of love. May the Lord bless them for being willing servants.

The family of Martin Esslinger wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered them with memorials, prayers, cards and other acts of love. God's blessings to each one.

Sis. Arlene Esslinger and family

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

"Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications."

Psalm 28:6

David Sinn (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) spent some time in the hospital this month but is now fully recovered. May we give God the glory for His gift of health.

We want to thank the Lamar, MO, congregation for inviting us to see the World Relief slides. Our thanks also go to Bro. Doug Grimm for sharing them with us.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY Doug and Judy Kraft

We gathered together with the Lamont congregation to hear the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Jay Luthi (Lamont) gave kind exhortations to the congregation.

We rejoice with Sis. Hope Williams and Bro. Victor Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. MaraJean) on their engagement. May they look to God for their help in this important commitment of marriage and as they establish a Christian home.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIV. Wanda Grimm

The spring semester is quickly going by for each of us here at KSU. We are all looking very forward to spring break. We have had many supportive parents, relatives and friends gather with us this semester. We want to thank you all for your support. We also want to extend thanks to the many ministers who have brought God's Word to

us, especially Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha), Lloyd Kraft and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Daryl Stoller and Harvey Grimm (Bern) and Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City) and John Lehman (Bern). May God bless each of you for sharing your time with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

I saw One hanging on a tree,
 In agony and blood;
 He fixed His languid eyes on me,
 As near His cross I stood.

Sure, never, till my latest breath,
 Can I forget that look;
 It seemed to charge me with His
 death,
 Tho' not a word He spoke.

My conscience felt and owned the
 guilt,
 And plunged me in despair;
 I saw my sins His blood had spilt
 And helped to nail Him there.

Alas! I knew not what I did,
 But now my tears are vain:
 Where shall my trembling soul be
 hid?
 For I the Lord have slain.

A second look He gave, which said,
 "I freely all forgive:
 This blood is for thy ransom paid,
 I die that thou may'st live."

Oh, can it be, upon a tree
 The Savior died for me?
 My soul is thrilled, My heart is
 filled,
 To think He died for me!

Gospel Hymns #837

No words can fully express the beauty, the love and the humility that flows through our hearts as we partake of the Lord's Supper at holy communion and again remember all that God has given us through His precious Son and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Elder Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) were in our midst to share this beautiful service with

us, as well as lending themselves for Sunday morning and afternoon services. It was a truly blessed weekend for all of us and we are grateful that God, through the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, still gives us guidance, instruction, chastisement, encouragement and peace through these precious elders and ministers of His Word. Ministering Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) were also in our midst one Sunday also, and Bro. Max talked to us of the preparation for holy communion. We were encouraged yet to search our hearts to be prepared for this holy event.

It was our turn for Fort Worth services this month so ministering Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach traveled there for fellowship with the brethren there.

We also had services at the Friendship Manor this month, and as it was the same Sunday, Bro. Max was with us, he spoke to those dear folks also. We all received a blessing.

Our hospital patients this month included Bro. Raymond Roth (throat surgery), Bro. Huber Farney (throat surgery), Bro. Jeff Bahr (back surgery), Sis. Edna Reed (recurring foot trouble) and Sis. Elizabeth Diel. We are so thankful that Bro. Raymond, Bro. Huber, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Edna are again in our midst and we lift up prayers of help and hope for those unable to worship with us due to illness.

Easter - a time of joy, hope, renewal. As we remember our Lord's cruel death, let's also glory in His resurrection and be "happy" and "content" in our service for His holy name!

Note of thanks: For all the cards, calls, gestures of love and prayers during my recuperation from back surgery, I am very grateful. God bless you!

Jeff Bahr

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

We were richly blessed to have Bro. Bob Stoller and his family (Lamar, MO) spend a weekend with our church. Our congregation was thankful for a surprise visit from

Bro. Russell Wuthrich and his wife (Pulaski, IA) on a Wednesday evening.

On March 19 and 20, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) were here to share the memorandum. It is always good to be reminded of our earthly duties in this walk of life.

We appreciated the efforts of each one and thank them for sharing God's Word with us. We are so thankful for every visitor in our small congregation.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenge

Sharon Strahm

God has blessed the home of Brian and Sis. Kristy Sweitzer with the adoption of a little boy, Connor John. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell (Bern, KS).

Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) expounded on a timely topic of "making decisions" to the Sabetha-Bern Single Group during a college weekend. An elder once gave him three steps to consider in searching for the right answer along with prayer. First, what does the Word say? Secondly, will it be a benefit or hindrance to me spiritually? Finally, if it seems good, proceed, with caution. There may be closed doors because it is the wrong decision or not the right time to go ahead.

Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) have been visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared an exhortation with us on holy communion. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and John Lehman assisted our Elder Bro. Sam Huber in serving communion. We thank each one for their visit and time in His service.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
 Through Thy blest sacrament
 which we

Partook, that joined in heart and
 hand;
 To Zion's realm and holy land
 We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter have observed their 50th anniversary. We rejoice with them in this milestone in their lives.

It gives our hearts much joy to have Sis. Jana (Todd) Gruber back in our midst after going through delicate surgery on a brain tumor. It further was an encouragement to hear it was benign. God hears and answers prayers.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil), Bro. Joseph Steiner (Sis. Clara) and Sis. Esther Terry (Bro. Charles) who have been in the hospital.

It's uplifting to a congregation whenever souls turn to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with Ben and Mary (Warrick) Plattner and David Eisenbise (Sis. Shari).

Our sympathy to Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman on the loss of his sister, Frieda Bauman.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) ministered to us March 20. We appreciate his labor of love on our behalf.

Floyd Beyer recently underwent a medical procedure and is again able to be in his own home and to attend Sunday services. We are thankful for God's power to heal.

The death angel touched another of our Wichita families. Anna Greiner's father, James Warren, died suddenly March 7. Anna is the daughter-in-law of Bro. George and Sis. Ann Greiner. Her daughters, Jennifer and Lora, are regular attenders in our Sunday school.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally Funk and their family have moved from Derby to 872 Buffum, Wichita, 67203. Their home is in the lovely Riverside area of Wichita where Sis. Sally lived as a child. May God continue to bless their family and their home.

Sis. Lillian Bowers' father, Dewey Brunt, is scheduled for medical tests this coming week. It is our prayer for God's mercy to continue to this aged gentleman who is so lovingly watched over by his family.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings of love from the Lexington congregation. It is now officially spring, and glad we all are to see it after the winter we had. We had an ice storm the second week in March, that torn down a lot of trees and branches. It made me stop and think about our spiritual lives and how Satan likes to get us to slowly let things build up on us without our realizing it until we snap and break off of the tree of life. We must be very careful not to let things of this world slowly build on us and weaken us. Jesus said, we should cast our cares upon Him and flee worldly pleasures. I know for myself, when I can do that and wholly lean on Him, don't we feel so much better?

Thinking about Jesus makes me think about Easter, which is soon here again. If we could only visualize our own son upon the cross, we could so much better understand how much God really loved us. Just to put His Son through all that agony, when the Father or His Son, Jesus, both had the power to stop it at any time. It would have been so easy to say mankind really isn't worth it. But then we would all spend eternity in hell instead of in heaven where we could be with Him forever. All we need to do is repent, keep His commandments, follow in His steps and do His will.

We want to thank our dear ministering Bro. Brian Waibel and his family (Champaign, IL) for sharing a weekend with us this past month. We always welcome anyone who would like to visit us. We also want to thank the Columbus, OH, Sunday school for sharing a very enjoyable weekend with us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

EASTER SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The garden's filled with color -
White, purple, yellow, red.
The Easter sun has risen;
It'll soon be overhead.
The air is touched with
springtime;
The birds are on the wing;

From belfries o'er the country
We hear the church bells ring.

Everywhere new life abounds;
It echoes far and near.
It's evidenced in sight and sound;
It fills the heart with cheer.
Like drinking rays of sunshine,
Is Easter's meaning, true:
Christ has risen from the dead
To bring us life anew.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz

Our Easter program was immediately following our afternoon service Palm Sunday this year. We want to thank our children for sharing the Easter story with us.

We are so thankful our Lord has provided the way for Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer to move here from Bluffton, IN. We want to welcome them to the Alto congregation and pray our Lord will bless them as they make their home with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer and their family in the passing of Bro. Curt's mother, Sis. Naomi (Bro. Roger, Taylor, MO). Bro. Roger has been hospitalized for some time now. Our love and prayers are with him.

Those with health problems are Steve Schutte (Sis. Sandy), John and Carol Grawburg (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Elouise). Our love and prayers for God's healing powers are with each one.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen are the first of our "snowbirds" to return to Michigan. It's good to have them with us again.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

God is beside us each step of the
way
If only we lean on His arm as we
pray,
His love is eternal and help can be
wrought
If faith is applied in each prayer
and each thought.

Anonymous

We wish our Lord's grace and blessings to our sick: Sis. Della Eisenmann and Sis. Esther Waibel. We wish them a measure of health.

Also, we wish Sis. Doris Knochel a special blessing in trying to combat her lingering illness. Sis. Elizabeth Waibel (Bro. Joe) is improving in small measures.

We wish our Lord's grace and comfort to Gregory Wackerle and his family (Rigby, ID) on the passing of his wife, Vonda. Greg's parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle.

We also wish the Lord's blessings and comfort to the family of Bro. Edwin Wieland, who went to be with the Lord February 26. The family of Bro. Edwin are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lena Wieland, Wilford and Creola Wieland and Kathryn and Ronald Wackerle.

We also wish a word of our Lord's comfort to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Sue Heimer Alto, MI) congregation on the loss of Bro. Kurt's mother, Sis. Naomi Moser (Taylor, MO).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

Between traveling and hosting a visiting choir, our Detroit choir has been busy this month. The choir visited Bay City, MI, the weekend of February 26 and 27 and was warmly welcomed. On March 19 and 20, our whole congregation was privileged to host the Prairie Choralists from Roanoke, IL. It has been awhile since we have had a visiting choir here, and we were delighted to listen to their songs of praise. We hope that they, too, received a blessing that weekend.

We continue to remember Bro. Guy Wieland and Bro. Leonard Hitz in our prayers. Both have undergone tests this month.

Joining us for services at Woodhaven this month was Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). We thank him for his ministry. May 3 is the next scheduled service, to be hosted by Alto, MI, at 7:00 p.m. We are also looking forward to our annual Benefit Dinner for Woodhaven May 22. After the dinner, a song service will be presented by our choir and several other groups, and we heartily invite any and all to join us!

The Sunday school presented

their Easter program March 20. "The Love of God" was the theme of the program, and indeed, shouldn't it be the theme of our lives? Although God's love alone couldn't save us, it was the motivating factor in sending His Son to pay the price of our sins so that we could be forgiven. In speaking on forgiveness, one of our ministers mentioned recently that we are obligated to forgive according to the degree to which we have been forgiven. If we would be satisfied to stand before the Lord someday and have Him pronounce us 75% forgiven, then we can be justified in forgiving others only 75%. Thanks be to God that, in His Son, He forgives us 100%! Let us show our thankfulness to Him by doing the same for others. We can never forgive a debt greater than what we have been forgiven!

A note to the Detroit congregation: Silver Lining dues will be collected in April. Please pay \$9 to one of your reporters. Thank you for your promptness!

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

We were reminded of Christ's suffering and death as we had the privilege to partake of holy communion April 19. Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was assisted by Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We thank these brothers for their labors in this holy act and sharing God's Word with us.

On Sunday, April 20, the Sunday school youth brought forth the Easter story in verse and song. Their eagerness to participate in the program warms our hearts.

We pray for Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura Miller and Beatrice Miller as they have not been able to assemble with us due to the infirmities of the flesh.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Deb Joos - Maxine Sauder

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, . . ."

(John 3:16) Recently, I was reminded that love is not just an emotion, but is manifested in actions. It is often an act of self-sacrifice, for another's benefit. We recognize God's demonstration of love for all; by the giving of His Son. But, Scripture stresses the importance of even a cup of cold water given to meet the need of another. (Matthew 10:42) I wonder how often I miss the opportunity to share "a cup of cold water" because of selfish thoughts; or because I think it is insignificant.

God has blessed Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Knobloch, with a precious new son, Kevin. Big brother, Jeffrey, and a sister, Alyssa, welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall.

We appreciated visiting minister, Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless him for being a willing servant.

The engagement of Mindy Fehr and Shawn McClard was announced and a wedding in October is being planned. May God direct and bless them as they make this commitment to each other. Mindy's parents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judi Fehr.

Among those suffering physical afflictions were Bro. David Nohl, Bro. Tom Schmidgall, John Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette) and Ruby Luthi. May God's healing touch continue to be upon them.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) Circumstances that trouble our minds take on many differing forms, some being more obvious than others. Our prayers are with Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly Koehl, as they deal with having lost most of their possessions when a fire broke out in their home. We also lift up Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi, as they cope with their son, Matthew, having cerebral palsy. May they experience a refuge and strength in our merciful God, who is a "very present help in trouble."

Reminder: It's time for the collection of Silver Lining dues.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Kim Messner - Joleen Messner
 Greetings!

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

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

Hymns of Zion #207, vs. 2 & 4

We are starting to see God's wondrous work in nature as the snow melts after a long, cold winter and the season of spring brings on a newness of life.

Bro. Marlyn Messner (Sis. Lois) submitted to surgery this past month. We pray he will have a speedy recovery.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. (I Timothy 6:6-8) Sis. Joleen Messner had the opportunity to travel to Mexico and work with and among the Mexican people as she partook in a World Relief work team.

The children of Bro. Roy and Sis. Rose Alice Howk will be hosting a 50th wedding anniversary open house June 19.

Thank you: Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner would like to thank everyone for all their deeds of kindness, prayers, cards and visits offered during Bro. Leo's surgeries and recovery.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

We extend our sympathy to Ron and Sis. Diane Smith and family in the passing of Sis. Diane's father, Bro. Martin Esslinger (Bern, KS). May God comfort and encourage them at this time of sorrow.

On Sunday, February 27, we were blessed to have Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) minister God's Word unto us. May the Lord bless Bro. Galen for his labors.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation . . ." (Zion's Harp #52) We

are thankful that Marty Rokey (Bro. Gary) has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God grant her the grace and strength to walk in His way.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart - Becky Marti

What beautiful spring weather we are enjoying as I write this! We have also enjoyed fellowship with our many visitors this past month. We appreciated ministering Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them for being willing to faithfully share His Holy Word with us. We also enjoyed Bro. Doug sharing the World Relief slides with us.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Stan and Dorothy Heimer in the loss of his mother, Sis. Naomi Moser (Taylor). May we all strive to be more faithful so we can look forward to a home in heaven where we'll never have to say goodbye.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

"Conscience: that still, small voice that tells you somebody is watching."

This was found in a fortune cookie following a meal in a Chinese restaurant. The writer was closer to the truth than he realized - just capitalize the "s" in "Somebody" . . .

Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) was our visiting minister this past month. We thank him, his wife, and all of our visitors for coming to worship with us.

One Sunday the minister talked about "time." We can account for and measure the things of this earth - how much land we own, how much money we have in the bank, etc. One thing we cannot measure - we do not know our balance - is time. We cannot afford to delay in preparing for eternity, because we don't know today if we will have the time for preparation tomorrow.

We have experienced this uncertainty of time in the unexpected deaths in March of two dear sisters

who died in Florida and the brother whose heart failed him in Bloomington, IL. All had risen that morning with short-term plans for the day and long-term plans for the days to come. Yet their time is no more. They had all prepared, many years earlier, for that unknown time of their last heart beat, which is a comfort beyond measure to those left behind.

Our new phone number is (314) 994-1944. Anyone considering employment or schooling in the St. Louis area can contact us for any help we may be able to give. If you are planning to come for the weekend and want suggestions for lodging, etc., just give us a call. Knowing how many visitors are coming on Sundays is helpful so we can plan for lunch. We also enjoy getting together with visitors Saturday evenings. We extend a warm welcome to you.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

Greetings dear ones in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Saturday, February 26, our Sunday school held a soup supper for all who wished to come. The supper was truly a success as each one performed their duties well.

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." (I Corinthians 11:27-28) What a time to stop with our busy schedules and examine our hearts as each one prepares for communion. Wednesday evening, March 2, was a blessed evening as we were admonished and reminded of the importance of partaking in the Lord's Supper. As each one of us look forward to communion, may our love for Jesus Christ become stronger and our spiritual man be strengthened.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI). We thank each one for their willingness to bring us God's Word. Also we thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for

coming and helping our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in sharing with the memorandum. May we be thankful to God for the admonition we receive from our elder brethren.

Hospital patients have been Irene Riney (Gene) who had knee surgery, Mary Beth Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) who continues to receive treatment for her illness, and Bro. Rod Moser (Sis. Naomi) who is recuperating from a car accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one.

Though we are a blessed people of our congregation has been saddened by the passing of loved ones. Our thoughts are prayers go to Sis. Ruth Cottrell as her husband, Bro. William Cottrell, has gone on to be with the Lord, and also to Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie) at the passing of Eleanor Arrowsmith, Sis. Marge's mother.

Once again on March 3, our congregation was shocked to hear that our dear Sis. Naomi Moser (Bro. Rod) has passed away due to injuries from a car accident. Our prayers are with her dear husband, Bro. Rod; her five sons, Bro. Stan Heimer (Lamar, MO), Bros. Kent and Rodney Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bob Heimer (Palmyra, MO), Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI); and her two daughters, Deb Barkley (Quincy, IL) and Mary Beth Hastings (Philadelphia, MO). May we all keep our eyes on our precious Lord, realizing that the loved ones who have gone on before have attained the goal we are striving for.

We welcome Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter, Alabama). May you see and feel the love of our Lord Jesus Christ here as we fellowship together.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Fort Sam group from Taylor will host their reunion in 1995. Notices will be sent out.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Franz Soni

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Psalm 18:30

We thank Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman for sharing God's Word with us this past month. We thank him for his efforts. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage those who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelles Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7848, Bro. Bob Feller (2013 680-8619 or Bro. Craig Schafer (908) 248-6616.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

RESURRECTION AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

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

How did Thy humble flocks rejoice
When they saw Thee and heard
Thy voice!
O Lord, may we, though on this
earth,
Share with them all their peace
and mirth!

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

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

Zion's Harp #124, vs. 1-4

Because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and His rising from the dead we can have a hope in our hearts that heaven's kingdom shall be ours if we remain true and faithful unto God.

Our thoughts are prayers are

for Sis. Olivia Schulz who is a hospital patient at this writing. May God restore her to a measure of good health if it is His will.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank were blessed with a baby boy they named Benjamin Edward. Welcoming home their baby brother are Samuel, Arthur and Steven. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Gordon Greenbank (Arizona) and Bro. and Sis. Robert Stoller (Smithville).

Sis. Rosanne Graf has done very nicely in Sunday school teaching the young children, but is going to take a break, and Sis. Joanne Schar will be filling that vacancy.

Sis. Carolyn Miller handled capably duties on the committee and put in many hours for the Sewing Committee of our World Relief, and now her term is up. Sis. Sarah Henico was voted to be on the committee.

Our prayers are with several that have been hospitalized: Sis. Marie Ritzman, who has been able to assemble with us again; Sis. Evelyn Walker, who had surgery; Sis. Margaret Gruenig; and Sis. Katherine Ries.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

Our Sunday school students had an enjoyable weekend in Lexington, KY, March 5-6. Thanks to the Lexington Sunday school and congregation for their efforts and loving hospitality. May times like these serve to draw our youth closer to our Lord and precious faith.

We appreciate the visits of Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). May they continue to feel God's blessings as they minister His Holy Word.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand and family in the loss of Sis. Michelle's grandmother. God grant them His loving comfort at this time.

We have appreciated some days filled with the warmth and bright-

ness of the sun after a hard winter. May we daily allow God's love to brighten our lives radiating forth the "heavenly Sunlight" and joy we experience in Him!

"Heavenly sunlight, heavenly
sunlight,

Flooding my soul with glory divine.
Hallelujah; I am rejoicing,
Singing his praises.
Jesus is mine."

Gospel Hymns #772

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

We were blessed with more visiting ministers than usual this month. They included Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) February 20, Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) February 27, Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) March 13, and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) March 20. We thank all of them for their willingness to use their God-given talents to further the Gospel.

We went a special Sunday evening together as Elder Bro. Art Nohl helped serve communion. With solemnity and deep gratitude, our thoughts went back to the Last Supper and then on to Calvary where our Savior suffered unfathomable agony for the sins of mankind. We rejoice that the story has a happy ending, for we can now look ahead to the joyful Easter season when we celebrate His resurrection.

Bro. Oliver Spangler (Sis. Annabell), now of the Toledo church, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. His family ties are still back in our area and we are glad to see him and his Toledo family every few weekends.

On March 16, Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) received a bone marrow transplant from his brother, Bro. David Gasser (Sis. Gail, Philadelphia, PA). So far the outlook is good, but there are many medical hurdles to cross yet. For the present, Sis. Sue and baby Jenna are with him in the Chicago, IL, area while their other five young children remain at home under the tender care of great-aunts, Sis.

Madeline Manz and Sis. Henrietta Gerber. Only the Lord can supply the needs for all the families directly involved in this time of waiting. Bro. Roger's parting words his last Sunday in church were, "I'm ready for whatever the Lord has for me."

OHIO, LATTY

Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn

During the week of March 12 and 13, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Larisa Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with this work. May God's presence be ever near in the coming days. It was a great blessing to again hear how God gives the grace to turn unto Him. "Grasp the crown of glory firmly; God's own precious gift retain. Perseverance brings the victory; Sinful fall brings inward pain." (Zion's Harp #47)

We wish to thank the following ministers and their families. They are Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May God richly bless these brothers for their labors in the Lord's service.

Several sisters have been hospitalized and sick during the past month. They include Sis. Viola Schlatter (Bro. Dick), Sis. Elsie Schlatter (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken). May they feel God's healing hand to a measure of strength and health.

Our congregation was blessed with the birth of another baby girl. Carlee Kay was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn. Grandmothers are Sis. Tootie Sinn and Sis. Lillian Schlatter. Joni, Blake and Lance welcome her home. May the Lord ever bless this family.

Sis. Nancy Messner who assembled with us for several months has felt God leading her to return to her home in Winthrop, MN. We truly enjoyed her in our congregation and will miss her. May God bless her always.

Our thoughts and prayers go out for Sis. Viola Schlatter (Bro. Dick)

in the passing of her brother, Bro. Wayne Huber. May this family circle feel God's strength and guidance in the coming months.

As we approach the Easter seasons, may we become more thankful and prayerful as we reflect on the true meaning of Easter. "Sit and praise 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)

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

EASTER

Oh, who among the sons of men,
By word, or deed, or song, or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day?
It gilds the holy sacred page,
It brings to every clime and age,
To every people, tribe and race,
The story of redeeming grace.

The blessed paschal feast of old,
With mystic meaning does unfold,
For there the paschal lamb was
slain,
The Hebrew's safety to attain.
When angels saw the blood
applied
Upon the lintel, doorpost wide,
Then they passed over every home
In mercy, where the blood was
shown.

Christ is the world's dear Paschal
Lamb,
He is the great "I was, I am."
Through Calvary's pain and
dismal gloom,
He conquered over death and
tomb,
He rose His own to justify,
And draws all men up to the sky,
If you have found the Christ - His
way,
Then you can keep this Easter
Day.

Bro. Henry Beer

As we once again approach this holy Easter season, may we each remember how very precious the sacrifice is that was made in our

behalf. A price was paid for each of us that never can be repaid. May we each strive to walk closely with our Lord so that we may be worthy to enter that heavenly kingdom.

On February 28, Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Christine Dotterer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them as they shared a very special occasion that not very many couples in today's world can celebrate. As they look back over their years of precious memories, may they always find the abundance of God's blessings in their lives.

"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity . . ." (Proverbs 18:14) It is our belief that the Spirit which dwells in Sisters Katherine Beer and Alice (Peg) Graszl will sustain them during their infirmities of the flesh. Both sisters are on the road to recovery for which we are all thankful. Sis. Nellie Groh also has suffered an infirmity of the flesh when she recently had a stroke. Our prayers are certainly with her and her daughters, Sisters Alice and Lucille.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: . . . a time to die." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2) On March 20, we learned of the passing of Bro. Ben Stavnik (Sis. Dorothy, Rittman, OH). We were saddened to hear of his passing as many of us have fond memories of Bro. Ben serving us here in Mansfield before he retired and moved to the Rittman area to be close to his daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Hope and Bro. Ron Gasser (Rittman, OH). Bro. Ben made the comment on one of his most recent trips back to Mansfield that while he loved the Rittman congregation and the Rittman area, he also liked coming "home". We believe that Bro. Ben is now truly Home and waiting for the coming of his loved ones. May God comfort them until they can meet again.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Hartzler
Linda Ramsier

Visiting ministers that have labored in our midst recently were

Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield) and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus). We thank these brothers for the efforts they put forth.

Many of our loved ones have been in the hospital. They are Bro. Ed Riggenbach (Sis. Anita), Richard Bauman (Gladys) Sis. Arlene Ramsier, Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Irma), Sis. Pearl Breece (Bro. Bill), Bro. Bob Gasser (Sis. Neva) and Bro. Ben Stavenik (Sis. Dorothy). May they feel our love and prayers.

We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Claribel Anliker in the passing of Elder Bro. Walter (Eureka, IL). Sis. Claribel made her home in the Rittman area for many years before moving to Eureka.

May God be with Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Irma) in the passing of his brother, John, February 27. John made his home with Bro. Fred's family for the past 55 years.

Bro. Harry Gasser (Sis. Marguerite) left this earthly life March 13. He will surely be missed by his helpmate and children, Roscoe, Bernard, Ralph, Janet Baughman, Stanley and Wanda Lang. His sisters are Sis. Leora Bocka (Mansfield), Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth) and Sis. Aldene Ramsier (Bro. Nelson).

On March 15, our Sis. Martha Jane Riggenbach (Vernon) was called to her heavenly home. We extend our love and prayers to her husband, Vernon; children, Randy, Ron and Tami Morris. Sis. Martha has one brother, Ben Imhoff (Lynette), and four sisters, Sis. Joann Widmer (Bro. Robert), Sis. Jeanette Stoller (Bro. Dale), Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion) and Sandra Franks (Denny).

Sis. Ellen Weber was called home March 16. May God be with Bro. Ralph and their family. Her children are Janet Younker, Dorothy Sample and Carol Young. Brothers and sisters are Bro. Alton Maibach (Sis. Delores), Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel), Bro. Andy Maibach (Sis. Lillian), Sis. Pearl Breece (Bro. Bill), Sis. Marie Winkler, Sis. Lillian Rupp (Ken) and Sis. Martha Walder (Bro. Don).

May God extend His love and grace on all who have lost loved ones and be with them through the time of sorrow.

Dear Brethren and Friends,

We thank you for the evidence of your love in Christ, which we have experienced during the time of Bert's illness and death. We had thought that we would thank each of you personally, but the task soon began to appear impossible. We could hardly imagine all the ways that you found to express your love and support. May God continue to bless you. And may we respond to the prompting of the Spirit to answer the needs of those around us who are in the midst of trials.

The family of Bert Gasser

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Bro. Brad Walter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) were united in marriage March 13. Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) brought forth the gospel message in addition to Elder Bro. Bob and Bro. Ken, fathers of the groom and bride. Carla has moved away from the earthly home we have associated her with up to this point. We will certainly miss her in Sardis, but rather than thinking about how much farther away she is now, I prefer to think about how much closer we have become to our brethren and friends in Congerville. We learned about braiding rope at the wedding. God's will, Brad's will and Carla's will, braided together, has formed a cord not lightly rent apart. When our congregations are intertwined another cord is formed. Strength can be derived from that bond and we can feel that the will of God can be done an earth as it is in heaven.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller - Kim Stoller

Far away in the depths of my
 spirit tonight
 Rolls a melody sweeter than
 psalm;
 In celestial-like strains it
 unceasingly fall
 O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I
pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

W. D. Cornell

Deb and Sharon Hartzler have
found this blessing of peace and
are now awaiting baptism.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We are thankful for the many
visitors we've had in the past
month. Among our company were
Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville)
and Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN)
and Ron Steiner (Rittman) and
their wives. We appreciate their
willingness to give of themselves
for the Lord. May He richly bless
them for their services.

"Peace I leave with you, my
peace I give unto you: not as the
world giveth, give I unto you. Let
not your heart be troubled, neither
let it be afraid." (John 14:27) We
were very happy and thankful to
hear that our convert, Joel Beard
(Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) has found
peace with his Lord and with man.
May the Lord bless and keep him
as he awaits baptism.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Lori Martin

On February 27 the Silverton
single group served lunch for the
Portland congregation. What a
blessing it was to worship and fel-
lowship together in His house of
love. In the evening we had a chili
supper.

Sis. Judy Knecht is the new
Restless Surf appointment person.
We want to thank Sis. Pearl Miller
for her time in this task. Last month
Sis. Margaret Banwart fell and
broke her wrist. She was in the
hospital for a time, but is now at
home. Bro. Ray Banwart is now
living at a foster home. We know
the Lord is watching and protect-
ing him there. Our prayers are with
him and his loved ones. His new
address is 11614 NE Flanders,
Portland, OR 97220.

On March 12 and 13, we were

thankful to have Elder Bro. Dale
Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) here to
speak to our Sunday school chil-
dren. He spoke to them about our
church and our traditions. What a
blessing it was! We thank you for
efforts and may the Lord bless you.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Oh who among the sons of men,
By word or song or deed or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day.

It gilds the holy sacred page,
It brings to every clime and age,
To every people tribe and race
The story of redeeming grace.

Oh, that our hearts are truly
thankful for Christ's willing sacri-
fice upon Calvary. As God's love
knew no bounds toward us in send-
ing Christ to die for our sins, may
our love to Him be reflected in our
willing service as His children.

We were blessed to have Bro.
Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther, Forrest,
IL) share God's Holy Word with us
this past month. May the Lord
richly bless him for his labors on
our behalf.

We are thankful to have Sis.
Rosalee Kuenzi (Bro. Richard) as-
sembling with us again after some
recent surgery.

On March 15 Bro. Mark and Sis.
Elsie Sinn welcomed sweet Tressa
Marian to their family. I'm sure
she will have no lack of attention
from Evan, Emily, Abigail and
Cameron.

It is with much anticipation that
we watch the progress of the ground
work on our new church site. We
hope to have the footings poured in
the near future.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

God will be with you till we meet
again;

By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet
again.

Hymns of Zion #216

Elder Bro. Edward and Sis.
Nancy Aeschleman recently hosted
a potluck dinner for Sis. Ann Gas-
ser. Sis. Ann has worshipped with
us the past ten years and will be
leaving us for a new job in Ohio.
Sis. Ann will be attending the
Rittman church. We wish Sis. Ann
God's blessings for the love, kind-
ness and support she has given us
over the years. Sis. Ann will be
missed.

"And when he had given thanks,
he brake it, and said, Take, eat:
this is my body, which is broken for
you: this do in remembrance of me.

"After the same manner also he
took the cup, when he had supped,
saying, This cup is the new testa-
ment in my blood: this do ye, as oft
as ye drink it, in remembrance of
me."

I Corinthians 11:24, 25

Our congregation and the Wash-
ington, D.C. church shared a week-
end of fellowship March 12 and 13.
After a church supper we had an
evening of singing and fellowship.
Sunday we were able to share in
our Lord's supper. We thank Elder
Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-
Naumburg, NY) for assisting our
Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman and
for sharing with us this weekend.
May God richly bless him for his
efforts.

We welcome all who are in the
area to come worship with us. Ser-
vices are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and
at 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at
7:30 p.m. If you need more infor-
mation, please call Elder Bro. Ed-
ward Aeschleman at (301) 478-
7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

"There's a church in the valley by
the wildwood,
No lovelier place in the dale; . . .
Come to the church by the
wildwood,
O come to the church in the
dale . . ."

Hymn Book #71

God has once again richly
blessed us here in Nashville be-
yond all expectation. With the help

of the Mission Committee, we have been able to purchase a small church building on the west side of the city at 444 Hicks Road. It was approved by the elder committee in February making it the newest Apostolic Christian Church.

We have now excitedly begun modeling work on the interior. A work team from Mansfield, OH, is scheduled to arrive the week of March 20 to help us with this. Although we anticipate getting much done during this week, there will still be much work remaining, and we would welcome anyone interested in helping to contact us at one of the phone numbers listed below. We will be glad to make any necessary accommodations. We also wish to extend a special thank you to Bud Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for his assistance in locating the beautiful oak benches which will be used in our assembly.

On March 6 we welcomed ministering Bro. Don Stoller and his wife, Sis. Diane (Rockville, CT), and three sisters traveling from the Tremont, IL, congregation. As we were anxious to begin using our new church facility, we held the first of hopefully many afternoon worship services in the new church. God's presence was certainly felt among us, and may he richly bless all of you for your efforts in coming to be with us.

To each of you reading this, we ask for your prayerful support of the project we feel the Lord has directed us to undertake. Contact 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 traveling in the area or would like to help us with the church.

EASTER PRAYER

"Help us to find a cross
somewhere,
Since it is Easter Day,
Where we may nail the foolish
fears
That we should throw away.
Teach us, dear God, that bright
rain
Will always come with spring,
There will be sunlight on old
fields -

Keep us remembering!

May we forget the petty trials,
Dreams gone, brief hurt, deep
loss;
And turn where lilies climb the
air
To hide a bleeding cross.
For hope is born when lilacs
bloom
Rain-sweet in early spring,
And faith that found an empty
tomb
Can conquer anything!

Easter Greetings
An Ideals publication
by Helen Welshimer

TEXAS, DALLAS Christine Kaiser Kimberly Kaiser

We extend a warm thank you to our recent ministers, Bro. Roger Aberle and his wife, Sis. LaVonne (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach (Kiowa, KS). May God richly bless them for their love and support.

A special invitation goes out to anyone 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, HOUSTON Sandy Darlington

We were thankful to get acquainted with Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger in January. They were able to have a short visit in Zapata, TX, before stopping in Houston and returning home to West Bend, IA.

Our ministers in February were Bros. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Leland Plattner (Zapata). We were pleased to have numerous guests and visitors from Houston on the last Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest. Please contact Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409)

297-8301 for information regarding Houston services.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We had a number of visitors this season and we cherish the many memories we have of their visit. We hope they will remember us and come again.

Visiting ministers and their wives were: Bro. Roy Ehnle and Sis. Donna (Bradford, IL), Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Betty Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

Sis. Betty Leuthold was in the hospital at Laredo, TX, a few days. She and her husband were spending several months here in Zapata. Her hospital stay was short and they could again enjoy the rest of their visit.

SILVER THREADS

JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD . . . AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR YOU

Jesus Gave His Life - to pay for your sins

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Jesus Gave His Head - to wear the thorns for you

"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head." John 19:2

Jesus Gave His Cheeks - to be smitten for you

"He giveth His cheek to him that smiteth Him." Lamentations 3:30

Jesus Gave His Eyes - to weep over your sins.

"And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it." Luke 19:41

Jesus Gave His Tongue – to pray for you

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

Jesus Gave His Back – to be ploughed for you

“The plowers plowed upon My back; they made long their furrows.” Psalm 129:3

Jesus Gave His Side – to the spear for you

“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.” John 19:34

Jesus Gave His Hands – to the cruel nails for you

“They pierced My hands and My feet.” Psalm 22:16

Jesus Gave His Blood – to redeem your soul

“Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, . . . But with the precious blood of Christ.” I Peter 1:18-19

Jesus Gave His Life – to give YOU eternal life.

“I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing means surprising; astonishing; overwhelming with bewildered wonder. Grace means (n.) unmerited favor and love; kindness; mercy.

Amazing Grace

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

II Corinthians 8:9

Amazing Love

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

Amazing Life

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

Amazing Position

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” John 1:12

Amazing Peace

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

Amazing Gifts

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

Romans 8:32

Amazing Salvation

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” I Corinthians 2:9

Amazing Liberty

“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

Romans 8:21

Amazing Future

“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. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

Romans 8:18, 19

Amazing Concern

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Amazing Grace

“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Jesus Christ. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:7, 8

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,

That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Hymns of Zion #97

MIRACLES

What is your greatest miracle, O God?

Not that you turned the water into wine,

Not that you healed deaf ears, made blind eyes see,

Your greatest miracle is stranger far –

That you loved me.

Not that you washed the leper white as snow,

Not that you stilled the storm and walked the wave,

But stranger yet – you saw me lost in sin

And came to save.

Not that you called the dead to life again,

Not that you loosed men's bond and set them free;

This is your miracle surpassing all –

You live in me.



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The Resurrection Proves Jesus Is The Son Of God

“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Romans 1:4

The Resurrection Brings Reassurance Of Our Acceptance With God

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Romans 4:25

The Resurrection Assures Us Of A High Priest In Heaven

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Romans 8:34

The Resurrection Assures Us Of Victory Over Satan

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Revelation 1:18

Because Jesus Was Resurrected, We Too Shall Rise

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

I Thessalonians 4:14

Testimony To The Resurrection Of Jesus

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Coem, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:5, 6

Jesus Is The Resurrection And The Life

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

John 11:25, 26

We Can Also Be In Likeness Of his Resurrection

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

Romans 6:3-5

We Have A Lively Hope By The Resurrection

"Blessed be the God and Father

of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3

Certainty Of The Resurrection Of Christ And All Men

"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."

I Corinthians 15:20-22

Time And Order Of Resurrections

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

I Corinthians 15:23

EVERLASTING GIFTS FROM GOD

Psalms 136:1 - "His mercy endureth for ever."

Lamentations 3:22 - "His compassions fail not."

Psalms 63:3 - "Thy lovingkindness is better than life."

Isaiah 54:10 - "My kindness shall not depart from thee."

II Corinthians 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Matthew 28:20 - "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Psalms 48:14 - "He will be our guide even unto death."

Psalms 117:2 - His merciful kindness is great toward us."

Psalms 117:2 - "The truth of the Lord endureth for ever."

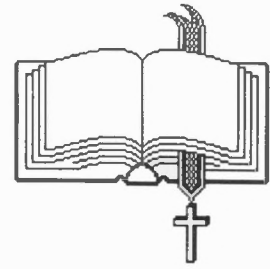
Isaiah 54:10 - "Neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed."

Psalms 119:90 - "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations."

Psalms 90:2 - "From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

KINDNESS

Kind hearts are gardens
Kind thoughts are roots
Kind words are flowers
Kind deeds are fruit.



Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

Those sins are though they have never happened. So why would God bring them back to us? They are forgiven. They are gone. When those sins come back to us as God's people, we need to sit down with Satan and tell him, "I don't want to hear that. I have confessed those sins. I believe Jesus died for those sins. I am sorry for those sins, but they are gone and done and leave it there." At times, we have to get tough with Satan and say, "I don't want to hear about it because of the blood of Jesus Christ, I claim this promise. I believe that my sins are gone."

This young lawyer was dealing a little different circumstance. When he asked Jesus, "What must I do?" Jesus said, "What does the law say?" (See Luke 10:25-26). Jesus was pretty good at answering another person's question with another question. It often made someone feel just a little uncomfortable. Jesus could look right into the heart of man and He could see down to the bottom. He knew the right thing to ask.

A good example, probably one of the better ones that He used, was this woman that was caught in adultery. These people brought this woman to Jesus and said, "What are going to do with this woman? The old law says that she is a sinner and she should die, and here You are, Jesus, preaching forgiveness. What are you going to do with this woman?" They thought they had Him trapped.

First of all, He started to write on the ground. Do you ever wonder what He wrote on the ground? We don't know . . . the Bible doesn't just say, but perhaps He wrote things like, "The sin of the people around committed." Can you imag-

ine you are standing there because you brought this woman there and thought now we really had Jesus trapped and He starts writing down your sins? The Bible says one by one, beginning with the oldest, they left. Jesus told this woman, "Go, and sin no more." (John 8:11)

So He came back to this man and said, "What does the Bible say? What does the Old Testament say we need to do to inherit eternal life?" This young man did an excellent job of summarizing the old law because he said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." (Luke 10:27)

We take the law and just summarize that. If we really love someone, we would not lie to that person. Think about that. Would we lie to somebody we really love? Would we kill someone we really love? Just go right down through the Ten Commandments, someone we really love with all our heart, all our mind and all our strength and our neighbor as thyself, think how we would treat that person. Think how we would treat God. That is a good summary of the old law. Jesus said, "You do this and you will live."

This man realized that he wasn't that good, and he was embarrassed because he tried to switch the subject. Instead of saying, "Now help me, Lord, and show me how I can do that," he did like we all do when we are trapped in a corner and the pressure is on. We try to shift the attention and focal point to something else or someone else. That is what this young man tried to do by saying, "Who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10:29)

It is always interesting to read how Jesus related to people. He was kind. He was loving. He was forgiving.

But He can be pretty tough and right to the point. If a man was a phony or a hypocrite, He could see right through them. That is no less today, beloved, God can see right through us right to the very core of who we are, what we are worth in the sight of God. He sees our sin. He already knows all that. Though,

on the other side, He sees the positive.

Sometimes we feel like a failure. That is a tool of the devil to make us feel so insignificant, so unable and such a total failure in life. Jesus sees that. He can see right down and He can see the intent of our heart. It is often discouraging when we try so hard to help and to encourage and to be a benefit to someone, but then to be misinterpreted. But God knows . . . He sees that for what it was intended to be. So God sees the negative, but He also sees the positive.

Jesus told a story to help this man understand of who we relate to, how we relate and how we are forgiven. On the surface, this parable teaches to help people . . . help others. Here was a man that was robbed. In this story, on the surface, it is saying, "Help others. There is someone in need, help them." We all understand that that is important. We have all been on both sides of that. We have been in situations where we have been able to help others. We have been in situations where others have helped us.

I believe Jesus is relating in this story something deeper than that. He is also relating this issue of sin. Here was a man who was robbed and beaten and he was in need. He desperately needed help. That is an analogy of how we are, beloved, as lost mankind. We have been robbed and beaten by the expert of all robbers, Satan himself.

As this man that was laying along the road, we are in deep need, and we need help. There is only one person . . . there is only one place to turn, and that place is Jesus Christ.

In the story, the two that went by this man and saw him on the road and did not help him, they were not able to help him. The old law could not really help that man. The priest and the Levite represented the old law. Remember under Aaron, God ordained that his tribe would be Levites – the priests – who would lead the people and look after the temple and so on.

But they represented the old law. Here is a man in the ditch and he needs help, and they weren't

able to help him. I believe Jesus was saying to this man, "The old law isn't going to help you. The old law is not going to solve your problem." But this Samaritan was rejected because they were the people the Jewish people did not like.

Some generations before, there was conflict and hatred between them and it carried on down through the generations. The Jews, as a whole, despised the Samaritan people. That is the way Jesus was. He was a man acquainted with grief, despised and rejected of men. Basically, to a non-believer, to a sinner, to a man who was a phony in that day, Jesus was a threat to him, and he hated Him. See, we don't like to be told that we are wrong.

We are like this man who was robbed and we are in deep need, but we don't care. All we know is, we need help. I believe, beloved, we would all agree today that when we come under the hand of God and He calls us, and He lays our sin before us and He just opens it up and says, "This is what you are," you are like that man along the road in deep need. We don't care. Our pride goes out the door. In our selfishness, we say, Lord, help me."

It is interesting that he took this man and poured in oil and bound up his wounds and helped him. That is what we feel when we come under the hand of God saying, "You need to turn your life around." We feel all that pain and we feel all that distress, but then we feel the comfort and the soothing of the oil poured in and wounds bandaged up. That is forgiveness. We feel the forgiveness of God and that feels good.

Dear friends, it feels good to be forgiven. He didn't leave him lay there without further help. He took him on his own beast and took him to an inn where they took care of him. He paid the innkeeper adequate money to look after him further.

There is a number of ways you could look at that. You might think of that as the church. This is an allegory, so we can read different things into this, but it does remind us that this could relate to the church. We, the church, do not save

people. The Samaritan, Jesus Christ, is the One who saves people. He is the One who gets people out of that deplorable condition that we find ourselves in.

But the church is a vehicle, like that inn. It is a help and when Jesus took that man to the inn who took care of him and paid the proprietor to look after him, it is a reminder to us, beloved, the church has a very valuable function. It is a vehicle. It is important. We work together, help each other and we stand together. It is very, very important.

When he paid the fee, he said, "If you need anymore, I will pay you when I come back." That is a reminder to us, beloved, that there is only one price for sin, and that is the blood of Jesus Christ. We are not just saved by grace and the blood of Jesus, and then further saved by the church. The church doesn't save people.

Jesus Christ saves people. The church is a vehicle. The church is a body of God's people pulling together and helping each other. Beloved, the blood of Jesus Christ is the payment for the price of sin.

Now he comes back to this man. In the thirty-sixth verse, he says, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" (Luke 10:36) Who was able to really help him? Jesus Christ! The old law makes us aware of sin and of our lost condition, but Jesus Christ is the One Who can pour oil in, He is the One Who can forgive, He is the One Who can bind up our wounds, and He is the One Who gives us peace, hope and purpose in life.

Can you imagine the man who was robbed, what if he would have said to the Samaritan, "I'm doing okay. I'll make it. I'll get along. Come by tomorrow, maybe I'll need some help tomorrow." Ever feel like that . . . that you need help but you are not just quite ready today?

The last part of this chapter is an interesting account. Jesus apparently spent quite a bit of time at Mary, Martha and Lazarus' home. They were good friends. Remember the story of Lazarus who died, and Jesus brought him back to life? That is always an example

in my mind that God is never late. It looked that way to Mary and Martha. Why didn't He get there before Lazarus died? It seemed like He just, we would say, wasted time and didn't get there in time while Lazarus was sick. Lazarus died and they thought that it was all over. But He wasn't late; He was on time . . . plenty of time, and He brought him back to life. That was a greater miracle!

This Mary and Martha obviously invited Him for dinner and Martha was like all you mothers and wives when you are cooking for company, it is a job and sometimes there is anxiety. Some of us who are not directly involved don't always take on the same amount of concern and that is lack of interest.

But here is a different situation. Martha wanted to do a nice job on the dinner, and here her sister was over talking to Jesus. It was probably frustrating to her. You can almost sense the frustration. She comes to Jesus and says, "Won't you talk to my sister and have her help me?" What can we learn from this account, beloved?

Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42) Most of us will never cook a meal for company. We won't have that exact anxiety, but we have many others. We all have our situations that bring us anxiety, concern, and just the cares of life. They are not wrong things, beloved. They are just responsibilities that we get caught up in.

There are times when we just need to be reminded. Just slow down and think about this. Think about what is really important, and Mary chose that better part. All these things we have need of . . . we need to eat, we need a roof over our head, we need clothes to wear and we all understand that. We need to work and we are not to be lazy. The Bible teaches us that it is wrong for man to be lazy. It is wrong.

We also have to be very careful to give it the proper amount of effort and give it the proper perspective. We need to be like Mary and

choose what is really important first, beloved, first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and focus that way. Many of these anxieties that we face day by day, give them their proper effort, but not all our effort. The primary effort is to be in tune with God.

I am aware of a man that I read about some months ago. He would get up in the morning, open the Bible and studied it. He tried to learn and grow that way and finally he said, "I think this is the wrong approach. Maybe we need to just think about opening the Word of God to see how we can feed our soul for this day. Try that. Tomorrow morning when you read your Bible, just think about something that will encourage you and feed your soul. There is a time to study the Bible and there is a time to just read the Bible for encouragement, comfort and guidance.

Beloved, being a great scholar of the Bible has very little value when you think about it. You may know how to pronounce every word in this Bible just perfectly and you may know what every word means, but until we put it to use, like Mary, we just listen to God to speak to us and we become aware of what He wants us to do. We read this Book to feed our soul so we can grow, walk closer to God and appreciate His Word more.

Some anxieties we live with; we all have them. In fact if you don't have any anxieties, you probably don't care. I don't think any of us fall in that category. We do have those anxieties but let's give them their place and let's give the Kingdom of God priority . . . first place! Like Mary, just sit and listen. That is a valuable asset and a valuable virtue to be able just to sit and listen.

Let us appreciate that God is aware of our needs today. He sent Jesus Christ to die for our failures.

This man that fell among thieves was kind of innocent in a sense. In some sins we fall into, we just seem to be kind of naive, but many of them we are aware of and we need help. That help is available, beloved. Don't make Him wait until tomorrow. Maybe He won't come by tomorrow.

MAR 02709 RP
GORDON GREENBANK
11000 N CAVE CREEK RD
PHOENIX AZ 85020

SERMON BY BRO. GLENN RIGGENBACH OF SMITHVILLE, OH

“The Lordship of Jesus” Luke 10:25-42

This is a very familiar chapter. It is just an old story again, isn't it? It is not going to be something exciting and we are not going to entertain you, but this story that Jesus told is just a simple story that has a lot of meaning to it for us today.

We can learn and we can benefit and it can be a blessing to us. This question is a question that has been asked by many, many people throughout history, What shall I do to inherit eternal life? (Luke 10:25) In a way that question is a little bit misleading because it is not the good things that we do, but it is how we respond that brings us to heaven . . . how we respond to the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Do we believe? That is where we start. I believe this young man had in his mind the old law, perhaps, and he was thinking about how many of these good things he would have to do. Under the old law, if you were not careful, it would almost appear that if you do enough good things and not too many bad things, you will make it to heaven.

It is almost like the old scales where you put a weight on one side and the commodity that you wanted to weigh on the other, and it was a matter of balance. That is how the scales worked. We don't generally use scales like that today. Some

people even today interpret God's Word – this Book – saying if we do more good things than bad things, then we will make it to heaven.

Perhaps that was one of the thoughts this young man had. That is not what the Bible tells us. The law of the Old Testament, which is in Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Exodus, showed those people what God abhorred and what He disliked and what keeps people out of heaven. It also showed those people that they would never be good enough to inherit eternal life . . . that they could never live up to that.

Also, part of the law in part of the Old Testament, God over and over reminded them that He was going to send a Redeemer to pay for the sin. Remember back in the Old Testament times when men and women sinned, they took an offering of a turtle dove or lamb or an oxen. They would bring that to the priest and the priest would offer a sacrifice for those sins.

Beloved, the Bible does not say that the blood of those animals paid for those sins. It says that it did not. It was only a covering, a temporary covering for sin. Those people believed, beloved, if they did this right, they believed that Jesus Christ was coming and He was going to pay for their sins. This oxen or this turtle dove or lamb was only a temporary covering for their sin.

We read in the Book of Hebrews that every year those sins had to be brought back again because they were not truly forgiven.

Beloved, today we have a new dispensation under the blood of Jesus Christ, under the New Testament times. When we sin and we bring that sin to Jesus Christ to the foot of the cross and we confess that, Jesus said that He is faithful and just to forgive us. (See I John 1:9).

Part of confessing sin and part of forgiving sin is being sorry for sin and stop doing it. If we say we are sorry and we keep on sinning, we deceive ourselves. There is no promise of forgiveness in that, beloved.

If we are sorry and confess our sin and stop sinning, Jesus said He will forgive. He also said that He will cast those sins into the Sea of Forgetfulness, never to be remembered to us again.

Think about that! We don't have to bring that up next year in 1994. They are gone! They are separated from us. Sometimes God's people are tormented by Satan for our old sins. Satan brings them back. God does not bring them back because God said He forgives and casts them into the Sea of Forgetfulness, never to be remembered again. He doesn't bring them back.

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