



The Silver Lining

Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

March 1995



"The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."
Matthew 26:24

"...Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder... My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."
Matthew 26:36,38

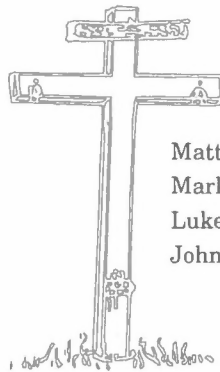
On the cover this month is a picture taken at the sight which is considered the entrance to the Garden of Gethsemane in Israel.

Is it possible for us to comprehend the agony that our Lord went through as he stood there and said, "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder?" It is so evident that He hurt deeply as He prayed that intercessory prayer for His disciples then and for His brethren of the future. That, of course, includes you and me.

When it comes to Good Friday, as it will shortly, it is interesting to note that God has not allowed anyone through the ages to desecrate our remembrance of that Holy day long ago. Easter and Christmas have both taken on alternate meanings of celebration from the world, but Good Friday and the Lord's prayer in Gethsemane have remained unadulterated by sinful man.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1). Those words He spoke are still so very loving and comforting to us who are living ages later. The Lord also spoke of a kingdom and His preparation for all who are true and faithful. Can we begin to appreciate the words He spoke knowing full well that He was innocent of the charges against Him and His having knowledge of His pending death? Not only that, but He also had to carry all the sins of the world, which included both yours

The Garden of Gethsemane
(The Mount of Olives)



Matthew 26:36-46
Mark 14:32-42
Luke 22:39-46
John 14,15,16,17,18:1

and mine.

We can, however, begin to see that He knew there was a purpose in His death and for that purpose the Lord said "...not my will, but thine, be done." We must, as His brethren, listen to the words He has recorded in the Holy Scriptures. "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." (John 14:23). Do we have the faith to believe this? I must continue to pray that my faith is strengthened.

There are way too many distractions in life and we sometimes may appear to the Lord as if we have forgotten His agony and sacrifice.

As the week of Good Friday and Easter are upcoming in about a month, it surely would behoove us to make a special preparation of humility and obedience to His precious Word.

It must be painful to our Lord

when He sees His brethren complaining about the pathway of life that we live. We read that His agony was so great, when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, that sweat fell as drops of blood. Jesus Christ gave His all for us and when He couldn't carry His physical burden any more, there was one provided to help Him. Those of us that are alive today are touching that cross. We need to seriously ask ourselves if we are lifting or pulling on that cross.

If we can be faithful servants, we will see our Lord in His glory.



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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

God's Plan For Family Unity - IV

Part IV in a series of articles on the family deals with the duty of parents to nurture, to love, and to teach their children.

We are taught in the scripture to bring our children "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). To nurture means "to promote the development of" and it involves all of the environmental factors to which an individual is subjected. Since nurturing involves such an all encompassing influence on the lives of our children, it behooves us as parents to try to be the major part of that influence. We cannot promote the development of our children's lives if we are not actively involved with them. Nurturing requires time, patience and diligence. If we do not nurture our children, someone else will.

Perhaps the first and most obvious element of nurturing is the love that parents must have for their children. The Apostle Paul wrote to the aged women that they should "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children..." (Titus 2:4). There are many stirring examples in the Bible that depict a parent's deep love for their children. David's response to the illness and death of his first child by Bathsheba portrays the love and dedication of a father for his infant son (II Sam. 12:15-25). Jacob had a similar reaction when he lost his son, Joseph, through the deceitfulness of Joseph's brothers (Gen. 37:31-35). Jacob's subsequent devotion to Benjamin displays additional love of a father for his child.

Other examples of parental love are Hagar (Gen. 21); Jochebed, the mother of Moses (Ex. 2); Hannah, the mother of Samuel (I Sam. 2); the Shunammite mother (II Kings 4); the father of the prodigal son (Luke 15:20); Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1); and Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 2).

We can learn a great deal about love for our children if we review these examples carefully and frequently. It is natural that parents who love their children want them

to learn to discern between right and wrong.

In Proverbs we are taught to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). "Train" does not merely mean "tell". It means to instruct so as to make proficient. Therefore, instruction must be done over and over until the lesson is mastered. Training our children in the way they should go requires patience, persistence, clarity of instruction, diligence and a willingness to be a good example so we do not destroy the lesson of our words by being a poor example. Children receive mixed and confusing messages if our actions and words are inconsistent.

Training also means to dedicate, to consecrate (set apart for a purpose), to make skillful by teaching and practice, to discipline and to instruct to be useful and obedient, to bring to a particular position, to grow in a particular way and to develop. We cannot expect to train our children if we only spend a few minutes each day with them.

Although we must be serious and diligent in training our children, we must be careful that we are not unreasonable and in the process, "provoke your children to wrath" (Eph. 6:4) "lest they be discouraged" (Col. 3:21). It must be tempered with love, with compassion, and with an understanding and forgiving spirit.

The most important goal we can have for our children is for them to learn to love and serve the Lord. The importance of diligently teaching our children about God's plan for His people cannot be over-emphasized. Part of training is discipline, a concept that is certainly misunderstood in our day. The root word of discipline comes from *discipulus* which means "training that develops self control, character or orderliness and efficiency."

Another word that comes from *discipulus* is *disciple*, "a pupil or follower of a teacher or a school of religion." If we want our children to be disciples (followers) of Christ they must be taught God's Word

and they must be trained to be temperate and submissive so they can follow their teacher.

The goals of discipline are to teach our children the truth of God's Word, to teach them the need to repent and to serve the Lord, to teach them about God's love for mankind and our love for God and for them and to teach them to be submissive to God. The goals of discipline also involve helping our children to deal with the pressures of life and to help them develop feelings of self worth (to be worthy of God's love, not an egotistical self-esteem).

Moses related this important concept to the children of Israel as he taught (and admonished) them as they approached the end of their forty year journey in the wilderness. He was concerned that they would forget the lessons they had learned in the wilderness. He admonished them to "...keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons's sons;" (Deut. 4:9). A further admonition is given to teach the children of God's commandments. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes" (Deut. 6:7-8).

As parents diligently fulfill the responsibilities of rearing their children, scriptural directives must be followed. The love that Christ has for His followers must be evident in our lives. Christ taught by Word and He taught by example, the most powerful method of teaching. Just as Christ patiently worked to mold the lives of His disciples so they would be able to carry on His work, so parents mold the lives of their children by providing them with godly training, discipline, love and example.



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

What the Mission Committee Does

We plan to use this page to inform you on the activities of the Mission Committee and the variety of subjects we discuss at our meetings. The Mission Committee consists of nine Elder brothers who are selected by the Elder body. They serve an eight year term, and may be reappointed for one more, after which they are no longer eligible.

Presently serving are Bros. David Wiegand, Charles Hemmer, Wayne Anliker, Jesse Beer, Gene Pamer, Wayne Fehr, Roy Grimm, Phil Stettner, and Gene Marti. Bro. Wiegand is Chairman, with Bro. Marti serving as Secretary/Treasurer. Bro. David Bertsch, a former member, attends most of the meetings, as he is in charge of the growing Bible distribution program, which is part of the Mission Committee.

Representatives from the World Relief Committee, responsible for humanitarian aid such as food, clothing, and shelter, also attend our meetings, as our projects are often jointly sponsored. The Mission Committee is responsible for spiritual needs which would include Bibles and Hymn Books, church buildings, and spreading the Gospel. Representatives from the Mission Committee also attend World Relief meetings for the same reason. These brothers do not vote, but serve as links between these two committees.

The Mission Committee normally meets four times each year. The last meeting was held on February 7, 1995. We would like to report on some of our agenda.

Financial Report

Contributions for a six month period ending January 31, 1995 were:

Mission Fund.....\$152,749
Bible Distribution Fund.....\$107,059
European Church Buildings.. \$38,717

Interest of \$7,277 made total receipts \$305,802, about equal to last year for the same six month period.

We appreciate the excellent support from our brethren and friends. We always have more needs than funds to take care of them, and must diligently attempt to determine what is most urgent and important. Most of us must do the same things with our family budgets, and we believe the Lord will continue to provide.

Bible Distribution

One of our major expenditures is purchasing Bibles. For the past six months, this amounted to \$52,154. We purchase these wholesale and receive discounts of 40% to 50% due to our volume purchasing. Since August 1983 our churches have distributed nearly 300,000 Bibles that have been supplied by the Mission Committee.

Mexico Project

For many years, Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold have had an interest in starting a mission and providing a home for abandoned boys in Mexico. This has often been discussed by both the Mission and World Relief Committees as well as the elder body. On several occasions, Bro. Marshall has met with us and discussed these plans in detail. We appreciate his cooperation and patience. With the direction and support of the Mission Committee, he has made many trips to Mexico to search out the availability of property for this project.

In order to continue this search, Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan have established a residence in Ixtlan, Mexico. The Mission Committee and Elder Body have agreed to support this for a six month period, and then see what the Lord provides further. This should give them an opportunity to get a better feel for the situation.

Ixtlan is a small village located a short distance northwest of Mexico City.



The Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) which is sometimes referred to as our "Sister Church", built a very small building there. We will refer to them as the "Nazarene" church. They have no minister nor regular services here. The Nazarene elders extended an invitation for Bro. Marshall to use this building for worship services. They can also establish residence in this building, which although without many of our conveniences, should be adequate to sustain them during this trial period.

We have met with the leadership of the Nazarene Church to make certain we have a clear understanding of our involvement. They agreed that the Heinolds should work in accordance with our Missionary and Evangelism policy which was adopted some time ago by our Committee and the Elder Body. They also agreed that all spiritual and social programs will be under the direction of the Apostolic Christian Church of America as long as we have a presence in this area.

Bro. Marshall will be sending monthly reports to the Mission Committee and we will use this page to keep you informed of the progress in Mexico.



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

Trip Report from Well Drilling and Trade School Teams in Haiti

A number of years ago, a group from Bluffton started work in Haiti building trade schools and drilling wells for drinking water. Education, nutrition, and clean water are some of this struggling nation's greatest needs. As the effort grew with God's grace and blessings, additional help was sought.

This group, functioning under the auspices of the Caribbean Board, is known as AWA, which stands for Apostolic Water Aid. It is now broken up into three groups with varying responsibilities:

AWA-Bluffton - Responsible for two trade schools now in existence. School #1 is at Port-a-Piment and #2 is at IRD, which is close to Les Cayes, near the western edge of the south Haitian peninsula.

AWA-Tremont - Responsible for drilling wells.

AWA-FRW - Made up of Francesville, Remington, and Wolcott congregations. This group is responsible for the new school, #3, soon to be completed at Petit-Trou.

As was reported in the February issue, several teams visited Haiti in January, the AWA representatives among them. The well drilling team was Bros. Mike Stickling, Morris Schaffer and his son Kevin, all from the Tremont area. The evaluation group was Bros. Bill Rager from Bluffton, Earl Sauder from Tremont, and Duane Schieler from Wolcott.

With the usual aggravations which accompany travel, the brothers arrived in Port-au-Prince Haiti from Miami at 10:47 A.M. on Saturday, January 7. Passing through customs took about an

hour. After this, they looked for Bob Stewart, who has been a valuable asset and contact in our work in Haiti. He wasn't there. After trying without success to find a usable phone, they met a person who told them Bob was expecting them on the afternoon flight and would meet them then. Conditions at the airport are hectic to say the least, which made things very interesting.

Bob came about 1:30 P.M. After picking up some plywood in Port-au-Prince, they drove to Bob's house, arriving about 7:55 P.M., where supper was waiting for them. The meals prepared by Haitian cooks at the guest house were very good. However, electricity is undependable, and one must make do with cold showers available only at certain times. They learned to improvise. Sunday was spent in worship services and relaxing. In the afternoon they visited some nearby wells. One was broken down and they knew they had work in the week ahead to put all in order. After supper at Bob and Vera's, they sang together and returned to the guest house. There are six rooms sleeping a total of 18-20. The plumbing wasn't doing well in the 2 bathrooms, which took a lot of putting together, but they did retire for the night at last.

Well Drilling Evaluations

On Monday, Earl, Bill and Duane set about evaluating the well projects. As the days progressed, they found many details that needed attention. The embargo hurt the Haitians, and it was a job to evaluate what parts are on hand, and which ones are needed, so they stayed busy. They had shipped in a well drilling rig and explained how it functioned to the Haitians, who are the ones who do the work.

A well was being drilled in Cayes, which, after much work, turned out to be an artesian well furnishing ten gallons a minute, which was a blessing.

The well team had a busy week, but felt at the end that much had been accomplished, with lots yet to do.

The Situation in the Schools

Haitian roads are very bad, and facilities primitive, all of which had to be coped with as the week progressed. Teams visited the various trade schools and observed the work being done. Lack of education is a serious problem, but what touched their hearts was when a young boy who was asked what they needed most, replied, "food!" Team members brought them some.

Masonry seems to be one of the best trades to learn, and many are studying it. Classes run from Oct-July, and

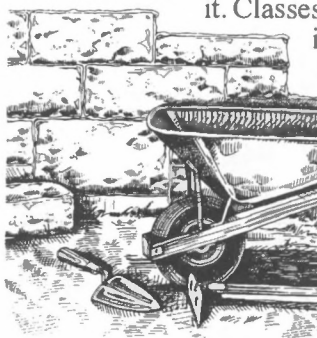
include math, English, and French. Christian values are a vital part of each school's teaching. Each graduate student receives a basic packet of tools of their trade.

Carpentry and woodworking, as well as tailoring are

also taught, and the teams searched out the best ways to provide for needs in these areas.

Plans Made for the Future

They discussed plans for building the new school #3 in detail with Bob Stewart. Most of the work is done with hand tools and money has been given for purchasing them. Bob is coordinating this project, which will soon be underway. Teams of US brothers are scheduled to help build this school. While it is not possible to report all the details in this article, we hope these brief facts will be of interest to our readers. The Haitian effort, as all World Relief projects, is totally dependent upon the financial support and prayers of our brotherhood. The suffering of these poor people is great, and we, by God's grace and mercy, hope to alleviate some of it.



- 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 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
6476 S.R. 111
Antwerp, OH 45813
(419) 258-2197

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

Eleven Years --- August 1983 thru July 1994 --- 286,620

Bibles Distributed --- Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1994 --	2,740	2,740
September 1994 --	2,982	5,722
October 1994 --	2,317	8,039
November 1994 --	3,258	11,297
December 1994 --	3,559	14,856
January 1995 --	2,934	17,780

*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.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED
OPENING FOR OFFICE MANAGER POSITION**

The Home, located at 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, Illinois, 61550, will be hiring an Office Manager to train with our current manager who plans to retire. We plan to fill the position by September or October, 1995. It is important that the applicant be committed to the Christian principles and ethics of the Home. The applicant should have good accounting skills, computer skills, supervisory skills, and general management skills. The applicant should have the equivalent of about two years of training in accounting, the ability to understand and implement business software and the ability to work autonomously on special projects. To meet the expectations of this position the applicant should also have an interest and commitment to the mission of the Home to serve disabled in an Apostolic Christian agency. Anyone who is interested in more information or feels led by God to inquire about this position should contact the administrator of the Home (309) 266-9781. Any inquiries should be made by March 27, 1995. It is not necessary to formally apply by that day, but the Board would like to begin taking some definitive action by April 1 and any possible interest should be indicated before that date.

AVAILABLE:

Polyester clothing for quilts and lap robes in 50lb. bales.

Call or write:

Evelyn Hangartner, RR 1 Box 102, Roanoke, IL 61561

1-309-923-7289

- NOTICE -**TEXAS, ROUND TOP**

Sandy Darlington

Services for the Houston area are no longer being held in the Holiday Inn. We are now meeting in the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top, Texas. We will continue to be helped by ministers from various congregations on the last Sunday of every month. If anyone is in the Houston/Austin area and would like to join us for services, please contact Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102, or Sandy Darlington at (409) 297-8301.

**Mark your
calendars!!!**

1995 Gateway Woods
Auction and Sale is
Saturday, August 19, 1995

SPECIAL NEEDS

Silverton, OR Church
Building Project

The edifice is closed to the elements, with the roof completed. The current needs include:

- A. Brick masons for work on the exterior of the building,
- B. Electricians for electrical and sound system wiring,
- C. Drywall installers,
- D. Painters

While the need is in the sequence listed, any interested volunteer should make contact for latest work schedule.

Bro. Orin Rufener has been directing the project. Local project manager is Bro. Loren Dettlyer. If he cannot be reached at the job site phone, 1-503-873-2582, phone his and Sis. Marlene's home, 1-503-873-4853. For accommodations phone Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi, 1-503-873-4853.

-- BUSINESS CAREER OPPORTUNITY --

Gateway Woods is currently looking for a brother or sister to fill our Office Manager position. Sis. Joanne Gerber will be leaving this position in late March. This opening provides an opportunity to serve others in a ministry setting rather than corporate America. Qualifications include training and/or experience in accounting and computers and good organizational and communication skills. Responsibilities include accounting for entire organization, compliance with governmental regulations, employee benefits management, insurance coverage maintenance and special event coordination. This is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below:

-- MANAGEMENT POSITION OPEN --

Gateway Woods has a child care supervisor position that has been open for several months. We are looking for a brother to help fill this need. Qualifications include: bachelor's degree in Social Services with two years experience in child care or a master's degree; excellent leadership and organizational skills; and good interpersonal communication skills. Job responsibilities include recruitment, interviewing, training and supervision of child care and maintenance staff. In addition, this brother would serve on our Management Team. Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information.

-- TEACHER NEEDED! --

Do you have a degree in special education or regular education? Are you looking for an opportunity to work with fellow believers as you serve children? Our Education Coordinator covers a wide variety of tasks such as serving as a liaison between Gateway Woods and the local schools, supervising tutors, teaching independent living skills to our teens, coordinating our summer program and providing many other educational needs for our children. Please prayerfully consider this opening and contact one of the brothers below for more information.

Tim Sauder - Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 (office)
219/627-2606 (home)

David Bertsch - Counseling Elder
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Just recently some of us were talking about the various opportunities for worship and fellowship that we have here at the Home for the Handicapped. Many of these opportunities are available because some of you are very reliable volunteers.

Each month there is a Bible Study for four distinct groups of our residents. Each is taught by a volunteer. We access the mid-week services at the Morton Apostolic Christian Church for which volunteers transport our residents. On a Sunday, a volunteer driven bus takes our residents to a Sunday School class as well as to both services at church. A volunteer driven van takes other residents to a Sunday School Class at the Washington Apostolic Christian Church. All the classes are taught by volunteers. This is truly an extensive work, and we appreciate the hours and effort involved.

One Friday evening a month an Apostolic Christian church from the area is scheduled for our Friday evening worship in song services. Some of our residents regularly inquire about these services. Many of our residents anticipate this event and truly enjoy the evening. We appreciate the support you all offer for this time.

With the many and varied handicaps represented here at the Home, it is a miracle we can all live together and get along as we do. All the credit for our blessings goes to our Lord who is Head of this House. Come see us sometime.

April Birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball

(26), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27), Zita Palko (27), Jon Terhorst (30). At OAKWOOD: Sonja Metzger (14), Mark Gundy (17). At LINDEN: Jane Kohler (1). No Birthdays at our community residences.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**

Joanne Gerber

This past month we welcomed two new residents to our on-campus program. Nick H. (11) joined the Fiechter household, and Brandi W. (11) was welcomed to the Girl's House. We are thankful for the opportunities God affords us in serving needy children. Please pray for them as they adjust to a new "home", school, church, etc.

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

We rejoice with Sis. Denise Duckworth and Bro. Mike Klopfenstein as their engagement was announced. May God guide and bless them as they plan for their upcoming marriage. Sis. Denise is one of our counselors at Gateway Woods.

We encourage you to look at our ads for current job openings. We are looking for willing workers. Please seek God's direction for your life; does it include Gateway Woods?

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama**

Doris Fischer

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks."

Psalm 75:1

This is the memory verse that corresponds to our week of learning about the letter U. The children have learned a verse for each letter A-T, and most can recite all of those verses and references by heart. Our Bible stories this past month have been those of the Israelites turning to idols. After several accounts of the evil that fell on the Israelites, the children shake their heads, wide-eyed, and say, "They weren't mindin' God." They have learned well the lesson that it's God we should "mind" and thank!

We're thankful to God for March and warmer weather. We were very busy in February learning about emotions and music, the color red, and letters R, S, T, and U. Now in March our themes are animals and the five senses. We are also working on purple and letters V through Y.

The children have so many needs beyond preschool education. In a world of broken homes, poor role models, and negative media, our children are not immune to these influences. We pray, and ask for your prayers too, that our Christian preschool shines "as a city on a hill" in our community and in the lives of our children.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

In the past month, several have been hospitalized: Ruby Massey and Sis. Anais Perry. We pray for their strength and recovery.

The first Sunday in February we held a singing in the fellowship hall in the evening and enjoyed joining together for singing and

fellowship.

February 19 was the first Sunday for Corey Austin to come to church, just two weeks old. His parents are Eugene and Amanda Cottingham. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Hagenmaker and Martha Cottingham (Trinity, AL).

We were also blessed to have Bro. Andy Moser and his wife (Valparaiso, IN) visit us on Sunday, February 19, and thank Bro. Andy for preaching the Word of God to us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Ask the Saviour to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you. He will carry you through."
(Author of hymn unknown).

What a way to start your day!

It's a rare dreary day in Phoenix, but our hearts are filled with happiness, as we have and continue to enjoy and love our many winter visitors. We appreciate you coming and look forward to your next visit.

We gathered together on January 21 to hear our Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich, Edwin Ringer (Gridley, IL) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) read the Conference Memorandum. It is each one's God-given responsibility to protect our church's doctrine.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN). We appreciated your labor of love.

Valerie Knobloch flew to Lester, IA church to give her testimony of faith and be baptized on February 4 and 5. Among those who also went back were aunt and uncle, Bro. Leon and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner. Welcome to God's

family, Sis. Val.

We all know God doesn't make any mistakes. On January 21, the last of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara Zollinger's brothers passed away in Rittman. Sis. Dorothy and Sis. Linda Zollinger flew back to their uncle's funeral.

Bro. Charlie Zollinger and Bro. Arthur Gasser's other Phoenix relatives are Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf and Evelyn Howley.

Likewise, our sympathy to Sis. Donna Gerber and Bro. John on the death of her mother, Sis. Rose Mosher. They were in Lester and could be with the family.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch went to Rittman for Sis. Grace Marty's funeral, whose husband just died four months ago.

Richard Kraft and family also have our sympathy on Bro. Sam Kraft's death. Richard was able to go to Kansas for the funeral.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Katich became first-time parents when Kelsey Marie was born on January 20. Little Kelsey's grandparents are very happy Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley. Victor Katich and Cindy Smith are her paternal grandparents.

We welcome Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum and children, Brandon, Katie and Hilary. They will be worshipping with us, while Bro. Brent attends American Graduate School of Int'l Management.

A warm welcome to Sis. Keri Baum who is attending ASU. Sis. Keri has visited here quite a lot with her parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody (Morton, IL). May the Lord be your constant companion, on and off campus.

We have even more love to spread around. Bro. Wesley, Sis. Lena, Ty (4) and Maria (2 1/2) Kieser have relocated to the Phoenix area with his employment.

We pray God's blessings on all our new families and students.

Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda Hoerr flew to Iowa for his graduation from Palmer College of Chiropractic with a D.C. We extend best wishes and God's blessings for the future.

We also pray God's blessings on our Elder brothers winter Conference this week in West Bend, IA.

We also pray for spiritual good and traveling mercies for our junior and senior high school Sunday School classes as they go to Tucson for the weekend of February 17-20.

Single members from 13 churches will worship and fellowship with our Phoenix singles the weekend of February 17-20.

A church fellowship dinner and singing is scheduled for many to enjoy.

Today's fellowship is the stuff from whence come great memories.

We need the prayers of those we love. Sis. Gerry Beyer and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf have been hospitalized. Sis. Kathie Labudde has been ill at home. Melinda Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) has a broken arm.

For some deep reading, turn to Leviticus or other law books of the Old Testament. Titus is good food to read on the "lite" side.

Share God's love for a happier day.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Floyd Schmidgall and Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). We appreciate your visits and service.

Our annual pancake supper was held on February 5. Many visitors were here to fellowship with us.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman con-

tinues to recuperate from hip surgery. We hope to see her in church very soon!

We hit 83 degrees last week, February 1 or so. We are back to "normal" now with temperatures in the high 60's and low 70's.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

The sunshine after the rain: a beautiful thought to ponder. As January brought many days of heavy rains and much flooding and damage to many areas, we now are having beautiful sun-filled days with upper 80 temperatures and plants and flowers blooming. I had to think of this in a spiritual parallel. Though what can seem like days upon end with a certain trial or test of our faith, at times even feeling like we're sinking beneath the load, the Lord, our faithful guide, does indeed lead us out of the valley and into green pastures and beside cool, still waters. How refreshing and welcoming it is to feel the sunshine of our Saviour's promises after the rainy days in our lives. We're also very thankful that no damage has been caused to those in our congregation.

As I write this, our beloved Elder brothers will be gathering in West Bend, IA for their mid-winter Conference. As they meet to discuss and consider weighty matters and decisions, may our prayers be that God will bestow guidance and heavenly wisdom in their seeking to preserve our precious faith.

Our annual business meeting was held on February 5. We're so thankful that God continues to provide for us so wonderfully.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."

James 1:17

We have felt so much love here in San Diego. So much help and love has been given to us in building our new church. It is a beautiful and perfect gift from above. Thank you everyone. May you be richly blessed. We look forward to worshipping in our new church soon.

We wish to thank all our visiting ministers for coming and sharing God's Word with us. Those who were here this past month have been Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Michael Rieker (Peoria, IL), Tom Luginbuhl and our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). May God richly bless all of you for your love and teachings. Also, we wish to thank all our visitors for coming and come back soon.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

Laura Baxter

In the past few months God has richly blessed us with much Christian fellowship. In November, Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) ministered the Word of God to us. In December, Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) was our visiting minister. In January, Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) came to minister God's Word to us. And in February, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) was our visiting minister. We thank the Lord and each minister, their wives, and the many brethren who came with them for making the effort to bring us the much loved fellowship in the Lord.

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Proverbs 17:6

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are the excited grandparents of Jesse David Graf. Jesse's parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia from Akron, OH. May the Spirit guide these loved ones in raising their two children.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke have assembled with us these past months, as Bro. Duane's job is in Rochester, NY. We enjoy their fellowship and look forward to their visits.

If anyone is in our area and would like to gather together with us, please contact Bro. Wladimir Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081.

COLORADO, DENVER

Jamie Grant

The past month our little church in Denver witnessed a miracle. For months we watched the faith of Bro. Verne (Sis. Leona) Lehman strengthen as he patiently waited to receive a heart transplant. Many times an opportunity availed for a new heart, but the conditions were not always favorable, or even a consideration. Many times the donor heart was infested with disease, and then there were times when the heart was healthy but either too big or too small. At last, the perfect heart came and the old was taken out and the new was placed inside of Bro. Verne. Instantly, we rejoiced and thanked God, yet along with that we knew that serious times may lie ahead for Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona; his fleshly body may reject the new heart.

There is a spiritual lesson to be drawn from this experience, and I'd like to touch on it briefly. In summary, someone had to die so Bro. Verne could live...not to mention all these other conditions that had to be favorable if there was to

be a hope for a positive outcome. I think of Jesus Christ, the perfect "Donor". The donor who is a perfect match for anyone, and just like Bro. Verne had to be willing to receive the transplant, so must we. But even though the new heart has been transplanted, there is still a chance for infection to plague and for the body to reject it. May we look at our "spiritual transplant" in the same light and with the same caution that we'd not expose ourselves to disease and the possibility of rejection. "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."

We are thankful for the brothers who teach us how we may receive a "spiritual transplant" and how to handle the possibilities of disease and rejection. Thank you, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) for giving of yourself this month.

We also say "farewell" to Sis. Jeni Schmidgall, as she has taken employment in the Altadena, CA area. May God bless you and sustain you physically and spiritually.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

February 5 was a joyous day for Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherrine Wheeler, with the birth of their daughter, Courtney Kay. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Burton Wheeler and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl.

We wish our hospital patients God's blessings for a speedy recovery. They are Bro. Ken Crary (Sis. Deb) and Scott Mangold (Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth;"

Song of Solomon 2:11,12

By the time this is read, the early flowers should be blooming. Usually our spring weather begins the first part of March. It is not too early to plan your vacation to the Nation's capital. We have already had calls requesting information. It may take awhile to get the information back to you, but we will.

Our ministers this past month were Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to minister God's Word to us.

January had five Sundays, so on the fifth Sunday we assembled at Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin's for a tape. On the second Sunday in February most traveled to Philadelphia for services.

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. Some from the area meet for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the hotel dining room. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Ed Stoll (301) 258-5001.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Mary Ann Klaus**

We have so much to be thankful for this month. Our Elder Bro. Bud (Sis. Billie) Klopfenstein has successfully undergone hip re-

placement surgery and was able to assemble with us last Sunday. Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen) Luginbuhl is home from Milwaukee, WI after having angioplasty and carotid artery surgery. Bro. Richard Bounassi is recovering from a fall and a broken wrist. Finally, Bro. Dan (Sis. Shirley) Steiner (Tremont, IL) has undergone tests at a local hospital with favorable results. The Lord is so good; we thank Him for answering prayers.

We are also thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month. They included Elder Bro. Andrew (Sis. Maxine) Virkler (Bay City, MI); Bro. Doug (Sis. Jeryl) Grimm (Sabetha, KS); Bro. Carroll (Sis. Louise) Gerber (Bluffton North, IN); and Bro. Dwight (Sis. Lori) Stoller (Latty, OH). We appreciated their meditations on God's Holy Word.

We certainly enjoyed having the Mortonaires here with us on February 12. Their songs of praise and worship uplifted us and helped us visualize a little better what awaits us in Heaven where we will be able to continually praise God with heartfelt singing. We thank them for their visit and hope they will return in the near future.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone who remembered me in any way during my recent surgery and recovery. May God bless you for all your prayers, phone calls, cards, visits, flowers, and kind deeds. They helped a lot.

Bro. Bud Klopfenstein

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

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Ephesians 5:19

Florida brothers and sisters had the pleasure of a little tour by the Mortonaires this month, and North Ft. Myers was treated to several beautiful songs on Saturday night, February 11. There was a potluck supper afterwards and the singing, fellowship, and food was enjoyed by all. We thank the Mortonaires for their labors of love.

We were fortunate to have several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for traveling to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Ann Fraut-schi had a singing this month. What a wonderful way to worship our King, singing songs of praise to Him!

We have secured a three-month extension on our building permit, so we plan to break ground on our church addition before the end of May.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera Martin**

We appreciate this time of the year when our winter residents and vacationers take time to worship and fellowship with our congregation in Sarasota. The Word has come alive in 1995 from not only our local ministers but also those visiting and staying for a season. Among those who were willing to be used to fill our cups to overflowing were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Other ministers sharing the Word were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fair-

bury, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Steven Fraughiger, Carroll Gerber, Doyle Fraughiger (Bluffton North, IN), William Hodel and Thomas Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Ronald Steiner (Rittman, OH). Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) also served us while staying here for a season.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love as we bid farewell to Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III and his wife, Sis. Lynne, as they transfer to a new location in Charleston, SC where he has accepted a new job opportunity. They will be missed in our congregation, but may we still be joined in heart and hope to meet again. They have asked that if anyone has family or friends in that area to please contact them. Their address and phone number are: 1610 Boone Hall Lane, Charleston, SC 29407. Phone Number: 803-556-7203.

Our small congregation always rejoices when God blesses us with newborn babies. Our love and joy is certainly shared with Julia Elizabeth Roscher who was born to Bro. William and Sis. Beth Roscher. Her brother, Stephen, welcomes his sister to their family.

Andrew Benjamin Maibach is a new bundle of love and joy to three excited sisters, Brooke, Courtney and Lindsey. The happy parents are Alan and Terese Maibach.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord was again resounded by the brethren from the Mortonaires Choir at our church recently on a Wednesday night. The song service was inspirational to all and we want to thank them for taking the time to include us in their plans.

Four of our winter brethren

have recently been hospitalized and we pray for the Healing Hand if it be the Lord's will. Bros. Bob Herman (Morton, IL), Wilbur Heinold (Goodfield, IL), Werner Kupferschmid (Rockville, CT) and Kenneth Laukhuf (Latty, OH) are among those hospitalized here in Florida.

Our Bro. Ed and Sis. Esther Getz have recently taken their residence at Woodlands Village. Their address is: Woodlands Village, 1055 US Hwy 301 Blvd. E, Apt. 814B, Bradenton, FL 34203.

Several offices and committees have been re-established at our annual business meeting. The entire church expresses their gratitude to those who have been willing to be used in His service throughout this past year.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

This past month our visiting ministers were Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May the Lord continue to bless these brothers for their willingness to share His teachings.

We extend a warm welcome to ministering Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and his wife, Sis. Lynne. They have relocated to South Carolina and are planning to assemble with us here in Atlanta.

We invite all who are in the area to please stop in to worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located on I-85 just off the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Bro. Don Sellers (404-381-1395) or Bro. John Brewer (404-502-8629).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We are thankful to report the first proving and baptism in our Belvidere church. January 21 Karen Spencer told us of her experience and faith. On Sunday we witnessed her baptism and welcomed her as a Sister in the Lord. Praise God! We really appreciated the Elgin sisters who helped prepare and serve the meal on Sunday.

Our visitors recently include our Elder Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner and family (Washington, IL), and Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger and family (Chicago, IL). May God bless these dear ones for their labors of love on our behalf. We do appreciate each one.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

We have much to be thankful for this reporting period. Andy Kaufman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) and Chris Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) gave their testimonies of God's grace and the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ on Saturday, January 21. On Sunday, January 22, they were welcomed into our congregation as Brothers in Christ after burying their old natures in the baptismal waters. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was present to assist Elder Bro. Everett Hari with the weekend ceremonies. Also present was Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and we appreciated his message and his willingness to be used as a vessel by the Holy Spirit.

We were blessed by Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger's presence on February 1 as he spoke to us at a Bible Study on the topic of marriage, our relationship with our spouses, and how these should mirror

Christ's relationship with His Bride, the Church. We so appreciate the time and energy Bro. Jaye and his family sacrificed on our behalf so we could be spiritually fed and challenged.

February 4 was a day of two kinds of births; one physical, the other spiritual. The first kind was celebrated upon the arrival of Brett Howard Greiner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean). He was welcomed by brothers, Evan, Eric and Ryan. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Virginia Hunziker (Morton, IL) and Sis. Viola Greiner (Cissna Park, IL). Brett is named after his grandfather, the late Bro. Howard Greiner. We thank the Lord for this gift of life.

The second kind of birth, spiritual rebirth, was witnessed on this same day when Greg Umland gave his testimony (February 3) and was baptized the next day, signifying his becoming a new creature in Christ. Jesus himself contrasted these two kinds of birth. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." (John 3:3-7). Greg is the son of Bev Buckley (Normal, IL) and Ned Umland (Gridley, IL). Greg's wife, Louanne, was at this same time restored in her standing to full member, so we rejoice with them both as we greet them as brother and sister. Sis. Louanne is the

daughter of Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth Hoerr (Taylor, MO). Present for the testimony and baptism were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL).

We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) to assist Elder Bro. Everett Hari with the reading of the Memorandum on February 8. These brothers continue to give sacrificially of their time and spiritual gifts as they guide Elder Bro. Everett in his new duties as shepherd of our flock.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Virginia Huette and her family as she has been battling a serious illness. She recently was hospitalized, but thankfully is now resting at home. We pray the Lord will provide her with sources of encouragement, comfort, and peace through the Word, and through individuals from her church family.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

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

Matthew 18:20

At the time of this writing, our dear Elders are gathered together for their mid-year Conference. We pray God's Spirit will be mightily among them; for it is for our benefit that they are gathered together.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee Endress were blessed with a baby boy on January 28. His name is Brendan David and he has a sister, Andrea, and a brother, Tyler. Brendan's grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Lois Endress.

We heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Denise Duckworth and Bro. Mike Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) on February 5. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Christine Klopfenstein (Leo, IN). May the God who led them together continue to bless them and keep them in the days ahead.

God has fed us with His Holy Spirit working through a number of visiting ministers this month. They are Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

The Memorandum of the February 1994 Elder Conference and the August 1994 Brotherhood Conference was shared with our congregation recently. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer joined our Elder Bro. David Wiegand in teaching and encouraging us through the letter and God's Word.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Irma Walder (Bro. Melvin) in the recent death of her brother, Alfred Bowald, of Cincinnati, OH. Our prayers are with her and with others in our congregation who have recently experienced the loss of extended family members. May they and each of us find comfort in the Word.

Our thanks goes to all of the visitors who joined us in worship in the past month, especially to the visiting ministers and their families. They were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). God's name was glorified and we were reminded of His majesty and power. May God bless each of

you.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"Wouldn't it have been something to be John?" a minister posed as he was meditating on Revelation 1. Truly we can be as he was if we are living in the center of God's will. John wrote, "I was in the Spirit..." (Revelation 1:10), and the Lord will give us that privilege also. What a joy and a responsibility!

Our brothers are an example to us by their willingness to minister the Word. We are very thankful for Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) because of the Spirit-filled words they were led to share with us.

We had our annual business meeting the end of January. As always, we have received faithful service. Sis. Becky Gudeman has been in charge of our gift fund for a number of years. Sis. Liz Leman will be replacing her in that position. Bro. Kurt Pfloderer is being replaced by Bro. Miklos Bozzay as usher. Sis. Becky Gudeman is being replaced on the food committee by Lora Braker, and Sis. Paula Bahr is now the head of that committee. Certainly not least, Bro. Mike Kaiser has been trustee and his term is being completed by Bro. Jim Schlatter. We are thankful for those who have served, appreciative of those willing to take on responsibility. Truly we are blessed by our brethren.

Bro. Mike, Sis. Joyce, Lara, and Nicholas Kaiser are being moved by the Lord. That makes it an appropriate move, but as they leave, we have ambivalent feelings. We have been so blessed by their presence that we would keep them with us, yet we know the Lord has a place for them in Mor-

ton now. Bro. Mike has worked with recording sermons and more recently has been trustee and assistant church treasurer. Sis. Joyce worked on various special occasion committees, including Christmas caroling, and at one time taught Sunday School. How we will miss them! However, He will bless the Kaisers mightily as they follow His will. Our love and prayers (and tears, we must confess) go with them.

We extend our deepest sympathy, love and prayers to Paul and Trisha Aeschleman because of the death of his brother, Bro. Matt. Bro. Matt is no longer earthbound, yet we are. Thus we know the pain in parting and the sorrow of grief, and hope to give as we can to Paul and Trisha, trusting them to the Lord's comfort and healing.

Last week I was at a drive-up mailbox, the second car in line. The man from the first car in line (who happened to be Indian) came back to my car. He reached for my envelopes, but I demurred because I had a box I wasn't even sure would fit into the slot. He said, "No problem. I will try it." The box went in, and he smiled at me. I thanked him but not nearly enough in proportion to the amount my heart was touched by his deed. The world calls these deeds "random acts of kindness" because the giver does not know the receiver before responding with kindness. We, I believe, can call these deeds Christlike charity, to be bestowed upon each one we meet, whether or not we are acquainted, for Christ knows and died for each one as He knows and died for us. May I be so reminded to be a giver of Christlike love in deed for all.

There are special times in our lives. When we created a surprise 70th birthday celebration for my mother-in-law, she called it an Ebenezer. I had not heard of that

term, but I have found it since in I Samuel 7, particularly verse 12 as a sign of the Lord: "...hitherto hath the Lord helped us." I need to step aside to meditate on the Ebenezers in my life. The Lord would have me more aware of His help, less involved with the frantic pace of the world. Sometimes it is the decades -- marking birthdays that remind us; other times it is the physical difficulties of life. Whatever time we have to think on His supporting love and blessings in our lives is time spent in heavenly pursuit, preparing us with renewed upward vision for our earthly journey. Phil 4:8.

Don't think me poor or deserted
or lonely

I'm not discouraged, I'm
heavenbound;

I'm just a pilgrim in search of a
city,

I want a mansion, a harp and a
crown.

I've got a mansion just over the
hilltop,

In that bright land where we'll
never grow old;

And some day yonder we will
nevermore wander

But walk the streets that are
purest gold.

"Mansion Over the Hilltop"

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer -

Anna Marie Reutter

As we are walking into this new year of 1995, isn't it a joy to be walking with our Lord? We had our first Topical Bible Study for this year. It was on "Submission and Humility" taught by Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We can attain to a closer walk with the Lord if we practice these two things in our life. Aren't we thankful for a church that helps us maintain this walk? We thank each minister and their wives for

their faithfulness. Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) also visited us this past month.

Our sympathy reaches out to Sis. Beverly Knapp (Bro. Curt) and Sis. Joan Rudin (Bro. Gerald) and their families over the loss of their dear father, Bro. Ervin Mogler (West Bend, IA), who went to his reward on January 19. The following day we learned of the death of Sis. Rose Eurich of Elgin, IL. Mourning her loss are Sis. Tillie Rudin and Bro. Bob Greiner of our congregation.

Our recent hospital patients have been Sis. Martha Brenner who suffered a slight stroke and is presently at Heartland Health Care in Paxton. Bro. Edward Alt, one of our retired ministers, has again submitted to knee surgery. Other surgical patients have been Bro. Clarence Maul, and Bro. Fred Maul. These are all at home now and gaining in strength. They would ask for your prayers.

On January 10, Bro. George and Sis. Gladys Winger observed their 70th wedding anniversary. Not many couples are so privileged to reach this milestone, while enjoying a measure of health as well.

One of our retired ministers, Bro. Phil Sauder, and his wife, Sis. Anna, observed their 60th wedding anniversary on February 10. They are presently residing at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. May God continue to bless these two couples.

Our Bible Class students and teachers traveled to Fairbury for ACYF on Sunday evening, February 12. Our young people are blessed with so many privileges. Our dedicated teachers give much of themselves in their behalf.

Notes of Thanks:

Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise Manz would like to express grati-

tude and thanks for all the kindness shown them during Bro. Emmanuel's recent hospital stay.

A sincere thank you to everyone for your love, prayers, and kind expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of our loved one.

Sis. Mabel Farney

Sis. Kathryn Farney and family

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Beth Steffen - Arlene Banwart

Every experience we meet we have a choice of making it a stumbling block or a stepping stone, a minister once said. At our yearly business meeting, the following positions were filled: Sunday School teachers, Bros. Bob Hartman and Clarence Zobrist and Sisters Tammy Roth and LuAnn Zobrist; trustee, Bro. Ernie Stahl; usher, Bro. Jim Hartman; food committee, Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen. We pray these duties can be a stepping stone toward Heaven for them. Our thanks to our retiring teachers, Bros. Bill Dietrich and Dennis Virkler and Sis. Annie Steffen and Sis. Mary Lou Ott; to retiring trustee, Bro. Bill Dietrich; and to Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman who served on the food committee.

Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in lovingly reading the Memorandum one Wednesday evening. One definition of admonishment is gentle encouragement. That was the way it was brought to us. God grant us the grace to apply the teachings to our lives.

With thankfulness, we share the news of souls repenting. They are Elizabeth Schieber, daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary, and LeAnn Stahl, daughter of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma.

"It's just a miracle," Bro. Glenn Knapp said of his wife, Sis. Jeanette's recovery. She is so happy to return home after her car accident in September. Her uncomplaining nature and persistence in working to get stronger has surely been an inspiration.

Bro. Emil Stahl was hospitalized briefly and is now in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. Little Michelle Leman, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail, is presently hospitalized with pneumonia.

We rejoice in the birth of Ashley Nicole, born February 11 to John and Jackie Schrock. She is welcomed by older brother, Drew, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock and Jim and Sherry Sollis.

As Easter approaches, I am reminded of a tape of a ministering brother when he explained the suffering of our Lord. Jesus was scourged (John 19:1). In scourging, the cruel Romans removed the victim's clothes from his back, leaned him over a post or something rigid, and tied his hands down. Then a whip with long leather fingers with pieces of glass, metal, or bone on the ends was brought down on his back, ripping off the flesh. Jesus was buffeted (Mark 14:65). They took their fists and beat him! He endured all this, and yet died for us. He couldn't do any more!

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Renee Anliker
Debbie Sauder**

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Proverbs 28:13

We rejoice with the angels above that Jose Manterola has

confessed and forsaken his sins and now has been shown mercy from our Heavenly Father who has spoken peace into his heart. We look forward to hearing his testimony of faith within the next few weeks.

Bro. Elvis (Sis. Marilyn) Kellenberger and Sisters Frances Kaptain and Gert Kachelmuss have been hospitalized recently. We are thankful they can be back home and pray the Lord will continue to be near them through recuperation.

Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) have so willingly yielded themselves to the Lord, preaching the true, unadulterated Word unto His flock. We are thankful for their loving exhortations.

Once again, the death angel has visited several families in our congregation. Sis. Minnie Weck (Eureka, IL) has been called to eternity and leaves many relatives behind. Bro. Walt (Sis. Mary) Gasser has laid his dear father (Bro. Arthur of Smithville, OH) to rest and Sis. Lucile Knupper has lost a beloved sister. May our all-knowing God be with each family and comfort the hearts of those who mourn.

When a Christian dies, precious is the prize.

Hymns of Zion #248

Following an extended illness, Sis. Rose Eurich was taken from this life to meet her Maker on January 19. May our love, prayers and support be felt by her family that remains: Lydia Osmun, Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park, IL), as well as Otto, Emil (Minnesota) and Bro. Robert Greiner (Cissna Park, IL). "One by one their seats are emptied, one by one they went away, now the family is parted, will it be complete one day?" May we each

strive a little harder every day to make sure our earthly family will be complete someday in those mansions above.

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

Zion's Harp #87

How thankful we are that the victory has been won and we have been made more than conquerors through Christ Jesus our Lord. May each one of us be continually thankful that the grave could not contain Him and He is now at the Father's right hand, faithfully interceding for us, His children.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

All to Him committing, wait on
the Lord,

Help for you is promised in His
precious Word.

Be not dismayed, Thou art not
alone.

Soon will come the springtime
when the winter's gone.

In every trial, your cry He'll heed.
God will e'er defend you in every
need.

Hymns of Zion #69

This time of the year we are ready and anxious for spring, but often it does not come as quickly as we would like. We are also often ready to be through a trial or ready to know God's answer before it comes. But just as we can sing in the above hymn, the winter will be over and spring will eventually come. God will give us the relief and solace as it is needed, because He is faithful.

We rejoiced in the union of two lives and hearts as Bro. Jerry Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) and Sis. Cherry Rocke were united in Holy

Matrimony on January 22. Parents of the couple are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke. We will all miss Sis. Cherry, but our prayers and best wishes go with her to her new home in Latty. Making the weekend more special, we appreciated our visiting ministers, Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA).

On Saturday evening, February 4, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) came and shared with our Elder Bro. Ervin the reading of the Memorandum to our congregation. As our forefathers had the wisdom to establish our church and our current Elder body has the wisdom to exhort us to be faithful, may we respect their guidance and appreciate their kind, godly counsel.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

The Last Supper

Perhaps at first they talked of
little things

At suppertime that evening in the
spring...

The upper room was dim with
candle-shine

As Jesus sat with twelve,
remembering,

Then quietly He said, "There is
one here

Whose kiss will bring betrayal by
and by."

They did not look at Judas
curiously

But each man murmured,
"Master, is it I?"

Each one looked inward,
frightened lest he find
A shoddy place where he had
dreamed of steel,

None placed the guilt on any
other guest
Who had partaken of that
gracious meal...
When there are hungry on my
little street,
When I see tears or hear a heart's
hurt cry
Because someone has failed to
keep high faith,
May I, too, murmur, "Master, is it
I?"

Helen Welshimer

Easter is almost here -- the solemn, yet joyful, season when we commemorate the suffering, death and glorious resurrection of our Lord. As we read about Gethsemane and Calvary this Easter, let's reflect on the personal burden of sin and guilt that the Lord bore for each of us individually. "My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled...To think He died for ME." (Gospel Hymns #837)

"...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

I Timothy 1:15

This new being now arises,
Having died with Christ before;
What in Adam's fall had perished
Christ the Saviour did restore.
Dearest child, we bid thee
welcome
In our blessed brotherhood;
From the wild tree thou art
grafted
On this holy tree and root.

Zion's Harp #34

We shared a very blessed weekend January 28 and 29 when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new Sis. Jamie Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita). Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and ministering Bros. Ben Wiegand (Co-

lumbus, OH) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) visited us. God bless you for sharing the truth of His Word with us.

We especially appreciated Bro. Wes Knapp and Bro. Wayne Anliker's efforts, along with our Elder Bro. Art Bahler, as we gathered with the Forrest brethren the evening of January 29 and heard the reading of the Memorandum. May God grant us submissive hearts to heed the exhortations.

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Hebrews 13:7

God has blessed the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Karie Edelman with a little boy. Chance Levi was born on January 28. His grandparents are John and Eunice Stork and Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta Edelman.

Also born on January 28 was Benson Alvin Rabe, son of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie. Durelle, Adrian, Julissa, Dustin and Quinton are thankful to have a new little brother. Grandparents are Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL) and the late Bro. Alvin Baumgartner and Julie McDugle and Don Rabe. May the Lord bless both of these couples with wisdom to raise their little ones in the fear of the Lord.

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand;
Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and
hand,
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286

On February 5, the engagement of Bro. Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane,

Forrest) was announced to us. We wish them the Spirit's guidance as they plan for their April 9 wedding and their future together.

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

Zion's Harp #46

We extend heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and family in the passing of his father, William Schmidgall, Sr., on January 22. Also, sympathy is extended to Sis. Ruth Meyer and family in the January 20 death of her brother, Bro. Samuel Witzig (Gridley, IL). May the Lord comfort each of you.

Our prayers are with Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young as they continue to recuperate from a recent auto accident in New York. We are thankful that God has brought them safely back home again. Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Tillie Rinkenberger, Ben Kaisner (Kathryn) and Bro. Ray Slagel (Sis. Gladys).

In patience then bear
All trial and care;
Above streams of bliss refresh
thee.

Zion's Harp #46

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter

Mary Bachtold

On the evening of January 29 the Forrest congregation assembled with Fairbury for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate the warnings, admonitions and encouragement so kindly given by Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker.

Sharing God's Word with us this month were Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Sid Kauf-

mann (Cissna Park, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). May we always remember to keep our ministering brothers in our prayers.

Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman have been blessed with two new grandchildren. January 17 was the birthdate of Kimber Marian Edelman, daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol. Her siblings are Ruston, LeAnne, and Carmen and maternal grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR). Trevor John Edelman, son of Karl and Bethany, arrived on February 8. He is welcomed by big sister, Karla, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger.

Tim and Diane Roth (Edmond, OK) are the happy parents of their third son, Chad Alan. His big brothers are Travis and Christian. Grandparents are Eilen McKimmey (Decatur, IL) and Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth.

We rejoice with Bro. Stan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Sis. Kristin Kupferschmid (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Wanda) as we witnessed the marriage vows they made on February 12. May this union of hearts be a "threefold cord, not lightly rent apart".

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made of hands, eternal in the heavens."

II Corinthians 5:1

Isn't the beauty of this promise overwhelming? How our spirits should leap in rejoicing when we read these wonderful words of St. Paul. It's hard to imagine a house not made of hands, comprehend the length of eternity, or fathom

the gloriousness of Heaven, yet soon, Lord willing, we will inherit that heavenly building and live eternally with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Could there be any greater love than this? Praise His Holy Name!

The Lord has given our church family many reasons to rejoice beginning with the announcements of two engagements. The first, made earlier this year was received with much joy. Our Bro. Justin Meece (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) is soon to be united in marriage to Sis. Heather Martin (Byron and Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) and more recently, our dear Sis. Marsha Knapp (Stan Knapp and Sis. Judy Knapp) and our Bro. Jed Rocke (Mark and Connie) have also announced their desire to follow God's will and be joined in marriage. We wish both of these young couples God's grace and abundant blessings in their lives together.

Another reason for celebration in Goodfield this month was the birth of our newest little lamb, Caitlyn Noelee Martin, daughter of Darin and Jennifer. Caitlyn's two brothers, Michael and Courtney, are almost as excited as her grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol Martin and Mary Beth Knott, Eureka. May our Lord Jesus Christ keep her ever in His arms.

Bro. Wilbur Heinold has felt the power of being in Jesus' arms this month as he underwent heart surgery. We send our thoughts and prayers to you for a safe and speedy recovery and look forward to having you back with us soon.

Many thanks go out to the visiting ministers and their families for spending time and energies in the Lord with us. Thank you, Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller and Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller, all of Gridley, IL for serving so unselfishly.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Ruth Hohulin of the Eureka Home sends her many thanks for all the gifts and acts of kindness and prayers shown her over the holiday season. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

The passing of Bro. Samuel R. Witzig, 83, on January 20 brought sadness to our congregation. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sis. Louise. Other survivors are Bro. Jerome, Gridley; five daughters, Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach, both of Pekin; Sis. Judith Witzig, Morton; Janice Downen, Garden Grove, IA; and Ann Rhoton, Sidney; four sisters, Sis. Emma Beckley, Remington, IN; Sis. Anna Schneider, Peoria; Sis. Pauline Witzig, Eureka; and Sis. Ruth Meyer, Fairbury; and three brothers, Bro. Alpha Witzig, Eureka; Bro. Edward Witzig and Bro. Elmer Witzig, Gridley.

Bro. Sam's life was one of godly success. He worked hard on his farm, raised his family, dutifully attended church and practiced the Word's teachings. His amiable presence in the church and community will be missed. His dear wife noted to me in the visitation line, "He loved people." And people loved him!

On January 30, our dear friend, Donald W. Schieler, 63, passed away suddenly. He had been suffering from heart trouble. His death was a shock to all of us. We always appreciated his regular church attendance. He is survived by a daughter, Charwin, Westmont; a son, Bro. Glenn, Gridley; and a sister, Sis. Marilyn Schieler, Gridley. Don Schieler was one who always had a hearty

smile and a ready handshake. He, too, loved people and loved to visit. His friendly nature will be long remembered.

February 4 was the wedding date of Jared Schlipf and Jenny Weaver. He is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf. Her parents are Jerry and Nancy Weaver, Peoria. We as a congregation wish them much happiness in their married life. Their presence at worship is very much appreciated.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

We wish to thank Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless you for your labors of love.

On Sunday, February 19, the Young Group treated the congregation to a "five star" pork chop supper followed by a hymn sing. Thank you's go to them for the evening of fellowship.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Chris Hauter wish to thank each one for their loving support shown through their prayers, kindness and love during the time of his death. May God bless all who were so gracious.

A very special thank you for the gifts of love and the many beautiful cards I received on my 90th birthday. May God bless all who were so kind.

In Christian Love, Bro. Chris Getz

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Believing that it is God's will that they should be united in Holy

Matrimony, Bro. Andy Wuethrich and Sis. Jill Herman exchanged vows on January 20. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Allan and Sis. Lois Herman. They are making their home in Indianapolis. We ask God's presence as they begin their life together.

God has also been working in the hearts of several other young couples from Peoria. On January 22, Sis. Kristi Rieker and Bro. Matt Triplett were announced to be married. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker and Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett. They are planning a June wedding.

Darcy Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Hoerr and Andy Biedscheid, son of Lyle and Doreen Biedscheid, are engaged to be married in March. We are so happy that they are also repenting. May the Lord bless them as they take these two most important steps.

On February 19, Bro. Michael Rieker and Sis. Kristi Hoerr announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker and Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr. They will be married in July.

Paul and Lynne Knobloch were blessed with a new baby girl on December 16. Chelsea Lynne joined Zachary at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and Bob and Sandi Clark of Wyoming, IL.

Gary and Lesa Hohulin welcomed a daughter, Justine Alyse, on February 7. Her big brother is Alec and grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Ronald and Janet Wright of Washington.

Tyler Jordan was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan Hohulin on February 10. He was welcomed

home by brother, Tate. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Sis. Joyce Domnick (Morton, IL).

We wish to thank those ministering brothers who have visited Peoria recently and lent themselves in the service of our Lord. They are Bros. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

Sis. Emma Woerner, Sis. Mary Lawless, Bro. Jess Schrock, Sis. Mildred Hoerr and Sis. Donna Ferrero have all been hospitalized recently. We pray for God's healing hand upon each of them.

Notes of Thanks:

Dear beloved brothers, sisters and friends: With humility we would like to thank everyone for the visits, prayers, cards and gifts of love. We have surely felt God's love through your many acts of kindness. Bob received over 200 cards for his birthday and has appreciated them so much. The staff at his facility has commented over and over that they have never seen such love and support. With thankful hearts, we now beseech your prayers on our behalf, that God will grant us the extra grace, strength and encouragement during this ongoing, difficult time so that His good and perfect will can be done. May God bless you all. Thanks again.

Sis. Ethel and Bro. Bob Waibel

I want to thank all who sent cards and best wishes for my 80th birthday. I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness.

Bro. Walt Geyer

Thanks for all the prayers, flowers, cards and love shown me again during my 11-day hospital visit. It was a great comfort and

support for me. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Mildred Hoerr

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

Would you tell your dearest friend, "Please don't talk to me today. Today I'm going to do all the talking?" Of course not, yet do we not do this when we pray, expressing our needs and concerns but do not take time to read God's Word?

We appreciate this thought shared with us by Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We are thankful for all our visitors, especially our ministers. Visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Don Sauder, Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God richly bless them and their wives.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Acts 15:6

On February 4 we, along with the Bradford brethren, assembled to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We could truly feel the working of the Holy Spirit. We thank Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Stoller.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

It is good to see the hand of God working in the lives of our loved ones. We rejoice with Paula Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret) and pray that she can feel

God's presence and guiding hand as she seeks His will in her life.

"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."

Isaiah 48:10

We wish to remember those who have suffered afflictions of the body this month. Those included are: Sis. Bertha Kieser, Sis. Arlene Knapp, Bro. John Elsassner (Sis. Lillian) and Randy Siebenthal (Bro. Gene and Sis. Kay). Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sis. Stacy Francis and Bro. John Leuthold (Sis. Shirley). We pray God will comfort and heal according to His will.

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

Mark 10:9

Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February. They were married February 16, 1945. May God bless them with many more years together.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

"...verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

We were touched and encouraged the last weekend in January, as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls: Eric Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge), Lisa Leman (Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen), and Joan Leman (Russ). We pray God will bless them as they walk with Him.

February 5 was a joyous day for

our Sis. Kim Braker, as she was joined in marriage with Bro. Jim Bucher (Indianapolis, IN). Their parents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May God bless this new Christian home.

Jarod, Rebecca and Miranda welcomed home Jonathan Bruce, newborn son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman, on February 6. Happy grandparents are Sis. Verna Wettstein (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman.

Our Sis. Fannie Bradle was hospitalized this month, and is recuperating at our home in Eureka. We pray God's healing hand will be upon her.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Ringger with us on February 10 for Bible Study. The topic was contentment and was a blessing for all in attendance.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Dale Eise-mann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), and Garry and Niles Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May the Lord bless each one for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

We are grateful to Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly bless him and his family.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Paula Wagenbach were blessed with their first child, Lucy Marie, born January 25. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch.

Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch rejoice in the birth of their granddaughter, Nathalie Anne, born

January 4. Her parents are Connie and Marty Kieseewetter (Grenoble, France).

Those that have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Richard), Bro. Jess Koch (Sis. Amy), and Della Schweigert (Willard). We pray that God will be with each one and bless and heal as He sees best.

After a lengthy battle with the physical afflictions of this life, our dear Bro. George Lang was called Home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Phyllis, and children: Bro. James (Sis. Lynnette), Sis. Jean Hoerr, Sis. Jane (Bro. Kent) Miller, and Sis. Jennifer (Bro. Stanley) Koch. May God be with his family and help to fill the void that has been left.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess in the death of their father, Bro. Samuel Witzig (Gridley, IL).

We would also like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Dan Steiner in the death of his sister, Sis. Marie Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

May God's comforting Spirit be with each one who has suffered loss.

Note of Thanks:

Our family wishes to express deep gratitude to our church family. During George's illness and death, we have witnessed our Lord at work by many kind deeds, all too numerous to mention. We have felt your love in abundance. We are thankful for each one of you.

The George Lang family

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Psalm 50:15

Phoning 911 signifies an urgent need for emergency help. When called, medical personnel respond promptly and efficiently. Hospitals have sophisticated equipment to provide therapy and life support. We are fortunate to have such technology available.

Jesus himself was an "emergency physician". The gospels record numerous accounts of His healing power. He cured many who were sick, restored sight and hearing, and even raised dead people back to life.

What more could we ask for? Jesus is always there for not only our "911" calls, but every little call. He knows what we need and want and provides for our daily needs.

The next time you feel the urgency to call upon God--do so. He is there waiting to respond quickly and efficiently, just like 911.

Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) were guest ministers this month. We thank them for their efforts. We know it is not always an easy job to proclaim the truth, but the heavenly reward is worth it.

We also heard the Memorandum this month. Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) were present to do the reading. We thank them for their efforts and insights.

Our monthly Bible Study was presented by Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) on Perseverance. Thank you for your preparation and efforts.

We had a farewell dinner for Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena Kieser. They will be moving to Phoenix, AZ. We will really miss them, but look forward to seeing them again.

The Hymn Sing was enjoyed by all present. Those singing were

the Beer Brothers. Thank you for a job well done.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

Our congregation has been blessed with several new additions. Lauren Rachelle was born on January 16 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly Fiechter. She joins Joel, Caleb, and Melissa at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Fiechter.

On January 20, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Angie Ifer welcomed Josef Daniel into their lives. He joins a sister, Naomi. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger and Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer (Bluffton North, IN).

Brad and Kelli Pursley are new parents to Whitley Sue. She was born on January 22 and is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber.

Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman have a new addition in their family. On January 25, Blaine Ray joined Elizabeth, Tiffany, Taylor and Shelby at home. Grandparents are Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman and Bro. Lester and Sis. Rosemary Gerber.

On February 4, Nathan Samuel was born to Tim and Madelyn Clark. Nathan's grandmother is Sis. Margaret Gerber.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Julie Stroup are the parents of a new daughter, Jenna Elizabeth. She is welcomed by her brothers, Jordan and Jeremy, and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger.

Our souls were blessed as we gathered to witness the testimonies and baptisms of two new sisters on the weekend of January 21. They were Sis. Sally Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger) and Sis. Erin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer).

On February 3, our Sis. Frances Dubach went to her eternal rest at age 96. She was the widow of Harry Dubach and is survived by a sister, Sis. Elizabeth Pfister, and many nieces and nephews.

We have two friends who have begun their walk with the Lord. They are Annette Nestel and Jack Ely. We wish them much grace in the days ahead.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;"

Jer. 30:17

Those hospitalized this month were Sis. Lil Isch, Sis. Sheila Sprunger (Bro. Kent), Katherine Neuenschwander (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo), Jack Ely (late Sis. Evelyn), Sara Reinhard (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly), Sis. Angela Pfister (Bro. Tim), Sis. Della Steffen (Bro. Marvin), and Drew Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina).

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North). We thank them for sharing the precious Word with us.

In closing, we want to pass along this note:

I wish to thank each one for your visits, cards, gifts, love and above all, your prayers. All of these kept me going during my surgeries and recuperating. It meant very much to me and was greatly appreciated. May God bless each and every one.

Bro. Ed Schwartz Sr. and family.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH **Susan Harris - Kay Steffen**

Sharing the Word with us this month were Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Marvin

Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May the Gospel message always inspire us to walk a "Closer Walk with Thee".

We were happy to hear of three souls who have listened to the Word, and in the past month have "heard the Word" and turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Jeff Towle (Sis. Jodi) and Chris and Kim Jutte (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber).

On January 29, Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Fiechter announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Lindsay, to Bro. Brad Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl). May the Lord direct their hearts as they prepare for a new life together.

Bro. Craig Stettner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Corinne Hari (Daryle and June), Phoenix, AZ were united in marriage on January 29. Our love and prayers are with them for many blessed and happy years together.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Angie Ifer welcomed Josef Daniel on January 20. He joins a sister, Naomi, and grandparents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger.

Benjamin Lee was born on February 10 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister. He is welcomed by three brothers, Anthony, Brett and Conner. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller.

Bros. Jerome Rauch and David Gerber were hospitalized this month. May we be prayerful for them.

I am weak but Thou art strong,
Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long,
As I walk let me walk close to
Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee.
Grant it Jesus is my plea;
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be dear Lord, Let it be.

Gospel Hymns #805

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE **Val Gutwein**

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

Isaiah 28:16

There are times in our lives that we realize how precious it is to firmly be founded on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. It is then that we can face the uncertainty that life brings us. Without faith and belief in God who is in control, it would often be very difficult to go on. I have personally experienced this recently. My sister-in-law, Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry), suffered severe injuries in a car accident on February 1. At this time she is in Indianapolis undergoing rehabilitation to regain what she lost in just a matter of seconds. As a family, we have truly learned to take one day at a time, trusting that God would be merciful and grant Sis. Janice the grace to accept what is His perfect and divine will. Through all this, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice have shown the fruit of the firm foundation on which they stand. Let's continue to lift them up in prayer as the months ahead will be a time of separation and much physical work for Sis. Janice. I had to think, after spending much time going over the events of that day, that it started out as a perfectly normal day for Sis. Janice. But by the end of the day her life was changed. There is coming a day for all of us that will begin like every other day. But the end of the day will reveal whether or not we were washed in the Blood of the Lamb. For the saved, Heaven will finally be a reality. But for

the unsaved left behind, the world will no longer be normal and the pain and uncertainty of the future will be mind boggling. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1)

Bro. Andy Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Jill Herman (Bro. Allan and Sis. Lois) were united in marriage on January 22. We trust that God will give them much grace, wisdom and love as they begin their life as one.

January 29 was the Parkview Haven open house for the new addition. Many came to see what God had provided to make "caring" for the elderly a little easier. Thanks to all who took part and helped make the day a special memory for all who live, work and volunteer at Parkview Haven.

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time."

Eccles. 3:11

A beautiful baby girl, Marissa Claire, was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich on January 24. Marissa has two brothers, Levi and Landon, and one sister, Meagan, to welcome her home. A baby always reminds us of God's miracles and of His continual love for us. God bless the little children.

With a testimony of his love for God and his belief in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, Earl Johns was baptized on February 8 and became our brother in the Lord. May God continue to guide and uphold Bro. Earl as he daily commits his life and his plans to Jesus Christ.

Sis. Emma Furrer and Hilda Messmore have recently spent time in the hospital. We are glad to hear Sis. Emma has returned to Parkview Haven and wish both of them God's healing mercy and

grace sufficient for each day.

We offer our humble thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for their ministry of the Word to us. May God be their rich rewarder.

Recently in Francesville we've held our annual Brotherhood Meeting. There are always those who retire after years of faithful service, and there are those who are asked to serve in God's Holy Church. Newly elected officers are as follows: Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Jeff Neihouser; Sunday School teachers, Bros. Kevin Wuethrich, David Zeltwanger and Jerry Gutwein; trustee, Bro. Perry Neihouser; Ushers, Bros. Chad Huber and Matt Gudeman; Missionary Committee, Bro. Jim Gudeman; Fellowship Center trustee, Bro. Larry Leman; Parkview Haven Board, Bro. Carl Gutwein; Parkview Haven Village, Bro. Earl Anliker

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Melissa Baumgartner

Sandy Lichtle

Greetings of love in our Lord and Saviour. We held our annual business meeting on February 1. The offices and newly elected are as follows: Bros. Jerry Leuthold and Ron Gress (trustees), Dan Guingrich (assistant Sunday School Superintendent), Jim Bucher (Usher), and our dear Sis. Lauretta Shafer as assistant writer for the Silver Lining.

Bro. Jim Bucher and Sis. Kim Braker were united in marriage on February 5. May God's richest blessings and joys be with them as they begin their life together in Him.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

Late December held, along with many holiday festivities, the wedding for our friends, Melissa Gudeman (Bob and Sis. Diana) and Cory Rosenbaum (Bob and Joyce, Wanatah, IN). We wish them God's blessings in their walk of life together. They reside in Wanatah, IN and still assemble with us.

Our annual meeting was held this past month. Many thanks are due to those that have fulfilled their duties in different offices, and many thanks also go out to those who continue to help with our daily activities. I Corinthians 12 reminds us of the importance of each member, and his relationship to the entire body.

Our friend, Jenny Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn) was recently hospitalized for surgery and we are happy that she is recovering at home.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

We miss Bro. John and Sis. Sue Grusy and their three young sons, who moved to Bloomington, IL. We are looking forward to a visit from them.

"Through wisdom is a house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

Proverbs 24:3,4

We rejoice with Sis. Denise Duckworth (Gateway Woods) and Bro. Mike Klopfenstein whose engagement was announced February 5. Sis. Denise is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mike's parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein from our congregation. Our prayer is that their home will be filled with the precious riches of the Holy Spirit.

There is a great change at the new church building; doors are hung and the carpet is laid. Many finishing tasks remain. We look forward to the move.

We are thankful our Elder Bro. David Bertsch returned safely from the mid-winter Elder Conference at West Bend, IA. His afternoon message on February 19 was concluded with Hebrews 5:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

While on this narrow pathway,
For grace we do depend
Upon the Lord and Saviour,
Who'll lead us to the end.

Zion's Harp #134

Andy Bertsch returned to The Cedars nursing home after a few days in the hospital with pneumonia. Some of our elderly members have been home bound this winter.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Judy Longcor

This past month we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Robert Beebe and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) among us. We pray that God will bless each of these dear brothers for their labors on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in reading the Memorandum; this was a blessed evening spent together. May we strive, with God's grace, together to preserve our precious faith.

"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say

unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

St. Matthew 18:2,3

We all enjoyed a blessed weekend hearing the proving and witnessing the baptism of our new sister in faith, Sis. Monica Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann with us and sharing God's Word. We wish her much of God's grace and strength in her walk of life.

A group of our Milford brethren and friends traveled to Wolcott, IN for a soap packaging project. We had a blessed time together in working and in our fellowship.

Bro. Theo Beer celebrated his 97th birthday this past month. We appreciate him so much and enjoy our visits with him. May God bless him in the coming year with good health and faith.

Among our surgical and hospital patients this past month were Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Sam), Bro. Don Haab (Sis. Martha), Sis. Melba Hunsberger, Tillie Kasbaum, Bro. Roy Lehman, Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Sis. Dorothy). We are thankful for God's healing hand on each of these our loved ones.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Psalms 55:22

Note of Thanks:

We would humbly like to thank everyone for their prayerful support and encouragement over the past several months and especially the last few days. We pray God will bless you for all of your deeds of kindness, your gifts and

the many times we felt the prayers of those we love. We realize once again what a wonderful brotherhood we have, and how so many gave unselfishly in so many ways. We ask your continued support in prayer and may God bless you richly.

In Christian Love,
*Lee, Sandy and Marc Beer and
all of our family*

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul,
so is good news from a far country."

Proverbs 25:25

To read the Silver Lining fits the above verse. Sometimes it does contain "sad news" but often those accounts read "Bro. or Sis." passed away. Isn't that usually good news?

I feel I have a lot of good news for this writing. We have four new converts since I last wrote. Dean and Tammy Waibel have answered the wonderful invitation. Dean is the son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel.

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." To those who are past 80 years, a 13 or 14 year old would almost fall in that class. But He calls them and they willingly follow. Two new "followers" are Clint Bahler (Bro. Eddie and Sis. Annette) and Nathan Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth). We rejoice with them all and wish them the blessings of true joy in Jesus.

Angela Scheitlin (Bro. Roly and Sis. Lori) had a misfortune in P.E. class. A collision caused her to be hospitalized overnight. We are thankful her injuries soon healed.

It is good to have Sis. Angie May back home after an extended visit

with her daughter, Stephanie, and family in Switzerland.

New parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi Schneider. Daughter, Erika Lynn, is the granddaughter of Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf of Akron, OH and Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider.

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

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

Proverbs 18:22

We have witnessed as God has joined Bro. Jim Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Kimberly Braker (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha, Roanoke, IL) in Holy Matrimony. We ask God's blessings on them as they start their new home in Indianapolis, IN.

We recently had our annual meeting and at this time we would certainly want to thank all who are going out and to wish the Lord's blessings on those who are just coming into office.

Our ministers just had a family supper for us with Bro. Dick Kilgus (Elgin, IL) being our guest speaker on marriage. Thanks to the ministers and their wives who made all the preparation. A special thanks to an interesting speaker and the Francesville singing group.

Visiting minister for the month was our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). The Lord bless you and thanks once again for your tireless efforts on our behalf.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

There is beauty all around,
When there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home.
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion #64

We were thankful to have Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) give our Bible topic on January 25.

Bro. Dan's topic was entitled "A House, or a Home?" We were kindly reminded of our duties and responsibilities in establishing a Christian home.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

On January 29, Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer were blessed with a precious bundle from Heaven. Little Andrea Kate was welcomed home by Brianna, Mark, Heather, Luke and Amber. May God bless them as they strive to bring up their family in the fear of the Lord.

Our prayers have been with Lucille Keller as she has undergone surgery, and Sis. Emma Furrer, as she has been hospitalized for medical reasons. We pray that God will grant them a measure of health and strength again.

We extend sincere sympathy to Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer and family on the passing of Ed's brother, Walter Widmer (Lamar, MO). May they also be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

IOWA, AMES Luann Schmidgall

Services were held here on January 29 with Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) bringing forth God's Word. On February 12, Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) ministered to us. We thank both of these brothers for their service on our behalf.

We are thankful that Lonnie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda, Lester, IA) suffered only minor injuries in a car/train accident and is recovering.

March services will be held on the 26th of the month. We appreciate all who assemble with us.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

As we travel thro' life's shadow'd valley,
Fresh springs of His love ever rise;
And we learn that our sorrows
and losses,
Are blessings just sent in disguise.
So we'll follow wherever He
leadeth,
Let the path be dreary or bright;
For we've proved that our God
can give comfort;
Our God can give songs in the
night.
Streams in the Desert

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Mildred and Sis. Ernestine Meister on the death of their brother, Elmer. May God's loving hand comfort them in their sorrow.

February 11 we gathered together for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer shared many good teachings and exhortations with the congregation. We thank Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley for worshipping with us and for their continual love and support.

Special thanks to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman for hosting a Valentine potluck and singing. We appreciated the warmth of their home on a cold winter night, and always look forward to the times we can fellowship together.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

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

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital recently. Sis. Mae Heiniger and little Darrin Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) were both medical patients for a time, but we are thankful God has blessed their recovery. We are happy to have Ed Streeter (Marge) able to reassemble with us also. Scott Massner (Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn) suffered a broken collar bone and shoulder blade in a PTO accident; we thank the Lord he was spared more serious injuries. Sis. Betty Baker submitted to a successful open-heart surgery, and we look forward to the time that she can worship with us again. Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Emma Eberhardt as she lingers on the brink of eternity.

Even as some face the valleys in their walks of faith, others are blessed with joy on the mountain at this time in their lives. We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Carrie Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley, Pulaski, IA) to Bro. Ted Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha, Oakville, IA). Also, Dwayne Massner (Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn) has become engaged to Kelly Hahn (Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Marion, West Burlington). May they look to the Lord as they plan their futures, and may He grant them many bright tomorrows.

IOWA, ELGIN**Gloria Frieden**

How sweet the privilege of prayer, and what a blessing to serve a God whom we know hears and answers our prayers.

Our prayers were recently with Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, Bro. Tim Butikofer, Bob Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan), Jim and Gene

Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Lav-erne), Greg Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Albert Hanson (Trudy) and Darren Schneider (Dave and Jo), who recently spent a few days in Haiti putting a roof on a school building, with a group of four other brothers. I asked Bro. Paul to give a little report on their mission.

*Report on School Project #3 -**February 11, 1995*

Leaving Cedar Rapids, for Chicago, to Miami and eventually Port-au-Prince Haiti, that mysterious land of poverty and want.

This team consisted of six brothers and six friends, representing Wolcott, IN; Bern, KS; West Bend and Elgin, IA churches. Upon arrival at Port-au-Prince we were shuttled to Eris Labody's home to re-organize for the tedious trip to Palm Grove School. After a six hour trip, we arrived around 9:00 p.m. where supper was prepared for us. We are thankful the Lord conveyed us safely over the many miles. We soon settled in for the night, with eight of us sleeping on the roof.

Saturday morning we woke up to a balmy, cloudy morning. Bro. Jeff and Eris left early to go size up the project and assess our needs for the day. The rest of us got our bearings, ate breakfast and enjoyed our morning devotions, which usually consisted of a reading, a prayer and sometimes a hymn.

When Bro. Jeff and Eris returned, they brought back some tree ripened bananas which they purchased at a Banana Grove. They were delicious.

After loading the truck with materials, we left for our project site which was about three miles. By Saturday night, the trusses were all up on our first project.

Sunday morning dawned as a

beautiful Lord's day. We assembled at 9:30 for our worship services. We prayed, as we go to another country we want to be good representatives of our country and particularly of our faith and church. We are ambassadors for Christ. Our coordinators have been advised of our policy that, if possible, they will provide us with a time and place to hold our own worship services, so we do not have to feel obligated to attend their services. It is our tradition that our ministers do not share the pulpit or participate in religious services with another denomination. Based on I Cor. 1-10.

We had a full church with Eris translating. Our text was from Psalm 121 and I Cor. 2. We sang, The Love of God, Near The Cross, How Much I Owe and At Calvary. We were each given opportunity to introduce ourselves and make a few comments about our families and occupation. The spirit of love seemed to prevail. Again, singing was announced with a good turn out.

We had good cooperation with the team and were kept very busy, finishing our assigned project in the coming days, putting on a school roof, plus the second roof on an addition and a deck on Eris Labody's house.

It was a good experience for everyone to visit such a poverty stricken country which made us all more thankful for the many blessings we can enjoy at home. We are also thankful to the Lord for His traveling mercies and bringing us back safely to our loved ones. May God's blessings be on all.

Sis. Lydia Butikofer recently spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful she is better and has returned to her home at the Good Samaritan care center in Postville, IA.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Ready to speak, ready to warn,
Ready o'er souls to yearn;
Ready in life, ready in death,
Ready for His return.

Hymns of Zion #124

We are not worthy to meet the Lord, but are we ready? This charge was given us in a sermon recently. No, we are not worthy to meet the Lord, but each of us will meet Him whether we are ready or not.

Recent visitors to our congregation include Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). ELder Bros. Sam Huber and Ed Lanz also shared a Sunday with us and gave us the conclusions of the 1994 General Conference. We want to thank each visitor who comes to be with us. We truly appreciate each and every one.

We held our annual business meeting in January. We want to thank each brother and sister who held an office. We pray for God's guidance to those who were elected to serve in various positions.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We again appreciate all of you who made an effort to assemble with us for worship and fellowship. Not only do some of our visitors travel many miles to attend our services, but several of our "local" families travel great distances to regularly support our congregation. May God bless each of you for your willingness to give each mile and minute that others of us are not asked to give.

One of our ministers recently

suggested the following mnemonic to help us focus our prayers: FAITH = F is for the faith we must have as we approach our Heavenly Father in prayer--faith that He hears us and that He will answer our prayer as He sees best. A is for the proper attitude we must have in that approach--humble, reverent, very aware of both His power and His love, and always cognizant of His position as a Supreme Being, our Creator, our Saviour, and our Judge. I is for interceding. May we never forget our Lord is interceding for us, and may we never forget to intercede for others--our brothers and sisters in Faith, the unsaved, the less fortunate, our government leaders, our church leaders, and all else for whom the Spirit may place a burden on our heart. T is for the thankfulness we should express each time we talk with our Lord--for our many, many blessings, the chiefest of which is the gift of our Salvation. H is for the help we must ask for each day. All of us need His divine help and grace in order to overcome sin and to stay on the narrow pathway that leads to Heaven.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We gathered together on January 21 to hear the reading of the Conference letter. We thank Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for joining us in this endeavor. We also appreciate other visiting ministers this past month for proclaiming God's precious Word. They were Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Jim Knobloch and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN).

We rejoice with the angels as another dear soul has been added to His fold. Sis. Valerie Knobloch

gave her testimony and was baptized on the weekend of February 4 and 5. As Sis. Valerie returns to her home in Phoenix, we pray God will watch over her and strengthen her in her new-found faith.

We are thankful to report those that have found peace with God and man. These precious souls are Brad and Joy Meyer. They anxiously await to give their testimonies on the weekend of March 11 and 12.

On February 8, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Chalea Knobloch welcomed the arrival of their third child, Blain Edwin. He joins Chalsea and Garth. Grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch.

On February 18, Curtiss Knobloch was joined in matrimony to Laurie Mowry. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee Knobloch. May God bless the newlyweds as they establish a home together.

We say good-bye to Sis. Melody Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) as she leaves our area to take up employment in the Minneapolis area. We will miss her presence and pray she will be happy in her new home.

Bro. Robert Gerber (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Fred Metzger (Sis. Esty) both submitted to surgery recently but are on the road to recovery at home again. Also spending time in the hospital were Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Joanna Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Rose Moser wishes to express their deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, flowers, food and acts of love shown at the passing of their beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Ione DeHaan, Sis. Mariann (Bro. Elmer) Metzger, Bro. Leo (Sis. Leona) Moser, Sis. Betty (Bro. Paul) Leuthold, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Bro. Franklin (Sis. Verna) Moser, Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Roy) Metzger, Sis. Donna (Bro. John) Gerber and Sis. Janet Wysong.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We rejoice with our Bro. Ted Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha) as his engagement to Sis. Carrie Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley, Pulaski, IA) was announced on February 12. Sis. Carrie has been living in our area and attending college. We are thankful that God has brought them together and may they look to Him as they plan for their marriage.

At the time of this writing, our Elder Bro. Ed is off to West Bend for the mid-winter Elder Conference. May God be near our shepherds and give them the courage to stand and sound the warning amid the bitter onslaught of Satan. May we as the sheep ever listen to their warnings and follow our God more earnestly.

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein

We enjoyed a blessed weekend when Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) ministered to us. Bro. Wayne assisted Bro. Ed in reading the Memorandum and we surely appreciated their kind thoughts and concerns for our precious church.

Two couples have recently announced their engagement. Dan Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Heather Humphrey (Mike and Sharri, Bloomfield);

and Sis. Carrie Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Ted Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha, Oakville). We wish both of these couples God's guidance as they undertake this important step.

Our prayers are with Bro. Paul Teubel (Sis. Charlotte) as he has been afflicted with back problems. Also our hearts go out to Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich (Bro. Bill) who has spent some time in the hospital. When our loved ones are afflicted, may we never take our own health for granted.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Dennis Teubel wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for all the prayers and many kind expressions of sympathy and love shown to our family in the past. We are so thankful Dennis could find grace to repent while he was able which has been such a comfort to us. We appreciated the kindness of many who helped care for Dennis at home so he wouldn't have to spend the rest of his days in a nursing home. The love of our brethren was noticed even by those who we have done business with. May the Lord bless all for caring.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

God saw the road was getting rough,

The hills were hard to climb,
 And so He closed His loving eye
 And whispered peace by thine.
 The weary days, the hours of pain,
 The weary nights are passed.
 The ever-patient worn out frame
 Has found sweet rest at last.

Author Unknown

On January 19, God in His mercy called our dear Bro. Ervin Mogler (Sis. Elma) Home to rest, after patiently enduring much

suffering and pain, keeping the faith to the end. Our love and sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Elma, who so faithfully stood by his side and ministered to him during his long illness; to his children, Sis. Beverly (Bro. Curtis) Knapp and Sis. Joan (Bro. Gerald) Rudin (Cissna Park, IL), Sis. Mary (Bro. Manuel) Gerber and Bro. Chuck (Sis. Beth) Mogler (West Bend), and Sis. Harriet (Bro. Bruce) Metzger (Lester); 20 grandchildren; brothers, August Mogler (Eureka, IL), Bro. Nathan Mogler (West Bend), Bro. Andy Mogler (Lester); sister, Sis. Leah Schaer (Oakville), Rachel Park (Bettendorf), and Lorene Farrell (Davenport).

Among those present at the funeral was Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We appreciate his part in adding to the service with a prayer.

WHAT CANCER CAN'T DO

Cancer is so limited...
 It cannot cripple love,
 It cannot shatter hope,
 It cannot corrode faith,
 It cannot eat away peace,
 It cannot destroy confidence,
 It cannot kill friendship,
 It cannot shut out memories,
 It cannot silence courage,
 It cannot invade the soul,
 It cannot reduce eternal life,
 It cannot quench the Spirit,
 It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.

Then so soon, on January 30, the same family was stricken with grief as Sis. Elma's brother, Donald Zaugg, age 66, was so suddenly taken from this life. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family who keenly feel the loss of their dear brother and uncle: brothers, Bro. Ed Zaugg and Richard Zaugg (West Bend); sisters, Leah Franck (Battle Creek, MI), Eva Banwart, Sis. Elma Mogler

and Sis. Betty Rose Banwart (West Bend), and Ruby Besch (Rodman).

Also, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Donna Tapavica (the late Bro. Mike of our congregation), Webster City, IA on the death of her mother, Margaret Frakes, also of Webster City.

Our love and sympathy to the family of Sis. Marie Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS), which includes her children of our congregation, Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and family, and Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and family.

May our Heavenly Father comfort the hearts of these loved ones as they say farewell to those so dear to them, knowing that He understands their sorrow and all things are in His hands. These families appreciate the prayers and kindnesses shown to them during this time.

Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt were blessed with a baby girl, Dana Renae, on February 5. Happy grandparents to share their love are Sis. Velma Rinckenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt. May God be near all our young families as they bring up the children He has entrusted to them.

It seems we've had many in our congregation suffer bodily afflictions. Surgical hospital patients have been Sis. Kathy Metzger (Bro. Leland), and Bro. Jay Schmidt (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy). Others in the hospital have been Trent Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Calvin Bruellman (John and Cindy), Bro. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille), Miriam Frieden, Alice Metzger (Bernard), and Sis. Katie Ludwig. Not hospitalized but injured in a fall is Sis. Betty Rose Banwart (Bro. Albert) with a broken wrist. At this writing, all are home again. Our prayers are that God will continue to comfort and

strengthen each one of them and that they can soon assemble with us again.

On January 21, Bro. Tim Butikofer (Elgin, IA) presented us the World Relief slides taken of the work done in Haiti and other areas of World Relief projects. We appreciated the presentation and may God bless all that participate in these projects.

In these next few days we are looking forward to hosting the mid-winter Elder Conference. It is our prayer that all will be carried out to the will of our Heavenly Father.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We gathered at Shioda church on Saturday, February 11 (Japan's national Founding Day), for our annual brother meeting. This consists of having a summary of last year's Conference in the States in the morning and having an open discussion on issues relating to our churches in the afternoon. This year that included discussing ways we can reach out more to people around us.

Gary Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) has arrived here and is staying with Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa while looking for employment in the Tokyo area. We are thankful for his added attendance in church.

Because it is still the headline of all news here, I have heard many stories of the great earthquake that struck Kobe last month. A few are worth mentioning.

In church one Sunday, an older brother related a story about a certain national house-building company. When the quake struck, probably no one thought that their house was that much different than anyone else's. However, when assessing dam-

age, all other housing developers saw a portion of their houses destroyed, while this particular company saw all of their houses intact (except in landslides). The government awarded this company for excellence. The other developers were shamed and had a hard time admitting that their construction was faulty. In drawing a spiritual connection, let's think about our own "spiritual houses". Are we allowing Jesus, the Masterbuilder, who makes no mistakes, to build our "house", or are we looking to others or to our weak selves?

Other stories that I've heard deal with the time shortly before the quake. People on walks outside reported seeing strange lights in the pre-dawn sky several seconds before the quake. Fishermen on the coast reported being able to catch no fish several days before the quake struck. Residents reported that all rats, crows, etc. had completely disappeared several days before the quake. Surely this quake was an act of God, but what intrigues me is how the animals had more spiritual sight than the humans. We must never underestimate the power of God. God bless you and give you a cheerful day.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman Lori Baumgartner

Now I have vowed to fear and love
thee
And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;
I feel Thy Holy Spirit move me
And freely pledge myself Thine
own,
Renouncing sin to keep the faith
And war with evil unto death.

Zion's Harp #41

January 25 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness

the baptism of Steve Buser (Bob and Ellen, Sabetha, KS). On February 12 we witnessed the baptisms of Kristen Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) and Carmen Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy). We rejoice as we welcome these three new souls into the body of Christ.

We are always thankful when we hear of another soul seeking the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Jason Strahm (Clayton and Miriam) as he has seen a need to make this new beginning.

On January 29, Sis. Shirley Strahm (the late Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Lorene) and Bro. Darrell Rufener (Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma, Rittman, OH) were united in marriage. May they feel the Lord's nearness as they establish their new home in Rittman.

We are happy to announce the safe arrival of Caitlyn Jo who was born February 9 to Greg and Sis. Carol Renyer. She is welcomed home by her brothers and sisters, Clinton, Cabriel, Geoffry, Gessica and Garrett. Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and George and Clea Renyer are the happy grandparents.

"...It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Bro. Steve Aberle has returned home from Jamaica and Bro. Steve Meyer (Sis. Kaye) from Haiti where each have willingly given of their time and their talents in work projects in the Caribbean.

Hospitalized during this past month were Ezra Meyer, Sis. Katie Grimm (Bro. Paul) for a knee replacement, and Bro. Wilhelm Metzger for knee surgery. May the Lord provide healing and recovery as He sees best.

We appreciated the visiting

ministers that assembled with us to share God's Word. This month they were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Reminder: March is the month of Silver Lining collection.

Note of Thanks:

Very special thanks to our church family for the many prayers, cards and gifts given to us since Olivia's birth and recent heart surgery. We believe your sincere prayers have helped Olivia to recover so quickly. It is our prayer that each one will be blessed for their kindness.

Bro. Jeff, Sis. Kim, Miranda and Olivia Baumgartner

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

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

Proverbs 18:22

Daniel Williams (Ron Williams and Linda Wheeler) and Taira Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb) have announced their engagement. They are planning a June wedding.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda Kraft and their family as they bid Harold's father an earthly farewell. What a blessed privilege we have in knowing that by God's grace we will meet again in Heaven.

Tom and Jan Byler spent a long day of waiting as their daughter, Kimberly, underwent surgery. As always, God was faithful and Kimmy is now at home anxiously awaiting the doctor's permission

to go back to school.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

II Timothy 3:14,15

As our dear Elder brethren came home with encouragement and admonitions from the annual winter Conference, let us remember that as we prayed for God's presence at their meetings we must pray that God will give us grace to accept their teachings. Surely our Heavenly Father knows what is beneficial for us.

On March 19 we were blessed with a very special Sunday. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft were here with their family. Not only did it help fill our small congregation but our pulpit as well. Bro. Lloyd, Bro. Bill Emch and Bro. Tim Zimmerman are all ministers at the Gridley-Lamont church. As we spent the day together and enjoyed a potluck supper after church, our hearts were filled. We want to thank these brothers for ministering to us and also a special thank you to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi as he was left to minister alone at their home church.

KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

Forsake me not, give grace the load to carry.

Bliss shall replace the murm'ings of the weary,
When once this pilgrim journey is forgot.

Forsake me not, forsake me not.

Hymns of Zion #252

We had no hospital patients this month, but have some in poor health. May we always remember to keep others in our prayers.

Our church is looking forward to the return of several who are gone for the winter. We miss each one who can't assemble with us every Sunday.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

Our Kansas month of February was exceptionally Spring-like. The sunshine and warmth was so welcome and refreshing. We know, all too well, that caution is still needed in attending our precious little buds and flowering heads, as they still may suffer great set-back from winter frost.

The loss of a loved one is always a hard thing, especially when we see our older "pillars" leaving us one by one. Bro. Sam Kraft passed away and funeral services were held on February 11. Bro. Sam has lived at the Care home in Sabetha since 1992. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Esther, in 1994 and a son, John, in 1991. Survivors include a daughter, Virginia Morrison, of Colorado; five sons, Richard, Arizona; Sam, Emporia; retired minister, Bro. Harold, Ft. Scott; Glenn; and ministering Bro. Lloyd of Gridley, KS. Two sisters, Emma Ott and Sis. Ada Beyer, and a brother, Frank Kraft, all of Gridley. We ask for God's comfort upon this dear family and extend our deepest sympathy to each one.

An open reception was held for retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker to celebrate his 90th birthday. What a joy to share in a celebration of so many years, when it's spent serving such a loving God. For this occasion, we especially thank ministering Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) for being here with us. Our thanks also to Elder Bro. Sam

Huber (Sabetha, KS) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

Hospitalized this past month was Paul Wernli, son of Bro. Roy and Betty Wernli. Paul must have been quite ill with pneumonia, admitted for quite a few days and released before many of us learned of his illness. We wish him a full and complete recovery. Also hospitalized was Kayla Bahr for surgery and Kendon Bahr to critical care for recovery of a skull fracture. Both are children of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr. We are truly thankful that God's healing power is a miracle of love!

The Elders of our churches united together this month. What a joy it must be to have so many men, who love the Lord, seize this opportunity afforded to them still today. To be able to unite together under one blessed Father and reason together, encouraging and uplifting one another in the Lord! Each one of us must fervently pray that our government will continue to allow us these precious opportunities.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm

Our annual business meeting was held the end of January. We appreciate all the efforts put forth for the physical care of the church. May God bless each one. May He also bless and guide those given new duties so that His will can be done here on earth.

We had a new birth on February 1. Jed William joined the family of Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter, Jacob, Lena and Joshua. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Wanetta Plattner (Bern, KS). May God bless them as they raise their children in His ways.

We also have witnessed the re-birth of two dear souls. Kalynn

Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Don Strahm (Sis. Helen and the late Bro. Paul) have repented, been converted and were baptized on February 5. We rejoice with them and trust God will be with them even unto the end. Many visitors were here and among them were Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). Elder Bro. Mark Bahr ministered to us also this month. We appreciate the Word brought forth by each of them.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Lydia Meyer and Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marion), and those having surgery were Bro. Joe Menold (Sis. Tillie) and Dan Wenger. We trust God will be with each one and grant healing or the grace to accept His will.

Our dear Sis. Marie Kellenberger passed away at the hospital on February 7. We are thankful she has won the victory and her suffering has ended. She was 88 years old and is survived by her children: Bro. Gene, Leo, Lynn, Danny, Jerry, Bro. Randy (Kansas City, MO), Sis. Verda Bruellman and Bro. Rick (both of West Bend, IA) and Joyce Woodworth (Wichita). Also, one brother, Bro. Dan Steiner (Eureka, IL). May they all feel God's comforting hand.

Bro. Sam Kraft passed away at the Home on February 8. His funeral services were held at our Lamont church.

Reminder: April is the month for our Silver Lining collection.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation extended sympathy to Sis. Nellie Lambert in the loss of her sister,

Sis. Faye Percy, of Sabetha. Sis. Faye lived in Wichita during the World War II years.

February 14 was the wedding date for Bea Hook and Hans Huffman. Hans is Sis. Gussie Wullschleger's grandson and has faithfully attended our Bible Study sessions. May the Lord bless this new family unit.

Bro. Phillip Bowers, our paralytic brother, has undergone some changes in his life and I asked him to give me some details for the Silver Lining. He graciously sent me the following letter which I would like to submit in full so you, too, can rejoice in the working of our Lord in all things.

February 11, 1995

Dear Sister Emma,

This is just a note to let you know of the recent changes that have occurred in my life. My parents and I have reached that stage in life where we need consistent health care. As you know, Mom had breast cancer surgery this past August and Dad had a couple of strokes in September. I have had major back surgeries in the past two years and will have to go through more surgery in March. My twin sister, Phyllis (Ruthie), is a Registered Nurse and has always provided my home health care needs. She works at the Saint Francis Regional Medical Center here in Wichita, KS. She and her family live about nine blocks from us and she has always been able to come over and help when needed. However, since our health needs now require more of her attention and supervision, it became necessary to come up with a livable and workable solution that would be beneficial to both families. Ruthie and Jonathon Long, her husband, had always expressed the loving desire to

have me live with them one day. They both have a strong commitment to God and family.

We had a family meeting with all the immediate family members last September about this matter. In this meeting, Ruthie and Jonathon expressed their desire to have Mom, Dad, and I come and live with them. It was decided to put up our house for sale and build on an addition to their house. They live on a corner lot and we were able to draw up plans to turn their house into a duplex. Last October, Max Reimschisel's Construction Company began work on the project. Also, during this time, the church took up a collection to purchase a Barrier Free Lift System that would enable me to get in and out of the bed and bathtub more easily. The church, the Sunday School children, the Mission Committee, and my family all lovingly gave so that I might be able to purchase this lift system. This wonderful gift has touched my life in many ways. First of all, it has enabled me to get in and out of bed with less pain. Secondly, and more importantly, it has been a great help to those who help me. They now do not have the back strain and stress when transferring me from the bed to the chair. Also, this system and its ease of use, has enabled others to help who once were not able to. Thirdly, this gift has made me more independent. I teach at the Wichita State University here in Wichita and have for the most part taught evening classes. However, this semester I have to teach morning classes every day and this system has enabled me to meet that schedule.

It is now February and we've moved into our nearly completed apartment. It's a very warm and cozy place to live. Max and his crew did a wonderful job on this new place. Ruthie's family and

Mom, Dad, and I now live side by side in our duplex. There is an entrance into our side through my bedroom so that Ruthie can come in and be able to give us the health care that we need. The Lord has really blessed both of our families in this new living arrangement. For we now are able to help her and her family in return. Mom can watch Ruthie's children while she and Jonathon are at work. Also, I have been able to tutor her children in their homework they bring home from school. The Lord has truly blessed both families in our time of need. He has never forsaken us! Praise God!

In Christ's love,
Bro. Phillip Bowers

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Doug and Rebecca Germann**

This month we have been privileged to have many visitors. We especially want to thank Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller who came to share of their time, as Bro. Todd shared God's Word with us. Also, we appreciated Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz's visit, as Bro. Ben shared the pulpit with Bro. Lester. We sincerely appreciate all those who have come to visit and support our congregation!

Our thoughts and prayers are with our neighbor and friend, Edna Clements, who recently had surgery.

Our Sunday School students recently had a get-together and we began a study on our church history. The students are also making a light map of our churches.

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope
and our fond expectation
Hark to the voice that is calling in
kind invitation
That hand obey, Which oft has
pointed the way
To the dear Saviour's salvation.

Zion's Harp #168

Once again, we extend a hearty invitation to all who are traveling to join us for services. Services are each Sunday at 10:00 and 12:15 and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 EST.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Jane Grawburg**

We rejoice with Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen on the arrival of a new grandson, Zachary Caleb, born on February 3. Zachary's parents are Nathan and Susan Steffen of Wayland, MI. Zachary is their first child.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer want to share with everyone that on February 3, Patrick and Annie Meyer, their son and daughter-in-law of Hobart, MI welcomed little Molly Jennifer into the world. Molly is their third child.

Sis. Jane Grawburg wants to let everyone know that on February 11, little Camrin Roger came into the world. Camrin's parents are Brian and Ceri Grawburg of Clarksville, MI. Camrin is their first child.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough became grandparents to Connor Jackson Lloyd Blough on February 18. Connor's parents are Gordon and Tricia Blough. Connor is their third child.

We have had showers of wonderful blessings this month! My, how our Lord provides!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Marlene Mosher****Janel C. Ramseyer**

This is the month the entire United States seems to be focusing on love. Valentine's Day has grown to the point that sales of flowers and candy for this day far exceed sales on Easter or Christ-

mas. The word "love" is everywhere, on cards, in newspaper ads; even printed on candy. The word "love" is used without discretion. So what is love? It's one of those words you hear a lot, but that is never truly defined. The dictionary defined love as "affection based on admiration or benevolence," but I know it's so much more. I know this, quite simply, because the Bible says so. I John 3:16 says "Hereby we perceive the love of God, because He laid down His life for us..." and I John 4:10 says "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." In other words, we can understand the depth of God's love, and truly, the nature of love itself, by knowing that His concern for us was so overwhelming that He sacrificed His own Son (God, Himself, in the flesh), to make us favorable in His sight. He gave himself in human form to reconcile and atone for OUR sins. We know that Christ died to pay for our sin, but what amazes me is that He also laid down His life -- His rights to Himself. Daily. Hourly. He knew He could have walked away from the cross and His Father; the Almighty, the sovereign Master of the Universe could have devised another plan of redemption. But Christ gave up His rights to His body, His thoughts, and His will for us. You and me. Each one who will accept this act of true love.

So when I gauge what I describe as love in my life against the true, divine definition, I fall far short. It's hard to give up your "rights", especially in these 90's when the world tries to tell you to hold on to them. It's hard to choose to be used for another's purposes, but we are instructed to do this. We are told in the Scriptures twelve times to "love one another" and seventeen times to "love the

Lord". We are told to love God's law and His covenant, to love our enemies, and to love peace. Quite a job, isn't it? I see people daily who are crying out for someone to really and truly, unconditionally love them. And it's not always people on the streets; sometimes it's the person in the next cubicle at work, next to us on the pew, and across from us at the breakfast table. Like a desert, their hearts are barren and unable to sustain life, they are dying inside. But those of us who know what and who Love is have the Living Water from the well that never runs dry. Let's freely give this Love as we have freely received, without prejudice, bias, or judgement. Let's make an effort to see others as God sees them -- not measuring them against the law, but through the blood covering the mercy seat; through the cross holding His Son. That is Love.

This past weekend Stacie Cluff (Jon and Sis. Darleen Cluff) and Mike Johnson were joined in marriage. It is our sincere prayer that God will continue to guide them as He has joined their lives together.

We are rejoicing with Bob Grew and his family as he has expressed the desire to join us in worship through repentance. We trust that God will richly and eternally reward those who live according to His purpose and welcome Bob into our fellowship.

We are continually in prayer for our dear Bro. Eli Schlatter who is still in a nursing home and for his wife, Sis. Ella, who gives her time and energy for his care. We trust God will mightily encourage and uplift them in this time of struggle.

As Aaron blessed the Israelites, so is our prayer of blessing for you all, our family and friends: "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto

thee: The Lord lift His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Tessa Schamback

As winter progresses, we can look around us and see the miracles that God performs every day of our lives. The sun comes up each day to light our way. The wind still blows through the bare branches of the trees making a unique and lovely song. And the crisp white snow sparkles on the ground like a sea of crystals. God showers us with so many blessings.

We praise Him for the miracle of healing and strength that He has given to our loved ones here in Detroit. Recovering from surgery this winter are Ken Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary), Jason Allen (Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanette), Sis. JoAnn Gudeman (Bro. Keith), Bro. John Orcsik (Sis. Esther), and Bro. Bill Kujawa (Sis. Darlene). God has also granted healing and recovery to Katie Haines (Leland Haines) after a slip and fall accident. We continue to trust God to restore them all to full health.

As we witness the miracle of God's healing, we are also reminded of God's grace and comfort in times of need. Feeling this comfort, Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue will miss Randy's grandmother (Sis. Grace Marty, Rittman, OH) who passed into eternity on February 5. It is a miracle that though our life here on earth will end, our life in eternity will have just begun.

It is through faith that we strive for eternity in heaven with our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is refreshing to hear the message of Christ's love on Sundays and throughout the week. On March 7, Toledo will be hosting services at Woodhaven beginning at 7:30 p.m. All are

welcome to come and hear the good news of the Gospel.

As we move on through life, let us not forget all that God has done for us. We need to take time in our busy schedules to stop and look around us at all the miracles that God has performed. And while we are at it, let us offer up our praise.

Reminder: Detroit subscriptions are due in the month of April.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

We welcome Sis. Nancy Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois, Winthrop) and Sis. Melody Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester) who recently moved to the area. We hope they can feel at home here.

Beatrice Miller was in the hospital and is now residing in a nursing home. We pray that her health can be restored so that she will be able to assemble with us again if it is God's will.

We held our annual business meeting on February 11. Those who were elected to new positions were Bro. Harold Fritz, trustee; Bro. Leo Banwart, usher; Bro. Dave Stewart, substitute usher and recorder; Bro. Perry Virkler, Silver Lining correspondent; Sis. Diane Stewart, World Relief activity group leader; Sis. Ethel Bednarski and Sis. Sherry Fritz, Food Committee. We thank those who served us this past term.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder

Linda Schmidgall

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I John 1:9

We are rejoicing with Don Jones (Susan) and Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel) as they have answered God's call and have made a beginning in repentance. We are thankful for both and pray the Lord will help them to continue growing in Him the rest of their lives.

Submitting to surgery this past month were Bros. Cork Fehr, Dennis Schmidgall, Ken Koehl and Sis. Mabel Schmidgall. Those in the hospital were Bro. Alvin Nohl and Sis. Lois Schmidgall.

We warmly welcome Sis. Amy Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) who has moved back from Minneapolis. May she feel our love.

God has blessed Sis. Shelly and Bro. Chris Koehl with a precious little girl on January 30. Kaitlin Ann is welcomed home by her sister, Olivia, and grandparents, Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl and Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Nohl.

On February 5, the engagement of Sis. Dana Sutter (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Chris Leman (Bloomington, IL) was announced. As they plan their wedding, may they look to God for His guidance.

We appreciate the loving instructions and admonitions given us as Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Art in sharing the Memorandum and ministering God's Word to us. May the Lord bless Bro. Ken and Sis. Suzanne for their efforts on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, food and visits during our daughter, Lynette (Greiner) Eystad's, illness and at the time of her passing. We will always remember everyone for all they have done at

this difficult time. It was greatly appreciated.

The Emil Greiner and Dan Eystad families

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Jan Messner

Greetings!

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

Hymns of Zion #207

We are rejoicing that the beautiful season of Spring is coming! We have so many "snow birds" leave us in the cold winter months and it seems so quiet and so few here in our congregation. We want our "snow birds" to know how much we miss them and are so looking forward to their return.

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Sis. Joyce and family for laboring on our behalf one Sunday this past month. We appreciate so much the effort made to spend time with us here in Winthrop.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner and Tyler will be living in Moscow, Idaho until June, at which time they will be moving back to Minnesota, Lord willing. Their address is:

Rick, Brenda and Tyler Messner
1122 East 7th
Moscow, ID 83843

There are friendships that we
cherish
In our daily walk of life
Friends with whom we meet and
labor
In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and
youthful,
Friends that live from us apart

Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion #91

We miss you three and we would like you to know that you will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers here and we look forward to your return.

We had one dear brother undergo surgery this past month. Bro. Ray Messner (Sis. Bernadine) had surgery while living down in Florida for the winter. We will continue to pray for our Bro. Ray as he recovers from his operation. May God place His healing hand upon him.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Many thanks to Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for ministering to us on January 29. We thank you for your labors and welcome you back anytime.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and family in the death of his mother, Sis. Marie Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart

Becky Marti

We appreciated the recent visit of Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless him for sharing God's Word with us.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard), Sis. Hilda Stefan (Bro. Willie), Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) and Leon Luthi (Teresa) who broke his leg in a farm accident.

Funeral services were held on February 8 for Walter Widmer. Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) was here to help with the service for his uncle. Walter is survived by a brother, Ed Widmer (Sis. Gla-

dys), of Wolcott, IN and a sister, Mary Engelage, of Lamar.

Our prayers are with the Elders as they gather this week for the winter Conference. May God grant them the needed grace to carry out their important duties and responsibilities.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The new year has brought us many visitors, for which we are thankful. Visiting ministers include the following brothers: Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We thank these ministers, their wives and each visitor for making the effort to come and worship with us and for their love and encouragement.

We received so many valuable teachings and warnings. We were encouraged to stay close to the Spirit so we can hear it, because it speaks to us quietly.

We were warned to beware of Satan's friendliness. We all have probably experienced a very friendly salesman who treats us so well before the sale is made. Then if we call him later concerning some problem, he has a much different attitude---he is cold and turns his back on us. Satan is the same---once he has us, he is on to other things. Then we see the cold, hard truth.

We were encouraged to help each other. Some can reassure others, when they are faced with adversity, that they have also experienced problems, and God has helped them through. So often problems appear overwhelming, and a person may feel that his problem is unique. There is nothing new under the sun, we know, and one can help his brother by sharing experiences and by hold-

ing up the hurting person in prayer.

We need to keep our focus on our goal---HEAVEN. Heaven will be better than the best that we know here on earth.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

Though the mid-winter Conference has already passed, may we as believers continue to encourage and uphold our Elder brethren for their efforts and responsibilities each one has taken on. In these times that we live, Satan is working overtime in trying to destroy this most precious faith we have.

As time passes on, may we all learn to love and pray for each other more sincerely.

On February 5 the Bible Class traveled to Fairbury, IL for ACYF. We thank God for his traveling mercies in allowing each one to return home safely.

February 2 was a blessed day for Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton as God blessed them with a new baby girl, Catherine Linette ("Katie"). She was welcomed home by her two older brothers, Sam, age 10, and Timothy, 15 months, and her big sister, Mary Beth, age 8. The happy grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel (Francisville, IN) and Lanette Landreth (Phoenix, AZ).

Special thanks to Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for lending himself to bring us God's Word this past month.

On Sunday, February 19, the Sunday School gathered together in the evening to prepare school and medical kits for world relief. Afterwards, pizza was enjoyed by all.

Our prayers are with Sis. Rose Hoerr and Sis. Elizabeth Hoerr for the passing away of their sister-in-law, Marie Frieden.

Also, our heartfelt sympathy

was extended to the family of Henry R. "Hank" Hodel (Sis. Loida) who passed away February 1. His children are Sis. Elaine Hoerr, Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor); Nancy Oberlander (La Cana, CA); Anne Dossey (Eureka, IL); Rebecca Hilst (Gurnee, IL); and Bro. Ron and Keven Hodel (Bloomington, IL).

Note of Thanks:

A sincere "thanks" and may God bless each of you who helped during the illness and death of our dear one, Henry Hodel. The visits, cards, gifts and flowers were deeply appreciated and will always be a "precious memory" of those who cared.

Sis. Loida Hodel and family

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

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord;
Here from far and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord.
Welcome, welcome, All ye loved
ones:

Greetings in the Saviour's name.
Peace and love impel the greeting,
Greetings do our love impart;
Christian greetings are a blessing,
As a pray'r console the heart.
There is comfort, peace and
blessings,
Of a greeting in the Lord.

Hymns of Zions #7

January 28 and 29 was a blessed weekend for our small congregation when about 25 members and friends from the Rockville church traveled to be with us. A covered dish meal and song service were enjoyed on Saturday evening. The Word of God was brought forth through the lips of Bro. Duane Reutter on Sunday. Our thanks go to God for the many

blessings we were able to have and then our appreciation goes to Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay and their family and the many others who traveled to be with us for the weekend.

Bro. Roy Sturtze (Sis. Edna) was a medical patient for several days and Don Petzoldt (Sis. Rita) was hospitalized for a hip replacement. Kim Beck was hospitalized several days following surgery for a broken ankle and broken leg. May God be the Healer for each of these loved ones. We think of the many others who cannot assemble with us regularly and ask for God's strength and comfort for them.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and greetings from Akron. We are grateful for the many ministering brethren who have visited in recent weeks. These include: Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bros. Earl Beery and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). We appreciate their labors.

As we heard the words of the Memorandum, let us give thanks for the admonitions and encouragement and strive to walk faithfully with our Lord.

Many gathered to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Joanna Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce) and Joe and Esther Grossenbacher. In their conversion experiences, we see that God hears those who call on Him in repentance, whether in days of youth or in later years of life.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Gasser, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser in the loss of their father, Bro. Arthur Gasser (Smithville, OH).

Also, we extend sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder and their children in the loss of Bro. Fred's mother, Martha Grawunder (Dresden, E. Germany), on January 22.

Sandra Bako (Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie) and Roy Haga (Roy, Sr. and Peggy) were united in marriage on January 21. We will miss Sandra and Roy as they establish their new home in Florida where Roy will work as a loan analyst. May they seek God's direction and may He richly bless their marriage.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

As winter has finally appeared with plenty of ice and snow, we are so appreciative of the visiting ministers and their families who have traveled to be with us this month. Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH) shared God's Word with us and we are so thankful for their efforts.

We were happy to have Sis. Michelle Wiegand assembling with us once more after a bout with pneumonia and thank God for His healing power.

Paxton and Denise Williams welcomed Colby Steven into their home this month and big sister, Amanda, truly loves her new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder and Fred and Sue Williams.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli) has recovered nicely from surgery. We missed her during the short time that she couldn't attend church.

Sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) at the loss of his father, Bro. Arthur Gasser (Smithville, OH). We know that it is difficult to be separated by miles when an aging parent is ailing. We are glad that his work on earth is done and that he could go to his heavenly reward.

Our hearts were warmed when ministering Bros. Jim Byrd and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) visited our church. We so appreciate our minister's tireless efforts to preach the truth and only the truth. For the third Sunday in a row, the Bible opened to Revelations. Each of the three ministers confessed his feeling of inadequacy to meditate on this great book of prophecy, but each time the Lord provided more than enough. May God bless you for your faithfulness.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

Growing up in the Apostolic Christian faith it seems that sometimes I take certain blessings for granted. The other day at work I encountered a female patient who was going to have a relatively major operation. The tragic thing was she had no one with her. She was not sure if her children would be coming to visit. She did not have a minister to pray for her, and no close friends were aware of her surgery.

I had to stop and think about how different her lot would have been if she was a sister or friend of our faith.

When someone is ill, many

prayers are offered. The loved one is visited in the hospital or at home. There are offers of help and meals are taken to the family.

May we continue to remember in our prayers those who were hospitalized and may God grant them healing and strength.

Sis. Ruth Stoller (Bro. Ralph), Bro. Gale Stoller (Sis. Janet) and Bob Price (Aldean) underwent surgery this past month. All have returned home and we pray that with time they will be able to assemble with us again.

Meghan Kuhn (Matt and Theresa) was hospitalized briefly and Arthur Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) was protected from serious injury when he fell from a hay-mow.

On January 22, many from our Latty congregation traveled to Eureka to witness the wedding of our Bro. Jerry Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine) and Sis. Cherry Rocke (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev, Eureka, IL). May Jesus be the center of their lives as they walk life's pathway together. We want to welcome Sis. Cherry to our church in Latty.

May God richly bless Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for visiting and bringing forth the Word in truth.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Esther Zody, who has gone on to her eternal rest. At the passing of a loved one, it is a comfort to know that our earthly friends and family gather around us to offer sympathy and support. May it be a greater comfort to Esther's family to know that there is a God who understands our every heartache.

"O Lord my God, I cried unto

thee, and thou hast healed me."
Psalm 30:2

Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline, along with their son, Brian, and his wife, Danyelle, have felt the healing touch of the Lord on Brian and Danyelle's daughter, Jaclyn, who spent some time in the hospital this past month. Sis. Wilma Sauder is also feeling the healing hand of the Lord as she is recovering from surgery.

With the cold weather we have been having, there are many loved ones who have been ill at home and have not been able to assemble with us. We pray for the healing touch of our Father on each one of them and hope if the world should stand, we may all assemble together again.

With the coming of the spring season, let us all compare the earthly spring to the "Time of Spring" that will be when we reach our Heavenly goal. As the weather warms, we can witness the "rebirth" of all living things around us. It seems as if everyone is happier in the spring. If we can feel that joy over the earthly rebirth of things, imagine what joy it will be when the saints experience their "rebirth" on the right hand of the Father. May the blessings of spring be with you all.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Linda Ramsier
Marsha Rufener

Several from our congregation have lost loved ones in recent days. Our prayers are with Bro. Phillip and Sis. Theresa Keiper on the death of their son, Jerry.

Our sympathy is also with Bro. Alvin Steiner (Sis. Eldora) on the death of his uncle, Pete Kroeger.

Bro. Charles Zollinger was called Home on January 28. He will surely be missed by all, especially his family; Carl (Sis.

Martha), Sis. Vera Indermuhle (Bro. Lloyd, Smithville), Sis. Marjorie Boltz (Bro. Robert), Bro. Rudy (Sis. Brenda), Duane (Pat), Bro. Gary (Sis. Terry, Sardis), and Karen Braid (Dan).

Our Lord also called Sis. Grace Marty to her final resting place on February 5. She too will be missed by her family; Sis. Carolyn, Sis. Kathryn Bachman (Bro. Eugene), Robert (Loretta), Galen (Nancy), Bro. Dean (Sis. Martha Lou, Smithville), Roger (Madge), Leo (Joyce), Sis. Doris Gasser, Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Robert, Smithville), and Sis. Joyce Stoller (Bro. Fred).

Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura Gerber welcomed Courtney Lynn on February 2. Jeffrey, Melissa and Amy have a new little playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber and Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer.

Logan Berg, born February 7, joined the family of Bro. Heinz and Sis. Tanya Zierau, Paige and Blake. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Zierau and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Hospital patients this month have been: Jeanette Calame (Bro. John II and Sis. Jody), Jim Gasser (Rebecca), Bro. Homer Hartzler, Sis. Ruth Hilty, Bro. Vern Lanz (Sis. Deanna), and Sis. Beverly Moore (Randy). May the Lord be near each one.

May the Lord continue to guide the lives of Bro. Darrell and Sis. Shirley (Strahm, Bern, KS) Rufener, as they begin their life as one in the Lord. Many were privileged to witness as they made their vows to the Lord and each other on January 29. Parents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener.

We want to thank Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for laboring among us and bringing forth the Good Word.

We were privileged to listen to

the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assisted Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Henry Dotterer. May we take the precious teachings and apply them to our lives.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

Offices filled for the 1995 year were kitchen committee and Sunday School superintendent. Elected to the respective positions were Sis. Mim Brake and Bro. Gary Zollinger.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Karen (Bro. Bob) Indermuhle on the death of her grandmother, Inez Brown, and step-brother, Chiti Stoll.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank you all for the prayers, food, cards and for doing the barn chores. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will long be remembered.

Sis. Hazel Riggerbach

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Margaret Blough
Edith Miller

"Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path..."

Psalm 27:11

We enjoyed a blessed evening together as we gathered with the Rittman congregation recently for the reading of the Memorandum from the 1994 Conference. We thank our own Elders along with Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for inspired messages to help us to stay on the "plain path".

We are going down the valley one by one,
 When the labors of the weary day

are done;
One by one the cares of earth
forever past,
We shall stand upon the river
bank at last.

Gospel Hymns #798

It seems that the death angel has visited our community various times this past month, as faithful pillars have been called to meet their Creator.

After 89 years, Bro. Arthur Gasser could lay his armor down at last and go to rest on January 28. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sis. Bertha, and nine children, Bro. Paul (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Grace Gasser, Bro. Walter (Sis. Mary), Bro. Don (Sis. Carol), Bro. David (Sis. Gail), John (Rita), Sis. Ruth Gasser, Sis. Edith Miller (Bro. Larry), and Bro. Roger (Sis. Sue). Funeral services were conducted by Elder Bro. Andy Stoller.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Vera Indermuhle (Bro. Lloyd) and family in the death of her father, Bro. Charles Zollinger (Rittman, OH).

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Dean Marty (Sis. Martha Lou) in the death of their mother, Sis. Grace Marty (Rittman, OH).

As our older ones pass from this life, there are also new lives born into this world. On February 8, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller welcomed their third child, Neil Jeffrey. Big sisters, Evelyn and Marcy, are happy for a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH).

We are happy to see Roseanna Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) feeling so much better again after being in the hospital for nearly a week.

We wish the blessings of God upon Lindon Rufener and Leslie

Swisher as they exchanged marriage vows on January 20. Parents of this couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener and Bob and Deb Swisher.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

Psalm 145:18

We are grateful that we can call upon the Lord in times of sickness as well as in times of health. We pray for God's healing hand on Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard), who was a recent surgical patient, and Jesse Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN) who was also hospitalized.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

We ask God's blessings on our newly elected Sunday School teachers, Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN Beard and Sis. Lanna Harmon (Bro. Doug), as they teach our children of the Lord and His peace.

As we often need to be reminded of God's will for His children, we were thankful to hear the Memorandum on February 4. We appreciate the service of our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) in assisting Bro. Walter Rager on the pulpit throughout the weekend.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Lori Martin - Mary Berg

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

We are reminded of these words as Christ spoke to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven, where He is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. May we continue the work of the disciples and share the Good News of Christ to those we come in contact with, not only with words but may our walk of life be reflecting the work that Christ instructs us to do.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Todd Zollinger and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). We thank them for sharing the Word with us.

We continue our prayers of concern for those of our congregation who have been unable to worship with us due to illness. We can only pray that God's will be done in all things.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Spring is a season of renewal and hope. As we see the crocuses and daffodils bursting forth with blooms, may it impart to us a renewed hope and zeal in our spiritual lives, knowing that the same God who created such beautiful new life has also promised us life eternal in Heaven if we remain true and faithful to Him.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with several of our loved ones hospitalized recently. We are thankful Sis. Carol Dietrich is able to assemble with us again after having surgery in preparation for beginning dialysis. Sis. Esther Dettwyler has undergone a hip replacement this week and will soon transfer to a care facility for some therapy before returning to her home. Also, Bill Hari (Sis. Verla) was hospitalized this past week for some heart problems. We pray they will soon be feeling

better. Surely good health is a blessing for which we must be thankful.

At our annual elections, the following offices were filled: Trustee - Bro. Jim Kuenzi; Sound System - Bro. Jason Kuenzi and Bro. Jim Zollinger; Usher - Bro. Myron Kuenzi; Kitchen Committee - Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi. Bro. Loren Dettwyler was elected to fill the Sunday School teacher vacancy that will be created by Bro. John Wiegand's impending move to Minneapolis. We wish the newly elected brethren the Lord's grace and strength to fulfill their duties to the glory of God. Our sincere thanks to those who have faithfully completed their terms.

Progress on our new church has been very noticeable. With the sheet rock up in all areas except the sanctuary, it is much easier to visualize how it is going to look. Masonry is an ongoing project. Painting and the woodwork will be our next projects. What a blessing it is to be able to work together with our congregation and also the visiting brethren.

Reminder: February is Silver Lining collection month for Silverton.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."

Romans 15:5-7

We extend our sympathy to

Bro. David and Sis. Gail Gasser and their family in the loss of Bro. David's father, Bro. Arthur Gasser (Smithville, OH), who is survived by his wife, Sis. Bertha.

Emily Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) is recovering from nasal surgery. We thank God for providing his healing powers.

We thank Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton, IN) for being with us on the weekend of February 4 and 5. After a church supper Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Phillip assisted our Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman in reading the Conference Memorandum. We thank these two Elder Brothers for being such faithful shepherds. May we always look to Jesus.

At our January annual meeting, Bro. Nathan Gerber was selected to be our World Relief treasurer representative.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Psalms 29:2

As David was inspired to write the above verse, let us give all glory, honor, praise and thanks to God for the unspeakable number of blessings He continues to bestow upon us.

We, here in the Nashville area, are especially thankful for our church building and very nearly completed assembly room. Feeling the Spirit's guidance and that it is the Lord's will, we plan to start having services every Sunday beginning after Easter Sunday. A visiting minister will be invited for the first and third Sundays and we will meet for a tape service on the second and fourth Sundays (fifth if applicable). By doing this, we hope to be able to

more fully "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" and also hope this will help our church grow in numbers.

We also wish to thank our visitors this past month from Lexington, KY; Bluffton, IN; Athens, AL; and Morris, MN. May the Lord richly bless all of you for your fellowship and support.

We encourage anyone visiting or just passing through the area to come and worship with us. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948, or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

615-654-2139
813-739-854
TEXAS, DALLAS
Christine Kaiser
Kimberly Kaiser

We were blessed to have three ministers with us for Communion and church services on the 3rd and 4th of February. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) reminded us of our Saviour's love and sacrifice. May God bless their labors. Our Lord's Supper was held in the home of Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp. We thank them for their gracious hospitality.

We do appreciate visitors very much. Our church service schedule is occasionally altered. If you are going to be in the Dallas area, it is good to check the service schedule by calling one of the residents here in north Texas. If we inconvenience anyone, please accept our sincere apology.

Our services are usually 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 additional information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Bro. Paul Leuthold and his wife, Sis. Betty, have purchased property in Zapata and we look forward to having them as winter residents. We had many visitors this month. We are always happy when so many return to spend the winter months with us.

We had a business meeting on

January 22. Bro. Russel Stoller was elected trustee and Bro. Ben Blunier and his wife, Sis. Wilma, were elected to the food committee. We appreciate the time and effort of those who have fulfilled their term of service and we ask God's blessings on those who are assuming new roles.

February 6 we had our annual church cleaning. We want to thank all those who helped and especially our visitors.

February 12 we had Communion. It was served by our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA)

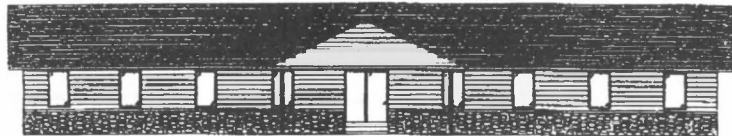
and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). Bro. Kevin's wife, Sis. Cheryl, and their family were here.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Carroll Gerber and his wife, Sis. Louise (Bluffton North, IN); Bro. Kenneth Dietz and his wife, Sis. Mardell (Bradford, IL); and Bro. Clarence Dietrich and his wife, Sis. Betty (Silverton, OR). We wish to thank them for bringing us God's Word.



GALILEAN HOME *Liberty, Kentucky*

WORK PROJECT OPPORTUNITY IN KENTUCKY



Skills needed:

1. Cement Finishers
2. Plumbers
3. Electricians
4. Carpenters
5. Dry-wall hangers
6. Dry-wall finishers

7. Finish Carpenters
8. Painters
9. Heating and air conditioning
10. General willing workers

Please forward available names to the coordinators listed below.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help

underprivileged children in our own country. We thank you for your assistance and support in this undertaking, and pray that His Spirit will lead each one to do His Perfect Will.

Girls Dormitory Building Project

The Galilean Home Ministries is faith ministry managed by Jerry and Sandy Tucker, for the purpose of caring for the homeless, abandoned, and handicapped children from around the world. Many of the children living there have severe mental and physical impairments. There has been as many as 70 to 80 living there at one time. The home is rustic surroundings in the beautiful hill country. The Tuckers belong to a group with a doctrine similar to old order Mennonites, and have the goal to teach Biblical truths to these children, while ministering to

their physical needs.

Another rewarding activity at Galilean is their "Born Free" Program. This program is the caring for the babies born to female inmates in the Federal Prison system. The babies are returned to the prisons, once each week, to maintain the tie between mother and child. When the mother has finished her sentence, if found capable by the courts, the child will be returned to her. The need has increased as they are now receiving babies from a greater number of penal institutions. Plans have been made to construct the dormitory (shown above) of wood frame de-

sign, to house the babies and their nannies. The plans call for construction to begin between February 6 and 15, 1995, with completion expected in 16 weeks. The building will have a walkout basement, which can be finished at a later date when additional rooms are required.

Bro. Jerome Witzig has offered to be the on-site coordinator, from the beginning through the end of March. Until February 11, he can be contacted by phone at (309) 747-2546, or fax (309) 747-2409. The job site phone will be (606) 787-5120. The phone number for the Galilean Home is (606) 787-8005.

AREA

Illinois
Eastern Indiana
Western Indiana
Ohio

COORDINATOR

Bro. Ken Hodel
Bro. Gerald Fiechter
Bro. Brian Furrer
Bro. Wallace Ramsier

PHONE

(309)923-7281
(219)597-7494
(219)984-5915
(419)368-3106

FAX

(309)923-7983
(219)597-7494
(219)984-5255

Silver Threads

GRANDPA, IT'S YOU WHO IS ALWAYS TRUE

Grandpa, it's you who puts in a good word
 And thoughts of yourself never occurred.
 Grandpa, it's you who are always a friend
 And a broken heart, you always can mend.
 Grandpa, it's you who's always so kind
 Fault in you I never can find.
 Grandpa, it's you who is such a great grandpa.
 I love you so much.

Written for her Grandpa, Bro. Ervin Mogler, and sent to him by grandchild, Jodi Rudin (Cissna Park, IL), who is 11 years old. Bro. Ervin has since passed away on January 19.

The Straight and Narrow Ways

When life's troubles end,
 And you reach the forked bend.
 You ponder over what to do,
 After the life you just went through.
 You know you've done some wrong in life,
 And caused some pain and grief and strife.
 And those who have done all wrong along,
 Will hear the torture of Satan's throng.
 But the people written in that Good Book of old,
 Will in Heaven have treasures untold.

Amanda Steffen

"JESUS IS OUR MASTER PATTERN"

Sermon by Bro. Jim Vierling of Eureka, IL

Deuteronomy 1:22-46 and Matthew 23

In both chapters that we have read, it is kind of depressing, really, when we stop to think of the mind of man and how disobedient he is to God. In his natural state, man is disobedient and a sinner and loves to sin. So it was in the days of the Israelites.

God drew them and chose them to be His special people. He guided them and brought them out of the land of bondage and led them and protected them with the cloud and with the fire. He did many miracles before them.

When they were hungry, He sent manna from above. It was such a miracle -- a wonderful and a beautiful miracle that manna from above could come and descend upon them to fill them and to fill their needs that they might not hunger.

Yet, after a time, they began to complain. They began to think back upon the things which they enjoyed of a physical nature in Egypt, even the meat that they could enjoy and the many other things back in Egypt. So God was not pleased.

He was not pleased because they were not satisfied. So they had to endure many afflictions and many trials and when the final time came to enter into the promised land, only the true and the faithful entered therein -- only Joshua and one other were able to enter in because of their faith.

They had gone to spy upon the land. They found giants and large obstacles in their path. They became afraid because they looked at their own strength and thought, "We cannot overcome these people. We have come all this way, these many miles and these many hardships. We have

left Egypt where we were taken care of, though we were in bondage." So they thought upon these things.

But there were two men of faith who were allowed to enter in for they knew that it would not be their own strength that would overcome those people. But it would be the strength from God -- even the power of God which would help them to overcome. They remembered the miracles which God did. They remembered His mighty power to help them to escape the bondage in which they were in. They remembered and God blessed and rewarded.

So it is with our faith, dear ones. We were all in Egypt at one time. We were in bondage and we were in sin. God helped us to escape and we are on the journey to the Promised Land. Let us never look back to the former life and the former things which we escaped from.

But rather look forward to the Promised Land and not to the hardships or to the trials and afflictions and temptations that we endure here. We need to be thankful for them for God put the cross upon each one of us.

In one of the songs that we sang this morning (I don't remember which one), but it said to, "Be thankful for the cross." So, let us be thankful for the cross for it will lead us home. It will take us home to the Promised Land where there will be no more tears, no more sorrows, and no more temptations.

Satan will not be there, but only the pure and the upright who have overcome and those that have maintained their faith that God would help them to overcome.

Not of our own strength, lest we should boast. Not of our own strength, lest we should think that we are something when we are nothing.

Rather we need to be meek. Meek means to not regard ourselves to too much of a degree. What counts is what God wants and however He wants to use us. Whatever He wants to do with us, we know that it will be for our good. Everything works to the good of those who love God and serve Him.

So we are thankful for God's ways. It is the best way. Let us have faith and strength to serve Him and to love Him more each day. One day we will stand before Him. How thankful we will be if we have been faithful and put our trust and faith in Him.

In the New Testament, also, Jesus spoke sharp words to the disobedient. Does that mean that Jesus did not love them? When we read these words, they are rather sharp. He called them terms that we would not dare to call anyone. Hypocrites. Did Jesus love them if these are His words and this is what He spoke?

He loved each one. He wanted them to see themselves for what they were. He wanted them to find the way of righteousness...of true righteousness; not the false pride of self-righteousness which they had obtained.

He went on to say, "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

they say, and do not." Matthew 23:1-3.

The believer's life should be a walking testimony of faith. There are many in the world who do not read the Bible, but as they observe the walk of life of a believer, it should be a walking testimony of faith, even a peace which radiates a love for God which radiates and makes itself known.

Perhaps it is not in words. Oftentimes, many of us are quite shy. Oftentimes, in a rare opportunity, we hold our tongue when we should not. We should tell them of the love of God and what He has done for us.

Even when our tongue is silent, the believer's life should be a testimony, even an open Bible. Oftentimes we fail and have to be sorry at our bedside at night for the things that have been left undone.

God is merciful and we are thankful for His mercy and for His love to His children. We know that they are not perfect. They strive for the perfection to be like Jesus, the Master Pattern of our faith.

He is the Master Pattern. There are many whom we observe and we admire who walk here upon the earth. But we know that Jesus is the Master Pattern.

If we pattern ourselves after any person, then eventually the pattern, after generation and generation goes by, the pattern will become off and it will be confusing if we do not go back to that Master Pattern and look into the Word and how Jesus lived perfect here in this life.

So striving to be like Him, we fall short. But we have a merciful God and we are thankful. So striving to be like Him then, God can work in the hearts of those who observe the believers.

Evidently, in that day and time there were scribes and Pharisees who spoke many things, but did not. How much better it would have been if they would not have spoken, but they would have done and been faithful. Then their lives would have been an open book for many to observe.

"For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments. And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats..." and so on. Matthew 23:4-6.

They were making a show. What does the Lord tell us? We should even go into the closet (a closet being a small room in that day and time), so that we might pray to God in secret and that we might commune with Him and that we might feel Him speak to us as we speak to Him.

As He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit in teaching us and showing us the way, we are to be mild. We are to be modest, not being a show as they were with their phylacteries and the borders of their garments trying to make a show.

God was not pleased. They loved the uppermost rooms. Even Jesus considered Himself a servant. He could have been the King of the Jews. He is King; but not in the sense that they wanted Him to be King they would have made Him.

He was a servant. He called himself a servant. He washed the feet of the disciples. He lowered Himself. So it is with the children of God all loving one another and esteeming one another higher than themselves.

So we see the contrast here between the scribes and the Pharisees and between the believer, the true believer. The scribes who wrote the law should have known the law and should have understood that Jesus was the One who was to become the Saviour.

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." Matthew 23:8. How thankful we are! When we stop to consider for the believer who has been converted, who has repented of his sins, and confessed them before man, is as weeds that are pulled out of the earth and the roots are laid bare to the sun to cause them to die so that they will not sprout again. Not just cut off, but pulled up and exposed, even as men's sins need to be confessed to the elder. Then they can be exposed and Satan will not have any more power over them.

For one who has truly repented and been sorry for those sins, it is a very humbling school, is it not, dear ones? But then we can see the wisdom of God in which He wants all men to repent.

When we stop to consider it, all men will repent. Even those who in this day and time call themselves atheists and do not believe in God, they will repent someday. All those who love pleasures and do not have time for God will repent someday. All men will repent someday. There is no question about that.

It is just when the timing of this repentance will occur. Will it occur in this day of grace when there is power from God to overcome the evil one? There is mercy because the Lord and Saviour was willing to give Himself so completely to be spit upon and to be treated so shamefully, not as we would even treat an animal. Yet He was as sheep before the slaughter.

He was meek. Why was He meek? He could have called ten thousand angels! He had power. He could have called all the power of God. But that is why He was meek because He did have all the power of God that He could have had to call upon and destroy all those men that were being evil to Him.

But He was meek and lowly. He was willing to become a Sacrificial Lamb for each one of us, so that in this day and time there could be repentance and conversion and there could be fruit therein. There could be peace put in the heart in this day of grace.

What is the alternative? There is an alternative. Unfortunately, perhaps, the masses are taking this alternative unknown to them. That is that there will be repentance in all eternity in the lake of fire.

There are two destinations as the Word tells us. The Word does not lie. God cannot lie. The Word is written and inspired by the hand of God and it does not lie. It all weaves together in a beautiful hymn.

There are different parts in a song, as we have sung together many songs this morning. Some sang bass or tenor and so on. It was all woven together in a beautiful hymn, just as the gospel, one of which we have read, goes together as a beautiful hymn.

God does not lie. The Word is true. The Word tell us that there are two destinations. So, perhaps, even the masses are taking the other destination even unknown to them. No one wants to go to hell. No one wants to go to the lake of fire. No one even wants to talk about it!

But the Word talks about it so that we might be forewarned and that we would see Satan for what he is. He is a liar and a thief. He

wants to cause us as much misery as possible.

Just as we cannot comprehend the love of God completely. We feel the love of God and it is overwhelming. We feel the cup overflowing and yet we cannot comprehend the total, complete love of God because it is so great.

He loved us so much that He sent His Saviour, His only begotten Son and had to turn His face when He was on the cross. He took our sins there, even carrying them when He Himself knew no sin; but He was willing for our sakes. God's love is so great!

Neither can we comprehend the hate of Satan toward man. We cannot comprehend the terrible hate he has that he would want to cause even one soul to be lost in all eternity.

That is complete hate. He is a complete liar. Often he comes as an angel of light to deceive. In whatever way he can deceive, he will deceive. To the believer, he will come as an angel of light. Without the Spirit, we would not perhaps survive.

But thanks be to God that He gives the Spirit of God to dwell and to teach us of the truth. Then Satan will be exposed.

To the friends and the unbelievers, he comes in various ways, but he has no shame. So we need to stop and consider this precious truth. There will be repentance for all. Some in this time, when there can be fruit and there can be victory, joy and peace in the heart.

For some, it will come in all eternity in the lake of fire for ever and ever. We read about the worm that dieth not. Can we even imagine to a small part what it would be like in the lake of fire remembering how we sat in church?

We had been taught the truth, and how the plan of salvation was

so simple. It was so simple that God made it for everyone. He has room in heaven for everyone. There is room for every soul.

We had those opportunities, but we thought, just one more day. One day, one more day did not come.

So we can imagine to a small extent the worm which would be working in them. The gnashing of teeth because of the bitter disappointment that we did not take opportunity in the day of grace.

So we are thankful that yet this day there is a day of grace. There is a power from God to help us to overcome, to give us peace, hope, safety and thanksgiving.

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. ...for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." Matthew 23:13-14.

These men thought that they were doing all right, but it was from man. We live in a time when man worships himself to a too large of an extent. If we are meek, mild and humble, we do not consider ourselves, but only as what God would want us to do. So we can see where they were off-base, the Pharisees and the scribes, because they concentrated upon what they were doing. We need to concentrate upon what God is doing in our life.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." Matthew

Continued next page...

Hungary/Romania 1994 (continued) by Elder Brother Ben Maibach

We proceeded on to the home of Andy and George's sister, Margit, who is a widow and they were anxiously awaiting and experienced a very tearful welcome and embracing by these dear ones. Andy, George and Geraldine remained with their families and we proceeded on to the home of Bro. Albert where the church is on the same property behind a high enclosed wall. The church building has sleeping rooms on the third floor recently completed. It is small, clean and neat, but someone older with health problems would never have been able to negotiate the outside stairs. They are very

narrow and very steep. But weary and grateful, the Gudemans and myself welcomed the opportunity for a night of rest.

In the morning after Bro. Albert's wife prepared a wonderful breakfast, we were saddened to learn that we were going to lose part of our traveling group, as Bro. George Hunyady and his daughter, Geraldine, who had been such a help to us had elected to stay and spend additional time with their family as it possibly could be their last visit to Romania. We appreciated their valuable assistance, but recognized they were deserving of a break from

those of us that are not bilingual. One thing is certain--there is tremendous advantage in taking someone or accompanying someone that cannot only understand the language but has the patience and the capability not only to interpret but also to answer our many questions and knows the area and customs.

The weather was turning rather cool, topcoat weather, extremely dreary and somewhat overcast which helps to contribute to the depression that the environment brings on and for the next couple of days we were in and out of a drizzle. We traveled some dis-

Sermon continued...

23:25-26.

We often hear how it really does not count what is on the outside. That would be true if that were the objective of the believer that we would be like the Pharisee or a scribe here, as it is described by Jesus, that the end goal that the outside would be making an image.

What shines forth on the outside is important to the true believers for this reason. Jesus said, "Make ye clean first that which is within the cup," even our heart. Only God can do that. Only God alone can cleanse our heart and make it sin-free.

"...that the outside of them may be clean also." Matthew 23:26. So it is that the true believer who is walking in the narrow way, that reflection from a beautiful and clean heart will reflect on the outside.

Not putting on a garment of worldliness so that we might blend in with the world that we would not have to stand out, but that we might even blend in and not draw attention. But rather, that that glow from the inside of a clean heart, then on the outside,

will have the humble appearance as we picture Jesus here in His humble way.

Again, as we already considered, may our thoughts and our actions and even our appearance might be an open book to the sin-filled and dark world. Surely we live in a dark time.

So much more is the importance then that those who walk in truth do not cover it with a bushel. If their light would be hidden, God would not be pleased for He has placed a light within each believer so that there might be fruit thereon.

So we are thankful and we bear the cross, whatever He puts upon us.

"Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city." Matthew 23:34. "Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation." Matthew 23:36.

There is a man who spent fifteen years or so in a little Bulgarian prison, being persecuted and tortured for his faith. He said, "It is a wondrous thing to live for God

and the Lord Jesus. It is an even more wonderful thing to be persecuted for Him."

We have not suffered much persecution in our day and time, but if we ever do, may we have that faith and trust in the Lord and Saviour that He will carry us through, even as He has carried us through temptations. To some extent, temptations are even more dangerous than the physical persecutions which believers experienced in earlier years.

Whatever comes upon us, we can be thankful, for we know that all works for the good if we love Him. There is a home awaiting for the true and faithful, for those who took opportunity this day and in this time to repent and ask for God's mercy and to be converted and baptized. They lay in wait of a wonderful hope in heaven...one we cannot comprehend.

Even in the beautiful time and season that we are in, we see the beautiful trees and the glory thereof. That is not to be compared to that which awaits those that have obeyed God's Word.

We are thankful for His ways because it is right and it is true, and it will end in victory for each and every one who seeks God now.

tance to the large city of Cluj. We stopped at the home of Gyorgy Hunyady, nephew of Andy and George; unfortunately no one was home. We continued on to where Christian Aid Ministries of Berlin, Ohio has their headquarters and warehouse on the edge of this town. It was refreshing to see these well-kept new buildings surrounded by a fenced enclosure of prefabricated construction made in the USA and we were greeted by a very modest young Romanian woman who would have well passed for one of our modest sisters. She regretted that the administrator was out of town on business, but very kindly showed us around this orderly facility and it was reassuring to see not only the packages that these Amish people distribute on a regular basis to orphanages and hospitals in Romania, but especially to see some of our own packages from Bluffton waiting distribution, well protected from the elements and relatively safe from thievery which is a serious problem in this country. The brethren are investigating the possibility of cutting down on the cost of distribution which amounts to approximately \$500 per container shipment to our own warehouse, which possibly we will construct at Arad.

Continuing on rather late we had difficulty finding a restaurant and we would have welcomed a Wendy's or fast food which we did not see anywhere. Most of the businesses that offer meals are more of a saloon or bar type which we felt were not at all to our liking. In the city of Oradea we finally inquired of a taxi cab driver who very kindly led us to a large building where on the first floor was a restaurant that served pizza. We were pleasantly surprised to be greeted at the door by a young man who spoke excellent English who had worked for some time in New York City and they welcomed us and gave us a special table and went out of their way to make us feel comfortable which we really appreciated. It had been a wise decision, because our trip to Chesa was longer than we had anticipated and we arrived there in this village about 9:30 in the evening. We were fearful that

the folks with whom we were going to stay might not be expecting us because there is little or no telephone service that we are so accustomed to available. When we aroused our host he came forward and said he had been reading his Bible and he and his dear wife invited us in. This was an old farm house and the dear sister wanted to prepare us a meal in her kitchen that had a dirt floor and the room was heated with an old stove fired by corn cobs. She lovingly shared with us that she had mothered 17 children, 11 of whom had survived birth, but due to the lack of employment and the general circumstances, none of her children were in the community. They had all gone wherever they could to get employment or work for a living. We were very impressed with her enthusiasm and she genuinely made us feel welcome. The toilet facilities were at the rear of the property adjacent to a hog pen and alongside of a chicken coop, also shared with some ducks and geese, and a long way from our sleeping quarters. But I'm of the mind if they can handle this on a regular basis, we can certainly tolerate it on a temporary one. Long ago in the Orient and India and elsewhere I have learned that it is necessary to make many adjustments.

The weather was quite cool and we really welcomed the featherbeds as we three brothers, Andy, John Pap who so graciously accompanied us and myself shared one large bedroom and the Gudemans in an adjoining bedroom just adjacent to our room. We did appreciate electric lights which are common all over although they are 220 volts and the bulbs don't burn as brightly as we are accustomed to at home. A wash basin was provided for us in the center of the yard outside alongside of a hand dug well that was served with a rope and a bucket and in the brisk 40 degree weather the cool water made great refreshments to our hands and face. She prepared to our surprise an excellent meal of eggs, potatoes and ribs. No doubt she had worked very diligently, probably at great sacrifice and the ample portion of greasy meat was different than we are

used to, but quite tasty. The love of God through His Holy Spirit transcends any language barriers and although we had never met, there was immediately a very blessed tie and understanding that binds our hearts together. One understands more fully the scripture the Lord Jesus quoted: "I was a stranger and ye took me in."

We visited with Antita, widow of former elder Bro. Ilie Dumbrava, an old widow in the community, and the grapevines that are evident everywhere not only traveled up the wall, but on the roof which would make harvesting quite difficult. She was eating her breakfast, but greeted us with great enthusiasm and we were surprised to see that the entrance to the room in which she ate did not have any doors, but was draped by a blanket or awning type material. Chickens were scurrying around in the yard and it brought back some memories of my childhood on the farm in Bay City, Michigan.

We gathered at the church in Chesa. This stately little building is unquestionably the nicest in the entire village and provides a sanctuary for the largest brotherhood in Romania of 160 members and we were grateful to hear that there are 50+ children that attended regularly, as many of the other congregations do not have any children or any Sunday School provisions. Wendell wisely said the future of the church in Romania looks bleak from this standpoint.

During the night I had heard a combine harvesting corn in one of the fields and the brethren showed us some of the results of the hybrid seed corn that had been donated previously by Land O'lakes Research through the efforts of some of our brethren which had caused considerable problems because it had been treated for insecticides and the Romanian government seized upon that as an opportunity to criticize that the church was endeavoring to poison people and confiscated all of the shipment. It had been necessary for some of us to use the good offices of Robert Michael in Washington and I had to

Continued next page...

Hungary/Romania continued...

write a letter certifying the purpose and intent. Bro. Fred Gutwein from Francesville, IN obtained a Phytosanitary Certificate form the Department of Agriculture. These were faxed to the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, who had it delivered to the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture who issued the release of corn to the brethren. The farmer brothers were delighted to show us these well-formed large ears and they reported a bountiful harvest and we saw that several of the corn cribs were filled. Most of them that have small acreage cut and shock the corn by hand, bring it to their homes on wagons hauled by horses or milk cattle, not oxen, and then placed in large well-formed stacks in their barn yards and during the winter they husk and shell it by hand and feed the corn and fodder to their stock.

By this time a rather large group had formed in the church building. It was evident that many of them had come in their work clothes, and I wondered how much of their clothing was through the generosity of our brotherhood back home. They explained that the pews which had backs and again very modest padded backs and seats were from lumber that came from Slovakia. Comfortable, but almost to the point of being austere. The building was heated with space heaters, made of some ceramic material, placed at both ends of the building which was quite large, which proved entirely inadequate and they had manufactured out of some boiler plate additional units as space heaters to try to make the room comfortable. These people did all of the work themselves and on a scale of 1 to 10, I would give the workmanship about a 7 or 8. The roof was a waffle type of poured in place concrete that appeared to have been done extremely well and it is almost incredible what people can do when they have the will. The building has no inside plumbing and the cost was less than \$40,000. We sang a couple of songs together, but the room was almost too big and there were too few of us and here again it is

rather difficult when you sing in two or three different languages, but the fellowship was warm and genuine. When we bid our farewells, these dear souls hugged, embraced and kissed us and I'm sure if you dear readers could experience the appreciation that is expressed, your hearts would be touched as were ours. Just an incentive to continue to try to do good, especially to those in the household of faith. No question, without your help this could never have been accomplished.

Here again we encountered a police who stopped our car on a country road to examine our credentials. I thought the evening prior had been an exception, but I'm beginning to think that this is a way of life to these dear people.

We continued on to the village of Ripa where another new building was completed and again the nicest structure in the entire village and the only one that was neat, new and painted. An old brother who had been treasurer, very emotionally told us that during the construction that he had been robbed three times. Once almost beaten to death and he was so frightened that he suffered a stroke. This again exemplifies the atmosphere that prevails which is difficult for us to understand. It should certainly be an inspiration to those who worship there to enjoy a haven not only for their souls, but also for their bodies. This small congregation of 39 brethren, like so many others, has no children in attendance. We noted in a survey dated about two years ago that more than half of the churches in Romania had no children regularly attending, but we were grateful that in addition to the brethren there appears to be an increase in friends who come to worship and in some of the congregations this number is more than the members that regularly attend. Funds have been asked for in both of these churches to provide some link between the outside toilet facilities and the church structure, as many of the people are old and the weather, especially in the winter-time, is quite inclement and the value that they are able to get from dollars expended would seem to make their

requests extremely reasonable. I went outside of the building into the muddy road to get some pictures and I saw some farmers using their teams to haul the corn into their farm yards. This was followed by another farmer with a team of milk cows pulling an empty wagon who very graciously stopped so I could take a picture and then to my amazement, I saw an old John Deere combine coming toward me. I took a picture as it approached and then as it passed I was going to take one from the rear, but the plume of smoke coming from the exhaust was so bad it almost looked as if there was a cloud following this tired ancient machine. Quite possibly a product of the old commune systems that had been part of the communist rule. We bid our tearful adieus and were on our way back to Hungary.

The countryside in many areas is quite rolling. We saw flocks of sheep and goats being pastured in some of the harvested fields always with a shepherd and a dog. We were surprised to see large flocks of geese and wondered how they could be identified, but upon close examination, we saw they had brands painted on their feathers. We noted as we drove, that many people seemed to be milling around some of the larger fields and it was explained that on some of the former community farms with large acreage that the people were going out to plot boundary lines to establish plots that they would reclaim the land for their own families. It was sad to hear, however, that interest rates are multi-figured, almost impossible to get loans as money is obviously very scarce and in one instance a home had been purchased and 95% of the cost of the home had gone for interest and only 5% for principle. This is just one of the many problems these dear souls have to endure.

In the cities we saw long lines of cars endeavoring to get fuel which is in short supply and when available, is at a cost of approximately \$4/gallon U.S. funds. Generally, the automobiles are small and old and while they were waiting in line, most of the owners just pushed their cars up in place to try to economize. Over the course of years I

have visited many countries, but I would have to confess that I was just not prepared nor did I visualize the conditions that exist in this poor country. It just seems from observation that it is questionable whether or not they are going to be able to survive and we were told that the government almost wants to see capitalism fail.

In the larger cities, many of the apartment and housing projects that were under construction in Ceausescu's time have not been completed. The equipment, scaffolding and abandoned buildings are standing just as they did in that time except for the deterioration. From observation, the quality of construction seemed to be pathetic and this helps to create a rather bad impression. It seemed that many people were walking about somewhat aimlessly and it was very evident that communism robs incentives, creates complacency and idleness which results in extreme slothfulness and very sadly leads to an excess of drinking and smoking, which just adds to more moral decay.

On returning to the Hungarian border, again we saw the long line up of trucks and we were very worried about Bro. Albert's van that had over 136 kilometers on it. When we had started on this long trip there was a bad howl in the transmission and in the several days that we were traveling, it got steadily worse so that the Gudemans that were in the back seat could hardly hear conversations from up front. It was rather annoying and we were very worried whether or not we were going to get back in Hungary, but by the grace of God we did.

We arrived back in Budapest early enough in the evening to begin packing

and rearranging for our morning flight back home. Recognizing we had a long day ahead of us on the morrow, God willing, we retired early so that we would be able without doubt to the best of our ability leave on the November 17 flight. Several brethren accompanied us to the Budapest Airport. Many pictures were taken and a very tearful farewell was bid to our beloved brethren who had been so gracious and hospitable and patient with us for the past two weeks, including Bro. Albert Szabo and Bro. John Pap who at a great sacrifice had accompanied us on our two week journey and had answered untold questions that we posed to them.

I had found to my gratification as I had previously in the many long hours that I had visited with Bro. Pap and others that in spite of the separation of over 60 years that many of their customs and traditions as far as worship is concerned, parallel ours as a part of our precious faith. We discussed conversion, discipline, many of the problems that we confront, the issue of sports, TV, worldliness that we encounter today and that we share mutual concerns and only together by the grace of God will we be able to endure. It reminds me of what Gamaliel told the Sanhedrin "if it be of God it will stand, if it be of man it will fall." Here we have evidence and testimony that our beloved faith is of our great God and Creator.

Immigration and customs were quite easy. It does not even take a visa today to enter into Hungary and as we tearfully bade our farewells, it was with blessed and fond memories. It was particularly stirring to me because I can well believe and appreciate that this quite possibly will be my last trip

to Europe, but we rejoice in the hope that if we meet not again on earth, we surely believe by the grace and mercy of God that we can meet in Heaven. We were bussed to our plane, taxied down the runway and within a few moments were high in the air where we could look down and see the city of Budapest and the winding Danube River. Our Boeing 767 was not as full as it had been going over and so Bro. Andy and I were able to each have two seats by the window. The 9 hour flight because of prevailing winds takes a little longer than when we are eastbound. I believe this is true around the world. I was surprised at the flight pattern. Traveling the globe is different than looking at a map, but with traveling mercies we arrived in New York JFK promptly on time at 3:25 p.m. My adrenaline was flowing so high with the excitement of seeing loved ones that I never slept a wink. Clearing customs at JFK was easy and without any problems and we bid farewell to the Gudemans and to Bro. Andy. Grateful for a wonderful and blessed time together to go our separate ways to our various homes. As I was to meet my family in Sarasota for the Thanksgiving holidays, I proceeded on to Orlando and then to Sarasota. Everything went smoothly. We landed at 10:22 p.m. to meet my beloved wife who was able to meet me and pick me up at the airport. What a wonderful and blessed reunion. Just a foretaste of meeting loved ones in the glories of Heaven at the end of this earthly pilgrimage. How true, there is no place like home and whether we are near or far we serve a God who is mightily able to answer prayer.





During the initial phases of Samuel Froehlich's university life he notes that he was far from God, lived in sin, and was somewhat antagonistic toward godly concepts.

He was outspoken in his views and somewhat untactful in manner. Yet, he was acquainted with a pastor whom he accorded unusual respect. This pastor, apparently an engaging, friendly man, would periodically say to him, "How are things going in the most important matter of all?" He was making reference to the condition of young Froehlich's soul.

Although Froehlich did not admit to being irritated by this question, at one point he returned the same question to the pastor. With this, the pastor seized the opportunity to "preach" to him about the significant aspects of salvation. He told him about "penance to God, knowledge of self, and faith in Christ." This information comes from Froehlich's diary entry of April 6, 1824. He also wrote, "Through the knowledge of self, one comes to the knowledge of God."

About one year passed before his conversion took place. He writes, "A very soft voice, which was neither terrifying or depressing, but nevertheless very convincing and penetrating, spoke in the depth of my soul: 'It cannot remain thus with thee. Thou

must change.'"

With this call from God, Froehlich, age 21, knelt "for the first time," before God, and in sincerity prayed an oath of fidelity "that from now on things would be different with me."

While he did not entirely understand the precepts of salvation (because he was reared in the Calvinist belief in infant baptism), he was driven by a spirit that told him, "Thou must change."

Again, "I knelt for the first time before the hidden God and with uplifted hands solemnly promised an oath of fidelity that from now on it must be different with me."

Even without a spiritual mentor, Froehlich realized he must cease from sin and live anew in Christ Jesus. God placed a deep conviction in his heart that he must change. He wrote, "With all earnestness and might I wished to shun the sin I now recognized as sin."

Changing from a secular man of sin into a spiritual man of God--from darkness to light--was a difficult process for Samuel Froehlich. "I sought the Lord Jesus with ardent fervor and many tears. I went out into mountain and forest, and knelt, and prayed, and cried out in lonesome places."

"For a long time, I remained in this fiery furnace until at length faith in Jesus Christ, the crucified, brought me rest, peace and

light; and made place within me for a new creation. From then on Jesus Christ was the center of my whole life and sphere of activity. I was kept under the discipline of the Holy Spirit."

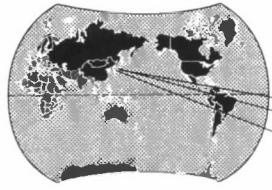
It is interesting to note that Froehlich did not look to the state church, or any other church, for advice following his calling from God. A perceptive man, he likely had lost confidence in these various entities.

His sole inquiry was into the Word of God. By its counsel and that of the Holy Spirit, he slowly made his way. This Divine counsel directed him on the path of lowliness and humility of mind, and into the pattern of walking in newness of life.

While he had scant spiritual direction from acquaintances during his conversion, he would later establish a Biblically-based brotherhood structure that would helpfully guide new converts through a true conversion. This same Spirit-led structure would thence provide a life-long counsel to converted souls who would propose to overcome until life's end. A new church would soon be formed.

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
Froehlich ponders
"What to do?"



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

"LIFE IS NOT FAIR"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

"Life is not fair." These were the words of one of our ministers in the States on a tape I was listening to here in Japan. What do you think? Is life fair? II Timothy 3:12 informs us, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." It is true that it isn't fair for believers to suffer persecution. Many things are not fair.

Our Declaration of Independence states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," but that pertains to people having equal rights. We are not all equal physically nor mentally. It's not fair to the physically handicapped nor to the mentally retarded.

Some people have all the food they can eat while others go hungry. It's not fair to those who are hungry and starving.

Some people sleep on concrete

or the ground while others sleep in nice beds with clean sheets. It's not fair.

Some people work long hours and receive very little. Others work short hours and receive much. It doesn't seem fair.

Some people cannot find a job though they are very willing to work. It's not fair. The Bible teaches us to work. II Thess. 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

Many people are lonely and have no one to love and care for them. In our church we love and care for each other. If someone is in need of food, clothing, or shelter, we have our Good Will Fund to help that person, besides help from individuals.

For those who want to help others but don't know where to start, we have our World Relief organization through which

they can know the fulfillment of forgetting "self" and helping others.

For those who feel led to share God's Word with others, there is our Bible Distribution program as well as our Mission Committee, both of which offer avenues of service for those who are willing to go anywhere and do anything.

We have The Home for the Handicapped and Gateway Woods for those who would like to help such unfortunate people.

Most of us have had the Gospel message taught to us from our youth, including repentance and conversion, as well as the importance of self-denial and humility. Many have not been so taught or instructed.

Most of us were born in the United States which is an advantage in many ways.

Life is not fair. We have so much and others have so little.

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