

The Silver Lining

He is not here: for He is risen, as He said.

April 1995



"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Luke 24:49

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light..."

John 12:36

Volume 48

APRIL 1995

Number 4

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3)

The empty tomb is the great and wonderful happening upon which we build our faith. We worship a living God and risen Lord!

I often think about those early brethren who worshipped quietly with their full focus on our Lord.

We have all seen and read about how those families would arise early on Sunday morning and, in many cases, do the chores and line up the harness which was hanging neatly in the stable. There was great effort put into those Sunday mornings.

While father was out with maybe two or three of the older children, mother would have to arise, stoke the stove and refuel it for breakfast.

This effort, combined with the anticipation of seeing loved ones whom they had not communicated with all week, was a blessing to those dear ones. The family would then all get into the carriage and travel at about 5 m.p.h. to the church. No heaters or air conditioners, either! Two, six, or maybe eight children, along with mother and father for one hour without tapes or radio to listen to was normal of that time. What was on their minds as they approached church, where carriages were coming from all directions? The horses would need to be put up before finally entering the assembly. I can believe there was a sigh of relief as the brethren would greet each other after maybe five hours of effort.

The congregation might sing "The Lord Will Provide" and then we could

be back at 1995. As it was then, so it is now with the Word preached, hymns sung, and the love of our Lord pouring forth from Heaven bringing about peace in our heart.

As we reminisce about the days past, we can learn good lessons and that is that we get out of something what we put into it.

Effort, attitude, love, care, admonishment, empathy, discerning of the spirits (*often mistaken for judgment*) are but a few things which will seem very important to us as we think about the faith of our fathers.

It all started with God sending His beloved Son to earth for our salvation. Oh, the blessings of placing our trust in a risen Lord! As we look at the empty tomb (*thought to be the sight pictured on the cover*), we realize in small part the effort and love extended to the human family by our Lord and Saviour. True love for Him in return is all He asks of those He died for.

We are humbled when we view from our heart that empty tomb, and those precious words, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3).

If the Lord was willing to humble himself to serve us, can we do anything but place our total trust in Him and serve Him with all of our heart?

If we can place our cares and sins at the foot of the cross where the blood of Christ will cleanse and heal,

we too can have the blessed hope of arising with Christ on that day when He will come to take us home to Heaven.

Keep the true faith alive in our hearts, bless those that curse you, love them who hate you, care for those who are hurting, and above all, walk close to the Lord. Our hearts yearn for His return.



The Silver Lining

RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Robert Walder, Wayne Anliker
David Bertsch

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
RR2 Box 50
Roanoke, IL 61561
309-923-7513

Second class postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is \$9.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
RR2 Box 50
Roanoke, IL 61561

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

April 1995

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

God's Plan for Family Unity - V

Part V in a series of articles on family unity deals with teaching by example and presents a few general guidelines about human nature as it relates to discipline within the family.

Although we do not model our lives after the imperfect example of man, it is encouraging to read about the faithful servants who followed the Lord. The Lord said of Abraham "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment;..." (Gen. 18:19). Paul taught us that we are to be examples for others, "...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12).

As parents, we serve as powerful examples, either positive or negative, to our children. We must carefully examine our lives and eliminate carelessness, inconsistency and discord from our lives to avoid the negative impact that these would have on our children. Husbands and wives must be in godly harmony "...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10).

This admonition is also for the church. If children see inconsistency, division or a lack of harmony in the home or in the church, it causes confusion and provides Satan an opportunity to turn them away from our primary objective: teaching our children to serve God.

Although it is probably not possible to give an exact "recipe" for teaching our children, it certainly is possible to find many general principles and specific guidelines, based upon the Word of God, that can be very beneficial to parents as they deal with the task of raising children in an evil and powerfully influential world. Many of these scriptural principles and guidelines are contrary to what the world and many "professionals" would have us believe.

A few general statements about godly

order in the home and some principles of discipline as they relate to human nature may help prepare our hearts for more specific Bible teachings that believers should follow.

The scripture makes it very clear that a family is not a democracy. Parents must work together with the father being the leader and the mother giving loving support. This does not mean that we do not listen to our children nor does it mean that we do not consider their feelings and wishes. It simply means that parents are responsible to see that the atmosphere of the home is one of godliness and that the decisions that are made are based upon the Word of God. Perhaps it is realistic to say a family should be a theocracy, an organization ruled by God.

People (children) tend to repeat activities that get them what they want. If parents, or other authority figures, bow to pressure and give in to requests or demands brought on by unacceptable behavior, the likelihood of unacceptable behavior being repeated is increased. We need to overcome the temptation to "buy" short term peace at times of difficulty brought on by inappropriate behavior. This can send a strong signal to our children that we are unwilling or unable to take a firm stand on matters of right and wrong and could lead to further rebelliousness and lack of submission.

It is generally not the severity of punishment that gets results, but the certainty of it that changes behavior. If we are inconsistent in enforcing the rules our children are to follow, they soon learn that most of the time there will be no consequences for improper behavior. This sends an unclear signal to a child and increases the likelihood that the child will ignore or defy the parents, causing significant conflict and confusion in the home.

Discipline and punishment are not the same thing. Proverbs 22:6 teaches us about training a child (discipline) while Proverbs 23:13 emphasizes the need for correcting (punishing) a child. Punishment

can be part of discipline but it is certainly not the entire process. It is one way (among many) of enforcing discipline.

Parents should anticipate changes in their children's need for training and correction as they mature. As an infant, a child makes no decisions, other than to announce hunger or discomfort, and takes no responsibility for his behavior. Parents are totally responsible for the care and welfare of the child and make all the decisions that affect the child. As a child matures, that situation gradually changes until ultimately the child becomes an adult and makes his own decisions and should accept responsibility for those decisions. The time during which this transition occurs can be quite trying as parents struggle with the realization that their child must begin making more and more decisions and the fear that they will not always make wise choices.

Not all children learn at the same rate and not all children respond to the same techniques of training. An additional complicating factor is that techniques that work with a child at one point in time may not work with the same child at a different time. This can be a frustrating experience for parents but if we are sensitive to the changes that are taking place in our children's lives, we will be better prepared to successfully respond to these changes.

Although it is not realistic to expect all children to follow the same pattern as they mature, it is likely that most children will experience several phases of maturity, and parents need to be aware of these phases. The ages of these changes vary from child to child but fit roughly into the following categories: birth to three years old; four to six years old; seven to twelve years old; thirteen to eighteen; and over eighteen years old.

The examples we set for our children and the clear, consistent expectations we have for them will help reduce some of the anxieties and uncertainties we face as we work to set our children on a godly path of life.

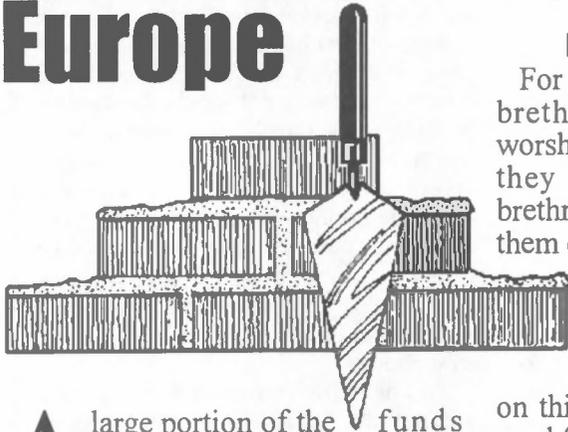


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

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

Church Building Projects in the U.S. & Europe



A large portion of the funds received by the Mission Committee is helping build churches of our faith, here in the USA as well as in other countries. In this article, we want to share with our readers some of the projects which are ongoing as of this time. We will begin at home.

Churches in the USA

We believe that it is important and scriptural that in all our efforts, spiritual as well as material, we begin at home within the household of faith. Our brethren in smaller congregations are generous supporters of our ongoing work, but sometimes when they need to make a large expenditure for their own facilities, it can strain the resources of their small group of people. In cases such as this, your Mission Committee usually becomes involved. Any member of our committee will be glad to accept your suggestions of where assistance could be needed.

Garden Grove, Iowa

This small congregation recently had a need for some fairly expensive maintenance projects on their building. It was necessary to replace the furnace and make other improvements. The Mission Committee is glad to provide some of the needed funds, even though the local congregation may be reluctant to accept assistance.

Nashville, Tennessee

For several years, a small group of brethren and friends have been worshipping together in this city. As they have no resident minister, brethren from other churches serve them on a rotating basis. Last year, we provided \$31,000 for the purchase and remodeling of a small church building. They have been working diligently on this building, and it can now be used for worship services. There is a need for some expansion of the facility, and we have approved an additional contribution of up to \$20,000. We should also mention that the Mission Committee also provides *Bibles, Zion's Harps, and Hymns of Zion* for all new congregations.

San Diego, California

The Mission Committee has been making contributions to this congregation to help cover the cost of the rent on the building they have been using for worship services. Lease payments are very high in this area, and we are thankful that the Lord has provided that they can now meet in their new building.

Portland, Oregon

This congregation recently had an opportunity to sell their building and purchase another in a more desirable location. As funds were needed on short notice, we wired them \$45,000 to close the transaction. More will be

needed to make the building suitable for worship services. The local congregation has pledged to pay these costs over a period of years.

However, since the money was needed immediately, we agreed to provide up to \$53,000 for this purpose, and as future contributions come into their building fund, they will be forwarded to the Mission Committee.

Church Building in Europe

Breidenbach, Germany

We reported on the dedication of a new church in this town in a previous issue. The Mission Committee approved another \$50,000 contribution to their costs which has been sent from the European Building Fund. This makes a total of nearly \$277,000 that we have contributed to this project which cost around \$1.1 million. Many European brethren volunteered their labor, but costs in Germany are much higher than in Eastern Europe.

One of the reasons this building was necessary was due to the large number of East European brethren who moved here for economic reasons, crowding the existing building. Many of these immigrants had large families and small resources, which put a strain on the established congregation. Even with the help we have given them, they had to execute a large loan, and could use additional help repaying what has been borrowed.

TO SEND CONTRIBUTIONS OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

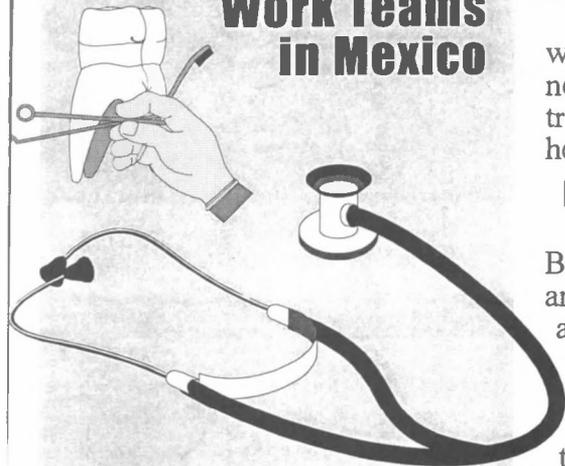
Apostolic Christian Mission Committee
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66223
(913) 681-3796
(913) 681-1519 (Fax)



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

Medical & Dental Work Teams in Mexico



On February 22nd, 35 people from 9 states visited Juarez, Mexico, as the 12th Medical/Dental work team to the area. This large city is host to a great many poor people. The visitor is always moved upon seeing them rummaging through the garbage dumps in search of something to sell. Often children are observed eating what they find in this place. Sights such as this sink deep into the heart, causing gratitude for our great blessings.

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

ST. LUKE 14:13-14

Continuing an effort begun some years ago, the group set up in various places to minister to those having such great needs. Presenting a united effort, they dispersed health kits, dental care, physical therapy and medicine under the direction of three physicians. They also assisted in bringing comfort and counseling to depressed persons. The variety of the

team brought many different talents, all of which were put to use in this ministry to the poor and sick.

Moving into a location, the team would set up a clinic, while those with needs waited patiently to be seen and treated, grateful beyond words for the help they received.

Bibles Eagerly Received

The team gave many Spanish Bibles to the people, who were eager and grateful to receive them. They also had Bible Story Books for children. They received some personal accounts of how lives had been touched and moved to seek the Savior as a result of these books. As team members entered a new area, to their surprise, the people requested more Bibles than physical and material care. This encouraged the teams even more than the actual work they performed.

Over the five days, they worked in a number of different areas of the city. The medical team saw and treated 863 children and 577 adults, while the dental team saw 349 patients. Included in the group were four young boys aged 9 to 15 years, who made many Mexican friends, finding that the language was not a barrier.

Lessons in Faith

Many obstacles with customs had to be overcome, but our brethren found that each day they had sufficient supplies for the day. It was a lesson for them in the way the Lord can provide one day at a time. With a spirit of humility, members of the group made themselves available, and the Lord gave the means and grace for each task. With plenty of interpreters, they could communicate easily with the Mexican folks.

Although only 35 persons from our churches actually participated on the front line of action, it was by the support of hundreds of faithful folks on the home front who made up the

various types of kits and supplies, plus furnished the financial assistance necessary that everything could function. The World Relief Committee and the Mexico Board certainly extend their gratitude to all of you for helping make a work like this one possible. God is your reward.

New Equipment Helps

Some new dental equipment was brought in safely on Monday and used throughout the week. It immediately increased the efficiency and ease of the work, and remains stored on the Mexican side of the border to be used for future team efforts. We are very thankful. Should it be possible to acquire an additional chair, it could be put to good use when two dentists go.

In four of the five locations, the dental team found it necessary to work outside because the shelter available needed to be used for privacy by the doctors. Two chairs modified by DMI were mobile and made it possible for one dentist to do fillings while another did emergency pain relief, which was mostly extractions. People have such limited access to dental care that their problems can only be solved in this manner.

Opportunities for Service

This Medical/Dental work team effort is part of the ongoing work of the Mexico Board. It is closely monitored by the World Relief Committee and financed by the funds which come from our loyal brethren and friends. Opportunities for service do exist, and we encourage anyone who has an interest in participating to contact their local Treasurer-Representative.

We will report next month on a building team which worked in the same area. In order to continue these efforts, we must have the support of the brotherhood, and the blessings of God. Please pray for the work!

- 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

**Special Need
for
Haiti Water Project**

Apostolic Water Aid is seeking to purchase an older diesel tractor to be used in Haiti for pulling a well-drilling rig and water wagon. We prefer a John Deere, in the 50 H.P. range, because of availability of replacement parts in Haiti. Any information concerning an available tractor would be welcome.

Contact:

Karl Glueck (309) 925-5094
Howard Sauder (309) 925-5487

**Mark your
calendars!!!**

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

SPECIAL NEEDS

Silverton, OR Church
Building Project

Due to the rapid completion process concerning our church edifice, we would like to inform anyone who is contemplating assisting in the completion phase to contact us at the job site. Please phone 1-503-873-8731.

For accommodations, phone Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi at 1-503-873-4853.

Bro. Orin Rufener has been directing the project.

Local project manager is Bro. Loren Dettlyer.

The edifice is now ninety percent complete with all brick, painting and trim being complete.

Our sincere thanks to all who have given so generously of their time for this building project.

-- 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

We have been experiencing "cabin fever" from being indoors during the winter months, so we are excited about the unusually warm weather we've been having. Even though we had a mild winter, riding bikes, shooting baskets and walking outdoors is a great way to get rid of the winter blahs. During the winter months some of our residents have gone with staff on "overnighters" at local motels where they can relax, use the indoor pools and try various restaurants. This is an especially enjoyable time for them and is anticipated for weeks prior to the outing. Another winter activity that several residents participate in is a weekly water aerobics class in Peoria. The local park districts sponsored two different Valentine Day parties that a few of our residents attended on February 14. Track and field practice will be starting soon to prepare for the Special Olympics event on April 29. Also, various groups at all facilities are busily planning for some mini-vacations this spring and summer, for which they have been saving money all year.

At Oakwood Estate they are enjoying a newly enclosed back porch that was recently completed. During nice weather this will give them more space for playing games and for entertaining. Chip Johann and Janet Christensen, from Linden Estate, have both started new jobs at Jumer's in Peoria. Chip has janitorial duties and Janet is a dishwasher. Since Linden opened last May, they have recycled their aluminum soda cans and decided to use the proceeds from cashing in the cans to go out

for a nice dinner, which they did on February 17. Now the people at Linden are making plans to begin their first garden if the weather doesn't turn cold again.

MAY birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Judy McRoy and Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stichling and Steve Slagel (13), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser and Chip Terhorst (22). At OAKWOOD: Herb Stieglitz (11). At 540 N. MAIN: Jackie Barton (26). No May birthdays at LINDEN or HAZELWOOD.

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

Brenda Fiechter

We don't have a lot of transition this month with children but there are continual daily confrontations. We covet your prayers as we address individual attitudes and actions. Each child has a different background and a different way of coping with the circumstances. As we work with the child, we also see the importance of working with the child's parents. This month, Bro. Jeff Schumacher and Sis. Judy Stoller presented to the Houseparenting staff a program entitled "Family Focused Residential Child Care". In this program we discussed the importance of our relationship with a child's parents and involving them more in our program. At times, this takes more wisdom, effort and courage on our part but we feel it will help maintain the progress of the child after they are out of our care and have returned home.

We had our Annual Representatives' Meeting this month. This gathering is to inform the churches, via their local Representative, of Gateway Woods'

various programs. Topics discussed included the annual auction, an apartment addition to our Girl's House, the Illinois Program, Family Focused Residential Child Care and our Summer Volunteer Program. Our summer program has been successful in the past largely because of the many helpful college age volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering and are 18 or older, please contact us.

We have recorded a tape with various testimonies from past and present staff members. This tape was distributed to the Representatives to share with their congregations. We encourage you to see your local Representative if you have an interest in hearing about the Lord's leading and the blessings of working at Gateway Woods.

The time for Sis. Joanne Gerber, our Office Manager, to leave her position is drawing closer. Joanne has done a tremendous job and we will miss her presence not only for her diligent work but also for her dear friendship. Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne are expecting a baby and Joanne is leaving to become a full-time mother. We love you Ked and Joanne and will never forget the love and support you have shown to us all.

We encourage you to continue to pray about our staff openings. The Office Manager position is especially important to the daily operation of Gateway Woods. If you are qualified and feel directed, please inquire without delay. Please see our ads for available positions.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Doris Fischer**

The students have enjoyed our March theme of the five senses, and they especially liked touring

the Krispy Kreme Doughnut Bakery in Huntsville. Our April field trip will be to Limestone Zoological Park, where the children can see and pet a variety of animals.

Our April themes are plants, Easter and green. This theme coincides with the Bible story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Just as Jesus used trees and seeds in parables, the growth of plants is a visible parallel to the new life that Jesus offers and made available through His resurrection. Spring is an exciting time of discovery!

We are very grateful for volunteers we've had this past month. Sisters Janel Frank, Tricia Baumgartner, and Margo Stettner from Bluffton, IN spent one week with us, and Sisters Kendra Steffen and Jenni Adams of Forrest, IL and Darcy Stoller and Jennifer Steffen of Fairbury, IL spent the following week working with us. We appreciate the hard work of all our volunteers and welcome any others who would like to spend time with us. Please contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (205) 233-0591 if interested.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

A co-worker of mine gave me some advice that I hope to always remember. An incident at work involving her and our "boss" placed her in a difficult situation, that seemed there was no solution. I gave hasty advice, that really was not good advice. Later, when the problem was resolved, I commended her for not acting hastily as I had suggested, and she replied, "I have a friend that gave me some very good advice, and I always try to remember it when I'm in a difficult situation." Her friend had told her that whenever she has a problem that there seems no solution to, and she is in

a very emotional state, to go and pray about it and wait; never do something hastily in an emotional state. This co-worker did exactly that, and the problem resolved itself. I was chastised, as I thought how I as a Christian had given such worldly advice to this person.

We are thinking and praying for Sis. Shirley Haggemaker, as her mother, Lucille Woods, passed from this life on February 27. We pray that those who are left will be comforted.

Sis. Doris Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore) underwent outpatient surgery on March 7, and is recovering very well. We are thankful that all went well.

Blake Moore, son of Randy and Lisa Moore, is hospitalized even as I type this column. Please pray that the doctors would be guided by our Almighty God in caring for Blake.

We look forward to visitors in Athens, anyone coming our way. We hold services every Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday evening, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Bro. Ken Lawson has returned to the pulpit by the Elder Body's direction beginning in March. Bro. Ken ministered in Minneapolis, MN before he and Sis. Sharon and Tricia moved to Phoenix two years ago.

The second week of March brought lovely weather in the 80's.

The air smells of citrus blossoms and other perfumery. Mountains are festive in green and yellow and the skies are a beautiful Arizona blue. Our visitors are seeing God's beauty up close.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN). Thank you and come again.

God's healing hand touched hospital patient, Sis. Shirley Blunier, brain surgery. Floren Klopfenstein, Evelyn Howley, Sis. Cathy Labudde (Bro. Larry) and Sis. Heather Labudde (their daughter), Josephine Pamer and Sis. Josephine Martin have been ill at home. Sis. Ella Harmon has returned to her home (with help) from a nursing home.

Bro. John Kaufman has returned to Phoenix after a work project in Haiti. Bro. John broke his wrist while in Haiti. Welcome back.

Prescott church will meet every Sunday in Phoenix until further notice. They are seeking a new meeting place.

The World Relief group met March 9 in the morning and a session also met in the evening making supplies for the comfort of others.

Welcome to Jeremy Ebert from Colorado.

I Samuel 16 is well worth reading--especially the last six words of Verse 7.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

This month we were privileged to host a weekend of activities for the Altadena, San Diego and Phoenix Sunday Schools. We were blessed with beautiful weather and spent much of our time outdoors. It was a blessed

weekend for all of us in Tucson. Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) was with us for this weekend and we thank him for his service on the pulpit.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) was with us Sunday, March 12, to read the Memorandum to us. We thank him for his time and effort in bringing us many things to prayerfully consider. We also enjoyed our monthly Fellowship Supper that same day and Bro. Jon was good enough to stay and visit with us a while longer.

Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) was with us this month also and we thank him for his labor of love on the pulpit.

Sis. Martha Blessman was able to be in church one Sunday this month for which we were thankful. She is still recovering from hip surgery.

Most of our winter visitors are "back home" now. We thank them for their visits.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Joy Nenadov

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Philippians 2:8

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

Revelation 1:18

Greetings to all! As I sit to write this month, I once again pray that the Holy Spirit would guide my pen, to the inspiration of all and ultimately to the glory of God.

Truly our Lord Jesus is alive and that should be a cause of rejoicing in our hearts.

As Christ showed humility in His coming to earth as a man, He displayed the ultimate act of humility, as the verse states, "He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." As Jesus demonstrated even to His disciples the need to be humble and to serve others, by Christ Himself, washing their feet, so we must continue to fashion our minds after Christ's very example. This account was wonderfully explained to us by our visiting minister, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Escondido, CA) who with his wife, Sis. Lillian, and his grandparents were in our congregation on February 12. We thank Bro. Doug for expounding God's Word for our edification.

Showing that Christ-like humility and in service to us, we were blessed by the presence of our dear Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and his wife, Sis. Judy, on March 5. We were greatly enriched by the living Word of God brought forth in its simplicity and great power. As he expounded on the Book of Romans, we were brought through the sequence of the chapters, from man's recognition of a Creator and God, to the faith needed, to rebirth and conversion, to being justified by faith through Christ, to the practical living of us as believers. May God bless him for the very inspiring message.

While here with us, Bro. Wayne helped assist our own Elder Bro. John Klotzle in the reading of the Memorandum and in the exhortations for Holy Communion. How needful and timely it is to be reminded and exhorted to more holier living for our Lord and Redeemer. How we can sense the genuine love and concern of our faithful shepherds for us as they truly do "...watch for our souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not

with grief:" (Hebrews 13:17). May we adhere to the words spoken, with fear and trembling, as we work out our salvation daily, and may the Lord richly bless the beloved Elder brothers who so diligently labor for us. Let us hold up their arms and support them fully.

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

II Thess. 2:15

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

Luke 15:10

Realizing their lost condition and separation from God, three precious souls have turned their backs to the world and have knelt at the cross of their Saviour. Jim Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody), Rebecca Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi) and Joshua Martinez have denied themselves, taken up their cross and have begun to follow Jesus, their Shepherd. We pray God's divine grace and strength on them, as they continue to seek Him in godly sorrow and repentance.

We're happy to have Sis. Jenny Schmidgall (Denver, CO) who will reside here for the majority of this year. Her employment has transferred her here, and we hope she feels welcome here with us.

Long-time California resident, Elizabeth McLain, has now moved from Paramount, CA to Fairbury, IL to be near her family. We pray God's blessings on her as she now resides there.

"...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16

How much more can it avail if many of us pray fervently for those in need? Those in our congregation in need of our prayers are: Sis. Nancy Witzig (pre-term complications with her second child), and our elderly who are afflicted in their old age, Sis. Martha Slenker, Sis. Blanche Coldeen, and Bro. Nathan Moser. Let us be fervent and continual in our prayers for them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette - Marian Petrovic

Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) shared with us the exhortations from the Memorandum of the Elders' and General Conference held in 1994. Ministering Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) also visited us this past month. We thank them for their labors of love and invite them to come back again.

Praise ye in His sanctuary
Him who does such wondrous
deeds!

Who to His eternal glory
All His ransomed children leads!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Amen!

Hymns of Zion #235

After many months of labor on the new church building, it is now completed and we had our first worship services there on Wednesday evening, February 22. What an overwhelming feeling of love and thankfulness we all felt. We truly have a wonderful and caring Saviour whom we can never thank enough for all that He has done for us. One of the songs we sang that evening was "Give Thanks Unto the Father" (Zion's Harp #75). Psalm 122 was read: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house

of the Lord" as well as Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

We of the San Diego congregation cannot find adequate words to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who donated their labor, prayers and financial support from the beginning to the end of our building project. May our new edifice be a refuge and a blessing to all who worship there and may our Lord God bring many more souls unto Him.

Lord willing, Open House will take place on Saturday, April 29, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Dedication Services a week later on Sunday, May 7. We welcome visitors at any time. Our worship services are as follows: Sundays - 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The new church is located at 1920 Del Dios Hwy. Exit Valley Parkway off Interstate #15 and go West to Avenida del Diablo, drive one block and take the first right on Del Dios Hwy. Church is on the left.

May God's Spirit be with all of our beloved churches across the land and the sea without whose support, this great undertaking would not have been possible. God bless you all!

COLORADO, DENVER

Joleen Elder

Greetings!

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"

Hebrews 5:8

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God."

John 20:17

What a blessing it is that we can celebrate Easter and that Jesus arose from the grave and ascended to Heaven to be our Intercessor.

Our dear Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman have recently assembled with us since his recent heart transplant. What a joy it is for our small congregation to have them back worshipping with us.

Should praise of man be more to me
Than God's most blessed favor?
And though man might reject His word,
The Truth remains forever;
Unchanging, sure, it does impart
A comfort to the poor in heart.

Zion's Harp #113

It was a privilege to have visiting ministers bring forth God's Word to us this past month over the pulpit and at Bible Study. May God bless Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger and family (West Bend, IA) as they traveled many miles to be with us.

Reminder: May is collection month for the Silver Lining dues for Denver.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

Rosie and Bill Roy were blessed with a baby girl on January 13. Her name is Alexis Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Roberta Foote.

March 10 was a joyous day for Scott and Joan Kratzke, with the birth of their son, Joseph Alan. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Skipper.

Two new souls were added to the fold on March 12. Bro. Norman and Sis. Dorothy Barton gave

their testimonies on March 11 and were baptized the following day. We wish them much grace to walk this new path of life.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) visited in our congregation this month. We appreciate his labor of love and wish him the Lord's blessings.

We are happy to have recovering hospital patients; Bro. Ed Luginbuhl (Sis. Alma) and Don Skipper (Cindy). May God be with them and grant them a speedy recovery.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

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

Hymns of Zion #165

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman went to be with his Lord on February 16. We extend our Christian sympathy to his wife, Sis. Jill; his parents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA); his brothers, Paul and Philip; and his sisters, Jan (Don) Wilt and Sarah.

Due to Bro. Matthew's death, services were cancelled on February 19. Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for making the trip to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT and Lester, IA.

Our prayers are with Sis. Wendy Fetter, who is under a doctor's care.

As I walked home from the store the first week in March, I noticed

some of the bushes just starting to bud. As you read this, we should be enjoying the flowers.

"Take eat, this is my body..." (Matthew 26:26). The Washington congregation was able to join the Philadelphia congregation to partake of Holy Communion on March 12.

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

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**

Bringing God's message to us this month were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL). May the Lord bless them for their work in His vineyard.

A lot of good fellowship and spaghetti were enjoyed by young and old on Sunday, March 12, when the Sunday School and the Kingdom Kids hosted their annual fund raiser. We also enjoyed the program presented by them and the adult choir.

Our congregation has been blessed this past week with the presence of around 20 young students from the University of Illinois. It is very uplifting to fellowship with them and to join with them in singing praises to the Lord. We thank them for their visit and look forward to seeing them again next year.

March 18 was Bro. Ed and Sis. Vi Gerber's 50th wedding anniversary. A host of friends and

relatives from Indiana and Florida joined them to help celebrate their special day. A hearty congratulations to them!

Sis. Katherine (Bro. George) Fullop successfully underwent cataract surgery this month. May the Divine Healer grant her a complete recovery.

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

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

II Timothy 3:16

How very easy our work here on earth would be if everyone we met believed this simple truth.

Another winter season has come and almost gone. At the time of this writing, many of our winter guests have already started home. We ask God's traveling mercies for each one, and if it is the Lord's will, we look forward to your gathering with us again next year. We do appreciate each visitor. We had several visiting ministers among our guests this month. Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) shared God's Word with us. Also, Bros. Will Schieler and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Wayne Laubcher (Cissna Park, IL) shared with us. We do so appreciate each one!

God was good to us this month in providing healing where it was needed. Bro. Ray Messner had surgery and is back with us again. Bro. Ralph Yergler suffered a rather bad fall but is gathering

with us again, too. We thank the Lord for His healing!

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their love and concern and especially for all your prayers. Also, for the beautiful cards with their encouraging words, the telephone calls, flowers, and gifts shown me during my surgery here in Fort Myers. God bless each one of you for your thoughtfulness.

Bro. Ray Messner

We would like to thank each one of you for the cards, telephone calls and other gifts of love shown us after Ralph's recent fall. Your love and kindness was so appreciated and we pray that God will richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Vera and Mary Martin**

As we exchange the winter season for beautiful spring, let us also take time to thank our Lord for the exchange that He allowed to happen for our salvation.

"And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged Him, to be crucified."

Mark 15:15

Jesus spared our lives. He went to the cross for us. It was our sin that put Him there. That we were pleased with the substitution, He surely knows, but like Barabbas, have we slipped away without saying "thank you"? Barabbas was given a few more years. When we placed our sins on Jesus, He gave us eternal life. If we spent every hour of every day saying "thank you", it wouldn't be too much.

Visiting Elders and ministers who have given us their time to proclaim His Word were: Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL). Other ministers were Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

We thank the Lord for the healing hand on Bro. George Reardon who is now home from the hospital and is progressing with the therapy needed for recovery. Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Kenneth) is also on the road to recovery after a short stay in the hospital.

Again, our congregation has been blessed with two more newborn babies. Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter gave birth to Simeon Benjamin on March 1. Andrew is very excited to play the role of big brother to Simeon. On March 3, Christopher Anthony brought happiness into the home of Tom and Kim Cantrall. Trevor is looking forward to having his brother, Christopher, as a friend and playmate.

Tasty chili and the smell of baked goods was the aroma in our community on March 11 at our annual fundraiser for the Sunday School. A portion of the funds will be used to help support children and families in our community. We want to thank all those who provided the baked goods, crafts and, of course, the blessings of fellowship for the day.

We welcome two new sisters into our fold. Sis. Rachel Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Le Andra Schnell (Bill and Regina) presented their testimonies with eagerness and zeal to our congregation. We were reminded that being adopted into the Family of God, that God is the Father, the Church is Mother, and Christ

is our Saviour and Brother. Using these three units, the importance of communication must be implemented in order to survive in our family.

A reminder of the words from true and upright hearts by love are ignited was displayed with fellowship and reception to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of our ministering Bro. Glenn Jr. and Sis. Sandee Price.

Recently the question was asked, "If every member in your church was just like you, what would your church be like?"

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). Thank you for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Our thoughts are with Dorothea Elder as she has been hospitalized after having a stroke. We certainly miss her at church and pray that the Lord will heal her according to His will.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Tim Lawson who has moved here from Chicago. We look forward to his assembling with us.

We meet for services every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. If you are planning on being in the area, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395, or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lana Schifferer (Bro. Bill) with the death of her uncle. It's never easy to lose someone we love. May

God bring comfort to those who sorrow.

We again are thankful for God's willing servants who minister His Holy Word. Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer (Princeville, IL) visited us recently.

As the Sunday School children begin practicing for the Easter program, it reminds me that we should ever be so thankful for the Lord's death and suffering and His resurrection.

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

Matthew 28:5-6

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco

Joy to the world. He is risen. Hallelujah! The joy that began nearly 2000 years ago continues in the hearts of believers throughout the world. And the joy continues to spread as God's grace works in the hearts of new lambs. On February 19, Tami Inoue became a sister in Christ's family following her testimony (February 18) and baptism. We rejoice with Tami's family, Hisato and Kathie (Huber) Inoue.

The importance of song and singing as part of worshipping and praising our Lord is often referred to in scripture: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads:" (Isaiah 35:10) and "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing-

ing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16). Our congregation was spiritually enriched by the melodic praises of "The Meister Grandkids" from Peoria who shared their beautiful songs at a hymn sing on February 19.

Heartfelt thanks go out to our visiting ministers who so humbly give of themselves as servants in God's work. They are Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN).

We ask your continued prayers for Virginia Huette and Millie Vogel who have both been laid up for awhile. We will welcome their return to our congregation.

Awesome! It has become a commonly used word by the young. Our Sunday School children sing a song with the lyric, "Our God is an awesome God." The dictionary provides this definition: "a mixed feeling of reverence, fear, and wonder caused by something or someone of greatness, superiority, grandeur, etc." Christ's death and resurrection can appropriately be described as awesome in its truest sense. Let us take time to ponder the awesomeness of the Easter season and thank God for allowing His Son to be sacrificed so that we might enjoy a heavenly eternal life.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said..."

Matthew 28:5-6

There are many good things about springtime: the warm weather after the cold here in the Midwest, the buds on the trees, and the first flowers pushing up their heads. Everything seems so

fresh and new. But the best thing about springtime is that it is also Easter time. We can once again remember what Christ Jesus has done for us by dying on the cross for our sins. We can also reflect on His love for us as we take Holy Communion and renewing our vows to Him.

Troy Pyles and Heather Elsasser announced their wedding engagement this month. Parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser. We pray that God will bless them and their families as they plan for their upcoming wedding.

On March 10, Bradford held their first all-church Bible Study. Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) was here to exhort us on our precious faith. We thank him for his willingness to be with us.

On March 12, the Bradford Bible Class invited the Forrest Bible Class up for the day. Bros. Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) were also here, and they shared duties in Sunday School and on the pulpit. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). We want to once again thank the visiting ministers for coming and allowing the Spirit of the Lord to work through them that we might receive a blessing. We invite them to come back soon.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

Our monthly family hymn sing was held recently. We hosted the choir from the Goodfield congregation. They blessed us with beautiful songs of praise to God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. We thank them for taking the time to share with us.

The Holy Spirit continues to

work in our congregation. We rejoice that Doug Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) has answered God's call and has turned his life over to God. We pray that he will feel God's strength and power in his new life. "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4).

The engagement of Sis. Sandy Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma) and Bro. David Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann, Tremont, IL) was announced recently. We pray for God's nearness and guidance as they prepare for their life together. A May 7 wedding is planned.

The truth and purity of God's Word has been brought to us through the power of the Holy Spirit each time that we have gathered this month, as always. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand and our local ministering Bros. Wayne Banwart and Brian Waibel for the love and encouragement that they share with us day after day. Thanks also to our visiting minister, Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), for teaching us through God's Word.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Two different shoes--surely not, yet there was a different feel to one compared to the other. I had been walking in them for some time, I thought, but I looked down. Oh, yes, I had on two black shoes, but one was a loafer and the other my flat Sunday shoe. How interesting this would have been if I had left the house wearing...well, how do I leave the house? Are both my feet "...shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace..." (Ephesians 6:15) always? Haven't I felt a bit pinched by the Spirit at times because of my words, my demeanor, even the place I am at. Truly it behooves

me to check all of me for the Spirit's armor---to check all of me so that I am wholly in His will---not "one shoe off, one shoe on..."

We have been especially blessed by our visiting brothers this month. Elder Bro Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Dale with the Conference report on Saturday, March 4. There was a directness in all that they shared; perhaps one might even call it an urgency. We are well warned. Our watchmen are responding to the Spirit, so that we the church might be preserved. Let us be wise and listen well. On Wednesday, March 8, Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) gave us a topical Bible study entitled "Self-Esteem vs. Pride". Though he spoke in humbleness, the Spirit was alive and pointed out much to us through his thoughts and examples. I was struck by our profound need to be of service, in order to thwart Satan's attempt to pull us down to low self-esteem or puff us into proudness. Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) also ministered unto us, from the pulpit and, as a member of the Detroit choir, in song the weekend of March 11-12. We were so uplifted by his and the choir's visit and ministry. Each song the choir sang was beautiful and powerful, but for me one taught the greatest lesson. It is called "True Evangelical Faith": "True evangelical faith cannot lie sleeping, for it clothes the naked, it comforts the sorrowful, it gives to the hungry food, and it shelters the destitute. It cares for the blind and lame...It binds up the wounded man, it helps with a gentle hand...Abundantly we have received, and gratefully we will respond. So overcome evil with good, return all hatred with love, that we become everything to all men. This is true evangelical faith." (words by Menno Simons) May all be re-

warded for their willingness to share the Gospel. May each encounter that we have together make our steps upward ever lighter, for our Lord expects much, but, oh, He gives us Himself and each other. Do not our hearts burn within us?

Another blessing of joy has been given to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser in the arrival of little Elise Nicole. Welcoming her are big brother, Drew, as well as grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser of Cissna Park, and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen Getz of Remington, IN.

Cindy Raz from the Detroit, MI area fought for life, but she also accepted her death March 2 as His will. Her parents are Chuck and Ella Mae Stoller from our congregation. For them, for Cindy's young son and husband, and for her sister and brother, we pray faith as she had, balm as only the Lord can give, and love as our gift, matching their tears with our own. The Lord has secrets we know not of, but He shares them with those He takes early to His bosom.

Thus, we share our joys and our sorrows with much thankfulness that we have a Saviour who is with us in all aspects of life.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Anna Marie Reutter

Joyce Bauer

On Sunday morning, February 26, Bro. Ken Eisenmann and a number of our brethren met at the Heartland Nursing Home in Paxton for church services. Three of our sisters are residents there: Sis. Lydia Moser, Sis. Anna Hari, and Sis. Martha Brenner. How thankful we are that we can bring "church" to them since they are not able to assemble with us.

On March 12, our Bible Class students entertained the Con-

gerville, IL and Remington, IN Bible Classes for the day. It was an enjoyable day for all. What a great way to make new friendships and renew the ones you already have.

This month we enjoyed the blessings of the following visiting ministers: Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). We thank each of them for being a willing servant for God.

Our third topical Bible presentation for this winter was March 15. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) shared with us many interesting facts and insights concerning the church of Sardis. His text was Revelation 3:1-6. He left us with this challenge: "Is your life influencing the world around you OR is the world around you influencing your life?"

Our recent hospital patients have been Bro. Jim Walder for tests; and Bro. Aaron Bauer, who suffered a heart attack, is home and doing well. Mrs. Grace (Ben) Farney had surgery this past month and we are glad to report she is doing well.

Note of Thanks:

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who sent cards for our 70th anniversary. Thank you and may God bless you.

Bro. George and Sis. Gladys Winger

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Beth Steffen

Arlene Banwart

Sound the battle cry! See the foe
is nigh;
Raise the standard high for the
Lord;
Gird your armor on, Stand firm
everyone;

Rest your cause upon His Holy Word.

Gospel Hymns #839

Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and their wives for visiting us this month. We appreciate the ministers' faithful sounding of the battle cry and encouraging us to stand fast in this tumultuous world.

It's good to see Sis. Jeanette Knapp's (Bro. Glenn) smiling face. She's now able to assemble with us five months after her accident. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done." (Gospel Hymns #813).

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

We're thankful Bro. Dave Steiner and Sis. Sandy Walder have trusted in and acknowledged the Lord and that their life's pathways have been directed to each other. They are planning a May 7 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL). We welcome Sis. Sandy to our fellowship as we likewise have appreciated Bro. Dave making Congerville his home church several months ago.

I am going to a city
Where the streets with gold are
laid;

Where the tree of life is blooming,
And the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

Laying his armor down, our dear Bro. Emil Stahl passed away into the merciful arms of his Sav-

iour. We rejoice he's no longer experiencing the physical distress of the past several months, but we'll miss another faithful church pillar. Even though our country has afforded us the freedom of going to church each Sunday, it was due to Bro. Emil's faithful opening and closing of our building that actually allowed us entrance. For many years Bro. Emil and his wife have sacrificed their time on our behalf for various duties in the church. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Adele; sons, Glen and Bro. Ernest (Sis. Norma) and his grandchildren.

"A time to be born, and a time to die;"

Eccles. 3:2

Just a few days after God called a loved one from a family, He sent them a precious bundle. On March 17, little Heather Lanae was born to late Bro. Emil's granddaughter and husband, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette Knepp. Grandparents include Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma Stahl, Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington) and Gary Knepp (Eureka). Great-grandparents are Sis. Adele Stahl, Bro. Merion and Sis. Esther Miller, Sis. Frieda Knepp (Eureka) and Henry and Sis. Wilma Blunier (Eureka).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

O now, my Saviour, do Thou take
My heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,
Within Thy fold divine.

Zion's Harp #163

On Saturday evening, March 5, our congregation gathered to hear how God tenderly awakened and drew Jose Manterola from sin unto a life of faith and hope. Our

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen was assisted by our ordained Deacon, Bro. Ron Schambach, in this joyous occasion. May Bro. Jose find God's grace sufficient to willingly follow the Lord as a true servant.

Several among us were hospitalized or underwent surgery this month. They include: Richard Hartman, Timothy Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda), Sisters Gladys Weiss, Marge (Bro. Bill) Wewetzer, Norma Utt and Bro. Ed (Sis. Jenny) Schambach. May our prayers on behalf of all who are afflicted help ease their pain and strengthen body and soul.

There is a home, where all the
soul's deep yearnings,
And silent prayers shall be at last
fulfilled:

Where strife and sorrow,
murm'ings and heart burnings
At last are stilled.

Gospel Hymns #383

On March 3, the Lord fulfilled the deepest soul's yearning of Sis. Frances (the late Paul) Kaptain by taking her home to her eternal reward. We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to her daughter, Phyllis; sisters, Eva Schambach (Elgin) and Carlyn Vincent (Kansas); and brothers, Bro. Walt (Elgin), Arthur (Nevada) and Elmer Schambach (Bartlett, IL). Though she was not able to physically assemble with us in recent years, the patient willingness for whatever the Lord had in store that she portrayed was an inspiration to all of us. The following day, March 4, Sis. Emma Viellieber quietly slipped from this life to the shores of eternity. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Another pillar of faith we all have fond memories of and will surely miss as we visit Resthaven. May these dear families ever rely on that reassuring promise that in

the days to come "the Lord will provide".

Sis. Ann Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Chuck Hart (Indianapolis, IN) have recently made their engagement known. May they look to the Lord for direction during their engagement and as they plan for their future together, that all may be done as a glory to God for we know He then will surely be pleased and richly reward them.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Rose Eurich would like to thank everyone that remembered her during her illness. Likewise, they appreciated the expressions of condolences after her passing.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

How we do rejoice that the blood of Jesus can heal us from our sin, and that He is the one who can take our guilt away.

We also rejoice with Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann Blunier on the birth of their daughter, Jodi Lyn, on February 22. Jodi is welcomed home by big sister, Miranda, and grandparents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier and Bro. Harry Rocke.

We had two inspiring Sundays when our church was filled with young people. The young group entertained company on February 19 and the Bible Class hosted Fairbury and Congerville's Bible Classes on March 5. We were thankful for the ministry of Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bro.

Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). Bro. Glenn exhorted us to have a deeper faith by reminding us of how when the fishermen could not catch any fish, Jesus told them to "Cast your net into the deep."

Sis. Clara Zimmerman passed away on Sunday, March 5. We extend our sympathy to her stepson, Bro. Leland, and stepdaughter, Sis. Carroll Zobrist, all of Eureka. We will certainly miss Sis. Clara's presence among us. We also wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Kathryn Schumacher and Sis. Lorine Stoller, whose son and brother, Russel Schumacher, died on February 26. We pray that God will comfort Sis. Frieda Gerber whose daughter, Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), also passed away.

Many of the Eureka brethren traveled to Sabetha, KS on March 12 to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Stan Wiegand (Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Marilyn Metzger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty) of Sabetha. Bro. Stan, formerly of Eureka, now goes to the Bern, KS church. May God richly bless their union.

Also visiting us this past month were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) who shared the Holy Word with us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

BEAUTY

There's beauty in the sunrise
When morning skies are gold.
There's beauty in cathedrals tall
When bells are softly tolled.

There's beauty in the trustfulness
Of seeds beneath the sod.
There's beauty in the reverence
Of hearts that look to God.

By Priscilla May Moore

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Earl Gerber and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dear brothers for being used so selflessly, and trust that the Lord will bless their efforts.

Kenneth and Darlene Zapp have been blessed with a sweet baby daughter, Mariah Gloria, born February 19. Little brother, Cody, is delighted. Grandparents are Peggy Garrels, Joyce and Willis Alford; Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger are Mariah's adoptive grandparents.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman and Timothy are welcoming a precious baby boy, Trevor John, born March 3. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma Walder (East Lynn, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman.

Our prayers are with Sis. Anna Mae Fehr and Marvin (Clara) Bender, as they have been in the hospital this month.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy, Joseph, and Kelly Hinrichsen are mourning the loss of her grandmother, Anna Garber (Eureka, IL). May God comfort them.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks so very much for the many cards, deeds of kindness, prayers and visits since my illness and now my 85th birthday.

In Christian Love, Sis. Lydia Eisenmann

A heartfelt thank you to one and all for the prayers, gifts, cards, flowers and food brought in at the time of our accident and since arriving home. All was appreciated very much and may God bless you.

In Christian Love, Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Marlene Walter****Mary Bachtold**

We wish God's blessings on the engagement and approaching marriage of Sis. Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). May they continue to put their trust in the Lord as they plan their new life together.

"...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13:5

We are thankful to hear that Ed Teubel has heeded God's call to repentance. May God grant him much grace to walk the narrow path that leads to Heaven.

Leah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Arlen Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Bro. Rich Rieger, and Bro. Elmer Lanz spent time in the hospital. We are happy that they have all been able to return home.

We sympathize with Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman and family in the death of his grandmother, Sis. Grace Marty (Rittman, OH).

See! From His head, His hands,
His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled
down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow
meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a
crown?
Gospel Hymns #709

During this Easter season, and at all times, may we ever be mindful of the pain and suffering of our Lord Jesus and the high price that was paid for our salvation. We look forward to our Sunday School children bringing us the story of "The Old Rugged Cross" at the program on Good Friday.

Visiting ministers sharing God's Word with us this month have been Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May God richly bless them for their willing service.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Harvey Ifft as he underwent serious heart surgery. We are thankful that he is improving and look forward to having him assemble with us again. Nathan Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) also spent time in the hospital this month.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus and family and Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Lemman and family in the death of their grandmother, Sis. Clara Zimmerman (Eureka, IL). We also sympathize with Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola Nussbaum and family in the death of her brother, Willis Wackerle (Michigan).

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with gifts, cards, visits and prayers, especially for my birthday and at Christmas. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

Sis. Kathryn Schneider

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Barb Brim**

"The Lord is my portion saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Lam. 3:24-26

These words, part of a beautiful yet grief-filled poem written by the prophet Jeremiah, sets an

amazing example for us as believers. Through all the pain, agony, and tribulation he experienced, he still retained an unyielding faith in the hope of salvation, willing to wait quietly for the Lord and the fulfillment of His promise which is just as binding today as it was those many years ago. Thanks be to God!

The Lord has been exceedingly good to our congregation this month as we rejoice with three new souls who have sought Him and have now the same promise and hope of salvation Jeremiah spoke of so beautifully. We most heartily welcome our newest brothers-in-the-Lord, Bro. Ed Hohulin (Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Dana Plattner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne) and Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary) into our church family, and are so thankful they can share our joy in the Lord. God bless you young brothers with much faith, wisdom, and love.

We also wish much love and happiness to our Bro. Chuck Hart (Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry) and his fiance, Sis. Ann Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) of Elgin, IL as their engagement was announced this month. There is absolutely no better way for a couple to start their lives together than through the direction and will of our Lord. May He bless your home abundantly.

We have three families who have also felt the Lord's rich blessings in a most special way. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm welcomed little Mathew Jeffery into their family on February 26. Mathew's happy grandparents are Sis. Elna Grimm and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand. Kambria Leigh, the first child of our Bro. Rob and Sis. Kelly Wiegand, arrived on March 15 and was greeted by her very excited grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen

Wiegand and Bro. Dick and Sis. Carla Hohulin. Finally, little Jake William Lowery, son of Ken and Sis. Jaci was born on March 16. Jake's grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman and Wayne and Sheryl Lowery of Mackinaw. We wish you all God's grace in raising these three new souls on a path that is full of hope and the quiet expectation of His promise fulfilled in each of their lives.

We mourn the passing of Bro. Elmer Grusy this month, but also rejoice that Bro. Elmer is now reaping the blessings and joy that his life of waiting on the Lord has produced. We extend our thoughts of love and wishes for God's comfort to Sis. Lucy and their family. We also express our sympathy to Bro. Dan and Sis. Charlene Monk over the passing of Bro. Dan's mother, Emma Monk. May the Lord keep you in His loving embrace and comfort your hearts.

We were very fortunate to have so many visiting ministers and their families sharing the Lord's work with us this month. Thank you Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein (Morton, IL), Bro. Denny and Sis. Bonnie Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for your time and efforts on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, encouraging words and loving support given us during my illness. We sincerely appreciate it. May God richly bless each one of

you.

Bro. Don and Sis. Ginny Bauman

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

I had a rather unique spiritual experience this past month. In February our family had occasion to host two student nurses from England for supper in our home. During the course of the conversation we discussed conditions regarding family values, marriage, etc. They said the situation is worse in England than here in the United States.

They asked how I felt marriages could be strengthened. I explained to them the "three-fold cord" concept wherein God is at the top of a triangle, and both husband and wife are at the bottom ends of the triangle. Because both husband and wife love God, they will automatically love one another, and their marriage is made significantly more durable.

After supper we took them to our church to show them where we worship. As we stood in the back of the empty sanctuary, I explained that during worship, men sit on one side, the women sit on the other side, and the minister speaks from the pulpit as led by the Spirit of God. To my great surprise one of the English girls said, "It's like a three-fold cord." Such a perception had never occurred to me, but it is true!

On Wednesday evening, March 15, our congregation heard the reading of the annual Conference report. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was here to help read the letter. A large crowd was present to hear the loving counsel and guidance given by those whom God has placed over us in the Lord. It was heartening to note that great care had been given in anchoring their exhorta-

tions to the scriptures.

I felt a sense of comfort in noting the spiritual intensity of the evening. Row after row of attentive brothers and sisters heard the exhortations. Amid our American society, in which important values such as family and faith are severely tested, it seemed very beneficial to be among a host of people that, by God's grace, are resisting trends of evil--and instead are trying to live in ways that are pleasing to God.

May the beloved church and our dear families hold fast to the truth in these times. We will prosper today, and our children will more ably prosper tomorrow, if we "obey them" who are over us in the Lord. The subtleties of the devil can cause disarray, both in society and in the church. Light and darkness are forever in discord. May God be praised that we have inclination to see and follow the Light.

On February 25, Karin Kiefer was married to Dave Stirman, Bloomington. She is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer. His parents are Dave and Kathy Stirman of Bloomington. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

Bro. Roy Hodel's hand was severely cut and required surgery. He is recovering nicely.

Sis. Dorothy Witzig suffered a broken arm. She was hospitalized overnight, and is now back home.

We all shared in the sorrow felt by Bro. Barry Ehresman in the death of his father.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Once again we can report that much has taken place in our congregation this past month. Life-changing events have occurred and we can only praise and thank

our lord that He is in control and that He is with us as we face the next month and all the joys and sorrows it may bring.

Bro. Willie, Sis. Dannelle and Dane Zeller received a double blessing as they welcomed into their hearts Cole Henry and Cody Dean! The twins were born on February 20. The happy grandparents are Sis. Norma Zeller and Pat and Vern Dunn. May God grant them the grace to raise their sons in the Lord.

Bro. Robert Hermann was called Home on February 26. May our Heavenly Father comfort his wife, Sis. Helen; his son, Dennis; his daughter, Sis. Nancy Hoffman; his six grandchildren; his sister, Sis. Lena Schafer, and his other relatives and friends. Sis. Helen has many precious memories of their life together as they would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 18.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Lisa Schrock welcomed their first child, Rachel Ann, into their lives. She was born on March 16. Her grandparents re Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Jim Peterson and Steve and Joyce Quinn. Our prayer is that the Lord will grant them wisdom in rearing their precious child.

Sunday, March 19, was an eventful day for our congregation. Once again, as in our daily lives, both joy and sorrow mingled. We had a baptism, a wedding announcement and the deaths of two of our loved brothers. Through it all the Lord was in it.

We heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Julie Schick on March 18 and 19. Her parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven and with her and her family.

The engagement of Sis. Tonya Kaiser and Bro. Brad Kaufmann

was announced Sunday, March 19. Sis. Tonya is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser of Morton and Bro. Brad is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann of Tremont. May they continue to seek the Lord's guidance in their engagement period and in their life together.

Bro. Joseph Seidel passed away on Sunday, March 19. His funeral was held on March 22. May God comfort and bless his loved ones; his wife, Sis. Emma; his daughter, Lyn Hilton; his sister, Margaret Seidel; his grandson and his many other relatives and friends. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

May the Lord wrap his spirit of comfort around the family of Bro. Robert Taufer. He died on Sunday, March 19, and his funeral was held on Wednesday, March 22. Our prayers are with his family; his wife, Sis. Marie Eunice; his sons, Bro. Dana and Bro. Ted; his daughters, Sis. Gail (Bill) Mayo, and Sis. Ree (Jim) Hartman; his brother, Stan; and his thirteen grandchildren and his many other relatives and friends. May God sustain them at their loss.

We wish to thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) who ministered God's Holy Word to us. May our Father bless him for serving us.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

In I Chronicles 16:10 it says, "Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord." We rejoice with three more souls who have turned their lives from sin and have sought the Lord in repentance. They are Stephanie Herman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Susi), Stephanie Rumbold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marj) and Todd Bryant (Don and Nina Bryant, Havana, IL). God bless each of them in their new walk with

Him.

We are also pleased that Lucy Endress, a resident at the Home was able to give her testimony and be baptized recently. We ask God's richest blessings upon her, too.

We are saddened to report the death of Sis. Elsie Geef. After a long battle with cancer, the Lord has taken her to be with Him. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and her kindness. We extend our condolences to her husband, Donald, and daughter, Patricia.

Those hospitalized in Peoria recently were: Bro. Jess Eisenmann, Bro. Edwin Staub and Dennis Binkele, son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Binkele. May God's healing hand be upon each of them.

Also hospitalized recently was Rebecca Moser, daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee Moser. Rebecca has been diagnosed with leukemia and is at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Please remember little Rebecca in your prayers, along with brother, Matthew, and her parents.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. We want to thank Bros. John Zeller (Morton, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat

this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

I Corinthians 11:26-27

On March 12 we were encouraged to examine our lives, to "clean house" in preparation for communion. As we approach the time when we commemorate our Lord's death and resurrection, may we search our lives and use this opportunity for a new beginning.

We witnessed the work of the Lord in the lives of Bro. Russ Rumbold and Sis. Peggy Knobloch on February 26, as they were joined in Holy Matrimony. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever:" (Eccles. 3:14). We were privileged to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) with us and we thank him for sharing.

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

Psalms 127:3

February brought two small additions into the lives of our loved ones. Kaylee Ranae Foffle was born February 21 to Brad and Jane Foffle. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Fransis Knobloch and Don and Sharron Foffle.

Nicole Lynn was born February 22 to Merle and Teresa Endress. Nicole was also welcomed home by big brother, Dylan. Grandparents are Sis. Mildred Endress and Jim and Kay Allen.

On March 5 we were privileged to have visiting Bible Classes from Bradford, IL and Lester, IA assembled with us. To see our future church both encourages us and reminds us of our responsibility to hold the faith. A special thanks to the Sunday School teachers, their wives, and all who helped. Also, we thank Bro. Clark

Stoller (Gridley, IL) for sharing with us.

"I will...bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick:"

Ezekiel 34:16

With much thankfulness we report that our dear Sis. Stacy Francis has returned home following surgery. Our prayers continue to be with her. We are thankful for her testimony of faith and patience. We also wish to remember Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Bro. Nick) and Sis. Esther Herrmann (Bro. Bob) following cataract surgery.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Isaiah 55:6

We rejoice with Bill Wade, that he has found the grace to seek the Lord in repentance. May we remember him in our prayers as he seeks to become a new creature in Christ.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks for all the past kindness expressed to me. God bless you.

Sis. Mabel Schafer

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

As we approach the Easter season, we reflect on the unconditional love that our Lord and Saviour had for all of mankind as He faced the cruel death on the cross. He asks so little of us in return that we are sometimes ashamed that we complain and fall short of His will in our lives. May we all strive to submit ourselves to His will and let our self will stay nailed to His cross where we left it when we sought Him and gave our life to Him.

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

The flowers of spring time bright
and fair
Disperse their fragrance sweet
and rare
So consecrate the bloom of youth,
And seek His friendship, grace
and truth.

Thy strength and vigor hopeful
view,
Thy zeal and talents virtue true,
Go offer them in Christ's employ
His blessed nearness to enjoy.

You need not honor, riches, fame,
This life abundant to attain,
Oh heed the Master's loving call
Give Him thy body, soul and all.

In youthful days His blessing seek,
With heart that's tender true and
meek,
And while the years draw on
apace,
You'll praise Him for His love and
grace.

Hymns of Zion #135

We rejoice that another soul has seen the need to turn his life over to the Lord in repentance. May God bless our friend, Matthew Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), as he begins to walk with God.

Craig Byrd welcomed home a new little brother. February 25, Joshua Lee was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Colleen Byrd. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd and Sis. Clara Fischer.

Colton Levi was born March 16 to Tom and Sis. Marsha Durand. Colton has a sister, Brittney, and a brother, Brandon. His grandparents are Don and Linda Durand and Don and Sis. Helen

Brown.

Cheryl Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann) and Jim Wacker (Rudy Wacker and Bev Eden) were married February 25.

Sis. Dorothy Sauder announces the engagement and upcoming marriage of her daughter, Judy, to Larry Hodel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Kathryn). We wish both of these couples a happy life together.

Baptisms were held on March 12 for our new Bro. Kevin Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita) and Sis. Brenda Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris). We welcome them into the Family of God and pray that He will bless them in their new walk with Him.

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Atadena, CA), Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) also was here for our Bible Study. He talked on David and Goliath and how this Old Testament Bible story applies to our lives today. We all face a "Goliath" at some time in our lives, but what a blessed assurance we have that "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

Our Sis. Viola Gudeman passed away on February 20. She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews as well as the many lives she touched through her example.

Pearl Martin also passed away this month. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Earl, and the family.

Bro. Bob Hermann (Morton, IL) passed away February 26. He was the father of our Sis. Nancy Hoffman. We extend our sympathy to her and her mother, Sis. Helen, and brother, Dennis (Morton, IL).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Carol (Bro. Randy) Feucht, Bro. Dave Fis-

cher, Sis. Helen (Bro. Jim) Martin, and Dallas (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dawn) Duckworth. We pray that God will bless all of these loved ones as they recuperate at home.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

We received much "food for thought" through the efforts of our visiting ministers. Visiting us were Bros. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

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

Genesis 2:18

The engagement of Bro. David Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Sandra Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma) of Champaign, IL was announced Sunday, March 5. It is our prayer God will bless them as they become one in the Lord.

Those who have been hospitalized this month are Bro. Dan (Sis. Shirley) Steiner, Sis. Melba (Jerry) Hangartner, and Dick (Cindy) Miller. May God's healing power be with these loved ones.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch and family in the death of Sis. Amy's fa-

ther, Don Holden.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Emma Greiner in the passing of her husband, Bro. John Greiner, and his children, Laina (Tom) Marsh, Oconomowoc, WI; Jon (Belinda) Greiner, Clinton, IL; and grandchildren.

Our Sis. Helen Laidig was called Home on March 14. We extend our sympathy to her son, Ben; Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Robert Wagenbach; her grandchildren; her sister, Sis. Sophia Sauder; and a brother, Bro. William Schmid. May God grant those who are sorrowing, His comforting spirit.

We rejoice with Fred and Ruth Endress on the arrival of a new granddaughter, Lindsey Anne, born March 9. Lindsey's parents are Ed and Rosemary Litwiller, Hopedale, IL.

Nate and Nicole Zuercher welcome their first child, a little girl, Amanda Marie, born March 14. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On Sunday, March 12, we witnessed the baptism of three souls, who are now our brother and sisters in the Lord: Jon (Rebekah) Wagenbach (Si and Sis. Lavonne), Julie Hofsess (Darel and Mary Alyce) and Diana Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette). We rejoice with them and their parents.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks to all for the cards, gifts and love shown to me on my 87th birthday. May God bless each

one.

Sis. Barbara Getz

We wish to thank all our friends and relatives for the many gifts, cards and love extended to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. All will be long remembered. May God bless you all.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Wilma Aberle

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

Have you ever felt spiritually empty? I have. And it is a very empty feeling indeed. Last Sunday, Bro. Ron Messner related the experience they had that morning. As you know, Sunday mornings can be a bit hectic. After hurrying around to get everybody up, fed, dressed and into the car, the last thing he wanted to see was the gas gauge reading almost "Empty". There really wasn't time to fill it up and still get to church on time, and so they continued on, hoping they wouldn't run out of gas. Isn't that just like our lives sometimes? I realized that was exactly what I had been doing. Life has been so hectic and busy, and I hadn't been stopping to fill up my spiritual gas tank. I was hoping that the little in my tank would "be enough" to get me where I'm going. But eventually, just like a car that runs out of gas and stops in the most inconvenient place, I, too, was running out of gas. I needed to stop and fill up my spiritual tank from the Word, from fellowship, and from praising God in song. That is the only way that I, and all of us, can keep going towards the goal.

On February 26, we rejoiced with Bro. Brent Hoerr (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Charlotte Mangold as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We welcomed many of

their family and friends and enjoyed the fellowship they brought. We wish Bro. Brent and Sis. Charlotte God's best blessings! And we know that God will provide healing for that broken ankle Bro. Brent sustained a few days after returning home to Taylor!

Many visiting ministers joined us that day. We thank Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Jeff Streitmatter (Atlanta, GA) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for their efforts that day. We also enjoyed the presence of Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

On March 5, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) visited and spoke to us. On March 8, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) spoke at our monthly Bible Study on "Knowing Our Enemy". Thank you, brothers.

At our monthly Hymn Sing, the group "Kindred Spirit" used the ministry of song to speak to our hearts. Thank you for lending yourselves.

All of these activities will help us to fill up our tanks. May you never be on "Empty"!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Acts 22:16

The weekend of February 25 and 26 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Dan Tucker and Jeremy Greenway. We were thankful to have with us Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). On February 21,

Jack Ely (late Sis. Evelyn) was added to the flock. We rejoice with them and pray that we all can walk closer together as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Elizabeth Grace Fiechter was born on February 20. Her parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Stacey, along with her brothers, Luke, Matthew, Nathanael and Daniel, welcome her into their home. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter, John Cook and Marcia Cook.

"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

Andy Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan) and Brian Clark have answered God's calling and gave their hearts to the Lord. We wish them much grace as they grow in the Lord.

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here ev'ry burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

Bro. Russell and Sis. Alice Steffen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 11. We pray that God will continue to bless their life together.

We want to thank Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Word with us.

We covet your prayers on behalf of those who have spent time in the hospital. They are Chris Steffen (Bro. Bill and Sis. Donna), Drew Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina), Sis. Susie Yergler (Bro. Kim) and Bro. Ed Schwartz Sr. (Sis. Josephine).

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**Lily Pelsy**

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

Psalm 119:165

We are thankful for three converts who have been announced for peace. They are Molly Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Tonya Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon) and Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev).

Sis. Elsie Yaggie is very grateful to be at home again, after a lengthy stay in a nursing home. Others who are in the hospital are Tex Onken (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry) who is improving one day at a time. Jim Albrecht is now at home.

We thank the visiting ministers for their labors of love. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) was here to assist with the Memorandum. Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) also served us by the grace of God.

For a Bible topic, Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) who has been in a wheelchair since 1989, humbly brought forth a very edifying message. Some thoughts from the evening were: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness," (Isaiah 41:10). Climb up the mountain one step at a time. Attitude is 10% of what happens and 90% of how we accept trials. The value and importance of our church family. We don't have to have a heavy cross to be faithful, but our crosses can benefit us. We don't question God. God wants us to make it to Heaven.

As we consider what Jesus did for all men on the cross, may our hearts flood with thankfulness as we recall His prayer "not my will but thine be done."

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**Lauretta Schafer****Sandy Lichtle**

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

Mark 10:9

On January 22, Bro. Andy Wuethrich and Sis. Jill Herman were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Allan and Sis. Lois Herman (Peoria, IL). May God guide and bless them as they begin their life as one in Him.

Believing that it is God's will, Bro. Chuck Hart and Sis. Ann Martin announced their engagement on March 12. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin (Elgin, IL). We rejoice with them as they plan for their wedding on August 13. We welcome both couples as they make their homes here in Indy.

Visiting minister for the month was our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless him and his wife for their labors of love on our behalf.

INDIANA, LACROSSE**Judy Gudeman**

"And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."

Exodus 23:25

This is our prayer for those that

have had health problems this month. Sis. Lucille Heiniger (Bro. John) and Karen Heiniger (the late Bro. Paul) have both been hospitalized for surgery. Sis. Lucille is now recovering well at home, but Karen continues to require close monitoring. We are thankful that Sis. Carol Troxel (Bro. Ed) is again assembling with us after receiving treatments for an illness.

Our spiritual man has just received food for growth and healing, as we just listened to the Memorandum from the 1994 Brotherhood Conference. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA) for coming out to share this with us.

Karina Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) has turned unto her Lord in repentance, by which we are so encouraged. We are always overjoyed to hear of another soul who has turned his back to the world, and are reminded that all the angels in Heaven rejoice over each sinner that repents. May each of us always strive to be instruments of God's peace.

INDIANA, LEO**Ethelyn Schlatter**

"And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

I Timothy 1:14

On March 5, Bro. Brace Wieland, our new minister, delivered the morning message. We sensed the Spirit's leading as he meditated on Isaiah 55 and John 1.

Sis. Lillian Pfister is recovering from an unsuccessful cataract surgery which left her blind in her right eye. She has returned home following rehabilitation at Kingston Care Center for a couple

weeks. We were happy that she could attend morning services on March 12. Also attending services after many months at home was Sis. Emma Levy.

Bro. William Waibel and family from Bay City, MI were welcome visitors on March 12. We appreciated his ministry from God's Word.

Bro. Mike Klopfenstein returned from a trip to Haiti. He spent spring break there with brothers from other areas.

From American Bible Society pamphlet:

One evening during the Easter season of 1874, pastor, author, and composer Robert Lowry was having his devotions when he was especially moved by the words of the angel at Jesus' tomb.

"He is not here, but is risen," the angel declared to the women who had come to anoint Jesus' body.

As Lowry pondered that life-changing message, he found himself at his pump organ. Soon both the words and music of the beloved Easter hymn, "Christ Arose" were recorded. Its triumphant message has stirred the hearts of God's people ever since.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor -
Marguerite Hoerr**

We were favored with a visit by ministering Bro. John Hartman and his wife, Sis. Rosemary (Fairbury, IL), this past month. Accompanying them were other members of the Fairbury church. It was a blessing to have them.

Speaking of blessings, a group of seventeen from the Milford congregation were privileged to join a work team, which spent a week building and remodeling homes in the Juarez, Mexico work project. They were: Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer and their son, Neal; Bro. Bill

and Sis. Anne Troup and their daughter, Kim; Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen and their three children, Bro. Rod, Sis. Monica and Clint; Bro. Phil Price and his three sons, Bro. Jeremy, Jason and Daron; Andy Haab, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha; and Verena Zimmer of Germany, who has been worshipping with us and attending school locally, while she's a guest of Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor. On returning home, many of them voiced their awareness and concern for the extreme poverty and the love they felt among the people there.

Bro. Roy Lehman has been blessed with a good recovery from his recent illness and surgery. He's able to be back in his home, and able to care for himself. His loving relatives are looking in on him and helping where they can. Once again, we're thankful for God's healing mercies.

We're all benefitting from a rotation system which our Milford church has established. For those who take their turns on the dinner list, it's been suggested that we worship with our loved ones at Lakeland Loving Care the Sunday following. We're fortunate to have this Home practically in our back yard and our church has been allowed the privilege of airing our morning worship services over there. We've been blessed by our visits with Sis. Helen Baumgartner, Sis. Emma Haab and Sis. Flossie Hartter. Our retired Deacon, Bro. Elmer Hartter, always worships with Sis. Flossie and we have the advantage of visiting with him, also. The times spent with them have served as true blessings.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

Discontentment makes rich men poor while contentment

makes poor men rich.

"...and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

I begin my news with an apology to Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). I failed to report that he had visited us. We do thank you and welcome you to visit again.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL).

Signs of spring: The robins are here and the crocus is blooming. Our weather has been in the low 70's. It is so good to go out without putting on a heavy coat.

Another sign of spring: Our "snowbirds" are beginning to come home, namely Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler and Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucille Steffen. All were in Florida. It is always so good to have members of our church family back with us.

Last Friday, March 10, Bro. Phil Isabell and his son, Gabriel, and Chad Getz (Ron and Sis. Jean) left with a group to go to Haiti on the work team. This is a good spiritual experience for young people like Chad and Gabriel. We will welcome them home, too.

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

Zion's Harp #89

As we approach the Easter season, may all the verses of this lovely hymn be on our lips and heart. Walking close to Him we can experience true blessings on Easter, which is our wish for all who read this.

My closing thought: Think of

no other greatness but that of the soul, no other riches but those of the heart. (John Quincy Adams)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

Our hearts rejoice with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer Mangold as they welcome a beautiful baby boy into their home. Andrew Ernest was born February 26. Proud grandparents are Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold, Sis. Diane Kellenberger (Morris, MN) and Mark Kellenberger of Leicester, NC.

March 5 our Bible Class attended the ACYF gathering at Purdue University. It was a blessing to see so many young people attend this annual event. The topic of the day was "Will you hear the call?" The students were truly challenged not only to hear God's call, but more importantly, to act upon it in their lives.

We are thankful that Bro. Wayne Lehman and Bro. Rich Gramm returned safely from a recent work team project in Mexico. We so appreciate their loving hearts and willingness to give of themselves to those in need.

We appreciate Bro. Walt Rager and Sis. Sharon (Toledo, OH) spending a Sunday with us and ministering God's Word.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings dear ones. It seems that this beautiful weather we've been having has put many in a much better mood. It's a real blessing to have Jesus in our lives, isn't it? We don't have to worry about what the weather is outside, because we have Jesus to affect our moods. No matter what is happening around us, isn't it nice to know we're on the winning side of all this?

We rejoice with Bro. Tim (Joyce) Ames as he was baptized into the Family of God on March 6. May he always feel the nearness of God and be a light unto his dear family. We need to keep praying for all lost souls. As we have witnessed here again, God is answering prayer.

On this same weekend, we were privileged to have the Memorandum read to us by Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). This blended in very well with the testimony of Bro. Tim. Thank you once again, Brothers, for letting the spirit have free course on this special weekend. May the Lord continue to bless all our ministries.

Our dear friend, Pam (Gene) Schwartz, has once again had surgery. We are grateful that we can look to God during these times, not only physically, but even much more spiritually.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). May God be gracious to both of you and your families.

Until next time, the Lord willing, may our great God watch between us all. Fare thee well.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Sheri Bahler

Sunday, February 26, marked the last Sunday of Bro. Vernon Schwab's service in the ministry. We know that his ministry to the world will never cease as long as he lives, but his ministry from our pulpit is completed. May the Lord richly bless him for his 34 years of service to our congregation.

That same Sunday, Brian and Brent Blume and Bobbi Ann Gerber were announced for peace. We rejoice with them as we look forward to their testimonies and bap-

tisms on May 20 and 21.

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,
For the wand'rer now is reconciled;
Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful way,
And is born anew a ransomed child.

Tabernacle Hymns #202

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing with the repentance of three souls in our congregation. Derek Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell), Chad Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne), and Kent Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine) have all surrendered their lives to God. We pray that He will give them the needed grace to overcome the power of Satan.

Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) was with us Sunday, March 5. We are thankful for his willingness to share God's teachings.

Jacob Nicholas was welcomed home by sisters, Kaileigh and Amanda, following a hospital stay after his birth. Parents are Tim and Jana Balducci. May God bless their little family.

IOWA, AMES

Luann Schmidgall

We are so thankful for our ministering brothers who faithfully come to bring us God's Word. On February 26 we were blessed to have Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) minister to us.

Our many converts here have shown such a sincere desire and zeal to serve the Lord. It has been a blessing to observe this and reminds those of us who have been in the faith longer to strive to maintain that first love.

Our last two gatherings for the spring semester will be held on April 9 and April 23. We also

gather in our homes on Wednesday evenings to listen to a taped sermon. If you are passing through, we welcome you to join us. Please contact Bro. Aaron Schmidgall at (515) 232-4723 for further information.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Lorna Knapp

Monica Eisenmann

We had the privilege this month to listen to God's Word brought forth by several visiting ministers. Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Steve Sauder and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) allowed themselves to be used in God's service this past month.

Sis. Esther Peterson has spent some time in the hospital recently. Also, Pauline Heiniger suffered from a neck injury. Surely many prayers have been offered on their behalf. We are thankful to have Sis. Betty Baker assembling with us again after her surgery.

With sympathy and joy we laid to rest our dear Sis. Emma Eberhardt. May we never forget the good example she has left behind, and may we ever strive for perfection. We trust that the Lord will comfort and strengthen her son and wife, Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby, and their family. They will miss her presence in their home, where she spent many of her last days on earth. May God be with them as they prepare to meet her again someday.

We also extend our sympathy to Sisters Leola Heiniger, Ester Peterson, Marty Buehler, and Betty Baker with the passing of their sister-in-law, Lenore Frank.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Here in northeast Iowa we have been enjoying unseasonably

warm temperatures. The robins are returning and we are looking forward to the resurrection of new life that takes place on the earth every spring.

Just as God so miraculously brings new life to the earth by turning the brown grass to a lush green, filling the barren branches with leaves and fruit and blessing the earth with a variety of colorful flowers, so He can bring new life to souls who are wandering in sin and darkness, void of true happiness, peace and hope.

At this Easter season as we think upon the suffering and death of our Saviour, may we also remember His resurrection from the sealed dark grave, and His victory over death so we, too, can be resurrected from a world of sin to those heavenly mansions He has gone to prepare for the true and faithful.

We always appreciate visiting ministers who come and so willingly lend themselves. This past month we were richly blessed to have Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) come and share God's Holy Word with us.

Sis. Eleanor Butikofer spent a few days in the hospital but we are glad she can be home again and is feeling better.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

When I came home from work today, I stopped a few minutes outside to enjoy the beautiful sunny weather. I noticed several flowers coming up in the flower bed and some ready to bloom. I thought to myself, spring is coming. We usually associate new life with spring and my mind wandered to Easter and the "new life" that is ours through Jesus' shed blood.

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.

Our ransom now is paid.
The Son is victor over death,
Who - e'er believes is saved.

Hymns of Zion #257

We want to thank our visiting ministers and their families who came to share with us. From Bern, KS we were fed the "Word of Life" by Bro. Galen Rokey, and from Morris, MN, Bro. Roy Koehl ministered to us. Both of these brothers brought other visitors which we truly appreciate.

Sis. Jan Webber (Bro. Phil) has been experiencing some health difficulties. We pray for her speedy recovery.

When we pray with selfish motives, we are asking God to do our will instead of surrendering to His. This was the saying on my daily minder today. It made me stop and think about the content of my prayers!

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! As spring arrives, let us rejoice in the new life around us. Each new leaf on the tree, each sprouting tulip, each greening blade of grass seems to speak of hope. May our spiritual eyes be opened to see beyond our beautiful, earthly home to the hope of our Eternal new life awaiting us in Heaven, and may our hearts be ever prompted to pray for the budding forth of new life in those around us who remain dead in sin.

We appreciate all of our visitors this month. Among our visitors were Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer who came to show us a slide presentation of our World Relief projects. The pictures and Bro. Tim's sharing of his experiences touched all of our hearts. May we all be listening to God's direction as He calls us to share His love with the less fortunate

whether at home or afar.

We look forward to the sharing of the Memorandum next week. May our hearts be prepared so that we can be receptive to the exhortations our Elders lovingly give us.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

Three families from our congregation have been blessed with new additions. On February 18, Thomas Clarence was welcomed by Kevin and Janet Oleson and big sister, Maranda. Grandparents are Robert and Linda Oleson (Live Oak, FL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger.

A precious son, Weston Marshall, was born to Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie Knobloch on March 6. Big brothers are Austin, Max and Wyatt. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Irene Knobloch, and Sis. Janet Wysong.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda Meyer are thankful for a new son, Jacob Evan, born March 10. Alvie and Lanna are excited for a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer, and Wayne and Jennie Van Wyhe.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalm 116:15

Our hearts were touched with sorrow when we heard of the death of our Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (Washington, DC) after a battle with cancer. Bro. Matthew's wife, Sis. Jill, was formerly from Lester and we grew to know and love Bro. Matthew through their visits here. On February 22 a memorial and graveside service was held at Lester. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Jill and her family, Bro. Eugene and Sis.

Delores Metzger, Bro. Blair (Sis. Julie), Kent (Jamie), and Bro. Jerome (Sis. Jana), and to Bro. Matthew's parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and their family.

We also had cause for rejoicing as two more souls were added to the fold. On March 11 and 12 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Brad and Sis. Joy Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla). We appreciate the labors of visiting Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) on this blessed weekend.

Hospital patients from our congregation include Bro. Wilbert Knobloch, and Bro. August and Sis. Martha Feucht. Our prayers are with all that suffer bodily affliction.

On March 4 and 5 our high school Sunday School students traveled to Princeville, IL for an enjoyable weekend of fellowship. We appreciate the efforts of the Sunday School teachers and parents who made the weekend possible.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach

Melody Steiner

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Emma Eberhardt in her recent passing. May her son, Bro. Joe Eberhardt, Jr. and his wife, Sis. Ruby, ever feel rewarded for the loving care they provided for her in their home and in the later months as she was in the nursing home. As Sis. Emma sang "In the Sweet By and By" in her last hours, surely she was getting a glimpse of that Heavenly Home and thinking of the day when her family would meet her there, including her 8 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Rosemary Larson (Bro.

Mark) and their boys in the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Lee Eisenmann (Latty, OH). May they feel the many prayers offered in their behalf.

Thankful for the safe arrival of their fifth little bundle from Heaven and second precious daughter are Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach, Jr. Big sister, Corin, and big brothers, Kyle, Clinton, and Kory, are very excited about their new baby sister to love. Also thankful for her safe arrival are her grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and the late Myrna Moser (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Sr.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Eugene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We thank them for their labors of love. We also thank Bro. Eugene for sharing his slides of our brethren in Europe. It gave us all more of an understanding of the poor living conditions of our loved ones there, yet their faith is strong.

IOWA, PULASKI

Carol Wettstein

The Miracles of Easter

The sleeping earth awakens, the robins start to sing,
The flowers open wide their eyes to tell us it is Spring.
The bleakness of the winter is melted by the sun,
The tree that looked so stark and dead, becomes a living one.
These miracles of Easter, wrought with divine perfection,
Are the blessed reassurance of our Saviour's Resurrection.

What a refreshing time spring is with warmer weather and God's beautiful creation coming to life again. Often in a spiritual sense we need to be refreshed also.

Bro. Paul Teubel (Sis. Char-

lotte) was in the hospital requiring back surgery, but is able to be with us in church again. Bro. Richard Teubel (Sis. Wilma) is in the hospital at this time undergoing radiation treatments. Our prayers are with this dear family as they so patiently bear their burdens.

Our little church family and entire community was saddened at the death of our dear Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich who passed away after a short illness. Among those mourning are her husband, Bro. Bill; daughter, Kristi Klyn (Curt) of Grimes, IA; sons, Montie (Amy) of Bloomfield, and Chad of Lakeside, Neb. Also, her mother, Sis. Frieda Gerber (Eureka, IL); one sister, Sis. Clara Gerber (Princeville, IL); and one brother, Paul Gerber, of Minneapolis, MN. Her grandchildren and many other relatives along with the whole church will miss her warm, friendly ways. May God be a comfort to all.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for taking part in Sis. Ernestine's funeral and to Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) for spending the following Sunday with us. May God bless their labors of love.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

It was a joy and a blessing to have the Elder brothers and many of their wives among us during the mid-winter Elder Conference. We are especially grateful to those who ministered to us during this time: Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City,

MO). On Saturday evening, Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan and Duane Farney assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in reading and expounding on the Memorandum of the last general Conference. May God continue to bless the labors of our Elder brethren and may we all strive for a closer walk with our Lord. All thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He so freely bestows on us.

Among our surgical and hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Tillie Mogler, Sis. Sara Metzger, Sis. Betty Wirtz, Sis. Ella Schneider, Bro. Paul Demiter, and Louis Schafer. We are thankful for God's healing hand on each one and our prayers continue for Sis. Ella who at this time is still hospitalized.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven, as another soul has answered the call. Shane Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) has proclaimed peace with God and man and we are looking forward to hearing his testimony in the near future.

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

III John 1:4

We wish God's blessings upon the engagement of Jami Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey) to Marc Banwart (Don and Jane). May they feel God's direction as they plan a June wedding.

We rejoice at this spring time season of the year as we think of our Saviour's dying on the cross and His resurrection from the grave, all in the interest of our soul's salvation.

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

Revelation 1:18

KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Donna Edelman

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

Mark 16:6

As we approach the Easter season, may we remember our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. Let us rejoice with thankful hearts for the hope of eternal life. After Easter we will discontinue our Wednesday evening church services and start having singing every other Sunday evening.

The family of Bro. Faron and Sis. Jane Strahm welcomed Mariah Lyn on February 4. She has a brother, Clay, and a sister, Jessalyn. Happy grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha, KS) and Clayton and Miriam Strahm.

Our thoughts of sympathy go to Bro. Tim and Sis. Margaret Edelman on the death of an infant nephew. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman and family on the death of an uncle, Phil Edelman.

March 12 was the wedding date of Bro. Stan Wiegand (Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Marilyn Metzger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty, Sabetha). May God be near this couple as they go through life together.

We experienced a blessed evening on March 4 when Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and John Lehman read the Memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference to us at Sabetha. May we support our Elder brothers and always be "looking to Jesus".

Our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder (Tremont, IL) for coming to Kansas State University on March 3 for a Bible Study.

Requiring hospitalization was Sis. Pearl Miller (Bro. Wayne). Bro. Wilhelm Metzger has returned home from the hospital following knee surgery. May God's strength and healing be with them.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalms 121:8

We thank the Lord for being with our dear friend, Steve Robb, when he was in a car accident. Thankfully, he is at home recuperating.

We assembled together on March 1 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. How thankful we can be that our Heavenly Father gives our dear shepherds the strength to stand before us and in love strengthen us and warn us of Satan's many traps. May each of us take what we heard and put it to work in our own lives. We want to thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for assisting Bro. Charles on this blessed evening.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of

her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Proverbs 31:10, 30, 31

These are three verses of one of the beautiful chapters read at the funeral of our dear Sis. Frieda Frieden, who fell asleep in the arms of her Lord as she was undergoing surgery for a hip replacement after having broken the hip in a fall. Sis. Frieda was 92 years of age, and though her family and friends will miss her presence, we know that there can only be joy for her where she abides now. The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to all of you who shared your love through words of comfort, acts of kindness, cards, flowers or with the pleasure of having you in their midst that day.

Our thoughts and prayers are ever with those loved ones who are ill, or who need the Lord's helping hand, and though we don't always know those who are in need of our petitions, God knows, and through our prayers for each other will "be there" for them almost before we ask: John Schupbach (Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling) was in an accident this past month, and underwent surgery for a broken jaw. We are thankful all went well and that he is now recuperating at home.

We had the blessed privilege to have Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his dear wife, Sis. Jane (Lamont-Gridley, KS), in our midst to share God's Word with us one Lord's day this past month. Then on another occasion, Bro. Max Reimschisel and his dear wife, Sis. Judy (Wichita, KS), were with us to give an exhortation for preparation for Holy Communion which we will (Lord willing) partake of in the near future. As we remember the perfect life, the cruel death and the joyous resurrection of our precious Lord Jesus who gave His life

that we might eternally live, we are so grateful that God loved this sinsick world, and pray that many souls may yet turn to the Lord before the door of grace is closed and it is forever too late to seek Him.

Thanks again to all who make Hunter Care Services a blessing by your participation.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

We were saddened for Bro. Jeff Frieden in the loss of his dear mother, Sis. Frieda Frieden (Kiowa, KS). Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden and their entire family.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). Both Brothers were willing to come to assist our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in reading of the Memorandum letter. Also visiting us was Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) for our monthly Bible Study weekend held at Emporia State University. We are always glad for any encouragement from the Word of God and thankful for those who are willing to come share it with us.

Matthew Lloyd Knoblock is the name chosen for the new little 8 pound son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri Knoblock born on March 16. What a wonderful little brother he has made for his older siblings, Jacob, Ester, Nathan and Corbin. Grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Irene Knoblock (Lester, IA) and Bro. Lloyd and Joanne of here. Our loving congratulations to little Matthew's entire family.

Another joyful announcement was made! The engagement of Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) was announced to Bro. Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and

Sis. Mary) of LaCrosse, IN. With excitement, we watch the progress of two dear hearts who will be joined together by the love of God. May His blessings be upon them.

Training children to participate in worthwhile endeavors is sincerely a responsibility. Our World Relief day at Newton, KS landed on our children's spring break from school. Several children went along eager to participate. By the end of the day, we all felt that progress had been made, and that patience in teaching a worthwhile responsibility was truly rewarding.

With spring comes a time of remembering for us, a time to reflect on the Lord's agony, death and then His glorious resurrection. Thus, we celebrate the coming need for Holy Communion and then the celebration of the glorious "Easter" holiday. We are such a privileged people to know that God is within us. Let us be truly thankful and share it excitedly with others.

Note of Thanks:

From the depth of my heart I want to thank all you loved ones for the many cards and the outpouring of your love to me on my 90th birthday. May God bless you all and reward you, as I can never repay you.

Samuel Anliker

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm**

Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni Meyer were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Cameron Joseph Meyer, on February 18. His grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL).

The Memorandum was kindly

brought forth by Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisting Elder Bro. Sam Huber. May we strive to be useful vessels in His service and be among the overcomers when our time on this earth has ended.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Aberle on the passing of her sister, Sis. Frieda Frieden, of Kiowa.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalms 37:4-5

On March 12, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Stanley Wiegand and Sis. Marilyn Metzger. Their parents are Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Douglas and Sis. Betty Metzger. Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared with us on this special day. We wish God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman and Bros. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Gary Brown and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Jeanne Aberle**

We're thankful for the visitors at our chapel services the past two months, including ministering Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), who conducted a

Bible study on decision-making and knowing God's will.

February 11 and 12 was the weekend of Sis. Kristen Lehman's testimony and baptism. Her parents are Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). It was an uplifting weekend, as we were able to observe another miracle God has performed.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation extended sympathy to Sis. Roseann Reeves whose mother, Sis. Frieda Frieden, of Kiowa, KS went to her eternal reward February 22. Sis. Frieda and her late husband, Bro. Jeff, had been a part of our congregation for many years before they returned to Kiowa. We all basked in her serene presence when she returned to Wichita to visit in her daughter's home and assembled with us.

The Lord has heard our prayers for Sis. Kathleen Gallitin's husband, Joe, who has been experiencing health problems. Adjustments in his medication seemingly are effective at this writing. We pray it will continue to be so.

Bro. Phillip Bowers underwent surgery on March 10 for his continuing problems. He is beginning to respond to treatment and hopes to be released to recuperate at home for at least a month. May God continue to watch over Bro. Phillip and his caregivers during this time.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

A special thank you is extended to all our visitors this past month. Several have stopped on their way from Florida and we always appreciate the fellowship! Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz

came from Leo, IN and Bro. Lynn shared the Word of Life with our congregation. Thanks for your time and support. Also, on the weekend of March 11 and 12, Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and their wives came to be with us as we read the Memorandum and took Holy Communion. A potluck dinner was enjoyed Saturday evening at the church. Our sincere thanks to these brothers and their wives for sharing of their time and talents. May we each do our part to uphold our beautiful heritage and faith.

We have also enjoyed visits from brothers and sisters who have been working with the Galilean project south of Lexington, in Liberty, KY. It takes approximately two hours to reach the Lexington church. Services are at 7:00 on Wednesday evening and 10:00 and 12:15 for Sunday services.

Recently one of our cats caught a beautiful turtle dove and had wounded the bird's back slightly. We rescued the poor thing and put it in a cage to nurse it back to health. While looking for a place to set the cage, we set it on our patio table with one of the boys to stand guard. The cat looked up longingly at the lost meal and the bird fluttered about nervously from side to side in panic. When we returned, we saw all this and my wife commented, "It's a shame the bird doesn't realize he's safe." I began to think how often we as God's children do the same thing as this poor bird. We also obtain wounds in this life as we meet our spiritual foe, the Devil, and though we are safe in God's care and have our church, faithful brethren who watch for our souls, we still worry and fret about things. May we each one take courage to realize who cares for us

and to rest in His peace. May we do as the Psalmist said, "Be still and know that I am God."

We thank Thee Lord, we are redeemed!
Our soul they could not capture,
For as a bird from nets released,
We have escaped in rapture.
The bonds are loosed and we are free
And strengthening grace we find
in thee,
The God of earth and heaven,
The God of earth and heaven.
Zion's Harp #109

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

Sis. Delila Schrenk has returned from her winter residence in Zapata, TX. It's really good to have her with us again.

Robert and Kim Koehl, grandchildren of Sis. Delila Schrenk, asked everyone to join them at a reception in celebration of their marriage. May God richly bless Rob and Kim in the years ahead.

Carl Wheeler is no longer a resident of Sherbrooke Nursing Center. He has returned to his home in Grand Rapids, MI. Our prayers continue to be with him and Sis. Kate.

As we rejoice in another Easter season, we need to remember the death and suffering of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He died for each one of us and we have a very precious privilege and responsibility of living each day of our lives for Him. Wishing you a most blessed Easter.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Janel Ramseyer

Michigan was especially blessed in this past week with beautiful weather. It's incredible what sunshine and warm tem-

peratures do for my attitude! I know we are called to always be joyful no matter what the circumstances, but somehow I forgot. The winter just seems so long, sometimes. A friend reminded me that the true Son lives in me. What a picture! "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36).

We welcome Bro. Eli Schlatter back into our congregation. Bro. Eli has been ill and unable to attend services at church.

The Bay City congregation has had to say goodbye to Sis. Eiko Nozawa as she returns home to Japan. Sis. Eiko has been in Bay City since mid-January visiting Sis. Vicki Ramseyer. Sis. Eiko will truly be missed--we already look forward to the day she can return.

Bro. Bob Knochel had knee surgery on March 10. His daughters, Sis. Carolyn Schamback, Sis. Barb Knochel, Jane Wackerle, and Sandy would appreciate your prayers for his speedy recovery.

Sis. Ginger Mosher had back surgery in early March and is recovering well.

"Into every life a little rain must fall, and losing one you love is like a storm." (M.W. Smith). We in Bay City are saddened by the passing of Bro. Jess Hodder. While we can have confidence that everything on this earth works together for good for those of us who love God and are called according to His purpose, the ache of loss remains. We are certainly mindful of his wife, Sis. Millie, and continue to prayerfully support her.

Willie Wackerle also passed away this month. His brother, Bro. Ron Wackerle, and sisters, Sis. Loretta Mosher and Sis. Neola Nussbaum (Forrest, IL), also are in our thoughts and prayers for this loss from their family.

We invite you all to visit us! Michigan has a special beauty in the spring and summer. We would love the opportunity to worship with you.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Tessa Schamback

Small green shoots are pushing their way through the moist soil to breathe of the fresh air above. Tiny buds are forming on the outstretched branches of the tall trees swaying in the breeze. Birds are beginning to sing out as the sun climbs higher in the bright blue sky. Spring. Spring is here, and it is time for us to count our blessings as we look around us at all of God's creation.

One blessing that we are thankful for here in Detroit is the many loved ones from across the country who come to visit. On the weekend of February 25 and 26 we welcomed the Leo Children's Home and young group to our area. It was a happy time that we spent together visiting the Henry Ford Museum, playing games, and singing songs.

We are also thankful to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel back in our midst. We appreciate their presence here with us, though they are sure to be missed by those in Florida.

On March 11 and 12, the choir from Detroit had the opportunity to travel to Chicago. It was a very uplifting time of sharing praises in song with brethren from across the miles. We are so blessed to be able to travel great distances, meet new people, see old friends, and feel instantly loved and welcomed. It is something to be truly thankful for.

Through good times and bad, we are never without God's love. He will always be there to comfort and to guide us as long as we let Him. Feeling this love, Bro. Walt

Bauer (Sis. Hilda) and Bro. Bob Knochel (Bay City) are both recovering from surgeries here in Detroit. Sis. Cindy Hitz (Bro. Tom), Leland Haines (Katie), and Kathryn Losiewicz (Ed) are also experiencing God's healing touch after some unfortunate accidents. We also are thinking about and praying for Barb Maibach (Ben III) as she is undergoing radiation treatment. In these times we are reminded of the fragileness of life, but we are also reminded of God's power to overcome these trials. And we praise Him for this power.

With the spring season upon us, we all find our days quickly filling up with plans. Staying busy does not seem to be a problem. Yet for those of us who are able to be out and about, let us not forget the shut-ins. We appreciate Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) taking the time on Tuesday evening, March 7, to share the Word with the loved ones at Woodhaven. Also during this busy time, the Detroit choir is planning Woodhaven Benefit Dinner for May 21. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Woodhaven at 1-313-261-9000.

As Easter once again approaches, let us not forget the most important blessing to be thankful for---Christ's death on the cross for all of us. God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die on our behalf. We can be assured each day of this love by looking around us. It is everywhere, and in everything that God has made. The sun that shines. The air we breathe. The animals that roam.

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

Hymns of Zion #207

Reminder: Subscriptions are

due this month.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

We were abundantly blessed this month with four visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bros. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). May each one be richly blessed for their efforts in bring us the inspired Word of God.

We thank Bro. Tim Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for giving a slide presentation to us on the many World Relief Projects. Each of us can help support these projects by prayer, financial support or lending a helping hand. God desires that each of us be that good Samaritan, by helping those in need.

Sis. Laura Miller (Bro. Noah) is a hospital patient because of a recent fall. We pray that God's healing power will mend her broken hip.

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

Revelation 21:4

Our hearts were saddened when we heard that Beatrice Miller (late Bro. Richard) passed away on March 8. We rejoiced that she was in repentance at the time of her passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to her two sons, Ronald and Larry, and their families.

Todd and Sis. Renee Messner welcomed a new son, Thomas Jacob, who was born March 8. Andrew and Emily are excited to have a little brother. Their grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner (late Bro. Dennis), Winthrop,

MN and John and Diane Ohlemann, Gibbon, MN.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand and their two daughters, Tiera and Jenna, who recently moved here from the Silverton, OR congregation. We are thankful to have them in our church family and hope they can feel our love.

Our appreciation is extended to Sis. Renee Messner, Sis. Kelly Schmidt and Bro. Damon Knobloch for their time and service in teaching Sunday School. May we prayerfully support Sis. Lori Rumbold (five year term), Sis. Diane Stewart (substitute one year) and Bro. Leo Banwart (substitute one year) as their replacements.

At this Easter season, may we pause to consider the great price that was paid for our salvation when our Lord Jesus died on the cross and shed His precious blood for our sins, so we might have life eternal. May we always be thankful for this most precious gift of salvation.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Linda Schmidgall
Maxine Sauder

Redeemed - how I love to proclaim it!

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;

Redeemed thru His infinite mercy, His child forever, I am.

Tabernacle Hymns #126

This illustration helped me to understand the concept of redemption:

"The word redeemed implies the idea of a slave standing on the trader's auction block being offered to the highest bidder. At last the price is paid by a compassionate new owner, who then gives the slave his unconditional

freedom. But the freed slave, out of gratitude to his new owner, offers himself as a loving bond servant for life to his redeemer.

Man has been separated from God by sin and has become a slave of Satan. But man has been redeemed. Because Christ paid the ransom we owed to divine justice, we have been freed from the shackles of sin's bondage and God's eternal wrath. Out of gratitude for this deliverance, we cling to our new Master and lovingly determine to serve Him forever. A realization of redemption causes the ransomed to sing repeatedly, "Redeemed--how I love to proclaim it, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb..." Kenneth W. Osbeck

We are grateful that the redemption story is still being proclaimed. Our visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). As there are still those held in bondage, may they be encouraged to continue to preach the redeeming power in Jesus' blood.

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

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Jan Messner

Greetings!!

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Colossians 3:15

In our faith we have such a unique tie to one another; a body of believers. There is a fellowship in our faith that is so precious that we shall always be thankful that we can go miles upon miles and

still be a part of that body and have that immediate bond that is only possible because of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are so thankful that God has led Sis. Julie Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma, Lester, IA) to the Winthrop area for employment. What a blessing it is to have her assembling with us.

As we reflect back so many years ago, and think about what our Lord must have gone through on Calvary's hill, we are so thankful that we can once again rejoice and be glad for that precious gift God has given all mankind. As the trees bud, the flowers bloom and the grass grows this Easter season, may our spiritual lives continue to do the same.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Pearl Liene-mann, Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Gene). May God bless them and keep them in His tender care today and in the days that lie ahead.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On February 25, Elder Bro Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) was with us to share the Conference Memorandum. Let us take to heart the words of admonition and strive to walk closer with our Lord.

Sis. Anna Lou Mattix submitted to surgery this month and we are glad she is back with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Wilma Farney as she recovers from surgery. We hope she will soon be assembling with us again.

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

Mark 16:6

As the Easter season approaches, let us remember that it was the Lord's suffering and shed blood that gives us our hope of life eternal.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart

Becky Marti

We are enjoying beautiful spring weather here in southwest Missouri, but have to keep reminding ourselves that winter may not be over. Everywhere are signs of His creation---flowers blooming, trees budding, new calves, etc. The farmers are busy working the fields for planting.

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month from various congregations. We especially thank Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and ministering Bros. Doug Shock (Pulaski, IA) and Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for their willingness to minister His Holy Word to us. May God continue to grant them the grace to carry out His work.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The St. Louis church wants to thank the following ministers and their wives for visiting us this past month: Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). What a blessing we receive when these loving brothers turn to God's Word and help us to understand it better.

One brother related the follow-

ing story: He was getting some breakfast on Sunday morning and noticed that everyone had stopped eating and was eagerly watching a big screen in the restaurant. They were captivated by the story of Michael Jordan coming out of retirement to again play basketball. He wondered what our reaction would have been, as Christians, had it been announced that morning that Jesus was returning. Would we have been ready to welcome Him back, as were the sports fans to welcome the returning athlete?

We have enjoyed mid-week fellowship with Bro. Dana Emch (Rittman, OH) who is commuting to St. Louis during the week for his work. We have services one Wednesday evening every month, but we frequently share a meal together during other weeks.

Our Wednesday evening schedule through the summer is as follows: May 10, June 14, July 12 and August 9. If you have the opportunity to worship with us at any time, you are most welcome.

We welcome Kyle Kellenberger to St. Louis. He has recently found employment here, and has moved from Lamar, MO. His parents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh."

Mark 10:7-8

February 26 was a blessed day for Bro. Brent Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee) and Sis. Charlotte Mangold (Sis. Mary, Eureka, IL) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We extend a hearty welcome to Sis. Charlotte

as she makes her home here in Taylor.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for coming and helping our dear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm with the reading of the Memorandum. We were truly encouraged to see how "looking to Jesus" helps us maintain the unity we need as a church. How thankful we are for the willingness we see in all our ministering brethren to be used by our Lord to spread the Gospel.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie) who had foot surgery, Irene Riney (Gene) who had knee surgery, Shelly Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie) who had gall stone surgery, and Bro. Brent Hoerr (Sis. Charlotte) who suffered a broken leg. We pray that God's healing hand would be upon each one. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James) for the passing away of her sister-in-law, Sis. Ernestine Wuthrich (Bro. Bill, Pulaski, IA).

We welcome home Julie Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie) who spent some time on a work team in Jaurez, Mexico.

On March 12, Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne Sutter were blessed with a baby boy, Mitchell Wade. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Shelby, 3 years. Grandparents are Sis. Charlene Sutter and Clayton and Verine Scott (Palmyra, MO).

Attention:

Camp Picket Reunion Soldiers

The reunion is scheduled for July 8 at Taylor, MO Fellowship Center (your orders will follow shortly). If there has been an address change in the last four years, please call (217) 223-5207 or write Roy Grimm, 203 Morton Drive, Quincy, IL 62301.

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

Beautiful morning! Day of hope,
Dawn of a better life;
Now in thy peaceful hours we rest,
Far from earth's noise and strife.

Beautiful morning! All the week
Waiteth thy welcome light,
Since thy first dawning, calm and
clear,
Out of the darkest night.

Beautiful morning! Grief and
pain,
Weeping before the tomb,
Fly at thy dawning, Jesus rose,
Jesus dispelled the gloom.

Morning of resurrection joy.
Day when the Saviour rose,
Singing shall greet thy opening
hour,
Singing shall mark thy close.
Gospel Hymns #247

God sent His only Son on earth
to live and die for our sins. How-
ever, the grave was opened by God
and Jesus could arise on the third
day and then ascend up to the
Father in Heaven where He could
be the mediator for us. It is our
prayer that many more would
take advantage of God's sacrifice
for them and turn unto Him while
the door of grace is yet open for us.

Michelle (John) Nortz has been
able to see much improvement in
eyesight as the result of successful
surgery. We are thankful for
God's healing hand for her.

Sis. Bernice (late Bro. Leland)
Hirschey has welcomed another
grandson. Joshua David Him-
melstein was born on March 5 to
Martin and Rebecca Himmelstein
of Lyme, NH. He will also be
loved by his brother, Daniel, and
grandmother, Rachel Himmel-
stein.

OHIO, AKRON

Diane Jarrett - Joyce Gasser

All of our congregation was in-
vited to participate and help at
"Family Night" which was an eve-
ning for preparing many different
kinds of items for World Relief.
We were grateful for the large
number that attended to help.

Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako's
daughter, Sis. Gyongyi, has spent
several months in Hungary, and
was married to Bro. Sandor
Hegedus of Budapest, and she and
her husband have now returned to
the States. We welcome them in
our midst.

We are sorry to have had three
of your young babies in the hospi-
tal: Jesse, son of Bro. and Sis.
Todd Graf; Lydia, daughter of
Bro. and Sis. Steve Pamer; and
Corey, son of Bro. and Sis. Mike
Palitto.

We are sorry for the health
problems Sis. Elizabeth Heib and
Sis. Helen Burr are having. We
wish for both of them relief from
their distresses.

We appreciated Bro. Larry
Wenninger (Latty, OH) minister-
ing to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

The other day, while loading
packages of meat into my car, the
store owner and I noticed there
were new little spring flowers
blooming next to the foundation of
his store. What a nice surprise to
see the bright colored crocuses
with the first day of spring such a
long way off! On the ride home, I
began to think of those little flow-
ers and how they reminded me of
the new converts that we greet as
they enter the fold. Just as we are
surprised to see the first signs of
spring, we are exceptionally
happy and thankful to see the new

faces of converts as they are
greeted by the brothers and sis-
ters-in-Christ. Those delicate lit-
tle flowers will have their trials as
winter takes its leave with a few
frosty farewells, just as Satan will
continue to use trials and tempta-
tions to make us doubt and worry;
but as there is always the promise
of spring right around the corner
for our lovely crocuses, there is the
glorious promise of eternal life for
those who follow Him and trust in
Him. May we always appreciate
God's wondrous ways...from the
beautiful little crocus to the mar-
velous plan of salvation.

It's always an extra blessing
having ministering brothers and
their families worship with us
through the month. We're thank-
ful for Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra
Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Bro.
John and Sis. Pam Reinhard
(Bluffton, IN) traveling the many
miles to visit our congregation
here in Columbus.

We are so glad to have Sis.
Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy)
feeling good enough to assemble
with us once more. How much do
we take for granted the opportu-
nity to assemble with our loved
ones at church each week? It
seems we become much more ap-
preciative once sickness or harsh
weather keeps us away.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

At 89 years of age, Maburn Hale
(Sis. Julia) has come to the full
realization of his need of a Saviour
and a change in his life. May the
Lord grant him sufficient health
and spiritual understanding to
work out his soul's salvation while
there is still time and grace.
Maburn's wife, Sis. Julia, has re-
cently spent time in and out of the
hospital, but now seems stable
and is being cared for at home.
This elderly couple needs our

prayers.

On March 4, Julie Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) was united in marriage to James McCullough. Our wish for them is that they will make the Lord the center of their marriage. They are residing in Toledo where they both attend college.

We are thankful that Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben) is feeling much better after spending a few days in the hospital.

Sis. Frances Dotterer has a new home. Mail will reach her at Dallas Lamb Foundation Home, 650 N. Main St., Payne, OH 45880. We pray that this dear sister can be surrounded by warmth, love, good nursing care, and many visitors. Having made a heart-rending decision, we also wish the Lord's nearness to her daughter, Sis. Ruth, as she now comes home to an empty house and makes necessary adjustments.

Our assembly expresses our love and gratitude to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) for assisting our Elder in serving Holy Communion on March 11. Bro. Joe so vividly explained the setting and history surrounding that first Lord's Supper and how it tied the past to the future. We couldn't have asked for a more appropriate message to prepare us for that evening and the blessed Easter season which will soon be on us. Our wish for each reader is that the Lord Jesus' suffering and bitter death would not have been in vain, but rather that each of us could some day be a beneficiary of His glorious resurrection.

OHIO, LATTY

Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We are so very thankful that God has granted peace to several of our converts. They are Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria),

Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita) and Jason Whitman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen). May these families feel God's presence as they await the time of testimonies.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

God has called one of our faithful brothers from time into eternity. Bro. Lee Eisenmann passed away March 2. We pray God will comfort his wife, Sis. Mary, and his children, Sis. Joyce, Bro. Bill (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Rosemary Larson (Bro. Mark). Among the many visitors who assembled with us for the Sunday funeral were ministering Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

God's healing hand has been at work among our brethren, as Bro. Gale Stoller (Sis. Janet) has been able to assemble with us again. We pray for the Lord's will as the healing continues.

Bro. Tom Laukhuf has been ill during the month. May God be ever near during the weeks to come.

As the springtime approaches, we think of the Easter holiday. During this time, let us ever strive to commemorate the death of our Saviour and His shed blood for us. What would we have without this sacrifice?

Note of Thanks:

Why, Lord, why did he have to go?
Surely thou knowest we needed
him so!
Dare we question Thy blest
wisdom
As we prepare for Thy blest
kingdom?

May we ever look above
Finding comfort in Thy love!
Then, someday we, too, will find
sweet rest
Where he is waiting with the
blest!

We express our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for all your love, prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, food, gifts, and expressions of sympathy during the surgery, illness, and death of our loved one, Bro. Lee Eisenmann. Our precious families, the church family and our beloved church are a heritage we can never fully appreciate.

May He ever richly bless each of you!

Loving Thanks, Mary Eisenmann and family

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss."

I Cor. 16:20

This month we had the pleasure of greeting three brethren who are now assembling with us. They are Bro. Brian Gerber and Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Miller. We welcome these dear souls with love.

When a loved one passes on to eternal life, it brings sorrow to our human hearts. We have the consolation of knowing that God knows our every sorrow and bears each burden for us. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Dick (Sis. Becky) Vent in the passing of his mother. May their entire family feel the prayers of all their loved ones.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering

without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God."

1 Thess. 1:2-4

This month we were blessed to have two visiting ministers. They were Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH). What a pleasure it was to have them and their families with us. May God bless them richly for their willing service.

One Sunday this month, each of our junior high and high school age students invited at least one friend to come and spend the weekend in Mansfield. Our Father's house was filled with young people. What a joy it would be if every one of those young people would seek the narrow path of life. We were blessed by their presence and we pray we can meet them all in Heaven on that final judgment day.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank each one for their prayers, cards, food, flowers and visits since Martha's hip surgery. May God bless each one for their comfort and encouragement.

Henry and Sis. Martha Enderle and family

Sis. Wilma Sauder wishes to express a sincere thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, and gifts during her recent stay in the hospital. May God bless you all.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Marsha Rufener

Linda Ramsier

We rejoice when we can witness the baptisms of our converts. Our new brothers and sisters in the

Lord are Matthew Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Joe Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri), Amy Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), and Lynn Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan). Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Henry in this important work. Also ministering to us recently was Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL).

There have been several deaths in this area the past month. We extend sympathy and prayers to Bro. Vernon Landis (Sis. Lib) in the passing of his mother. Sis. Roma Rufener's (Bro. Chester) brother and Sis. Helen Hartzler's brother also passed away. May they all feel our love and support and God's grace in this time of sorrow.

Several of our loved ones have been in the hospital. Bro. Reinhard Keiper (Sis. Betty), Courtney Gerber (Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura), Sis. Sara Steiner (Bro. Jim), and Suzanne Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) need our prayers. May they feel God's healing hand.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm (Columbus, OH) visit us. May God bless them for coming.

Ben Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) was able to return safely from his service in Haiti. He is once again stationed at Ft. Eustis, VA.

As summer approaches, so do thoughts of vacation...the excitement of visiting old friends, seeing new things...but there is work to be done to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. The car gets tuned up, maps are prepared, and suitcases get packed. Some day,

maybe today, we are all going to make a journey. There are many similarities between this trip and going on vacation. A decision has to be made ahead of time where we would like to go. When we arrive at our destination we will see many new sights that we've pictured in our minds for some time. Just like vacationing in a place we've never been, our imaginations will have only been a glimpse of reality. The difference is our suitcase won't be full of material goods. And we will never return. Do we prepare for our final journey daily?

I apologize for failing to report the passing of Bro. Gary (Sis. Terry) Zollinger's father, Bro. Charles Zollinger (Rittman, OH), on January 28. Bro. Charlie was a pillar of faith for so many of us, and his smile is missed but not forgotten.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller -

Margaret Blough

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

Genesis 2:18

On March 19, the engagement of Sis. Angie Blough and Bro. Robert Figel (Sardis, OH) was announced. Their parents are (Paul) Ben Blough and Sis. Janette Blough, and Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel. May the Lord bless you as you prepare for your marriage.

We pray that God's healing touch is felt by those who have been in the hospital recently. Those who have had surgery are Mark Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge), Roseanna Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim), Sis. Elaine Dotterer (Bro. Dale), and Teeka Hartzler (Bro. Bill and Sis.

Pam). May the Lord restore good health to each one.

I Know That My Redeemer
Liveth

They asked me how I know it's
true
That the Saviour lived and died
And if I believe the story
That the Lord was crucified.
And I have so many answers
To prove His Holy Being,
Answers that are everywhere
Within the realm of seeing.
The leaves that fell in autumn
And were buried in the sod
Now budding on the tree boughs
To lift their arms to God,
The flowers that were covered
And entombed beneath the snow
Pushing through the "darkness"
To bid the spring "hello",
On every side great nature
Retells the Easter story
So who am I to question
"the Resurrection Glory"?
by Helen Steiner Rice

OREGON, PORTLAND Mary Berg - Lori Martin

On February 11, we had our annual business meeting. Bro. Mark Gallup was chosen as trustee. It has been decided to hold mid-week services on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

With sadness in our hearts, we held a potluck and a singing as we bid farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand and family. They will be moving to Minnesota. We wish them God's blessings; they will be truly missed.

OREGON, SILVERTON Peggy Schulz

Low in the grave He lay--Jesus
my Saviour
Waiting the coming day--Jesus

my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His
foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark
domain
And He lives forever with His
saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah
Christ arose!
Gospel Hymns #323

Let us sit and pause awhile and consider this precious plan of salvation that is freely ours for the asking.

We were thankful to learn that our converts, Mark and K'ren Kuenzi, have found peace with their Lord. We wish them His continued grace and guidance.

We rejoice with Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen Metzger in the birth of their first child, Lydianne Christine, on March 4. Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Bro. Dale and Sis. Christine Metzger (Lester, IA).

Also first-time parents are Mark and K'ren Kuenzi. Little Cole Michael entered this world on March 9. His happy grandparents are Gary and Ruth Conmy of Silverton and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi. We pray these new parents will feel the Lord's direction in bringing up these precious little souls in the fear of the Lord.

The progress of our new church has steadily continued. Some of the flooring is being laid and the baseboard and trim is being put in place. The brick work is a lengthy project. Anyone who is skilled in this area and is interested in helping would be very welcome. We sincerely appreciate all those who have volunteered their time and talents thus far. We have received so many blessings and it is so humbling to feel the love of the brethren in such a measure. May the Lord richly bless each one.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:27-28

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Matthew Aeschleman, who passed away February 16 after a long illness. Bro. Matthew is survived by his wife, Sis. Jill. He will also be missed by his parents, Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy; his two brothers, Paul (Chicago, IL) and Philip (Wilmington, DE); two sisters, Janice Wilt (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Sarah Aeschleman (Wilmington, DE). Burial was in the Lester, IA cemetery. May his loved one's feel God's comforting spirit.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:20

We were reminded of Christ's suffering and death as we had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman. After the Lord's supper, we had a church supper and were able to fellowship with one another. Times like these are so precious.

We appreciate the visiting ministers we have had this past month. We thank Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naum-

burg, NY) and Donald Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Floyd Graves Jr. (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Note of Thanks:

An expression of thanks and sincere appreciation to our loved ones across the land who remembered us in prayer and with calls, cards, visits and gifts throughout the last several months and since the passing of our son, Matthew. We were encouraged and comforted by your abundant out-pouring of love. May God's rich blessings be yours always.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Ed and Nancy Aeschleman
Family*

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Once again we are nearing the Easter season when we turn our thoughts to the cross and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We were all drawn a little closer to the events of the last supper and Jesus' suffering when we shared Holy Communion on Sunday, March 19. Elder Bro. La-voyd Moore traveled from Athens, AL to be with us. In the upper room with his disciples,

"...Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

Thanks be to God for His wonderful plan of salvation that through the blood of Jesus our sins can be forgiven.

On March 5, we were privileged to host approximately 20 visitors from Tremont, IL. Among them was ministering Bro. Curt Rassi, his wife, Sis. Cathy, and their family. Special thanks to you, Bro. Curt, for your willingness to labor among us. It is our hope and prayer that God will richly bless all of you for your efforts in coming to visit. We hope you will come back soon.

To all of you who are thinking of visiting the Nashville area, we encourage you to do so. As was mentioned in the last issue, after Easter we plan to start holding services every Sunday. A minister will be invited on the first and third Sundays of each month with a tape service on the other Sundays. We ask that you call one of the numbers listed below to let us know that you are coming. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jeane Hohulin (615) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser

Kimberly Kaiser

We are small, but He is mighty. Our Texas congregation is often reminded of verse 20 in the 18th chapter of Matthew: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Bro Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL) joined our few members and friends recently. May God richly bless the support and words of encouragement provided through the messages and fellowship.

We 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. If we inconvenience anyone, please accept our apologies.

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

Our visiting ministers and their wives that visited us this month were Elder Bro. Edward Lanz and his wife, Sis. Joan (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Alpha Strahm and his wife, Sis. Mamie (Bern, KS). We want to thank them for their visit.

Thy messengers Thou sendest,
By them to us extendest
The living bread of heav'n.
That none of us may perish,
Arouse our hearts to cherish
The grace and healing to us given.

Zion's Harp #207

We have been blessed with many visitors this month. We hope they will come again.



There Will Always be a Spring

by: Bro. Kevin Schrock

*As I walked out to my garden,
on the freshly thawed out ground,
how I wondered wearily,
"Would any flowers be found."*

*The winter had been harshly cold,
the dirt had frozen hard,
and now it lay with water drenched,
its grass's color marred.*

*My life, it seemed, just like the ground,
had frozen stiff with fears,
and now, exposed to rays of truth,
laid drenched with streams of tears.*

*I swept my rake across the leaves,
to see what could be found,
and peered at small embarrassed stems,
just peaking from the ground.*

*Life, however weak it was,
embraced my tear-stained eyes.
Life, God's word was whispering,
would bloom through death's disguise.*

*I laid my head upon my rake,
and wept out everything.
God said, "Son, after winter,"
"There will always be a spring."*

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

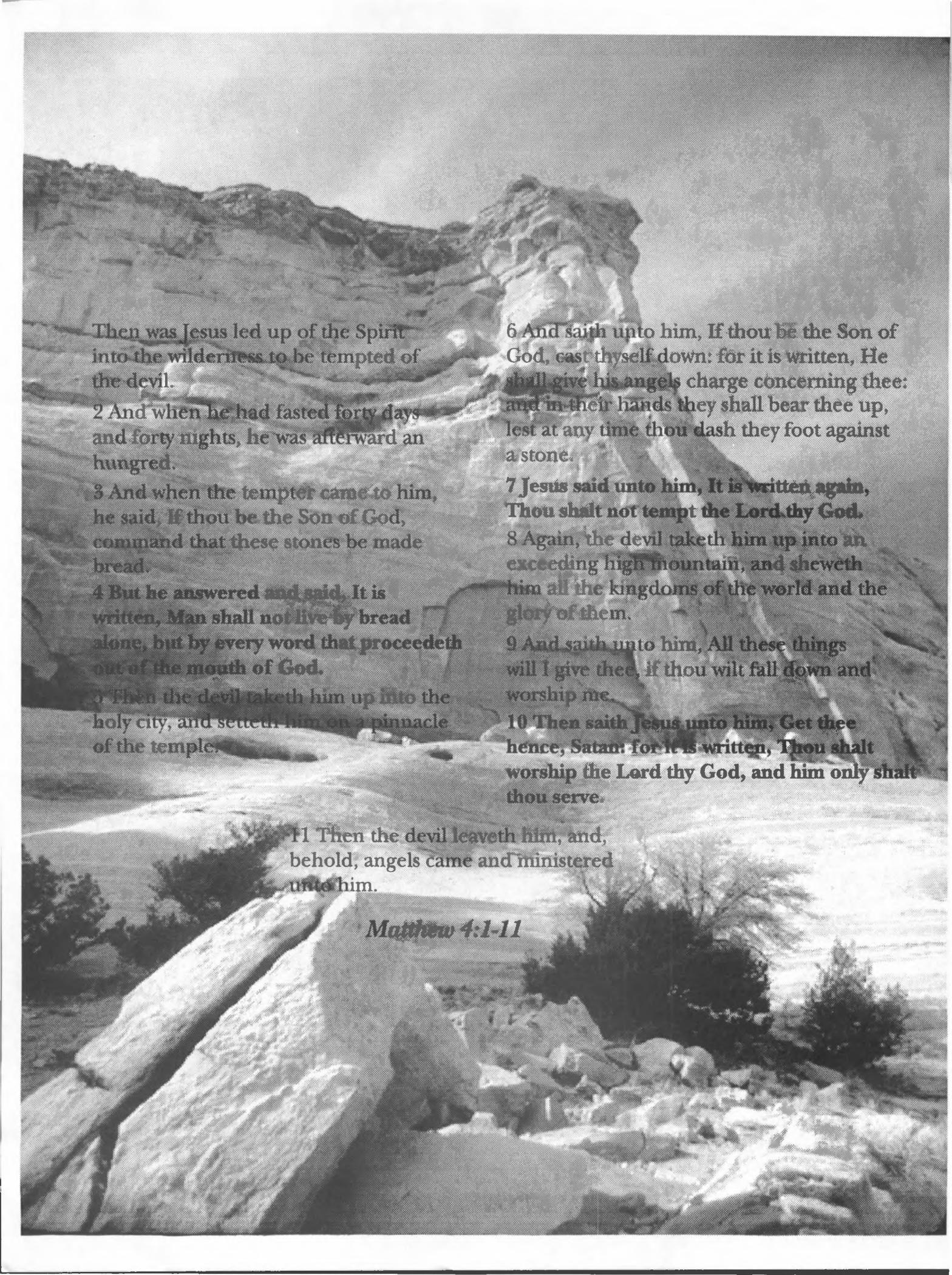
Bro. Ken Hodel
Bro. Gerald Fiechter
Bro. Brian Furrer
Bro. Wallace Ramsier

PHONE

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

FAX

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



Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple.

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Matthew 4:1-11

"THE ALMIGHTY GOD IS OUR REDEEMER"

Sermon by Bro. David E. Graf, of Akron, OH

John 5:19-47

What a blessing that we can open this Word of Life and even find the very words that were recorded that was spoken by the Lord Jesus Himself. It applies so very clearly to our life and can answer the very questions that we have from day to day and it can show us the way so we can find this eternal life.

I think that is the reason why every one of us is at this place this morning. We want to go to Heaven, don't we? We want to find that eternal life. We know that the Word of Truth is spoken here. It is our way to come and visit this congregation, where, I am sure, many of you have not met me before. Yet the brothers have encouraged me this morning and said, "Speak the truth." What a joy that is to think that there is a desire here to hear the truth. There is nothing I can bring or would bring or there is nothing anyone could bring.

The Word teaches us God is not a respecter of persons, but God wants us to be obedient to His Word. (See Acts 10:34).

We have the privilege that we can read the Word of Truth and we have the privilege to speak the Word of Truth. We don't have to add anything to it and we certainly don't want to take anything away from it. We just want to dwell on the Word of God.

Here we read this morning the words that Jesus spoke and words that apply to our lives. In the beginning we read here in the nineteenth verse about the Son doing those things that the Father does. We often see that in the earthly sense, don't we? Many times the son will follow his father in an occupation, especially we

might think that on the farm. We see many who begin to help their father at a young age, and possibly follow in the things that he would do.

Again, I think this is an example that tells of heavenly things that Jesus often used, but then He was speaking of Himself and the Father in Heaven.

When we think of the Lord Jesus Christ, we think of God...the One that is infallible and is perfect and One that has all power and One that has done so much for us.

Yet, in reading those words, we can see that Jesus Himself made Himself to be the Son of God, and made Himself to be a notch lower than God, we might say, because He said that everything that He had and what He taught came from God. He could do nothing unless the Father had shown Him or taught Him that.

Then He told us, too, "For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth." (John 5:20). Because the Father loved His Son, He taught Him these things. Then because the Lord Jesus loves us, He is likewise teaching us and showing us these things that God the Father had shown unto Him.

"...and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." (John 5:20-21). This word "quickeneth" is used oftentimes in the Bible. We understand that it means bringing back to life...bringing to life those that are dead. We know there are various instances that we can read of when Jesus, as a man, did bring people back to life from death. We

know that He raised up Lazarus and there were others that were physically dead and He would go and speak the Word and make it come forth and return to life.

Beloved ones, the Word is speaking here of a spiritual life. You know, every one of us were dead in sins. Perhaps some of us still are. Perhaps some of us are still walking under the power of Satan and we know there is sin in our life. We know there is that bond but we just can't break it. We don't seem to have the strength and power to be released from that. But we can come to life in God through Jesus Christ.

Even as it said here that He raised up the dead and quickeneth them. He brings them to life and so the Son will quicken whom He will. (See John 5:21). We might ask then, "Who will He bring to life?" It tell us that whoever would believe on Him and whoever is willing to become obedient, He will do this for us and bring us to life.

We also can see in some of these other verses where it speaks of another time of a resurrection. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (John 5:25). I think this speaks of the time when Jesus returns here to this earth.

When it is speaking of those who have lived and died in Him, the dead in Christ, we understand the Word tells us, they are going to hear His voice and they are going to arise and then those who are alive and remain can join them in the air and go to be forever with

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

the Lord. Isn't that a beautiful thought? That Jesus Christ, as He has promised in His Word, is one day going to return again and is going to appear in the clouds of glory.

As the Word tells us, there will be the sound of the trumpet and even a shout of the arch angel and we will see those dead rising from the grave and we can join them and go be with the Lord. These are beautiful thoughts and beautiful words that Jesus said to encourage the believers. He said that to encourage those whom He spoke to in His time. He said, "I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life." (John 5:24). They are the ones that will hear the voice of the Son of God and will rise from the grave, or arise from wherever we might happen to be at that time. Don't we all want to be partakers of that?

We know that at that time, He is going to come and claim those who have already become His children. But how would we feel, even as we have often heard the Word of God, realizing that He was calling and inviting us and wanting to share this with us, and yet we rejected Him? How are we going to feel then on that day when we realize the Son of God has come to take His children home? I believe that not one who is in this place this morning would neglect this loving call of God and neglect this opportunity for salvation. The voice we heard today might be a voice to awaken us to this new life and quickening for the dead, spiritually speaking.

"For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is

the Son of Man." (John 5:26-27). When we read this word "judgment", it is a word that we kind of stand in awe, because the Word tells us different times about judgment.

We have the Word that teaches us that we are not to judge. We are not to judge one another, but we are supposed to leave the judgment to God. Here we read that the judgment was given to the Son of God. So we understand that the Word tells us that every one of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. God has given that judgment to Him and we will answer to Him what we have done in this life.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29).

It really doesn't leave us with a whole lot more to say, does it, because it is very clear and plain? There will be a separation. There might be some in the world that would think that they have done good. They have done good things so they could look forward to the resurrection, but, beloved ones, we know that we have to not only do good, or that the good that we would try to do ourselves, the Word tells us that it is as filthy rags. (See Isaiah 64:6).

We must be born again through Jesus Christ. We must repent. We must be forgiven of that past sinful life and have this blessed cleansing, and then we can consider ourselves, not that we are any good, but through the grace of God, we can be among those that the Word describes that have done good and have a hope of the resurrection of life.

If we neglect to repent and be

born again, we would be among those that have to face the resurrection of damnation. It is so clear and plain in this Word, beloved, and we hope and pray that there would not be any that would refuse Him.

Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5:30). Again, He is expressing that He is there on a mission. God had sent Him to this earth and God had told Him what to speak, what to do and even told Him how to judge. He said, "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5:30).

Loved ones, we recently went through the season of the year when we commemorate the suffering of Jesus at Calvary, His death, and His resurrection. When we consider His words here, "I seek to do the will of the Father which hath sent me," do we often enough consider what He did for us in seeking to do the will of the Father? We know how He went through that terrible agony and how He prayed there in the garden that if it would be possible for that cup to be removed from Him. But He said, "Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." (See Matthew 26:39).

We understand that there was no other way...that this was the will of God and He had to suffer and He had to endure and lay down His life for us. Today we can stand here and we can rejoice that He was willing to do that and that we can proclaim God's blessed salvation. Also that we can say that there is a way that we can be saved and our sins can be removed because the blood that was shed there at Calvary is able to wash away those sins.

Jesus told us that He bore the witness of Himself. It seems that those who resisted Him were always trying to catch Him at His word and trying to tell Him that He did not have a witness, or did not have support for what He was saying. We understand that their law said that the testimony of two men was true. If there were two, then it was accepted as a true testimony.

But Jesus is telling us that He had--even though He had the witness here on earth--He had John who had come and proclaimed to be a forerunner of Jesus. He had begun to teach the gospel of salvation. He had taught of repentance and had baptized, but Jesus said He had a greater witness than that of John. He had the witness of His Father in Heaven, of Almighty God.

He didn't take away from John's ministry because He said, "He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." (John 5:35-36). How precious and how important these words are! Yes, it was wonderful when God inspired John to go out there in the desert and we see that many followed him there and many believed on his words and many came forth bringing fruits of repentance, as it tells us, and were baptized by John the Baptist. It tells us here, they were willing to "rejoice in his light." (John 5:35).

But now Jesus is telling us, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish...". (John 5:36). Again, that He would go there to the extent of

laying down His life for us. There is nothing greater that anyone could do to be a witness for God. But we are reminded, these words seem to speak louder even than the very words that we can speak. Jesus had come and He taught His glorious plan of salvation, healed the sick, raised the dead, and did the many miracles that He did, and yet if He had not been willing to go to the cross, the plan would not have been fulfilled.

It was that which He finally did that bore witness...the works that He did. In our life, we can speak wonderful words and we can profess to do many things, but if the witness isn't there, then there is no power. If the world cannot see through us that Christ is living in us, even without us speaking words, then we are seriously lacking that witness that Jesus here professed that He had, the witness of God being in Him.

He told us to "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." (John 5:39). This is still a good practice for us, to search the scriptures. There are so many teachings in there of eternal life, even from the very beginning of the Old Testament.

We know that at the time Jesus was here in speaking these words, that was all they had for scripture was the Old Testament. Yet, in those very scriptures, Jesus is proclaimed that He would come. We know that even from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden when man fell and sinned, God promised that one day there would be One who would bruise the serpent's head. It would be His Son Jesus who would walk here upon this earth.

We can see how it is prophesied how Jesus would come here upon this earth and become a Saviour for all mankind. We know that there are many prophecies that

are yet unfulfilled, even of the Old Testament and of the New Testament that speak about His time (that we read about this morning) when those who could hear the voice of Jesus of when He would return again to receive His own unto us.

Jesus is telling those in His day to "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life...And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:39-40).

They wanted to bend the scriptures around so that they could excuse themselves from believing in Jesus. How sad to think that today it still happens, that we could possibly take a portion of the Word and focus on one item and not on the whole Word. In so doing, we might lose the value of the teachings and we might not be able to find the whole plan of salvation. Even as Jesus said and proclaimed from the Old Testament on, do proclaim it.

He said, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40). He is teaching us. We need to come to Him. We need to accept His words and His teachings. We need to become obedient to them, and we need to obey the entire Word of God, not to just choose out the things which might fit us or might seem to be easy for us and neglect those that take a little more sacrifice on our part.

Jesus said, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." (John 5:43). That is a warning to us, beloved. There are those who come in their own name and there are those that even come in our day and claim to be coming in the name of God. But they are deceivers. We know that Jesus warned

Continued next page...

Sermon continued...

us very clearly to be aware of deception.

His disciples asked Him how it would be in the end times. They asked Him, "What will be the sign of His coming?" The very first thing He told them was to beware that ye be not deceived. That is a great danger that we face today. There are so many deceptions about those that would come and pervert the Word of God so that it loses power.

He asks, "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44). We don't want honor of men, do we? None of us would desire that but we want to bring honor to God and we want God to work within us.

He said here, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you..." (John 5:45). Here these people felt they had the law of Moses to back them up. They trusted in Moses. At one time, I believe, they even told Jesus, "We don't know who you are or where your

words come from, but we have the words of Moses." Yet, Jesus could tell them that Moses had testified of Him.

He said, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." (John 5:46). We rejoice as we read those words and go back into the Old Testament. Read the Song of Moses. It is very encouraging to see how God inspired so many thousands of years ago, a message that is still alive and timely today.

But He said, "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:47). That is a question that we all need to answer. Can we reject the writings and words of God? Can we believe them?

It just comes to my mind that one scripture of the rich man and Lazarus that Jesus told us about. This poor man begged at the rich man's gate, and if I understand right, he desired even the crumbs that fell from his table. In this life, the rich man had everything that he wanted and the poor man did not, but he had the love of God.

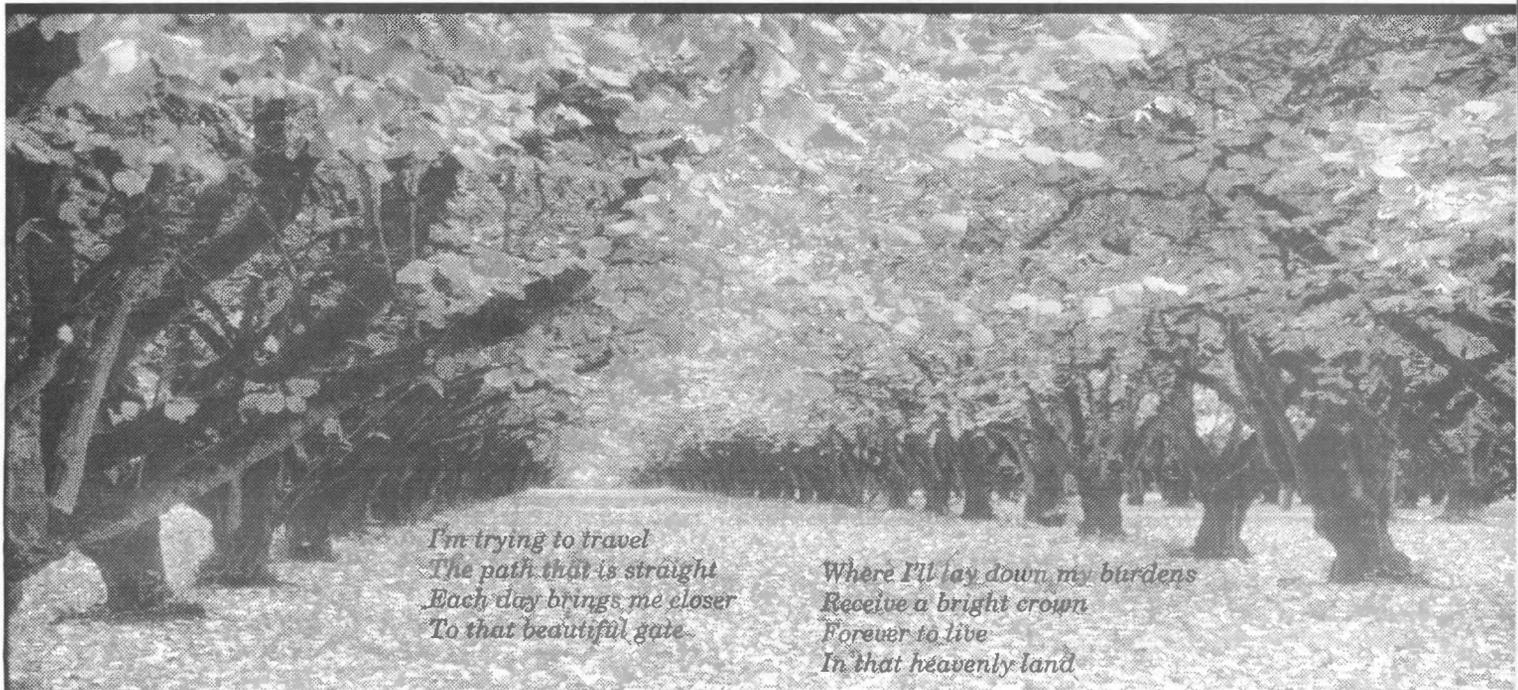
We read that they both died and the poor man went to Abraham's

bosom. The rich man, we read there, was in hell. The scripture tells us that they went to their judgment, and then he could see and look and behold that poor man, that believer, there in the bosom of Abraham. He asked God first of all to send him to bring him a drop of water to cool his tongue. But He said, "No, I can't do that."

Then he started thinking about those that were still in the life, and he desired to go back and tell them. But God told him, "If they don't believe the Word, they are not going to believe even though one came from the dead." (See Luke 16:19-31).

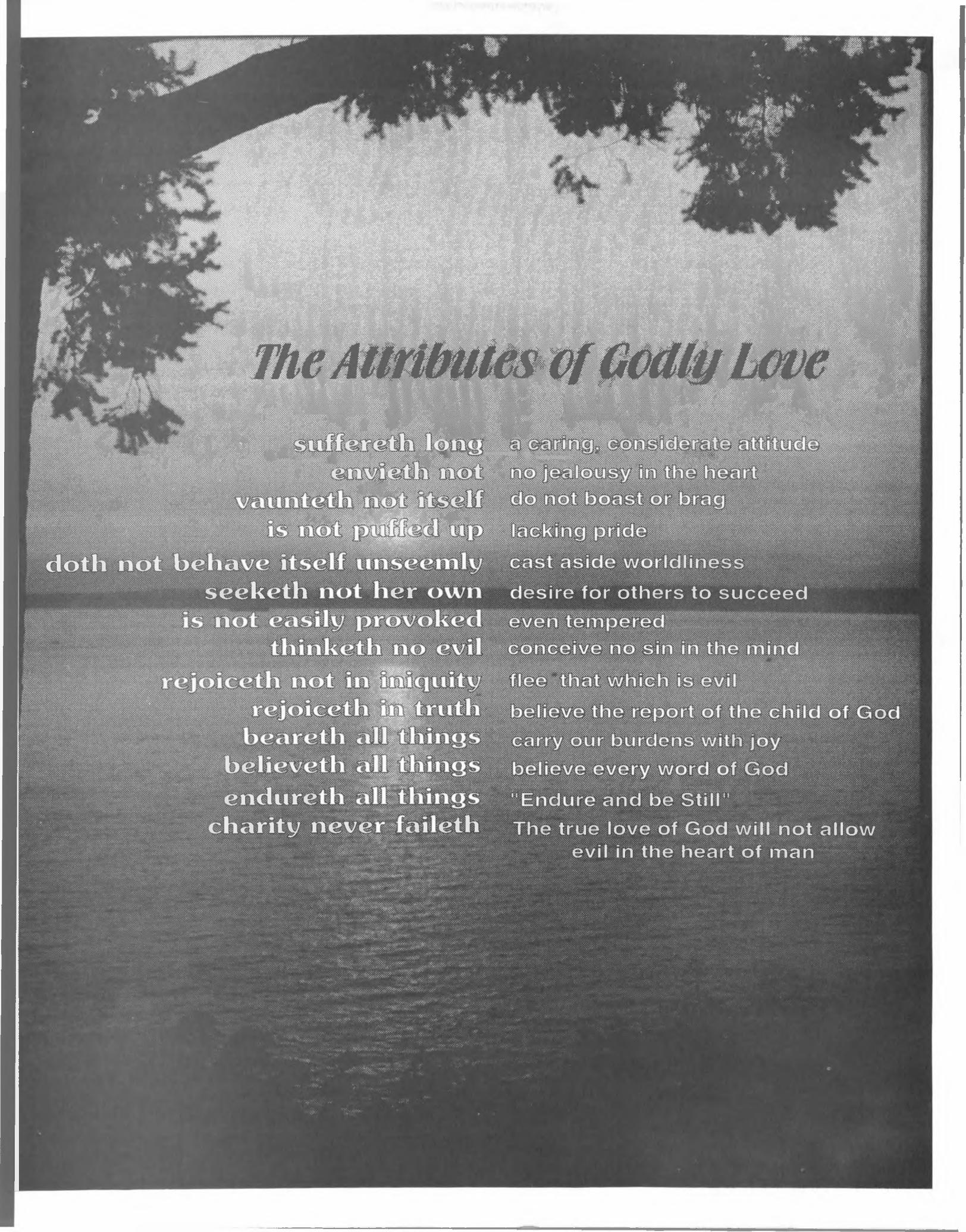
So, loved ones, we have this Word of Life. We have the writings of Moses. We have the writings of the Old Testament, and most of all, we have the teachings of Jesus and all the writings in the New Testament. These are the things that we are going to be judged on when we stand before God. If we believe this testimony and if we believe these words, do we obey them?

May God give us each one the grace to obey these precious words He shares unto us.



*I'm trying to travel
The path that is straight
Each day brings me closer
To that beautiful gate.*

*Where I'll lay down my burdens
Receive a bright crown
Forever to live
In that heavenly land*



The Attributes of Godly Love

suffereth long
envieth not
vaunteth not itself
is not puffed up
doth not behave itself unseemly
seeketh not her own
is not easily provoked
thinketh no evil
rejoiceth not in iniquity
rejoiceth in truth
beareth all things
believeth all things
endureth all things
charity never faileth

a caring, considerate attitude

no jealousy in the heart

do not boast or brag

lacking pride

cast aside worldliness

desire for others to succeed

even tempered

conceive no sin in the mind

flee that which is evil

believe the report of the child of God

carry our burdens with joy

believe every word of God

"Endure and be Still"

The true love of God will not allow
evil in the heart of man

Silver Threads

Letters From Overseas

We'd like to share some excerpts from the letters we've received from overseas.

Leonard Kwaw from Ghana wrote:

"I salute you in the precious name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. I received the books on April 12 so a thousand thanks from the bottom of my heart goes to you and your family and all those who helped in such a great gift. Sir, when I and my family were studying from the (Bible) story book, one of my children asked me where I got that fine book. My reply was, a Christian brother from U.S.A. sent it to me, and he said, then the One loves me. Counting on your usual cooperation in Christ.

*Yours-in-the-Lord's service,
Leonard Kwaw."*

A thank you for Tamil Bibles comes from M.R. Chandran from India:

"Greetings to you in the name of Lord Jesus our Saviour. Thank you very much for the Bibles you have sent through the American Bible Society." (We had sent a contribution to the ABS and they issued a certificate of credit which could be redeemed in India for Tamil Bibles, the language some of the people wanted.)

"We received them here. Each

and every Bible has been prayerfully handed over to needy people. Their voice of thanks echoed to Heaven. We were able to see happiness on their faces as they thanked you for your kindness and prayed God to bless you abundantly.

Please pray that these Bibles you have placed in their hands through us will be a great blessing in their life, and should get them closer to our Lord.

We are so happy about the results and keep on praising our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for giving like this freely. Praise the Lord.

The Lord has given me a burden for lost souls. I do ask you to pray with me whenever the Lord wants me to go preach. The door is wide open for us to preach the Gospel of Grace.

Please supply me with good books, and other materials and if our Lord provides, also send an order for Tamil Bibles, as we have many believers on our list waiting to get Bibles from us. I pray God to meet your financial needs to carry on the work God has given into your hands. Words fail me to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your most kind and sincere help. Please continue to keep sending the Gospel of healing and salvation through tracts and Bible.

Thank you and may God bless you. We remain.

Yours in Christ, M.R. Chandran"

Requesting Bibles for those thirsty for God's Word in Nigeria, is G.M. Otumba. He writes:

"I am grateful to know you and to request you to help us for some free gift copies of God's Holy Word as this has today become our most serious problem to meet the needs of our Christian brothers and sisters who have not even money to buy nor any source of getting a free copy for themselves. It is good for people who are hungry for God's words to see it and to be able to read them. Remember, that those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3). We would like you to send us Bibles in M-bags for this postal way of services are safer." (We do send all books overseas in M-bags, large canvas mail bags which need a minimum of 15 pounds of books going to one address. The rate is \$.72 a pound. A pew Bible is approximately one pound. A Hurlbut Bible story book is close to three pounds. The cost of postage in Nigeria has gone up tremendously. It was twenty times higher in 1993 than in the previous year.)

Silver Threads

Letters From Overseas

From the Philippines:

"I'm Gabriel Ngayao, a Bible school student in Bukidnon Fundamental Baptist Seminary. I am a son of a poor family, but I felt that God called me to serve Him in full time service. I decided to write unto you because in my studies I have difficulty due to lack of textbook and study Bible. I have been praying for choir piece materials....

The National Association of Evangelical Churches in Nigeria is going to prisons, refugee camps, and orphanage centers to distribute food, clothes, and Bibles.

"These people here had no access to Bibles for a full generation. They want Bibles every bit as desperately as a concentration camp victim wants nourishing food. There is no people in the world that is as hungry and desperate to have Bibles as these people. They will cherish even a single page torn from a community Bible....

This is a very formidable task that cannot be done alone. It

requires partnership. This is why we are appealing to you to help us with boxes of Bibles to distribute among them. The Lord's work is much more pleasant when one is helped by fellow servants of Christ such as yourself. May the Heavenly Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ bless the work of your hands and instill in you that genuine Christian love and understanding to help feed these hungry and fertile hearts with the Word of God."

A request for one Bible comes from Apsesin Isaac in Nigeria. He writes:

"I am an orphan and I am now 15 years old and I am living with my grandfather and one day I and one of my friends went to church so I enjoyed what I heard there at church. I also heard about born again which is in the book of John 3:3. So one problem I have is that I have no Bible. I just borrowed from my friend on which I read about born again. So if you will help me, that is if

you can give some out of those your Bible, I will be very grateful and will be giving you prayer every day."

Another man from Nigeria requests Bibles and says:

"The people are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge because they do not have Bibles and they can't afford to buy one because of the high price, for the government of this country charges higher import duty on Christian religious materials and Satan is now using this opportunity to gain ground. But praise be to God that opens the way for us to know you. We know God had solved our problem because if these people can now read and meditate on the Word of God, their life would change for the better."

We want to thank all of you who shared your used Bibles, Bible story books and hymnals.

--Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart





After turning to the Lord in repentance, Samuel H. Froehlich was confronted with which route to take pertaining to church fellowship.

Having been a part of the Swiss protestant state church where he had been baptized as an infant, he continued in his seminary studies with that organization. It is likely he was not certain what to do. As he grew in grace, and in spiritual maturity, however, he was insistent to do God's will and to follow closely what the Bible taught.

Because of economic reasons, he had to return to his home in Brugg for a span of time. He writes: "Here in my father's house began now a new school or period of my life in which I was to be further trained, developed, strengthened, invigorated and grounded, so that I should not enter as a novice into the important office which preaches atonement."

In time, he had occasion---as a student---to serve as a substitute pastor at the state church in Leutweil. His preaching was with great power---and a great awakening took place in this congregation of 1,800 people. He preached the need for conversion as taught in God's Word.

From his evangelical preaching and his studious loyalty to the Bible (instead of to the state church confessions), Froehlich began to draw suspicion from state offi-

cial, and from area pastors. Accusations against him became severe and it was a time of terrible storm for him. But he attested, "God stood mightily by me."

When the power of the Gospel, as preached by the young Samuel Froehlich, began to affect hundreds and hundreds of souls who had previously languished under the state church's rationalistic doctrines, Froehlich's fate was soon sealed by an abrupt dismissal from the state church ministry. The fact that his sermons drew large crowds, and included persons from neighboring communities, was too much for state church authorities, and they acted with swift dispatch. He was denied preaching a farewell sermon, much to his dismay.

This unfair abruptness caused Froehlich much inner agony. It reinforced his lack of confidence in the state church. The focal point of his opposition to this body, aside from its rationalistic theologues, was infant baptism. His disdain for this practice is threaded throughout most of his writings.

He was disturbed by the baptismal liturgy whereby prior to the baptism of an infant questions would be directed to its "sponsors" (usually parents), who would answer for the infant. Froehlich wrote, "This play with holy things I could no longer carry on, in my conviction."

At a loss as to what to do with his life in God's service, Froehlich retired for a time to his father's home in Brugg. In response to a letter from a follower in Schaffhausen he wrote, "I can only say 'Dear Father, thy will be done.'"

The burden of his disassociation with the state church was made even heavier by the fact that Froehlich's family---his parents and brothers and sisters---opposed his views and disagreed strongly with his inability to find concord with the doctrine and liturgies of the state church. Years later, only his sister, Catherine Froehlich, became a part of the new church he would found.

As a young, single man in his mid-twenties, Samuel Froehlich, zealous in faith with a desire to serve God, found himself without ministerial assignment. His lot was to humbly wait on the Lord. Several exploratory journeys across Switzerland, correspondence with a missionary society in England, and discussions with many professed believers would help him find God's will in the days ahead.

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

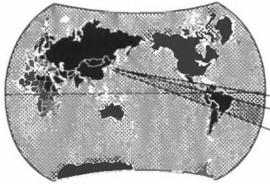
Next Issue:

More on "What to do?"

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



"SONRISE"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It was sunrise when the women came to the sepulchre of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in Mark 16:2, "They came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

Sunrise is a wonderful time of the day. Where we live, the sun comes over the mountains which are located about 2 miles away. As the seasons change, the sun peeks over the mountain range at different locations. The sun brings sunshine and warmth into our lives. It is not simply a luxury---it is a necessity for life.

Now, as I feel all warm and cozy thinking about the sunrise and all it means to us, I recall another SONRISE; the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a close parallel between sunrise and SONRISE, the one physical and the other spiritual.

In I Corinthians 15:17 we read, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." Here the Apos-

tle Paul is explaining what the situation would be if there were no Sunrise, "If Christ be not raised." He says that in that case our faith is vain or worthless, which is true so far as being redeemed is concerned. He says as much by adding, "Ye are yet in your sins." However, there is another side to this life of faith in Christ, which I would like to explore with you.

The life of a true believer entails a great deal of self-denial for the carnal part of us. Is that good or bad for us? We might say that it is good for living a holy life but bad for having a good time. However, the proposition which I submit is that the life of self-denial regarding worldliness is the best life in every way, here and now, and not just in order to get to Heaven. In that sense, the kind of life taught in the New Testament for believers would still be the way to go, even "if Christ be

not raised."

We know and believe that the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead because of the Biblical records and our own experience. Therefore, we greatly rejoice during this Easter season because the resurrection assures of our redemption. Another reason for rejoicing is that the Bible teaches us a way of life which is the best; no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Some problems come to us because we do not follow that pattern closely enough. That's where we need to teach each other that those things which might entice us are not really good for us in the long run.

Let's enjoy the sunrise early in the morning. Let's also enjoy the Sunrise. "If ye then be risen with Christ," (Colossians 3:1), you and I together can rise to a new level of simple but beautiful living. With God's help, it can be done.

希望の光

Down Memory Lane

From Marching To Zion



Altadena, CA - 1952

In early 1952, a large residence on one acre of land was purchased in Altadena. The first floor and the exterior were remodeled to make it serviceable as a church. The first worship services were held the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving Day, 1952.

In 1987, a severe earthquake caused damage to the field stone foundation of the 95 year old structure. The original church was demolished in October 1991. The first services in the new church, built on the same lot, were held on October 25, 1992.

THE SILVER LINING
RR2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

2nd Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roanoke, IL
and
Additional offices
USPS 496780

OF
W W Ramsier
2091 State Route 89
Jeromesville OH 44840-9654

S96 P6

