

The Silver Lining



*For if God Spared not the
Natural Branches*

May 1995



"I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

St. John 15:5

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh."

Matthew 24:32

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... Ye Are The Branches.

Spring, with its tender caress upon the trees and new life beginning to show, suddenly gave way to a harsh cold night so typical to Illinois. The chilling cold was followed by wind and rain. The ice hung heavily on the newly formed buds that were awakening to the warmth that previously covered the earth. As the weight of the ice accumulated and the wind blew, a weak spot in a branch was found and the branch dropped to the ground.

The next morning the branch lay all alone in the tender green grass. Its newly formed buds were gasping for air under the coating of ice, but it was evident that life was gone, or was it?

I thought in my heart how that branch was trying to keep going. Could it live? If it was broke off the vine (tree) at a time of trying to form new life, how long could it survive and continue to support life?

Don't Throw It Away

"Don't throw that branch away just yet because I would like to find out things about it," I told the family.

"...He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:" (John 15:5).

We are very much like that branch without the Lord. We can try to sustain life on our own but it just doesn't work.

As a week passed, warm, cold, rain and sun came down. The buds looked as healthy as the ones on the tree. In fact, they even grew a little. There wasn't any true life in the branch and, of course, it could not wave

peacefully in the wind. It just lay there.

Two weeks have gone by since the storm and tonight as I gazed upon the branch, the buds are withering. The life-giving sap is drying up and life will cease. No fruit, no leaves; nothing but the dry wood which finally will rot to dust from which it was formed. How sad, but yet what a lesson can be learned from that branch.

Without The Lord

As we begin life, we are attached to the vine (tree) and receive warmth and nourishment from that tree (our Lord). As we grow, we lose our innocence and the ice and storms of the world will break us from the tree and we will find ourself laying on the ground all alone. Many times through the prayers of loved ones, the guardian angels will watch over and protect the fallen branch, but not forever. Unless an effort is made to graft us back into the tree (repentance and conversion), we cannot expect to bring forth fruit pleasing to the Lord. We will die without the Lord.

How wonderful it is to know that Jesus died so we could be grafted back onto the vine, and live in that which cometh forth from God.

Another Lesson

Another lesson I have learned is that we who are the branches can be cut off by our own loved ones. There are many reasons we can feel cut off and all alone. A death, a hardship, a financial loss all have a tendency to

make us feel alone. Sometimes even our own brethren forget or choose not to talk to us. We surely feel alone and cold as we struggle to keep up an appearance of life.

We, as brethren, need the life from the vine and we need the protection of the branches around us, which break the winds of life. We need His guardian angels (Psalm 91:11-12) most assuredly and we need the love of others.



Thanks be to God that there is "sunshine" on this earth and love from those we love.

A tree is not measured until it is down.

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 1995

God's Plan For Family Unity - VI

This sixth part in a series of articles on family unity focuses on the importance of parental self-examination, an early beginning, of being consistent and the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

As we prepare ourselves for the responsibility of parenthood, it is important that we examine our lives in the light of God's Word to make sure that our lives are in order. In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ reminded us that we must remove the beam from our own eye that we might see clearly to remove the mote from our brother's eye (Matthew 7:3-5). Surely we should do no less for our children. Children are very quick to notice if our actions are not consistent with our words. If we expect them to obey us, we must set the example by being obedient to God's Word.

It is also very important for fathers and mothers to be in unity concerning the training of their children. A "...house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). Children learn very quickly to recognize these differences and can, very early in life, use those differences to cause anxiety for parents. If one parent permits a certain kind of behavior, and the other parent tries to prevent the same kind of behavior, it will cause confusion in the home. The confusion that results from a lack of unity can be devastating to the stability of a home. The importance of unity and harmony between parents can hardly be over-emphasized.

It is important that discipline begins early in the life of a child. The Bible teaches us to start training our children before the world has an opportunity to influence them. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18). "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Too often parents wait until a child is "old enough to understand" and then try to reason with him. Learning the meaning of "no" can begin quite early. Even very young children are capable of learning right from wrong. Young and tender hearts are much easier to mold than

older, more rebellious hearts. Age appropriate discipline, including punishment, can be quite effective if applied with love, compassion and firmness. If we wait to begin to enforce godly standards until children are old enough to sit down and reason together, we make the task much more difficult and significantly reduce the chances for success.

In dealing with our children, we must be fair in our words and actions. We should also be consistent from day to day and we need to be consistent with each of our children. Inconsistency causes confusion and brings instability, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). "My son, fear thou the Lord and the King; and meddle not with them that are given to change:" (Proverbs 24:21). Although being consistent sounds simple enough, the day to day pressures of being a parent can make this very challenging to achieve.

Being consistent does not mean that we should be unforgiving and completely inflexible. We all need to be treated with compassion and forgiveness, but in the process we must make sure that compassion is not permitted to cloud the difference between good and evil.

Be firm, be kind, mean what you say and say what you mean. Just as God patiently corrects us many times, we also need to correct our children without becoming weary. "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction; For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:11-12). Firmness does not require a great deal of volume. Far better is it to be calm, clear and concise in giving instructions than to lose control and allow a situation to degenerate into a shouting match. "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger:" (Proverbs 15:1).

Words that are spoken must then be enforced. We should not make promises or threats that we cannot, or do not intend to carry out. James 2:12-26 goes into

significant detail about the futility of words without action.

Just as a child of God recognizes that there are consequences for sin, our children must learn that there are consequences for disobedience. "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Eccles. 11:9).

The consequences for disobedience should be just strong enough to make it more advantageous to obey than to disobey. The correction or punishment should be appropriate to the offense. Also, the consequences for disobedience should be applied as soon after the incident as possible. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccles. 8:11). This probably means that mother will need to enforce most of the discipline because she will most likely be with the child most of the time. It also means that fathers must be willing to be available to help as much as possible in the evenings and weekends. This will provide some relief to mothers and it will reinforce, to the child, that the parents are united.

Although the influence of the world on the lives of our children is very powerful, God has not put His people in an impossible situation. He has provided a way whereby we may be at peace with Him. He has provided a family structure that provides for orderly authority (father as head of the home and mother as the support). He has also provided instruction through His Word that helps us understand what our duty is as parents. With an early start in teaching our children right from wrong, with clear, consistent instruction and with godly discipline (including consequences for inappropriate behavior) in our children's formative years, we can approach the task of training our children knowing that God will be our constant guide.



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

And the gospel must first be published among all nations. MARK 13:10

In the past several issues, we have used this page to inform our brethren of how we are supporting the building of churches. This will be reported at greater length in future issues also. However, this month, we wish to tell you how we are using your funds to spread the word of God in printed form.

Bible Distribution

The Mission Committee usually has more requests for assistance than we have funds to allocate. We recently received a request for funds that would be used to provide Bibles for the military in Peru. Even though it seems like a good cause, we found ourselves unable to help due to the need for our own Bible distribution. Presently, our brethren are involved in giving out 2,500 to 3,000 Bibles monthly, and the volume is increasing. Anyone having a desire to help specifically with distributing Bibles may specify this when contributing.

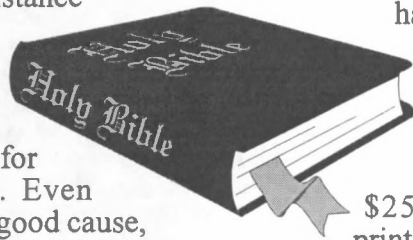
At our last meeting, we agreed to give \$20,000 to Gideons International to be used for distributing the King James Version of the Bible.

Zion's Harp Hymnals

Romanian

The printing of 8,000 Zion's Harps in the Romanian language has now been completed. It cost less than \$2.00 each to print them in Romania, and we trust the quality will be satisfactory. Brethren visiting Romania had noted for some time that there was an urgent need for new hymnals. In some congregations,

three different books were being used. When a hymn was chosen, it was a different number in each book, with much confusion. Some of the hymnals will be sent to Yugoslavia and Ukraine where some assemblies use the Romanian language. We provided \$20,000 from our Bible fund to print these books. This was not all needed, so the balance will be used to print Romanian Bibles. They need large print Bibles because often the older brothers and sisters have vision problems without adequate eyeglasses.



Serbian

Also approved was \$25,000 to assist in printing our hymn book in the Serbian language, used in Yugoslavia and some other countries. A total of 8,000 of these books will be printed. The Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) will be contributing to the project. Because of the UN embargo, it may be difficult to move these into Yugoslavia, but we believe the Lord will open doors as He has so many times in the past. A group of our brethren in Sweden also uses Serbian in their services.

Slovakian

We have a small group of brethren in Slovakia who also have a need for Zion's Harps in their language. We approved expenditure of \$10,000 to assist with printing 2,000 of these hymnals. There are not that many members in Slovakia, but some will be sent to other Eastern European countries where this language is now being used. Some time ago, the country of Czechoslovakia was divided into two republics. Our

brethren are in Slovakia where there has been much political and economic confusion in the past two or three years. We sent them \$34,000 in 1992 which was used to purchase two vehicles needed in the ministry. They also purchased a building suitable to be remodeled into a church. The Slovakian brethren also need two more houses for worship services, and the Mission Committee approved sending them \$26,600 for this purpose in addition to the hymnbook printing. In a letter from Elder Jan Zibritovsky we read...

"Not all of our members are employed in Slovakia, and many of the unemployed are on a fixed pension. Even though the wages have been raised 100%, the cost of food went up 400%, housing 150%, and taxes 200%."

Spanish

For many years there has been a need to retranslate and print the Zion's Harp in the Spanish language. We have approved \$15,000 for this project and five thousand of these hymnals will be printed very shortly. These will be used in South America, Mexico, and other countries where Spanish is spoken.

IF YOU ARE AWARE OF OTHER NEEDS FOR THE PRINTED WORD OR HYMN BOOKS - OR TO SEND CONTRIBUTIONS 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

A work team of 40 brothers, sisters, and friends assembled the first week of March in Jaurez, Mexico, for the purpose of building houses for the poor. Using the scripture...

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

MATT. 5:16

...as an encouragement, the team set forth doing whatever was possible to share God's bountiful blessings.

As they toured the various work sites, making preparation for constructing new houses and remodeling old facilities, tears often flowed from hearts full of sympathy for those living in true poverty. They realized that none of us in our land and brotherhood can fully understand complete poverty. It is a humbling experience when we can share our gifts and talents with those in need.

Having sent materials ahead of time, they believed no time would be lost in buying supplies. However, as brethren involved in these projects discover so often around the world, their shipment did not get through the border in time. They were able to get what they needed in Jaurez, and learned what it means to live one day at a time. God answered prayers, as each day they had what was necessary for that day's work.

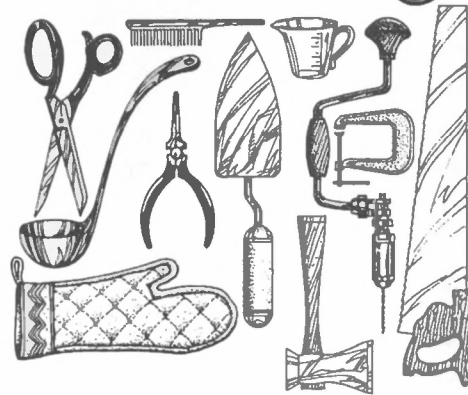
Early on Thursday, March 2, two brothers arrived with a Suburban loaded with equipment and tools. Those already there set up on site for one project, and examined others during the day. In the evening, 22 more Americans joined the group, and they prepared for beginning the construction work the next day.

Keeping in mind that the real purpose was to serve the Lord, they

began each day with song and prayer for His blessings. Concrete was readily available, so they were able to pour two new floors, cover a dirt floor in an existing house, and complete a footing for a block wall around a compound. They also painted inside and outside of a community center. It was also possible to pour the floor for a third house at a different site. The day was profitable.



A Time to Build



They made good progress on Saturday, and in the afternoon some other workers arrived from the US, bringing their total up to the 40 persons. Returning to their motel in the evening, they were tired, but very happy, looking forward to Sunday.

After seeing the pitiful conditions at the dump where people live in squalor, they assembled together for worship services conducted by ministering brothers John Laukhuf and Wayne Lehman, who were part of the group. It is our practice to take at least one minister along for this purpose, and we encourage brothers to make themselves available for this

work. The Spirit of God in the presence of so much misery brought an unforgettable blessing to them all. They learned of Mexican people who had committed their lives to the Lord as a result of Bible Story books we brought in, which moved their hearts.

Monday and Tuesday were spent in building, painting, concrete work, and even mechanical work on vehicles. With each person bringing unique talents, they could do many things.

Wednesday they completed the various tasks, and in the afternoon distributed gifts to the poor people. Twenty pairs of shoes had come from Bluffton, and were given to the neediest, but they needed far more than they had. A team member noticed two sisters coming back to the motel in stocking feet, and discovered they had given their own shoes to two shoeless Mexican boys. With tear-filled eyes, they wondered if Jesus himself wept over such a scene. Several of the group described through tears, the look of utter amazement and excitement of two boys who now own American tennis shoes.

Members of the work team commented:

"They seem so happy. Money must not be the key to success."

"This was a good experience for me."

"I am very thankful for what I have."

"Pictures don't describe the poverty."

"We should pray for the people of Mexico."

The group came home much closer to one another and more appreciative of what they have. Approximate costs for food and lodging for this trip are \$500-600. Groups stay in a clean motel in Jaurez, and travel in rented vans. Ask your local Treasurer-Representative for details. May God bless all of you who support the work in deed and prayer.

- 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
February 1995 --	3,381	21,161
March 1995 --	2,914	24,475

*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.

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.

**Mark your
calendars!!!**

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

**-- 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 - (Adm)
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 (office)
219/627-2606 (home)

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Whatever the need, God said He would provide! When needs become obvious, it can be a challenge to believe Him at His Word, though. If we consider the faith of Elijah, maybe we could glean a little courage in this matter. In I Kings 17, the Lord told Elijah he wouldn't starve during the famine in Israel. Then He told him to go to a brook that ran into the Jordan and live there. In this spot he received fresh water and a raven brought food to him. He didn't consider that he did not have a home to live there, nor that his food would be delivered in a bird's beak. But his needs were met---until the brook dried up. God said He would provide for his needs! Next, we find Elijah talking to a poor widow in Zidon. The woman has only a little oil and flour left, but she, Elijah and her son were miraculously fed over and over from this remnant. Their needs were met, and the story of God meeting needs goes on and on. Please pray that we can always have the faith of Elijah! So often in our

facilities and homes at ACHH we see our Lord providing for our needs. Of course, there are many joys and burdens when so many people congregate to live and work in such homes as ours. But our dear Jesus does provide!

At present, we are all in the "Think Spring" mode. In fact, very soon gardens will be planted at Oakwood and Linden Estates, bicycles and three-wheeler tricycles will be taken out of storage, and all of our outdoor furniture will be placed outside again. Oakwood and Linden residents are in shape for these changes---they've had a winter exercise contest. Each house had a resident winner who rode the longest accumulated distance. The residents in these homes are also gearing up for some interesting mini-vacations this spring and summer.

At our larger facility, April brings practice for the Special Olympics events. The regional event will be held April 29. Every year we are excited to host a group coming to have an Easter party from Princeville. That event is scheduled for April 8. At ACHH and in our group homes, as well, residents continue to enjoy hosting monthly Friday evening hymn sings. Area churches have been participating on a rotating basis at ACHH, and area Single Groups have been coming to Oakwood Estate. We all appreciate everyone's interest in these hymn sings.

JUNE birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Dale Plattner (5); Sara Baker (6); Aldine Winger and Rodney Blaum (15); Donnie Parks (18); Marianne McMenamin (19); Janet Wilt (21); Kim White (23); Lyle Steffen (24); Willis Belsley (25). At OAKWOOD - Doris Hutchison (18). At LINDEN -

Sharilyn Rowell (19); Chip Johann (22). At 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Harold Miller (7).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Andria Moushon

With the coming of Spring I always look forward to new life. This Spring, we here at the home were blessed by the birth of Diana Christine Schrock. Diana was welcomed into this world on March 20 by parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock, and big brother, Eric. Let's keep the Schrocks in our prayers as they adjust to life with a twelve month old, a newborn and six teenagers.

Although Bro. Jeff Thames and his family are now located in Illinois working on our Home-based Services Program, we still consider them a very valuable part of our "family". We all rejoice with them as another blessing was added to their family, and ours, when Suzanna Joy was born on March 31. Suzanna was welcomed home by David, Katelyn, Joshua, Karalea and Hannah.

Our staff experienced new life in a different form with the arrival of Sis. Janel Ramseyer on April 18. Sis. Janel comes to us from Bay City to be our Office Manager filling the void Sis. Joanne Gerber left as she becomes a stay-at-home mom. We are thankful for Sis. Janel's willingness to serve the Lord with us here and for the many gifts and talents she brings with her. Please remember to lift Sis. Janel up in prayer as she continues to make the transition to a new church, job and home.

On April 3, 4 and 5, the whole staff gathered together at Pokagon State Park for our annual

staff training retreat. A large part of our time was spent listening to Bro. Jim Ramseyer from Bay City, MI. Bro. Jim brought us a multi-media presentation on different personality types and how to more effectively communicate with others. It was good to be reminded that God created us all as unique individuals each with our own set of strengths and weaknesses. Life would be much happier if we would spend more time accepting others as the way God made them instead of trying to make them fit into our mold. Bro. Dwight Stoller from Latty, OH also brought an inspiring message on our expectations.

The evening of April 21 found both staff and board members gathered together for our annual Recognition Dinner. We said farewell to Bros. Bill Bradford (Indianapolis, IN) and Ted Pfister who are retiring from the board. May God richly bless these brothers for their years of faithful service. With these brothers moving on we also welcomed Bros. Ted Neuenschwander (Bluffton, IN) and Jon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) whom we look forward to working with.

With the coming of Spring, we also anticipate the fast approaching Summer months, with a need for the help of many volunteers. Often our volunteers are college age members, but please don't let that limit you. If you are 18 or older and have an interest in helping for a week or more, please contact our office at (219) 627-2159.

I wish that I could say we are fully staffed, but we are still waiting for you to answer His call. Please see our ad. Until then, we rest in the assurance that His mercies are new every morning and great is Thy faithfulness!

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

As the school year comes to a close, we at the preschool are tying up loose ends. The students can hardly wait for graduation and the chance to wear their new graduation gowns, which were bought with the proceeds from last fall's fundraiser. We teachers are kept busy fitting in all the material we hoped to over this year. At this age, it seems sometimes we can't teach as fast as they can learn!

All the students planted seeds during April, as we study the theme of plants, as well as Spring and Easter. The children's faces are filled with wonder and excitement when they see the first bit of green poke through the dirt! We have noticed slower results, however, when plants were not watered every day. Really, our efforts to teach the children about God are nothing more than a seed in the ground unless they have the "daily watering" of church attendance and support at home. Our prayer and our goal is not only to teach the children, but also to influence the lives of their parents and families.

In the past month we have been blessed with volunteers. Sisters Kristy Stoller and Hope Steiner from Princeville, IL and Kim Meister from Peoria, IL came for a week to help in the preschool. We thank each one for allowing themselves to be used in this work.

We bring to each one of you a need we have for summer volunteers. If anyone would consider helping us out, please let us know. We have many odd jobs that we count on volunteers for, and the staff tries to fit in much-needed vacations. We can use people of all ages and occupations and the

Lord will bless your efforts. If anyone is interested, please call Sis. Joan Reinhard at (205) 233-0591 or write to 15284 Hastings Rd, Athens, AL 35611. The sooner we know of your plans, the better we can plan. May God bless your unselfishness.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing over the testimony and baptism of Nancy Chapman on March 24 and 25. We also rejoice with Sis. Nancy and her children, James and Ali.

On April 2, we appreciated ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and his wife visiting Athens. We thank them for their labor of love and hope they will return soon.

The weekend before Easter, the Sunday School children gathered on Saturday for an Easter egg hunt, lunch and practice for the Easter program. We enjoyed spending time together in positive activities for the children.

Sis. Shirley Haggemaker has spent time in the hospital, and we were thankful when she was able to assemble with us Wednesday evening for church again. Please pray for her.

We hope anyone coming this way on vacation will plan to spend some time in Athens, fellowshiping with our congregation. Church begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

I Timothy 6:12

Our beloved Bro. Clarence Yackley, 82, went rejoicing to his Heavenly Home on March 17. The medical doctor released him to go home from the hospital, when our Lord, the Great Physician, ceased all suffering and took him Home. What a great gift for one who labored 36 years on the Phoenix pulpit. Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Bill Dotterer, and Elder Bro. John Kokanovich had the funeral services. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Linda; a son, Bro. Al; two daughters, Sis. Eileen Funk (Bro. Tony), Garden Grove, IA, and Ramona (Harold) Wenninger, Sedona, AZ; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Our sympathy to all relatives of Bro. Clarence. Internment was at East Resthaven cemetery.

Our dear departed brother had many encouraging words to share; a favorite, "God is still on the throne". He prayed many a hurt away for many of us. He will really be missed.

A special prayer for Sis. Linda. She always shared his retirement time with any need we had.

Bro. Duane Gudeman returned to Indiana where he found employment using the knowledge he gained in the trade school he attended. May God bless you as you move onward and upward. Bro. Duane's blessings were doubled before leaving Phoenix, as his engagement to Sis. Jill Isch of Lamont, KS was announced. We truly ask God to bless you both.

As we look outside, it's a beautiful sunny Spring day--just the kind of weather Bro. Clarence Beyer and his crew of volunteers need to go forward with the expansion work on our church building. Much needed Sunday School room will soon be a reality. God has truly blessed us with a delightful

group of children, and we need more room. "All are precious in His sight!"

On April 9, the above mentioned Sunday School children had a lovely Easter program for us. You could feel and hear His presence in every lovely face. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

We very much appreciated messages from visiting ministers: Bros. Al Langhofer and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

On March 22, Bro. James Emch had his first sermon. We pray for God's unbounding love and direction for he and Sis. Gina, as Bro. James becomes our fifth minister.

On March 26, there was a farewell reception for two dear pillars of the Phoenix congregation. Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione Rokey moved to 406 Prairie Court, Eureka, IL 61530 (Phone 309-467-6030). They are greatly missed, but what a blessing the two of them can relocate together.

Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda Hoerr welcomed a new son, Fredric Paul, on March 31. Fredric is enjoying all the attention that Franz, Anneliese and T'kya give him. Happy grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ronald Paul and Sis. Ev Hoerr.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica Baum welcomed new daughter, Jessica Marie, on April 3. Whitney is glad for a playmate. Grandparents who will also enjoy Jessica are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum.

Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophie Huber went to Illinois to meet new granddaughter, Janelle Marie Ricketts, born March 29. Her parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl (Washington, IL).

After nearly a year's absence, it was a joy to see Sis. Ella Harmon in church when Mansfield folks were in town.

There is power in prayer. Join our prayer list for our sick and those recovering from surgeries and serious illness: Sis. Shirley Blunier, Evie Howley, Floran Klopfenstein, Sis. Martha Elsassner, and Sis. Janet Farney. Rachel Pamer (Bill and Betty) broke her arm. Justin Gramm (Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise) had arthroscopic surgery.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and wonderful words of encouragement during my hospital stay. God bless and keep all of you.

Thank you, Sis. Shirley Blunier

The family of Clarence Yackley wishes to thank you all for your kindness and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved husband, father and grandfather. It is more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

Our sympathy and prayers go to Sis. Carole Haas in the death of her father, Bro. Carl Joos (Morris, MN). May God comfort Sis. Carole, Bro. Bob and their family.

Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) was with us recently for Wednesday evening services and ministered to us. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally once lived in Tucson so we were especially happy to have them visit.

Our semi-annual church cleaning was a big success. Many thanks to all.

Sis. Martha Blessman continues to recuperate from hip surgery. She has assembled with us

a few times.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

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

I Corinthians 11:26

We were privileged to partake in Holy Communion on the evening of April 1. We thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for helping to assist our Elder Bro. John in serving us and for meditating in the Word that took us to the night of Christ's suffering and death. How very thankful we are that we can partake in such a sacred rite, to show our deep appreciation to our Saviour for shedding His atoning blood for us.

Then on Good Friday, we were given the detailed account of our Saviour's agonizing procession to Calvary's Hill and His last words on the cross before commending His Spirit to His Father and giving up His life. May we be willing to give up our whole life for Jesus, for what love He has shown us.

We were blessed to have visiting ministering Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), his wife, Sis. Karen, and some of their children here with us on March 19. We thank Bro. Randy for rightly dividing the Word of Truth for us. Then on April 5, God willed it for ministering Bro. Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH) to be in our midst. We thank him for his willingness to serve us in the midweek.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

May we always give thanks and

praise to God for our dear mothers, who so willingly raised us in the fear and nurture of the Lord. May we always show our appreciation to them.

This past month we were abundantly blessed to have two newborn babies added to our congregation. Rebecca and Philip are delighted to have a new playmate, who came into their home on March 23. Little Daniel John has been given from God to Bro. Michael and Sis. Kathy Dreste. Rejoicing with them are happy grandparents, Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Mildred Dreste (Washington, IL).

First-time parents, Bro. David and Sis. Janelle Klotzle, rejoice over the safe arrival of their first-born son, Justin Andrew. Baby Justin arrived on March 28 and is a joy to his thankful grandparents, Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle, and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet Nuest (LaCrosse, IN).

We said our farewells to Sis. Beth Beery, a traveling nurse, who had been in our midst for the past three months. She has been a special blessing to all of us who came to know her and she will be missed.

We're grateful to God for providing healing to Bros. Glen Hackenjos and Bob Crockett after having had surgery and are now recovering nicely.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

Anew, Lord we are bound to thee,
Through Thy blest sacrament
Which we partook;
That joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land,
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich

(Phoenix, AZ) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) shared in serving Holy Communion to our members on April 2. It was a beautiful afternoon with a feeling of peace and love.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May our Lord richly bless all of you for your love and teachings. Also, to all visitors, thank you for coming and come again soon.

Mother! What would we do without our loving mothers who have so willingly given of themselves to nurture our needs as the days and years go by? May we remember to thank God for them, not only on Mother's Day, but each day anew.

Are thoughts are with Bro. Rory Strahm as he has not been doing well. We pray for God's healing.

COLORADO, DENVER

Joleen Elder

Greetings!!

Christ the Lord is ris'n today,
Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say:
Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs
high,
Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply,
Alleluia!

Hymns of Zion #102

We recently had the privilege of hearing our Sunday School children raise their voices in song and pieces as they brought us the Easter message. May God bless the children and Sunday School teachers for their efforts.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL). May God bless him for his willingness to be used in the service of our 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

We rejoice with Dwayne Massner (Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner, Burlington, IA) and Kelly Hahn (Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Marion, West Burlington, IA) as they have recently been joined together as husband and wife. We are thankful to have them as a part of our congregation.

We would like to thank all those who came to visit us this past month. It is such a joy to see our pews fill up and hear the many voices blend together as we sing songs of praise to God. May God bless each of you.

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

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler**

February 14 was a joyous day for Ross and Robyn Luginbuhl, with the birth of their son, Hayden Ross. His sister, Sarah, welcomes him. His grandmother is Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl.

On March 17, Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl welcomed their new little blessing. A daughter, Harmony Joy, was born to them. Her grandparents are Sis. Florine Luginbuhl and Bro. Dave, Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat.

We wish our hospital patients God's blessings for a speedy recovery. They are Sis. Lois Schultz and Sis. Mildred Donze.

On April 3 we partook in Holy Communion which was a blessed

event. Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) were with us to assist Elder Bro. Kevin in the service. We truly appreciate their labor of love and wish them the Lord's blessings.

We were also privileged to have ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) with us on the weekend of April 9. We wish him the Lord's blessings.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Bro. John Diggelman went to his rest on April 2. Our sympathy goes out to his son, Richard (Helga), and his sister, Sis. Elsie Lanz.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ervin and Sis. Vi Luginbuhl in the passing of her brother, Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN).

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Art and Emily Foote in the death of their brother-in-law.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

Tourist season has begun. It is an extra blessing to go to church and meet visitors from many different places. Our visitors this month were from Huntington, WV; Latty and Smithville, OH; Morton, IL; Morris, MN; Philadelphia, PA; and Phoenix, AZ. Our ministers were Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We thank God for all our visitors.

We welcome Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke to our congregation. They are living in CharlesTown, WV near Bro. Duane's work. At his last assignment they were three hours from Kitchener or Croghan, so they are glad to be only a little over an hour away. (Sis. Jill Aeschleman is about as

far away, in the opposite direction, so we are really spread out.)

A little over a month ago in Sunday School, Victoria Stoll and I had the story of God telling Abram to move. Little did she know she would soon be moving. April 15 found most of our congregation helping Bro. Ed, Sis. Ginny, Tory and Trey load the big truck to take their belongings to Winthrop, MN.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 7. Some from here meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. 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. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

Note of Thanks:

Brethren and friends,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who have supported us through prayer, thought and kind deeds throughout the last several months and since the passing of Matthew. I have been blessed by the abundant outpouring of assistance and concern. Praying that each one of you will be blessed by our Heavenly Father.

With sincere appreciation,

Jill Aeschleman

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

Sis. Florence Grandinetti had the misfortune to fall and break her hip. She is now recuperating at a local nursing home following surgery. May the Great Healer bring her back to good health.

We were privileged to have Bro.

Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and their families in our midst. We appreciated their inspiring messages and hope they will return soon.

The Kingdom Kids sponsored an overnight campout on March 25. Good food to eat, a bonfire to sit around and lots of fellowship were enjoyed by fathers and sons, including 9 month old Jesse Sutter. Many thought it would be a good idea to make it an annual event.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Lazar Cholak in the loss of their father. His survivors include his sons, Paul, Daniel, and Bro. Tom, six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. We'll all miss him.

Once again, our congregation gathered at the Fellowship Hall for our annual Easter picnic. A delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed by all after the children's egg hunt. It is a special time when young and old can gather together and enjoy the Lord's blessings. A big thanks to all those who planned and prepared for it.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

Philippians 3:10

As we celebrated Good Friday and Easter, did we each one do some mourning, too? How sobering it is to reflect on the reason our Lord had to die. Our sins sent Him to that cruel cross. To serve Him for the rest of our lives seems the least we can do and to suffer for Him an honor and a privilege.

We are thankful for visiting

ministers this past month: Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), and Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) fed us from God's Word. We do so appreciate them and each visitor that worships with us.

Our church family is getting very small again, and by the time you read this, we will be breaking ground on our addition. Please keep us in your prayers.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin

The arrival of Spring is always welcome in Florida. God's beautiful handiwork is definitely painted in our sunsets and the new array of flowers and beautiful trees. With the arrival of Spring, it also bring changes in our congregation as our "Snowbirds" travel back North. We ask that God's blessings go with them and look forward to their return again in the Fall.

On May 14 our nation sets aside a special day to recognize our mothers. As each year passes, it makes us more aware of the great blessing of a Godly mother. We can't be thankful enough for the love and support of our Christian mothers.

A Human Rose

The other day I saw a rose, a human one I mean...
a woman who portrayed to me,
the beauty of a queen.
Her face was filled with
character, that only years can
mold...
her smile held real sincerity, that
shone as purest gold.
Her graying hair caressed her
head, much like a silver crown...
the tenderness within her eyes
caused her the look renown.
I marveled at the way she
walked, each step a work of art...

old in years but all the same, so very young at heart.

Her countenance was that of faith and hope in days to be...

lined with a velvet sweetness which fashioned heaven's key.

And so I write this verse for her in effort to disclose...

the little things which made her seem to me a human rose.

Ben Burroughs

Ordination services for our newly elected Elder, Bro. Douglas Sabo, were conducted on March 26. The milestone of having our first local Elder was shown by approval of the entire church for support. We pray for God's wisdom and guidance for him and his family as they undertake this awesome responsibility. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ben Maibach for his many years of guidance and counseling and ask God's continued blessings in his retirement years.

As instructed in Matthew 26:26-28, we were privileged to break bread together in remembrance of His body and the cup to give thanks of a remembrance of His blood which was shed for the remission of sins as part of our Good Friday services. We were reminded that this act is a commandment and should be done in remembrance of His name.

Sunrise services were held early Easter morning where many gathered in the quietness of the beach to be reminded of the suffering and resurrection of Christ. We then joined together for breakfast and fellowship.

Visiting Elders who have given their time to bring His Word to us were: Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). Visiting ministers were Bros.

Randall Gasser and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

We are happy to report that Bro. Ed Getz is now out of the hospital and is residing at a nursing home in Bradenton. We also want to pray for a healing hand on our ministering Bro. Glenn Price Jr. who is recovering from pneumonia.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Helen Hermann and family with the loss of her husband, Bro. Bob Hermann. The following note of thanks has been submitted to all who knew and prayed for them during his illness and passing:

We would like to express our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, kind expressions of love and sympathy and especially for all the prayers offered during Bob's hospitalization and death. We were overwhelmed by the love shown to help ease our loss. May God bless each one of you.

Helen Hermann

Dennis and Ginger Hermann and family

Nancy and Mike Hoffman and family

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

We are thankful once again for the many visitors who assembled with us this past month, especially ministering Bros. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

On March 31, our small congregation was saddened by the death of our dear friend, Dorothea Elder. We extend our sympathy to her two sons and their families.

If you are in the Atlanta area, please stop in and worship with

us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395, or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

On April 9, our Sunday School students once again told the beautiful story of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again through verse and song. We appreciate the efforts of the teachers and children. It was a real blessing.

We thank the visiting ministers who brought forth God's Holy Word to us. They were Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and our Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL). We thank them for being unselfish servants. We appreciate each visitor who came to worship with us. It's an encouragement to a small congregation. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

The beginning of this reporting period was marked with a new beginning. Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz Robinson have been blessed with the birth of their son, Joshua Kenneth, on March 17. He has been joyfully welcomed into this world by big sisters, Danielle and Jessica. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Goodfield, IL) and Leonard and Pat Hursh of Heyworth, IL. Children truly are a gift from God.

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

are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth."

Psalm 127:3,4

We were blessed at our monthly hymn sing on March 19 as the Morton's women's group, Grace Notes, lifted up our Lord's name in praise. Truly, song is a very uplifting form of worship for us, but more importantly, it fulfills our main goal as a child of God to bring glory to Him.

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious...All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah."

Psalm 66:1,2,4

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Virginia Huette. She had been battling a serious illness for many months when the Lord chose to take her Home on March 26. We pray for her dear husband, Bro. Marvin, that he will be comforted and given encouragement through the Scriptures, his loved ones, and our church family. Our sympathy goes out to her brother, Clyde Koehl (Tarpen Springs, FL), and to her sisters, Sis. Betty Klopfenstein (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Ethel Meiss (Gridley, IL), Sis. Hazel Huette (Normal, IL) and Mrs. Carol Steidinger (Forrest, IL). Her children, Mrs. Karen Huette Peiree, Mrs. Cyndi DeRobertis and Mr. Dennis Huette, are also in our prayers. We are so thankful that Sis. Virginia had that hope of eternal life through Christ that brought her so much comfort and peace despite her progressive illness.

We had several visiting ministers this month whom we would like to acknowledge and thank for their faithful and selfless service.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari with our Communion service on March 29. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) who were present in Bloomington for the College Weekend activities, ministered to our congregation on Sunday, April 2. Bro. Nathan Lehman's (Tucson, AZ) presence was a blessing to us on April 5 at our Easter Bible Study and also on April 9 at our Palm Sunday services. Hopefully our cold, windy, winter-like weather wasn't too much of a discouragement to him, having heard what a mild March the mid-west had!

The Sunday School children were radiant as they told the Easter story through verse and song on Palm Sunday. The focus of the program was really summarized in the song the junior choir sang, "A Tomb Full of Empty". It is in that empty tomb, in our resurrected Saviour, that we find our hope of eternal life. We remained focused on Christ and His death and resurrection again in our Good Friday and Easter Sunday sunrise services. Through this focused study throughout this very special season, we feel we have moved to a deeper level in our relationship with our Lord.

On April 9, Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari were surprised with a card shower in honor of Bro. Everett's 25th year in the ministry. We are so thankful that Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev and their family have given of themselves so unselfishly over these years in service to our church. We thank God for them daily.

The engagement of Bro. James Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Jenifer Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) from Lamont-Gridley, KS was announced on Sunday, April 16. What a joy to anticipate the marriage of these

two young people who have first devoted their lives to Jesus Christ. We are confident that as they make Him the Head of their relationship, their love for each other will grow and mature to it's fullest potential.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour
great!

By the power of Thy Spirit
A new man Thou didst create.
Angels see in joyous rapture
God's own Word in deed fulfilled;
And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed...
Dearest child, we bid thee
welcome

In our blessed brotherhood...
Zion's Harp #34

On March 19, we were pleased to welcome Bros. Fred Dietz and Darwin Stahl into the family of God as we witnessed their baptisms. Parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and Sis. Charlotte Stahl. We pray that the Lord which "hath begun a good work in [them] will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" and bless them in their new walk with Him.

Sis. Lois Endress spent a short time in the hospital this month. We are thankful she is once again able to assemble in church with us.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Ronnie and Sue Eberle as Sue's mother, Hazel Beamer, has passed away this month. We pray that God will comfort them in their loss.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). Bros. Glenn Rig-

genbach (Smithville, OH) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) also visited and ministered unto us. May God bless them for their labors.

On April 5, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was here to help our Elder Bro. Marvin Leman with Communion. We thank him for his willingness to be with us and invite him to come back soon.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

If anybody deserves a day in their honor, mothers do. They do so much for their children and their husbands. Moreover, many of us were carried to church in our mother's arms when we were little and were taught by example the "more excellent way". May God richly bless each one for all they do in His name. Let us remember to honor them not only on Mother's Day, but the whole year through.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Margie Heintz

Our Sunday School students presented their Easter program on Sunday afternoon, April 2. We were given an early reminder that the first Easter weekend was one that changed the history of the entire world. The program looked at three individuals living during that weekend and showed how the amazing events of Christ's death and resurrection changed the temporal, earthbound focus of their lives. Each one of us needs to reflect inwardly: has the weekend that changed the world had a life-changing effect on me?

An appreciation dinner was hosted by the college students for their parents and for those who worship at the Champaign church. A delicious meal was en-

joyed together, followed by fellowship and a song service. Thanks to all who worked so hard to provide such a blessed evening.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thess. 5:18

The family hymn sing this month was preceded by a potluck supper. Following congregational singing, the group 'Joyful Praise' sang a selection of hymns and inspirational songs. We thank them for blending their voices and sharing their joyful songs with us.

Later that evening we surprised Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart with a celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's continued guidance and nearness in their future years together.

Visiting ministers in the past month were Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH), and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve Him wherever they are needed.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I was just visiting a friend with her baby. He was a preemie and is still on medication for his lung difficulties. I was so concerned, not wanting to be a harbinger of germs. That's a good thought on my part. Am I equally as careful, though, to be spiritually pure---so that I do not taint friends or brethren, with "germs" from my walk or talk that could cause them spiritual difficulties? I am my brother's, sister's, friend's keeper.

We have been well served by

Bros. Mike Kaiser (moved to Morton, IL), Matt Strahm (later in the year moving to Sabetha, KS) and Jim Schlatter. We are fortunate that Bros. Tom O'Shea (assistant treasurer), Paul Leman (member of Elgin Resthaven board), and Tom Waldbeser (Gateway Woods representative) are willing to lend themselves in these important positions. Bro. Luis Gomez and Sis. Betty Schlatter will be helping Bro. Tom Waldbeser with Bible distribution. May each one feel blessed and supported in his respective niche.

Sis. Deanne Stahl, originally from Bradford, IL is working at Abbott Labs. Having her join us in Chicago is so exciting, a sister mentioned. We all agree and look forward to the joys of fellowship together, praying that she finds her time of transition peaceful and us helpful.

Our hearts are touched with love, prayers, and sympathy for Diane and Gary Halfer and their son, Chris, at the death of her brother from the Morton, IL area. The Lord alone knows how to give them healing balm, but may we be ready, instant in prayer and service for their hurt.

The Lord has creative ways for us to minister to others. We just have to look for them, listen for them, hunt for them. You can say things I can't say and vice versa, but using the candy cane's symbolism at Christmas or the symbolic colors of jelly beans at Easter are reminders of Him in a world which actually may stop to consider those ideas presented in that manner. With our children, we can be more direct, beginning spiritual traditions wrapped in family packages. Please, Lord, wilt Thou bestow on us Thy ideas to provoke thought and witness to our family and friends. Carpe diem: Seize the day. We don't know for whom eternal night is

very close.

There is a story about knights in a battle where afterwards the bravest receives a star on his shield. As the story begins, these knights were defending a castle against giants and the fighting was fierce. One young but quite brave knight was incensed to be told to man the castle instead of going out to fight. He was, however, obedient. In that position he was taunted and tempted and would have totally succumbed except for his total submission to the orders given him. When the knights finally returned, victorious but spent, and though he himself was unaware, it was his shield, the knight who unwillingly stayed behind, that shone with the star. There are silent struggles going on---within ourselves, within others, which are more important to the Lord in their outcomes than many more "noisy" battles. Let us be comforted and uplifted as we submit to His will. He alone knows, provides, strengthens.

Many giants, great and tall,
Stalking thro' the land,
Headlong to the earth would fall,
If met by Daniel's Band!
Hold the gospel banner high!
On to vict'ry grand!
Satan and His host defy,
And shout for Daniel's Band!
Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known!

Tabernacle Hymns #333

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer

Anna Marie Reutter

Simply trusting every day,
Trusting through a stormy way,
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

E. Page

Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). They kindly brought to us the reading of the Memorandum and the exhortation for communion. We are a blessed people. Other brethren who ministered to us were Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). May God bless and reward each one for their labors in our behalf. We again heard the need to trust our Lord at all times.

The engagement of Sis. Susan Walder (Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles) and Bro. Dale Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) was made known on March 26. We wish this couple God's blessings, direction, and guidance as they plan a June wedding.

March 27 was our annual clothing drive. Items were sorted, packed, and then channeled to various places where there was a need. The following Monday was our annual church cleaning day. We receive a blessing when we labor together.

Our eyes have been focused on the cross as we experienced Palm Sunday and our children bringing forth the Easter Program. We appreciate each student and teacher. The following Wednesday evening we partook of Holy Communion with Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) serving us. Our Lord suffered physical pain on the cross as well as the spiritual pain of bearing our sin load. On Good Friday, services were held again; then the joy of Easter, celebrating our Lord's resurrection from the grave. It is almost more than we can grasp, but we are to trust.

Needing our prayers are Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann who is suffering with a painful back fracture. At the time of this writing, she is at the home of her daughter, Sis. Myrna and Bro. Ken Weerts. Sis. Irma Jean Knapp recently had a serious eye surgery and is doing well at this time.

We sympathize with the Eisenmann and Gudeman families over the loss of their loved ones. Bro. Lee Eisenmann (Latty, OH) passed from this life on March 2. His parents were the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Ida Eisenmann. Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) passed from this life on March 22. His parents were the late Bro. Bert and Sis. Tillie Gudeman. Bro. Art was a retired minister at LaCrosse, and we always appreciated his visits as he came "home". Now he has reached his heavenly Home, which he so often spoke of.

Services for our aged Sis. Lillian Geyer were held on April 10. Her last years were spent at Fairview Haven Rest Home in Fairbury, IL. Bro. Tom Stock held the services along with our other ministers. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Note of Thanks:

We thank everyone for remembering us on our 50th wedding anniversary with cards, gifts and calls.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carolyn Hari, Loda, IL

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**Arlene Banwart - Beth Steffen**

As we think of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we who have had Christian parents are moved to thankfulness. I am reminded of a song, "Our Parents--A Gift From God", written by a sister and sung to the tune of "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" (Hymns of Zion, #163).

Lord, we thank Thee for our
Parents,
Who have reared us in their care.
Gently, they'd sing "Jesus Loves
Me"
As they'd rock us in their arms.
Soon, around their feet we'd
scamper
Curious as we could be
Patiently, they'd answer
questions;
Listening so tenderly.

They would tell us how they loved
us
And about Thy Holy Word;
How those words would linger
with us
As we made our way through
school.
We can think of Fam'ly gath'nings
Oh! We thank Thee Lord for these!
For without our loving parents
Ne'er could we experience these.

As we started growing older,
They would teach us how to pray;
Reassure that Thy love would
Strengthen us along our way.
Yes, they tell us about Jesus
And the wonders of His Love;
Praying, hoping that we'd one day,
Turn our eyes upon the cross.

Now we've come to know the
Saviour,
And the riches of His Love
Oh, how sweet to think that we've
been
Taught the straight and narrow
way.
Lord, we thank Thee for our
parents;
Bless and keep them, Lord we
pray
Oh, how truly we do love them,
For their kind, unselfish ways.

We thank Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for ministering the Word to us.

Matt Braman, son of Roger Braman's of Goodfield, and Elisabeth Good, daughter of Wendell Good's of Eureka are seeking the Lord in repentance. These young people were invited to church by school friends, and our whole congregation heartily welcomes them.

April 1 marked the passing of Sis. Naomi Schrock, age 94, who 74 years ago was baptized in the Mackinaw River. Our sympathy goes to her brother, Bro. Alvin Schrock, and sister, Sis. Mae Schrock, of our congregation and her brother, Bro. Jesse Schrock, of Peoria. Happiness and contentment in the Lord were so evident in her life.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ree (Bro. Jim) Hartman in the death of her father, Bro. Robert Taufer, and to Sis. Maryellen (Bro. Fred) Zimmerman in the death of her father, Bro. Dan Hartter. What a comfort when those who die have long before made preparation for this time.

Marie Eglin is now residing in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka and welcomes visitors. We are looking forward to hearing her testimony of faith.

John and Renae Dietrich and Mari Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) have been announced as having peace and we look forward to their baptisms in the near future.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Naomi Schrock would like to thank everyone for their deeds of love, kindness, and prayers during her illness and death. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker-Debbie Sauder

And ye, the Church's members,

truly
Are folded in my hearts embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

It was a solemn hour Saturday evening, March 25, when our hearts and minds were led out to Calvary in remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death. We truly appreciate Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) for his willingness to assist our Bros. Nathan and Ron in serving us of the emblems of our dear Saviour's death, as well as that manna from the inspired Word. May God reward our brothers as well as the other visitors this month: Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Neal Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Our hands are yet in close
communion beating:
In Jesus' name we bid the
farewell greeting.
Zion's Harp #114

We are sorry to have bid farewell to Sis. Gladys Weiss as she has taken up residency in the Sabetha home. Elgin has been her home for many years and though she leaves many family and friends here, we know she will soon feel welcome and at home in her new surroundings. We are thankful that prayer knows no geographic boundaries, so may we always remember one another as we meet around that common mercy seat.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."
Jeremiah 30:17

Our continual prayers have been with Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach and their dear family through Bro. Don's recent surgery. We know that God does not require more of us than the amount of grace He extends, yet what a responsibility we have to pray for others. May Bro. Don and his family take courage that someday we will lay aside this mortal flesh and each one found faithful is promised a new body in the new Jerusalem.

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

We rejoice with the angels above that one more soul has found it worthwhile to no more labour and be heavy laden with sin but rather to lay aside the weight of sin and seek his Saviour with a broken and contrite spirit. Eric Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) has begun on this path in search of peace for his soul and we are so thankful, knowing that God indeed will provide for him in all ways. Another dear soul, Janice Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie), has answered the call, laid the foundation of faith and now found that rest for the soul in perfect peace. We look forward to hearing her testimony of faith in the weeks to come and trust God will grant her the grace to not let Satan disturb that precious peace she has been the privileged recipient of.

Tell Mother I'll be there, in
answer to her prayer
This message blessed Saviour to
her bear
Tell Mother I'll be there, heaven's
joys with her to share
Yes, tell my darling Mother I'll be
there.
Charles Fillmore

Many of us were blessed with a dear mother who taught us, from little up, of the ways of God. How thankful we are for their faithfulness, encouragement, example and love. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

Isaiah 66:13

As a small child when we would be in need of comfort, it was usually to our mothers that we ran. There was nothing so safe as a mother's arms in time of trouble. In Isaiah, God gives us the wonderful promise that He will comfort us even as our mothers did, and He is always available.

We pray that God will be that Comforter to the Ron Colclasure family. Ron died very suddenly on March 28, and we express our sympathy to his wife, Betty; his children; Betty's parents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary Fehr; and Betty's brothers, Bro. Ken (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Deb).

Bro. Daniel Hartter died on April 2 at his home. May God comfort his wife, Dorothy; and family, Bro. John, Bro. Ron, and Sis. Madalyn of Eureka, and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman of Congerville. Bro. Daniel is also survived by one brother, Bro. Richard, and six sisters, Sis. Salome, Sis. Emma, Sis. Corine, all of Eureka, Sis. Esther Tanner of Deer Creek, Ida Meinders of Roanoke, and Sis. Frieda Schaefer of Tremont.

We were glad and thankful to partake of Holy Communion on April 8 and to commemorate our Saviour's death. Elder Bro. Joe

Stoller (Princeville, IL) spent the evening with us and vividly portrayed to us our Lord's suffering on the cross. We also express our thanks to Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) for visiting us this past month.

We rejoice with Bro. Kent Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) and Sis. Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne of Elgin, IA) who announced their engagement on April 16. We pray that God will bless them and direct them as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Michael Huber (Bro. Gary and Karen) has recently moved to the Lamar, MO area. May God bless him and provide for him in all things.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Daniel Hartter wishes to thank all who remembered them with cards, food, phone calls, gifts of love and prayers during his illness and death.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

I grieved my Lord from day to day,
I scorned His love so full and free,
And tho' I wandered far away,
My mother's pray'rs have followed me.

I'm coming home, I'm coming home,
To live my wasted life anew,
For mother's pray'rs have followed me,
Have followed me the whole world through.

Lizzie DeArmond

How vital are the prayers, the

guidance and influence of God-fearing mothers! Let us thank God for them as we honor them this Mother's Day.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth Rinkenberger with twin girls. Carrie Ann and Cassie Marie were born on March 17. Two sisters, Brianna and Abby, await them at home. Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) are grandparents.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Renee Waldbeser have a little son, Thadd Evan, born on March 23. Lee and Lynette are happy to have a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL).

Brandon Douglas Stoller was welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra, and siblings: Bro. Bryan (Sis. Kara), Columbus, OH; Kevin, Sis. Darcy, Sis. Kim and Jeff. Brandon was born on April 5. Grandparents are Sis. Sally Schieler and Sis. Ernestine Stoller.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro' the Word,
Creating faith in him...

Hymns of Zion #109

The Spirit's movement has been evident among us recently as four souls have begun on the pathway of repentance. We are so thankful for Ben and Kathryn Kaisner, Marvin Bender (Clara), and Dana Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna). May we continue to support and pray for them as they begin to lay their foundation in Christ.

"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

On April 9, we joined with the Forrest congregation in witnessing the marriage vows of our Bro. Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) of Forrest. We welcome Sis. Lori into our congregation. May the blessings of God flow upon their newly-established home.

Also on April 9, we were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. John Fehr (William and Helen, Forrest) to Sis. Jennifer Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) of Forrest. We wish them the Spirit's guidance as they plan for their June 18 wedding and their future together.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

John 14:18

We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Gladys and Bro. Ray Slagel and family in the loss of their father and grandfather, Edwin Fehr.

Hospital patients this month were Ben Kaisner (Kathryn), Bro. Frank Schmidt (Pearl), Dale Mowery (Sis. Elaine) and Bro. Manny Steffen (Sis. Lucille).

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together..."

Revelation 6:14

The Morning Cometh!

A shout!
A trumpet note!
A Glorious Presence in the azure sky!
A gasp,
A thrill of joy,
And we are with Him in the twinkling of an eye!

A glance,
An upward look,
Caught up to be with Christ forev-

ermore!
The dead alive!
The living glorified!
Fulfilled are all His promises that came before!

His face!
His joy supreme
Our souls find rapture only at His feet!
Blameless!
Without a spot!
We enter into heaven's joy complete!

Strike harps,
Oh, sound His praise...
We know Him as we never knew before!
God's love!
God's matchless grace!
'Twill take eternity to tell while we adore!

Anne Catherine White

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards and calls during my hospital stay. A special thanks to the Sunshine group for the flowers. God bless you all.

Bro. Frank Schmidt

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter

Mary Bachtold

We were truly blessed this past month to have many visiting ministers so willingly share the Word of Life with us. May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), John Hartman and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

We are rejoicing to hear the news that Daren Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol) has answered the Lord's call and is turning his life

to Him in repentance. Though he is living in Texas and far from us, we know the Lord will draw near to him as He has promised "he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke 11:10).

Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts have been blessed with a sweet baby girl, Laura Marie. Big sister, Emily, and grandparents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen, are enjoying this precious gift from Heaven.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest Which the Spirit does bestow." April 9 was the wedding day of Sis. Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). May their love continue to grow as they walk hand in hand through this life together.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Jennifer Ifft and Bro. John Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and William and Helen Fehr. Also announcing their engagement are Gretchen Ebach (Bro. Lyle and Gloria) and James Sitman (James and Nancy, Wheeling, IL). May the Lord bless these two couples as they make wedding plans.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Rich Rieger, Sis. Emma Ifft, Sis. Alisa Ricketts, and Sis. LaVerne Aberle. We are thankful they have been granted health and strength to return home.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to all who remembered Harvey with prayers, cards, visits, flowers or gifts of love while at the hospital and since returning home after surgery. Every expression of care and concern has been deeply appreciated. May God bless each

one of you for your kindness.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Ifft

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:8-11

St. Paul's words, written from a cold, dark prison cell to the believers of Philippi, set forth the truth of our faith in its simplest form. Jesus Christ, Son of God, became obedient to death and most highly exalted by God as Lord and Saviour to us all. The joy St. Paul expresses is ours today if we, too, on bowed knees confess His name. Rejoice in His resurrection and we shall meet Him in the skies!

The Sunday School children presented us a beautiful Easter program using song and verse to tell the story of Jesus' death and victory over the grave. There cannot be any sound closer to that of the angels singing than the voices of these young children blended together praising the Lord. Our thanks and appreciation to all the teachers and helpers who made this special afternoon service possible.

We were blessed with the announcement of two engagements this month. Our Bro. Chad Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort) and Sis. Stacy Ringger (Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie) of Gridley, IL;

and Bro. Josh Beer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Keri Hohulin (Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce) have all accepted the Lord's will working in their hearts bringing them together as one. We rejoice with them in the knowledge that their foundation in the Lord will ever stand firm. God bless your new families with an abundance of love toward one another.

Hearts were saddened at the passing of our dear Sis. Ginny Bauman this month, yet we praise the Lord that she is beyond the pain of this world and safe in the arms of Jesus. May the Lord of all, comfort and bless Bro. Don and their children, and may we all continue in the faith she held so dear. We also felt the loss of our friend, Ron Colclasure, of Eureka, and ask God in His ever abiding love to sustain his wife, Betty, and their children in the time of their sorrow. Bro. Floyd (Shorty) Hoffmann's (Sis. Evelyn) sister, Martha Stickelmaier, of Germantown Hills passed away this month and we extend our love and sympathies to Bro. Floyd, Harold, and the entire family.

"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

Many thanks to Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for sharing in the Communion ceremony with Elder Bro. Wes and our church family. The peace and joy of the Easter season is always enhanced by this holiest of events. God blessed us all. Thanks also to Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie

Manz (Junction, OH) for sharing their efforts in the Lord with us.

Notes of Thanks:

Mildred and I would like to thank everyone who so kindly remembered me in the hospital and since I've been home recuperating from heart surgery. Your prayers and cards were greatly appreciated and I humbly thank you and pray God will richly bless you.

Love in Christ,

Bro. Wilbur Heinold

The family of Ginny Bauman wishes to express their sincere thanks for the many deeds of kindness shown to them in the passing of their loved one. May the Lord bless you all.

*Bro. Don, Ron, Diane & boys,
Kelly and Doug*

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

For those of us who are among the 6,000 or so subscribers to the Silver Lining, it is always a blessing each month to receive a new issue.

I say this because a dear older brother in faith reminded me one Sunday about "visiting the churches". He cited the tendency of the Apostle Paul to visit the churches. Also, he related that his great-grandfather was an Elder in Europe and would often visit the churches.

Today, he said, we can visit the churches "in our mind" by reading the Silver Lining. Indeed, we can. This publication affords us the opportunity to read congregational news in all the churches. In a sense, we can share in their joys and sorrows.

The Silver Lining is a cohesive force in our denomination. All who contribute to it editorially, and all who read it, should be encouraged by this fact.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Gramm Kaeb became the parents of their fourth child, a boy, on March 16. He was named Seth Michael. He has two sisters, Melissa, 6, and Kristin, 5, and a brother, Brandon, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb of Cissna Park, IL and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm of Gridley. We rejoice with them.

On April 9, Sis. Staci Ringger was announced to marry Bro. Chad Leman (Goodfield, IL). She is the daughter of Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger. His parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy Leman of the Goodfield congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings.

On Wednesday evening, April 19, our congregation took Holy Communion.

On March 19, we had three visiting ministers: Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL). On April 17, Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) was our guest minister. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) visited Gridley.

Sis. Norma Witzig was recently hospitalized overnight after a fall, but is all right now.

As of April 20, we have had several souls seeking their salvation, for which we are very thankful.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

We wish God's richest blessings and guidance to all who are graduating this Spring. The formula for true success is found in Matthew 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Sis. Margaret Seidel was called Home on March 29. May God comfort her many nieces, neph-

ews, and other relatives and friends.

Our Easter program was held on Sunday, April 9. May God bless all who participated and all who came to attend. It was a wonderful way to begin Easter week.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to thank all who helped during the sickness and death of our dear loved one, Joe Seidel. Your prayers, cards, food, money, and many more acts of kindness were appreciated. We especially want to thank our many dear friends in Sarasota and for the flowers from the church, and for all the cards, prayers, and money from all of you. God bless you.

The Joe Seidel Family

We would like to express our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, kind expressions of love and sympathy and especially for all the prayers offered during Bob's hospitalization and then his subsequent death. We were overwhelmed by the love shown to help ease our loss. May God bless each one of you.

Helen Hermann

Dennis and Ginger Hermann & Family

Nancy and Mike Hoffman & Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Four more young souls were taken into the fold on Sunday, March 26. They are Joshua and Jesse Hoerr, sons of Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr; Kenny Ober, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Ober; and Mike Kaisner, son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner. We wish them all the grace of God.

Palm Sunday is always a spe-

cial day in Peoria, as we are served Holy Communion. Assisting Bro. Chuck was Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO). We thank him for this and for participating in our April Family Night.

We also want to thank Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) who was here for his nephew Mike's testimony and baptism. God bless you for your efforts.

We have two new babies to report this month. Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel are enjoying their first child, a baby girl, Shelby Jordyn, born March 30. Shelby's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock, all of Peoria.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer also have a precious addition to their family. Chase Levi was born on March 30, and was welcomed home by big sister, Leah. Chase's grandparents are Sis. Lillian Ramseyer and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ardith Herrmann of Peoria.

Recent hospitalized patients were Sis. Holly Ramseyer, Sis. Mabel Hoerr and Bro. Les Wagenbach. May they each feel God's healing hand in their recovery.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Elsie Geef wishes to sincerely thank everyone for the many prayers, visits, cards, flowers and gifts of food during her illness. The caroling at Christmas was a bright spot in her life and was very much enjoyed. We are also deeply grateful for the many donations made in her memory to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home building fund. Each act of kindness and sympathy is appreciated so much and they are precious memories for us, her family. May the Lord bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and love.

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

Norman Rocke

Thanks for the prayers, cards and visits while I was a patient in the hospital and recuperating at home.

Bro. Edwin Staub

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 28

In the past month, we have had births, children hospitalized, souls seeking the Lord in repentance, and engagements announced. As we take time this month to remember our mothers, may we realize and appreciate the significant role they have had throughout our lives.

Nolan Dale Streitmatter was born March 17 to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona. Loving grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA).

On March 31, Marissa Llynn was born to Tom and Colleen Magnussen. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch and Joe and Bonnie Magnussen of Wyoming, IL.

It was a time of trusting as three of our congregation, both young and old, underwent medical treatment. Two were small children: Nathan Braker (heart valvoplasty), son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey, and B.J. Elsasser (heart surgery), son of Bro. Brian

and Sis. Mary Beth. We also wish to remember Bro. Bob Herrmann (hip surgery) in our prayers. May God heal according to His perfect will.

"...Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."

Luke 15:6

Certainly there is much rejoicing on earth as well as in Heaven as seven souls have come to the Lord in repentance. Those that have answered God's call are: Ben and Kevin Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), Troy Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine), Doug Blunier (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce), Joe Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray), Ann Klendworth and Eleanor Baer.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain created man.

Hymns of Zion #286

On March 19, Sis. Jody Knobloch and Bro. David Kieser announced their engagement. Sis. Jody is the daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler and the late Bro. Ken Knobloch and Bro. David is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser. Their wedding date is set for July 2.

The engagement of Sis. Heather Wieland to Bro. Gregg Rumbold was announced March 26. Sis. Heather is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland and Bro. Gregg is the son of Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold from Bradford. Their wedding date is set for June 25.

The Lord has blessed Keny and Marian Riley with many years together. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 8. They are the parents of Sis. Elizabeth Wieland (Bro. John).

We partook of Holy Communion on April 1. We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) with us. May the Lord richly bless him.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for giving of themselves for our benefit. Among those were Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). A special thanks to Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) who held a Bible Study on March 24.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank all our friends and family for the reception, gifts, cards, money, flowers, and donations in honor of our 50th anniversary; also for the love shown us over the many years.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch

It is with grateful hearts that we express thanks to all who remembered us with true Christian Love at a time in our lives when we experienced a deep need. It is gratifying to know that we are surrounded by so many who truly love us and have found ways to put that love into action. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jana Gastman - Annie Leman

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

Psalms 116:15

Our Sis. Elsie Bradle was called Home on March 31. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Fannie Bradle, and her two brothers, Sam and Bro. Chris, all of Roanoke.

We extend our sympathy to our Bro. Chuck Hodel (Sis. Rita) and

our Sis. Dori Fischer (Bro. Keith) in the passing of their mother, Betty Hodel. Although this is a time of sorrow, what a comfort it must be to know she had turned her life to the Lord in repentance during her last days. She is also survived by one brother, Bro. Joe Rassi, and one sister, Sis. Emma Rocke (Eureka, IL).

April 1 was the wedding day of Judy Sauder and Larry Hodel. Their parents are Sis. Dorothy Sauder and Bro. Ray and Sis. Kathryn Hodel. May God richly bless their union of hearts.

Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold announced the engagement of their daughter, Lisa, to Eric Schwarz. His parents are Anne Schwarz of Springfield and the late Edward Schwarz. An August 4 wedding is planned.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy Moser welcome home their first child, Bradley Mark, born April 2. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser.

What a blessing it was to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) for their willingness to help serve us. May God bless them in their many duties and responsibilities.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) who had our monthly Bible Study. May God bless each one for sharing His Word with us.

Our hospital patients this month were Bud Hinthorne (Vi), Sis. Madalyn Fehr (Bro. Rich), and Seth Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty). May God's healing hand be upon them.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

On April 8 we were blessed and humbled as we partook of Holy Communion together. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for coming to Tremont and sharing the Lord's Supper with us. May we daily remember the price that Jesus paid at the cross for our sins.

We wish to thank the following ministers for sharing God's Word with us: Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Ron Messner (Washington, IL). God bless you for the beautiful teachings.

We rejoice with Bro. Brad Kaufmann and Sis. Tonya Kaiser (Morton, IL) on their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann and Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser (Morton, IL). Our prayer is that the Lord will lead and guide them in their new walk together.

Sis. June Zuercher (Bro. Curt) and Chris Schweigert (Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky) spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful that they are both home and recuperating.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Frieda Schaefer in the death of her brother, Bro. Dan Hartter (Eureka, IL). May God be her comforter.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

This month has been a busy one, with many joyous occasions to be thankful for. God is so good to us!!

The testimonies, and subsequent baptisms, of four young people were experienced on the weekend of March 25 and 26. As they related how God had worked

in each of their lives, their sincerity touched all of those listening. We were again reminded how conversion is God's work, not our own, though we often have to work to come to the point of submission. It is always good for us to be reminded of these things. Our new family members are Bros. Tom Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy), and Chad Martin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon), and Sisters Christine Hodel (Kent and Janet), and Leslie Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki). We wish them God's continued blessings!

Many visitors were present for that weekend. We thank Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering to us. Also present were Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL).

On April 8, we partook in Communion services. The time spent in preparation and the solemn service is always a blessing. I was struck by the quietness in the sanctuary as Communion was served to us. The verse "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) seems so appropriate. We are grateful to Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting Bro. Carl in the serving of the Lord's supper.

We also thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for speaking to us at our Bible Study on "A More Excellent Way". Much "food for thought" was given to us.

The Sunday School children presented the story of Easter in song and in verse. Their enthusiasm is a good model for us, as we, too, tell others about Christ's resurrection and what it means to us.

We have not only celebrated the new life of souls, and the new life given to us by Jesus as He rose from the grave, but also new life as seen in tiny babies. Joshua Lane Schumacher came on March 26 to the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty Schumacher and Richard and Laura Durfey (Detroit, MI).

Janelle Marie Ricketts, born March 29, is the new daughter of Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl. Her grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophie Huber (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Meredith Ricketts (Forest, IL).

Susanna Joy Thames arrived on March 31. Her parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda, and grandparents are Bob and Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Phil Thames (Mackinaw) and Kay Thames (Normal). The miracle of birth is always awe-inspiring! We rejoice with these families and always welcome new additions to our church family.

Hospitalized this month was Valerie Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth) after injuries sustained at her workplace. We pray for God's healing for her.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch

The engagement of Sis. Sally Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl) and Bro. Jeremy Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) was recently announced. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their July wedding.

On April 1, Bro. Louis and Sis. Earlene Steffen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We share in their happiness.

Little Cody Robert was born on March 26 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Walburn. He joins Holly and Ethan at home. Grandpar-

ents are Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer.

Our sympathy is with the family of Bro. David Gerber (Bluffton North) who passed away on April 9. Prayers are with his wife, Sis. Ada, and their children, Bro. Bill, Sis. Ann Reinhard (Bro. Ken), Bro. Leon and Sis. Genny Isch (Bro. Stan).

Those hospitalized this month were Sis. Sarah Reinhard, Bro. Jack Ely, Bro. Russ Steffen, Amanda Snodgrass (Walt and Sis. Sherry), Colten Reinhard (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci) and Catherine Neuenschwander (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo).

On March 5, Sis. Mary Isch and Bro. Kent Gilliom were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gilliom.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to the visiting ministers. They were Bros. Ron Steiner and Merle Hartzler (both from Rittman, OH), Bro. Dave Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

In closing, we want to wish our graduates God's nearness and guidance in their future. They are Lori Belsley, Sis. Shannon Compton, Molly Gerber, Mollie Gilliom, Sis. Brandy Girod, Jon Heyerly, Aaron Isch, Leanne Kaehr, Jamie Maller, John McAfee, Bart Miner, Jonathan Ringger, Tim Rumble, Janelle Sipe, Joe Sprunger, and Bro. Nathan Yergler.

"Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore."

Psalm 86:11-12

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

How great the pains, O Lord,
Afflict Thee on this day
My God, My God, He calls
Forsake me not I pray.

Zion's Harp #89

We give heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Mark Gerber, Jim Rinkenberger, Ron Kipfer, Alan Stoller, and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN). We are grateful for these shepherds.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice..."

Romans 12:15

Our church family is rejoicing with two families; Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller in their son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Lori; and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger in their son, Joe. They have begun their walk with the Lord through repentance. We wish them God's grace and blessings in their new life in Christ.

We are thankful to have three more precious souls into His vineyard. They are Jeremy Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl), Jadon Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Tad Baumgartner (Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce). We heard their testimonies of faith on March 11 and witnessed their baptisms on March 12. We lovingly welcome them into our precious brotherhood of faith.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Sally Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl) and Bro. Jeremy Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) on April 11. We wish them God's grace and guidance as they start a new life together.

Bro. Jarrod Gerber (Bro. Linus and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Amy

Smeckens (Mike and Sis. Melissa) were united in marriage on April 2. We wish them God's blessings as they begin a new life together.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Joe (Sis. Jan) Schwartz in the passing of his father, Lloyd L. Schwartz. We were also saddened by the passing of Bro. David Gerber on April 9. We sympathize with his wife, Sis. Ada, and children, Bro. Bill Gerber, Sis. Ann Reinhard, Bro. Leon E. Gerber, Sis. Genny Isch and grandchildren.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month. Little Taylor Brinneman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deanna), Gyrkin Schwartz (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin) and another little one, Trayton Gerber (Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn), and a dear couple, Bro. Walter and Sis. Edna Neuenschwander. Our prayers have been with each of them.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

"...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
Revelation 2:10

Spring is here once again and we rejoice in God's faithfulness and His constancy. The grass is green and the trees are showing tiny leaves reminding us of God's perfect order and timing. Many of us are also thankful for our godly mothers who over the course of many years have proven themselves faithful to the way of Christ and in return have seen their children also come to know the Lord. Three young ladies shared with us their love for God the Father and their thankfulness for a godly home this past month. Sisters Melinda Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane), Deana Overmeyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Rachel

Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie) have made that covenant to be true and faithful to Him, the one who redeemed them with His precious blood. We trust that they will continue in the way of faithfulness as they let Him shape and mold them, using each one for His design. Kevin and Kathy Marti also are rejoicing in God's faithfulness as it was announced that they have peace with the Lord Jesus and desire baptism. Let's remember them in prayer, as Satan often attacks those that he has lost.

Our Bro. Earl Johns and Sis. Stephanie Gutwein (Bro. Rod and Sis. Donna) have recently announced their engagement. God will be faithful to them as they prepare to live faithful to one another. We pray God's richest blessings will be upon them.

This winter was Parkview Haven's turn at the annual "Caregiver's Conference". Many from churches across the Midwest gathered in Francesville to "re-focus" on the reason that they go to work each day; it is because of Jesus Christ, the greatest Caregiver. We trust each one had a blessed weekend.

Communion was shared at Parkview Haven during the Easter season. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) humbly served the residents and a few other brothers and sisters in this very sober event. What a great price that was paid that you and I might have this great hope of eternal life!

Our Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry), Lord willing, will be returning home on April 24, almost three months since the accident. She will continue outpatient rehabilitation therapy on a weekly basis. We have truly felt God's faithfulness and His mercy on our sister and her family. We believe

it moved God to hear the hundreds of prayers offered on her behalf. Again, we praise Him for His faithfulness and for the faithful brethren and friends who took time every day to whisper a prayer for Sis. Janice.

We are always grateful to the brothers who come and share with us God's Holy Word. This past month we sincerely thank the following: Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN).

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle Lauretta Schafer

A special verse for all mothers is: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (III John 1:4). Celebrating Mother's Day for the first time as a mother will be Deann Mustard. Deann and her husband, Brian Mustard, became parents of Kaitlyn Elizabeth on April 8. Happy grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Liz Anliker and Buddy Mustard and Nancy Pariso.

It was a joy to have Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry) and her family in church on March 19. This was the first time Sis. Janice was able to come to church since her accident on February 1. Included in her family circle was her ministering father, Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We sincerely appreciate your sharing God's Word with us.

We are grateful for all our visitors. Small congregations receive an added "boost" having the sanctuary and parking lot filled. Please include Indianapolis in your travel plans.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Judy Gudeman

We are thankful that our friend, Karen Heiniger, is again assembling among us, having improved since her recent hospitalization. We are remembering our Bro. Harold Heinold in prayer as he faces surgery in the very near future, following a long hospitalization and extensive testing. We can never appreciate our good health enough!

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

As a granddaughter of Bro. Arthur Gudeman (Sis. Mary), it is in this instance too difficult to write in the usual "third-person" format. May I instead, on behalf of Bro. Art's family, extend our deepest thanks for all of the love shown to us and prayers offered for us upon his death on March 22. We continue to be grateful for the many expressions of kindheartedness through food, flowers, phone calls, and lovingly-written cards given to us. Although we miss Grandpa, we cannot be so selfish as to wish him back---as he is finally relieved of his bodily afflictions and has reached his heavenly home. "Who Shall Abide" (Zion's Harp #32) was always one of his favorite hymns! In addition to his wife, Sis. Mary A. (Frank), Bro. Art is survived by four children: Bro. Don (Sis. Mary E.) of Kouts, IN; Frank of San

Dimas, CA; Bob of LaCrosse, IN; and Sis. Joyce (Bro. Larry) Wenninger of Haviland, OH. He had 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Along with sorrow, we also have a measure of joy. Bro. Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) has just announced his engagement to Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS). We welcome Sis. Jill to the family! They will be assembling in Wolcott, IN as Bro. Duane has recently accepted employment in that area.

The blessed season of Easter is again very near. The children's song, "Jesus Loves the Little Children" reminds us that Jesus not only loves us, but also died for us, rose for us, and LIVES for us! The Christian's joy is born from this very truth. Our God overcame the last enemy of mortals, which is death (I Cor. 15:51-58). It is so humbling to recall that Jesus died on the cross to pay a debt which He didn't owe, because we had a debt which we couldn't pay.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

Diana Christine Schrock was welcomed on March 20 by her parents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol, and little brother, Eric. She increases the Gateway Woods family as Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol are houseparents. Diana's grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Congerville, IL) and Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL).

We are happy to have Sis. Thelma Schlatter return after more than a month visit with her daughter and son-in-law, Colleen and Arnie Moser, of Greer, SC. She also had the opportunity to visit grandchildren and great-grandchildren while there.

Bro. James and Sis. Marlene

Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) visited their daughter and family, Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf, who serve at Gateway Woods. We were blessed by Bro. Ramseyer's timely message on Sunday, April 2, and welcome him to return often.

A boy, Caddin Josiah, was born April 1 to Erica Schieler (formerly from Gateway Woods).

Sis. Sylvia Steiner moved into the nursing home at The Cedars following a week at the hospital and a pacemaker transplant. She is gaining strength and anticipates returning to her duplex.

Our prayers are with Sis. Mary Lantz, who son, Lowell, went to be with the Lord after many years in the Veterans Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN.

Have we moved into the new church building? We are anticipating moving soon.

Easter morning we gathered at the Fellowship Center for Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. The opening hymn was from the Gospel Hymns, #118.

Holy, Holy, Holy! tho' the
darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy
glory may not see,
Only Thou art Holy, there is none
beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and
purity. (verse 3)

The messages followed this thought throughout the day. The Sunday School children presented the precious story of our suffering Saviour and His resurrection in readings and music, followed by the message. We then shared together in breakfast and fellowship before our regular service for the Easter day.

A few joined Bro. John Stoller and Bro. Tim Sauder at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission's evening service.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Marguerite Hoerr****Judy Longcor**

March 25 was the wedding day for Tom Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) and Jodi Heffelfinger (Carol and Keith) of Churubusco, IN. Along with their parents, we wish them the Lord's blessings on their life together.

What a privilege it is for us to join together and partake of Holy Communion. When we sit back and let our minds drift back to Calvary where our Lord shed His precious blood on such a cruel cross for each of us, it's so humbling. I thought of St. John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." We, too, are Christ's disciples. We want to thank Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for coming and assisting Elder Bro. Jesse in serving us Communion.

Sunday, April 9, was our Easter program. The Easter story was so beautifully told again through poems, songs and verses by all those who took part. A special thank you to all who put the program together.

Simon Beer (son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) has spent a few days in the hospital and is now back home and covets our prayers. May they feel our prayers and our love at this time and always.

"For they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." (Gospel Hymns #550). Our church families gathered together for an evening of song service at the fellowship hall. It was such a blessing for us all; such a beautiful time of singing praises to our God and feeling His nearness.

Our dear Sis. Marie Reuther

celebrated her 98th birthday this past week. She is our oldest member in our little Milford church. Her precious smile radiates her love for the Lord and all those she loves.

"Up from the grave He arose." (Gospel Hymns #323). Easter Sunday we had our Sunrise Services and breakfast. This was a blessed time for all who attended.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." *Isaiah 26:3*

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Amelia Schini**

"...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

Two young boys being gathered into this harvest are Joel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) and Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna).

Our dear Bro. Ray Steffen (Sis. Lucille) has not been well and recently learned that he has cancer in both lungs. He has been getting chemotherapy. We surely do hope the best for him. But again, we know all things are in God's Hands and need to be submissive to His will.

Little Erica Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) spent two days in the hospital with a respiratory problem.

We welcome Bro. Harold and Sis. Lorene Schieler home from Zapata where they spent the winter.

Dale and Andrea Schneider are happy parents to Jade Mathew. His sister is Alyssa and his brother is Blake. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and Bro.

Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider. Jade is a lucky baby to be born to parents who have recently turned their lives over to God.

Our Easter program was Palm Sunday afternoon. It is always inspiring and such a joy to see how happy the little children are to bring their verses and songs of praise.

Easter Sunday brought families home to enjoy the day with parents and others. It was also a very special day for our congregation as our Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) who was elected to be our new minister went on the pulpit and gave us an inspiring short message. We support him and pray God will always provide for him.

Our grandson, Bob Schini, moved the day after Easter to Noblesville, IN and will be working in the Indianapolis area. We pray a special blessing for him.

For my closing thought I have chosen one of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statements that I like: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer**

Our congregation was blessed this month with brothers who came to share God's Word. They were Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). It is always such an encouragement to our small congregation to have visitors worship with us. We appreciate the love and efforts of each one.

On April 5, we shared the remembering of our Lord's suffering and sacrifice as we took part in Holy Communion. In the quietness of the assembly, the teachings we received from the

Scripture encouraged us to renew our zeal to walk a sanctified and holy life. We thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Sis. Shirley for their labors of love and for sharing the evening with us.

Easter Sunday morning always brings special joy to our hearts. We rejoice in the knowledge of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour and anticipate the fellowship that awaits us as we enter the house of the Lord. Our Easter morning began with an early "sunrise" service. We were then treated to a delicious breakfast prepared and served by the brothers. After the second service, the Sunday School blessed us with their Easter program. We are so thankful to all those who gave of their time and talents to make this a special day for everyone.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

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

Song of Solomon 2:11,12

Greetings dear ones. Just as it is seeming a fresh start on our lands with the freshness of Spring, so let us all rededicate our lives to our loving Father in Heaven.

As we write this, we have just been blessed with a very spirit-filled Easter program. Isn't it a great feeling when you think you can almost reach out and touch that loving Holy Spirit that has been given to us? On Good Friday, Bro. Andy Moser lovingly reminded us of that great gift our Heavenly Father gave us, His Son Jesus Christ, to shed His blood on the cross for the remission of our

sins. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Garry Bucher also reminded us of His promises. He lives! Thanks to all who made this weekend very special. And a special thanks to the Francesville men's group for traveling and sharing their talents with us. Just a sampling of how it may be in Heaven when we get there.

We were very grateful that Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) came and shared God's Word with us in this last month. The Lord continue to bless all of the brothers' ministries.

Lord willing, until the next writing, fare thee well and keep up the good fight.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Psalms 18:2

We were privileged to have Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) here with us on March 29 to share a topic with us. He spoke about the strength we can gain from God and His precious Word.

On Good Friday, the Sunday School students brought forth the message of Easter. May we ever strive to be more appreciative of the price that was paid for us that day on Calvary's Hill.

Lucille Keller (wife of the late Bro. Roy Keller) passed away on April 14. We are thankful that her earthly suffering has been relieved.

The engagement of Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) to Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) was made known on Easter Sunday. They are planning a

June 11 wedding. May God lead, guide and direct them as they make this important step.

We are thankful that Bro. Duane Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) has found employment in our area. We appreciate having him assemble with us.

Closing thought: If a care is too small to be turned into a prayer, it is too small to be made into a burden. (*Unknown*)

IOWA, AMES
Luann Schmidgall

We were thankful to have Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) with us on March 26 and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) with us on April 9. May God bless these ministering brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

Easter is a special time of year when we spend a moment longer reflecting on what Christ has done for us on Calvary, but may we rejoice and be thankful every day that we have been called to serve Him.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Monica Eisenmann
Lorna Knapp

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that our dear convert, Darin Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail), has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in May.

With thankful hearts, we assembled on March 26 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) in bringing us the loving encouragement and concerns of the Elder body. May we always heed our "watchmen on the wall" that it may be well with our souls, and may they ever feel

our prayerful support made evident through our obedience.

On April 9, we once again had a very uplifting weekend as Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz afforded us the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion. The death and suffering of our Lord Jesus was made so vivid. It truly humbles us and gives us a renewed zeal and courage to submit every facet of our lives to His perfect will.

We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for their willing service on our pulpit recently. May God reward them as only He can.

Our thoughts and prayers have ascended to our Heavenly Father for Sis. Katie Schumacher, Bro. Kenny Scheitlin, and Bro. Bill Oberman who were recently hospitalized. May these dear ones feel the comfort of God's hand.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

On March 26, we witnessed the union of hearts of Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Bro. Orvie and Sis. Laretta, Lester, IA) of West Bend, IA.

On April 16, the engagement of Sis. Betty Butikoker (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) and Bro. Kent Getz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia) of Eureka, IL was announced.

We wish both of these dear couples God's guidance and blessings as they continue to walk the narrow path as God directs them.

God's Word was shared unto us by two visiting ministers this past

month: Bros. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). May God bless both of these brothers as they continue to faithfully serve the Lord.

We have two high school students looking forward to graduation this year: Angie Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Brian Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan). Also, one college graduate, Dannette Moore (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl), who is looking forward to completing four years in accounting.

As these students make plans for their future, may they remember the words of our Saviour in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God..."

The month of May has a day set aside for remembering our mothers. How comforting to know that whether they are still with us here on earth or have gone to their reward, their prayers for their children are ever at the throne seeking God's mercy on our behalf.

My Mother's Prayer

I never can forget the day
I heard my mother kindly say,
"You're leaving now my tender
care;
Remember, child, your mother's
prayer."

I never can forget the voice
That always made my heart
rejoice;
Tho' I have wandered God knows
where,
Still I remember mother's prayer.

Tho' years have gone, I can't forget
Those words of joy - I hear them
yet;
I see her by the old arm-chair,
My mother, dear, in humble
prayer.

I never can forget the hour
I felt the Saviour's cleansing

power;
My sin and guilt He canceled
there,
'Twas there He answered
mother's prayer.

Gospel Hymns #808

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

"Who can find a virtuous
woman? for her price is far above
rubies."

Proverbs 31:10

As I was reading this verse, I wondered how the dictionary would describe virtuous. The dictionary directed me to the synonym "chaste" which I looked up: restrained and simple in style; not ornate; not extreme. These are traits God expects of a virtuous woman. As we celebrate and honor our mothers on Mother's Day, may we each strive daily to be a virtuous woman.

As I looked at the calendar, I noticed Memorial Day is coming. How thankful we can be that we live in a country that allows us to worship freely, thankful the Lord has directed the leaders of our country to allow these freedoms. Many celebrations are held on Memorial Day to say "thanks" for these freedoms, but shouldn't we be thankful every day, not just once a year?

Visiting ministers over the past month include: Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Ed Knecht (Portland, OR). We want to thank those who come and serve us so willingly. May God bless you all.

No Time

I knelt to pray, but not for long,
I had too much to do.
Must hurry off and get to work
For bills would soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer,
Jumped up from off my knees;
My Christian duty now was done,
My soul could be at ease.

All through the day I had no time,
To speak a word of cheer,
No time to speak of Christ to
friends,
They'd laugh at me I feared.
No time to give to those in need;
At last was time to die.

And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes,
Within His hands He held a book,
It was the Book of Life.
God looked into His book and said,
"Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time."

"For what shall it profit a man,
if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?"

Mark 8:36

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We've had an eventful month. Our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and Ordained Deacon Bro. Joe Gerst shared with us the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference held last August, as well as the instructions from our Elders' mid-winter meeting. We appreciate all of the prayers and love that go into both the preparation and delivery of those conclusions, knowing they are meant for our spiritual welfare.

We welcome some new faces to our congregation. Jeanette Moser (formerly from Morris, MN) has accepted a new position in our area. She will be another one of our "commuters", but we hope she finds the drive well worth her while when she can assemble with us for worship and fellowship. Our prayers are with her as she

adjusts to a new job, a new community, and a new church.

We also welcome Bro. Alex and Sis. Lorelei Gutwein. They also will be commuting, as they are pursuing higher education in the Quad Cities. We welcome them to our church family and look forward to fellowshiping with them when they can assemble with us.

Our prayers go with Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami Pflum as they relocate to the Taylor, MO area. We have appreciated their support and trust God will bless them in the next chapter of their lives.

We were blessed with many visitors, including a large gathering on Easter Sunday. The full assembly and larger group singing were appreciated by those few of us "locals" who were home that day. Among the visitors were ministering Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). It was a rare moment for us; there were more ministers than could sit behind the pulpit and our own ministers weren't even home! We thank all of our visitors for their willingness to worship with us and to share in our fellowship, whether delivering a sermon, teaching Sunday School, leading the song service or a prayer, joining in song, or helping with dishes!

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner

Cindy Leuthold

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

Matthew 26:28

We rejoice when we read these words of encouragement as we ex-

perienced the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion on April 9. We are thankful to remember Christ's suffering, death and then His glorious resurrection with this most solemn occasion. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Art Nohl and his wife, Sis. Sandy (Morris, MN), for lending of their time to be with us for the weekend.

Ministering Bro. Doyle Frauhiger and his wife, Sis. Jane (Bluffton North, IN), were recent visitors here and we thank him for bringing forth God's Word. May he be blessed for his labors of love.

Bennett William has come to join the family of Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Feuchtenberger. This sweet little boy was born on April 4 to his happy parents and he joins Jonathan, Brenton, and Megan. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch.

The engagement of Bro. Larry Bahr and Sis. Julie Feucht was announced on April 2. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. August and Sis. Martha Feucht. It is our prayer that they may be blessed as they become one in the Lord.

Several from our congregation experienced surgery and hospitalization. Among the known ones were: Bro. Chuck Knobloch (Sis. Cora), Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale), Nathan De Haan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. Dave and Sis. Margene), Jacob Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda), Bro. Carl Feucht (Sis. Emma), Sis. Iola Knobloch and Bro. Larry Petterson (Sis. Emily).

With the coming of Spring, we resume mid-week services on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We welcome two new sisters into our precious brotherhood. Sharla Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha) and Karen Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on March 26. May they ever stay close to the Lord. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed with the duties of the weekend. Sunday evening we met with the brethren in Burlington for the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful that Bro. Ervin was able to be with us. May God bless these brothers who are often away from home in the service of the Lord. We are a blessed people.

Saturday, April 8, we once again were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. As we ponder the terrible anguish of heart and the heavy load of our sins the Saviour bore at Calvary, may we strive more diligently to walk the path of righteousness. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) was with us for this weekend. May God bless and reward accordingly.

We rejoice with Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald Sr. and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Erica Furrer (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley, Wolcott, IN) as their engagement was announced to the church on Easter Sunday. May they ever keep God as the center of their life as they plan for their future together.

We have several high school graduates this year. We hope and pray that they will realize that God will lead them and help them through life if they humbly ask Him to. Congratulations and best wishes to Joey Bonneson (Joe and Sis. Carol), Dan Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina), Minda Gerst (Jeff Gerst and Ruth Hassett), Kelli Grimm (Bro. Kent and Sis.

Denise), Erica Kuntz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Bev), Sis. Karen Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn), Jamie Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald Sr. and Sis. Bonnie), and Ben Weyrick (Fred and Joyce).

Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) have recently brought forth the Word of Life in our Oakville congregation. May the Lord bless them for willingly lending themselves in His service.

Thought: Patience: a bitter plant that produces sweet fruit. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." Psalm 37:7.

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ed Knecht (Portland, OR). We thank them and their wives for making the effort to assemble with us.

On March 29 we gathered together for communion exhortation in which we certainly appreciated our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife being with us. How important to take inventory of our spiritual lives, not only at this special time of year, but each day of our lives.

Sunday, April 9, we had our Easter program. It was such a blessing to see all of the children's enthusiasm in sharing the Easter story with everyone.

"Time changes rivers and as rivers change the hills, so changes the course of our lives..." At this writing, our Bro. Russell Wuthrich has felt it is time for him to retire from the ministry. We certainly want to thank him and his wife, Sis. Karoline, for their many labors of love shown to all of us. May God bless them in the days to come. Sis. Karoline spent several days in the hospital recently and we pray for her recov-

ery also.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Visiting ministers the past month were Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), who accompanied the Tremont Sunday School Bible class. We are thankful for those who serve in the ministry, and pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and grant them grace and courage.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Gene Bruellman (Sis. Evie), Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma), Bro. Fred Wirtz (Sis. Hulda), Bob Thomann, and Sis. Elizabeth Traub, who remains hospitalized at this time. All of the others are home and able to be about again. Sis. Frances Zaugg of our congregation has been confined to her bed with a back injury at the home of her daughter and husband, Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (South Bend, IN). May each one feel the loving presence of our Heavenly Father, and may He heal and bless them with better health.

On March 26, many of our congregation traveled to Elgin, IA to witness the wedding of Bro. Jim Knobloch (Bro. Orvie and Sis. Loretta, Lester, IA) and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Albert and Sis. LaVerne). We rejoice with them, wishing them God's blessings on their marriage, and hope that Sis. Sandy will soon feel at home among us here in West Bend.

On March 17, Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb Bruellman were blessed with a baby boy, Rex Mark. Anxious to share their love with their little brother are Jill, Minny, Lena, and Jake, along with grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman.

On March 19, Andy and Connie

Girres, Sioux City, IA welcomed their first child, Amanda Christine. Grandparents are Dean and Irene Banwart and Ron and Judy Girres. Also of our congregation, Amanda has two sets of great-grandparents, Eli and Pearl Gerber and Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Banwart. We wish these parents God's blessings and guidance in raising their children.

On Palm Sunday, our Bible Class sang a number of Easter songs to us. It is so uplifting and encouraging to hear young voices sing praises unto Him, and it is our prayer that some day every one of those students will know Him as their personal Saviour. Thank you to the teachers, too, for the extra effort put forth.

With Mother's Day approaching, we all think of our precious mothers, whether they are still with us, or have gone on to their rest.

Mother's Love

You can't define a mother's love,
It's faith and hope and power,
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.

You can't define a mother's love,
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a tear.

You can't define a mother's love,
It's faith that never grows dim,
And through a mother's love is
found,
The path that leads to Him.

JAPAN, TOKYO Andrew Klaus

April is the start of a new year here in Japan. Children start their school year and new employees start work at their companies this month. Nature gets a whole new look with flowers blooming and fresh green leaves sprouting

everywhere. Throughout most of Japan this month, sakura (cherry-blossom trees) come into full bloom for about a week. During blooming time, parks are filled with friends and families out on picnics and enjoying the blossoms.

Our recent convert, Ayako Inoue, has moved to Yamanashi and has started college at Yamanashi Medical University. She will be living with her grandmother, Sis. Inoue-Okasan, and so will usually be attending Tamahata and Shioda churches. We will miss her cheerfulness but pray for God's continued blessing, wisdom, and guidance in her life.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle came in from Shioda and ministered to us on April 2. We are always grateful for his willing service. The following Sunday (Palm Sunday), our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue went out to Shioda to help in their annual Communion service.

Easter Sunday saw a large attendance with the Sunday School putting on the story of the cross and the resurrection. Our Sunday School programs are, of course, done mostly by children, but also include things like an adult reading Easter-related stories and Easter songs sung by several sisters. A big thank you to everyone who took part.

There was a little addition to our church on Good Friday. On April 14, Hannah Joy Klaus was born to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana, and she joins Caleb and Sarah. It happened to be a complicated birth, but all of the pains brought forth a healthy baby girl. It gave additional meaning to the suffering that our Lord went through on Good Friday, so that we, too, can be re-born as new children of God. Sis. Jana's mother, Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL), has come to help for a while during this crucial time.

Just yesterday, we heard of yet another gas attack by the Aum cult group, this time about 15 minutes from where I live. It seems these are just the beginning of sorrows of the end times talked about in the Bible. If I had no trust in God, I, too, would be fretting like so many others about when something like that is going to happen to me. But we know that God is in control---He will not let anything happen to us that is not in His will, as long as we trust Him and are confident of His purpose for our lives. May God grant you a safe and joyful day.

KANSAS, BERN Donna Edelman Lori Baumgartner

"There is no place in the Bible where it encourages the child of God to be discouraged." On Friday evening, March 24, we were so lovingly reminded that when we become so caught up in our own trials and burdens, then we so often forget to reach out in love and service towards others. We appreciated the two visiting ministers that were with us that evening to share God's Word: Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). May each feel the Lord's blessings for their labors of love on our behalf.

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

Psalms 127:3

On March 28, Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner, along with their daughter, Laura, welcomed Mitchell Leonard into their hearts and home. We rejoice with the grandparents, Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey.

Many thoughts and prayers

have been with Harlan and Alice Wittmer, Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola), and Darlene Mayer (Earl), all who have been hospitalized during this past month. We also want to remember Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy) who suffered a fractured arm. May the Lord provide healing as He sees best.

On April 9, Bro. Alpha Strahm (Sis. Mamie) expressed to our congregation his desire to retire from the ministry. We are so thankful for his willingness to bring forth God's Word during the past 33 years. May the Lord bless Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie for the many labors of love they have shown and continue to show.

What a special privilege it is to be able to travel and fellowship with brethren in our various churches. The weekend of April 1 and 2 we appreciated having the Fairbury and Forrest single groups assemble with us. The weekend of April 8 and 9 our junior high Sunday School students, their teachers, and spouses, were able to travel to Lamont-Gridley for a weekend of youth fellowship. On Good Friday, April 14, our congregation assembled in Sabetha to remember our Lord and Saviour's death.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

I Corinthians 11:31,32

Elder Bro. John Lehman has kindly exhorted us to examine ourselves in the coming weeks as we prepare for Holy Communion.

The month of May contains that special day known as Mother's Day. Gratitude fills our hearts when we realize all the sacrifices and patient efforts in instruction

that a godly mother must put forth in raising her children.

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

Isaiah 28:10

May God continue to grant His wisdom and guidance to mothers!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

This reporting period has been so full of special blessings for our congregation that, first of all, we want to praise our dear Heavenly Father for all that He has done for us.

We want to give a special thank you to Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley-Lamont, KS) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and their families for spending Sunday, March 19 with us. Their willingness made it possible for Elder Bro. Charles, his wife, Sis. Karen, Bro. Dave and his family to both be gone. May God bless you richly.

On March 25 we had the privilege to share Holy Communion. Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) assisted Bro. Charles for this blessed evening. There is a special blessing in a smaller church. After Communion, we are all able to greet everyone in our congregation. Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette Huber shared Communion with us and stayed for Sunday also.

The first weekend of April was "friend invite friend" weekend. It was wonderful to meet new friends and to have in our congregation those who have not been here for many years. We want to thank everyone that came for making this weekend so enjoyable, and a special thank you to Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for sharing the Word with us.

The engagement of Bro. Larry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Julie Feucht (Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha) of Lester, IA was announced April 2. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Julie to our congregation.

On April 12, the Sunday School presented us with their Easter program. It is such a joy to sit and listen to all the memory work and songs. May the seeds planted in the hearts of our dear children take root and at the Lord's appointed time, blossom for Him.

Sis. Mable Springer spent some time in the hospital. Our prayers follow her home asking that the Lord will continue to strengthen her.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

This month we had the privilege of partaking in Holy Communion; a time of bringing to mind the price our Saviour paid for each one of us, and a time to examine ourselves and renew our Christian vows. May we ever strive to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to His name. We were especially blessed to have Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) to serve this blessed sacrament.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

As we recognize mothers on Mother's Day this year, let us be especially thankful for one of God's most tender gifts.

Sis. Edna Reed was hospitalized this month. We are pleased that she has regained her strength and is once again assembling with us.

Our eighth grade graduate this year is Craig Hamilton (Bro. Phil

and Sis. Sandra). Robert Willson (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jan) and Megan Farney (John and Sheryl) are our high school graduates. We ask a special blessing on our graduates as they close another chapter of their lives. The world has many avenues open to a young and seeking heart. May the Lord grant them the wisdom to follow the strait and narrow way.

"O, God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works."

Psalm 71:17

Praise be to God for the opportunities our youth have in this land! Our youth had the privilege to fellowship and hear the Gospel as the Lamont-Gridley church hosted the Kansas Junior High Sunday School group. May the Lord bless everyone who labored and gave their support for this worthy effort.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

We want to sincerely thank the visiting ministers that we were privileged to have this past month. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in serving Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) ministered to us at our monthly Bible Study. Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) shared a loving message to the junior high youth group, which was hosted here. Also, Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) was here with us one weekend. Our heartfelt thanks to each one of these dear brothers for their labors of love.

The engagement of Sis. Jennifer Isch was made known to Bro. James Kieser of Bloomington, IL. Sis. Jennifer is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch. Bro.

James is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser. We truly rejoice with these dear families and ask that God will abide in each of their hearts, drawing them closer to Himself and to each other.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Sharon Strahm

We are filled with an awareness of God's power as we see the visual evidence of Spring in nature with the green grass, flowers and trees. It is also a season of spiritual renewal as we feel a heartfelt thankfulness to God for His gift to us of His Son, Jesus, who suffered and died for each one of us. We partook of Holy Communion on April 9 with Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) giving the meditation and assisting our Elder Bro. Sam Huber. It was a blessed evening.

Then the Bern congregation assembled with us for Good Friday services with Bros. Galen Rokey and Jim Kaeb reminding us of Jesus' suffering and what our Sunday School books called "The Darkest Day of All the World". Easter Sunday we rejoiced to hear about "The Brightest Day of All the World" - Jesus' resurrection.

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given
His own Son in love untold!
Yet Thy suffering has defeated
Satan's pow'r, yea, death and hell;
Through Thy death Thou hast
completed
Thy dear heav'nly Father's will.
Thus is given to us even
Life eternal to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #226

We appreciated the visit from Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN) and the Word he

ministered. We always enjoy their visits.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and their family, as his sister, Lennis Wenger, Richfield, MN passed away.

We want to welcome Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell (Bern, KS) who have begun assembling with us, and also welcome Cathi Meyer (Lester, IA) who has a job in Topeka, KS. We appreciate them and may they feel "at home" with us!

We now discontinue mid-week services and begin our singings every other Sunday evening.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Much prayer has been offered for the Bowers family this month as Sis. Lillian underwent more bodily affliction. At this writing, she seems to be responding to treatment. We miss her cheery countenance and positive attitude in our assembly.

Six of our Sunday School students participated in the Youth Fellowship Weekend hosted by the Lamont-Gridley congregation. My great-niece who was attending for the first time came to me early that Saturday evening and said, "Aunt Em, this is just like a reunion." When we see that kind of attitude, we know there is value in planning activities for our youth. Thank you, Lamont-Gridley congregation, for assuming this responsibility. I would be amiss if I would not praise God for inspiring Bro. Wayne Grimm as he delivered the lesson to the students Sunday morning.

As is our custom here at Wichita, we plan to meet for an 8:00 breakfast at the church on Easter Sunday morning. This has become a special time of sharing for us. And as we share with one

another to encourage our faith, so we would delight in sharing in fellowship with any travelers who will be passing our way, especially as summer vacation time approaches.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

We appreciate our visitors from the various churches and want to say a special thanks to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) who came to share the weekend with us and also Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and his wife, Sis. Marilyn (Elgin, IL), who were with us also. These brothers shared the pulpit with Bro. Lester and we sincerely appreciate their efforts.

In addition, we wish God's blessings upon the new son of Mike and Susan Huber, John Michael. His grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Glendoris Huber.

We are also extending a warm welcome to Shelly Aberle who has moved from Forrest, IL to Georgetown, KY. We trust Shelly will feel at home here in the Lexington congregation.

The dogwoods are in full bloom and the whole earth is budding forth after a long winter's rest. It is a beautiful time of year. We extend a hearty welcome to all to fellowship with us. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. EST.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

We are thankful for Heidi Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne, as she has heeded God's call to repentance. May God grant her much grace to walk the narrow path that leads to Heaven.

Sis. Michelle Blough (Bro. Martin) recently had surgery. Our

prayers are with her as she recuperates.

Our little church is filling up again. More of our Snowbirds have come home: Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen from Phoenix, AZ and Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman from Sarasota, FL. It's good to have them with us again.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Janel Ramseyer

As I was getting ready for church Easter morning, the thought came to me - what would this morning be like if I did not believe in the risen Christ? What would I do today? Probably hunt for baskets or eggs, eat ham dinner with the family, and prepare for the week. In my mind, none of these things is particularly evil or forbidden by Scripture, but the problem, I think, is in what's left out. Or maybe in what's forced out by over-activity. When is the re-telling of the Easter story? Where is the joy of the triumph over the grave and death? What would take the place of peace? Hope? Heaven?

Somehow, this realization makes the peace and hope I have seem more precious. I can't imagine an Easter without church, family, and the excitement of Spring, but more than that, I can't imagine Easter without Jesus Christ. He IS Easter. The line between belief and disbelief is drawn and sides are chosen. Some don't even realize the far-reaching consequences of their choice--I'm not sure I do. But I'm learning.

The Bay City congregation will soon have the privilege of hearing the testimonies of several converts. Brian Wieland (Char), Greg Wackerle, Cheryl Schmidt (Mike), Winifred Gorney (John),

and Julie Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) have all found peace with God and with man. What a wonderful time of the year to reach this point of reconciliation! We look forward to hearing the stories of their repentance and conversion and to welcoming them into the family of God.

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:17

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

Christ our Lord has risen! We should rejoice and be glad in this. If Christ had not risen again as it was prophesied, there would be no hope of life eternal in Heaven. Death could not swallow Him

up--life needed to conquer death. For Christ is life and Satan is death.

On the weekend of April 1 and 2, Bro. Allen and Sis. Pam Gleichman rose from the waters of baptism to a new life in our Lord. We rejoice with their parents, Bro. John and Sis. Marty Gleichman and Joe and Roberta Ignatoski.

Sunday, April 9, was the day of our Easter program here in Detroit. We were reminded through song and verse that we have a wonderful forgiving Saviour who willingly shed His blood for all. Indeed, "There is Power In The Blood Of The Lamb". Jesus gained the VICTORY!

We can see firsthand this month that God is victorious over sickness and pain by granting

healing to Bro. Ben Belsley (Sis. Lois) following surgery. We thank the Lord for His goodness.

We were saddened, though, to learn of the loss of Bro. Bill Kujawa's (Sis. Darlene) father, Joe. We lift the family up in prayer.

Another Easter has come and gone, and with its passing things are not the same as before. We know that change is normal, but sometimes it is hard to grasp. We will really miss Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne Wieland (Bryce), who have moved to Illinois. Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnn Gudeman (Jacob, Jonathan, and Allison) have also felt the Lord's direction and moved to Indiana. They will all be missed here in Detroit.

With Spring in full swing, we find the days filling up. There are places to go, things to do, people to see---but let us not forget to pause now and then to spend time with our Lord. He can give us the joy and peace of serving Him in everything we do. The Woodhaven Benefit Dinner is planned for Sunday, May 21, here in Detroit. Anyone interested in coming should contact Woodhaven at 1-313-261-9000. Also coming up -- the Tuesday evening services at Woodhaven on June 6 will be hosted by the Beverly Hills church. All are welcome to attend.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

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

I Corinthians 11:24

We enjoyed a blessed evening on April 1 when we partook of Holy Communion. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Wayne

Fehr (West Bend, IA), Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for sharing this holy sacrament with us and for bringing forth God's Word on Sunday.

We are also grateful to Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris, MN) for ministering to us this past month. May each one be richly blessed for their efforts on our behalf.

We were informed by our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) that the Elder responsibilities of shepherding the Minneapolis congregation was being transferred to Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank Elder Bro. Wayne for his love, wise counseling and for his faithful years of serving us. May God richly bless him and Sis. Kathy for their labors of love. May we support Elder Bro. Leroy by praying for him, heeding to his wise counsel and being obedient to God's precious Word.

Bro. Noah Miller (Sis. Laura) became ill and spent several days in the hospital. He is now back in the nursing home recuperating. We pray that God will strengthen him.

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed a beautiful Easter program with our Sunday School children. The death and resurrection of our Lord was told to us through verse and song. Their efforts help us to keep in mind the true reason to be joyous on Easter. Thank you children, teachers and parents.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Gail Metzger welcome into their hearts and home a new little son, Connor Paul, born on April 13. Big brother, Mason, will enjoy his new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and the late Bro. Emil and Sis. Florence Metzger (Lester, IA).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Maxine Sauder
Linda Schmidgall**

We were blessed April 12 as we heard our Sunday School children recite and sing about the plan of salvation. Had Christ not willingly died on the cross and rose again from the grave, we would have no hope. May we never take for granted the great price He paid and let us continue to praise and thank Him for our salvation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our loved ones who are experiencing the afflictions of the body. Those who required surgery or hospitalization were Bros. Alvin Nohl, Noah Nohl, and Earl Kussatz, Sis. Minnie Kussatz, Trevor Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), John Goll, Jr. (Helen), and Ed Mohrman.

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

Psalms 127:3

Becoming new parents are John and Peggy Metzger, who welcomed Andrew Steven on April 5. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane Metzger (Lester, IA). We also want to welcome John and Peggy to our congregation as John has found employment in our area.

We wish God's blessings for Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss who have recently reached the milestone of 50 years of married life.

On Easter Sunday, we were privileged to hear the Word once again brought forth by faithful brethren. We thank Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for their labors. We always appreciate those who are willing to speak the Word as often as they are called upon.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."

Eccles. 12:1

Tell Mother I'll Be There

When I became a prodigal, and left the old roof-tree,
She almost broke her loving heart in mourning after me,
And day and night she pray'd to God to keep me in His care;
O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

Gospel Hymns #801

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;"

Ephesians 6:2

How thankful we are for our mothers who have faithfully and tenderly cared for us with love and patience.

Note of Thanks:

With humbleness and gratitude I wish to thank all my friends, relatives and neighbors who showered me with cards and gifts for my 80th birthday. So many cards brought back precious memories. May you be blessed by Him Almighty.

Martha Greiner

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is remembrance day
And we pause on the path of the year

To pay honor and worshipful tribute

To the Mother our heart holds dear...

For, whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide.
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside...
Time cannot destroy her memory
And years can never erase
The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face...
And, when we think of our

Mother,
We draw nearer to God above,
For only God in His greatness
Could fashion a Mother's love.

Helen Steiner Rice

May we continue to pray for our mothers and praise the Lord for their loving kindness. For the mothers that have gone before us, may we always treasure the precious memories of their love.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Jan Messner

Dear Mother,

You always used to tell me, "Just wait until you're older."

I would understand then, the love you have for me,

At that time I did not know

exactly what you meant,

But now that I'm a mom myself, it's easy for me to see.

You gave me unconditional love, I knew no other way,

Your loving voice and gentle hands were always there to stay,

Now when I think of those times that you comforted me,

I feel so secure all over again and wish I could see you today.

I want you to know just how much you mean to me,

You have a special place in my heart, and are with me wherever I go,

God blessed us with our Mothers and gave them strength and grace,

To raise us with that loving way that always seems to show.

Thank you, Mother, for everything that you've done, I only hope I can do the same for my children, too,
And if I could be half the Mother you were to me,

With God's help and guidance I'll be able to see it through.

Love, Your Child

Our mothers are such a special part of our lives. Let us all remember them on this Mother's Day and let them know how much we love them. God bless our mothers.

Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Sis. Delores) celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends. May God continue to bless you, Bro. Cornelius, and keep you in His tender care.

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Donald Miller (Sis. Bernadine), from the Minneapolis congregation for joining us one Wednesday evening service. We appreciate your laboring on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to all for the prayers, the loved ones who donated their time, the goodies, visits and cards during my surgery. Also, for my wonderful husband, Marvin, for all the help he has shown me. May God richly bless each one of you for thinking of me.

In His Love, Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin)

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

I Corinthians 11:28

On April 2, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Gene in serving Holy Communion.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the brethren at Lamont-Gridley, KS for hosting the youth fellowship weekend April 8-9. May God bless you.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Carolyn Banwart****Becky Marti**

As we just commemorated the blessed Easter season, may we daily remember that the Lord suffered, died and shed His blood for our sins.

We were thankful Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller and their family from Gridley, IL spent a Sunday with us. We appreciated his expounding on God's Word.

Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene) had surgery and we pray that God will heal and strengthen him.

Kyle Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) has moved to St. Louis where he found employment.

Chad Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) is engaged to Kelly Carlton and they are planning a May wedding.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

Proverbs 31:10

May God bless all of our dear mothers who have taught us of God's love and kindness.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Rusty and Amy Adrian**

Greetings loved ones through the precious name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! We rejoice with Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp who was blessed with a new baby boy, Evan Taylor. Evan will be welcomed home by his big brother, Brice (18 mo.). Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bill and Ann Killday (Quincy, IL).

How special it is when we can travel from church to church and spend the weekend with another family we barely know. We had

the privilege of singing and worshipping our precious Lord together with loved ones who traveled here from various churches on the weekend of March 25 and 26. Truly, without the common bond we have through Jesus Christ, this kind of opportunity and the blessings we received would not be possible. May the Lord be lifted up for the desires and strength He gives each of us.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for helping Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in serving us Holy Communion. Realizing that Communion is a special and important time to search our hearts, may we on a daily basis keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Clara Yackley and family for the passing of Bro. Clarence Yackley (Phoenix, AZ) who went on to be with the Lord.

Saturday, April 8, was a busy day for our Sunday School youth as they served all who could come pancakes and sausage. It was an encouraging day to see our youth working together and their willingness to help wherever they could. The following day, April 9, they brought us the story of the crucifixion and the resurrection of our precious Lord Jesus Christ in their Easter program. From the youngest to the oldest, many blessings were received as we could hear the precious story of old told once again.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Max Remschisel (Wichita, KS) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcot, IN). May God bless each one for their labor of love.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY**Franz Soni**

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

Hymns of Zion #218

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Dimitrie Luiba. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Aurelia; his son, Aurel; and two daughters, Sis. Ofelia Luiba and Sis. Emilia Pancarican; a brother, Ivon; and five grandchildren.

Also going to his heavenly Home is Bro. John Diggelman who was 100 years old. Bro. John was in his fifties when he became a minister and was a minister at Union City for almost forty years. Bro. John's wife, Mary, preceded him, and he is survived by his son, Richard (Helga) of Atlanta; three grandchildren; and a sister, Sis. Elsie Lanz (Rockville, CT). May God comfort all those who sorrow.

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

Noel and Christina Schneider welcomed their first child, Adam Noel, who was born on March 29. Adam's grandparents are Bruce and Betty Richie and the late Emerson Schneider and Francis Balash. May he bring an added blessing to this family and may they look to God for guidance.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Bernice Hirschey and her family as her brother-in-law, Ralph Hirschey, was taken from this life after illness.

We miss Sis. Doris Steiner in our assembly while she is at home following hip surgery. We are glad to report that she is progressing well and hope she can be back

in our assembly soon. We are thankful for God's healing hand to those who have had surgery or suffer sickness.

Our Sunday School children will present a short program of song and verse on Easter Sunday. May each of them remember the teachings of God's great love for them as they reach the years of accountability.

OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser
Diane Jarrett**

Greetings dear ones. What a precious time of the year for God's children as we reflect on the Easter season.

Since Jesus rose, there's strength
and life

To help me through this earthly
strife.

O, Saviour grant that I may be
Thy faithful servant, pure and
free!

Zion's Harp #123

We have two high school graduates in the class of 1995. May God direct Bro. Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn) and Carla Palitto (Bro. Mark and Debbie) in the months and years ahead. Bro. Joe plans to continue his education at the University of Akron.

We are thankful for Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto's safe travels as they recently returned from a trip to Holland.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

What a blessing to watch the smiling faces of our Sunday School children, telling the Easter story and singing praises to God. The enthusiasm and excitement with which they sing their favorite songs reminds us to never let our enthusiasm to serve our Lord

wane or die.

We have been so fortunate to have numerous visitors to our area this month and are so thankful for the visiting ministers who have faithfully served us. Ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and their families were with us. Also, Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen (Alto, MI) spent Palm Sunday with us and Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL) worshipped with us Easter Sunday. We appreciate their labors of love.

Little Emily Wiegand was a hospital patient to have tubes put in her ears. Bro. Ben, Sis. Michelle and big sister, Lauren, are thankful for her speedy recovery.

Work will begin soon on the remodeling of our church here in Columbus. We pray that all will be done to His honor and glory as this new phase in our church history begins.

A woman's blue or purple rain coat in a medium size was left at our church in the last few months and we are hoping that someone will soon miss it so that we may return it to its rightful owner.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Almost every month has a special day or two, whether religious or secular, that merits special recognition. May, of course, brings Mother's Day and graduations. The Scriptures are filled with advice for mothers under the topics of parents' duties, love, patience, wisdom, prayer, forgiveness, etc. Likewise, there are many passages commanding children to obey and honor their mothers. Harmonious will be the family where both parties follow Biblical instructions. May God bless our mothers as only He can.

Those reaching the milestone of high school graduation are Mark Hurd (Pete and Helen), Anthony Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Christopher Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), Brandon Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Johnathon Rose (Bro. John and Trish), Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila), Melissa Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily), and Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty). God's blessings to these young people as they embark on the next course of their lives. Lord willing, they will be the guests of honor at a graduation breakfast on May 28.

For the first time, our church hosted an "invite a guest" weekend. Our sanctuary was filled when over 100 guests attended. Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). Our thanks to them for helping to make this a memorable weekend of love and fellowship.

A thank you is also extended to Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) who visited us one Wednesday evening and shared the inspired Word.

Those spending time in the hospital were Aaron Manz (Sis. Virginia) for outpatient surgery and Richard Gerber (Eleanor) for pinning of a fractured hip. We are thankful that both surgeries appear to have been successful. Bro. Sam Schlatter is gradually returning to his daily routines after spending many weeks in a leg cast. So quickly our lives become disrupted. May we find grace to accept each new situation.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Lane Stoller

On the evening of March 25, we assembled together for a topical evening Bible Study. Our minis-

tering brothers spoke on the topic: The Church of Christ, A Glorious Bride. We heard about the seven churches in Revelation, and we were warned to avoid those situations that Christ found displeasing in those churches. We were encouraged to follow the examples of the churches that followed after Christ's will.

Mark and Lori Spangler were blessed with a baby boy. Luke Allan was born on April 1. Welcoming home her new brother is Alysha. Maternal grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor.

May God's nearness be felt by those who have been hospitalized this past month. Bro. Dave Stoller (Sis. Irene), Jack Schlatter (Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen), Harlan Riggensbach (Sis. Dolores), and Sis. Martha Stoller. Let us continue to remember these loved ones in our prayers.

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers assemble with us: Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Don Manz (Junction, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Walt Rager and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). May God bless these brothers for their efforts of love.

The weekend of April 8 and 9 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome Bro. Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria), Bro. Jason Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen), and Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita) into the family of God.

Our prayers and sympathy is extended to Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Bro. Larry) for the passing away of her father, Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May Sis. Joyce and her family find comfort in God's Word.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

How thankful we are whenever a loved one has been ill and recovers; thankful to the doctors and nurses who have attended to our needs, thankful for the family and friends who cared enough to pray and visit and most of all, thankful for the healing hand of the Father who grants all recovery. This month our hospital patients have been Bro. Harry Bocka (Sis. Mary Mae), Sis. Mary Witschi and Ben Oesch. While they have not all completely recovered, they are on the road and we are thankful for even that.

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,
Nor pain nor death can enter there:

Its glittering tow'rs the sun
outshine;
That heav'nly mansion shall be
mine.

Hymns of Zion #247

On March 17, our dear Sis. Elda Riggensbach was called from this life. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy and our most heartfelt prayers to Bro. Alvin and all of his sons and daughters and their families. Sis. Elda and Bro. Alvin were the oldest married couple in our church. How we will miss her sweet smile and the encouraging word she always had to offer. May Bro. Alvin and all of his family find comfort in the fact that our heavenly Father knows their every sorrow and their every care.

We also wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Becky and Bro. Lonny Moser at the passing of Becky's grandfather, Bro. Art Gudeman, from the LaCrosse church. Our prayers and thoughts are surely with them at

this time.

On Saturday, April 8, the Elder brethren from the Eastern United States gathered in Mansfield for their meeting. May our prayers continually uplift these brothers who give so much of themselves. May each of us strive to support them in such a way that we would never grieve them or give them anything for which they would be accountable in our behalf.

"And as they were eating, 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

We were reminded of these words on Saturday, April 8, when we joined together as a brotherhood to partake of Holy Communion. We were given a reminder that it is the blood that was shed from Jesus' body that binds us all together and frees us from our sins. How blessed and refreshing an evening like that is when we can come together in the house of the Lord.

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;"

I Corinthians 1:4

We thank God on behalf of Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY) who stayed to assist Elder Bro. Ken Sauder with the serving of that precious Communion meal. May God richly bless them and their wives for spending the weekend with us.

On the evening of Sunday,

April 9, we gathered together to hear our Sunday School students present the Easter program. Students of all ages sang and read poems and verses that told us what Christ had done for them. May each student realize in time just what the sacrifice on Calvary means for them personally.

One day at work, a co-worker told me that she was very excited because her granddaughter was coming over that evening. She said whenever her granddaughter visits, she takes her and shows her the Baby Jesus because she wants her to understand just how much that baby did for us. I had to think, especially in this Easter season, how many really only know the Saviour as a child? Which do you know best, the Child or the Man?

OHIO, RITTMAN
Linda Ramsier

Marsha Rufener

We were again privileged to partake of Holy Communion. What a special time to reflect on Christ's suffering and also examine our own lives. We thank Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) for assisting Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Other visiting ministers who labored this month were Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We appreciate the efforts put forth by these brethren.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized. Our prayers are with Barb Acker (Boyd), Bro. John II Calame (Sis. Jody), Amos Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise), Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn), and Sis. Vicki Schar (Bro. Gary).

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner welcomed a new daughter,

Joanna Gail, on March 21. Nathan, Joel, Luke, Aaron, Mary, Andrew, Ethan, Matthew Jr., and Lois also welcome baby Joanna. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner and Sis. Doris Gasser.

Mitchell Dale joined the family of Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Ault and Benjamin on March 22. Grandparents are Melvin and Gladys Ault and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette Stoller.

Greg and Brenda Trent welcome their firstborn, Emily Renee, on April 3. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent.

How we rejoice to hear of one soul repenting. Our prayers are with Cynthia Nussbaum (John) as she begins her walk with the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ralph Weber on the death of his sister.

On March 19, the engagement

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

of Bro. Nathan Schar (Bro. Rowen Schar and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Linda Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri) was announced. We pray God's blessings on them as they begin their life together.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Terry (Bro. Gary) Zollinger on the death of her grandfather, Doug Vickers, of Galion, OH.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.

Hymns of Zion #286

Bro. Robert Figel and Sis. Angie Blough (Smithville, OH) have announced their engagement. May God continue to be with them as they plan for their June 11 wedding.

Throughout the world we hear of many people who have not been granted the material blessings that we so easily take for granted. Thank you to Bro. Jerry Bauman (Smithville, OH) and his family for coming and sharing the current World Relief slide presentation with us. Ben Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) is once again on duty in Haiti, one such underprivileged country.

It was good to be reminded of the many good instructions that were delivered at the last Elder Conference. Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted in the reading of the Memorandum. One vital thought that was relayed was that if we faithfully carry our cross, it will be the key that opens Heaven's door.

The "remembrance" of Jesus' broken body and shed blood was accomplished by partaking of Holy Communion. God's blessings to Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman

(Philadelphia, PA) and his wife for being with us.

Congratulations to our 1995 graduates. Sis. Julia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) has finished high school as well as two years of college. Graduates of Akron University with Bachelor of Science Degrees in Electrical Engineering are Bro. Cliff Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy). Valerie Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) has graduated from Case Western Reserve Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

The annual New Martinsville, West Virginia services will be held on Sunday, June 25. A Saturday evening service is held at the Sardis church at 7:30 p.m. Single members are invited for supper at the Sardis Fellowship Center on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Families and individuals are encouraged to call Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle for overnight accommodations or other information at (614) 483-1593.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Margaret Blough

Edith Miller

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:12

As the earth awakens from its winter rest, we are again encouraged by the many signs of Spring.

We rejoice with five young souls who have expressed peace in their hearts after repentance and conversion. May the peace of God continue to rule in the hearts of Krista Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Ann and Dawn Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Ken

and Sis. Jane) and Susan Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily). We look forward to welcoming them into the fold in the near future.

Our thanks to Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) for ministering to us during this past month. May God reward them for their efforts.

We have one new baby to report this month. Nelson Lyle Stoller was born on April 12 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene. At home to welcome Nelson are his brother, Doyle, and his sister, Lynelle. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener, and Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller (Rittman, OH).

God's healing was evident this month, as Sis. Elma Stoller and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) both had to spend time in the hospital, but thanks be to God both are well again and back to their post of duty.

To break thy bread we now have gathered,
In covenant to drink thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be thine.

This promise we, with heart and will;

Give grace our promise to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #25

On April 1, we were privileged to assemble with the Rittman congregation for the solemn occasion of Holy Communion. We thank our Elders for untiringly serving us.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard

Edie Fetter

We welcomed a visit from Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and his family on March 26. Visitors are always a special blessing in

our small congregation.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Paul Fetter who passed away after residing many years in a nursing home. May God comfort his wife, Bonnie; and son, Bob (Nannette); and daughter, Jane Smith (Dave).

There is always a blessing in hearing the Easter story told by young children and in the reading of the Bible and singing of spiritual songs by the older children. The Easter program on April 9 was a very thoughtful and enjoyable evening.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Lori Martin - Mary Berg

We were thankful to have visiting minister Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) here with us this past month.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:9

We were reminded of this in a recent sermon and certainly have felt God's will being done as we were present as Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) was ordained Elder of the Oregon churches. What an awesome responsibility this is for him and his family. We were instructed as sheep of the fold to pray for Bro. Art and to be united in love as a body of believers that his job may be made easier. We are thankful to Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Art Nohl for their years of service to our church here.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School children presented to the congregation their Easter program. We were reminded of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection by our young people in word and songs. Our prayer is

that someday they will fully realize what Christ's death means for each of them. We enjoyed dinner and fellowship together after the program at a local restaurant.

We welcome Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner and Tyler to the northwest, as Bro. Rick is working in Idaho for a time. We certainly hope they feel the Christian love of our congregation as they worship with us when they can. We pray for all of those we love that are separated from us by many miles.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Greetings to one and all. We shared a blessed weekend on March 25-26, as Bro. Art (Sis. Betty) Metz was ordained to serve as our Elder. Silverton has not had its own resident Elder for about 60 years and so we have looked forward to this for some time. We sincerely want to give our wholehearted support to Bro. Art as he takes up the mantle and serves as our shepherd. May we do this not only in prayer on his behalf but also by walking obedient lives to God's Holy Word. If we each would do this, how much lighter would be the load our shepherds carry. Present to carry out this work were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). We sincerely want to thank them for allowing themselves to be used on our behalf.

We have also been blessed to have many visiting ministering brothers this past month, including Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), and Mike Leman (Denver, CO). May the Lord richly bless them for serving us.

We would like to express a special thanks to Elder Bro. Leo

Moser and Elder Bro. Art Nohl who have so faithfully served as our shepherds until this time. And also a sincere thanks to Bro. Clarence Dietrich who has served so many years as our ordained Deacon while we had no local Elder. May the Lord richly reward these dear brethren for all the love and guidance they have shared with us over the years.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Urban (Diane) Kuenzi as he has been hospitalized and undergone surgery recently. We are thankful he is home and able to assemble with us again. May the Lord's healing hand be upon him as he continues to recover.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have come to help us with building our new church. Progress is evident almost every day. We are eagerly looking forward to the day we can assemble in it to worship our Lord.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all my relatives, friends and church family for all the cards, food, and deeds of kindness shown to me. May God bless you richly.

Sis. Esther Dettwyler

PENNSYLVANIA,

PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Jeremiah 33:3

This past month Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz hosted a potluck dinner and singing at their home. It's special when we can gather for fellowship.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us.

Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

How blest we were to have the Tremont, IL and Princeville/Bradford, IL young groups visit us the weekends of April 2 and April 9, respectively. Approximately 15 traveled from each church, which to us who are small in number is a good size group. It was especially wonderful to have my hometown of Tremont, IL come as most were friends and acquaintances I had grown up with. Being able to meet and greet them as brothers and sisters in Christ so far away from home is a joy beyond compare. Ministering the Word of God to us on April 2 was Elder Bro. Doug Sabo who flew from Sarasota, FL along with his son, Bro. Jeff. No minister had been scheduled for the weekend of April 9, and we had a Bible study and listened to a tape service. Again this weekend, the tie of Christian friendship was abundantly felt among us. We were also thankful for sisters from Athens, AL who joined us on these weekends as well as other visitors from Congerville, IL and Milford, IN. Until we meet again, may God bless and keep all of you.

There's a tie of noble kinship
In a soul who loves the Lord,
There's a friendship warm and
lasting
If he heeds the Master's Word,
There is mutual understanding
And a sympathy so kind
In the tie of Christian friendship,
As on earth we oft-times find.
When at last these ties are riven
When we're called to go on high,
Oh, how sweet to meet in heaven,
Friends forever, you and I.

Hymns of Zion #91

As many of you are starting to think of summer vacation plans, we ask that you consider stopping in Nashville. As was previously mentioned, we plan to hold services every Sunday with a minister scheduled the first and third Sundays of each month. (May 7 - Fairbury, IL; May 21 - Goodfield, IL; June 4 - Taylor, MO; and June 18 - Rockville, CT) Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you plan to be in the area.

Fast approaching are the special days set aside to commemorate our mothers and fathers. Let us as God commanded in the Ten Commandments, especially in these days and always, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12).

TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser
Kimberly Kaiser

We sincerely thank our recent visiting ministers and their wives. Elder Bro. Robert and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hartzel (Sabetha, KS) brought us many blessings through God's Word.

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

We had two visiting ministers this month: Bro. David Graf, his wife, Sis. Barbara (Akron, OH), and Bro. Jim Kaeb, his wife, Sis. Diane (Bern, KS). We were very grateful for their visit.

We enjoyed the fellowship of our winter residents and other visiting members and friends this winter. It was such a blessing to have such a large attendance at our church services.

Sunday, April 9, we were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. David Gerber from Bluffton North, IN. Bro. David and his wife, Sis. Ada, have spent many winter months with us in Zapata. This winter they did not come to Zapata because of health reasons. Our hearts go out in sympathy to Sis. Ada and her family.

SCRIPTURES ABOUT MOTHERS

LOVE OF MOTHER..."Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15

HONOUR YOUR MOTHER..."Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12

"Honour thy father and mother: which is the first commandment with promise." Ephesians 6:2

FORSAKE NOT MOTHER'S LAW..."My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

Proverbs 1:8

LOVE YOUR MOTHER..."Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old." Proverbs 23:22

JOYFUL MOTHER OF CHILDREN..."He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 113:9

MOTHER COMFORTS..."As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Isaiah 66:13

Silver Threads

MOTHER

It takes a Mother's love to make a house a home
A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam.

It takes a Mother's patience to bring a child up right
And her courage and her cheerfulness a dark day bright.

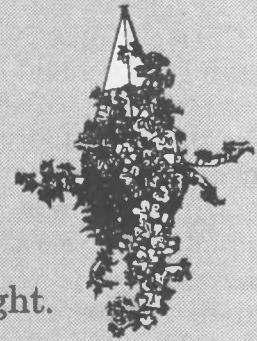
It takes a Mother's thoughtfulness to mend the hearts deep hurts
And her skill and her endurance to mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a Mother's kindness to forgive us when we error
To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer.

It takes a Mother's wisdom to recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds.

It takes a Mother's endless faith, her confidence and trust
To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust.

And that is why in all this world there could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a Mother.



"SALVATION IS MOST IMPORTANT"

Sermon by Bro. Earl Beery of Rittman, OH

Luke 20:1-26

The situation that we read about was in the life of Jesus Christ. These were words that He spoke. It says here, "He taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel." The gospel of Jesus Christ. (Luke 20:1).

So certainly He taught the way of love, mercy and compassion. He taught the way of forgiveness and the way of grace. He foretold of the time that He would go to the cross and shed His blood for the sins of the world.

He taught the gospel message. But what did He find? What was the response of those individuals, namely the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders? They wanted to challenge Him. They were convicted of their sin. They knew that they were separated from God and they did not like to hear what He had to say as He taught them.

They came and said, "Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?" (Luke 20:2). They already knew. They already knew who had given Jesus Christ this authority and they knew that He was the Son of God.

"And he answered and said unto them, I will ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us." (Luke 20:3-6). But what did they say?

"And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was." (Luke 20:7). That was a simple, outright lie. They knew. So what was the question that Jesus was

posing to them? He was asking them if this gospel message was of God or of men.

What might we ask today? Is the shed blood of Jesus Christ the only redemption and reconciliation for our sins? We might ask, "Is there any way to reach the heavens above other than through the door of Jesus Christ and His Sheepfold? Is there any other way?"

Do we have any promise that our life will continue past the breath that we are taking at this very moment? Do we have any promise that we will live to see the night through or even into tomorrow? What is the judgment that would be placed upon us if our life was snuffed out this very night?

Let us suppose that our answer was eternal destruction. Then we have fear. Then we know what is required. Jesus preached that gospel message.

Let us suppose that in our hearts we might be saying right now, as these people did, "We do not know. We cannot tell." Let us suppose that we answered the question, "Is Jesus Christ the only way; through His shed blood, is that the only way to find salvation?" Is there one person among us this morning that could say in truth, "I cannot tell. I do not know."

We do know. Jesus Christ is the only way. Through His shed blood, we find reconciliation and peace and hope. What is our destination if judgment were a moment from now? What would our destination be?

There is not one person among us that could of a truth answer, "I do not know," because God has already told us. His Spirit has

reminded us.

Either we are on the road that leads to Heaven above, where our sins have been blotted out and covered by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the Word has confirmed within our heart that we have this true hope, or the Word has confirmed that we do not have that hope within us.

It is simply one or the other. For us to say, "I don't know. I cannot tell the answers to these questions," would simply be a lie. We do know our standing in life and we do know that Jesus Christ is the way into the Sheepfold.

"Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time." (Luke 20:9). Jesus planted a vineyard. He preached the gospel. He told us the truth. He told us the way unto salvation and He went into a far country.

His way was by the way of the cross and the resurrection. Now He sends servants to each of us. Let us suppose for a moment that those servants are the angels in Heaven above. Let us suppose that those servants are the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God comes to us and asks that we would return the fruit of the vineyard.

He asks that we answer the call to salvation. He asks that we sacrifice and walk the way of self-denial. Servants of His Spirit, we are servants of another brother or sister. The servant, His Word.

Here they beat Him and sent Him away empty. That could be our response, as the Spirit comes and bears down upon us, and we cast it away. We know the requirements that God would place

upon us because of our eternal destination, based on the path that we are on, as the servants of God call us. The servant, His Spirit, that convicts us, and we say, "No, another time." We beat that Spirit by self-denial and send him away empty, without any fruit at all.

They sent a second and they sent a third and they did unto them likewise. No reverence was shown. Finally, the husbandman sent his own son. We know the likeness of this story, even his son--the Son of God, they would reverence Him. They would honor Him.

So what has God done for us? Let us think of it for a moment in our own lives. When He called us, first He pricked us just a little. Then He convicted us a little more. From time to time, He sent devastating experiences into our lives, to bring a fear, to get our attention, to cause us to think, and to consider God. How many times did we beat those servants and send them away empty? How many times did we even say, "Let us kill this servant. Then the inheritance will be ours."

We might liken it unto, "Let us remove ourselves from the holy church, from family and friends and any reminder of God. Then we will not be bothered anymore." There are no barriers, no location or place or situation that God cannot go and find us, speak to us and call us.

Even if we desire to crucify the Lord, kill His servants, and reject Him boldly, He can still search us out and call. We cannot run from God. We cannot run from His call. Today is the day of grace. Today is the day, as we feel the Spirit of God, we feel the conviction of sin and unrighteousness.

Let us take an example from the parable that Jesus taught. Let us take an example from His

life and His teachings. Let us take an example from the reactions of those who reacted so inappropriately, for they were the sore losers. It was the same individuals that persisted and persisted and persisted and finally the way opened and they crucified Jesus Christ. It was not victory for them. God had allowed it. Much more than simply allowing it, He had foretold it many, many years before.

He has foretold about your life and mine. As we read the scriptures, we read a lot about ourselves, don't we? We see ourselves because we read that this is a light--it is as a mirror. As we look into this mirror, we see who we are and who we are not, what we are and what we are not.

We see that God yet is willing to work with us, as believers, as He sends those servants into our lives. By the grace of God, we desire--each one of us desire--to receive them, a servant of the husbandman, to receive them that we might have the continual blessing of God.

He said, "What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others." (Luke 20:15-16). Those that reject and reject and reject, He said that He finally will destroy them and give the vineyard to others.

Those that are willing, those that have the desire and those that are willing to answer, Jesus Christ is the only way to come to the foot of the cross and find salvation.

He will give it to those of us, those of you, those anywhere in the world who are willing to come and bow. He will give the vineyard to them. But those that reject, He says He will destroy them.

"And when they heard it, they said, God forbid." (Luke 20:16).

To a certain degree, these things are in our own hands. There is no vice, there is no condition, there is no situation that we might have within our lives that when we cry out unto God and allow ourselves to be brought low, that He will not help us. He will help us.

There is no vice, no condition, no situation whatsoever that He would not give us the grace to rise above and to overcome if we are willing to be brought low. Then He can help us.

"What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." (Luke 20:17-18).

The stone of Jesus Christ. It seems here that at some point in life, either now by our own choosing or at the very end of our life after we have taken that last breath, we will come in contact with this stone.

Today we can have a great influence to determine what that contact is. If we choose to fall upon this stone, by the grace of God, we will be broken and we will come to know Jesus Christ and will allow Him to reign within our lives and we will find salvation and the hope of eternal life.

If we choose to do nothing, if we choose to say, "I do not know. I cannot tell whence cometh these things," someday that stone will fall upon us. The Scripture says that it will grind us to powder.

That is not the end. There will be destruction and an eternity of hell fire and damnation. That is the choice we make when we choose to do nothing, but to say, "I do not know. I cannot tell." This stone will someday grind us to powder.

But, today...today is the day of
Continued next page...

Silver Threads

This poem was submitted by retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart:

LIVING THE WAY WE PRAY

I knelt to pray when day was done
and prayed, "Oh, Lord, bless everyone;
Lift from each heart the pain,
and let the sick be well again."
And then I woke one day,
and carelessly went on my way.
The whole day I did not try
to wipe a tear from any eye.
I did not try to share the load
of any brother on the road.
I did not even go to see
the sick man just next door to me.
Yet once again when day was done,
I prayed, "Oh, Lord, bless everyone.
But as I prayed, to my ear
there came a voice that whispered clear:
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray;
whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
by hands that serve Him here below."
And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me God for I have lied;
Let me but live another day,
and I will live the way I pray."

Author Unknown

If I Only Knew

Once I wandered all alone,
In the midst of Satan's zone.
I did the things that were not right,
Not knowing that I'd die that night.

My life was full of sin and shame,
The other person, I'd always blame.
I filled my parents up with fright,
Still not knowing I'd die that night.

I often thought I'd change my life,
And be a Christian with less strife.
My hard heart kept me from the light,
I never thought I'd die that night.

I had no time, my death went fast,
My life so quickly in the past.
No time to move, no time to fight,
For suddenly I died that night.

Why didn't I simply change my way?
Why didn't I stop from going astray?
But, there I was awaiting plight,
If I only knew I'd die that night.

I saw the Lord, He shook His head.
"I never knew you," was all He said.
And now in hell I'm burning bright.
Why did I have to die last night.

So now in torment I plead to you,
Serve Jesus Christ and live anew.
Go on by faith and not by sight.
Because YOU just might die tonight!

Sermon continued...

grace. Today is the day that we can rejoice and come to the foot of the cross in humble repentance. Today is the day that we can make right with God. Today is the day that we can find the peace of God and know that we have been broken as we have fallen upon this rock.

We know that we have received

the servants of God as they have come to us in the form of His Spirit or His Word or holy brethren. We can rejoice every day of our lives that our names are written in the Book of Life.

When the question comes to us, "Who is this that reconciled us with God the Father?" we can say in all humility, "It was the shed blood of Jesus Christ."

We can say from the very bottom of our heart, there is no other way to reach the Heaven above. We can say with all humility and a gladness from within that our names are written in the Book of Life and we are upon our way. We are very thankful that we are one of His children by the grace of God.

Silver Threads

"A TREE IS NOT MEASURED UNTIL IT'S DOWN."

"For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch will not cease."

Job 14:7

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of

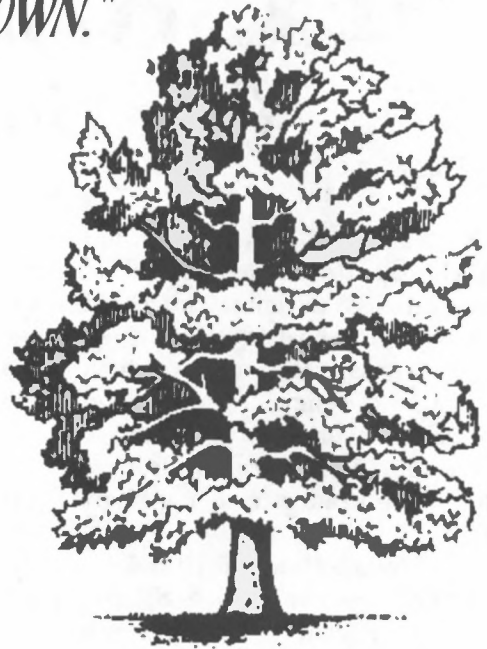
water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Psalms 1:1-6



It has been said that when a tree is down it can be measured; which the saying refers to a man, that when he is down, one can assess the true grit of that person or his character.

There have been times when brethren have been cast into a pit of despair and have had a difficult time understanding why God in His infinite mercy would allow that to happen.

Let's look at a disciple, an apostle, and our Lord and see how they were measured when they were down.

The Disciple Stephen

As far as we know from the Bible, Stephen was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. He was endowed by God with wisdom and preached the Holy Word to the children of Israel. As he preached the true Word, that Word convicted the leaders of that time; and it invoked envy among them. They begrudged Stephen for his faith and pursued him with a sadistical envy.

When he faced the judgment of the council, his face shown as it had been the face of an angel.

Stephen stood in defense of the actions and preaching he had been accused of by the council. As he spoke in

his defense, the members of the council stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord. They were so overtaken with jealousy that they could not be reasoned with.

They stoned Stephen even though he was completely innocent. The lesson we learn was in his last words, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

The Apostle Paul

Paul, a learned man, who was taught by Gamaliel in the worldly knowledge of man, also spoke the truth and told of the importance of outward and inward holiness and the true Word of God. The sinful were convicted. Paul done no wrong, but was accused by the contemporary leaders of that time. "Men, brethren, and fathers, hear my defence which I make now unto you," said Paul.

"Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day," again stated Paul.

Then the high priest commanded them that stood close to Paul to smite him. This was a physical smiting, but there are also verbal smittings. Having thus been hurt for answering only the truth, Paul succumbed to the re-

lentless begrudging of the Pharisees. They hated him without cause.

In the end shortly before he was beheaded, Paul said, "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For I am ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me; I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." He thus prayed, "Grace be unto you. Amen."

Our Lord, Jesus Christ

A story of precious innocence to the cruel cross. He, too, was accused falsely and was rejected by his own people for no wrong at all.

The Lord's perfect example of forgiveness is truly a lesson for us all. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

When we are down and out and cast into the pit of despair, how will we answer our false accusations?

A man is not measured until he is down.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The path that young Samuel Froehlich took after his departure from the established national church in Switzerland is almost incomprehensible for us to grasp. Rooted as we are in the tradition of religious freedom and toleration in America, it is striking to note the spiritual turmoil Brother Froehlich endured during his short ministry.

Rejected by the state church and unable to find doctrinal concord with the English Continental Society, and with other "Baptist" groups, Froehlich set out to "test the water" in the various cantons of Switzerland in order to gauge the hearts of those who might want a deeper spirituality.

Eager to uphold truth, to dispel falsehoods, and to closely discern and follow God's will, he surveyed the Swiss masses to determine if they were hungry for the pure and unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ. The most positive responses came from the lower classes of people.

He had a youthful zeal. He was energetic and had a deep love and concern for the spiritual welfare of all souls. Offended almost to the point of embitterment by the state church's defense of infant baptism, he was resolute in dispelling such a practice. He instead taught and promoted the doctrine of "believer's baptism"; that is, a baptism that followed an adult profession of faith and living proof of overcoming sin and becoming a new creature in Christ.

According to the late minister and church history enthusiast, Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Indiana, Froehlich was skilled in polemics (religious debate).

He could often "overturn" the views of those who supported doctrines different from his. By kindly and convincing persuasion he could get people to adopt his outlook and to consider his more biblical doctrine. From this trend, followers developed.

Historian Herman Reugger states that in 1831-32, Froehlich made four "missionary journeys" across Switzerland. These forays were made into Canton Aargau (first), Canton Bern (second), the Emmental (third), and Zurich and East Switzerland (fourth). The heralding of the gospel in these preaching journeys aroused the people, and souls responded to the Bible's message.

The results that God allowed the 28-year-old Froehlich to achieve caused him to begin a new church based squarely on the Word. The late and long-time Elder, Noah Schrock (Oakville, IA), said, "He started a church from scratch."

If there is anything that we in this and coming generations should realize about Samuel Froehlich and his co-laborers, is that they founded and operated a church through much duress, and disappointment. They were monitored, hounded, harassed, and bodily persecuted by state authorities. They, however, demonstrated a willingness to endure and sustain, with God's help, all and anything the enemy threw against them.

On January 6, 1836, Froehlich wrote, "It never entered my mind that I should found a sect here on earth. Now, however, I place myself wholly into His hands, that He might lead me

according to His good pleasure."

It was a perilous act on his part to begin anew. He defied the state of Switzerland and the state church. These constituted one entity. Through Froehlich's preaching, and that of others, God began to draw souls from the state church, from among Mennonites, and from the ranks of unbelievers. To the extent this preaching disrupted the state church, it drew the wrath of religious officials.

In 1832, he was heartened by the response of the common people. He wrote, "We have a great cloud of witnesses before us, who for the sake of freedom in Christ, are ready to sacrifice goods and blood, whose imitators we should be in patience and faith."

It was a dangerous vocation to begin a new church because the state church had little pity on those who, based on conscience, opposed their edicts and doctrine. Once, when Froehlich was preaching, a huge stone was thrown through the window and landed in the assembly. Reugger says, "He preached calmly on."

In the years of his preaching ministry, a church took root. Fervor and dedication nurtured the flame of faith. Historian Henry Michel, at a lecture at Lake Bloomington, Illinois in 1947, estimated that approximately 100 congregations were formed in the first 35 years. Such was the work of the Lord!

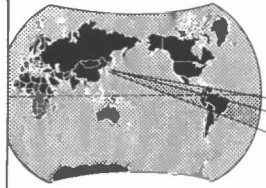
By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The Persecutions

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

"A LITTLE COAT"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

How many of you mothers have made a little coat for your child, or for your grandchild? Hannah made a little coat for her son, Samuel. "Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year." (I Samuel 2:19). I understand this to mean that Hannah made him a little coat every year. Samuel was a growing boy and after one year the coat would become quite small for him. Hannah could work on the new little coat, little by little, over a period of one year. In this way, she could express her love.

When I was born in a farm home near Peoria, Illinois, my mother looked at me and knew that I needed her to take care of me or I could not survive. She had experience with my six older brothers and sisters. I was so little and so helpless and this tugged on my mother's heart strings. The miniature shoes and other clothes for a baby or young child, compared to clothes for an adult,

stimulates compassion for the infant. Along with this feeling is the hope and prayer that this little human being will grow and develop into a fine young man or young woman who will bring glory to God.

There are other instances of that which is very little in the beginning but which grows into something very valuable. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed...which indeed is the least of all seeds." Even the kingdom of heaven has a small beginning in our own hearts and lives but it grows to eternal life in heaven.

Let us remember that in every facet of our lives, that which is little is important. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." (Luke 19:17). Mothers know very well about the importance of little babies and little things. We salute

them.

Mothers have a need to express love to their children. Many times they are too tired to express it as they would like to. Also, there is a need for discipline which requires excellent self-control if the child is to have the impression that it is really motivated by love. All in all, it is a very difficult job and no mother can be perfect all of the time. Mothers, simply do your best and leave it with God. "Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7).

Hannah expressed her love to Samuel by making him a little coat. Mothers, you have done many little things for your children and may our great God richly bless you for it. The rest of us are remembering---we haven't forgotten. By your example we are all challenged to do little things for others, which add up to a mountain of benevolence and love. Hannah made a little coat for Samuel.

希望の光



Cherry Blossoms

Our dear brethren in Japan are witnessing one of the most beautiful times of the year. This is the time of cherry blossoms which coincides with the beginning of the new year in Japan. It is a very beautiful time and young hearts as well as old are gladdened by the sight of the new cherry blossoms as they spring forth. Can we look into our lives as Springtime has come and see new love blossoming as these beautiful blossoms in Japan? May the Lord guide us in our ways.

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